



FACT SHEET

BIOCOMPACT – CE

Developing and strengthening cross-sectoral linkages among actors in sustainable biocomposite packaging innovation systems in a Central European circular economy.

Project supported by the [Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme](#) funded under the European Regional Development Fund.



Programme priority: Cooperating on innovation to make CENTRAL EUROPE more competitive

Programme priority specific objective: To improve sustainable linkages among actors of the innovation systems for strengthening regional innovation capacity in central Europe



Start date: 01 May 2017

End date: 30 April 2020

Duration: 36 Months



Total cost: 1.950.010,15 €



Total ERDF Funding: 1.635.752,36 €



Project partners:

- National Institute of Chemistry (SI) – Lead Partner
- Papirol (SI)
- EcoCortec Ltd (HR)
- Public Institution RERA SD for Coordination and Development of Split Dalmatia County (HR)
- COBRO – Polish Packaging Research Institute (PL)
- Polish Chamber of Packaging Recycling and Recovery (PL)
- STUBA – Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava (SK)
- DBH PROJECT MANAGEMENT Kft. (OMNIPACK First Hungarian Packaging Technology Cluster) (HU)
- Fondazione Legambiente Innovazione (IT)
- Innovhub – Stazioni Sperimentali per l'Industria (IT)



Project summary:

Paper and cardboard represented 41% of packaging waste generated by weight in the EU-28 in 2013 (about 32.2 million tonnes). The appearance of microplastics in recycled paper secondary materials and compost is becoming a major concern. There is a high potential for mobilizing synergies between business and research in the area of combined paper-bioplastics packaging design, production and recycling in Central Europe.

Linkages are not sufficiently established due to lack of awareness among paper packaging producers on new bioplastics materials, a separated focus on plastics and paper in clusters and branch organizations, the lack of a common innovation strategy within a clear European and national legal and economic context and the lack of dedicated tools to support SME's in introducing new paper-plastics packaging solutions. The main project objective is to provide to stronger linkages between R&D institutions and companies in the area of paper-plastics packaging solutions with the aim to introduce verified biodegradable materials in paper and cardboard packaging. The project foresees an innovative cross-sectoral approach and the involvement of clusters, branch organizations and stakeholders that will allow to focus on regional economic specialisations and to speed up technology transfer. The Project Partners will establish a Transnational Biocomposite Packaging Centre as a virtual RDI platform that brings together cross-sectoral capacities in paper and bioplastics, linked with regional innovation systems and the European Enterprise Network, supported by an integrated cross-sectoral business support service including a set of dedicated tools tested under pilot actions and disseminated among cluster coordinators and EEN consultants. A Central European Strategy on biocomposite packaging innovation systems shall set the framework, a handbook: "Sustainable Paper-Plastic Design" and an audit tool will help companies to quickly verify opportunities and chose for change.



Strategies and action plans:

- **To develop an integrated cross-sectoral business support service for companies in the paper-plastics packaging value chain.** The project partners will develop a set of tools incorporated in a business support service that will take into account the specific legal and economic context and the challenges in R&D and market introduction of new paper-bioplastics packaging solutions.
- **To sustain R&D-business linkages over a longer period of time by way of establishing a Transnational Biocomposite Packaging Centre linked to regional innovation systems.** The partners will prepare a two-year action plan that will include partners' roles and commitments, financial obligations and main activities. The TBPC business model will be defined on the basis of the outcomes of the thorough analysis in the first stage of the project.
- **To enhance change processes among a wider group of stakeholders** and inspire them for taking up innovative actions in the field of paper-bioplastics packaging solutions.



Expected results:

The project results concern increased and more sustainable linkages of actors in the paper-plastics packaging value chains and innovation systems in the field of designing, developing and introducing new paper-bioplastics packaging solutions that are accepted by other stakeholders in the value chain and contribute to the circular economy by way of securing higher quality of secondary materials and counteracting the appearance of microplastics in paper recycling processes.

These linkages will be established in the first place by the project partners in the Transnational Biocomposite Packaging Centre (TBPC) and by the cluster coordinators, branch networks and EEN representatives in the regions cooperating with the TBPC. In the second place, the strategy and the handbook "Sustainable Paper-Plastics Design" will inspire companies to assess the opportunities for providing innovative solutions in their packaging products and enter into contact with one of the TBPC network partners, as such having access to the integrated offer of tools under the business support service.

Training sessions directed to SMEs and representatives of clusters, branch networks and EEN will allow to reach a wider target group and contribute to the expected result of increased cooperation between R&D institutions and companies, in short term in the area of bioplastics in new paper-plastics packaging solutions and in the long term in other areas of biocomposite materials and their applications.



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