



TWG Sustainable yields and
agroecological intensification
KICK-OFF MEETING

21 February 2020
Brussels



COORDINATORS OF THE TWG

Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture (HuMA)

- Anikó Juhász, Deputy State Secretary (aniko.juhasz@am.gov.hu)
- Lívia Kránitz & Zsófia Kunya research officers
(livia.kranitz@am.gov.hu; zsofia.kunya@am.gov.hu)
- Role: overall coordination and support

Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (ÖMKi)

- Dóra Drexler, director (dora.drexler@biokutatas.hu)
- Korinna Varga, research associate (korinna.varga@biokutatas.hu)
- Role: professional support





Who is who? Tour de table Introduction of participants

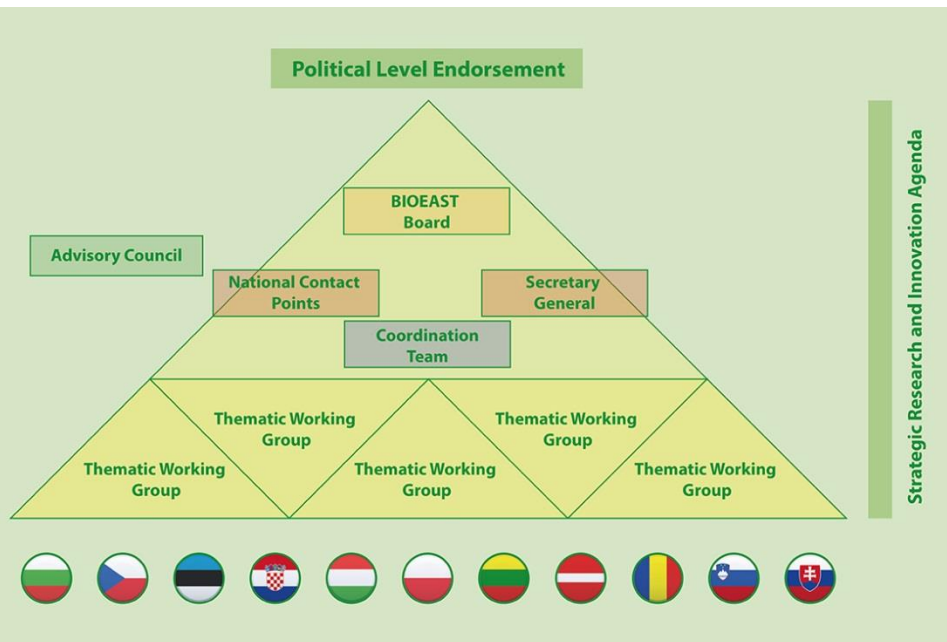




Why do we need a thematic working group?

Presenter: Anikó Juhász, Deputy State Secretary HuMA





Central and Eastern European Initiative for bioeconomy

- started by V4
- 11 CEE countries
- political agreement between agricultural and research ministries
- www.bioeast.eu

National NCPs:

<https://bioeast.eu/contacts/>



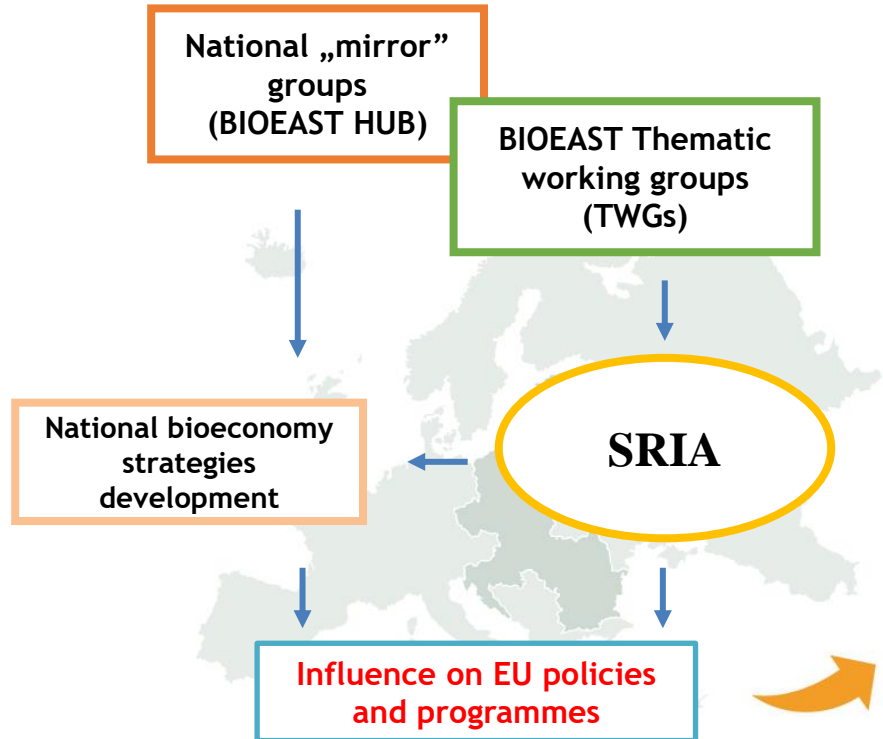
WHY DO WE NEED TWG IN GENERAL?

- To strengthen the **European Research Area** and create **synergies** between the different countries' research and innovation needs/topics. Effective **lobbying at EU level** only works as a macro-region, not as separate countries (e.g. in SCAR, strategic programming of H2020)
- To connect the **public administration to the bioeconomy networks** at the EU level with regard to the ongoing research and innovation. **Cooperation between research and policy** is a benefit for both.
- To facilitate **knowledge transfer** and **education** among the different actors in the respective thematic field.



WHY DO WE NEED TWG SPECIFICALLY?

- To support the **BIOEAST Board (ministries)** in policy-making and lobbying.
- To support the work of the **BIOEAST Governing Board** in preparing specific area oriented strategic documents, especially the **Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)** - to set macro-regional common research and innovation priorities in various thematics.
- To pave the way for the creation of **European Partnerships** (see presentation from previous session) or **other joint programming initiatives** by setting up structures with the involvement of public administrations and other stakeholders.
- At national level they help policy in decision-making and developing strategies.
- **Building connections and networks.**
- **Bigger chance of getting into consortiums.**



- TWG Forestry (SK) → thematic SRIA
- TWG Food systems (PL) → thematic SRIA
- TWG Bioenergy and high added value products (HR) → thematic SRIA
- TWG Sustainable yields and agroecological intensification (HU) → thematic SRIA
- TWG Freshwater (CZ?) → thematic SRIA

SRIA

Working together for 2,5 years until final SRIA





WHO ARE THE MEMBERS?

- We have delegates from all 11 BIOEAST countries.
- TWG is open to various experts from ministries, institutions, academia, NGOs and the business sector with an interest in the activities of the TWG.
- Important: members should **represent country positions**, not individual institution interests.
- Nomination of new members: through NCP!





Presentation of Terms of Reference and topic suggestions of countries

Presenter: Korinna Varga, research associate ÖMKI



TERMS OF REFERENCE

- sets out the working arrangements for the BIOEAST Agro-ecological intensification Working Group (BAeWG)
- **provides information about and for the BAeWG:** its governance and organization, coordination, members, timeline, planned activities and outcomes



TERMS OF REFERENCE

BACKGROUND

- Agriculture and the food sector provides approx. **63% of Europe's total employment** (agriculture 19%, food sector 44%), which constitutes **76% of its total turnover** of the bioeconomy (agriculture 54%, food sector 22%) (JRC 2018).
- However, the global challenges of **climate change, world population growth, consumption patterns, agriculture's pressure on the environment etc.**



call for changes to transition current agricultural practices and food systems to be sustainable in the long term



AGROECOLOGY

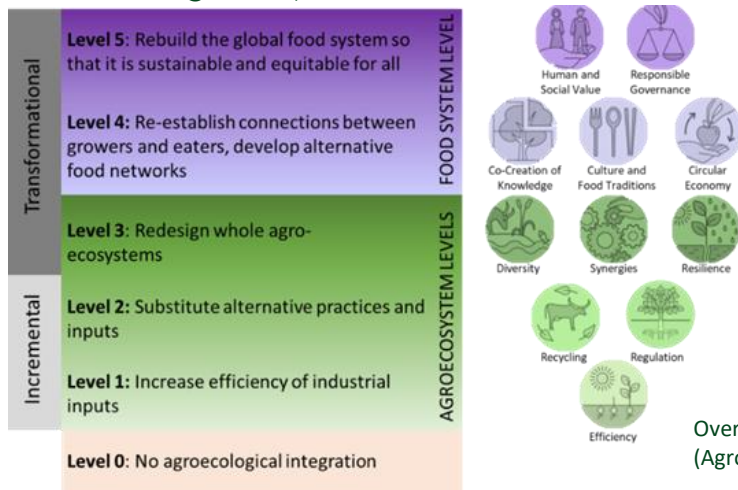


TERMS OF REFERENCE

BACKGROUND

What is AGROECOLOGY?

„agroecology is a **dynamic concept** that favours the **use of natural processes**, **limit the use of purchased inputs**, **promote closed cycles** with minimal negative externalities and **stress the importance of local knowledge and participatory processes** that develop knowledge and practice through experience, as well as more conventional scientific methods [...]. Agroecological approaches recognize that agrifood systems are coupled social-ecological systems from food production to consumption and **involve science, practice and a social movement**, as well as **their holistic integration, to address food and nutrition security**” (HLPE 2019: 39)



Why do we need Agroecology in the CEE macro-region?

- **Effective adaptation to the impacts of climate change** (resilience of farmers and rural communities, diversification of agroecosystems, agroforestry systems, water conservation, soil health and agrobiodiversity, adaptive capacity of supporting institutes)
- **Enhance the efficiency and quality of agriculture and food systems in the macro-region**
- **Open up new areas** to explore for the bioeconomy and bio-based products
- **CAP and Horizon Europe 2021-27** put great emphasis on the support of environmentally friendly production methods such as agroecology, conservation agriculture etc.

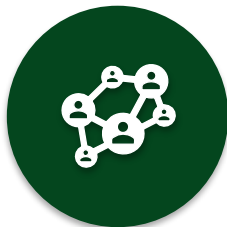


TERMS OF REFERENCE

BAEWG OBJECTIVES



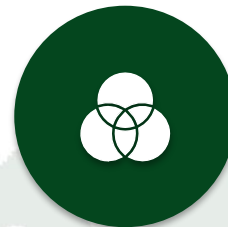
TO STUDY AND SYNTHETIZE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION STRATEGIES IN ORDER TO **SUPPORT THE ELABORATION OF SRIA**



TO SET-UP A NETWORK OF RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS OF THE BIOEAST COUNTRIES TO COLLECT AND DISCUSS EXPERIENCES WITH AGROECOLOGICAL INTENSIFICATION R&I INITIATIVES.



TO STIMULATE A DISCOURSE ON CEE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENT IN LIGHT OF TARGETED SUSTAINABLE YIELDS, AGROECOLOGICAL FARMING PRACTICES, AND THE AIM TO STRENGTHEN COMPETITIVENESS AND CREATE JOBS.

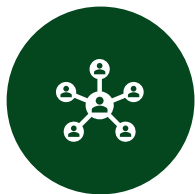


TO SEEK ALIGNMENT OF NATIONAL AGENDAS, INITIATIVES, FINANCING SOURCES AND INVESTMENTS IN THE CEE REGION AND BROADER IN THE EU FOR CREATING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR THE SRIA.



TERMS OF REFERENCE

BAEWG OBJECTIVES



**TO COLLECT GOOD
AGROECOLOGICAL
EXAMPLES FROM THE
MACRO-REGION**



**TO MOBILISE THE
BIOEAST BAEWG
MEMBER MINISTRIES TO
IMPLEMENT POLICY
PILOTS FOR
AGROECOLOGICAL
SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT
(E.G. BY SETTING UP
"LIVING LABS)**



**TO SPECIFY
COMMUNICATION AND
DISSEMINATION TOOLS
AND CHANNELS FOR
SHARING BEST
PRACTICES IN RESEARCH
AND INNOVATION
TARGETING
SUSTAINABLE YIELDS
AND AGROECOLOGY**



**TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE
PROPOSED EUROPEAN
PARTNERSHIP ON
AGROECOLOGY WITHIN
THE NEXT RESEARCH
AND INNOVATION
FRAMEWORK
PROGRAMME, HORIZON
EUROPE**



**TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE
PROGRAMMING OF THE
NATIONAL STRATEGIC
PLAN OF THE COMMON
AGRICULTURAL POLICY
IN THE RELATED
INVESTMENT**



TERMS OF REFERENCE

RESEARCH TOPICS TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE BAEWG

Research Topics
Soil fertility, soil biodiversity and microbial communities
Transition to chemical pesticide-free agriculture
Enhancing the potential of genetic resources in agro-ecosystems
Crop and production diversification
Precision farming and digital technologies
Animal health, nutrition
Local food systems and sustainable supply chains
Rural development and innovation management



TERMS OF REFERENCE

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Members of the BAeWG shall:

- attend all scheduled BAeWG meetings (webex, tele-conferences)
- share all communications and information, documents that are relevant to their work, across all BAeWG members (**national strategies, policies, programmes, action plans!!**)
- make timely decisions and take action, as appropriate, to enable the work of BAeWG in an effective manner towards defined outcomes

Members of the BAeWG will expect from the coordinator:

- that each member will be provided with complete, accurate and meaningful information in a timely manner to be given reasonable time to make key decisions
- to be alerted to potential risks and issues that could impact the project, as they arise
- open and honest discussions, without resort to any misleading assertions



TERMS OF REFERENCE

GOALS AND EXPECTED RESULTS IN 2020

- To have at least **two face to face TWG meetings** per year
- To adopt the **TWG Terms of Reference** until April 2020
- To prepare a **first draft thematic SRIA** until June 2020 based on the framework for the SRIA development and to develop it further
- To choose **topics for thematic studies** until June 2020; the studies will support the creation of the thematic SRIA.



ROADMAP AND ACTION PLAN

Description of activities	Roadmap																																				
	2020												2021												2022												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Delegation of members	█																																				
Mapping research topics for the SRIA	█																																				
Kick-off meeting of the TWG	█	█																																			
Development of the Terms of References and Action Plan	█	█																																			
Framework for SRIA development received from Task Leader	█	█	█	█																																	
Second meeting of TWG						█																															
First draft of SRIA (Agroecology)	█	█	█	█	█	█																															
Finalizing the Terms of References and Action Plan		█	█	█	█	█	█																														
ToR adopted by the Board			█																																		
Development of SRIA (Agroecology)			█	█	█	█	█																														
Commission of studies relevant for the SRIA (Agroecology)			█	█	█	█	█	█																													
First draft of the BIOEAST SRIA	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
SRIA validation workshops (3)																																					
Creation and functioning of national level-mirror groups for SRIA (Agroecology) input			█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Third meeting of TWG											█																										
BIOEAST/bioeconomy final Congress																																					





National stakeholder groups behind the TWG – the Hungarian case example

Presenter: Korinna Varga research associate ÖMKI



NATIONAL “MIRROR GROUPS” BEHIND THE TWG

All member countries are expected to form national „mirror groups“ based on the proposed research topics to gather national inputs for the SRIA

Hungary: (group of 5-6 members, selected by expertise and competence)

1. Soil biodiversity mirror group
2. Pesticide-free agriculture mirror group





Support for functioning of the TWG

Presenter: Zsófia Kunya, research officer HuMA





SUPPORT FROM THE BIOEASTSUP PROJECT

H2020 Coordination and Support Action (not research)

- runs for 3 years (october 2019 - September 2022).
- 11 BIOEAST countries (+DE, FI).
- <https://bioeast.eu/partners/>

2 main objectives of the project:

1. Develop macro-regional Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)
2. To support national bioeconomy strategy development

BIOEASTsUP” provides framework and guidance for TWG to develop the SRIA.





- We have a common goal here, therefore BIOEAST countries are primarily responsible to support the functioning of TWGs.
- TWG members will be expected to travel (at least) 2x/year to meetings organised in CEE countries.
- BIOEASTsUP will provide **SOME** support for the functioning of TWGs in the time period 2019-2022 - this is mainly for organisational cost and guidance for SRIA. BIOEASTsUP is not able to fund travels for TWG members.
- TWG members who are also in the consortium of BIOEASTsUP project have some cost for their travels in their budget lines (not all).
 - *However, for TWG members who are not involved in the BIOEASTsUP project and have problem to finance their travels: get in contact with your ministries (through NCP) to find a solution for financing.*
- We will try to be very cost effective! (organising meetings in CEE, back-to-back with other events, jointly with other TWGs etc.)





SUPPORT FOR COMMUNICATION

Communication and Expert Team (CET) in the BIOEASTsUP project

- Coordinator of CET: Livia Kránitz HuMA
- Please send any national event/new strategy document etc. which you would like to share with the BIOEAST stakeholders or in the newsletter.
 - *We will have a wide network of stakeholders in a database, will be available on the BIOEAST website.*





Workshop – working around the topic suggestions

Presenter: Korinna Varga, research associate ÖMKi



5' Two groups are formed.

30' Groups discuss the following two questions

- 1. Are some topics still missing from the identified priorities? What might be added resp. excluded (e.g. are social /life/economic sciences represented well?)*
- 2. Within the identified main topics, do you have suggestions for subthemes? (E.g. within the topic of zero chemical pesticide use, a research theme on resistance breeding could be a subtheme)*

30' Tables swop, the moderators explain the ideas discussed till now, and another half an hour is available for further reflections and additional thoughts.

10' The two moderators report back to the plenary in 5-5'



NEXT STEPS

- Setting up core group (4-5 people who will draft the SRIA)
- Approval of ToR by Board in March (please comment the ToR!)
- Have a draft concept paper for SRIA by April
- Next meeting to discuss draft SRIA: June 2020 Budapest?





THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

BIOEAST.EU

