

# Raising awareness of governments on bioeconomy, based on the experiences of the BIOEAST initiative

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#### **BIOEAST Initiative**

Central-Eastern European Initiative for Knowledge-based Agriculture, Forestry and Aquaculture in the Bioeconomy

Shared strategic research and innovation framework for working towards the development of a sustainable bioeconomies in the Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries.

Why BIOEAST: Low performance of knowledge-based agriculture, aquaculture and forestry in the bioeconomy (but high potential!), significant internal disparities in terms of research and innovation performance, and low participation of CEE region in H2020.





## **Objectives of BIOEAST**

- 1. Initiate cooperation: establish a multi-stakeholder network to facilitate joint actions;
- 2. Provide an evidence base: establish data-driven support for implementation of policies;
- 3. Support strategies: create the cross-sectorial approach for the development of a national circular and bioeconomy strategies;
- **4. Focus on research:** map specific challenges for a Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda;
- 5. Improve skills: train a new generation of dedicated multi-stakeholder actors;
- **6. Develop synergies:** promote regional, national, EU and international funding opportunities;
- 7. Increase visibility: draw attention to specific challenges of the CEE regions.



#### Main actors involved



# Political agreements of 11 AGRI Ministers

- 26. October 2016: VISEGRAD 4 Group + 3 Countries: on stronger inclusion into H2020
- 21. September 2017: VISEGRAD 4 Group + 4 Countries: on broadening the remit of the BIOEAST initiative beyond H2020
- 13. June 2018: VISEGRAD 4 Group + 7 countries: on the Vision for BIOEAST
- 9. May 2019: VISEGRAD 4 Group + 7 countries: on the future role of the BIOEAST Initiative in the context of Horizon Europe (agri+research ministers!)





Conference EIP-AGRI (HU, EC)	Conference H2020 OMÉK (HU, EC)	Workshop I. "Policy Guidelines for Agricultural Research" (HU)	Workshop II. "Policy Guidelines for Agricultural Research" (HU)	Council AGRIFISH – Common Strategic Research Area (HU, PL, LT)	Robert-Jan Smits meeting with the Hungarian Ambassador (HU)	Jerzy Bogdan Plewa meeting with the Hungarian Ambassador (HU)	Workshop on bioeconomy Bratislava (SK, PL, HU, CZ, EC)
Budapest, 06.05.2014.	Budapest, 25.09.2015.	Budapest, 10.11.2015.	Budapest, 14.01.2016.	Brussels, 15.02.2016.	Brussels, 15.02.2016.	Brussels, 16.02.2016.	Bratislava, 18.04.2016.
BIOEAST meeting at EC (EC, HU, PL, SK, CZ, EE)	EC Workshop for CEE countries (International)	Conference and Workshop BIOEAST (HU, PL, CZ, SK, BG, RO, SI)	Common declaration Council AGRIFISH (EU-28)	Innovation Week - ERDN - EIP AGRI NRN - SCAR AKIS - DANUBIONET (EU)	BIOEAST – CEE cooperation of research institutes (HU, CZ, SK, PL, RO)	Workshop III. "Policy Guidelines for Aquaculture Research" (HU)	Council ENVI BIOEAST (SK, PL, HU, CZ, RO, BG)
Brussels, 13.06.2017.	Brussels, 28.03.2017.	Budapest, 21-22.02.2017.	Brussels, 15-16.11.2016.	Budapest, 03-07.10.2016.	Budapest, 08.06.2016.	Budapest, 12.05.2016.	Lednice, 12-13.05.2016.
Conference BIOEAST (International)	Common declaration V4+ Agriministers meeting (10 countries)	Adoption of the Vision Paper, 11 BIOEAST countries	Monthly Governing Board and CSA proposal-writing meetings, 11 BIOEAST countries	Conference Hungarian national SCAR CASA	Common declaration V4+ Agriministers meeting (11 countries)	Conference BIOEAST (international)	Conference Polish national SCAR CASA
Budapest, 20.09.2017.	Budapest, 21.09.2017.	02.2018.	02.2018 – present	Budapest, 25.04.2018.	Bábolna, 13.06.2018.	Budapest, 08.11.2018.	Warsaw, 14 .11.2018.
			Council AGRIFISH Bioeconomy Strategy	Workshop BBI JU- SCAR- BIOEAST Building up clusters	Workshop EC-SCAR-BIOEAST Policy Support Facilitation (H2020)	BIOEASTsUP (H2020, CSA) proposal submission	Council AGRIFISH Bioeconomy Strategy EU-28
			18.03.2019.	14.03.2019.	Brussels, 13.03.2019.	23.01.2019.	Brussels, 17.12.2018.

# Why do we need to raise awareness of policy makers in BIOEAST countries?

- There are no priorities set for the bioeconomy, in most cases even the definition is missing.
- There is a lack of unified position within ministries and between ministries on bioeconomy (only sectoral thinking, decision making capacity and preparedness is limited).
- There is a lack of formal inter-ministerial dialogue.
- Policy instruments and legislation are not associated with the bioeconomy.
- Lack of data and information to show potential: no national data analysis about biomass potential, availability/demand, market, consumer acceptance of bio-based products, the bioeconomies effect on economy (employment, rural areas, GDP..).

## National level awareness raising – example of Hungary

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Already existing official elements	
Ministry of Agriculture (HuMA): <b>Department for Knowledge-based Agriculture</b>	Coordination of BIOEAST, BIOEASTsUP, AKIS plan, EIP – initiator on bioeconomy discussion
RDI Working Group (Chamber of Agri/HuMA)	Mainly researchers from academia and institutes and industrial players - knowledge exchange, dissemination, awareness raising, networking, funding opportunities in Horizon, thematic workshops for research priorities
Improved participation in <b>Standing Committee of Agricultural Research</b> (SCAR) WGs / FACCE JPI / ERA-NETs	SCAR national event in 2018
Conferences and workshops organised in Hungary 2015-2019 (Latest 2018 November: <b>High-level BIOEAST international conference</b> in Budapest, key note speaker: director of DG RTD)	Able to mobilise researchers and some key industrial players nationally and macro-regionally.
2019 February: Workshop organised for researchers by HuMA	H2020 proposal writing + lectures on bioeconomy/BIOEAST
Websites (BIOEAST and EIP-Agri) and booklets prepared on bioeconomy	Communication, updated regularly
Power4bio (AKI, Bay-bio) + BIOEASTsUP projects (HuMA, AKI)	Support regional and national level bioeconomy
BIOEAST Governing Board / Secretary/ National Contact Point	Bridging between national and macro-regional level. BIOEAST macro-regional cooperation helps to keep bioeconomy in the political thinking at national level
BIOEAST <b>Studies</b> (AKI, JRC, Nova/SCAR CASA) No national, in-depth, complex, nationally financed study on bioeconomy .	State of play of CEE bioeconomies / Socio-economic insights into the bioeconomy in BIOEAST countries  But national data analysis needed for policy makers

#### Main results

- **POWER4BIO** H2020 project (started in 2018): supporting BIOEAST from regional level, collecting good examples, bioeconomy cluster building.
- **BIOEASTSUP** H2020 CSA project (starting 2019): to develop macro-regional SRIA and national strategies, all 11 BIOEAST countries involved.
  - > capacity building of policy makers (and stakeholders),
  - ➤ interministerial working group: common understanding of bioeconomy in the countries. Identification of value chains at national level and financing forms of bioeconomy activities.
  - national thematic working groups, and Bioeconomy Hubs,
  - > macro-regional BIOEAST Thematic Working Groups (5).
- **PSF (Policy Support Facility)** will be developed together with EC to have Mutual Learning Exercise between those who have and have not yet bioeconomy strategies sharing good practices.
- Discussion will start in ministry concerning **CAP Strategic plan** (how to integrate bioeconomy).



## **Key lessons**

Long process (2015-): raising awareness of policy makers is difficult and takes time.

BIOEAST macro-regional cooperation helps to keep bioeconomy in the political thinking at national level.

#### **IMPORTANT** to have:

- keep bioeconomy/BIOEAST on political agenda (Visegrad 4, Agri Council etc.),
- initiator who coordinates,
- training of policy-making level / but also the decision-making level,
- data for policy on national bioeconomy (economic, environmental, social benefits, feasibility, viability..),
- identification of good examples,
- inter-ministerial cooperation,
- high-level national events,
- constant communication with EC!



# Thank you for your attention! Zsófia Kunya

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