ANNOUNCES AN OPEN COMPETITION FOR THEMATIC STUDY OF:

FORESTRY VALUE CHAIN TWG

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

Research field: Forestry/Agroforestry systems

Study keywords: agroforestry systems (AFS); implementation of agroforestry to the national strategic plans; indication of countries priorities within the development of new agroforestry systems.

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 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:

<u>Required documents for the application:</u>
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) 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" on the basis of 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 are freely to apply. The Study preparation process will be regularly monitored by the Core Team.

<u>Annex</u>
Required conditions in terms of content, focus and expected results for Thematic studies: *Agroforestry systems as integral part of bioeconomy development*

Study content
- ➢ analysis and assessment of the current situation in the agroforestry systems (AFS) utilisation,
- ➢ analysis of potential utilisation of agroforestry systems in BIOEAST countries,
- ➢ analysis of legislation (generally binding regulations) in terms of agroforestry systems,
- ➢ indication of countries priorities within the development of new agroforestry systems,
- ➢ recommendations for the implementation of agroforestry to the national strategic plans of the CAP for 2021-2027 and for promoting innovation within this area.

Expected results
- ➢ overview of the current situation in the agroforestry systems (AFS) utilisation (state of the art of agroforestry)
- ➢ analysis of potential utilisation of agroforestry systems in BIOEAST countries,
- ➢ analysis of legislation (generally binding regulations) in terms of agroforestry systems,
- ➢ indication of countries priorities within the development of new agroforestry systems,
- ➢ proposal of common practices and recommendations for the implementation of agroforestry system

Link to the BIOEAST SRIA, Vision paper, BIOEAST Foresight Exercise
- ➢ The study will support thematic SRIA as well as the common BIOEAST SRIA in indentification of actions in the area of stimulation of interlinks within sustainable bioeconomy
- ➢ The land use and land property rights are still undergoing changes related to the conversion to open economies. There are large blocks of arable land in lowlands on one side and abadonment of agricultural land in rural mountain areas, followed by spontaneous forest succession on the other side. Agroforestry systems may eliminate extremes and contribute to the sustainability of production, land use and sustainability of rural areas.

Link to the EU policies, strategic documents, goals

➢ From 'Farm to Fork': designing a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system

➢ European food should become the global standard for sustainability. The transition to more sustainable systems has started, however, food production still results in air, water and soil pollution, contributes to the loss of biodiversity and climate change, and consumes excessive amounts of natural resources, while an important part of food is wasted.

➢ Agroforestry as a compromise solution supports different needs of rural community and consumers (i.e. high quality food products and lumber/biomass source.

➢ Agro-forestry is considered a sustainable practice, together with precision agriculture, organic farming, and stricter animal welfare standards. There is potential for support in CAP.