

Ministry of Agriculture
Republic of Latvia

Bioeconomy in Latvia

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BIOEAST as a driving force in the context of the European Green Deal
20st February 2020, Brussels



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Latvia`s Profile

Green territories (rural areas and forests) - **89%** of total land area

Latvia: **2nd** in the EU with **agriculture land hectares per person**

Latvia: **4th most forested** country in Europe

Export share of forest, agriculture and food industry **39,7%** (2017)

Latvia has increasing potential of natural resources for promoting (circular) Bioeconomy in region!

Bioeconomy is being hampered by:

- ✓ different awareness levels,
- ✓ access to finance,
- ✓ access to R&I infrastructure,
- ✓ different capacity for innovation and technology absorption,
- ✓ access to knowledge,
- ✓ public support,
- ✓ lack of cooperation within value chains.





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Latvian Bioeconomy Strategy 2030

- **Smart specialization priority “Knowledge-based bioeconomy”**
- **Government action plan** as a basis for the development of a national Bioeconomy Strategy
 - ✓ Bioeconomy still present in the following governments’ action plans
- **Vision document** – Action plan currently not foreseen
- **Adopted by the Government in December 19, 2017**



Latvian Bioeconomy Strategy 2030

SHORT SUMMARY

BIO4ECO
Interreg Europe





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Role of bioeconomy in the newest EU policies

Green deal

- Need for a stronger focus on bioeconomy
- AGRI ministers should be involved in discussions about all financial instruments (e.g. Just Transition Fund)

Clean Planet for all

- Bioeconomy as one of the strategic priorities: *Reap the full benefits of bio-economy and create essential carbon sinks*

EU Bioeconomy Strategy main actions areas:

- *Deploy local bioeconomies rapidly across Europe - promoting the development of local bioeconomies valuing local resources and adapted to local needs*
- *Understand the ecological boundaries of the bioeconomy*

How the bioeconomy can help achieve climate neutrality?





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Is CAP enough for full deployment of bioeconomy?

- It is important to **maintain rural development funding at least in the amount of the current period (2014-2020)** in order to ensure the effectiveness of the future rural development policy and the achievement of the CAP objectives.
- Role of R&I, but also importance of **awareness raising, knowledge transfer, and advisory services**
- Currently too much emphasis on the CAP alone
- Advice to the Member States in seeking **synergies between different sources of financing**, including the Structural Funds





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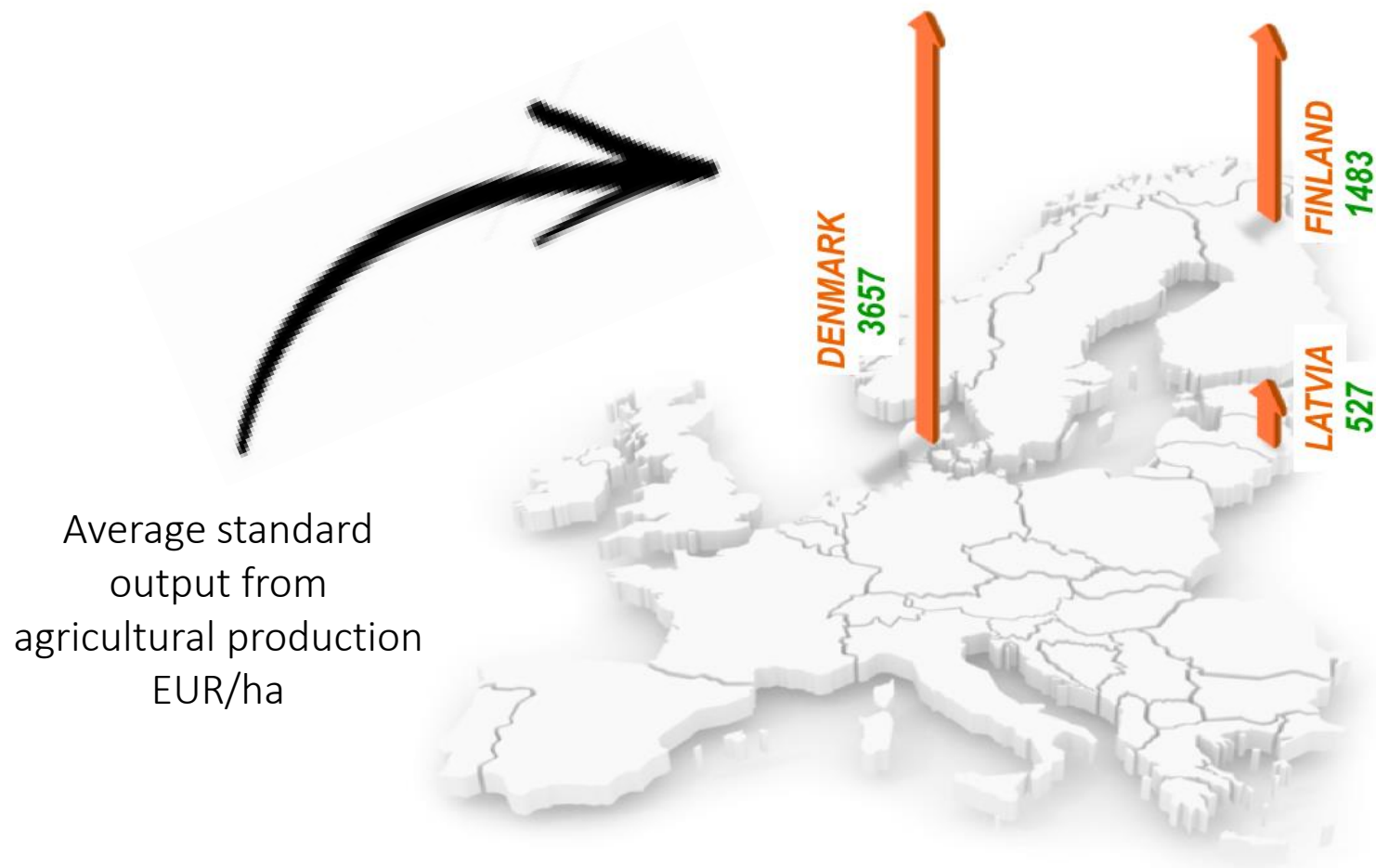
Bioeconomy and Horizon Europe

- It is very important for us that the next “Horizon Europe” is regulated to **reduce the innovation gap** between the Member States of the European Union.
- It is important for us that the **missions Soil Health and Food**, as well as the following **partnerships** are implemented in the Horizon Europe:
 - Towards more sustainable farming: agro-ecology living labs and research infrastructures,
 - Safe and Sustainable Food Systems for People, Planet & Climate, Agro-ecology
 - European Partnership on Animals and Health



Zemkopības ministrija

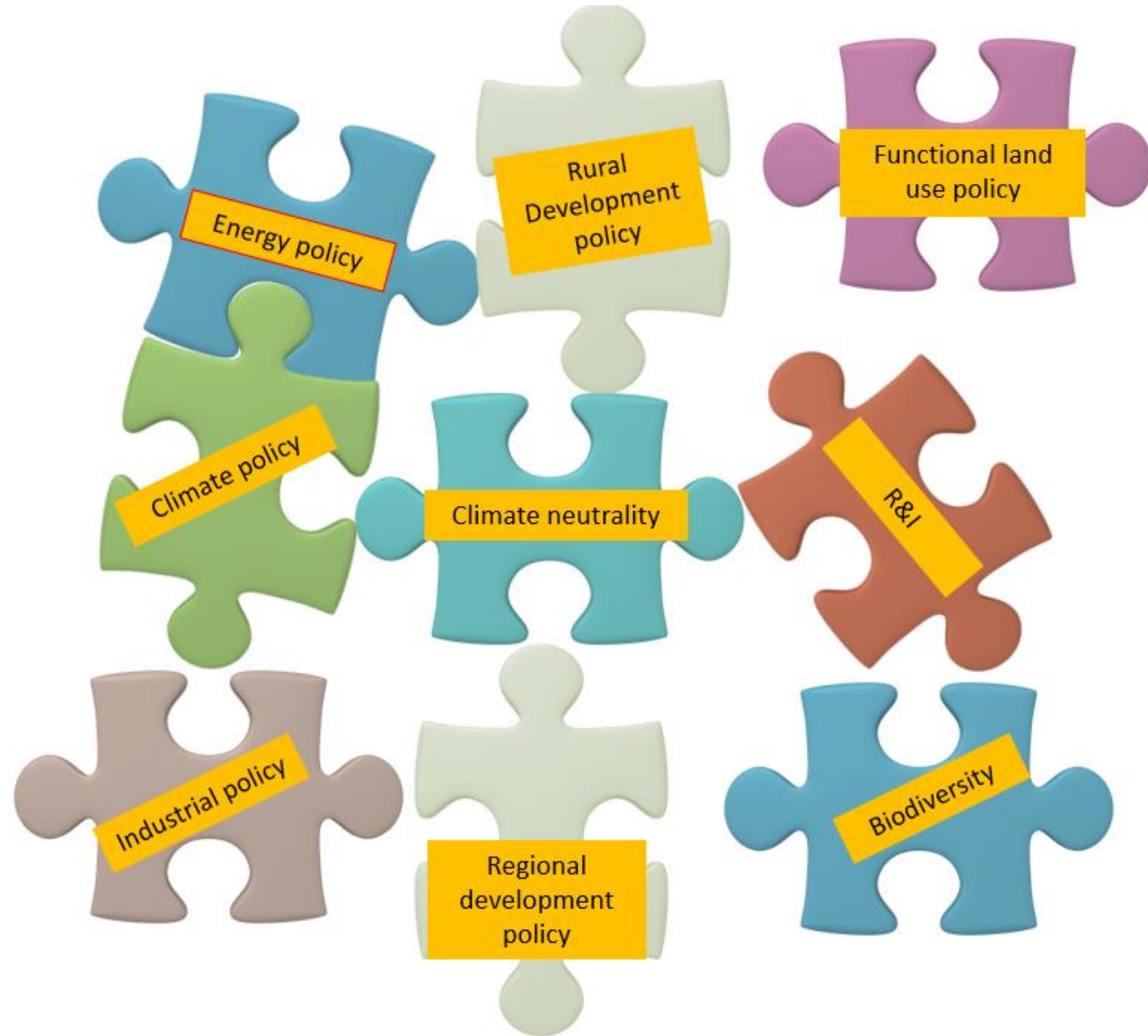
Agriculture development potential in Latvia





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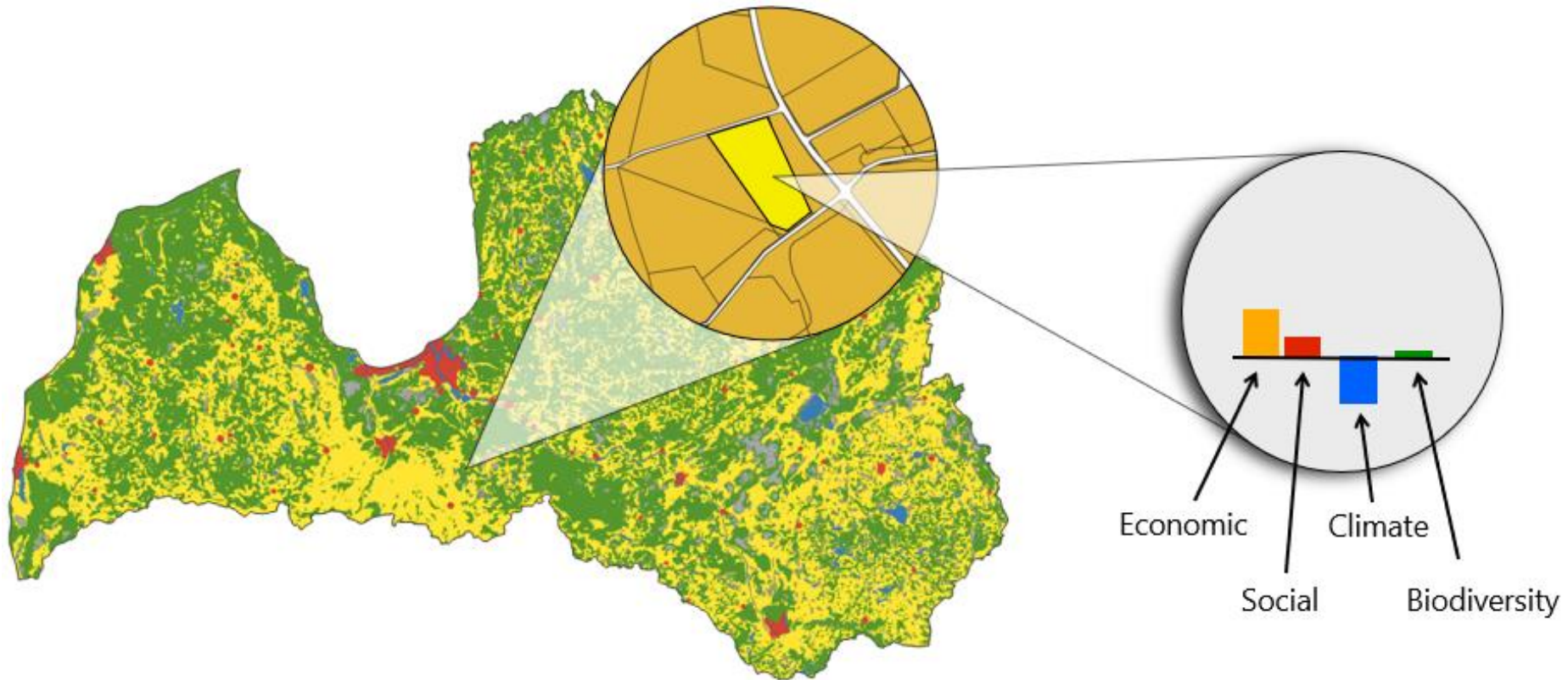
Challenges for policy-makers: how to match?





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Land functions

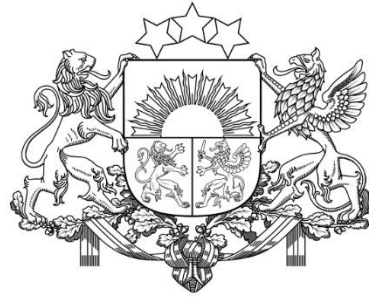




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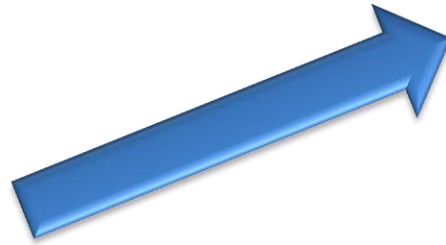
What we are proud of?

- Achievement of a common understanding that bioeconomy is cross-sectoral and not just a competence of the MoA
- Better understanding of the EU Bioeconomy Strategy
- Interministerial working group still in place and now analysing the European Green Deal
- Development of new projects and collaborations
- National Development Plan 2021-2027



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Create
Evaluate
Do
Discover



Bright Future Ahead

