EVALUATION OF BUSINESS FINLAND CLEANTECH & BIOECONOMY PROGRAMS

INNOVATIONPROGAMS

TYRSKY consulting

BUSINESS FINLAND

technopolis group

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

BIONETS

Create new bioeconomy solutions, services, and networks in Finland, and enhance innovative international business

CLEANWEB

Create rapidly scalable cleantech business operations and accelerate the market entry of SMEs in the sector

ARCTICSEAS

Promote the creation of new businesses in eco-efficient marine solutions and the sustainable use of marine resources

MAIN OBSERVATIONS ON PROGRAM'S GOVERNANCE AND SERVICES

GOVERNANCE

- ✓ programs were timely and thematically relevant
- ✓ programs were governed and implemented in a manner that allowed them to meet the objectives
- ✓ programs incorporated sustainability relatively well, but clear specific sustainability objectives were not defined nor monitored

SERVICES

- ✓ funding was the key benefit of innovation programs, but services also supported product development
- ✓ program services have generally been relevant and the quality was satisfactory
- ✓ more support for commercialization was expected

RESULTS, RELEVANCE AND IMPACT

BIONETS
- ✓ 71% of participating firms enjoyed some growth
- ✓ sustainability featured prominently in applications
- ✓ 60% of beneficiaries collaborated with more partners
- ✓ 58% of companies took new technologies to use

CLEANWEB
- ✓ participating SMEs achieved 130% growth 2013-19
- ✓ value added increased for beneficiaries
- ✓ made new (international) markets accessible
- ✓ 55% of companies took new technologies to use

ARCTICSEAS
- ✓ 71% of participating firms enjoyed some growth
- ✓ export value increased for beneficiaries
- ✓ 80% of beneficiaries collaborated with more partners
- ✓ 63% of companies took new technologies to use

TAKE AWAYS
- ✓ the programs have generally succeeded in achieving defined objectives
- ✓ the programs had positive incentive effects
- ✓ programs helped creating and sustaining networks in relevant cleantech and bioeconomy areas
- ✓ programs presumably had a positive impact on sustainability and environmental awareness

RECOMMENDATIONS

- → set more specific goals for broader societal impact
- → define goals for sustainability impact and set quantitative targets for sustainability funding
- → better align programs as tools to implement national strategies
- → develop a systematic monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) framework
- → tailor program elements more specifically to improve overall effectiveness