

Policy Support Facility (PSF) on Bioeconomy

Preliminary thoughts from BIOEAST Initiative

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BIOEAST Initiative

Central-Eastern European Initiative for Knowledge-based Agriculture, Forestry and Aquaculture in the Bioeconomy

Shared strategic research and innovation framework for working towards the development of sustainable bioeconomies in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE).

Why BIOEAST: *Low performance of knowledge-based agriculture, aquaculture and forestry in the bioeconomy, significant internal disparities in terms of research and innovation performance, and low participation of CEE region in H2020.*



Three political agreements of the Agri Ministers

26. October 2016: VISEGRAD 4 Group + 3 Countries: on stronger inclusion into H2020

21. September 2017: VISEGRAD 4 Group + 4 Countries: on broadening the remit of the BIOEAST initiative beyond HORIZON 2020

13. June 2018: VISEGRAD 4 Group + 7 countries (V4: Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovenia): on the Vision for BIOEAST



Is to assist Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries to operationalize their Vision for 2030 drawing on their potential and offering opportunities for:

- 1. A sustainable increase of biomass production**, to become competitive and leading, high quality, food and feed producers worldwide;
- 2. A circular (“zero waste”) processing** of the available biomass, to become key players in the development of new bio-based value chains;
- 3. Viable rural areas:** to develop an innovative, inclusive, climate-ready and inclusive growth model;

Intervention logic of the BIOEAST Vision

| Challenges What is hindering? | Scope Where to focus? | Goal What is the aim? | Level Where to act? | Objectives How to overcome? | Actions What to do? |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| <p>C1. Research and Innovation deadlock</p> <p>C2. Stalemate in the bio-based value chains</p> <p>C3. Governance impasse</p> <p>C4. Societal indifference</p> <p>C5. Financial barriers</p> | <p>S1. Strategic thinking in bioeconomy</p> <p>S 2. Quality Food and Feed for Europe and for the World</p> <p>S 3. Industrial boost for rural areas</p> | <p>G1. Productivity: Sustainable increase of biomass production;</p> <p>G2. Sustainability: Developing biodiversity and biosecurity;</p> <p>G3. Resource efficiency: Circular and value-added use of the available biomass;</p> <p>G 2.2. Rural development: Increasing the viability and attractiveness of rural areas and society</p> | <p>L1. Macro-regional</p> <p>L2. National</p> <p>L3. Regional and local</p> | <p>O 1. To develop strategies;</p> <p>O 2. To cooperate and develop evidence-based policies;</p> <p>O 3. To identify common challenges and validate common research areas;</p> <p>O 4. To provide an evidence base;</p> <p>O 5. To improve skills;</p> <p>O 6. To develop synergies;</p> <p>O 7. To increase visibility;</p> | <p>Further develop specific objectives</p> <p>Develop BIOEAST SRIA</p> <p>Start to implement the action plan of BIOEAST SRIA based on the objectives</p> |

BIOECONOMY in BIOEAST countries

1. Do you have bioeconomy strategy? If yes, which ministries were involved, since when?
2. Do you have inter-ministerial working group(s) on bioeconomy? If yes, which ministries, since when?
3. Do you have cross-sectoral group in the ministry on bioeconomy, which ministry, since when?
4. How could Commission help the process of better uptake of bioeconomy at national level?

| | Strategy | Inter-ministerial cooperation | Ministerial level cooperation |
|----|---|---|--|
| LV | Latvian Bioeconomy Strategy 2030 in December 19, 2017 | Inter-ministerial Working Group on Bioeconomy was formed: chaired by Ministry of Agriculture and including representatives of managerial level from Ministry of Economics, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Welfare, and Cross-Sectoral Coordination Centre | The Ministry of Agriculture has an informal group of experts who are responsible for bioeconomy issues within their competence (agriculture, forestry, rural development, fisheries and aquaculture) |
| EE | Strategy on Agriculture and Fisheries and the Strategy on Forestry are under revision all together form the Strategic Framework for Bioeconomy under the patronage of two ministries Rural Affairs and ENVI in 2017 | 1) BIOEAST: Ministry of Rural Affairs (NCP), Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Education and Research, and Estonian Research Council (the group had its first meeting in 2017) 2) Ministry of Rural Affairs is working closely with Ministry of Environment upon devising the strategy for agriculture and fisheries (the preparations fro the strategy begun 2017) | no |
| LI | NO, but there is a Lithuanian Bioeconomy Development Feasibility Study (2017) The study was carried out by Aleksandras Stulginskis University | For the feasibility study involved staff of Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Science and Education, Ministry of Social Security and Labour, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Energy. It was set up in 2016 | |
| BG | The strategy aiming to increase the role and impact of agriculture sector in the national/ Bulgarian bioeconomy officially star to be develop before a month (27.07.2018), following the order of the Bulgarian Minister of Agriculture Food and Forestry . The working group which develop the strategy is chair by the President of Agriculture Academy and involve representatives of Ministry of Agriculture Food and Forestry/MAFF/, Agricultural Academy /part of MAFF/, Forestry Executive Agency, National Agricultural Advisory Service, State Risk Assessment Center for the Food Chain and three | NO but the pointed above working group involve experts representing both Ministry of Agriculture Food and Forestry and Ministry of Science and Education. Expanding of the WG with representatives of other Ministries is consider at latter stage. | The current working group is cross-sectoral within the agriculture sector and to some extend involves science and education (without direct involvement of the Ministry of Science and Education). |

| | | | |
|----|---|--|---|
| CZ | NO | Special group for bioeconomy involving experts from Ministry of Agriculture and also Ministry of Industry, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, national representative in BBI JU, research organizations. 2017 | Yes, in the working group mentioned above are involved experts across the sectors (education, research, environment, industry) |
| HU | NO | The Ministry of Agriculture initiated an informal inter-ministerial group to discuss the R+I issues on Bioeconomy. (April 2018) Two ministries Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Innovation and Technology start to discuss issues in the remit of Bioeconomy. | no |
| SK | Some areas of bioeconomy are included in the areas of Smart Specialization Strategy RIS3 SK. Implementation domain Healthy Food and Environment of the operational program Research and Development (ESIF funds) includes some areas of specialization and topics that are connected to bioeconomy. | No | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) has taken the main initiative when it comes to bioeconomy. SCAR delegate and research organizations that belong to the MARD, such as the National Agricultural and Food Centre and National Forestry Centre December 2017 the working group on bioeconomy at the ministry level has been established including representatives from the ministry and organizations operating under the MARD (research organizations, state organizations). Stakeholders: Slovak Agriculture University are part of the platform BIOCLUSTER together with small group of stakeholders/companies in agro-food sector. |
| SI | No Bioeconomy, but Framework Programme for the Transition to a Green Economy (2015); Development Strategy 2030 (2017); Strategy on Smart Specialisation (2017); Roadmap towards a Circular Economy in Slovenia (2018) Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and Ministry of Infrastructure | No Bioeconomy, but smart specialization since 2018 which consist of state secretaries of the government service for development, ministry of economic development, ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, Ministry of Infrastructure, Ministry of Public Administration, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs | no |
| PL | No | The Bioeconomy Working Group was set up as a part of work to develop a PL roadmap for the circular economy. Bioeconomy is a part of drafted roadmap. The representatives of ministries / scientists / experts are involved in the work of the group. Ministry of Enterprise and Technology coordinated in 2016 | |

How could Commission help the process of better uptake of bioeconomy at national level?

- Information campaign aimed on promotion and explanation of renewed EC Bioeconomy Strategy oriented on regional (national) stakeholders in cooperation with national contact points for national/regional bioeconomies.
- Part of the materials (summary, infographics, bioeconomy fiche) should be translated into national languages in order to be better understood by all stakeholders (SMEs, enterprisers, public, students,)
- The support in promotion of best practices and experiences on national level
- Research and innovation calls oriented on topics related to bioeconomy in the regions with “less mature bioeconomy”
- The emphasize and support inclusion of bioeconomy topics/themes (in the Strategic plans of the CAP after 2020, Rural Development Programmes, programmes oriented on quality of life or other relevant programmes)
- To ensure a greater involvement of all the Member States and stakeholders at the EU-level bioeconomy processes we invite the Commission to strengthen the bioeconomy policy governance and the cooperation with national policy makers. It is important to provide all stakeholders in all Member States with up-to-date information.
- We believe that in cooperation with BioEast would help to develop its own bioeconomy strategy.
- information seminars demonstrating both the need and advantages of having efficient bioeconomy strategy directed to various bioeconomy value chains and in other hand providing support of building expertise and information based on the experiences and problems from other member states already advanced in bioeconomy.
- To help by putting additional focus on bioeconomy in the formulation of policies
- To extend emphasis and support the bioeconomy in Rural Development Programmes

Building up the capacities in the public administration for bioeconomy strategy development

1. Should be tailor-made to address the country's needs
 - At administrative level
 - At policy decision maker level
2. Should provide a unique combination of expertise (from the European Commission, EU countries, international organizations and/or the private sector)
3. Should strengthens the cross ministerial administrative capacity of an EU country to design and implement bioeconomy strategy building

GAP:

There is a mismatch in knowledge and perceived importance:

1. between the different ministries

- On policies, priorities, strategies and action plans

2. Between the sectors:

- Silo-based approach

3. Between the level of administration and political decision makers:

- Level of importance

PSF/ each country / first steps

1. Bringing together a group of administrators from different ministries at the same level of knowledge about all the current EU sustainability and climate neutrality guidelines concerning the bioeconomy strategy development.
2. Bringing together a group of policy decision makers from different ministries and providing with good examples and current EU policy guidelines on overarching bioeconomy policy issues.

Next Steps

1. 8. November 2018 BIOEAST conference: <http://bioeast.eu/article/bioeast-bioeconomy-in-the-forefront-of-national-policies-conference>

3 Studies: available containing data and state of play of CEE bioeconomies

2. 8–10 May 2019: Visegrad 4 Group + 7 Agricultural Ministers Meeting on in Stará Lesná (High Tatras, Slovakia)

3. BIOEAST CSA under preparation (call in HORIZON 2020 WP2019)

- 3. **Guidance on National Bioeconomy Strategy Development**
- 4. **Macro-regional Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)**

3. Establishing **National BIOEAST HUBs** for the stakeholders engagement at national level

4. Five **Thematic Working Groups** for SRIA development at macro regional level:

- Forestry
- Sustainable yields and agro-ecological intensification
- Bioenergy and biomaterials
- Fresh water bioeconomy
- Food Systems



Thank you for your attention!

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