



BRIDGING THE GAP

SHAREBIOTECH'S NEWSLETTER

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ShareBiotech in brief

ShareBiotech's main goal is to strengthen the biotechnology sector through facilitating access to technological core facilities for researchers and companies within the European Atlantic Area. The project, led by French organisations, was initiated in 2010 and integrates 10 partners from 4 Member States (France, Ireland, Portugal and Spain) and 7 regions.



ShareBiotech promising outputs



The ShareBiotech partners gathered in Faro, Portugal, in early February, almost 3 years after the kick-off meeting. The first year of the project was dedicated to analysing the technology needs from research groups and companies, as well as the technology offer of the regions involved in the project. The website, comprising a map of life science Technology Core Facilities (TCFs), was

released at the end of 2010. Since then, the ShareBiotech project supported TCFs and helped them improve their technology service offer. Additionally, many opportunities were given to connect the biotechnology stakeholders, through 40 technology meetings, 3 transnational events and more than 165 mobility grants which resulted in new collaborations. Importantly, the science and technology resources of the regions were made more visible on the European scene. Answering technology needs remains a challenge, in particular SMEs' needs. SMEs need to access the right technology at the right time. ShareBiotech partners developed practices and a model based on novel ICT tools was proposed. Enjoy this newsletter and discover the project outputs!

ShareBiotech supported 16 TCFs to improve technology services

In the last months, further to an in-depth analysis, 16 Technology Core Facilities benefited from tailor-made advice in order to improve their technology offer. Some of them had communication material reviewed and enhanced (for example, the www.therassay.com website was created - before the TCF was only part of an umbrella website). Others defined a marketing strategy, in particular through positioning, structuring and specifying the products and services and the targeted users and clients. One of the facility was advised to spin-off. Last but not least, a few facilities engaged in quality management, looking forward to official certification. These leverage actions pave the way to better technology service provision in the regions and higher visibility, notably to the research performers from both academia and industry.

Technology Core Facilities models in Europe

ShareBiotech analysed 15 Technology Core Facilities across Europe through various criteria, among which, governance, activity, staff organisation, strategy, partnerships, confidentiality and IP management. Among the 15 facilities, three categories emerged: 1) profit-oriented TCFs, 2) local innovation support TCFs, and 3) research community focused TCFs. These TCFs apply a mix of business models (routine analyses, tailor made research, consulting, training, access, membership, IP generation). Interestingly, the various categories of TCFs appear to be decoupled from a specific business model (or bunch of business models), i.e. the organisation of each TCF and the mix of services reflect the origin and the history of the TCF rather than a strategic business approach implemented through a voluntary selection of business models. The report can be downloaded at <http://www.sharebiotech.net>

ShareBiotech Virtual 3D Campus simulation now available online

A ShareBiotech Virtual 3D Campus Simulation created by RealSim Ltd and presented by Dr. Patricia McAleernon at the ShareBiotech event is now available to view online at www.realsim.ie/ShareBiotech.html. The use of Virtual Worlds to enhance collaboration, networking and facilitate access to TCFs was discussed including a review of core facility management software systems.



Recommendations to Support the Growth of a Bio-based Economy

As announced in the last ShareBiotech's newsletter, the Recommendations to Support the Growth of a Bio-based Economy report is now available at our website. This report is a result of a study carried out by the ShareBiotech's consortium, to analyze the technology landscape in the ShareBiotech regions and give recommendations to technological networks and Policy makers in the Atlantic Area to improve the offer of technologies and technological infrastructures available. The recommendations are proposed in order to enhance the cooperation between the regions participating in ShareBiotech, building on the existing capacities and potential synergies, and in order to address some of the innovation barriers that were identified. The main recommendations are:

- Deploy one large-scale transnational collaborative project on Marine Biotechnology;
- Establish a permanent collaborative network for technology sharing and transfer;
- Set up a limited number of open access integrated multi-purpose pilot scale facilities for industrial bioprocesses;
- Map and assess the capacity and integrate the best available "omic" platforms available within the ShareBiotech regions.

More details at www.sharebiotech.net.

A ShareBiotech booth during BioFIT international event

BioFIT is the only international partnering event in the field of technology transfer and collaborative projects in the life sciences sector. It took place on 3 - 4 December, 2012 in Lille, France and gathered roughly 350 professionals. The French partners decided to attend the BioFIT business convention with a ShareBiotech booth with two objectives:

- Promote the results achieved during the project, with a focus on the European Technological Core Facilities (TCF) network
- Encourage collaborations by supporting the participation of regional TCF to this event.



Three regional TCF replied positively to this initiative and attended the conferences and keynote sessions. Moreover, 26 BtoB meetings were organized by the Breton and Pays de Loire partners and several collaborations were engaged. BDI, the ShareBiotech leadpartner also presented the project during a special session. In conclusion, the BioFit action of ShareBiotech was very positive, both from a business prospective and from a promotional prospective. [Read complete article](#)

Biotech Success Stories in the ShareBiotech regions

Successful collaborations between technological core facilities and companies or research groups. ShareBiotech case studies of the current issue include:

RecombiNa (Spain) <http://bit.ly/WMJgxy>

Luzitin (Portugal) <http://bit.ly/UJvNU7>

YSLAB (France) <http://bit.ly/11oqQ7C>

Upcoming Events:

- Gen2Bio 2013, Nantes, France, March 28th, 2013 <http://www.biogenouest.org/contenu/gen2bio>
- In-Cosmetics 2013, Paris, France, April 16th-18th, 2013 <http://www.in-cosmetics.com>
- 2013 BIO International Convention, Chicago, USA, April 22nd-25th, 2013 <http://convention.bio.org>

[Get in touch with other events...](#)

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