

Press Release

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Teodora Marinova, Managing Director of Quadro Synergy, Technical and Financial Manager in BIOEASTsUP project, e-mail: office@quadrosynergy.eu, website: www.quadrosynergy.eu

ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS IN TIMES OF COVID-19 TO ADVANCE BIOECONOMY STRATEGIC THINKING IN THE BIOEAST REGION

On Oct 17-23, 2020 we had our **3rd consortium meeting in BIOEASTsUP project**, virtually due to the COVID situation but most efficient than ever. We discussed the progress and achievements in the first project year and looked closely in the action plan for the next months.

The goal of **BIOEASTsUP** project is to support the **BIOEAST initiative** and BIOEAST Action Plan for transition of 11 Central and Eastern European (CEE) to bioeconomy.

National platforms for bioeconomy strategy development

In the past one year, BIOEASTsUP partners started building the national platforms for bioeconomy strategy development. Inter-ministerial groups and national stakeholder groups have been set-up. They are being regularly engaged in dialogue on national bioeconomy targets. A series of webinars took place in May-July 2020 in order to communicate the methodology for platform development and project activities. Some of the titles were: “BIOEASTsUP BIO HUBs and national platforms for bioeconomy strategies development”, “Developing multi-stakeholder partnerships and co-creation for boosting the uptake of bioeconomy in CEE”, “Planning sectoral analysis and exchange of good practices for bioeconomy value chains”.

Indicators and statistical evidence for bioeconomy development

Further on, existing bioeconomy capacities of the current national economies for eleven countries were identified through survey and analysis. National round tables titled “Indicators and statistical evidence for bioeconomy development” were organized in October 2020 to present the country specific outcome of the project effort so far. National stakeholders received suggestions on what directions to take to achieve the transition from a fossil-based society towards a circular and sustainable bioeconomy. A methodology was presented on how to identify national bioeconomy objectives, indicators, statistical data for bioeconomy progress monitoring. Feedback was asked from national stakeholders on the suggested directions.

BIOEAST comparative analysis and benchmarking

Partners have started working on the following objectives: (i) to provide a comparative analysis of governance models and assets describing the bioeconomy potential of BIOEAST countries; (ii) to assess transformation pathways of BIOEAST macro-region with respect to the listed bioeconomy sectors. A series of workshops and focus groups with national experts is taking place in the next months. By the end of the year, country reports will be available for further analysis.

BIOEAST Thematic Working groups



Five thematic working groups have been initiated to support the work of the BIOEAST Governing Board in preparing specific area oriented strategic documents, especially the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA), namely: “Agroecology and Sustainable Yields”, “Bioenergy and New Value-Added Products”, “Food Systems TWG”, “Forestry”, “Fresh Water Based Bioeconomy”. Respectively, five thematic SRIAs are being developed. The thematic working groups are regularly meeting online.

BIOEAST SRIA

One of the main objectives of the project is to develop in a bottom-up stakeholder driven approach a consolidated bioeconomy Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) for the BIOEAST countries. The SRIA is based on orchestrated research and innovation gap analysis in BIOEAST countries. A common framework was created that guides the development of BIOEAST SRIA and the thematic SRIAs. In the coming months BIOEASTsUP partners in collaboration with the BIOEAST National Contact Points will conduct a series of workshops in all BIOEAST countries to engage national inter-ministerial groups and national stakeholder groups in the analysis of strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities as well as gaps in bioeconomy related research and innovation. The first draft of BIOEAST SRIA will be developed by April 2021.

Despite all challenges caused by the pandemic, BIOEASTsUP project is moving forward target-driven. The more intensive and diversified virtual communication has resulted in a more efficient communication between project tasks and more successful dialogue with stakeholders.

Quadro Synergy is Technical and Financial Manager in BIOEASTsUP and as such is facilitating partner discussions, supporting the planning process, and following the progress of tasks to achieve the desired results.

21 Partners in BIOEASTsUP

