

# BIOECONOMY CONCEPT PAPER

## LATVIA



### Mission

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



### Opportunities foreseen in forest sector

- Experienced forest sector, wood processing and furniture industry, as well as research institutions with remarkable innovation potential.
- High potential to valorise low-quality wood into higher-value products, e.g., by focusing on engineered wood, wood biorefining, and resource cascading.
- Abundant amounts of non-timber resources available in forests with untapped potential.



### Strengths in bioeconomy

- Valuable opportunities for bioeconomy development in each of the bioresource extraction sectors – agriculture, forest sector, fisheries and aquaculture.
- National bioeconomy strategy "Latvian Bioeconomy Strategy 2030" adopted in 2017.
- Forest land in Latvia accounts for about half of the total territory. Strong forest, logging and wood processing sectors with existing infrastructure and industry federations.



### Strategic directions

- **Research, innovation and education:** allocation of funding for science, education and innovation could boost the development of an innovative and high added-value bioeconomy in Latvia. To ensure research continuity and strengthen R&D, necessary to provide sufficient and predictable support for science and education.
- **Resources, products and services:** communication between industry representatives, researchers and policymakers may be improved by implementing science-industry collaboration, research projects, piloting technologies and bioproducts that are developed in research institutions for industrial companies. Develop and implement national guidelines intended for companies on the use of bioresources for the creation of higher added-value products.
  - **Governance and policy:** assurances from government to industry about the long-

term planning and commitments to adhere and implement the objectives of the European Green Deal and the European Bioeconomy Strategy, thus promoting the circular bioeconomy and sustainable solutions in practice. Facilitation of a secure investment environment and providing clarity to local businesses on the Government's long-term priorities, especially in higher risk novel industries. Subsidies should be shifted from less efficient uses of biomass to higher value-added uses of bioresources and biomass.

- **Public and private expectations:** awareness raising and understanding of the importance of bioeconomy in the society. Outlining the distinction between low added-value biomass applications and high added-value technologically innovative bioeconomy. Encouraging businesses to certify bioeconomy products with higher added value in order to boost their competitiveness and demonstrate their products' benefits to the consumers.

### 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.

