

BIOECONOMY WORKING GROUP

ANNUAL PLAN 2021

WORKING GROUP LEADERS

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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

EU level priorities, strategies, and events that the Working Group aims to follow up in 2021 include:

- European Green Deal:
 - Farm to Fork Strategy
 - Renovation Wave
 - Forestry Strategy
 - Algae Strategy
- Food 2030
- Horizon Europe Mission on Soil Health and Food
- Horizon Europe Partnerships:
 - Circular bio-based Europe
 - Agroecology living labs and research infrastructures
 - Safe and sustainable food systems

The following funding programmes are important for the Working Group:

- Horizon Europe
 - Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment
- LIFE Programme
- Circular bio-based Europe

The Working Group will monitor the drafting of the work programmes for Horizon Europe, especially the work programme for Cluster 6, and consider organising a project development workshop once these calls have been launched. Potential calls for the new Circular bio-based Europe Partnership will also be monitored.

Planned support for partnership building (e.g. S3 partnerships) and collaboration with other European organisations or networks.

The following partnerships and organisations have been identified as relevant:

- Circular bio-based Europe - the WG will follow the development of the partnership, including its planned activities and timeline.
- Bio-based Industries Consortium - the WG will follow up on the activities of the BIC digital platform for regions, which aims to stimulate bio-based investment by connecting regions and industry.

ACTIVITIES

Mission on soil health and food

24 February

This information session aims to follow up on the state of play of the Horizon Europe Mission on soil health and food. Members from the Mission Board will present the key parts of the report developed by the Board and the role of regions in the Mission. The European Commission will be invited to provide an update on the Mission's implementation plan.

Target audience: Brussels-based representatives and regional stakeholders.

Project development workshop: Horizon Europe calls

April (TBC)

The Working Group will look to organise a project development workshop, focusing on the calls in Cluster 6 on Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment, once the work programmes for Horizon Europe have been launched.

Target audience: Brussels-based representatives and regional stakeholders.

Bio-based materials for buildings

June

The construction sector accounts for over 35% of the EU's total waste generation. The built environment has subsequently been outlined as one of the key product value chains in the Circular Economy Action Plan, and the Renovation Wave Strategy will further ensure that buildings are renovated sustainably. This meeting aims to bring forward regional innovative examples of bio-based materials for buildings.

Target audience: Brussels-based representatives and regional stakeholders.

Innovations for food waste

September

Circularity and resource efficiency of food is one of the key goals that Food 2030 aims to achieve. How can unavoidable biomass and waste be used as a resource? This WG meeting aims to highlight regional innovations for food waste and how regions around Europe are using food waste as a resource.

Target audience: Brussels-based representatives and regional stakeholders.

Green Digital Innovation Hubs

October/November

This Working Group meeting would invite some of the selected Digital Innovation Hubs, focusing on sectors and areas relevant to the bioeconomy, from the first round of calls. The invited DIH will present their planned activities and the practicalities around their work. The European Commission will be invited to present the next steps.

Target audience: Brussels-based representatives and regional stakeholders.