

BIOECONOMY CONCEPT PAPER



SLOVENIA



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 Slovenia on the necessity of paradigm shift in economic thinking regarding the sustainable valorisation of biomass as renewable natural resources.



Strengths in bioeconomy

- Sustainably managed natural resources enabling a stable and long-term sustainable supply of biomass of agricultural and forestry origin.
- Strong manufacturing industry operating on international scale with a growing (demand-driven) interest to move towards bio-based technologies.
- Research institutions and corporate technology developers integrated into state-of-the-art RDI work in applied life sciences.



Opportunities foreseen in bioeconomy

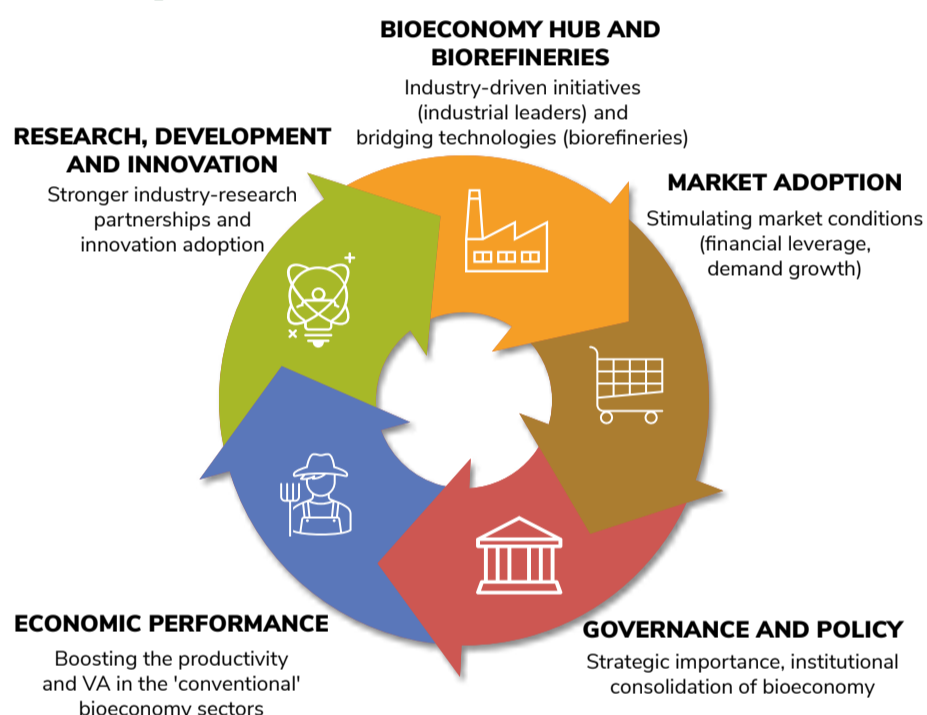
- Growing demand for bio-based products and technologies in key export sectors (mechanical engineering, chemicals, composite materials, automotive industry).
- The possibility of creating more complex (cross-sectoral) value chains and business models valorising biomass streams along the value-adding cascade.
- Development of a robust enabling environment, providing investment, ensuring scale-up, reducing risk and enabling a faster transition to market.



Strategic directions

- **Economic performance:** ① Technological renovation, boosting the productivity and value added in 'conventional' (agriculture, forestry, food & feed, wood, pulp & paper); ② Development of context-adapted biorefineries (versatility, modularity); ③ Strengthening the motivation of firms to cooperate in extended bio-based value chains, adding value to locally sourced biomass and closing the loops; ④ Accelerated transition to bio-based technologies in novel sectors of the bioeconomy.
- **Research, Development and Innovation:** ① removing obstacles for stronger industry-research partnerships and innovation adoption; ② strengthening macro-regional and cross-sectoral RDI partnerships.
 - **Industry-driven initiatives:** ① Establishment of the National Bioeconomy Hub (exchange of

Concept



From a patchwork of good practices to an integrated, sustainable and robust bioeconomy system

information and expertise, creation of business opportunities through cooperation); ② Encouraging industrial leaders to assume the connecting role in growth of integrated bioeconomy value chains; ③ Strengthening dedicated enabling environment for the development of integrated bioeconomy value chains (market information, venture capital, bioeconomy clusters, public-private partnerships);

- **Governance and Policy:** ① Reaching consensus on the strategic importance and institutional consolidation of the bioeconomy; ② Setting up a dedicated National bioeconomy strategy and Action Plan; ③ Improvement of databases for evidence-based strategic planning and; ④ Strengthening and improved coordination of measures and instruments to develop integrated, sustainable and robust bioeconomy system; ⑤ Strengthening actions to boost demand for bio-based products and services.

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.

