

# BIOREGIO achievements and Action Plan implementation in Sud Muntenia Region, Romania

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# Action 1: Review of Regional Operational Programme funding instrument

## Instrument in focus:

Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020 for Romania  
Axis 1.1 – Promoting technology transfer

## Achievements

- **Review of the selection procedure** - changed from restricted to open call. In the first call only entities who submitted a letter of interest before the publication of the guide for applicants were allowed to submit proposals. In subsequent calls any eligible entity could apply. **Complete**

**Review of guidelines for applicants** – the guide for applicants of instrument 1.1.C dedicated to SMEs was reviewed and simplified and the call was relaunched. Because of limited number of applications, the deadline was extended twice, currently open until 15.05.2021. Applications received for 78.35% of available funds until 26.04.2021. **Complete**

# Action 1: Review of Regional Operational Programme funding instrument

## Achievements

- **Funding instrument review** - all calls were relaunched in 2020 for instruments 1.1A, 1.1B and 1.1C, but applications do not cover the available amounts in any of the sections. As of 26.04.2021 no contract was signed in Sud Muntenia Region under this instrument (contracts were signed in other regions of Romania).

**Completed**

**Electronic submission platform** – The Ministry of Investments and European Projects has carried out a public consultation between 24.02.2021 – 14.03.2021 with the purpose to simplify the submission platform. The project team has submitted proposals for simplification on 04.03.2021. **On-going**

**Flexibility and specificity of the call** – A new instrument (1.2) was designed also as a result of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) “Lagging Regions” pilot. The Guide for applicants was in public consultation until 20.03.2020 and updated with World Bank support, in consultation until 08.12.2020. Calls were launched only in 3 regions of Romania so far, not in Sud Muntenia. Call 1.2 Boosting innovation in companies by supporting multi-sectorial approaches resulting from implementing the lagging regions initiative in Romania - Research Valorization. **On-going**

**No further actions expected.**

# Action 2: Economic and legal framework for bio-based circular economy

## Achievements

- **Analysis of legal framework** - The legal framework was analysed in the study “The transition towards a circular economy. From waste management to a green economy in Romania” by the European Institute of Romania. **Complete**

**Funding instruments** – circular economy is included in two operational programmes for the period 2021-2027, as well as in the Recovery and Resilience Plan for Romania. **Complete**

**Economic/ financial measures and incentives** – no such instruments were identified so far. **No progress**

**Information and communication** – there have been intensive public consultations during the preparation of the funding instruments. Further information is needed on biowaste valorisation targets and options. **On-going.**

**Communication is still needed to emphasize the opportunities and commitments towards the circular bio-based economy. Incentives are also needed to support implementation.**

# Action 3: Promoting technologies for valorisation of biowaste/ biological streams

## Achievements

- **Mapping of bioresources in the region that are currently wasted and have potential for valorisation** – first country report for Romania was released by the Bio-based Industries Consortium in 2018 and was updated in 2020. **Complete**

**Creation of a database of available technologies for valorisation of biowaste** – a project proposal was submitted under Horizon 2020, but was not successful. **No progress**

**Identification of possible stakeholders, analysis of legal status and investment potential** – a thorough analysis of the region was carried out in the preparation of the Smart Specialisation Strategy for the period 2021-2027. **Complete**

**Proposals for funding instruments according to beneficiaries, investment needs and potential** – the Regional Development Agency has carried out several entrepreneurial discovery workshops and collected project ideas that will be used in designing the instruments for the next programming period. **Complete**

**Further project proposals to be submitted to complete all actions**

# Action 4: Inclusion of circular economy in the National Rural Development Programme

## Achievements

- The applicants guide for the 2018 call for project proposals on Measure 4.1 - Investments in agricultural holdings was modified to include circular bioeconomy. Project submission period 03.09.2018 - 31.03.2019

The following completions were made to the List of Investment Types in Construction and Installation:

“construction and assembly investments that ensure proper management of plant debris by reducing GHG (greenhouse gases) emissions (promoting the circular economy)”

The budget allocated to the call was 303 mil. Euro

The amount dedicated to circular economy under this instrument is difficult to quantify because each project includes different types of investments.

**No further actions are expected.**

## What are we particularly proud of in BIOREGIO?

The project has been an excellent learning opportunity, and seeing how things are done in partner countries has been very inspiring.

Seeing good practices on site and being able to talk directly to stakeholders had a strong positive impact on our professional competence.

We are now much better equipped to contribute to the development of new instruments and policies to support circular bio-based economy in our own regions.

The National Recovery and Resilience Plan for Romania includes the development of a strategy for circular economy as well as funding instruments, so there are chances that this sector will grow considerably in Romania in the next years.



**Thank you for your attention!**

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