

**Newsletter**

**9<sup>th</sup> Bioeconomy Stakeholders Panel**

**Brussels, 23 February 2018**



## 1. WELCOME

Mr Waldemar Kütt, Head of Unit F.1. Bioeconomy Strategy, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission, welcomed the members of the Bioeconomy Stakeholders Panel to the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. He emphasised the importance of the meeting, explaining that the European Commission is working on the update of the European Bioeconomy Strategy and Action Plan. In this context, the Commission is welcoming input from the Bioeconomy Stakeholders Panel with regard to actions that the stakeholders could do themselves to move the bioeconomy forward. Mr Kütt welcomed Ms Alexandra Neyts (EATiP) who introduced herself to the Panel as the new EATiP representative, replacing Mr Courtney Hough. Subsequently, the floor was given to the Chair of the Bioeconomy Stakeholders Panel, Ms Joanna Dupont-Inglis (EuropaBio) who presented the meeting agenda. The Chair also underlined the relevance of the BioSTEP Conference which took place the day before and was attended by a number of Panel members.



## 2. MANIFESTO WORKSHOP FOLLOW-UP

The Panel meeting started with short presentations of the main insights from the interactive workshop entitled "The Bioeconomy Manifesto as a Collaborative Tool for Facilitating Innovation and Growth for a Stronger European Bioeconomy" held on 17 November 2017 as to build on these insights in the following session on "participation in bioeconomy actions". Mr Ortwin Costenoble (CEN-CENELEC), Vice-Chair of the Panel, explained briefly the set-up and the outcomes of that workshop.

### *"Open session"*

Afterwards, Mr Costenoble gave an overview of the issues discussed during the open session. He noted that bio-based should not be positioned as the opposite of fossil, but a property enhancer and an end-use improver. Bio-based products would be best placed on the market where they enhance and improve properties. It was suggested that stakeholders in general need to shift away from the concept of linearity or discussing end-of-life. Instead, they should examine if the bioeconomy has specific examples of systematic products use.



Stakeholders should try to initiate actions on research (programmes), innovation and good examples of projects that use agriculture, forestry and marine/aquaculture products and processes together. The societal change required to have people reconsider coordinated processes amongst feedstock-based products could be a discussion item for the Panel.



## EU BSP Workshop 2017 – Open session

EUBSP 9<sup>th</sup> meeting update – February 2018

## Don't discuss in circles

- Bio-based is not the opposite of fossil, but a property enhancer and an end-use improver.
- Stakeholders need to shift away from the concept of linearity or discussing end-of-life.
- Examine if the bioeconomy has specific examples of systematic products use

*Something to consider in CE Action group*  
Strategy objectives 3, 5 and 8



1

9<sup>th</sup> meeting report

## Don't discuss in silos

- Initiate actions on research, innovation and good examples of projects that use agriculture, forestry and marine/aquaculture products and processes together
- Have people reconsider coordinated processes amongst feedstock-based products

*Something to consider in Regions group*  
*What societal change is needed?*  
*For the new Strategy?*  
Objectives 1, 3 and 5



9<sup>th</sup> meeting report

## Biobased public procurement

- In Sweden public authorities invest €6300 per inhabitant
- Public procurement is regulated (PPD) and stimulated: Green Public Procurement and BBP Strategy
- Just finalized:



## BBPS and EUBSP

- Use and promote the toolbox
- Translate the handbook
- Initiate a base analysis amongst procurers
- Give guidance, organize trainings
- Link to the Bioeconomy week and the education work

Increase the application of procurement of BBPS by using the InnProBio results in order to create more awareness and xxx organize exchanges

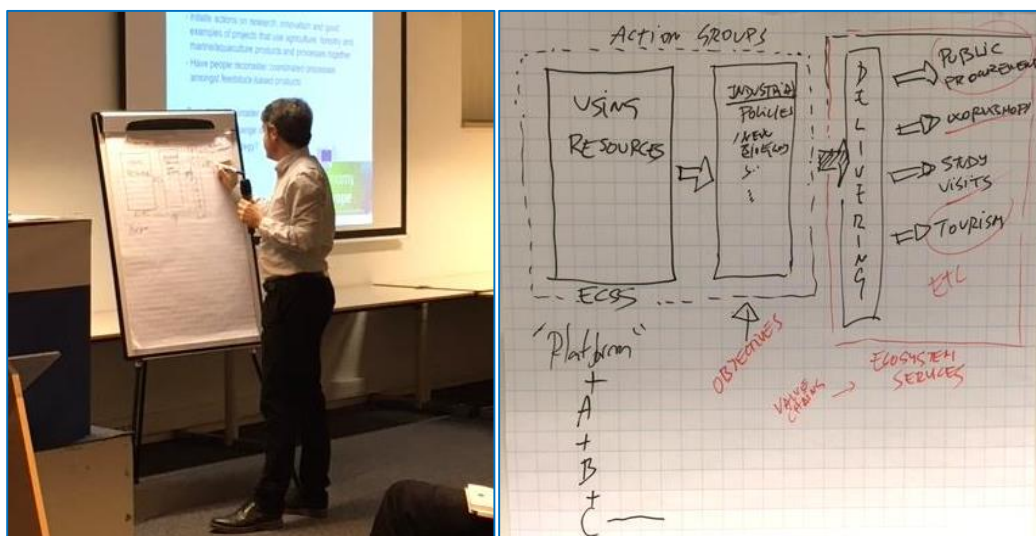
NEN

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### *Session on “Cooperation between sectors and actors along the value-chains”*

Mr Jorge Molina Villanueva (ADltech Foundation – Navarra Region) presented what was discussed in this session. Participants considered the theme “cooperation between sectors and actors along the value-chains” to be very relevant because “value-chains” are a real area for cooperation where businesses, research organisations, consumers and regional governments may have their own say in a real operating environment.

He explained the idea to build a platform, not by starting from scratch, but by using existing resources and tools and connect them with (industrial) policies and initiatives in order to assess and deliver new ideas, such as: public procurement, workshops, study visits etc. aiming at the development or improvement of some “value-chains” of common interest. Furthermore, another important insight concerned the terminology: “we should rather talk about ecosystem services than about value-chains”. These were some of the contributions of the attendees to the Bioeconomy Stakeholders Panel's interactive workshop on 17 November 2017.



### *Session on “Importance of regional strategies and rural renaissance”*

Referring to the insights of the workshop, Mr Hannu Koponen (Regional Council of Central Finland) emphasised that the momentum for the regional Bioeconomy Strategies is now. They shall be prepared based on a quintuple helix (political-research-business-civil society-citizens) and be inclusive. Citizens and environmental groups need to be involved in the discussion. Mr Koponen added that there is a need to recognise cities and SMEs as important stakeholders having a vital role in developing a circular bioeconomy.

He further highlighted that reliable data is needed at regional level to show politicians the potential of the bioeconomy. A strategic approach would enable better coordination of different financial instruments on a regional level. Regional strategies should provide mechanisms of synergies between various financial sources. Moreover, strategies could be of transregional nature but action plans would require concrete actions.





## Session on “A long-term education, training, and R&I agenda for the Bioeconomy”



Ms Christine Bunthof (Wageningen UR) and Ms Ann Dierckx (Cefic) presented general comments and actions suggested at the workshop. They said, for instance, that a triple-helix approach (university-industry-government) is suggested to establish trust, adding that civil society and the ecosystem are missing in the stakeholders manifesto. Moreover, a dual track with regard to skills, training and education was

suggested. Ms Bunthof and Ms Dierckx highlighted that the workshop participants largely supported the idea to create a pan-European network of practitioners/experts with the objective to provide materials and information to, for example, teach and inspire, as well as to share experiences and best practices.

### Relevant action points of the manifesto



## A long-term education, training, and R&I agenda for the Bioeconomy



Christine Bunthof and Ann Dierckx

Focus of the conversation is on Actions:

- 13) Enhancing education, training and skills
- 14) Aligning open science and research programmes
- 18) Raising public awareness and improving communication.

### General comments - principles



A triple-helix approach (university-industry-government) is suggested to establish TRUST: the civil society and the ecosystem are missing in the manifesto.

Better connect to the SDGs, take into account solidarity between North and South, and affordable to the widest community possible.

Life-long learning programmes are indeed important (Action 13) but one also needs to consider job changes – voluntary or after job loss – and have special attention for the agricultural community.

An awareness effort and mentality shift is needed in society, especially with the consumers. The social aspects were judged quite important.

A dual track was suggested with regard to the skills, training and education:

- Target professors, teachers, curricula, ...: an in-depth, specialised focus on bioeconomy
- Build a holistic narrative around bio-economy allowing different disciplines to start working around it, in an explicit or implicit manner.

Differentiate communication in function of the public; policy makers, academia, consumer, .... Especially for the latter category, it was not always felt necessary to use the word “bioeconomy”, rather make the benefits of the bioeconomy tangible.

It was reminded that digitalization could also be an accelerator for the bioeconomy.

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### Suggested actions



Many if not all participants to the sessions supported the idea to create a pan-European network of practitioners/experts.

- Participants: Professionals (teachers, professors, ...) but also representatives of regional networks, industrial and agricultural sector, social experts, ...
- Objective:
  - Provide materials & information to teach, inspire, ...
  - Share experiences and best practices

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## Research and Innovation priorities

R&I are cornerstones for transition !

- Potential of natural resources
- Impacts to ecosystem
- Societal transition
- ❖ New concepts, processes, products, services
- ❖ Smart connections. P2P, PPP, global...
- ❖ Interdisciplinarity, smart specialisation

Technological

Societal

New business models New community models

### Manifesto Guiding principles

#### Addressing Societal and Environmental Challenges:

- Resource use within the limits of the planet
- Mitigating Climate Change
- Producing for people
- Sustainable management of resources

#### Facilitating Innovation and Business Opportunities:

- The Bioeconomy needs a stable and predictable legal framework
- Cooperation between sectors and along value chains creates synergies and critical mass
- Long-term research and innovation agenda
- Importance of regional strategies and rural renaissance



### 3. PRESENTATION "FROM LOCAL TO NATIONAL: INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE BIOECONOMY" BY MR YANNIS FALLAS

Mr Yannis Fallas (CluBE) presented the Western Macedonia region and the objective and activities of the Cluster of Bioenergy and Environment (CluBE). Mr Fallas further talked about the challenges of promoting the bioeconomy in a country where no specific Bioeconomy Strategy exists at national or regional level. Mr Fallas explained that the talks around bio-energy (that is mostly using the residues of the local producers) are still on-going. The local actors have difficulty even to grasp their role in and the benefits from the bioeconomy. Referring to the bioeconomy at national level, he informed the Panel about the Greek Bioeconomy Forum, explaining its objectives. It aims at raising awareness, promoting the advantages of the bioeconomy and supporting the development of a national bioeconomy action plan.



# From local to national: initiatives to promote Bioeconomy

Cluster of Bioenergy and Environment  
Western Macedonia, Greece

Dr. Yannis Falias  
Director  
23 February 2018, Brussels

## WESTERN MACEDONIA



... in a few photos



Pindos national park "Valia Kalda"

## Lakes and rivers

Bridge over Aaos river



## Forests

The Region in few words

## Western Macedonia, Greece

- ~284.000 inh., 2,6% GR, 12 Municipalities
- GDP: 80% of EU-27 average
- Unemployment 29%, 70,9% youth (2015)
- Strong energy sector (lignite based):  
>50% of GR total el
- 3 District Heating Networks (lignite)
- Agriculture and animal breeding
- Forest coverage
- Relatively heavy & long winter period



Heating importance

Municipalities

## Major towns with DH

3 / 5 DH in the country

3 / 4 municipal DH



## DH towns vs bioenergy

Kozani: 71.000 inh., 25.000 DH households

Ptolemais: 29.000 inh., 14.950 DH households

Amyndeio: 17.000 inh., 2.500 DH households

Currently from lignite excess heat but..

Amyndeio needs to substitute the thermal power of the Amyndeio Power Unit, shutting down by 2018

Kozani and Ptolemais examine biomass boilers to improve the energy mix and cover expansions

Municipalities	CLUBE
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### Other towns in the Region

Kastoria: 13.400 inhabitants, fur sector, agriculture, tourism

Grevena: 13.100 inhabitants, forestry, wood industry, agro

Florina: 19.800 inhabitants, forestry, winery, animal breeding

Siatista: 2.000 inhabitants, fur-leather sector, agriculture

Servia+Velvendo: 3.000+3.360 inh., winery, forestry, tourism

...

### Cooperation Background

- RIS (1996-1999) & RIS+ (2000-2002)
- Knowledge clusters (03-06)
- Innovation Pole for Energy Sector (06-08)
- BioClus, BioEnArea, Proforbiomed, Empower, SMART+, DEBCO, Foropa, Model forest, ... (09-16)

CLUBE	CLUBE
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Western Macedonia, Greece

### Bioenergy and Environment Cluster - CluBE



Formally established - Not-for-profit company  
Bottom-up approach

<https://clube.gr>

### Objective

Development of common business and R&D

In Bioenergy and Environment



CLUBE	CLUBE
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### Areas of activity

Energetic exploitation of **biomass** for District Heating and industrial, commercial and domestic use

**Co-firing** of biomass with lignite

**Optimization** of heating systems

Biomass development (energy plantations, certification schemes, etc)

Energy **efficiency** in business and commercial use, as well as households

Cooperation **models** (ESCO's, energy cooperatives, ...)

### 33 Triple Helix members

#### Public sector

- Regional Authority of Western Macedonia
- Regional Development Fund of W.M.
- Regional Association of Municipalities of W.M.



## Academia

- University of W.M./Dpt of Mechanical Engineers
- Chemical Processes and Energy Resources Institute / Centre for research and Technology Hellas (CPERI / CERTH)
- Technical University of Western Macedonia
- Centre for Technological research of W.M.
- Centre for Environment of W.M.
- Technological University of Thessaly/Dpt of Wood and Furniture

## Business sector (1)

### Wood companies

- Alfa Wood S.A.
- Giotas S.A.
- Ziogas Ltd
- Chliapas S.A.

### Cooperatives:

- Forest Cooperative "Pentalofos"
- Agricultural Cooperative "Dimitra"
- Forest cooperative "Smixi"
- Agricultural – Cattle breeding cooperative "Aigopro"
- Fur producing animals breeder's Association

## Business sector(2)

### Waste Management company:

- DIADYMA S.A.

### District Heating companies:

- DETEPA S.A.
- DEYAK S.A.
- DETIP S.A.

### Biomass production and logistics:

- AZ Bioenergeia
- BIOZONE

### Biogas producer :

- Matesion Ltd

## Business sector(3)

### Boiler manufacturers:

- Combi Thermodynamiki S.A.
- Camino Design S.A.
- Afentoulides Ltd

### Biomass / bioenergy consulting companies:

- Greek Forests Ltd
- Ligeas Energy
- Energon
- Cosc S.A.

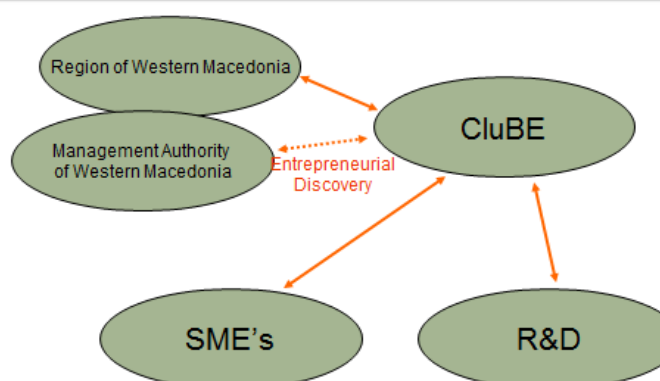
## Other supporting structures

### Regional Development Agency

- ANKO S.A.



## CLUBE interconnected



## CLUBE added value

### Regional asset

- Improvement of regional economy
- Development of entrepreneurship and employment, namely in less populated agricultural / forest areas
- CO2 emissions reduction
- Potential for export (pellets)
- Increase of green energy share
- Better forest management and minimization of wild fires

## CLUBE vs RIS3

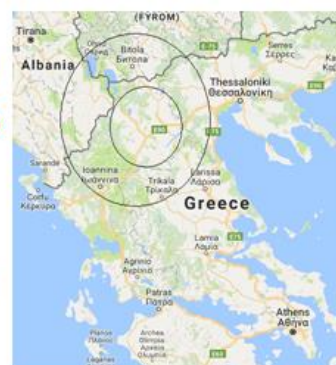
### Fits with Smart Specialization Strategy

**2014 2020**  
**SME support**  
**R&D&I**  
**digital agenda**  
**low carbon economy**

## CLUBE area

### Area of intervention

- Western Macedonia
- Neighboring regions
- Cross border
- Greece
- Europe, Balcan, Adriatic



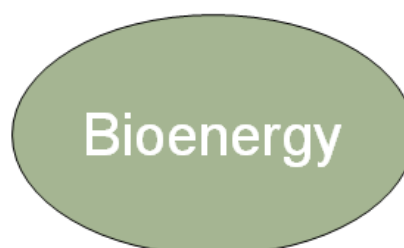
## CLUBE CV

### Projects so far...

- SecureChain (H2020 LCE)
- Cluster support programme (GSEVEE - Gr)
- GABE (Interreg Greece Albania)
- M3P (Life 2015 Environment)
- FORCIP+ (DG ECHO)
- aGROWchain (Interreg GR-FYROM)
- BENEFIT (Interreg GR-FYROM)
- STARDUST !! (Smart Cities)
- RUBIZMO (Rural development)
- ...

## CLUBE

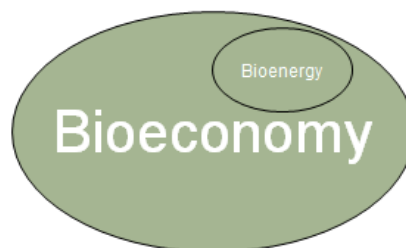
### What we see...



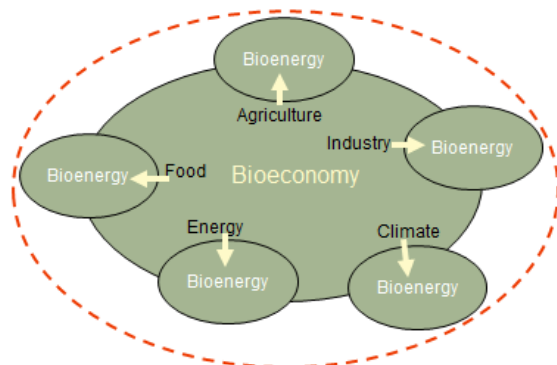
What it is...



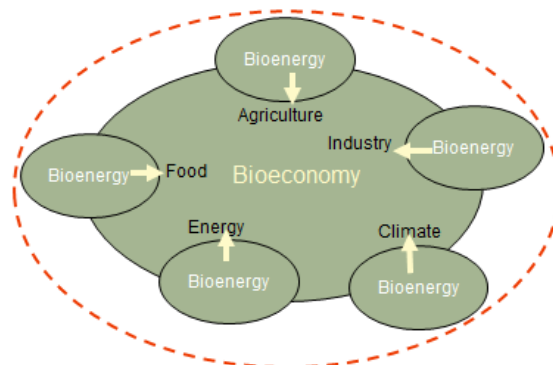
Panel's fault...!



More accurate..



Reverse engineering..



Understanding the starting points...



Western Macedonia, Greece

Cluster of BioEconomy

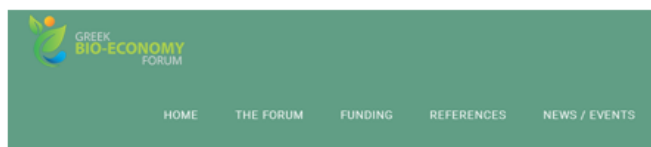
CLuBE



Change is difficult...



## Bioeconomy at national level



<http://bioeconomyforum.gr/>

## Objectives

Raise awareness about Bioeconomy  
 Promote BE advantages  
 Cease BE opportunities  
 Transfer know how and GP's  
 Influence national policy level  
 Support the development of a  
 National Action Plan for BE

## Leading the initiative...



Dr. Yannis Fallas  
 Director CluBE  
 Senior Bioenergy  
 Cluster Researcher  
 Member of EU B/E  
 stakeholders Panel



Electra Papadopoulou  
 Chemist - Senior  
 Researcher on  
 BioPolymers  
 Ex-EU Bioeconomy  
 Panel member



Prof. Dr. Constantinos E.  
 Vorgias  
 Director of Master for  
 Bioinformatics  
 Member of the Greek  
 National Research and  
 Technology Committee  
 (NRTC, Energy Section)



Constantine Vaitas  
 Internationalisation  
 and Innovation expert  
 Member of the States  
 Representatives  
 Group of the Bio-  
 based Industries Joint  
 Undertaking (SRG  
 BBI)

**More to come!**

## International Collaboration

Key to success  
 EU support  
 Local/Regional/national EU partnerships



*Thank you*

**Dr. Ioannis G. Fallas**

PhD on Spatial and Regional Development  
 Member of the European Bioeconomy Panel (DG RTD)

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## 4. PRESENTATION "UPDATE OF THE EU BIOECONOMY STRATEGY" BY MR WALDEMAR KÜTT

Mr Kütt gave a presentation on the update of the European Bioeconomy Strategy, highlighting that it is a Commission wide policy priority for 2018. He informed the Panel about the indicative timeline for the Communication on the update of the 2012 EU Bioeconomy Strategy. The adoption of the Communication is planned for mid-July/September, and will be followed by a conference on 22 October 2018. Mr Kütt also informed the Panel that the roadmap for the update of the Bioeconomy Strategy has been published and that it is open for feedback until 20 March 2018. He invited the Bioeconomy Stakeholders Panel to contribute to the Bioeconomy Strategy and Action Plan by identifying and formulating concrete actions in areas where the Panel can have impact. Suggested areas to focus on were stakeholder engagement, public awareness, education and skills and local development of the bioeconomy. Mr Kütt asked the Panel members to be as specific as possible in their action formulation.

### Revision of the EU 2012 Bioeconomy Strategy State of Play



Waldemar Kütt

Head of Unit  
RTD.F.1: Bioeconomy Strateg  
22 February 2018



### 2017 Bioeconomy Strategy Review Staff Working Document - Outcomes

- R&I investment in bioeconomy doubled from FP7 to Horizon 2020
- Bio-based industries PPP with a total of € 3,7b investment developing transformative technologies
- Bioeconomy policies taken up in MS, regions, cities ...
- Further mobilisation of investment needed
- Policy coherence needs to be better addressed
- Current policy context (CE, SDGs, Paris,...) highlights need for a sustainable, circular bioeconomy
- Better monitoring and assessment frameworks needed (biomass supply/demand)



### Political Mandate for the update of the 2012 Bioeconomy Strategy

- Brussels, 13.9.2017 - COM(2017) 479 final
- Investing in a smart, innovative and sustainable Industry, **A renewed EU Industrial Policy Strategy**
- "A stronger development of the bio-economy can also help the EU to accelerate progress towards a circular and low-carbon economy improving production of renewable biological resources and their conversion into bio-based products and bio-energy."
- Annex: "Bioeconomy Strategy - To be proposed by the Commission - 2018".
- Strasbourg, 24.10.2017 - COM(2017) 650 final
- **Commission Work Programme 2018**
- "We will continue to evaluate the bio-economy strategy of 2012 and we will examine how best to take it forward, including by broadening the scope."



### The update of the 2012 Bioeconomy Strategy

- The update is a Commission wide policy priority for 2018
- The Commission will prepare a Communication with a few Actions under several themes
- The Actions will have SMART objectives, Indicators, Impacts
- The Actions will likely be detailed in a Staff Working Document (SWD)
- Indicative timeline for the Communication and SWD:
  - Roadmap for revision of Bioeconomy Strategy –February
  - 1st Draft Communication and SWD: ~ mid March
  - 2nd Draft: ~ end April
  - ISC: May
  - Adoption: ~ mid July



## Roadmap for revision of Bioeconomy Strategy

- The revision is led by Secretariat-General and DG RTD as lead DG
- The roadmap is developed with:
  - core services AGRI, MARE, ENV & GROW
  - and other bioeconomy relevant services such as ENER, JRC, CLIMA, DEVCO, EAC, REGIO, SANTE, EMPL, TRADE

- Based on the outcomes of the review of the 2012 EU Bioeconomy Strategy



## ROADMAP – published 20 Feb 2018

ROADMAP

### Update of the 2012 Bioeconomy Strategy

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About this initiative

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#### About this initiative

Reference	Ares(2018)975361
Type	Roadmap
Full title	Communication from the Commission updating the 2012 European Bioeconomy Strategy
Department	Directorate-General for Research and Innovation

Roadmap - Ares(2018)975361  
English (PDF)

Download

[http://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2018-975361\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2018-975361_en)

Give your feedback

Feedback period: 20 February 2018 - 20 March 2018

## WHAT does the initiative aim to achieve?

- step up action to ensure that the Bioeconomy provides a long-term balance of social, environmental and economic gains
- linking the sustainable use of renewable resources for food, feed, bio-based products and bioenergy, with the protection and restoration of biodiversity, ecosystems and natural capital across land and water.



## ... and HOW?

- a **SYSTEM**-wide approach,
- expanding beyond research and innovation,
- addressing trade-offs between sectors,
- strengthening **CIRCULARITY** and **SUSTAINABILITY** and delivering on jobs and growth,
- valorising **LOCAL** resources and adapt it to local needs,
- at the different appropriate levels of decision making.



## ROADMAP

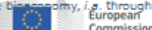
- **WHAT** does the initiative aim to achieve and **HOW?**



## ROADMAP

- **B. WHAT** does the initiative aim to achieve and **HOW?**

1. Support strategic research and innovation through the EU, focusing national and regional investments and private funds for those areas that are key to the Bioeconomy
2. Strengthen support for the education and training of a skilled workforce in the Bioeconomy and related fields.
3. Strengthen and upscale the bio-based sectors to sustainably convert agriculture-, forestry-, marine- and waste-based resources supporting industrial transformation and a Circular Bioeconomy, with all stakeholders engagement and equitable sharing for primary producers.
4. Mobilise investments, including through the deployment of new financial instruments to scale up and roll out existing and new technologies, as well as industrial demonstrators.
5. Support the creation of markets for novel, innovative and more sustainable and circular bioeconomy products and processes through existing and emerging regulatory frameworks, including standards and labels, certification schemes, implementation of waste legislation, food and bio-based products.
6. Develop better performance monitoring and assessment frameworks, with SMART indicators, to assess the progress of the Bioeconomy and further support policy developments across relevant sectors.
7. Encourage the adoption, update and coherence of national and regional Bioeconomy Strategies throughout Europe, and support the EU rural, coastal and urban areas in exploiting opportunities offered by existing and new bioeconomy value chains, with citizens engagement.
8. Strengthen the understanding and resilience of land and sea ecosystems, with a view to increasing resource efficiency, minimising harmful impacts and maximising co-benefits of the bioeconomy, i.e. through research and innovation, policy action, guidance, foresight and awareness raising.





## Bioeconomy Stakeholders Panel to provide input to actions?

- "What can you as a panel do"
- Focus on actions where you as a panel can have impact:
  - Stakeholders engagement
  - Public awareness
  - Education and Skills
  - Local Development of Bioeconomy (regions, rural, coastal cities)

Thank you !



## 5. PARTICIPATION IN BIOECONOMY ACTIONS

Following the presentation by Mr Kütt, the meeting continued with a session on bioeconomy actions. Mr Georgios Kastrinos, DG RTD F.1, European Commission, explained the purpose and the framework of this session as well as the envisaged process for participation in bioeconomy actions. He highlighted *the European Bioeconomy Stakeholders Manifesto, the insights gained from the Interactive Workshop in November 2017, the activities of the Panel Action Groups, the responses to a small survey, the BioSTEP Conference on "Effective stakeholder and public engagement in the bioeconomy" as well as the European Commission's roadmap on the update of the Bioeconomy Strategy*, suggesting that they could be a basis to formulate actions in which the Panel could be involved.

Subsequently, Mr Kastrinos gave a brief overview of the survey results, pointing out that, according to the answers, the Panel could best contribute to the following themes: *Local development, skills and training, awareness raising and engagement*. Accordingly, discussion groups were set up for the these four themes while a fifth 'Wild Card' group was also created to cover additional themes.

In the first discussion round, the Panel members discussed *what specific issues need to be addressed* under each of the aforementioned themes. In the second round, they discussed *what contribution the Panel members and the wider community of stakeholders can make to address these issues*.

## Food for thought



## Survey

a) Key ingredients for a successful stakeholder and public engagement recipe

- Inclusiveness, Transparency (consultation and data)
- Live events, workshops, written input
- Local specificities and initiatives as 'powerful drive'
- Diversity of actors
- Enhance the knowledge exchange
- Connect/Foster networks
- Collaboration, sharing a common goal and set of tangible and concrete actions leading
- Ownership of and dedication to the activities.
- Focus on joint actions that bring benefits for the involved parties



## Survey

b) In light of the initiatives of the panel (i.e. manifesto, action groups and workshop), to which of the following themes can the Panel best contribute

- Research & Innovation: 😊 😊
- Investment & Markets: 😊
- Local Development: 😊 😊 😊 😊 😊
- Policy Coherence: 😊 😊
- Skills & Training: 😊 😊 😊 😊 😊
- Awareness & Engagement: 😊 😊 😊 😊
- Monitoring: 😊 😊



## Survey

c) Concrete actions that the Panel and wider community of Stakeholders in the Bioeconomy can take?

- Some interesting suggestions, very often reflecting singled out initiatives already ongoing or just starting.
- But also proposals of activities concerning the panel as a whole
- Different levels of concreteness, scope and involvement of SHOs.



## From individual inputs to collective co-creation

A participatory process to encourage all members to think beyond the limits of their sectors and disciplines, and allow to go collectively beyond what is currently possible.

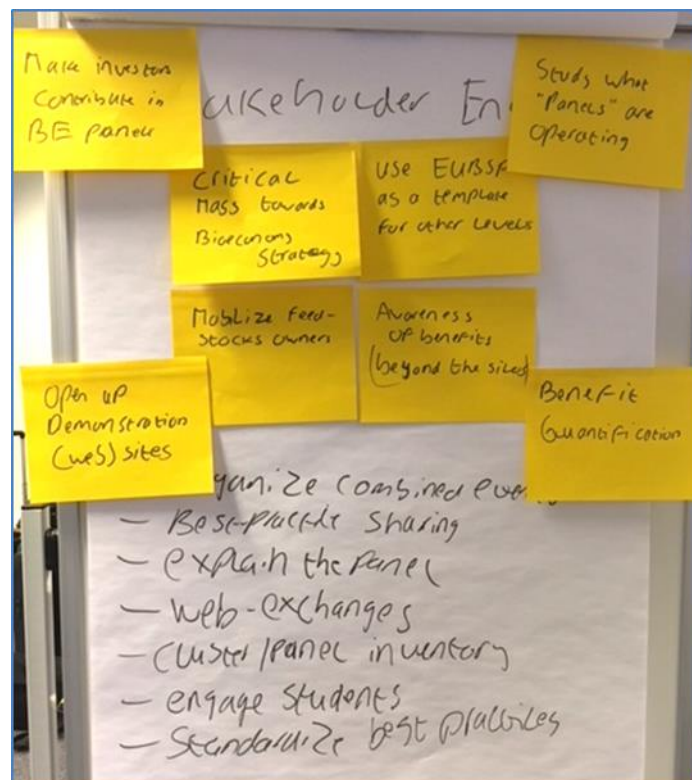
- What is at stake? What specific issues need to be addressed? Please think of issues on which you have a bearing, influence...*
- What contribution can panel members and the wider community of SHOs make to address these issues?*
- In light of the morning insights, what is the action you would like to further develop with others?*



## Stakeholder engagement



Mr Costenoble summarised the discussion on stakeholder engagement. Many stakeholders are not aware enough of the benefits of the bioeconomy. However, it would be important to increase the awareness of the benefits in order to engage. It was also suggested that engagement should take place beyond the silos. Stakeholders could assist with benefits quantification. It was further discussed how to mobilise stakeholders. Ideas included opening up demonstration sites as well as using websites. Mr Costenoble also underlined the need for a critical mass towards the Bioeconomy Strategy. Moreover, he presented the idea of mapping existing panels at national or regional levels and how they work as well as finding out about best practices.

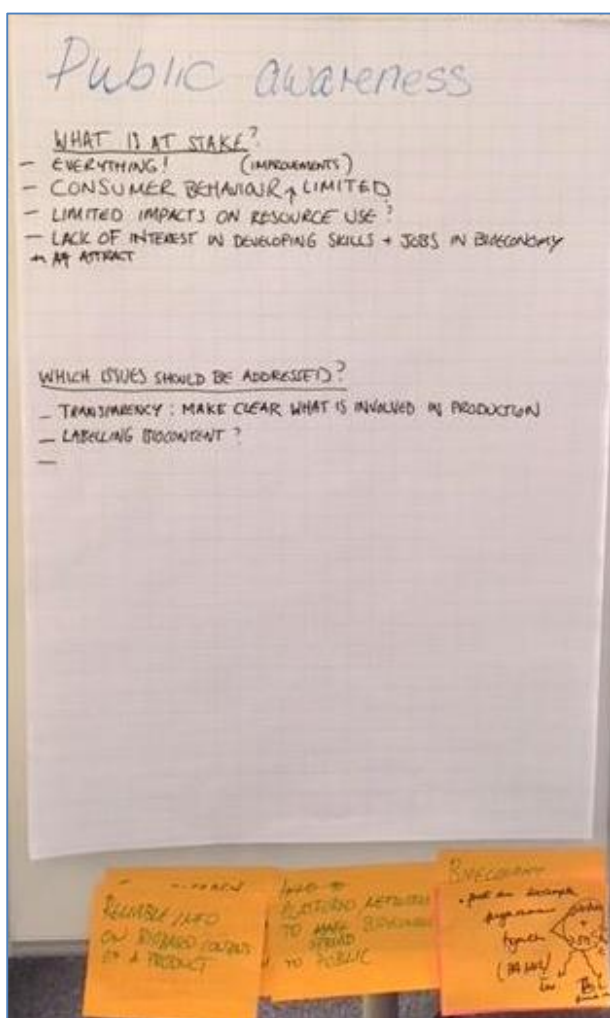




## Public awareness



Ms Dierckx presented the discussion points of the public awareness group. The group started with exchanging views on what is needed for the bioeconomy to take off. The group listed a number of elements such as development of skills; activities and engagement; public acceptance and consumer awareness; as well as respect for bio-materials. In a second step, the group looked at how to make the public aware of the benefits of the bioeconomy.

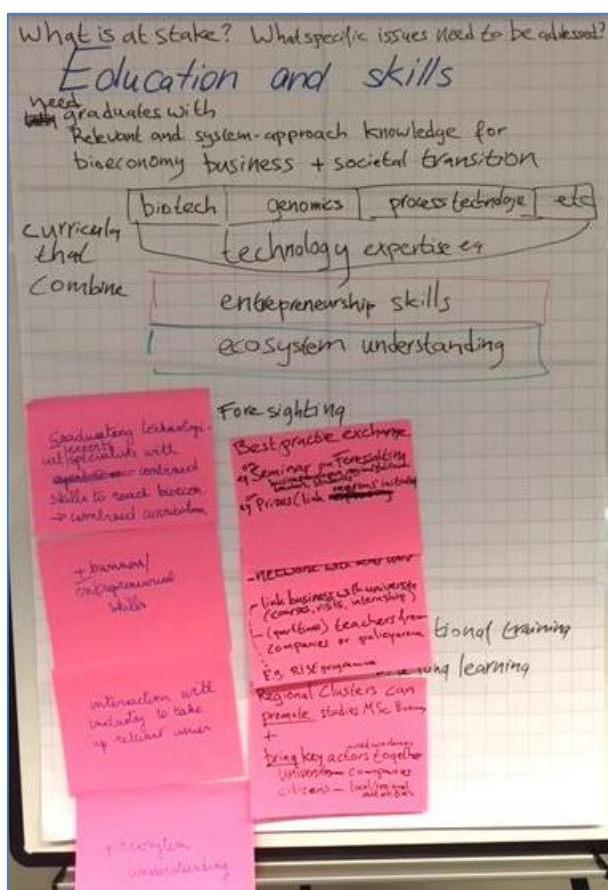


Ms Dierckx explained that the group discussed in relation to consumer awareness: transparency, labelling products and assessing the impacts with the help of data monitoring. She further highlighted the relevance of networks, platforms and sharing experience as well as spreading the bioeconomy knowledge. The Panel members agreed that the Public Awareness actions should focus largely on citizens. In this regard, they proposed launching a bioeconomy week with the aim to make the bioeconomy tangible. Sub-activities could be exhibitions, site visits, contests etc. Most actions could not be done by a single stakeholder but if a larger group of actors would collaborate then a greater impact could be achieved. Ms Dierckx concluded that a lot of actions are possible, and many stakeholders are willing to participate but all these activities would require coordination and support.

## Education and skills



Ms Bunthof explained what was discussed regarding education and skills. The group focused mainly on university education and training when thinking of concrete actions in the bioeconomy. The Panel members spoke about what is needed in the near future.

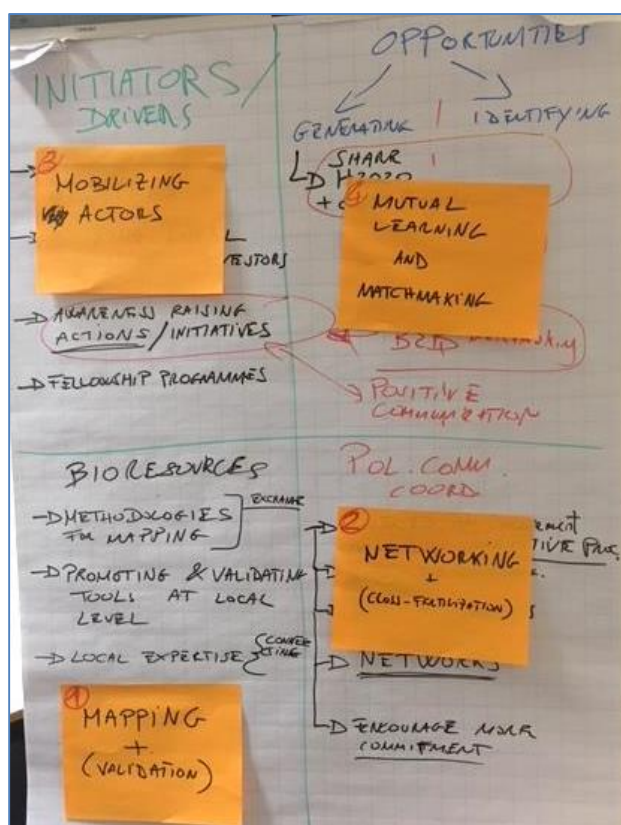


They identified the need for graduate students with relevant and system-approach knowledge for bioeconomy business and for societal transition. More concretely, the Panel members stressed the importance of having more interactions between universities to exchange best practices and to create jointly master degrees respectively curricula. These curricula could combine technology expertise, entrepreneurship skills and ecosystem understanding. The group further discussed what the Panel could do. For example, the Panel could help promote bioeconomy education and training at regional level and involve knowledge from practice in the education.

## Local development



Mr Fabio Boscaleri (Regional Government of Tuscany, Brussels Liaison Office) gave an overview of what was discussed regarding local development.



The group identified four broad issues that were organised in the format of a matrix with four quadrants, namely (1) the mapping of available bio-resources with a focus on the users and the future potential, (2) the political commitment and coordination axed around the socio-economic needs of rural communities (e.g. opportunities in terms of jobs & growth), (3) the crucial role of the drivers/initiators in 'Bioeconomy Ecosystems' and (4) the very much needed knowledge exchange as to showcase opportunities of the bioeconomy. In order to start addressing these four issues, the discussion subsequently turned to possible actions that the Panel and wider community of stakeholders could undertake. Conversations converged around the following four corresponding key actions: exchanging methodologies for mapping while validating such tools at local level, establishing networks that encourage commitment and build on the

concept of cross-fertilisation, mobilising actors such as funding recipients and investors through awareness campaigns and creating mutual learning and matchmaking programmes.



### Wild card



Mr Kjell Ivarsson (Federation of Swedish Farmers), Vice-Chair of the Panel, presented what other topics were discussed in addition to the four suggested ones. He explained that planetary boundaries were the 'umbrella' for the discussion. The group talked about the definition of bioeconomy and circular economy and underlined the need of clearer definitions for both as well as explanations how both work together. In addition, the Panel members spoke about sectorial approaches (e.g. CFP, CAP), FP9, processing byproducts in the chain, the need for more communication workshops to increase knowledge, and the opportunity for regional strategies to promote the bioeconomy and circular economy. Mr Kjell Ivarsson noticed several overlaps with the other discussion groups.





Based on the previous two discussion rounds, the Panel members then discussed *what actions they themselves would like to develop further*. They suggested several concrete actions at the meeting, amongst them:

- Organising a Bioeconomy Week and reaching out beyond the Panel
- Bioeconomy Journey Programme for students
- Bioeconomy research/ innovation facilities sharing
- Mobilising local actors
- Submitting an Interreg project proposal
- Bio-based public procurement
- Networking of universities and other actors developping and implementing bioeconomy curricula
- Cohesion between the Bioeconomy Stakeholders Panel and the Circular Economy Panel

The Panel members were asked to fill in a template for action proposals. Mr Kütt concluded the session by highlighting that it is important to receive the Panel's input to bioeconomy actions as soon as possible. He explained that the European Commission is in the process of writing the Bioeconomy Strategy and that action proposals from the Panel could feed into the related action plan provided that the actions are clearly described and well argued. The proposals should include amongst others the reason and evidence for this action as well as the involved actor.

Mr Kütt summarised that the Panel has already discussed a number of well developed actions at the meeting, and he emphasised once again that the proposals should be as concrete as possible. He added that perhaps there are more ideas for actions and the time has not been sufficient to develop or bring forward all ideas. He stressed that no idea should be excluded. Thus, he invited the Panel members to submit all proposals within the two weeks following the meeting by using the circulated template. Mr Kütt thanked the Panel members for the work done so far and proceeded to the final point of the agenda.

## 6. THE REGIONAL DIMENSION OF BIOECONOMY ACTIONS

The final point of the agenda was a discussion about study visit proposals, which have been prepared by several Panel members in the framework of their work within the regions action group.

Mr Kütt recalled that the European Commission and the Panel have previously discussed the possibility to organise a meeting outside of Brussels. However, Mr Kütt clarified that the format of a study visit might go beyond the format of having a Panel meeting outside of Brussels and that there are administrative boundaries, which have to be respected when organising such a meeting. All in all, Mr Kütt confirmed that the possibility exists and that the European Commission could possibly facilitate a Panel meeting outside of Brussels, however, only within the limits of the existing resources and in line with the administrative and financial rules. Costs for additional activities such as side visits would have to be covered by the Panel members.

Mr Koponen was then invited to briefly present the proposal for a Panel meeting in West Finland. He explained that if the Panel members are interested in such a visit, the West Finland European Office would be eager and flexible to organise it. He mentioned that interesting side events are planned

already for June and that, therefore, mid-June could be envisaged for a Panel meeting in Finland. The other option is to plan it another time. In conclusion, Mr Kütt suggested Mr Koponen to review the proposal based on the information about the administrative boundaries and to submit it to the European Commission, which could then discuss the feasibility and take a decision.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

Mr Kütt and Mr Kastrinos from the European Commission thanked the Panel members for their active participation in the meeting. Mr Kütt noted that the 10<sup>th</sup> Bioeconomy Stakeholders Panel meeting is envisaged to take place before the summer break, most likely in June. The meeting may amongst others lead to a reflection of what the Panel has achieved so far and what activities it will carry out in the future. He concluded the meeting by saying that the European Commission will expect the revised proposal from the West Finland European Office and then decide with the Panel on the exact date of the next meeting.

## 8. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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