

Recommendations on mainstreaming the bioeconomy in rural areas

ENRD Thematic Group

 [#Bioeconomy](#)

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Shared understanding



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Ensure a shared understanding of the bioeconomy concept and its significance for rural development and rural actors.

- ***Set a clear definition*** of ‘bioeconomy’ within the RDP context, through defining the economic, environmental and social **results** that it is expected to deliver – with the potential to use this in eligibility criteria for (some) RDP support.
- ***Integrate awareness-raising activities of the definition*** and of the available support opportunities at all levels
- ***Build a vision for the rural bioeconomy*** enabled through RDPs, linked where possible to national or regional visions (and the EU Strategy on Bioeconomy) and other funding instruments.

Convening key actors



Bring actors together to create & support resilient and innovative bioeconomy ‘value webs’.

- ***Use existing (or develop new) networks***, clusters and supply chains to enable innovation and entrepreneurship for new bioeconomy value chains, involving small and large players, at different stages in the chain.
- Encourage ***innovative linking*** together of different sectors and value chains that evolve in synergy.
- Make sure ***expert advice and support*** is available at all developmental stages, from launch to learning.

Buy-in through local engagement



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Facilitate territorial approaches where appropriate to optimise long-term buy-in and impact.

- ***Build synergies*** with existing territorial dynamics and resource availability to ensure that bioeconomy initiatives contribute to sustainable development and management of land and resources.
- ***Ensure interests are taken into account*** from all stakeholders – even small ones – in the process and local needs are being answered.
- ***Prioritise activities that add and maintain value*** within the local rural economy through circularity and synergy

Coordinated support



Use RDP measures to provide coordinated support to rural bioeconomy initiatives.

- Make available ***combinations of RDP measures*** that can together respond to the needs in launching, supporting, sustaining and improving rural initiatives around bioeconomy.
- See ENRD Thematic Group's detailed recommendations "How to use RDPs to support rural bioeconomy?" based on current RDP measures.

Synergies with other EU funds



Find synergies with other ESIF instruments and tools.

- Ensure Managing and Paying Authorities are **aware of synergetic objectives** relevant to rural bioeconomy and associated **funding instruments** (e.g. ESIF), how they can be accessed and used to support value chains and their diverse stakeholders.
- Explore opportunities to provide **complementary funding from diverse ESIF**, possibly in ‘packages’ according to eligibility and applicability of each fund at different stages in value chain development.
- **Streamline the funding advice and application processes** for the rural beneficiary as much as possible.

Evaluating with effective indicators



Use indicators that reflect the distinctive and varied nature of bioeconomy to support the development of sustainable rural bioeconomy value chains.

- ***Do not reinvent the wheel*** – build on existing work and apply those most relevant to the RDP context.
- Use indicators that allow the ***effective demonstration of impact*** (economic, social and environmental).
- Explore new tools that enable further value creation for rural bioeconomy initiatives through ***market recognition and reward***.

Thank you for your attention!

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