

**CONCEPT NOTE &
PROGRAMME**



ANNUAL BIOEAST BIOECONOMY CONFERENCE

Join us in refreshing macro-regional
research & innovation priorities for
Central and Eastern Europe

9th – 10th April 2025

**Academy of Agricultural &
Forestry Sciences, Bucharest,
Romania**



**Funded by
the European Union**

In the past years, the BIOEAST Initiative has been instrumental in mobilizing the Central and Eastern European (CEE) macro-region to align its efforts with EU policies, enabling a more coordinated approach to complex issues such as climate change, food security, and resource efficiency. Central to this effort is the further **development and periodic revision of the BIOEAST Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)** of 2022 implemented by the BOOST4BIOEAST project (supporting project of the BIOEAST Initiative), a document that presents the macro-region's bioeconomy-related research and innovation (R&I) priorities while addressing macro-regional needs and opportunities. To contribute to the renewal of the BIOEAST SRIA in an inclusive way by bringing together the BIOEAST community, **the BOOST4BIOEAST project organises its flagship annual event, the BIOEAST Bioeconomy Conference on 9-10 April 2025, in Bucharest, Romania.**

While last year's Conference centered around the establishment and strengthening of the national BIOEAST HUBs (national networks and communities of bioeconomy), this year the event **will revolve around assessing the above mentioned macro-regional strategic R&I directions, identifying research and knowledge gaps, and setting the course for further progress later the year.**

Specific objectives of the conference are:

- to overview the **latest updates from the BIOEAST Initiative** in the context of ongoing European and upcoming EU presidency priorities,
- to showcase **how to build a SRIA** from research management point of view,
- to discuss **preliminary results of the BOOST4BIOEAST** project relevant for the SRIA update process and reflect on its policy implications,
- to foster discussions on CEE-specific R&I priorities and **engage wide-range of stakeholders to review the BIOEAST SRIA** and propose revisions reflecting emerging challenges and opportunities through **thematic interactive sessions.**

The event will also offer opportunities for **networking and knowledge-sharing, with a poster session** dedicated to inspiring bioeconomy examples and projects from the BIOEAST countries or relevant for the BIOEAST macro-region and a **field trip** showcasing practical applications of bioeconomy.

The **expected outcomes of the conference are both strategic and practical.** By engaging stakeholders in reviewing and updating the SRIA, the conference will help align regional R&I priorities with EU strategies, thereby strengthening the role of the CEE macro-region in the European bioeconomy landscape. It will also foster stronger networks among stakeholders leading to collaborations that can drive practice-oriented bioeconomy projects.

The Conference is **part of a series of events**, organized back-to-back with the meetings of the BIOEAST Board, Thematic Working Groups Coordination and BOOST4BIOEAST annual project meeting making the week between 7-10 April specifically dedicated to BIOEAST in Bucharest.

The **BIOEAST Board, Thematic Working Groups, national networks, and communities of bioeconomy (BIOEAST HUBs, mirror groups, etc.), research and innovation funders, Horizon Europe Programme Committee members and National Contact Points of the BIOEAST** countries are all invited to take part in the conference and its side-events.

The conference is primarily dedicated to the bioeconomy stakeholders of the BIOEAST macro-region, but it welcomes any interested parties from all EU countries.

Join us in shaping a sustainable future for the Central and Eastern European bioeconomy!

AGENDA

9 April 2025 (DAY 1)

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| 12:00 – 13:00 | Arrival, registration and lunch | |
| 13:00 – 13:15 | Greetings Dumitru-Daniel Botănoiu , State counsellor, Prime Minister’s Office Viorel Morarescu , Director- Policies for Vegetal Sector, Romanian Ministry of Agriculture Valeriu Tabara , Prof. univ. emerit dr. ing. dr. H.C, President of Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences | |
| PLENARY | | |
| 13:15 – 13:30 | Strengthening the European Research Area by enhancing the bioeconomy research and innovation ecosystem in BIOEAST countries | Barna Kovács , BIOEAST Secretary |
| 13:30 – 14:00 | Keynote: How to build a Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) from research management point of view | Veronique Sante-Lhoutellier , Partnership FutureFoodS |
| 14:00 – 14:30 | EU research and innovation priorities in the EU Bioeconomy Strategy under revision | Tomasz Calikowski , DG RTD |
| 14:30 – 15:15 | Coffee break and poster session | |
| SCIENCE-POLICY PANEL DISCUSSION | | |
| 15:15 – 16:15 | Preliminary results and key takeaways of the multidimensional bioeconomy mapping in the BOOST4BIOEAST project Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrea Violeta Arancibia Alfaro, European Forest Institute • Laura Garcia, German Biomass Research Centre • Csaba Bálint, Hungarian Research Institute of Agricultural Economics • Dániel Ganszky, Geonardo (CEE2ACT) | Moderator: Maria Anghel , Ministry of Agriculture, RO |

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| 16:15 – 16:30 | Coffee break | |
| BIOEAST SRIA WORKSHOP SESSION | | |
| 16:30 – 17:00 | <p>Highlights of innovation priorities from the 'BIOEAST AND BEYOND' high-level conference</p> <p>Recap and highlights from BIOEAST SRIA from 2022 and why there is the need for an update</p> | <p>Gábor Király, Research Institute of Agricultural Economics, HU</p> <p>Valéria Csonka, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, HU</p> <p>Balázs Imre, Budapest University of Technology, HU</p> |
| 17:00 – 18:00 | <p style="text-align: center;">Break-out sessions</p> <p>Revision of strategic directions and thematic areas of BIOEAST SRIA in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agroecology and sustainable yields • Bioenergy & new value-added materials • Food systems • Forestry value chain • Freshwater based bioeconomy • Bioeconomy education • Advanced biobased materials | All participants |
| 18:00 – 18:15 | Poster Awards Announcement | |
| 18:15 | Cocktail dinner at the venue | |

10 April 2025 (DAY 2)

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| 07:00 – 07:30 | Arrival and registration | |
| 07:30 – 12:30 | Field trip | All participants |
| 12:30 – | Take-away lunch | |
| 13:30 – 15:30 | <p>Parallel TWG sessions to discuss activities for 2025 and progress on updating the BIOEAST thematic SRIAs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TWG Agroecology and sustainable yields • TWG Bioenergy & new value-added materials • TWG Food systems | Closed sessions for TWG members |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• TWG Forestry value chain• TWG Freshwater based bioeconomy• TWG Bioeconomy education• TWG Advanced biobased materials | |
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