

BIOECONOMY CONCEPT PAPER

BULGARIA



Mission

To develop a preliminary impact assessment and to set the framework for a national bioeconomy strategy and action plan development, aiming to generate a deeper discussion in Bulgaria on the necessity of paradigm shift in economic thinking regarding the sustainable valorisation of biomass as renewable natural resources.



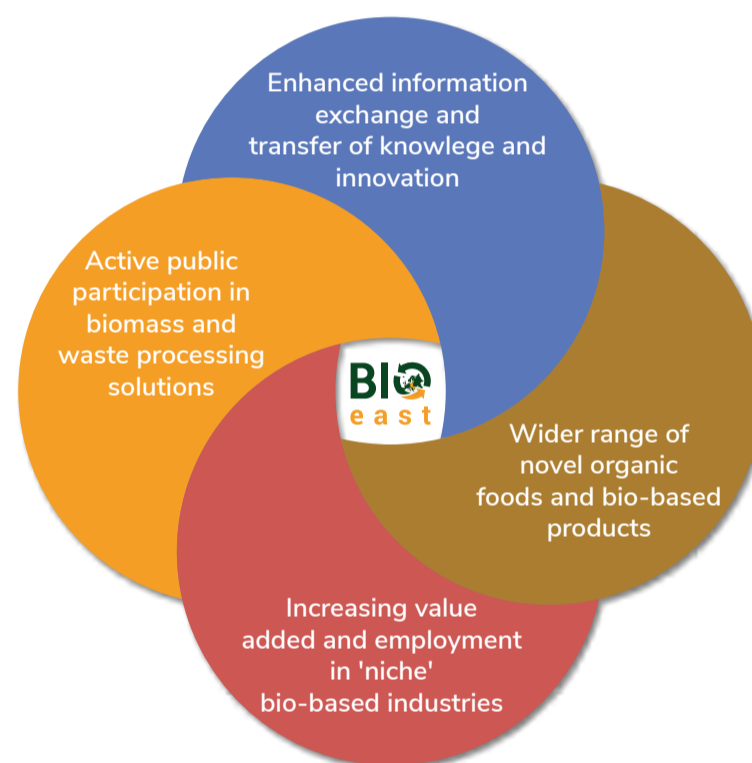
Strengths in bioeconomy

- Great potential in biomass production and processing.
- Export orientation and relatively good competitiveness.
- High capacity for storage, processing and recycling of plastics and bio-based waste.



Opportunities foreseen in bioeconomy

- Rapidly developing biotechnology and implementation of scientific achievements.
- Expansion of demand for bio-based fertilizers, cosmetics, plastics, etc.
- Increasing level for networking and cooperation among SMEs.



Strategic directions

- **Governance and policy:** ① set up a Bulgarian Bioeconomy Council to ensure national and international coordination; ② enforce the cross-sectoral approach and initiate the development and adoption of a national bioeconomy strategy and action plan ③ organize monitoring of the strategy implementation ④ nominate participants in national and international forums and events in the field of bioeconomy.
- **Research, Innovation and education:** ① development of technologies and new varieties of crops; ② creating new bio-based products and packaging, based on cascading use of by-products and waste in bio-refineries; ③ strengthening the link between business and science through new types of

partnerships (spin-offs, start-ups, living labs, open innovations); ④ updating research, educational and training programs and creating centres and networks.

- **Resources, products and services:** ① introduction of alternative raw materials, new product range and nutritional components with high added value; ② changing eating habits towards traditional, dietary, healing and functional foods; ③ cooperation between enterprises to establish industrial symbiosis ④ digitalization of the bioeconomy.
- **Public and private expectations:** ① raising public awareness of the benefits of the recycling industry in mitigating the effects of climate change; ② establishing of partnership system with consumers to test the safety and applicability of bio-based products.

Endorsement

The BIOEAST Initiative aims to build knowledge-based agriculture, forestry and aquaculture in the bioeconomy. For this reason, the BIOEASTsUP Horizon 2020 EU project was launched under the auspice of the macro-regional governmental initiative to support eleven countries in building up their own bioeconomy strategies and action plans.

