BIOEAST Annual Bioeconomy Conference 2025

Refreshing macro-regional research & innovation priorities for Central and Eastern Europe

BIOEAST.EU

2023-2024 BUILDING AN AMBITIOUS VISION

1

Gaps to overcome to unlock the biomass potential in Central and Eastern Europe (including the Western Balkans, Ukraine, and Moldova):
European level **gap on governance (1)**
National level **gaps on productivity (2), research (3), innovation (4), societal (5)**

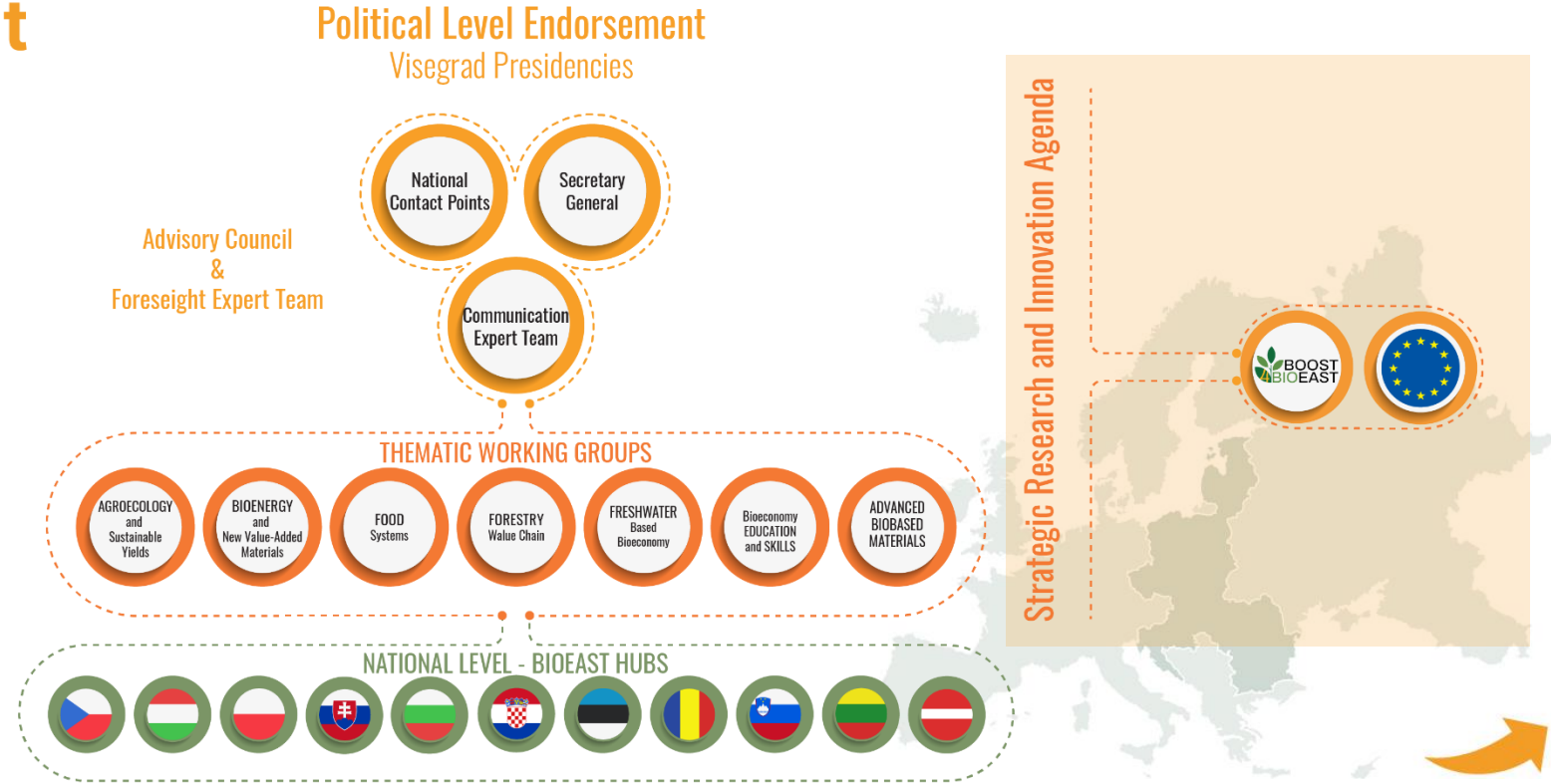
2

Bioresources with unlocked potential identify **four key thematic areas** to guide research and innovation priorities: **soil health, freshwater resilience, food systems and modern biomanufacturing**.

3

We need **long-term** commitment and macro-region's specific **research and innovation investment** to overcome the gaps, and unlock the potential.

STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANISATION



BUILDING STRATEGIC THINKING IN BIOECONOMY

Thematic Working Groups

Building the macro-regional thematic focus

SRIA

HUBs identifying national priorities

SCI-POL

FORESIGHT

Establishing pathways for the sustainable transition

LONG-TERM COMMITMENT ON R&I 2024

1. 10 BIOEAST Member States + Serbia, Albania -24 ministers (agriculture and research)- signed a common **political declaration**
2. 27 Member States agreed on: **Council Conclusions** on a potential Europe-wide R&I initiative on advancing sustainable natural resource management, food systems security and the deployment of the bioeconomy, harnessing the potential of Central and Eastern Europe
3. **2024** (Q2) **Stakeholders Manifesto,** 4 July (Brussels), and 4-6 December 2024 (Budapest) **PARTNERING FOR THE FUTURE high level events** on Central and Eastern European research and innovation priorities in the context of sustainable soil and water resilience, food systems security and bioeconomy related policies

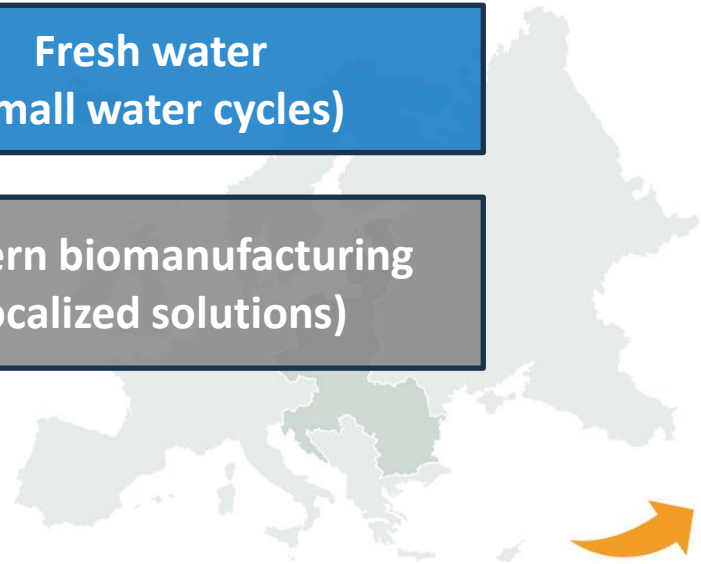
HU EU COUNCIL PRESIDENCY CONFERENCE
REPORT ON THE FOUR THEMATIC AREAS

Soil
(diversity and farming fragmentation, chernozem)

Fresh water
(small water cycles)

Food system
(network science and food systems)

Modern biomanufacturing
(localized solutions)



SOIL

Improving the scientific understanding of soil health improvement options of fertile land under cultivation, in particular black soils, and of soils that are not under cultivation but can be reutilized for food production (e.g., marginal land, urban soils)

Prioritizing soil health by creating, implementing, and enforcing supportive policies, funding research, and creating conditions that encourage the adoption of sustainable soil management practices and provide the means for change.

Ensuring that farmers, land managers, foresters and, rural communities have access to the impartial expertise and knowledge they need to make informed soil-related decisions

FRESH WATER

Beyond the global water cycle, small water cycles are even more critical for local water supply. These local cycles tirelessly preserve the continuous movement of water between land and air, supporting key ecosystem services.

A rethink is needed to make the EU's public policy frameworks able to reflect and acknowledge the importance of the water-soil nexus.

This should follow a holistic approach that recognizes the totality of water cycles, and European soil diversity, while reflecting on regional differences.

Prioritizing land users in this process will help them influence local water cycles through their practices, which will then have an impact on global water cycles.

FOOD SYSTEM

Network science needs to be connected to food system sciences to enhance understanding of the interactions between food, genes, and health.

The volume of data generated in the fields of nutrition and food safety and security is expected to grow exponentially due to advancements in mass spectrometry technology and AI / ML capabilities.

Actors in these fields, including research labs, government entities, international agencies, and food producers, must prepare for big data management and analytic capabilities.

A testbed case in the macro-region (as the FOODOME project) can be implemented.

MODERN BIOMANUFACTURING

The CEE macro-region is currently missing the opportunity to build a competitive future without a modern bioeconomy sector.

The valorization of the macro region's biomass potential and the sustainable management of natural resources should happen locally, but it is also pivotal to rely on cutting-edge knowledge and technological innovation, which is often generated mainly beyond the BIOEAST macro-region, in other European countries.

Research and innovation initiatives, multi-actor projects, and co-financing models can boost the currently insufficient manufacturing capacity.

PIVOTAL YEAR AHEAD

EU Bioeconomy is not anymore research, but market competitiveness and sustainability driven

Discussions on post-2027 CAP and national level development funds will be „simplified”

The next Framework Programme (FP10), „cluster6” challanged by competitveness and life sciences strategy

Council Presidencies on security, competitiveness and sustainability

2025 FOR DECISION AND DISCUSSION

1. **Strategic Relevance**: Are we considering the CEE biomass as a critical factor for Europe's security, competitiveness, and sustainability?
2. **Identifying Key Gaps**: Can we clearly demonstrate for Europe existing gaps that require long-term and institutionalized solution in governance, productivity, research, and innovation?
3. **Political Commitment**: Is there a clear political decision to prioritize and invest in bioeconomy related research and innovation to enhance long-term competitiveness and sustainability?

MILESTONES FOR 2025

Involvement of the macro-regional Thematic Working Groups in GAP, and thematic areas analyses for macro-regional SRIA

Involvement of national stakeholders, interconnecting in HUBs in national priorities and action plan development

Revitalizing the international Advisory Council in priority setting at European level.

BIO east

Thank you for being supportive!

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