

WPT4

D.T4.2.7

Transnational industrial innovation agenda for the **Version 1**
bioeconomy sector 12 2021





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Table of content

1	INTRODUCTION	4
2	TIIA for the bioeconomy sector	5
2.1	Background.....	5
2.2	Expected impact.....	5
2.3	TIIA overview.....	5
2.4	TIIA description.....	6
2.4.1	Digital transition of the agri-food sector in Slovakia.....	6
3	Conclusions	8
	Annex 1: Participating TNIS members	9



Abbreviations

IGA – Innovation and Growth Alliance

TIA – Transnational Innovation Activities

TIAW – Transnational Innovation Agenda Workshop

TIIA - Transnational industrial innovation Agenda

TIIR – Transnational Industrial Innovation Roadmap

TNIS – Transnational networks of innovations stakeholders



1 INTRODUCTION

CHAIN REACTIONS project addresses the challenge for industrial regions not benefitting from innovation activities from large leading corporations to increase regional capacity to absorb new knowledge and turn it into competitiveness edge and business value. There is a strong need to help SMEs to overcome capacity shortages for innovation and integration into transnational value chains. The project aims at empowering regional ecosystems with the knowledge and tools to help businesses overcome those barriers and generate sustained growth through value chain innovation.

In order to create transnational open spaces for collaboration (e.g. value chain based) the activities for Building open collaboration spaces for transnational RIS3 implementation (WPT4), will be based on previous project activities, mostly IGAs established in each of the target regions (O.T2.1) and Value chain innovation models and instruments implemented in each target region as a driver to S3 (O.T3.2).

More specifically, the activities for preparation of Transnational industrial innovation agendas (A.T4.2) will be based on Thematic industrial innovation roadmaps (O.T4.1), which have been developed in each of the selected industrial sectors by transnational networks of relevant innovations stakeholders will be established and build on identified technological and societal trends of potential innovative developments (technologies, processes, business models and their interactions).

Each **transnational industrial innovation agenda**, i.e. concrete innovation activities to be performed in the project regions and transnationally in order to realise the necessary development identified in the roadmaps and ensure industrial leadership in the selected industrial sectors, will be based on the outcomes of the 2nd TIAW.

The agendas will be coherent with S3 in the project regions and will provide the basis for potential future joint activities and transnational investments.

Overall, the thematic innovation agendas are one of the three outputs within the WPT4, linking the identified potential with plans for transnational exploitation:

- O.T4.1 Thematic industrial innovation roadmaps;
- **O.T4.2 Thematic innovation agendas;**
- O.T4.3 Thematic transnational exploitation plans and open collaboration spaces.



2 TIIA for the bioeconomy sector

2.1 Background

The TIIA is based on the previous project activities:

- D.T4.1.5 - Establishing transnational networks of innovations stakeholders for the bioeconomy sector,
- D.T4.1.6 - Transnational industrial innovation roadmap workshop,
- D.T4.1.11 - Transnational industrial innovation roadmap for the bioeconomy sector,
- D.T4.1.17 - Industrial innovation workshop for the bioeconomy sector in the regions of Wroclaw (Poland) and Nitra (Slovakia),
- D.T4.2.1 - Transnational innovation agenda workshop 1, and
- D.T4.2.2 - Transnational innovation agenda workshop 2.

During the TIAW #2 the following TIA was proposed:

Name of TIA
Digital transition of the agri-food sector in Slovakia

2.2 Expected impact

Within the partnership of the project CHAIN REACTIONS, BEC and WTP prepared the Transnational Innovation Agenda for the bioeconomy sector. The main impact that the partnership expects to reach by implementing the activities is to ensure the digital transformation of rather traditional sector, which is agri-food. The aim is to bring digital innovations closer to stakeholders in agri-food sector (mainly to SMEs) and to ensure transfer of knowledge from research to practice. In addition, the transnational cooperation will be fostered with DIHs in other countries, mainly with Level 4.0 (DIH Wroclaw).

2.3 TIIA overview

Transnational industrial innovation agenda for the bioeconomy sector						
Name of TIA	Timeframe	Partners involved	Expected impact	Estimated costs	Source of founding	Geographical scope
Digital transition of the agri-food sector in Slovakia	2021 - 2025	BEC, WTP, Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, National Agricultural and Food Centre	Digital transformation of agri-food sector	5 000 000 €	ESIF + private sources	Regional + some activities transregional



2.4 TIIA description

2.4.1 Digital transition of the agri-food sector in Slovakia

Brief description

BEC will establish Digital Innovation Hub in agri-food in Slovakia. Transfer of knowledge from experienced partner WTP is an important contribution to this innovation action.

Role of TNIS members and other participants

BEC will act as coordinator of DIH in agri-food in Slovakia. It will mobilize its network of stakeholders to actively participate in the activities of DIH and will search for funding opportunities for the activities of DIH.

Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra will be one of the key partners in DIH consortium and will act as a provider of expertise and infrastructure. The structures existing within the university will be also used for the activities of DIH (e.g. Research Centre AgroBioTech, EIT Food Hub, Food Incubator, etc.).

National Agricultural and Food Centre will also act as a partner in DIH consortium and as a provider of decision support tools for agri-food stakeholders. It will also provide its ready-to-use digital decision support tool for dairy farmers.

WTP's main role will be to provide knowledge on digitalization topics, share experience and best practice examples. WTP will also facilitate access to its technological line, which can be used mainly in life science industry, particularly in food, dietary supplements and bioactive substances sector. It operates in sharing economy concept and thus, creates potential for the use by interested Slovak companies.

Proposed starting date

2021 – Some of the activities have already started. Partners organized mutual events and knowledge exchange workshops to discuss how DIHs in other countries work and what type of services they provide.

Duration

2025 – This period of time includes the official set-up of DIH, including business and financial plan (incl. strategy, mission and vision), stakeholder map, setting of the portfolio of services based on the competencies of all partners, registration in JRC catalogue and start up of the first activities of DIH towards digital transition of agri-food.

Region of implementation

The action will be implemented mainly in Slovakia. However, some of the activities might be organized also in other countries, such as workshops, trainings, etc.

Estimated costs

5 000 000 Eur – however, this budget is envisaged not only for the establishment of DIH, but also for its longer-term operation. It includes soft and investment resources, incl. investments in infrastructure and human resources.



External needs

Technical universities might be involved in the later stages of DIH operation, mainly as providers of digitalization services to SMEs and other stakeholders.

Contribution of activities to the expected impact

After the official establishment of DIH, tailored advisory services will be provided to agri-food SMEs in order to strengthen their innovation activities (also linked to the use of digital technologies and solutions) and to ensure better transfer of knowledge from research to practice.

Links to regional/national/EU policies and strategies

In respect to the preparation of the future CAP Strategic Plan for the period 2021 – 2027, EC stated that one of the weaknesses of Slovakia is that there is no DIH focused on agri-food sector. Therefore, this innovation activity responds to the recommendation from EC. In addition, the idea of DIH in agri-food has already been incorporated into the Integrated Regional Development Strategy of the Nitra Region, which creates a good precondition for supporting this initiative and securing future funding of the DIH.



3 Conclusions

The European Commission (EC) is investing in Digital Innovation Hubs as means to support businesses in their digital transformation and is promoting cooperation among them. DIHs are heterogeneous groups of actors and so is their relationship with regional smart specialization strategies and processes (S3). DIH in agri-food in Slovakia will be established as an outcome of the S3 process. In terms of S3 implementation it will focus on leading a S3 priority area, which is agri-food. Furthermore, it will provide a mixed portfolio of activities designed in interaction with regional stakeholders and international partners.

By implementing the Transnational industrial innovation agenda for the bioeconomy sector, the project partners BEC and WTP expect to contribute to smooth digital transformation of agri-food SMEs in Slovakia and to ensure continuous transfer of knowledge on technological opportunities at transnational level.

The total cost of foreseen activities is 5000 000 Eur, which are foreseen to be covered by ESIF and private sources generated from the provision of services once the DIH is established and functioning.



Annex 1: Participating TNIS members

Activity participant	Short description of the participant
National Agricultural and Food Centre	NAFC is a research organization focused on applied research and gathering of knowledge in the sustainable use and protection of natural resources.