

## 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 workshops: Horizon Europe calls**

#### **29 April & 3-4 June**

The Working Group will look to organise a project development/matchmaking workshop, focusing on the calls in Cluster 6 on Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment of the Horizon Europe work programme.

Target audience: Brussels-based representatives and regional stakeholders.

## **Bio-based materials for buildings**

**8 June**

Our buildings generate 40% of the European greenhouse gas emissions. The European Commission has highlighted that the construction sector can be turned from a carbon source into a carbon sink, if organic building materials are applied. 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 and the New European Bauhaus will further ensure that buildings are renovated and built sustainably. This meeting aims to bring forward regional innovative examples of bio-based materials for sustainable built environments.

Target audience: Brussels-based representatives and regional stakeholders.

## **Innovations for food waste**

**October**

This Working Group meeting focuses on the valorisation of food waste and aims to showcase innovative examples of how regions around Europe are using food waste as a resource. The European Commission will present the latest developments of Food 2030 – the research and innovation policy framework that aims to transform our food systems, and highlight the links to Horizon Europe.

Target audience: Brussels-based representatives and regional stakeholders.

## **Update on the Mission on soil health and food**

**October/November**

This Working Group meeting would invite the European Commission to present the Mission's Implementation Plan, including the timeline and next steps for regions that would like to participate in the Mission.

Target audience: Brussels-based representatives and regional stakeholders.