

Innovations for Sustainable Production

SPIN taps on innovations throughout the BSR, which lead to sustainable production in SMEs. In other words: These innovations help to reduce economic, environmental and social costs while maintaining or even increasing production levels.

Thus they create private profits and public benefits at the same time!

Example 1

Today, cooling devices in supermarkets mainly use HydroFluoroCarbons (HFCs) as a refrigerant. HFCs have no ozone depletion potential but are potent greenhouse gases, which heat up the atmosphere almost 4.000 times more than even CO₂. In the BSR a refrigeration system has been developed, which uses natural refrigerants with a negligible or even no greenhouse potential.

Example 2

Today the cost for material amounts to some 50 % in SMEs in the manufacturing sector. Getting access to an innovative solution to save material in the production process means hard cash for the entrepreneur, reduces waste and emissions and enhances the responsible use of scarce resources. In a nutshell: it supports sustainable production.

The € 3 m project SPIN (2009-2012) builds on the work of the Baltic 21 industry sector and brings together some of the most important institutions for eco-innovations in the region. SPIN is part of the selected set of Baltic 21 Lighthouse Projects, which have been designed as to promote sustainable development throughout the Baltic Sea Region. It is supported and followed by national governments, sector associations, research bodies and transnational NGOs in all Baltic Sea Countries.

Partners

Germany

- Federal Environment Agency | UBA
Lead Partner
- Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety | BMU

Sweden

- IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute | IVL

Poland

- Polish Environmental Partnership Foundation | EPCE

Denmark

- Danish Technological Institute | DTI

Estonia

- University of Tartu | UT

Lithuania

- Kaunas University of Technology, Institute of Environmental Engineering | APINI

Finland

- VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland | VTT

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Private Profits
Public Benefits

spin
Sustainable Production
through Innovation in SMEs

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2009–2012



SPIN Goals

SPIN is based on the simple but normally successful business equation of matching supply and demand.

European directives and regulations require enterprises to comply with environmental standards and to ensure eco-efficient production processes. As a response numerous environmental technologies and management systems have been developed throughout the Baltic Sea Region. But this capacity is not sufficiently applied throughout the area.

- On one side, many SMEs still struggle or even fail to respond to EU requirements, as they don't have access to the existing technological or managerial solutions developed in other parts of the region.
- On the other side, many innovative ideas & technologies are lost as those SMEs that offer such innovative tools do not have access to big enough markets.

To overcome this mismatch, SPIN connects some of the most outstanding expert institutions for eco-innovation in the BSR in order to combine their efforts both on practical as well as policy level.

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SPIN Activities

- Identify & promote BSR eco-innovation highlights
- Provide SMEs access to technical & organisational eco-innovations, which match their specific need
- Familiarise and supply SMEs with best available management & decision making tools, which help them to apply eco-innovations in their companies
- Develop incentives & support policies for SMEs to apply eco-innovations
- Create a coherent international support and policy framework throughout the BSR



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SPIN Outputs

- > Reach out to more than 2500 SMEs throughout the BSR
- > Induce investments worth several million EUR in SMEs which apply new solutions
- > Increase competitiveness of SMEs in the BSR supplying eco-innovations due to bigger markets
- > Connect 200 outstanding institutions in the field of eco-innovations in the BSR
- > Collect over 1000 good practice examples in a database on innovations made in BSR
- > BSR policy strategy on how to enhance the application of eco-innovations

