



2nd workshop of BIOEAST and SCAR
on
Policy Support Facility (PSF) tools for developing
bioeconomy strategies

Friday 3 May 2019, 09:00 – 16:30
Venue: Permanent Representation of Hungary, Rue de Trèves 92-98,
Brussels

Workshop Report

Organisation team:

Barna Kovacs, Secretary General of BIOEAST Initiative

Jan van Esch, co-chair of SCAR Strategic Working Group for Bioeconomy

Alexandros Theodoridis, co-chair of SCAR Strategic Working Group for Bioeconomy

Alex Percy-Smith, independent consultant, moderated the overall workshop

Alexandru Marchis, external expert, moderated the methodology part of the workshop

Myrna van Leeuwen, bioeconomist from Wageningen Economic Research, rapporteur at the workshop

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Scope and objectives of 2nd workshop on Policy Facility Support

1.1 Background

This workshop on 'Facilitating development of bioeconomy policy – needs and gaps' was the second of three workshops intended to support the process of developing national bioeconomy strategies especially in the Central and East European countries (CEECs) and other member states (MSs) which are less active in the bioeconomy. The workshop included a combination of presentations and facilitated discussions of the state of play of the development of the bioeconomy in MSs, identification of needs and gaps in the MSs as well as possible ways of supporting the process of development of the bioeconomy. There was a pre-workshop phase during which time some participants provided information in preparation for the actual workshop during which selected examples as well as overviews were used. The workshop was co-organised by the BIOEAST Initiative and SCAR-Strategic Working Group for Bioeconomy with support from consultants funded by the CASA CSA project.

The *overall aim* of the workshop was to assist member states in developing and implementing national/regional bioeconomy strategies across Europe.

The *specific objectives* of the second workshop were:

- To obtain a qualified overview of the needs and gaps to develop bioeconomy strategies in the CEE states and MS that are less active within the bioeconomy.
- To identify a road map and actions required to develop national bioeconomy strategies.

A total of 40 persons from the BIOEAST Initiative, SCAR BSW, European Commission and BBI-JU participated in the workshop (Annex 1).

This report provides a record of the workshop and does not attempt to provide conclusions and recommendations. However, during the preparations for the third workshop and the report from the third workshop conclusions and recommendations will be proposed as relevant and when appropriate.

1.2 Welcome and introduction

Jan van Esch, Co-chair of SCAR Strategic Working Group for Bioeconomy, stressed that the aim of the second workshop was to help CEECs with developing a national bioeconomy strategy and to provide support tools for preparing and implementing the strategy. The workshop aimed at providing the initial phases of developing a roadmap with actions for each individual member state.

Barna Kovacs, Secretary General of BIOEAST, expressed the need for a strong Policy Support Facility that is helpful for building and implementing bioeconomy strategies in both CEEC and Western European countries. The workshop can be regarded as a mutual learning exercise in which those who already have a strategy collaborate with those who haven't a strategy yet. The CEE countries and other countries are interested in using the Policy Support Facility tools of DG RTD, although needs for other types of support might be brought up as well. It is important to benefit from the momentum as so many member states have been mobilised and to think and discuss freely.

The aim of the workshop is to make the ground for the third workshop when together we can build up the three pillars of the policy support of those countries, which do not have yet bioeconomy strategies. During the second workshop we need to assess the needs and possibly to assess a major topic(s) which could be common for all the countries in the field of bioeconomy including all the countries which already have and those, which do not yet have a strategy and action plan. This assessment will lead us to the third workshop when: i) we can build up a PSF, possibly a mutual learning exercise built upon a

common theme for all the countries (with and without strategies), ii) the already existing HORIZON 2020 actions might solve some of the identified support needs, iii) and for other issues we will try to find solution for them later on during the coming years.

1.3 Workshop methodology

Alex Percy-Smith, moderator of the workshop, emphasized that the current workshop builds on the first one which was organised on 13th March 2019. The summary report of the first workshop on Policy Facility Support Tool is available on both the BIOEAST website (<http://www.bioeast.eu/documents/other>) and the SCAR website (<https://www.scar-swg-sbgb.eu/documents>). The overall objective is to implement the EC bioeconomy strategy, which should go along with a roadmap and its actions required. The workshop should initiate the development of a qualified overview of needs and gaps for the preparation and implementation of national bioeconomy strategies in all MSs/ACs without dedicated bioeconomy strategies.

Alexandru Marchis, external expert, provided an overview and status of the work which is being supported through the three workshops involving the process towards developing national bioeconomy strategies. The first workshop focussed on the scope of the actions mentioned in the EU bioeconomy strategy, and highlighted the EC-RTD policy tools to support that process, like peer reviews and mutual learning exercises. There is no single approach in achieving national bioeconomy strategies, as each member state's situation will be unique. On the other hand, there are methodologies that could support pathways towards creating tailor-made, i.e. country-specific, bioeconomy strategies. One of these is a concept of four building blocks, which is further explained under session 3 of this report.

Session 1: Overview of the state of play in member states

The representatives from the BIOEAST countries, i.e. Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Republic of Estonia, Romania, Slovenia and Turkey presented their responses to the following three questions:

1. What is currently – officially or informally - available for a bioeconomy strategy in your country? *E.g. inter-ministerial working groups; political commitments; expert groups; studies; stakeholder platforms, research projects; networks and communication; discussion fora; conference findings* (Table 1 highlights the answers of the countries).
2. What are target(sub-)sectors for bioeconomy in your country? *(Sub)-sectors that should be covered by the national bioeconomy strategy and their potential importance in the national economy, e.g. shares in production value, GDP and area* (Table 2).
3. What are the responsible public bodies and relevant stakeholders in your country? *E.g. responsible institutions, stakeholder groups or platforms involved in the bioeconomy strategy and their role according to procedures and national regulations* (Table 3).

Table 1 What is currently available for a bioeconomy strategy in your country?

Member State	Process status of bioeconomy strategy	Groups involved	Roadmap towards strategy
Bulgaria	Bioeconomy strategy is being developed along the descriptive analysis. A SWOT has been applied. Improving knowledge and skills.	Inter-ministerial working group on bio-economy (MAFF, MES). BIOEAST initiative. Several stakeholder platforms identified and networks established.	An action plan is being developed with 7 impact areas. Rural development is an important aspect. Draft strategy is now being discussed with stakeholders.
Croatia	Series of strategies, incl. one for food. Somewhere bioeconomy strategy is moving on; need to be integrated. There is bioeconomy, because Croatia is strong in it, but it is not organised.	Ministry of Agriculture. A lot is going on, especially in research; gives access to innovative aspects. Only in parallel way, not integrated.	To do: inter-ministerial working groups, involvement of local self-government units and horizontal sectoral organisations and research community.
Czech Republic	A soft/concept strategy document has been made (ready by 1 May 2019).	In 2018 a working group established: ministries of environment, education, trade, industry, research. Experts of academic science are also member, and national cluster associations.	
Estonia	Decided to develop 3 major strategies (for agriculture and fisheries; forestry; bioenergy) that relate to bioeconomy. These are back-bones for implementing the bioeconomy.	Inter-ministerial (environment, rural affairs, economic affairs, communication) applied research project on bioeconomy (2018-2021).	Actions in 2018-21 project: state of art, future scenarios, development potential business models, propose governmental measures and actions for development of bioeconomy
Hungary	No bioeconomy strategy yet.	A long list with official elements to be involved in process. Active, but informal, working group on RDI. Involved in EC projects (e.g. Power4bio)	Planned elements to start discussion on strategy for second half of 2019
Lithuania	Major step was taken with publication of bioeconomy development feasibility study (2017)	Ministry of Agriculture. Continuous close collaboration between universities.	Discussion on needs & gaps have been initiated in recent SCAR workshop (April 2019)
Poland	Different strategies (e.g. for climate change), with role of bioeconomy addressed; but in practice the role is not always	Council of ministries	Roadmap on circular economy. Action plan for rural areas: bioeconomy seen as one of priority projects. BIOSTRATEG:

	recognized. This way of strategy making doesn't work. "Circular Economy is hot, not the bioeconomy"		focus on making bioeconomy cases instead of making bioeconomy strategies
Romania	Bioeconomy seen as priority since Romania's presidency of EU. It should cover all sectors: agro, industry, energy. Main gap is relation between public and administration	There are many ministries, but so far it is difficult to get them at the same table. Each ministry has own ideas about the bioeconomy.	An inter-ministerial working group has been initiated and discussions with involved actors have initiated in order to define the next steps
Slovakia	Nothing ready yet for a bioeconomy strategy. Different actions in many sectors, but nothing across sectors.		Bratislava conference (2016) was start to think on bioeconomy. Since that, not many concrete steps have been taken
Slovenia	Decided to prepare a special bioeconomy strategy has not yet been taken. There are related strategies, e.g. on circular economy, that address bioeconomy.	Clusters, centres of excellence, networks for transition to a circular economy	Available for circular economy
Turkey	Bioeconomy strategy under development. There is a biotechnology strategy.	Core group works on establishing strategy	Available. Awareness activities.

Table 2 What are target(sub-)sectors for bioeconomy in your country?

Member State	Sectors in bioeconomy	Topics	Importance for country's economy
Bulgaria	Agriculture, forestry and fishing/aquaculture.	GVA, employment of total bioeconomy, and primary sectors	JRC study; Biobased textile, food, beverages and tobacco
Croatia	Food is backbone of future bioeconomy	Employment, value added and turnover of bioeconomy sectors as a whole	Industry is tiny, as focus is on tourism. Bioenergy to serve decarbonisation of agri-food sector
Czech Republic	Food waste, agro-food, bioenergy; science		Rural development
Estonia	Agri-food, forestry, fishery	Share of bioeconomy in export	Agricultural labour productivity high; not for processing industry
Hungary	Agriculture (cereals and by-products); bioenergy (starch, sugar, bioethanol), but still first generation. Forestry has huge potential	Biomass availability	By-products. Forestry. 50% of wood is burned, which isn't a sustainable way to use it.
Lithuania	Agri-food, forestry. Timber is growing fast	Turnover per bioeconomy sector	Timber, forestry
Poland	Agriculture, fishery, forestry, bio-waste	Processing not mentioned; include	Sustainable industry production;

		these must be part of action plan.	sustainable consumption; bioeconomy
Romania	Not clear focus yet.		New rural value chains, e.g. clean energy; eco-tourism
Slovakia	Forestry, furniture, agriculture	Employment, turnover (source JRC study) in bioeconomy sectors	Forestry and wood, textile and paper
Slovenia	Forestry, wood processing, pulp & paper; manufacturing Manufacturing in general	Bio-based materials; fresh water aquaculture; by-products	Untapped wood opportunities; manufacturing of bio-based materials
Turkey	Agriculture and forestry. Secondary sectors	Employment. GDP	Huge potentials: textile, chemicals, wood products.

Table 3 What are the responsible public bodies and relevant stakeholders in your country?

Member State	Public bodies	Relevant stakeholders
Bulgaria	Ministry of education is important.	Useful: integration of bioeconomy in science. Platforms of farmers, forest owners, entrepreneurs, NGOs; platforms for synergies between sectors
Croatia	Many ministries are involved, but they don't talk to each other. All ingredients are there, but no recipe. Efforts to make linkages across ministries have started.	BIOEAST initiative; BBI-JU platform; smart specialization strategy. International research activities.
Czech Republic	Ministries of agriculture, environment, trade, agricultural science are involved	Scientific community, farmers, producers, forest managers, municipalities, processing plants
Estonia	Ministry of rural affairs (for agricultural & fishery strategy), ministry of environment (for forestry strategy), ministry of economic affairs (for energy strategy)	Estonian research institutes; sector representatives (e.g. chamber of agriculture and commerce)
Hungary	Ministry of agriculture, as initiator for bioeconomy. Ministry of innovation and technology is related to BIOEAST Ministry of human capacities has no cooperation yet on bioeconomy	BIOEAST. National RDI office Applied research. Chamber of agriculture. Universities and other research institutes
Lithuania	Cross-ministries (agriculture, environment, economics, energy, health)	Research institutes. Several associations (bioenergy; biotech) that are active on bioeconomy .
Poland	Permanent inter-ministerial group will be set up (economy, agriculture, environment, education, energy, water management). Task of BIOEAST is to influence this process of involving ministries	Useful: Stakeholder groups of platforms should be involved in developing bioeconomy strategy. Also seen as task for BIOEAST.

Romania	Inter-institutional group for bioeconomy national strategy elaboration (ministries and research)	Useful: farmer associations, collaboration with administrative bodies and disseminate knowledge; ClusteRo'27 and other clusters
Slovakia	Agriculture recently received 'Coordinationship' to collaboration towards developing bioeconomy strategy. To be collaborate with economic and environmental ministries	National BIOEST is seen as good umbrella for relevant national stakeholders. Ideas, stories and suggestions on how to move forward in the process are welcomed.
Slovenia	There is no inter-ministerial group on bioeconomy, despite the inter-departmental topic. So more ministries should be involved.	Stakeholder partnerships for a green economy; Chamber of commerce; municipalities, universities, NGOs
Turkey	A lot of ministries is interested, but ministry of agriculture is most responsible for bioeconomy. Ministries of industry, employment and finance are also linked	

Highlights of Session 1

-- Food is generally the **central sector** relevant to the bioeconomy, while other sectors are identified as potentially belonging to it. The problem is that most of the CEEC ministries have **limited knowledge** of the bioeconomy. There is need to help ministries to raise awareness and understanding

- It has been emphasised that agriculture is also related to food and non-food sectors! But no actions have been defined as yet for initiating **cross-sectoral interactions**.

- Scattered elements of bioeconomy strategies exist. Steps have to be made towards development of a **fully coherent national bioeconomy strategy**

- **Cooperation** across institutions and governments is often mentioned as useful, but mostly not operational yet. All have their own agenda, mandate, etc. Mutual learning exercise: examples how to get a coherent view and mission on scope of bioeconomy.

- How to integrate education and training in the strategy? **Mutual learning exercise:** examples how to create skills and opportunities for jobs and growth.

- What comes first (chicken-egg issue)? **Start from the circular economy perspective that includes the bioeconomy, or the other way around.** Countries have different views. Insight needed in pros and cons that must be regarded when drafting the process towards building the strategy.

Session 2: Identifying the potential ambition level in bioeconomy

The experiences of three member states with an approved bioeconomy strategy, i.e. Austria, France and Latvia, were presented around three questions:

1. What is the value added of the bioeconomy strategy? *Provide details about sectors involved and expected economic, social and environmental impact of the strategy.*
2. What was the level of ambition in the country when developing the bioeconomy strategy?
3. What has the country got out?

Helmut Gaugitsch, from the Environmental Agency Austria and coordinator of the ministerial and stakeholder collaboration on the bioeconomy in Austria, highlighted the experiences of Austria.

Laura Liepiņa, from the Latvian Ministry of Agriculture, highlighted the experiences from Latvian strategy making.

Corinne Danan, from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food - Directorate-General for Education and Research, addressed the experiences of the French case.

Question 1: What is the value added of the bioeconomy strategy?

Austria:

- Awareness raising and communicating and discussing among stakeholders, among the public
- It is very important to have a vision that is embedded in a future oriented mission (“mission 2030”). In Austria the mission of the bioeconomy strategy has especially been linked to *climate change* and *decarbonisation* challenges.
- Agriculture, forestry and water management are important, but also by-products, waste streams, etc. There is a key role for biorefinery here.
- Reference to SDGs and sustainable consumption is important; so it is not only on raising production.

Latvia:

- Bioeconomy strategy was adopted in December 2017.
- One of its goals is to preserve environment, but economic development is biggest challenge.
- Awareness raising of municipalities in order to help rural development.
- Good readable report available for developing new cooperations across stakeholders.

France:

- There was a need to have a global vision: global impacts in terms of ecological transitions, creating jobs, reduction of dependence on fossil imports, creating new business outlets for primary sector.
- Environmental reasons; decarbonisation.
- Expected synergies like clusters created in the field of bioeconomy (e.g. IAR), and excellence centres.

Question 2: What was the country’s ambition level when developing the bioeconomy strategy?

Austria:

- The work process started one year ago (early 2018) with discussing and adopting the bioeconomy strategy, and this ended-up with an approval by the government on 13 March 2019. So speed makes sense.

- Starting point was the climate and energy strategy of the Austrian government; bioeconomy strategy integrated in that.
- Ministry of Sustainability (which includes many industries, like agrofood, energy, processing, etc.) and Tourism led the process. It was very important to have a lead institution.
- At two points in the process the public was involved for communicating about the goals and the action fields.

Latvia:

- It must be a long term strategy, until 2030 due to the external political context; e.g. EU climate and energy framework 2030; environmental oriented global challenges.
- There is no action plan yet.

France:

- In 2015 there was a need to create synergies at high ministerial levels (Agriculture, Environment, Research and Economy).
- In 2017 the bioeconomy strategy was published.
- There is an action plan with 50 operational actions for the period 2018-2020.
- At the same time stakeholders' associations were implemented; so both bottom-up actions together with top-down (strategy) actions have been initiated in combination. Research institutes were also included.
- Very recently, the link has been made with circular economy roadmap.

Question 3: What has the country got out of the bioeconomy strategy?

Austria:

- Too early to have that clear. The national action plan has to be translated into concrete actions now. This still needs to be done as follow-up of the adopted bioeconomy strategy.
- Centre of bioeconomy will be created at university of Life Science.
- They work on creating a bioeconomy cluster.

Latvia:

- To have common understanding of the scope of the bioeconomy, which is cross-sectoral.
- Inter-ministerial working group established; now the implementation of the strategy across various topics, targets and sectors will be worked out.
- The bioeconomy strategy development was an action of the previous government. It is a good signal that current government wants to continue with it.

France:

- It is, as yet, too early to be able to measure economic and environmental impacts. Indicators are needed to monitor the strategic actions both at regional and national levels.
- Concrete actions have been linked to/after the bioeconomy strategy publication:
 - several regional strategies dynamics have been adopted (e.g. "Haut de France" region published a master plan for 2025);
 - a lot of research and innovation orientations (INRA/IRSTEA; growing interest in BBI participation; specific national calls).
- Better awareness of the general public and branch valorisation.

Highlights of Session 2

- A **common vision and mission** on the scope of the bioeconomy is essential.
- **Communicate** the bioeconomy strategy with the public and branch organisations.
- Having an approved national bioeconomy strategy is not the main goal, but it is essential to know what is to be achieved with it. It must be followed with a **plan with concrete actions**.
- **Success stories and awareness raising** are key during both development process and implementation stage of the strategy.
- **Link national bioeconomy strategy to global challenges**, like decarbonisation as solution for climate change problems, less dependence on imported fossil resources, more green jobs and growth.
- **Link associated action plan to SDGs**, e.g. CO2 reduction targets, biodiversity targets, national environmental plans.
- The **ambition level** is linked to the real problem that need to be solved and/or to find the right incentives. Key is to understand the real common driver, e.g. 'climate change', behind the strategy.
- There needs to be **people and institutions to take the lead**: at a point in time someone at the ministry has to say: "yes, we will adopt the bioeconomy strategy".
- Strategy building should together start at national and regional level, with European support. Create good **balance between bottom-up and top-down** engagement.
- **Create synergies**: inter-ministerial collaboration; cross-regional collaborations; cross-sectoral collaborations; stakeholder associations; NGOs.
- Research and innovation, and centres of expertise will **strengthen the impacts** of the bioeconomy.
- There are **good examples** (e.g. IAR in France) that clusters strengthen the bioeconomy.

Session 3: Policy support for the pathway towards the bioeconomy strategy

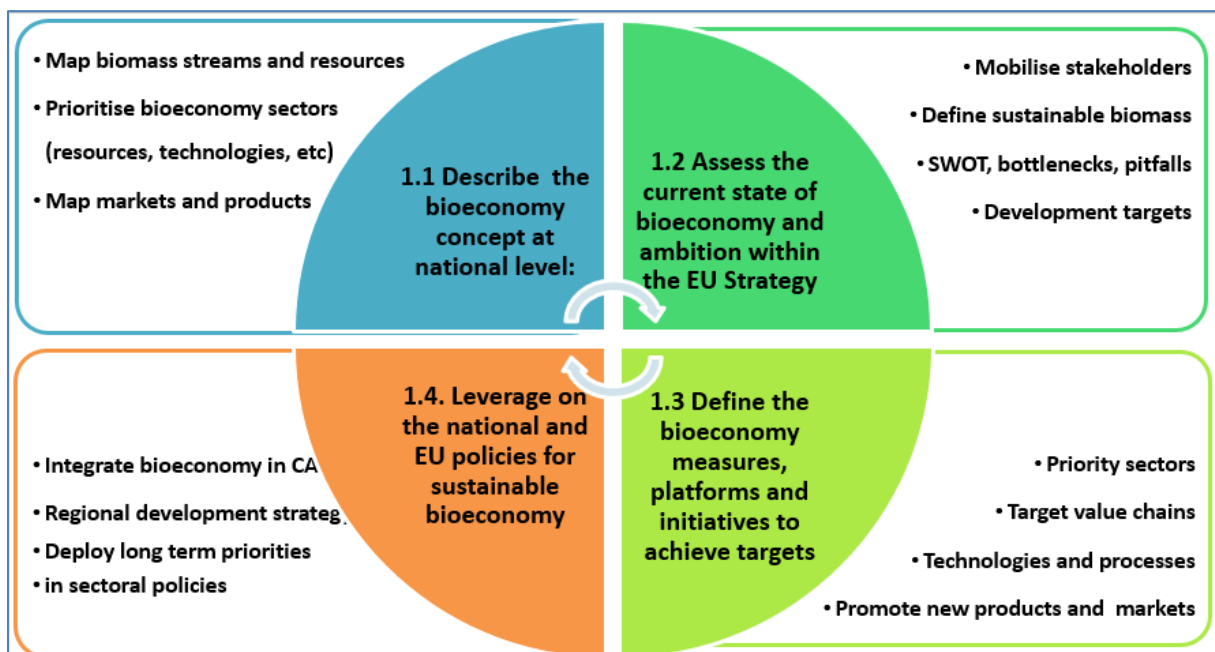
This session encompassed three stages:

- 1) A presentation of an overview of the '4 building blocks' concept that paved the way towards developing national bioeconomy strategies.
- 2) Break-out groups discussing the needs to complete each building block in terms of policy support. Groups were asked to record key findings on post-its.
- 3) Structuring the key findings of group discussions around three clusters, i.e. process related support, technical assistance, and policy drafting support.

Ad 1. Building blocks creating the pathway towards the bioeconomy strategy

There is no single approach for developing and implementing the bioeconomy, however, concepts could help to guide the process and to indicate the gaps and needs that are faced. Alexandru Marchis presented a stepwise methodology of four building blocks to identify which facilitating services and tools are helpful for creating the pathway towards developing bioeconomy strategy (see Figure 1). A set of tools must be identified for each of the building blocks, which could be EC-RTD's Policy Support Facilitation tools (PSF; see also report of first workshop) for the one building block, but different tools for one of the other building block.

Figure 1 Building blocks creating the pathway towards the bioeconomy strategy



The rationale behind the four building blocks is to understand:

- Where the country wants to go with the bioeconomy.
- What the current status of the bioeconomy is in the country.
- Which possible measures, platforms, etc. can bring the bioeconomy forward in the country.
- How to transform the national bioeconomy strategy into concrete actions.

Policy tools and other type of services can take on various forms and can be shaped as a *tailor-made support package* for countries developing a bioeconomy strategy. The ambition level must be reasonable in both short and long term. Here the lessons learned – what worked and what didn't work – from the countries that already have a bioeconomy strategy will be helpful and inspiring for those that haven't a strategy yet.

Ad 2. Break-out groups discussing the needs to complete each building block

In four break-out groups the participants discussed and identified the types of policy support needed for each of the four building block on the pathway towards the creation of a bioeconomy strategy:

- *Building Block 1: Describe the bioeconomy concept at national level.* Get a common view on where the country wants to go with the bioeconomy.
- *Building Block 2: Assess the current state of bioeconomy and ambition within the EU Strategy.* Collect data on understanding where the bioeconomy stands in the country.
- *Building Block 3: Define the bioeconomy measures, platforms and initiatives to achieve targets.* Mention the measures, platforms, etc. that could bring the bioeconomy forward in the country.
- *Building Block 4: Leverage on the national and EU policies for sustainable bioeconomy.* Transform the bioeconomy strategy into concrete actions for the country.

Tools could be needed for helping the (communicating and collaborating) process of developing a bioeconomy strategy, for helping to understand the state of art and ambition of the strategy, and for helping with drafting the strategy. Within these perspectives, groups were asked to write down their key findings and words for each building block on post-its.

Ad 3. Structuring of key findings around three clusters

The post-its with findings and notes on each of the four building blocks were organised into 3 groups of support, i.e. *Process related support; Technical assistance; and Policy drafting support* (Table 4).

Table 4 Building Block 1: Describe the bioeconomy concept at national level

Process related support	Technical assistance	Policy drafting support
Building Block 1: Describe the bioeconomy concept at national level		
Facilitator: guiding the different sectors/politics to the strategy (EU + national)	Study on success criteria and common understanding of the bioeconomy concept	Common simple understanding of the concept of bioeconomy
Public awareness on bioeconomy (different target groups)	EU Bioeconomy Strategy. EC to communicate more	Training, explaining
Incentive to support horizontal cooperation	Scientific advisory panel; EU level	
Society awareness raising	Data base	
Thematic focus of events	Sustainability definition	
Stories telling; good examples	Consensus document	
Workshops. Demo-farms	Collecting and monitoring data from the processing industry	
	Better traceability and statistical use of biomass (EU level)	

Building Block 2: Assess current state of bioeconomy and ambition within the EU Strategy		
Setting targets + SWOT	Biomass data evaluation	Training, explaining
Align with CAP and other policies	Development of database about state of bioeconomy	Collecting bottom-up feedback
Strategy development methodology (third party/outside)	Expert studies on evaluation of economy and impact of bioeconomy	
Facilitator: guiding the different sectors/politics to the strategy (EU + national)	Monitoring methodology	
	EU support for national bioeconomy studies	
	Data showing a) value added, and b) scenarios!	
	Mutual Learning on strategy building for policy makers and decision makers Scientific advisory panel ; EU level	
Building Block 3: Define bioeconomy measures, platforms and initiatives to achieve targets		
Development of clusters/networks	Pilot cases	EIP Agri support at local level
Align policies to promote demand for biomass product markets	Policy/legislation alignment. How?	How to build CLUSTERS (regional)?
	Inter-ministerial groups. How?	
	Financing bioeconomy projects	
Monitoring on bioeconomy HUB	Database of funding sources for bioeconomy	Training, explaining
Building capacity within the ministry	Support the development of small scale bioeconomy processing technologies	Collecting bottom-up feedback
Capacity building; national level	Educating farmers advisors	CAP -> measures
Strategy development methodology (third party/outside)	EC: explain strategy & action plan	
Facilitator: guiding the different sectors/politics to the strategy (EU + national)	Scientific advisory panel ; EU level	
Building Block 4: Leverage on the national and EU policies for sustainable bioeconomy		
Mutual learning at transnational level; identifying common attributes	Pilot cases	Inter-sectoral collaboration between different policy & technical expert groups
High level forum		Training, explaining
Workshops on bioeconomy related policies		SCAR WGs mirror at the level of the member states

Strategy development methodology (third party / outsider)		
Adapting legislation to the situation		
Common council agendas		
Facilitator: guiding the different sectors/politics to the strategy (EU + national)		

Session 4: PSF usage for building national administrative capacities within the bioeconomy

Strategy building includes designing an action plan, monitoring progress, building capacity and awareness, etc. This session started a discussion on what the needs are for building capacity at both ministerial and stakeholder levels. The aim is to ensure that the levels of awareness and capacity in the country's administration is sufficient, or if not what topics and issues will need specific support. With regard to the PSF tools, including Peer Reviews and Mutual Learning Exercises (MLE) as well as Specific Support activities for countries that can directly help the process towards building a strategy and developing an action plan, the next step is to define for what topics and/or areas the general DG RTD PSF or other tools might be useful.

Participants of workshop came up with following topics:

- The 3rd workshop on Policy Support Facility tools for strategy development should come with *input for a thematic project call* (1.5 million euro) that is foreseen in the next EC framework programme. A focus might be on supportive instruments (e.g. MLE) both for those that have a strategy and those that haven't a strategy yet. It must be clearly motivated in the proposal writing why such MLEs are needed and how the learning effects should contribute to certain objectives. For example: „...some workshops on specific learning topics x,y are needed; therefore experts from country a, b will be invited, like administrative people from c,d and a number of people from ministries x,y,z ...“. So, the framing of the learning topics needs specific attention.
- National administrative capacity building is about a) *supporting the process*, and b) the *contents of policy support*. Though these are in principle two different topics, the MLE can be applied as it actually fully fits to both and to exchange experiences: e.g., to learn why the one process doesn't work, and the other does.
- Another idea is to organise a MLE around the topic *possible conflicts of interests in bioeconomy*. For example, exploiting more agricultural production without having a long-term sustainability view, might provide problems with respect to land use, etc. MLE could help with experiences of countries that have already a bioeconomy strategy and addressed the issues.
- Also, it was suggested to organise a MLE around the topic on *different policies that relate to the bioeconomy* and learn where the incoherences are and how to get the policies aligned.

Some final notes:

- PSF is just one tool, and not everything could be solved with it.
- It will not be the case that everything is ready when the bioeconomy strategy is there. Several uncertainties will be left over. The action plans could help to sort these out.

- So far, the bioeconomy in CEEC is mostly a topic of the ministries of agriculture. Cross-ministerial and multi-stakeholder capacity building should be built in small steps: first invite other ministries to workshops and get a common understanding on the scope of the bioeconomy. Later in the process the involvement of representatives of e.g. petrochemical and paper industries will be useful and to make steps towards getting a common understanding on e.g. the customers' needs.

Next steps

The aim of the 3rd workshop on Policy Support Facility will be the development of a pipeline with policy support actions for each MS, including specific topics for the Mutual Learning Exercises to be organised. Support might possibly come from DG RTD PSF, Horizon Europe, BioEast CSA, and/or other means.

The information from especially session 3 on 'Policy support for the pathway towards the bioeconomy strategy' will provide a set of ideas as inputs for the four building blocks on the pathway towards creating the strategy (see Figure 1). Representatives will have to take the opportunity to discuss the findings and inspirations of the 2nd workshop with relevant actors in their country.

For the 3rd workshop, the country representatives will be asked to add four more slides to their initial presentation (see Session 2). These should include specific information on what they consider to be needed to pass through the four building blocks towards creating a bioeconomy strategy. The needs for support tools will differ for each country. This exercise will be helpful for those without a bioeconomy strategy and for those that already have one but still have to determine an action plan. At the end of the three workshops, an updated made fact sheet for each country will be produced and shared broadly.

Next meeting:

Date: Mid June 2019 (tbd). Possibly after SCAR conferency and plenary meeting.

Place of venue: Kind offer by Permanent Representation of the Slovak Republic to the EU at Avenue de Cortenbergh 79, Brussels. To be finally confirmed when date has been identified

Annex 1: Participants list

	Surname	First name	Country
1	Benovicsova	Alexandra	Slovakia
2	Bole	Kristina	EC
3	Danan	Corinne	France
4	Dehautd	Valérie	Germany
5	Gaugitsch	Helmut	Austria
6	Ginova	Antoaneta	Bulgaria
7	Gyorffy	Andrea	Hungary
8	Hroncek	Stanislav	Slovakia
9	Juhász	Anikó	Hungary
10	Kilci	Mehmet	Turkey
11	Koničková	Nada	Czech Republic
12	Kovacs	Barna	Hungary
13	Kozyra	Jerzy	Poland
14	Kubankova	Marie	Czech Republic
15	Kulisic	Biljana	Croatia
16	Kunya	Zsofia	EC
17	Liepina	Laura	Latvia
18	Lindhardt Frandsen	Liv	Denmark
19	Maes	Dries	Belgium
20	Mallorquin	Paloma	Belgium
21	Marchis	Alexandru	Romania
22	Matić	Ivan	Croatia
23	Miniataite	Dalia	Lithuania
24	Motriuc	Daniela	Romania
25	Nanou	Christina	EC
26	Nedelnik	Jan	Czech Republic
27	Percy-Smith	Alex	Danmark
28	Peškovičová	Dana	Slovakia
29	Plešej	Mario	Slovenia
30	Popescu	Marius	Romania
31	Ramanauskė	Neringa	Lithuania
32	Ruiz Espi	José	EC
33	Staffas	Louise	Sweden
34	Stonawska	Katerina	Czech Republic
35	Tasa	Sari	Finland
36	Theodoridis	Alexandros	Germany
37	Vaišvilaitė	Justina	Lithuania
38	van Esch	Jan	The Netherlands
39	van Leeuwen	Myrna	The Netherlands
40	Viira	Ants-Hannes	Estonia

Annex 2: Agenda



Concept and programme for 2nd PSF workshop

Friday 3rd May 2019, 09.00 -16.30, Permanent Representation of Hungary, Rue de Trèves 92-98, Brussels

Facilitating development of bioeconomy policy – needs and gaps

Concept:

This workshop will be the second of three workshops intended to support the process of developing national bioeconomy strategies especially in the CEE countries and other MSs which are less active in the bioeconomy.

The workshop will include a combination of presentations and facilitated discussions of the state of play of the development of the bioeconomy in MSs, identification of needs and gaps in the MSs as well as possible ways of supporting the process of development of the bioeconomy.

There will a pre-workshop phase of providing and gathering information in preparation for the actual workshop during which selected examples as well as overviews will be used.

Objective:

The **overall aim** of the workshop is to assist MS in developing and implementing national/regional bioeconomy strategies across Europe.

The **specific objectives** of this second workshop are:

1. To obtain a qualified overview of the needs and gaps to develop bioeconomy strategies in the CEE states and MS that are less active within the bioeconomy
2. To identify a road map and actions required to develop national bioeconomy strategies.

Target participants

Probably 50-60 persons primarily from the Bioeast Initiative and SCAR BSW members

Draft Programme

08.30 Registration

09.00 Welcome and introduction to the topic of the workshop

by Jan Van Esch (Co-chair SCAR Strategic Working Group for Bioeconomy) and Barna Kovacs (Secretary General BIOEAST)

09.10 Introduction to the workshop sessions and workshop methodology

by moderator Alex Percy-Smith and Alexandru Marchis

09.25 Session 1 Overview of state of play in Member States

Presentations of 3 slides (max. 4 min. each) by a representative from 11 BIOEAST countries Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Republic of Estonia, Romania, Slovenia as well as from Greece and Portugal to answer the following questions:

- What is available for a bioeconomy strategy in your country (working groups, studies, stakeholder platforms, etc.)?
- What are your target sectors for bioeconomy in your country?
- What are the responsible public bodies and relevant stakeholders in your country?

Comments and Discussion in plenary

10.45 Networking break

11.15 Session 2 Identifying the potential level of ambition in bioeconomy

Presentations (max. 5 min. each) from MSs with approved Bioeconomy strategies Helmut Gaugitsch, **Austria**; Laura Liepiņa, **Latvia** and Corinne Danan, **France**

General facilitated discussion on what is a realistic progress in building a bioeconomy strategy which a MS can achieve in medium term (next 3 years)?

12.00 Presentation of “Building blocks that create the pathway towards the bioeconomy strategy” by Alexandru Marchis

12.15 Lunch break

13.30 Session 3 Policy Support for the pathway towards the Bioeconomy Strategy

Brief instruction about group work Alex Percy-Smith

Break-out groups (max. 10 participants per group)

Participants will discuss the types of policy support needs per each building block for a bioeconomy strategy:

1. Describing the bioeconomy concept at national level
2. Assess the current state of bioeconomy and ambition within the EU Strategy
3. Define the bioeconomy measures, platforms and initiatives to achieve targets
4. Leverage on the national and EU policies for sustainable bioeconomy

Plenary discussion (20-30 min)

15.30 Coffee break

15.45 Session 4 PSF contribution to increasing national administrative capacities within the bioeconomy

Plenary Discussion of the need for support in capacity development of administration and stakeholders on bioeconomy

16.15 Next steps

Discussion about workshop 3 - developing a pipeline of policy support actions for each MS (including topics for PSF MLEs) to be financed/supported possibly from DG RTD PSF; Horizon Europe; BioEast CSA; other means)

16.30 Close of workshop

Annex 3: Picture with wall notes on Session 3

