



ORGANISATION	<u>Bursa Eskisehir Bilecik Development Agency (BEBKA)</u>
Profile	<p>BEBKA is an institution that directs development in the provinces of Bursa, Eskişehir and Bilecik (TR41 Region) by enhancing coordination and cooperation among public sector, private sector and non-governmental organizations; offering local-oriented solutions for local problems and promoting sustainable development by means of proper and effective use of sources.</p> <p>The agency supports projects and activities that offer solutions for sectorial and thematic problems in the region within the frame of strategies and priorities presented in the regional plan. Development Agency supports consist of two sections as financial and technical supports. Financial supports are provided as direct financial supports and loan supports with and without interest.</p> <p>TR41 Region, consists of Bursa, Eskişehir and Bilecik provinces, has a population of over 4 million. There are 27 Organized Industrial Sites in the region and new ones are planned to be established. Small industrial areas are dense in the region and in parallel with Turkey-wide, SME's form 99,7% of the enterprises. The region comes to the forefront especially with textile, ready-made clothing, automotive, food, machine, railway systems, aerospace, electrical equipment and ceramic industries.</p>
Previous experience in European projects	<p>Building Capacity on Industrial Symbiosis for Resource Efficiency and Transitioning to a Low Carbon Economy in Bursa Eskişehir Bilecik Region</p> <p>The overall objective of the project was to develop a regional industrial symbiosis network and management model for TR41 (Bursa-Eskişehir-Bilecik) Region in Turkey to improve resource and energy efficiency.</p> <p>As part of the project, a three-day training was taken place to develop a regional strategy to bring forward into next stage of implementation. As the second phase, a conference on industrial symbiosis with a simultaneous project brokerage event was held to bring all stakeholders together and to raise awareness. The project</p>



	<p>also included a UK field visit to learn about the national programme. The stakeholders gained knowledge about UK's national IS programme, how it is implemented and how the system is sustained.</p> <p>Optimizing Support for Innovating SMEs- OaSIS Project</p> <p>The overall objective of the project was providing analyses of the existing approaches to the segmentation of innovating SMEs and the assessment of the effectiveness of regional support mechanisms currently used in Europe. Innovation support instruments data were gathered by regional development agencies and effectiveness of funding instruments, grants and other support measures for different SME segments analysed and compared with European benchmarks.</p> <p>BEBKA participated to project as third party and provided data related to support instruments used for SMEs, attended to organised workshops and gave feedback for the tool developed for optimizing support mechanisms.</p>
<p>Interests for future projects proposals</p>	<p>With the intention of accelerating sustainable development in the region, BEBKA seeks to develop skills and knowledge of priority sectors and necessary management tools for ensuring sustainability in the region through transition to low-carbon pathways and circular economy. For this purpose, we aim to raise awareness, increase level of knowledge in order to establish a sustained model for the Region throughout the local authorities and key stakeholders who will play active role in circular economy. In addition, TR41 Region's Innovation and Smart Specialization Strategy was recently prepared after a comprehensive research and participation process to identify strategic areas in the context of demonstrating and developing regional innovation and smart specialization capacity. With the understanding that BEBKA should be an important coordinator organization and interface structure of the region, increasing its focus and strength in the coming period in determining and directing the needs of the region and the leading or leading candidate companies in the region, thus assuming a new mission as the facilitator of the industrial strategy in the region.</p>
<p>Project ideas</p>	<p>As a regional development agency, we have a good regional know how and experience in financing and implementing projects related to circular economy, industrial symbiosis, smart specialization and currently looking forward to be part of</p>



	international projects in the development of resource productivity activities for capacity building and empowering collaboration. We are of interest to participate in a consortium and kindly welcome project partnerships in this call to strengthen our role in transition to circular economy and smart specialization of our region.
3 key words	innovation, smart specialization, circular economy.
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