

BIOECONOMY CONCEPT PAPER



CROATIA



Mission

To develop and set the framework for a national bioeconomy strategy and action plan development, aiming to generate a more profound discussion in Croatia on the necessity of a paradigm shift in economic thinking regarding the sustainable valorization of biomass as renewable natural resources.



Opportunities foreseen in bioeconomy

- Increase of knowledge flows and digitisation for modernisation of agricultural production.
- Increasing level of networking and cooperation at all levels.
- Unifying available capacities and potential sources of financing.
- Efficient, environmental, and economical use of biomass in optimal development of bio-based solutions.



Strengths in bioeconomy

- Significant share of the bioeconomy related sectors in the overall economy.
- Untapped potential for new transformation pathways in organic waste management and renewable energy.
- Well-developed conventional industries that can be drivers of innovative solutions in the bioeconomy sector.



Strategic directions

Strategic directions to develop over-arching national bioeconomy appropriate strategic actions can be supported in three areas with regard to:

- **Market intervention:** ① avoidance of waste management costs and/or environmental damages, ② setting up of funding programmes targeting bioeconomy, ③ the establishment of mechanisms that enable feasible synergies and combination of different sources of funding ④ internal coordination among programmes.
- **Research, innovation and education:** research agenda as a functional part of the macro-region Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) with the most important elements for

bioeconomy: ① establishment of scientific network with researchers and industry stakeholders to increase the capacity in fields related to bioeconomy, ② development of pilot scale plants as a biobased innovation and production of biobased products, ③ empowerment of linkages between industrial needs and research activities

- **Governance and policy actions:** ① set up a bioeconomy supportive and inclusive policy framework, ② enforce the relationship between the main sub-sectors of bioeconomy and niche sectors in the frame of bioeconomy strategy or action plan; ③ evaluate and monitor policy adoption by appropriate indicators, ④ stability of the policies and policies duration supporting bioeconomy initiatives.



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.