

BIOECONOMY WORKING GROUP

ANNUAL PLAN 2020

WORKING GROUP LEADERS

- Angèle Liaigre, Pays de la Loire (FR)
- Anniina Palmu, West Finland (FI)
- Jorge Molina, ADITech, Navarra Region (ES)

OBJECTIVES

The Working Group focuses on increasing the influence of regions and their stakeholders in shaping the European circular bioeconomy while also working to increase the awareness of the sector as a whole. The group covers the bioeconomy in the widest sense, tackling issues related to topics such as food systems, forestry, bioenergy, biowaste, bio-based products etc. Seeing the growing role of the bioeconomy in decarbonisation efforts, the group also concentrates on the ecological sustainability of these solutions. The group develops contacts with European policymakers to increase cooperation and projects between European regions in bioeconomy.

CONTEXT

What key EU level priorities, strategies, and events does the Working Group aim to monitor in 2020?

- The European Green Deal
 - “From farm to fork” strategy
 - Action plan on circular economy
 - Climate mitigation and adaption plan
 - EU Forest Strategy
- Food 2030 agenda
- The Bioeconomy Strategy and the action plan
- Digitalisation and Digital Innovation Hubs dealing with agri-food
- Interregional Innovation Investments (Component 5)

What funding programmes are important for the Working Group and how does the WG aim to facilitate project development?

- Horizon Europe, especially the cluster on natural resources and food
- LIFE programme and the consultations that will open during the year

- Interreg
- Bio-based Industries JU and Bio-based Industries Consortium including the proposed partnership for Horizon Europe “Circular bio-based Europe: sustainable innovation for new local value from waste and biomass”
- Circular Bioeconomy Investment Platform

The remaining calls in Horizon 2020 relevant for bioeconomy all have deadlines in the beginning of the year. Therefore, we will monitor the drafting of the work programmes for Horizon Europe and depending on the timing we will organise a project development session towards the end of the year.

How does the group support partnership building (e.g. S3 partnerships) and collaborate with other European organisations or networks?

The following partnerships and organisations have been identified as relevant:

- The S3 Partnership on agri-food
- ERIAFF (especially for issues related to plants, organic proteins – vegetable proteins, and forestry)
- Vanguard Initiative and the bioeconomy pilot (bio aromatics developed – Navarra and Flanders active) and the pilot connected to testing Interregional Innovation Investments (Component 5) (DG REGIO)
- Bio-based Industries JU and Bio-based Industries Consortium – the group will continue to follow the development of the BIC’s digital platform matching investment interests between regions and industry.
- European Parliament intergroups: Green Deal, Searica, SDG, and Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development
- EIT Food

ACTIVITIES

Future prospects of algae cultivation for a greener and more sustainable society

6 February 2020, 15.00-17.00

Algae – being a rich source of proteins, antioxidants, and oils – is becoming increasingly interesting as a sustainable raw material in food, feed, nutrition supplements as well as bioplastics and other materials. The applications are manifold, from pharmaceutical uses to biofuel and algal oil replacing fish oil. Research and innovation are needed to improve the techniques for mass production and processing and as pointed out in the European Bioeconomy Forum’s roadmap (published in November 2019) the legislation around the algae sector is a major bottleneck to advance the sector. In this meeting we will look at the prospects of algae cultivation with a couple of members showcasing innovative solutions. We will also have the European Commission give us an update on algae legislation and future opportunities for algae R&I.

Target audience: Brussels-based representatives and experts

Forestry (and skills)

April 2020, date to be confirmed

With the European Green Deal, a new EU Forest Strategy will be published in 2020. What will this strategy mean for research and innovation? And for skills related to forest innovation? Depending on the publication date of the new strategy, this meeting will either aim to provide input to the new strategy or analyse the impact.

Target audience: Brussels-based representatives

Bio-based products for the future

10 June 2020, 14.30-17.00

Linking to the new EU industrial strategy that will be published in March 2020, how can the bioeconomy help to decarbonise the daily life of European citizens? And what will funding for this topic look like in Horizon Europe? The focus will be on everyday products such as textiles and new materials to replace plastics and not on energy or fuels.

Target audience: Brussels-based representatives

Food and health - smart and environmentally sustainable food systems

September/October

Our health is intrinsically linked with the food that we eat. Ensuring wide availability of nutritious and minimally processed food via short supply chains has the potential to contribute to healthy and sustainable food systems while also supporting local economies. This meeting will focus on research and innovation in creating regional and local circular food supply chains.

Policy link: Food 2030 agenda, Farm to fork strategy

Target audience: Brussels-based representatives and regional/local experts

Regional Bioeconomy Strategies

October/November

More and more European regions are developing bioeconomy strategies. This will be a practical meeting on regional bioeconomy strategies aimed at regional experts in charge of developing and implementing these strategies. The discussion will cover the full development cycle: identifying assets and strengths, building political support, involving stakeholders and the public, recommendations on tools etc.