

BIOECONOMY CONCEPT PAPER

LITHUANIA



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



Strengths in bioeconomy

- Lithuania has a high potential in the primary production of biomass and the processing of this resource and biowaste into high-value-added products.
- Strong knowledge base in biomass processing technology and biotechnology.
- Technologies used in bioenergy are based on the principles of a circular economy.



Opportunities foreseen in bioeconomy

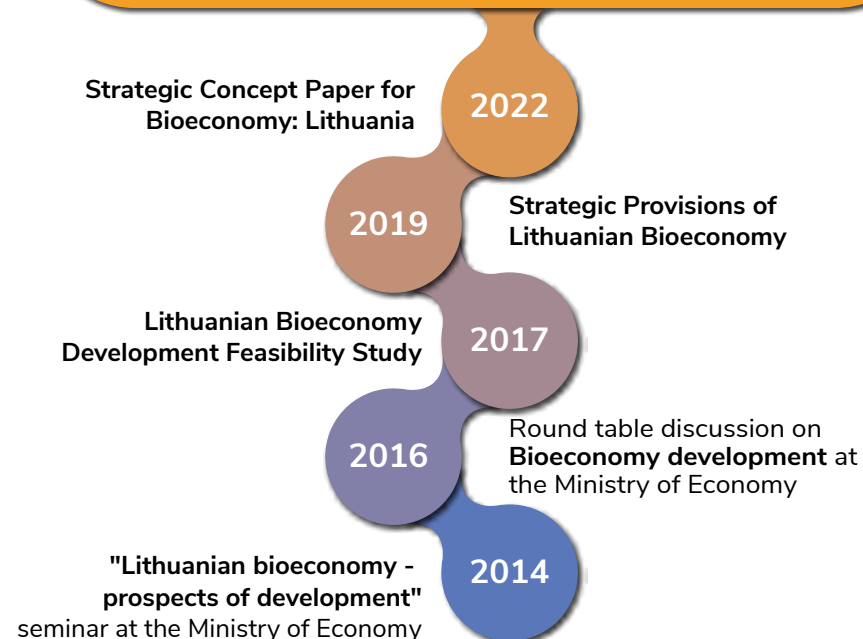
- Rapid increase of business activity in bioeconomy - related R&D and innovation.
- Increasing highly qualified professionals – growing number and share of tertiary graduates in bioeconomy - oriented studies.
- Increased openness, transparency and stakeholder involvement in bioeconomy-related science, technology, and innovation policy creation.



Strategic directions

- **Market intervention:** by the creation of higher value added through the implementation of innovative technologies and business models for prevention, reuse, recycling and use of biological waste; financial support to businesses, municipalities and clusters for implementing scaling up of innovative technologies; public investment in infrastructure (biomethane distribution network, district heating, etc.).
- **Research, innovation and education:** research agenda as a functional part of the macro-region Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA). The need for actions to improve Lithuania's bioeconomy related research and innovation can be resumed in **1** support through long-term strategic planning of R&D funding, by upgrading competencies of science, technology and innovation public sector policymakers; etc.

Towards a Lithuanian bioeconomy strategy



2 cooperation: strengthen integration with international innovation networks; development of bio-clusters; etc. **3** Innovations: implement the circular principles throughout the food supply chain; ensure sustainable agriculture by using local resources; etc. **4** Knowledge transfer, education: development of bioeconomic hubs, networks to ensure learning from the best practices; enhance understanding of bioeconomy at the business, scientific, governmental and consumer levels; etc.

- **Governance and policy actions:** **1** set up a National Bioeconomy Council to ensure long-term engagement at the national level to act as a catalyser for interministerial and interinstitutional coordination; **2** enforce the relationship between the main sub-sectors of bioeconomy and niche sectors in a frame of bioeconomy strategy or action plan; **3** elaborate legal regulations to enable a predictive environment in the bioeconomy.

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.

