



The role of the BIOEAST Initiative tackling  
challenges for biomass valorisation in  
Central and Eastern Europe

Barna KOVÁCS PhD  
Secretary-General BIOEAST Initiative





# Vision 2030

Through the governmental initiative, the Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries set the vision for 2030: to develop knowledge and cooperation based circular bioeconomies, which helps to enhance their inclusive growth and to create new value-added jobs especially in rural areas, maintaining or even strengthening environmental sustainability.

## MISSION:

to assist the CEE countries to operationalize their Vision for 2030 drawing on their potential and offering opportunities for:

- Sustainable increase of biomass production;
- Circular (“zero waste”) processing of the available biomass;
- Viable rural areas.



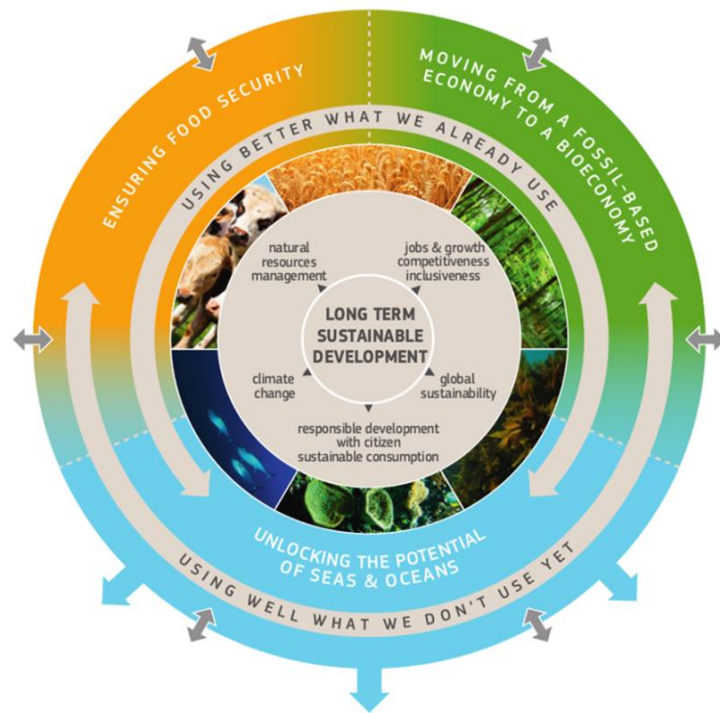
# WHAT ARE THE COMMON GOALS AND PRIORITIES?

1. Europe is a key player in solving global challenges, consequently the CEE countries will take part in it.
2. There are two emerging questions for the countries: competitiveness and sustainability.
3. Long-term competitiveness is not possible without sustainability.
4. Sustainable solutions still require lot of research and innovation.
5. Sustainable and circular economy is not possible without renewable bioresources.

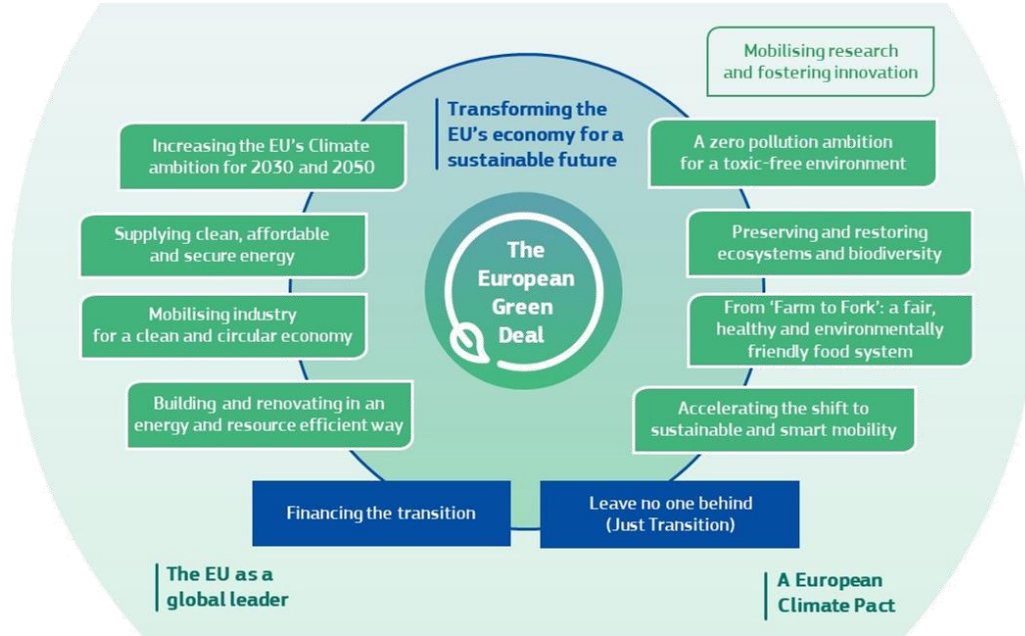


# THE SUSTAINABLE AND CIRCULAR BIOECONOMY IS PART OF THE SOLUTION

The Bioeconomy encompasses those parts of the economy that use **renewable biological resources** from land and sea to produce food-feed, biomaterials-chemicals, bioenergy-fuels and bio-products-services.



# BIOECONOMY IS PART OF THE EUROPEAN PRIORITIES



## MAJOR QUESTIONS FOR THE



1. Biomass/bioresources availability
2. Research and innovation capacities
3. Financing investments and developing market, new value-added sustainable models
4. Societal acceptance



# THE CHARACTERISTICS OF BIOECONOMIES

## BIOEAST vs. EU27 in a nutshell

Number of people employed in the bioeconomy

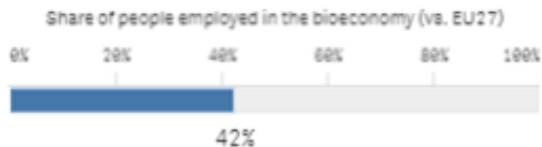
**7.41M**

Value added of the bioeconomy (Billion €)

**€85**

Value added per person employed in the bioeconomy

**11 k€** vs. **35 k**  
EU27



Source: Ronzon et al. (2020), Joint Research Centre, <https://datam.jrc.ec.europa.eu/datam>

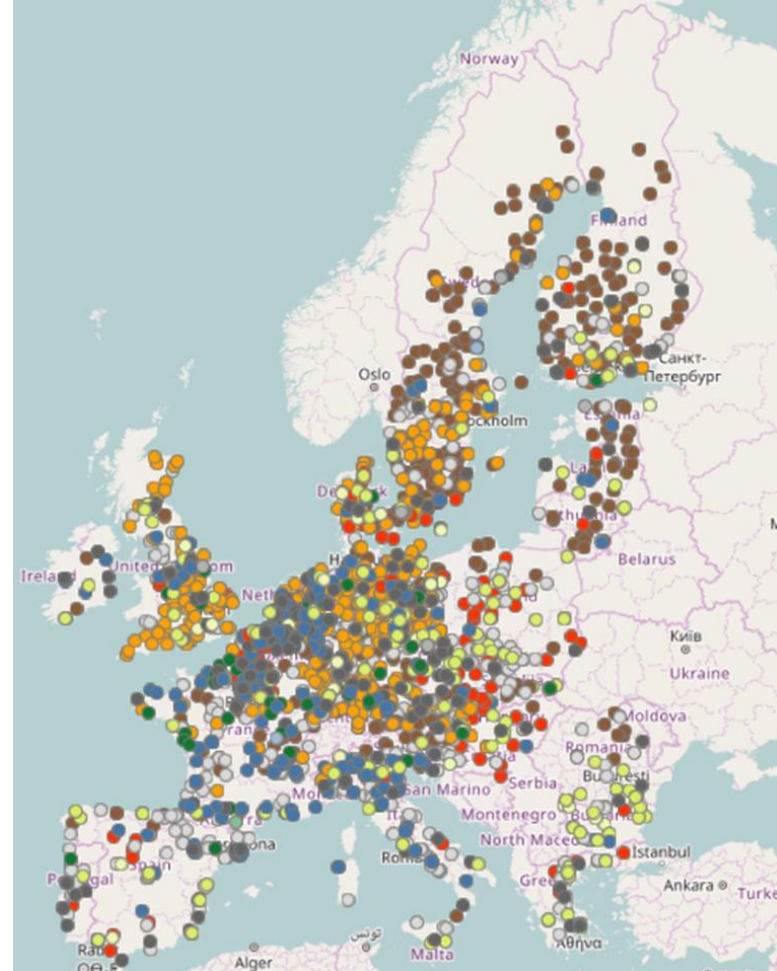




# INVESTMENTS ASPECTS

1. Missing investments
2. De-risking finances:

Biorefinery in the EU (database of 2,528 facilities in total), including the seven categories of bio-based products reported



BIOEAST.EU

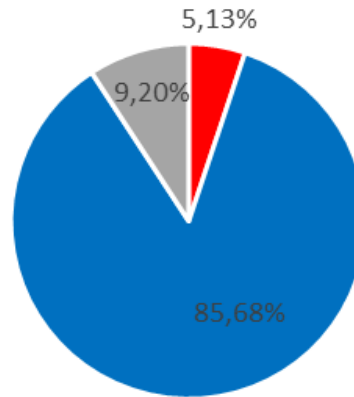




# THE ROLE OF EXCELLENCE BASED SCIENCE FOR POLICY MAKING

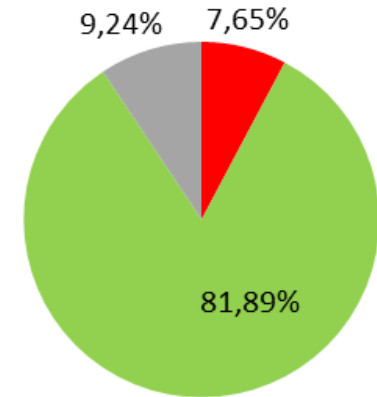
The better participation of the EU13 in the EU Research Framework Programme is outmost important for the sustainable future!

2014-2019 H2020 funds distribution



■ EU-13 ■ EU-15 ■ OTHER

2014-2019 H2020 SC2 funds distribution



■ EU-13 ■ EU-15 ■ OTHER

# UNDERSTANDING POLITICS AND BUILDING POLICY PRIORITIES

A large, thick, orange arrow curves from the bottom left towards the top right, pointing towards a faint map of Europe in the background. Four dark green circles are placed along the arrow's path, each corresponding to a declaration year.

**2019 Declaration:** on the role of BIOEAST in the context of Horizon Europe (signed by 22 ministries)

**2018 Declaration:** on the Vision for BIOEAST

**2017 Declaration:** on broadening the remit of the BIOEAST initiative beyond H2020

**2016 Declaration:** on stronger inclusion into H2020



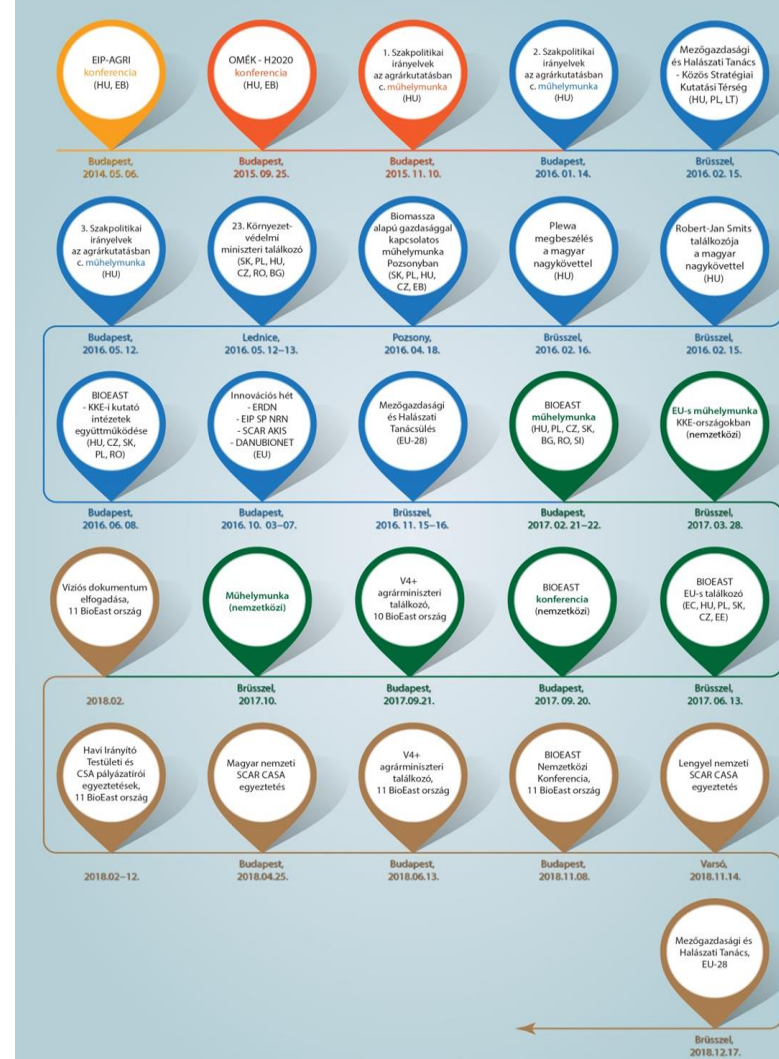
## OBJECTIVES OF THE INITIATIVE

1. **Initiate cooperation:** establish a multi-stakeholder network to facilitate joint actions;
2. **Provide an evidence base:** establish data-driven support for implementation of policies;
3. **Support strategies:** create the cross-sectorial approach for the development of a national circular and bioeconomy strategies;
4. **Focus on research:** map specific challenges for a Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA);
5. **Improve skills:** train a new generation of dedicated multi-stakeholder actors;
6. **Develop synergies:** promote regional, national, EU and international funding opportunities;
7. **Increase visibility:** draw attention to specific challenges of the CEE regions.



# WHAT DID WE ACHIEVE UNTIL NOW?

- **11 CEE countries/ministries** joined the initiative  
+ Serbia asked for accession
- **4 political declarations**, last signed by 22 ministries!
- Set-up of **Governance**:
  - Secretariat and Secretary
  - More than 20 Board meetings
  - National Contact Points
- **Vision** for 2030
- **6 international conferences** and several national events
- 2018 EU **Bioeconomy Strategy** reference
- 2019 European **Council Conclusion** reference
- **H2020 CSAs**: BIOEASTsUP, Power4BIO, BeRural
- **5 thematic working groups**
- **Thematic** and topics suggestions (Horizon)





## NEXT STEPS AT NATIONAL LEVEL

1. Guidance on **National Bioeconomy Strategy** Development
2. **Policy Support** Facility for national bioeconomy strategies with the help of the European Commission
3. Establishing **National BIOEAST HUBs** for the stakeholders engagement at national level



## NEXT STEPS AT MACRO REGIONAL LEVEL

1. Macro-regional **Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)**
2. **Foresight exercise** for defining the potential future scenarios and priorities
3. Five **Thematic Working Groups** for SRIA development and participation in HE European Partnerships:
  - Forestry (coordinated by SK)
  - Sustainable yields and agro-ecological intensification (coordinated by HU)
  - Bioenergy and new value-added products (coordinated by HR)
  - Food Systems (coordinated by PL)
  - Fresh water based bioeconomy (coordinated by CZ)
  - Education (coordination under discussion)





# LINKING THE PRIORITIES

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

BARNA KOVACS  
BARNA.KOVACS@MFA.GOV.HU

BIOEAST.EU

