MS 2

Procedures to perform SRIA updates

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transformation for the BIOEAST macro-region
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Revision History

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V0.1	07/05/2024	Imre Balázs (TTK); Valéria Csonka (ÖMKi)	First Draft Version
V0.2	21/05/2024	TWG and HUB Coordinators, WP7 Lead	Review and comments
V0.3	03/06/2024	Korinna Varga (ÖMKi)	Quality review and comments
V1.0	21/06/2024	Imre Balázs (TTK); Valéria Csonka (ÖMKi)	Final version based on comments

Disclaimer

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Abbreviations

CBE JU	Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking
EU	European Union
SRIA	Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda
TWG	Thematic Working Groups
WP	Work Package

Introduction to the project

BOOST4BIOEAST *is a Coordination and Support Action funded by the European Commission developed to support the BIOEAST Initiative with the aim of empowering national stakeholders in the Central Eastern European and Baltic countries for the development of national bioeconomy action plans and to build long-lasting structures and spaces of dialogue for national and macro-regional cooperation. The project will enrich knowledge on the bioeconomy and stimulate related research and innovation across the macro-region.*

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1 Introduction

The first **BIOEAST Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda** (SRIA), published in 2023, was aimed to be a living document updated every three years through a collective, forward-looking revision exercise. **Updating the SRIA** involves several key steps that are all interconnected. The process must be **open and inclusive**, involving relevant bioeconomy stakeholders, such as policymakers, researchers, bio-based industries, farmers' associations, and citizens from the start. This **collaborative approach** ensures a better **alignment with stakeholder needs** and, therefore, a higher level of **acceptance and commitment** on their part.

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2 Key steps of the SRIA update process

- **Establishing a Core Team**

  A dedicated team will be formed to steer the SRIA update process, comprising key members of the B4B consortium / the BIOEAST Initiative. (TTK, ÖMKI, BME, MKGP)

- **Contextualization**

  Taking the 1st BIOEAST SRIA as a basis, R&I trends, gaps, policy goals, and existing initiatives will be analysed and updated to frame the Initiative's contribution and refine priority areas.

- **Updating the 7 Core Themes**

  Facilitated by TWG and HUB Coordinators and with a high level of stakeholder involvement, the BIOEAST Initiative's R&I agenda is updated in an iterative process through a series of online consultations, workshops, and drafts.

- **Validation and Adoption**

  The updated and aligned Core Themes (**Thematic SRIAs**) will be validated by experts and finalised based on their feedback. The Core Themes will form the backbone of the updated BIOEAST-level SRIA, reviewed by the BIOEAST Board before publication.

- **Communication**

  Contact with relevant EU and national actors will be established and maintained, keeping them informed of the process to influence bioeconomy-related policies. Once the updated SRIA is adopted, significant launch and publication events will publicise the document and maximise its impact.

- **Keeping SRIA up-to-date**

  Regular updates of the BIOEAST SRIA will be performed every 3 years beyond BOOST4BIOEAST. The simplified update process will be centred around updating the 7 Thematic SRIAs, driven by the TWG Coordinators in communication with the BIOEAST Board.

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Stage 1 – Management and communication

Responsible	Start	Due
TTK, BME, ÖMKI, MKGP	**2024-05**	**2026-12**

*A **Core Team** composed of key members of the BOOST4BIOEAST consortium (TTK, BME, ÖMKI, MKGP) will be set up as a **temporary working group** by 2024-05 to facilitate an effective and efficient SRIA update process.*

Manage the SRIA update process
- The Core Team will be in charge of steering the process
- Design the **methodology** and timeframe
- Drive **implementation** of the update process
- Draft the **state-of-the-art** section of the Updated SRIA.

Communicate with relevant actors
- Establish and maintain contact with relevant EU and national actors
- Keep stakeholders informed of the process
- **Maximise potential impact** on bioeconomy-related policies

Disseminate the Updated SRIA

Once the Updated SRIA is adopted, significant launch and publication events will be held involving the broad stakeholder community to publicise the document and further consolidate stakeholder buy-in and commitment.

- The **BOOST4BIOEAST Final Conference** will be a crucial dissemination event in **2026-11**.

Stage 2 – Contextualisation

Responsible	Start	Due
Core Team	**2024-07**	**2026-06**

*Contextualisation is a crucial element of the SRIA update process. The **state-of-the-art** surrounding the bioeconomy in the BIOEAST macro-region, as well as **ongoing and future developments,** will be monitored and analysed regarding R&I trends and drivers, gaps and opportunities, national and European policy goals, and complementary activities and initiatives.*

*The above information will be summarised in **periodic updates** provided to TWGs **every 6 months** to support the development of Thematic SRIAs.*

Sections to be revised
- Bioeconomy in the BIOEAST macro-region
- Regulatory framework and bioeconomy institutional profiles
- Bioeconomy research and innovation in the BIOEAST macro-region

Previous documents to consider
- EU strategies and policies
- BIOEAST Vision Paper – Vision 2030
- First BIOEAST SRIA
- Thematic studies
- BIOEAST Strategic Plan
- Bioeconomy Concept Papers

Monitor projects, actions, and policies the BIOEAST SRIA aims to influence
- National bioeconomy strategies and action plans
- Setting up an Eastern European bioeconomy partnership
- Upcoming Horizon framework programme
- Upcoming CBE JU working programme(s)
- Project monitoring related to the thematic area of the TWGs (previous successful projects and new calls)

Relevant BOOST4BIOEAST activities
- Available biomass and bioeconomy competency mapping (WP3)
- Innovation ecosystem mapping to identify the framework for financing and implementing bioeconomy innovations (WP4)
- Mapping bioeconomy-related knowledge, educational materials & needs (WP5)
- Macro-regional science-policy events (WP6)
- Topics identified in Thematic SRIAs (WP6)
- National bioeconomy action plans development (WP7)

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Stage 3 – Review and update thematic areas

Responsible	Start	Due
TWG Coordinators	2024-10	2025-05

Overdue thematic areas of the 7 Core Themes and new strategic directions will be identified. This phase is at the core of the SRIA update process, defining and revising the BIOEAST Initiative's R&I agenda.

Review process
- Each TWG will organise at least **1 macro-regional online workshop** by **2025-02**, focusing on identifying any overdue thematic areas in the SRIA prepared during the BIOEASTsUP project and considering **new or missing strategic directions**.
- Subsequently, TWG coordinators will recommend removing, revising, or adding thematic areas at the macro-regional level by **2025-05**.

Stage 4 – National consultations on research priorities

Responsible	Start	Due
National HUBs	2024-11	2025-07

*At the national level, a series of **consultations with national Mirror Groups** will be conducted by the **BIOEAST HUBs** in local languages. These consultations build on the thematic areas updated in Stage 3 to conceptualise the new, relevant research priorities and themes that will form the backbone of the updated Thematic SRIAs.*

Consultation process
- The consultation process will be announced at the **HUB kick-off** events by **2024-11**.
- An **online survey** developed by the Core Team will be provided to the HUBs by **2024-11**.
- The HUBs are responsible for **translating the survey** into local languages by **2025-01**.
- **Stakeholder responses** will be collected through mirror groups by **2025-03**.
- The responses will be discussed in **national-level workshops** by the HUBs in **2025-06**.
- The outcomes of the national consultations will be communicated to TWGs by **2025-07**.

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Stage 5 – Explore synergies across updated thematic SRIAs

Responsible	Start	Due
TWGs	**2025-06**	**2025-12**

*To further refine the research priorities, **synergistic research topics** across the updated Thematic SRIAs will be identified and their effect estimated.*

Identification of synergies
- Considering the inputs collected in these national consultations, each TWG will organise at least **1 macro-regional online workshop** to find synergistic research topics across the updated thematic SRIAs by **2025-10**.
- Based on the outcomes of these workshops, TWG coordinators will **analyse the potential benefits** of such synergies and prepare **updated thematic SRIAs** accordingly through an iterative process and continuous consultation with members by **2025-12**.

Stage 6 – Align thematic SRIAS with national Action Plans

Responsible	Start	Due
TTK, HUBs, TWGs	**2025-10**	**2026-03**

The alignment process will ensure that the Thematic SRIAs are focused on supporting the implementation of the Action Plans and facilitating research and innovation efforts that are relevant and applicable to the needs of the bioeconomy. Best models of supporting investments within the bioeconomy towards the adoption of bio-based solutions will be identified.

Alignment of Updated SRIA and Action Plans
- TTK will perform a **sense-making analysis** to reveal common patterns and themes in the Updated Thematic SRIAs and national Action Plans by **2026-02**.
- Based on the insights provided by this analysis, **HUB and TWG Coordinators** will review the Action Plans and thematic SRIAs to identify common objectives and interlinkages, synergies and potential gaps or discrepancies that should be addressed at a national or macro-regional level by **2026-03**.

Relevant BOOST4BIOEAST activities
- 4CF will organise an in-person **cross-fertilisation workshop** in **2025-12** to enable TWG and HUB Coordinators to exchange knowledge and ideas and compare perspectives. The results will be fed into both the Action Plans & SRIAs, necessitating correlation and a continuous exchange of information with **Task 6.2**.

Stage 7 – Validate Updated Thematic SRIAs

Responsible	Start	Due
TTK, AA, VMU, TWGs	**2026-01**	**2026-05**

*The **Updated Thematic SRIAs**, as key strategy documents of BIOEAST for decision-making, will be formally validated through **internal & external consultations** before finalising them.*

Validation process
- The updated and aligned Thematic SRIAs will be validated through **3 Online Regional Webinars** (TTK, AA, VMU) between **2026-03** and **2026-05**, where the feedback of broader stakeholder groups will be considered.
- TWG Coordinators will be involved in the organisation and promotion of these events.

Stage 8 – Develop the updated BIOEAST SRIA

Responsible	Start	Due
Core Team, TWGs	**2026-05**	**2026-12**

*Based on the feedback collected in the validation process, the **Core Team**, in collaboration with **TWG Coordinators**, will finalise the **7 Thematic SRIAs** (collected and described in D6.1). As **Core Themes**, these will be consolidated into the updated **BIOEAST-level SRIA** (D6.2).*

*The Updated SRIA must be kept relevant beyond the 3-year duration of the BOOST4BIOEAST project. A **streamlined procedure** will be developed for regular updates as an integral part of the SRIA document. Updates will be performed **every 3 years**, centred around updating the 7 Thematic SRIAs, driven by the TWG Coordinators in communication with the BIOEAST Board.*

Finalisation of the updated BIOEAST SRIA
- The Core Team and TWGs will finalise the **7 validated Thematic SRIAs** by **2026-07**.
- The final Thematic SRIAs will be integrated as **Core Themes** into the Updated BIOEAST SRIA, detailing policy considerations for each country and the macro-region by **2026-09**.
- The **BIOEAST Board** will review the updated BIOEAST-level SRIA by **2026-10**.
- The **Updated BIOEAST SRIA** will be published at the **final BIOEAST Bioeconomy Conference** (**2026-11**) and submitted as **Deliverable 6.2** by **2026-12**.

Ensure that the SRIA is kept up-to-date
- The **Core Team** will be in discussion with **TWG Coordinators** to design a simplified procedure for the 3-yearly iterative updates.
- Regular updates are expected to be **driven by TWG Coordinators** in a **rotational system**, with one TWG responsible for the process each time.
- A **streamlined process for regular updates** will be incorporated into the Updated BIOEAST SRIA by **2026-12**.

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3 SRIA UPDATE GANNT

SRIA update GANTT		1 Management & communication	2 Conceptualisation	3 Update thematic areas	4 Map national R&I priorities	5 Synergies across Thematic SRIAs	6 Align SRIAs with Action Plans	7 Validate Updated Thematic SRIAs	8 Develop Updated BIOEAST SRIA
2024	1								
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	11	1.2							
	12								8.4

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4 Roadmap

Table 2: Roadmap of the SRIA update

No.	Key steps	Lead	Date
1.1	Set up Core Team	TTK	2024-05
2.1	1st State-of-the-art update sent to TWGs	Core Team	2024-10
4.1	Announce national consultation	HUBs	2024-11
4.2	National survey provided to HUBs	Core Team	2024-11
4.3	Translate national survey to local languages	HUBs	2025-01
3.1	Macro-regional workshops to review SRIA topics	TWGs	2025-02
4.4	Conduct national surveys	HUBs	2025-03
2.2	2nd State-of-the-art update sent to TWGs	Core Team	2025-04
3.2	Submit recommendations on new SRIA topics	TWGs	2025-05
4.5	Organise national workshops	HUBs	2025-06
4.6	Send results of national consultations to TWGs	HUBs	2025-07
5.1	Organise macro-regional workshops	TWGs	2025-10
2.3	3rd State-of-the-art update sent to TWGs	Core Team	2025-10
5.2	Develop updated Thematic SRIAs	TWGs	2025-12
6.1	Cross-fertilisation workshop	4CF	2025-12
6.2	Sense-making analysis	TTK	2026-02
6.3	Align Action Plans and Thematic SRIAs	TWGs, HUBs	2026-03
7.1	1st Regional Validation Webinar	TTK	2026-03
2.4	4th State-of-the-art update sent to TWGs	Core Team	2026-04
7.2	2nd Regional Validation Webinar	AA	2026-04
7.3	3rd Regional Validation Webinar	VMU	2026-05
8.1	Finalise the 7 validated Thematic SRIAs	Core Team	2026-07
8.2	Integrate Core Themes into Updated SRIA	Core Team	2026-09
8.3	Review Updated BIOEAST SRIA	Board	2026-10
1.2	BOOST4BIOEAST Final Conference	ÖMKI	2026-11
8.4	Submit D6.2 "Updated BIOEAST SRIA"	TTK	2026-12

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5 Outlook

As its first iteration, the **Updated BIOEAST SRIA** is, by design, a living document. The elaborate, collective revision exercise performed under the BOOST4BIOEAST framework, however, is not practical nor feasible to repeat every three years. Therefore, the long-term relevance of this key strategy document of the BIOEAST Initiative must be ensured by a streamlined iterative process centred around the **Thematic SRIAs** and, accordingly, driven by the **TWG Coordinators**. Responsibility for the update process, including the validation of the updated document by the BIOEAST Board, is expected to rotate among TWG Coordinators, with another TWG coordinating the exercise every 3 years.

This **rotational approach** will not only foster a sense of shared responsibility and continuous engagement among the TWG Coordinators but also ensure that the Updated BIOEAST SRIA remains responsive to emerging challenges and opportunities within the bioeconomy sector. By embedding this dynamic and collaborative process into the very fabric of the BIOEAST Initiative, we can maintain the document's relevance and effectiveness, driving progress and innovation in the macro-region. Ultimately, the success of the Updated BIOEAST SRIA hinges on our collective commitment to adaptability, cooperation, and forward-thinking, ensuring that it serves as a robust and visionary guide for the sustainable development of the bioeconomy in Central and Eastern Europe.

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