

**ADDED VALUE OF COOPERATION  
IN BIOECONOMY RESEARCH  
INTERNATIONAL BIOEAST CONFERENCE**

**Pre-Conference Booklet**

A green circular logo with a white center containing the text "BIOEAST Conference".

**BIOEAST  
Conference**

A horizontal row of six orange location pin icons.

**Budapest,  
20.09.2017.**

**Organisers:** Ministry of Agriculture (FM)  
 Research Institute of Agricultural Economics (AKI)  
 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

**Venue:** National Agriculture and Food Exhibition and Fair, Hungexpo, PAVILION No. 25. Budapest, Hungary  
 (OMÉK – see introduction on page 4)

### Background

Two years ago, AKI invited the representatives of the European Union's (EU) DG RTD, DG AGRI and Research Executive Agency to OMÉK to give us advice on how to achieve more success in Horizon 2020. We received valuable insights on what to change and consequently began to develop multi-actor cooperation in Hungary. The next step was the realization that we need international partners so firstly we searched for cooperation in our macro-region and then, with the so-called Visegrad 4+3 group of countries, started the BIOEAST Initiative based on the political mandate of the V4+3 Warsaw Declaration. BIOEAST is a Central Eastern European (CEE) Initiative for Knowledge-based Agriculture, Aquaculture and Forestry in the Bioeconomy. After organizing our first meetings and workshops, we recognised the need for a macro-regional strategic research and innovation agenda (SRIA) covering not only the agri-food sector but forestry, aquaculture and non-food areas of the bioeconomy as well. The experience of setting up the Initiative showed that in addition to defining our common challenges and topics we also must develop our cooperation skills and resources in the BIOEAST macro-region. For this to happen:

- Actors from the Eastern EU Member States – the BIOEAST macro-region – should be more organised and assertive.
- Actors from other, more developed parts of Europe should be more inclusive.
- The policy agenda should be changed to help the process.

A CEE macro-regional perspective, along with more vigorous EU-wide cooperation and strong European Commission (EC) support for the integration into the European Research Area, is necessary for implementing in an effective and efficient way tailored actions that are conducive to safe, secure and sustainable development. To achieve these ambitious goals the concepts of bio-economy and macro-regional cooperation need to be made more understandable, and practical tips on how to succeed in widening participation should be shared.

### About the conference

The event will focus on the following questions:

- What is bioeconomy and why is it important?
- What is macro-regional and multi-actor cooperation and why are they important?

### Understanding the concepts and defining the development needs and steps will be assisted by:

- explanations from the EC;
- roundtable discussions moderated by FAO;
- testimonies from good examples;
- time to discuss with the participants.

### Outcomes of the conference:

- Taking stock of what has been achieved in the last two years since the previous OMÉK;
- Common understanding of what bioeconomy means to us;
- Common wisdom of what makes cooperation work – theoretical framework and practical tips for the BIOEAST Initiative's future action plan;
- The findings of the conference should be built into:
  - Discussion topics for the V4+3 agricultural ministers meeting at OMÉK;
  - Policy paper for the V4+3 agricultural and research ministries about how to work together in developing a bioeconomy strategy and increasing research and innovation cooperation and success;
  - Roadmap for developing the BIOEAST vision paper and SRIA;
  - Awareness raising publications.
- New and strengthened multi-actor research networks.

### Participants include:

- Macro-regional governmental experts;
- SCAR-AKIS SWG members;
- Other interested SCAR members;
- ERDN members (<http://www.erdn.eu/>);
- *Studies in Agricultural Economics* Editorial Board (<https://www.aki.gov.hu/studies/>);
- Representatives of the research and academic institutes in the Compass V4 booklet ([https://eip.fm.gov.hu/?page=cikkek\\_view&id=65](https://eip.fm.gov.hu/?page=cikkek_view&id=65)).


 Agenda

Timing	Content	Moderator
08:30 - 09:00	Welcome and registration	Zsófia Kunya (FM)
09:00 - 09:10	Introduction – setting the scene	Barna Kovács (BioEast)
<b>Plenary session</b>		
09:10 - 10:00	Welcome speech on the importance of bioeconomy research cooperation in the BIOEAST macro-region (10 min)	Zsolt Feldman, Deputy State Secretary (Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture)
	The concept and importance of the bioeconomy (20 min)	Davide Amato (EC, DG RTD)
	The concept and importance of macro-regional and multi-actor cooperation (20 min)	Inge Van Oost (EC, DG AGRI)
09:10 - 10:00		Anikó Juhász (AKI)
10:10 - 10:20	Highlighting the main messages and a Q&A session with the plenary session speakers	Nevena Alexandrova (FAO)
10:20 - 10:30	Introduction to the break-out sessions	Anikó Juhász (AKI)
<b>Break-out sessions</b>		
10:40 - 11:40	15 min. pitch of two representatives on three questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• key success factors of their cooperation</li> <li>• key obstacles:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- what do they need to further develop cooperation?</li> <li>- what is the added value of cooperation?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
	40 min. discussion with the participants on the same questions	
	Cooperation in small sectors	NACEE – László Váradi (HU) and NAIK-ERTI – Attila Benke (HU)
	Cooperation in a bottom-up research network	ERDN – Paweł Chmieliński (PL) and Klaus Wagner (AT)
	Cooperation through a H2020 consortium	AGRIFORVALOR – Katalin Kurucz (HU) and James Gaffey (IE)
10:40 - 11:40	Cooperation with territorial, macro-regional focus	DANUBIONET – Peter Canciani (IT) and Miklós Gyalai-Korpos (HU)
10:40 - 11:40		Andrew Fieldsend (AKI)
		Viktória Vásáry (AKI)
		Zsófia Kunya (FM)
		Tímea Reszkető (NAK)
<b>Round table discussion</b>		
11:50 - 12:20	On what we learned today about making cooperation successful 4 break-out session experts + European Commission and FAO experts	Barna Kovács (BioEast)
12:20 - 12:30	Closing of the conference	Anikó Juhász (AKI)



### Zsolt Feldman

Deputy State Secretary for Agricultural Economy  
Ministry of Agriculture  
1055 Budapest, Kossuth Lajos tér 11., Hungary

Beyond the operation of the agricultural support systems of Hungary and the European Union, and of the supply chain of agricultural products, he manages technical issues related to agricultural production and also coordinates the Hungarian implementation of the CAP. In recent years, through these activities, the agricultural compensation scheme could be renewed, the Interbranch Organisation in Hungary could be established and the renewal of the governmental system of agricultural research was possible. Beside the management of various programmes for agricultural sectors – pig, horse, fruit and vegetable sector – he oversees the National Agricultural Research and Innovation Centre, and the Research Institute of Agricultural Economics, and supervises activities related to the national herd of horses.



### Barna Kovács

Secretary of Bioeast Initiative  
Ministry of Agriculture  
1055 Budapest, Kossuth Lajos tér 11., Hungary

Barna Kovacs set up and coordinates the BIOEAST Initiative. Between 2009-2017 he worked as scientific and policy officer in the European Commission's Directorate General for Research and Innovation. In 2016, he was appointed as secretary for the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research. He acted as focal point for relations with the member states and civil society, coordinates foresight exercises in the field of agriculture, forestry and fisheries within bioeconomy, responsible for the developments of the Bioeconomy Observatory. His duties covered FP7 and Horizon 2020 project management and policy definition, contributing specifically to conceptual reflections on FOOD 2030 and new approaches for the implementation of the EU Bioeconomy Strategy. His scientific background covers management and business administration, focusing on the socio-economic aspects of agriculture, localized agri-food systems, food safety and security, and the innovation aspects of origin labelled products.



## Davide Amato

Policy Officer – Work Programme Coordinator  
European Commission – DG RTD.F1  
Place C. Rogier 16, Brussels

Davide Amato works in the Strategy Unit of the Bioeconomy Directorate of the Research and Innovation Directorate-General at the European Commission and is the Policy Officer in charge of the Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 2 Work Programme. He started his professional career in the private sector, covering different positions and responsibilities in Human Resources both at national and international level. He joined the Research and Innovation Directorate-General of the European Commission in 2011, working primarily on the launching of the EU Bioeconomy Strategy and its implementation. He holds an MA in Politics and Economics of EU Integration and a MSc in Human Resources.

**Title of presentation:**  
*The concept and importance of the bioeconomy*

### **Introduction of topic:**

The comparative advantage in the EU of the CEE countries, namely the sustainable biomass production and processing, could lead to the benefit of society by creating jobs and growth in the private sector. The macro-region's environmental, economic, societal, geopolitical, cultural and historical homogeneity and complexity could provide the framework conditions favourable to development of a sustainable circular bioeconomy. However, to achieve this goal, the traditional primary production and processing sectors must be modernized through a robust research and innovation initiative in the bioeconomy. With an investment of €3.5 billion, the Societal Challenge 2 Work Programmes for 2014-2020 respond to some of the key challenges our planet is facing for the years to come and represents an opportunity for investments in those areas.



## Inge Van Oost

Policy Officer Research & Innovation  
European Commission - Directorate General Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI)  
Rue de la Loi 130, 1049 Brussels

Inge Van Oost has been setting up and is now supporting the implementation of the European Innovation Partnership “Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability” (EIP-AGRI), in particular as regards cross-cutting aspects, Rural Development and Horizon 2020. As member of the DG AGRI Taskforce “Research and Innovation” she was instrumental in shaping DG AGRI’s research and innovation approach and Horizon 2020 work programmes. She developed the new concepts “multi-actor approach” and “thematic networks”. In her former post at the European Commission she was Policy Officer in the Direct Support Unit and the Cross Compliance Unit, responsible for cross-compliance, the Farm Advisory System and interlinking with the Rural Development policy.

**Title of presentation:**  
*The concept and importance of macro-regional and multi-actor cooperation*

### **Introduction of topic:**

The aim of the EIP “Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability” is to speed up innovation and ensure a steady supply of food, feed and biomaterials with dedicated attention to include the relevant actors in the chain. To enable impact from projects, the basic concept of the EIP-AGRI is (1) to focus on end-users’ problems/opportunities and (2) to have partners with complementary types of knowledge – scientific, practical and other – joining forces in project activities from the beginning till the end. This is essential to tackle current complex and systemic challenges with good results. These interactive projects are able to develop innovative solutions which are more ready to be applied in practice and cover real (macro-) regional needs. Moreover, end-users such as farmers, foresters or businesses will be more motivated to use the multi-actor project results, because they were involved in generating them and feel “co-ownership”.





## László Váradi

President

Network of Aquaculture Centres in Central and Eastern Europe NACEE  
5540 Szarvas, Anna-liget 8., Hungary

He has been involved in inland aquaculture development programmes in Hungary and abroad for almost 40 years. His main field of competence is the development of resource efficient inland aquaculture systems. He was the Director of the Hungarian Research Institute for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Irrigation (HAKI) between 1991 and 2012. He was the President of the European Aquaculture Society (EAS) between 2006 and 2008. After his retirement from public service he works as Vice President of the Hungarian Aquaculture and Fisheries Inter-branch Organisation (MA-HAL) and President of the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Central and Eastern Europe (NACEE). He has been actively involved in various European aquaculture initiatives (e.g. European Aquaculture and Innovation Platform, EATiP) and numerous EU projects.

**Break-out session topic:**  
**Cooperation in small sectors**

### **Introduction of topic:**

The Network of Aquaculture Centres in Central and Eastern Europe (NACEE) is a multi-stakeholder network that has 40 members from 9 CEE countries. The network helps to bridge the gap between Western and Eastern European aquaculture development, and facilitates the R&D sphere in Central and Eastern Europe to be an integral part of the European Research Area (ERA) through actions such as dissemination and exchange of information, organising expert meetings and workshops, publishing scientific and professional papers.



## Attila Benke

Senior Research Fellow

NARIC Forest Research Institute  
9600 Sárvár, Várkerület utca 30/A, Hungary

Attila Benke is a forest engineer and a researcher. His main research topic is the development of hybrid poplar management. Additionally, he deals with the development of short-rotation coppice management, the evaluation of relationship between different ecological parameters and the growth of hybrid poplar plantations and the evaluation of secondary forest biomass use. He participates in two ongoing research projects and represents the NARIC Forest Research Institute in the AgriForValor project.

**Break-out session topic:**  
**Cooperation in small sectors**

### **Introduction of topic:**

The use of secondary forest biomass for producing value-added product is still in its infancy in Hungary. The main reason is the lack of investment aids for businesses and the weak connection between biomass producers and the academic sector. But there is no shortage of innovative ideas, good practices and promising cooperations. I present a cooperation between a research group and a H2020 project for promoting an innovative idea for secondary forest biomass use.



## Paweł Chmieliński

Assistant Professor

European Rural Development Network (ERDN) and Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics – National Research Institute (IAFE-NRI)

Szkolna 2/4, 00-006 Warszawa, Poland

Co-organiser of the European Rural Development Network (ERDN, [www.erdn.eu](http://www.erdn.eu)). Assistant Professor at the Department of Social and Regional Policy at the Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics – National Research Institute in Warsaw (IAFE-NRI, [www.ierigz.waw.pl](http://www.ierigz.waw.pl)). His research focuses on public policies for rural development; development of non-farm rural economy, labour markets, farm diversification, social & employment structures of rural population; local governance and community development. He is a leader of the Polish research team in the H2020 project PERCEIVE ([www.perceiveproject.eu](http://www.perceiveproject.eu)).

### Break-out session topic:

***Cooperation in a bottom-up research network***

### Introduction of topic:

Dr. Paweł Chmieliński will present key success factors and the value added of cooperation in a bottom-up, international research network ERDN. The Network represents a ‘critical mass’ of high quality research expertise covering a broad range of disciplines and has a major role to play in the integrating researchers from the EU and CEE region into the European Research Area. ERDN has adopted a format for research cooperation that, over a 15-year period, has proved to have been outstandingly successful. The annual ERDN conference is an opportunity for researchers in the region to ‘showcase’ their competences, not only to researchers in other parts of the EU but also to other organisations (such as FAO, ÖGA), regional and national authorities.



## Klaus Wagner

Deputy Director

Federal Institute of Agricultural Economics  
Marxergasse 2, 1030 Vienna, Austria

Klaus Wagner, regional researcher, working for the Institute since 1987 on agricultural statistics, rural development, sustainability and functions of agriculture, evaluation of agricultural policy measures.

### Break-out session topic:

***Cooperation in a bottom-up research network***

### Introduction of topic:

The Federal Institute of Agricultural Economics – as a research institute of the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management – has the focus not only on national duties for the Ministry but also on international cooperation, exchange of information and common research projects e.g. ERDN. This strategy helps to gain new methodological experience, to keep contacts for short-term exchange of information for specific questions and to have long-term options for partnerships in relevant research projects which help to determine the national and EU Agricultural Policy.



### Katalin Kurucz

Head of Department Trends and Outreach  
 Bay Zoltán Nonprofit Ltd. for Applied Research  
 1116 Budapest, Kondorfa u.1., Hungary

Katalin Kurucz graduated with an MA in English and French at University of Szeged in Hungary. She worked for Tempus Public Foundation on the Erasmus programme and other EU programmes for 15 years. She has been working for Bay Zoltán Ltd. for Applied Research since 2013; she is currently Head of the Department of Trends and Outreach. She gained considerable experience with project management, grant writing, internationalising and science communication. She is also the manager of the Hungarian Agriforvalor Biomass Innovation Design Hub since 2016.

**Break-out session topic:**  
*Cooperation through a H2020 consortium*

**Introduction of topic:**

AGRIFORVALOR works on closing the research and innovation divide by connecting practitioners from agriculture and forestry with research and academia as well as with bio-industry, policy makers; innovation and technology transfer agencies in innovation partnership networks. It aims to better valorize and exploit sidestream biomass resources from agriculture and forestry. The AGRIFORVALOR Innovation Design Hubs are three networks, operating in Andalusia (Spain), in Hungary and in Ireland. Each hub shares existing research results and good practices on valorization of biomass sidestreams from agriculture and forestry and develops new grass-roots ideas. The project provides dedicated innovation support to selected topics within multi-actor Innovation Partnership Groups. Practical support in the exploitation of research results is complemented by assistance in business (model) development - with a tailored mix of innovation support measures offered to individual subjects. [www.agriforvalor.eu](http://www.agriforvalor.eu)



### James Gaffey

Biorefinery Specialist  
 Institute of Technology Tralee  
 South Campus, Clash Road, Tralee, Ireland

James is biorefinery specialist at the Institute of Technology Tralee on the AGRIFORVALOR Project. He previously worked at the Technology Centre for Biorefining and Bioenergy on a portfolio of projects including ReNEW, and “BioEire – A bioeconomy for Ireland”. James was a founding member of biorefinery initiative Cellulac, focused on production of biochemicals from agricultural residues.

**Break-out session topic:**  
*Cooperation through a H2020 consortium*

**Introduction of topic:**

James Gaffey will discuss bioeconomy initiatives being developed in the Irish AGRIFORVALOR hub. These include farmer-led initiatives focus on bioenergy and value-add products at the Irish Biomass Valorisation Innovation Design Hub and the synergies developed between Ireland and Hungary in this regard.





## Peter Canciani

Project Manager  
Central European Initiative - CEI  
Via Genova 9, 34121 Trieste, Italy

Peter Canciani, PhD, joined the Central European Initiative in 2012, working primarily on topics related to the advancement of the Bioeconomy and the promotion of Renewable Energy Sources in CEI member countries. In this framework, he coordinated CEI's participation in several EU-funded research projects, mainly contributing to policy-related activities and outreach to stakeholders from CEI. Before joining the CEI, Mr. Canciani accrued experience in the delivery of official development assistance and the implementation of donor-funded projects in the Russian Federation and Western Balkans.

**Break-out session topic:**  
*Cooperation with territorial, macro-regional focus*

### **Introduction of topic:**

The Central European Initiative is committed to support its member countries in the gradual shift towards the Bioeconomy. This concretizes in enhanced awareness raising and knowledge exchange to prioritize the Bioeconomy debate on the political agendas, as well as in targeted activities, including those implemented in the framework of EU-funded projects. In order to feed the Bioeconomy debate among its member countries, the CEI promoted the elaboration of recommendations: the scope being initially limited to the Danube Region, it will be further enlarged so to encompass the entire CEI constituency. The recommendations have been compiled in the framework of the Danube-Inco.Net project, calling for the development of measures ranging from the stabilization of the policy outlook to attract more investments in Bioeconomy value chains, to more specific actions concerning the assessment of biomass availability and the elaboration of dedicated logistics models.



## Miklós Gyalai-Korpos

Project Manager  
PANNON Pro Innovations Ltd.  
1021 Budapest, Szilágyi Erzsébet fasor 31., Hungary

Miklós Gyalai-Korpos works on bioeconomy and innovation activities at PANNON Pro Innovations Ltd. and project lead of the microalgae focused MAB2.0 project (<http://algaerefinery.eu/>). He holds an MSc in Bioengineering and a PhD in biofuels, both from the Budapest University of Technology and Economics. From 2010 to 2013 he worked in the Ministry of National Development of Hungary in energy policy and international energy relations. Between 2013 and 2015 he worked in the Climate-KIC Central Hungary team as innovation manager and member of the bioeconomy platform.

**Break-out session topic:**  
*Cooperation with territorial, macro-regional focus*

### **Introduction of topic:**

Central European Initiative and PANNON Pro Innovations Ltd. carried out a joint survey of bioeconomy related activities and barriers in the Danube Region. DANUBIONET was a Pilot Activity within the project Danube-INCO.NET ([www.danube-inco.net](http://www.danube-inco.net)), a Coordination and Support action funded by the EU under the 7th Framework Programme to address the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) in the field of Research and Innovation (R&I). The DANUBIONET Position Paper aims at illustrating critical bottlenecks hindering the deployment of Bioenergy and Bioeconomy in the Danube Region, while suggesting possible countermeasures. It builds upon the results of the survey, which addressed Bioeconomy actors in a Triple-Helix perspective in order to assess their competences and desiderata. The speaker will use the outcomes of this action to facilitate discussion around the topic.



# OMÉK 2017

A magyar föld legjava



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