9th Stakeholder Session at the 4th EU Macro Regional Strategies week
26th April at 9:30 -11:00 CET

Development of resilient value chains and their impact on sustainable energy supply its saving potential

The 9th Stakeholder Session during the 4th EU MRS week, organised by the Coordinators of EUSDR Priority Area 8 Competitiveness of enterprises, *Carmen Hawkins* and *Nirvana Kapitan Butkovic,* enabled an interesting exchange of know-how on the development of resilient value chains and their impact on sustainable energy supply. The session included concrete examples from the fields of circular economy and bio economy to offer closer insight into current developments as well as existing tools and technologies supporting the development of resilient value chains.

Experts from the fields of research, science and economy discussed their ideas and concerns on the topic. Different approaches on how to ensure the supply of energy, food and goods were displayed, aiming to encourage the exchange of best practices in order to promote future cooperation on a European level.

Dr. Gerd Meier zu Köcker, (Moderator) Managing Director RegioClusterAgentur Baden-Württemberg Co-coordinator of EUSDR PA 8 Cluster and Regional Development Working Group and Coordinator of EUSALP Action Group 2 Sub-Group on Bioeconomy, Thematic Priority (Subgroup Bioeconomy/Cluster Development).

Prof. Dieter Hertweck, Research Professor for Service Science at Reutlingen University of Applied Sciences and Coordinator of the EUSDR PA 8 Digital Danube Working Group, presented his approach to save resources with the adoption of digital services making use of a digital service toolbox to monitor Circular Economy Value Chains. These tools include, for instance, the application of a digital platform based resource saving canteen food supply chains or second life car battery business models.

Marko Mitrovič, Founder of Optifood, presented Optifood's online market place as a possible course to increase sustainability in food management. The platform intends to

combine innovative digital solutions with circular economy approaches to prevent waste while ameliorating environmental protection and social responsibility at the same time.

The aim of developing circular economies to increase resilience likewise applies food production. According to *Erik Sindhöj*, PhD Researcher at RiSe in Sweden, "the dependency of agriculture on mined and fossil-bared fertilizers must be regarded as a serious threat to food security". Nutrient recycling systems, the processing to recover nutrients from secondary biomass streams, are indispensable to ensure a more resilient access to nutrients for agricultural production in order to promote circular biobased nutrient systems.

With reference to presented approaches, *Mateja Dermastia*, CEO of Anteja ECG, accentuates that not only the development, but also the implementation of these technologies is of immense importance. With the support of a value chain generator, her company, Anteja ECG, aims to accelerate the adoption of circular solutions for companies and regions. "With a location based analysis of material streams, the most effective value chains and the best fitting technology can be defined", as Mateja Dermastia explained. The goal is to speed up the implementation of circular industry solutions to enable sustainable and long-term improvement.

Considering all contributions eventually leads to the conclusion that it is increasingly important to make successful examples visible to stimulate demand for circular industry solutions and technologies. Thereby, raising awareness on the issue in order to encourage the development and application of circular solutions is imperative. Many trailblazing tools and technologies already exist, so knowledge needs to be spread. The experts agree that **"fast action is required now"**. One concrete future step might be the launch of an awareness campaign combined with best practice examples to stimulate further advancements.

The goal is to evolve resilient value chains and viable energy supply mechanisms to enhance the sustainable transformation in the future.

Further information:

The recording of the 9th stakeholder session can be found here.

Recordings of further Stakeholder Sessions in the framework of the MRS week can be accessed here.