

BIOREGIO

Interreg Europe

4th Newsletter,
December 2018

Regional circular economy models
and best available technologies
for biological streams

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You are reading the 4th **BIOREGIO** newsletter.

The activities of the **BIOREGIO** project continued in the 4th semester of implementation, aiming to boost bio-based circular economy through a transfer of expertise on best available technologies and cooperation: regional stakeholder group meetings and dissemination events, external and internal communication, the 4th Interregional Event in Romania, 9 Good Practices registered on IE Policy Learning Platform, and a Policy Brief related to the bio-based circular economy in Europe published on the web.

BIOREGIO, an Interreg Europe project implemented by 8 partners from 6 EU countries, Finland, Spain, Greece, Slovakia, Romania and France, will improve knowledge related to circular economy of biological materials and strive to increase the recycling rates of these materials. You can find more information about the 4th semester of **BIOREGIO** below.

This newsletter is provided by the Romanian project partner, the National Research & Development Institute for Chemistry and Petrochemistry ICECHIM - Calarasi Subsidiary, South Muntenia Region.

BIOREGIO:

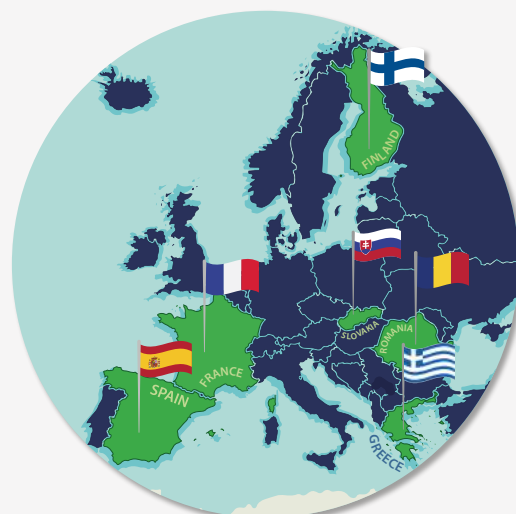
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Policy Brief:

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Jan 2017
Dec 2021



€
1.30 M
ERDF

BIOECONOMY is an economy that relies on renewable biological resources (crops, forests, fish, animals and micro-organisms) and their conversion into food, feed, products, materials and energy. Bioeconomy includes agriculture, forestry, fisheries, food and pulp and paper production, as well as parts of chemical, biotechnological and energy industries.
(EU COMMISSION 2012)

BIO-BASED PRODUCTS are products that are wholly or partly derived from materials of biological origin, excluding materials embedded in geological formations and/or fossilized
(EU COMMISSION 2017).

CIRCULAR ECONOMY means closing the currently linear economy in a loop where the value of products, materials and resources is maintained in the economy for as long as possible. Circular economy consist of biological and technical cycles.
(EU COMMISSION 2015)

BIO-BASED CIRCULAR ECONOMY or bio circular economy is the circular economy of bio-based materials. I.e. biological resources are managed and used in a way that the value of the materials is maintained at the highest utility in the economy for as long as possible.

BIOREGIO 4th Interregional Event

2nd - 3rd October 2018

in South Muntenia Region, Romania

BIOREGIO project partners and stakeholders met for the 4th time in Bucharest, Romania, the event was organized by ICECHIM-Calarasi Subsidiary. Event topic was “Main challenges in developing a circular economy for biological flows and how to overcome them”.

The first day began with presentations: the EU role in creating networks and ecosystems in bio-based circular economy and Good Practices of project partners, exchange of knowledge and experiences. An interesting feature of day 1 was the fruitful roundtable discussion about the current state of the policy development in each country and region.



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The second day of the event was dedicated to site visits representing circular bioeconomy Good Practices of the South Muntenia Region.

The **BIOREGIO** partners and stakeholders were welcomed by the Mayor of Mioveni and other representatives of the SC Mioveni Community Services at the City Hall who presented the environmental projects that are currently being implemented in Mioveni.

Participants had the opportunity to visit sites related to the valorisation of park waste, sludge and manure (details on the last page):

- Wastewater Treatment Plant in Pitesti
- Wastewater Treatment Plant and Composting Pilot Project in Mioveni
- Priboieni Manure Platform



THEMATIC GROUP DISCUSSIONS on selected topics followed - exchanging ideas about 1) technologies for the valorisation of biowaste/biological streams, 2) funding and 3) regional and national strategies for circular bio-economy.

Lessons learned:

- an innovative approach is needed in creating a circular bio-economy strategy involving citizens
- strategy must be supported by specific legislation and funds allocated to collaborative projects in this field
- an efficient cooperation model is industrial symbiosis, platforms based on partnerships leading to the optimal use of different waste fractions

1-6 / 2017

**Semester 1****Region in focus:**

Päijät-Häme, FINLAND

Partners: Lahti University of Applied Sciences & Päijät-Häme Regional Council**Theme:** Regional model of biological streams

7-12 / 2017

**Semester 2****Region in focus:**

Castilla La Mancha, SPAIN

Partner:

Deputy Regional Ministry of Environment

Theme: Biorefinery and high value products

1-6 / 2018

**Semester 3****Region in focus:**

Central Macedonia, GREECE

Partners:

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki & Region of Central Macedonia

Theme: Agricultural waste gasification

7-12 / 2018

**Semester 4****Region in focus:**

ROMANIA

Partner: National Research and Development institute for Chemistry and Petrochemistry ICECHIM, Calarasi subsidiary**Theme:** Developing a circular economy for biological flows

1-6 / 2019

**Semester 5****Region in focus:**

Nitra, SLOVAKIA

Partner: Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra**Theme:** Biofuels and agricultural innovations

7-12 / 2019

**Semester 6****Region in focus:**

Pays de la Loire, FRANCE

Partner: Association of the Chambers of Agriculture of the Atlantic Area**Theme:** Policy development and action plans

The Romanian - South Muntenia Region, Bioeconomy Strategy

South Muntenia is the only region in Romania that included circular bioeconomy in its Smart Specialization Strategy 2014 - 2020 (2015).

In South Muntenia Region, six smart specialization fields were selected as having the highest potential for innovation, development and training. "Bioeconomy: development of circular economy" is the third smart specialization field identified in the Strategy.

Activities identified as having a potential for development in the South Muntenia region:

- Production of :
 - biofuels from biomass, animal waste and other by-products
 - organic fertilizers
 - biomass products and byproducts of biological processes
 - plastic biocomposites
 - food supplements, cosmetics and herbal substances to treatments
- Growing of biomass (willow, miscanthus, acacia, paulownia, grass)
- Activities to prevent desertification and for efficient use of land
- Development of a smart mobile plant that can process biomass on site

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South Muntenia Region Good Practices

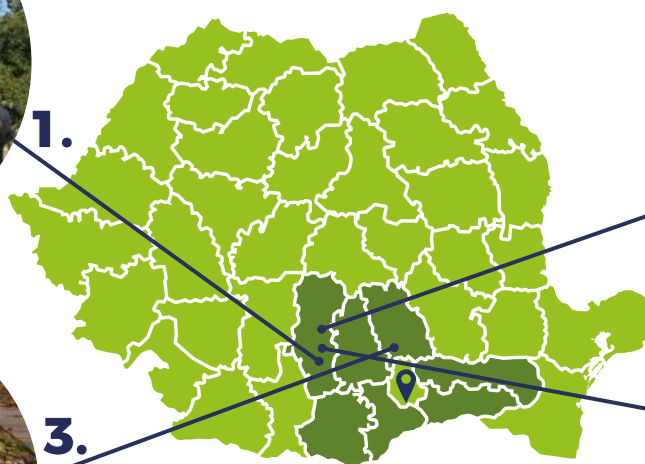
1. Anaerobic digestion of sewage sludge to produce biogas and combined heat and power unit (Water Sewage 2000 Pitesti)

The wastewater treatment plant of Pitesti is an example of circular bioeconomy related to producing renewable energy from sewage sludge and by using the digestate on agricultural land.



2. Composting municipal wastewater sludge and garden waste - pilot project (Municipal Services for Mioveni Community, SEDC)

An efficient organic waste treatment solution: aerobic digestion of sludge from the wastewater treatment plant is mixed with green waste in closed installations with a forced aeration system and covered with a semipermeable membrane ePTFE - CORE System® Cover. The compost obtained is used on a pilot corn field.



3. Composting of food waste, social enterprise in organic farming (Workshops Without Frontiers)

Bio&Co is a project of a Romanian NGO, which produces organic vegetables and collects waste food from supermarkets, hotels and restaurants on a 1000 m² composting platform. The compost is used in organic farming.



4. Recovering manure from private households (Priboieni Manure Platform)

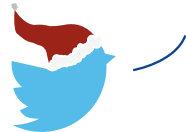
Platform is used to recover manure from private households, turning it into compost used as fertilizer on farms and, at the same time, to protect from leakage into groundwater.

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Thank you everybody!

Please follow us on Twitter.

We wish you all Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year!

Upcoming in Semester 5

The 5th Interregional Event will be held on 14th - 15th May, 2019 in **Nitra Region, Slovakia**.

The theme of the event will be **Biofuels and Agricultural Innovations**.

This Newsletter reflects the author's views; the Interreg Europe programme authorities are not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

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