



Pathfinder manual for the Dutch Engage4BIO hub

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Funded by
the European Union

Pathfinder introduction

This report presents the vision pathfinder for the Dutch Engage4BIO hub. The vision pathfinder document is building on a “map and gap” analysis (see Deliverable 2.1) and on the results and subsequent analysis of a one-day vision-building workshop, which took place in Arnhem on the 4th of July.

Results of the map and gap analysis

The Map and Gap analysis has made clear that there is attention for the different potentials of sustainable and circular textiles in the region. Focus is both on working with virgin biobased resources, as well as on collecting and valorising textiles waste, which has only recently gained interest at the level of the region. We found potential on specialization and profiling in three directions:

- Fashion and design
- Textiles in interior applications
- Collecting and valorising regional textile waste streams.

Biobased resources for textiles are very scarce in the region, and presently the production, both of textiles for interior applications as well as for fashion, sources raw materials from outside the region. Biobased textiles are applied, next to fossil based textiles, but there is limited focus on gearing towards the use of more biobased textiles.

Circular textiles are within the scope of policies and strategies development, but a clear focus or specialization within the region is missing. There is no clear alignment between policy levels at provincial, regional and local level. The map and gap analysis has shown that the circular textiles innovation is in early stages; there are various initiatives and pilots on circular textiles from small companies and from the arts and design sector, but the value chain perspective is missing, and upscaling towards a regional Demonstrator has not yet taken place.

The arts and design sector in the region is much present and dynamic, with a profile on fashion, and with much interest in working with new sustainable materials. Connection with other domains and economic sectors is limited. Also the outreach towards society can be enlarged.

Also at the knowledge domain there is interest in sustainable textiles. Both the use of biobased as well as of circular textiles is seen as a promising subject for research and innovation at Wageningen University and Research and at ArtEZ University of the Arts as part of the New Ecosystems in Textiles research community. Connection with

the regional network and the complete innovation ecosystem in which partners from the quadruple helix are aligned, however, is limited. Higher education institutes are more aligned with the regional network. ArtEZ is representing the arts and design with a focus on fashion. HAN is offering regional support towards value creation, but still limited on the subject of circular textiles. The utilization or the application of technological knowledge and education within the region is strong, also within the wider region of East of the Netherlands.

Non-formal learning is on the agenda of the Green Metropolitan Region, with a focus on human capital in the region, but also focussing on meeting each other at events. The Green Metropolitan Region and Stichting Kiemt play an active role in these processes. There is attention for biobased and circular textiles, but with no clear and common focus. Circular and biobased textiles can easily become more prominent on the regional agenda, when the frames have been set and the support services become more focussed.

Co-creation workshop on vision building

Because the region does not have yet one or more clear production chains within the field of textiles, but rather a wide range of loosely or non-connected activities, the vision and strategy workshop was focussed at weaving connections between the various stakeholders active in the hub. Stakeholders from the province, from two municipalities, two cluster organisations active in the region, the regional development agency, various education partners, and three network organisations worked together on visioning concrete biobased or circular production chains. An added goal of this first workshop was to strengthen the network, and position the Engage4Bio project as a driver and facilitator in the network, well aligned with regional partners and initiatives. Results of this workshop are presented extensively in the workshop report.

Design of the three follow-up workshops

The following three workshops were then focused on the co-creation of activities to be executed in the remainder of the project time. The workshops were designed building upon the results of the co-creation workshop on vision building. For each of these workshops stakeholders present at the vision workshop were invited and in each case the group of participants was extended with other relevant stakeholders. The workshops on outreach (communication & awareness campaigns) and on innovative governance were both held during relevant larger regional events, which was instrumental in linking more relevant stakeholders to the development of the co-creation activities.

Hub vision and strategic aspects

As presented in the previous paragraph, the hub is in the course of developing more interconnections between various players and working towards tangible pilot activities in the field of sustainable textiles. In the following workshops we try to link Engage4Bio approach to strengthen already existing ideas and activities. Purpose of the hub is to help strengthen on the one hand the concrete activities to development of (circular) textile chains in the region, while at the same time using these activities to support development of a more innovative way of cooperation. The tangibility of these activities will furthermore form a firm basis for mentoring and (adult) education and outreach activities.

Vision and strategy approach for awareness raising and knowledge gain

The vision for these activities is that they should link, and build upon the activities and festivals that are organised regularly in the region. We will link to activities which focus on different target groups in order to enlarge the number of people reached. Special attention should be raised for connecting organisations and people that do not meet and collaborate, and also for reaching out to civil society, to inform them about and engage them in circular biobased textiles in the region. Various persons responsible for shaping these activities/festivals were already involved both in the stakeholder mapping and in the vision building workshop.

The awareness raising and knowledge gain workshop is organised as a side event of the Innovate festival in Arnhem in order to attract relevant stakeholders. Additional relevant stakeholders were part of the workshop. The activities that were co-created are presented in the workshop report.

Vision and strategy approach for innovative governance

The vision for these activities is to connect them firmly to a planned pilot on circular textile that will be run by the GMR. The workshop preparing for innovative governance approach is organised as a side event of the circular region event on November 8th. Next to a number of stakeholders that were already involved in the stakeholder mapping and in the vision building workshop this co-creation activity attracted a lot of new stakeholders from various background. A number of proposals and subjects for focus and comparative advantages in the region and for applying new innovative collaborative approaches were developed. The activities that were co-created are presented in the workshop report.

Vision and strategy approach for training and mentoring

Training and mentoring in the Engage4Bio project is focused at at learners in the various fields of formal and informal education with special interest in combining these fields. There is growing attention in the Netherlands and within GMR on skill development, education and guiding the workforce for making the transition to a circular biobased economy. The learning concept which is being used in the region is broad, varying from citizenship, social learning, creation of learning environments as Living Labs, educational programmes linked to cultural activities, and regional human capital agenda's. Next to the current partner network, new partners representing regional educational institutes and learning, have participated in the regional workshop, December 12.

Due to effective use of means (financially, time-wise and commitment of people), the vision is to merge promising activities for learning as much as possible.

The activities that were co-created are presented in the workshop report. Next to these proposed ideas, Engage4Bio intends to connect to other ongoing activities in order to increase the number of participants that can be reached. For instance, university students will be involved via a challenge (hackaton) approach.



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