

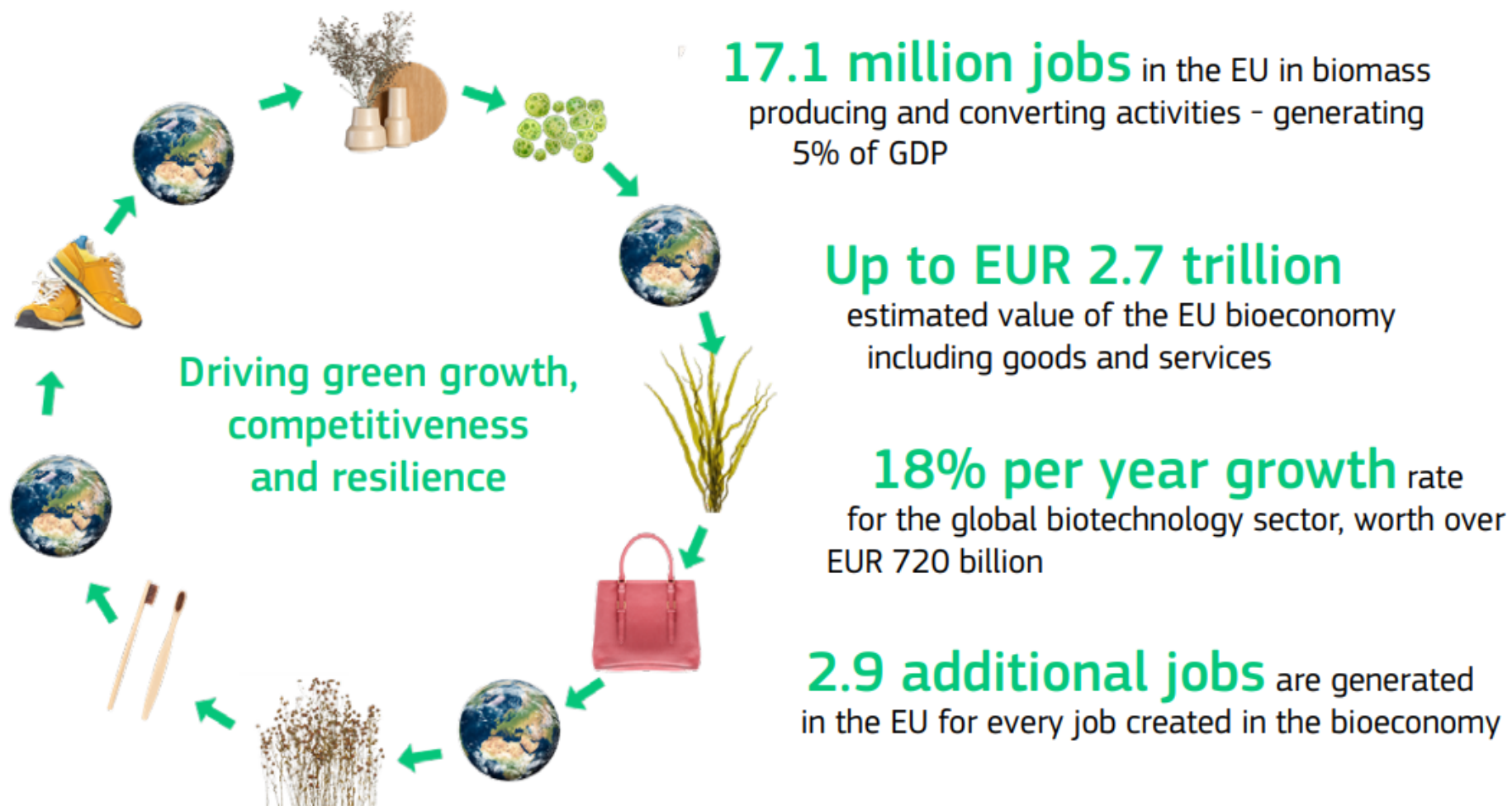


What's Next for the Bioeconomy in the EU and Central and Eastern Europe?

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The Bioeconomy as a Strategic Opportunity



Bioeconomy Strategy: Strategic pillars

**Scaling up
Innovation and
Investments: from
Lab to Deployment**



**Developing Lead
Markets for Materials
and Technologies**



**Securing Long-Term
Prospects for the
Bioeconomy:
Sustainably Sourced
Biomass**



**Harnessing Global
Partnerships and
Opportunities**



Joining forces with Member States, local and regional actors, private and public stakeholders

The Bioeconomy Strategy aims to:

Removing barriers

**Stimulating
innovation and
investments**



Efficient use of biomass

Enablers for bioeconomy lead markets across sectors: public procurement and voluntary industry alliances

**Lead markets for
materials and
technologies**



Reducing the need for primary biomass: relying on secondary feedstocks and circularity

Towards resilient and sustainable ecosystems and value chains

**Primary biomass
supply**



Facilitate wider access to global markets for the EU's bio-based technologies, innovations, biomaterials and applications

**Shaping the global
sustainable
bioeconomy agenda**



such as plastics, fibres, textiles, chemicals, fertilisers, plant protection products, construction materials, biorefineries, advanced fermentation and permanent storage of biogenic carbon

CORDIS results pack on innovative bioeconomy solutions

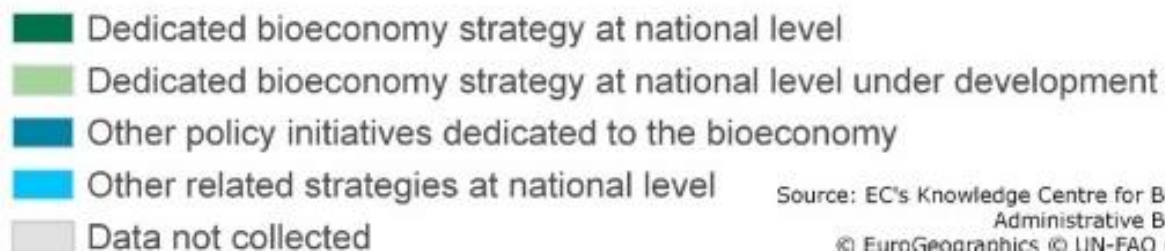
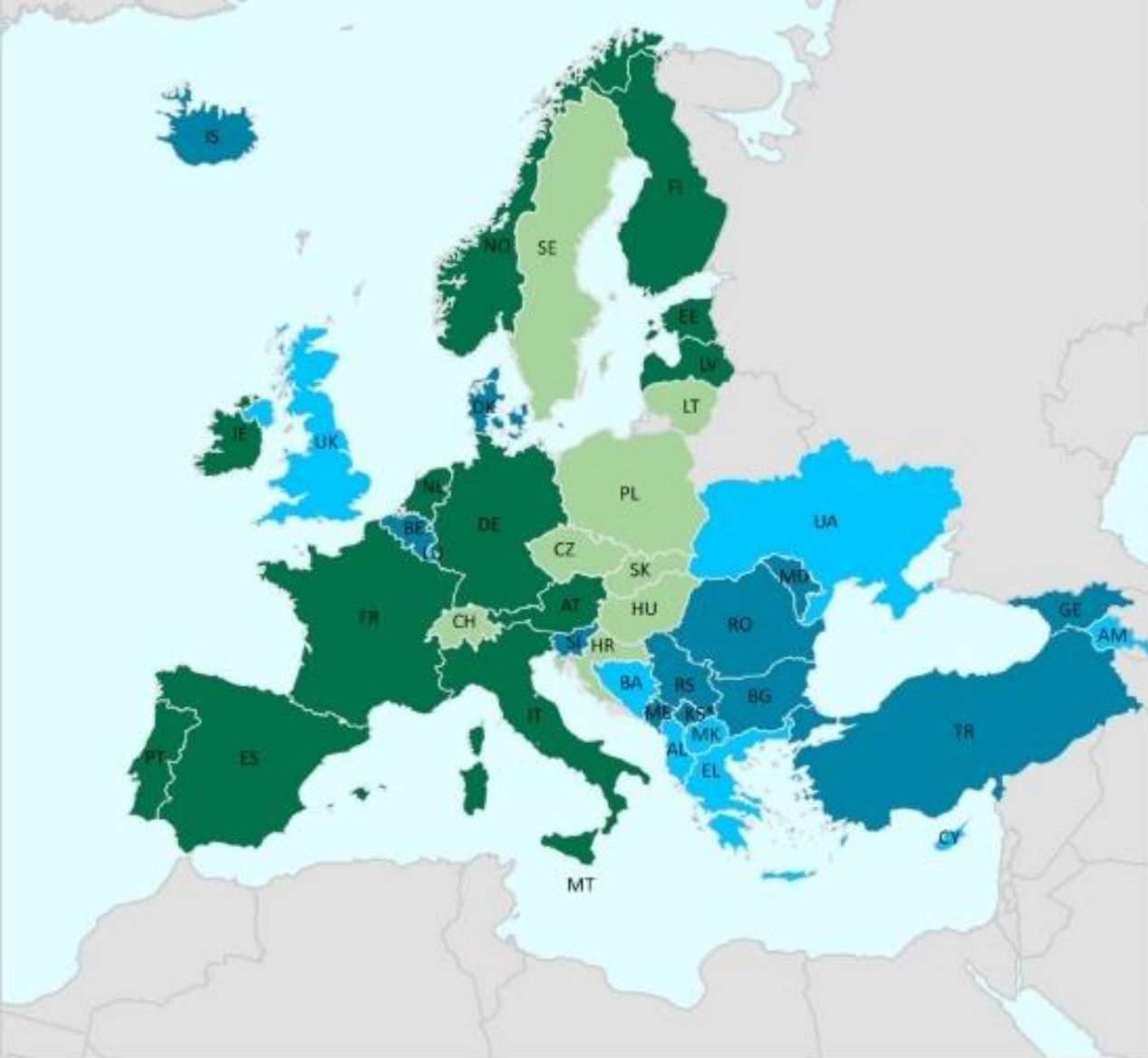


15 EU-funded research and innovation projects in the field of bioeconomy, showcasing a wide range of benefits, from reducing environmental impacts to generating jobs



Status of national bioeconomy strategies and related policy initiatives in Europe

- National and regional bioeconomy strategies are becoming more numerous throughout Europe
- Central and Eastern European countries have made significant progress in rolling out bioeconomy initiatives



Source: EC's Knowledge Centre for Bioeconomy
Administrative Boundaries:
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Bioeconomy Strategy Development in
Horizon Europe Associated Countries

Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo*, Montenegro,
North Macedonia, Moldova, Serbia, Türkiye and Ukraine

Nelsson, V., Trifunovic, O., Blasen, A., Boraschelli,
M.T., Carra, A.

2025



Source: EC's Knowledge Centre for Bioeconomy,
September 2025



Council conclusions on a potential Europe-wide R&I initiative

- Central and Eastern European countries have a comparative **advantage** in the **bioeconomy** due to its **abundant biomass resources**, which are however largely untapped
- 11 BIOEAST countries gathered political support for „**a potential Europe-wide R&I initiative**“
- The **Council conclusions** have been **adopted** in November 2024 in the Competitiveness Council
- The initiative aims towards enhancing competitiveness by advancing sustainable natural resource management, food system security and the deployment of the bioeconomy by **harnessing the potential of CEE Member States, Western Balkans, and candidate countries**, while supporting the potential **accession of Ukraine**
- A dedicated initiative could help making this macro region competitive in bioeconomy, **benefitting whole Europe**

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	29 November 2024
To:	Delegations
No. prev. doc.:	15304/24 + COR 1
Subject:	A potential Europe-wide R&I initiative on advancing sustainable natural resource management, food systems security and the deployment of the bioeconomy, harnessing the potential of Central and Eastern Europe - Council conclusions (29 November 2024)

Delegations will find in the annex the Council conclusions on *A potential Europe-wide R&I initiative on advancing sustainable natural resource management, food systems security and the deployment of the bioeconomy, harnessing the potential of Central and Eastern Europe*, approved by the Council at its 4063rd meeting held on 29 November 2024.

Draft report on gaps, needs and potential

- The draft report is based on the outcomes of discussions at dedicated SCAR meetings and the Hungarian Presidency event:
- Relevant contributions from the Joint Research Centre (JRC), Circular Bio-Based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU), and Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC)

Key outcomes (biomass):

- The Central and Eastern European countries, Western Balkans, and candidate countries have high and untapped potential in terms of biomass
- Despite high resource potential, effective bioeconomy development in these regions remains underexploited

Key insights: Abundant resources, Modernisation gap, Innovation divide, Need for customised actions, Collaboration and capacity building, Role of R&I, Governance and SMEs

EU value added

Boost biomass valorisation

→ More efficient and sustainable use of biological resources



Develop a more integrated common market for biomass

→ Enhanced cross-border cooperation and resource flow



Advance industrial capacity in rural areas

→ Job creation, local economic growth, and rural depopulation mitigation



Strategic autonomy and food security

→ Leverage also the biomass potential of Ukraine and other candidate countries



Strengthening the European Research Area by enhancing the bioeconomy research and innovation ecosystem in BIOEAST countries

Cluster: Horizon Europe, Cluster 6
Work Programme 2025

Type of Action: Coordination and Support Actions

Objective: Enhancing research and innovation capacities in the bioeconomy within the BIOEAST macro-region and beyond

Call budget: 4 million €

Evaluation ongoing

Cluster 6



Mission Soil



Cluster 6 Info Days 2026

22-23 January (hybrid)

Registrations open

Brokerage event on 21 January 2026

EU Missions Info Days 2026

20-21 January

A Strategic Framework for a Competitive and Sustainable EU Bioeconomy

- Excerpt from the New EU Bioeconomy Strategy

"The EU will launch a research and innovation initiative to develop and deploy sustainable bioeconomy solutions in regions with high biomass potential, including in BIOEAST countries, Moldova, Ukraine and the Western Balkans. This initiative will mobilise capital and strengthen industrial ecosystems beyond EU borders for the benefit of Member States and EU accession countries and ensure that all efforts are underpinned by robust environmental and social safeguards".

- A targeted approach to enhancing the bioeconomy in regions with significant biomass potential, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe
- These countries, including those part of the BIOEAST initiative, are recognized for their high biomass potential
- An opportunity for countries to enhancing their bioeconomy solutions
- Potentially leading to sustainable development, economic growth, and stronger regional cooperation

EU Bioeconomy Youth Ambassadors



- 15 Young bioeconomy enthusiasts based all over Europe
- 2-year programme (2025-27) to make positive change, promote sustainable bioeconomy and engage and represent youth
- Selected and supported by the Commission, acting independently
- Find more about them [here](#)
- If you wish to involve the BYAs in your activities, contact bioeconomyyouthambassadors@gopa.eu

A Vision for Agriculture and Food: 4 priority areas



An **attractive** and **predictable** agri-food sector where incomes enable farmers to thrive, attracting future generations

ATTRACTIVENESS



An agri-food sector that is **competitive** and **resilient** in the face of rising global competition and shocks

COMPETITIVENESS & RESILIENCE



A **future proof** agri-food sector that is functioning within planetary boundaries

SUSTAINABILITY



An agri-food sector that values **food**, fosters **fair working and living conditions** and vibrant and well-connected **rural** and coastal areas

FAIRNESS

***Enabling environment:** putting research, innovation, knowledge and skills at the heart of Europe's agri-food economy*

Bioeconomy as an opportunity for primary producers



Working group on primary producers

Vision for Agriculture and Food

- Leveraging the **opportunities of innovation that reward:**
 - Accelerating the **commercialization** and **scaling up** bio-based and circular solutions
 - Enabling **diversification** of value streams, **valorisation** of farm residues
 - Significant potential for the economy of **rural areas**
 - Using **knowledge, research and innovation** as catalysts for change

- Empower primary producers to play an **active and rewarding role** in circular bio-based value chains.
- Ensure they **benefit** from the economic, social and environmental opportunities these systems offer.
- Currently 10 [members](#) from CEE countries
- CBE-JU Stakeholder Forum: **24 March 2026**, Brussels > Register [here](#)



[More information on CBE JU](#)

EU R&I enabling the goals of the Vision for Agriculture and Food and the Life Sciences Strategy

- Developing a **new EU strategic approach to R&I** to improve the competitiveness of agriculture, forestry and rural areas. This will be paramount to target investments efficiently, align future priorities with scientific developments and grasp new opportunities.
- Revamping the [2016 Strategic Approach to EU agricultural R&I](#)
- Complementary action announced in the Life Sciences Strategy, the Commission will develop a **strategic R&I agenda on food systems** to promote a holistic approach to the life sciences
- Revamping the [FOOD 2030 R&I Initiative](#)
- Considering the future European Competitiveness Fund and future Horizon Europe
- Planned for end of Q2 2026



[Ensuring food security for the future](#)



[EU Agricultural Outlook conference](#)



[Agri-Digital Day](#)

Day 1

11:30-12:35 - Policy Session 2

The future of EU agri-food: Data & innovation for food security

This session will **kick off the preparation of the new strategic approach for agricultural research and innovation**. The discussions will allow to explore **how R&I can better address food security and farmers' needs by providing innovative solutions, including digital ones, to enhance their competitiveness and sustainability**. It will also **cover deployment aspects**, focusing on **private sector collaboration to valorise R&I results** and strategies for **bringing solutions closer to farmers** from an EU and global perspective.

Panel discussion and Q&A

Live web stream available: 15 - 17 December 2025

Thank you



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