

**Joint Declaration of the Ministers of Agriculture and Ministers of Research of the
BIOEAST Initiative's Member States**

We, the Ministers of Agriculture and Ministers of Research representing the countries of the BIOEAST initiative—Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia—reaffirm our commitment to fostering collaboration and addressing key challenges in the realm of knowledge-based agriculture, aquaculture, and forestry in the bioeconomy.

Acknowledging the significance of the joint declaration signed by 11 countries and 22 ministers during the Slovak Visegrad4 Presidency in May 2019, outlining the future trajectory of the BIOEAST Initiative within the framework of Horizon Europe;

Recognizing the ongoing debates surrounding sustainability and competitiveness, particularly regarding indispensable, but vulnerable natural resources such as soil, freshwater, and ecosystem services, as well as the critical importance of the European food system security and the potential of the bioeconomy in driving socio-economic and sustainable development in Europe;

Having regard to the future European Research and Innovation Framework Programme and synergies with other European Funds, including the Pre-Accession Funds, recognizing the significant role could play in cohesion of EU Member States and facilitating the accession process of Western-Balkan and Eastern Partnership countries to the European Union;

Considering discussions on European Strategic Autonomy, the re-evaluation of Europe's role in global supply chains, future policies concerning European food system security and sustainability, the context of natural resource management, climate targets, biotechnology and biomanufacturing initiative, and the growing digitalization of sectors;

Emphasizing the necessity of collective national efforts supported by European cooperation, and recognizing the imperative for a paradigm shift from import dependence to self-sustainability. Local biomass production and processing, alongside the precious soil, freshwater, and ecosystem resources in Central and Eastern Europe, are vital for securing a sustainable European food system and ensuring Europe's strategic autonomy;

Stressing that achieving these aforementioned objectives necessitates substantial investment in research and innovation, knowledge adaptation and dissemination, and the establishment of a specific and an effective research funding framework, alongside active societal engagement;

Recognizing the growing interest and appreciation for the role of the BIOEAST Initiative in identifying common strategic research and innovation priorities, while also leveraging the accomplishments of the initiative;

We commit to strengthen our cooperation in research, innovation and development by involving other countries, such as the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries, to facilitate their integration to the European Research Area in agriculture and other bioeconomy sectors;

We pledge to establish a joint research and innovation driven partnership aimed at addressing the interconnections between sustainable natural resources, the food system, and the deployment of the bioeconomy in Central and Eastern Europe. We foresee an in-depth discussion with all Member States and European Commission on the structure of the partnership, its scope, role of participants and financial aspects, thus this declaration does not imply an immediate financial commitment for the signatories.

We appreciate the Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence actions under the European Research and Innovation Framework Programme. However, we emphasize that there is a need to take further action in order to strengthen valorisation, knowledge exchange, and bridge the gap between research and implementation within Europe;

We invite the European Commission, the Council of the European Union, and the European Parliament to take this declaration into consideration during the strategic planning process of the new multiannual financial framework.

HUNGARY

Date: *17 June 2024*

Date: *28 June 2024*

Dr. István Nagy

Minister of Agriculture




Dr. Balázs Hankó

Minister of State for Innovation,
Higher Education and Vocational Training



Further ministerial signatures are appended in the subsequent pages.

BULGARIA

Date:



Georgi Tshov, PhD

Bulgarian Minister of Agriculture and Food

Date:



Prof. Galin Tsokov

Bulgarian Minister of Education and Science

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CROATIA

Date:

Date:

Josip Dabro

Prof. Radovan Fuchs PhD

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Minister of Science, Education and Youth



CZECH REPUBLIC

Date:

Date:

Marek Výborný

Mikuláš Bek

Minister of Agriculture of the Czech Republic

Minister of Education, Youth and Sports

Mgr. Marek Výborný
Digitální podpis:
25.06.2024 11:17



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PhDr. Mikuláš Bek Ph.D.
Datum: 2024.07.02
09:20:11 +02'00'



**BIOEAST – Central and Eastern European Initiative for Knowledge-based
Agriculture, Forestry and Aquaculture in the Bioeconomy**

ESTONIA

Date: 28.06.24

Date:

Minister of Regional Affairs

Minister of Education and Research

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Põder", written over a horizontal dotted line.

A horizontal dotted line, likely a placeholder for a signature or stamp.

ESTONIA

Date:

Date:

Minister of Regional Affairs

Kristina Kallas, PhD
Minister of Education and Research

[Handwritten Signature]

LATVIA

Date:

Date:

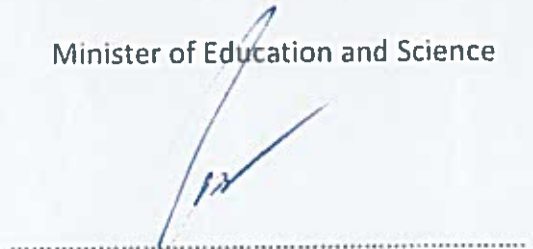
Armands Krauze

Anda Čakša

Minister of Agriculture

Minister of Education and Science





POLAND

Date: 27/06/2024

Date:

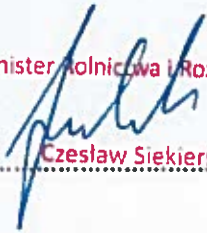
Czesław Siekierski

Maria Mrówczyńska

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development

Undersecretary of State at the Ministry
of Science and Higher Education

Minister Rolnictwa i Rozwoju Wsi



Czesław Siekierski

PODSEKRETARZ STANU



prof. dr hab. inż. Maria Mrówczyńska

02 LIP. 2024

ROMANIA

Date: 19.06.2024

Date: 27.06.2024

Florin – Ionuț BARBU

Bogdan-Gruia IVAN

Minister of Agriculture and Rural
Development

Minister of Research, Innovation and
Digitalization



A handwritten signature in blue ink, corresponding to Bogdan-Gruia IVAN, is written over a horizontal dotted line. The signature is stylized and appears to be "BG" followed by a large flourish.

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Date:

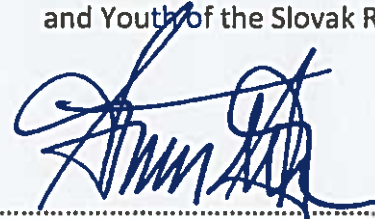
Date:

Richard Takáč

Tomáš Drucker

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
of the Slovak Republic

Minister of Education, Research, Development
and Youth of the Slovak Republic



SLOVENIA

Date: 26. 8. 2024

Date: 19. 8. 2024

Mateja Čalušič

Dr Igor Papič

Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Food

Minister for Higher Education, Science and
Innovation

Čalušič



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

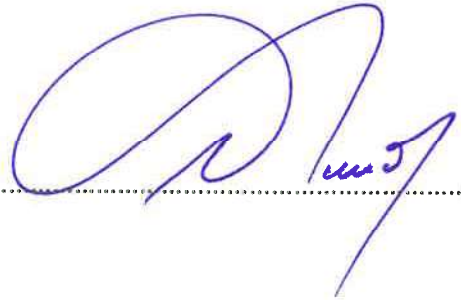
Date:

Date: 20.11.2024

name of minister

Anila Denaj

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development



REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

Date: 14 November 2024

Date:

Aleksandar Martinović

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY
AND
WATER MANAGEMENT

Jelena Begović

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT
AND
INNOVATION

REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

Date: 11. 14. 2024.

Jelena Begović

Minister of Science, Technological
Development and Innovation

