



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 862699

ANNOUNCES AN OPEN COMPETITION FOR THEMATIC STUDY OF:

BIOECONOMY EDUCATION TWG

Study type: Desk study with some application of quantitative and qualitative research methodology

Research field: Bioeconomy Education

Study keywords: bioeconomy education, curricula, school, university, vocational trainings, policy makers, related stakeholders

More detailed specification of the expected content of the study can be found in the annex.

Expected outcome: 20-page study without annexes

Expected structure: Introduction, objectives, study methodology and concept, main outcomes target audiences or end-users and conclusion

Duration of work/preparation: maximum 5 months from 15th of October 2021 until 15th of February 2022

Submission deadline: 15th of February 2022

Payment: € 14 000 (decreased by the compulsory social insurance rates if the applicant is a natural person, but in the case of private applicant either as an individual or as a research institute, the payment should be reduced with VAT). In order to prepare the good quality thematic study, it is possible to involve external competencies even in the framework of further contracting, however, the main contract is concluded only with the candidate.

The BIOEASTsUP project supports the completion of 7 thematic studies related to the scope of the macro regional Thematic Working Groups (TWGs). The aim of the thematic studies is to make a deep analysis that is not covering those specific needs identified by the TWGs. Thematic studies make a significant contribution to the macro-regional development of a given theme by presenting a new aspect of it. Thematic studies will be one of the cornerstones of the common BIOEAST Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA).

The thematic studies for each TWG are:

1. Agroecology and Sustainable Yields TWG
2. Bioenergy TWG:
3. Food System TWG:
4. Forestry Value Chain TWG:
5. Freshwater based Bioeconomy TWG:
6. Bio-based material TWG:
7. Education TWG:

Required documents for the application:

1. Curriculum Vitae or Institution introduction
2. List of references including Impact Factor publications and international and national projects in the context of study' research field
3. Work plan for preparing the study max. 2 pages.

The required documents shall be sent to the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture by email in pdf format to Ákos Kristóf ([mailto: akos.kristof@am.gov.hu](mailto:akos.kristof@am.gov.hu)) by **the latest 20th of September 2021**.

The open calls have been sent out to relevant institutions and experts via the BIOEAST Board members, so that the calls are distributed to all BIOEAST Member States. Submitted applications will be assessed by a “Core Team” based on the required documents sent. The Core Team will be composed of TWG coordinators and other consortium partners of the BIOEASTsUP project. The core team will be led by the Task Coordinator (HuMA) and the Project Coordinator (IUNG). Applications received will be evaluated and selected within two weeks after the submission (deadline 4th of October 2021). Institutions or experts from Non-BIOEAST countries as well as BIOEASTsUP consortium partners are freely to apply. The Study preparation process will be regularly monitored by the Core Team.

Annex

The main goal of the thematic study is to reduce shortages and skills mismatches in bioeconomy in the BIOEAST macro region. Also, to provide instruments in order to explore the regional potential in terms of manpower and expertise. Universities in Western, Northern and Southern part of EU are closely cooperating have a common curriculum for Bioeconomy. The Lift BBI-JU project concluded the importance to provide adequate tailored trainings for relevant sectors based on current specific regional needs. Policy makers are developing administrative mechanism for implementation of the EU financial instruments, primarily Just Transition Fund and Recovery Fund, bioeconomy is still a new topic for regional policy makers in the BIOEAST region.

Study content

- The study will provide the initial mapping, analysis, and action plan for the BIOEAST region how to improve common action in bioeconomy education, not only for pre graduates and postgraduate but also a lifelong learning and vocational trainings.
- Thematic Study is preparing the background for science and evidence-based implementation of the European Green Deal and the Sustainable Development Goals, map the existing capacity of educational institutions (both universities, high schools and also educational agencies) and needs of agriculture practice, industry and policy makers and suggest implementation plan.

Expected results

- The thematic study will be described recent situation in bioeconomy education and stimulate next steps and developed in a close cooperation of key stakeholders from the BIOEAST region.

Link to the BIOEAST SRIA, Vision paper, BIOEAST Foresight Exercise

- The link to the BIOEAST Vision paper is organised on that premise that the stakeholders are a central element underpinning the whole process that set the scene for diagnosing, visioning, sharing and generating knowledge and dialogues, co-creating and validating resilient solutions, with the final aim to lighting the spark for actual implementation. The SRIA development will be based on the cooperation of the discussion-and-action groups composed of a broad selection of stakeholders. In both key documents of the BIOEAST Initiative Vision paper and the Foresight Exercise is already highlighted the importance of the Education.

Link to the EU policies, strategic documents, goals

- The study will provide the initial analysis for the development of the bioeconomy education in the BIOEAST region, indicate the pathway how to cooperate with in the European Bioeconomy University and outline actions how to implement tailored trainings in bioeconomy to support implementation of bioeconomy in the BIOEAST region.
- This work will include a detailed identification of responsibilities, potential instruments and political, economic, and legal barriers, and a suggested implementation plan, in particular at the Green Deal, Bioeconomy Strategy, Sustainable Development Goals and Circular Economy Action Plan.
- Bioeconomy Education has been a key issue on the European Strategy for Bioeconomy from the very beginning. In both Strategy documents (2012 and 2018) the issue appears as a key priority for Europe. On the same line the Bioeconomy Stakeholders Manifesto issues 2019 places Education as a top priority for the sustainable development and growth. Finally, the European Commission tends to institutionalize the issue. Already, an important conference in spanned by the EC October 2021 on this topic.