

2nd Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) Meeting

(OIP COVASNA)

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| **Overview** | |
| Date | 11 Nov 2020 |
| Location | Online and onsite |
| Aim of the event | Analysis of the current state of the bioeconomy - a priority area in the national smart specialization strategy - in Romania, and especially in the Central Region by involving actors from economic sectors priority in the region. |

The meeting of the working group was organized in the second part of November 11, 2020, in the first part taking place an important event of the area, which was attended by many members of the SWG. Thus, on the morning of November 11, 2020, the official inauguration of the biomass-based heating system in Ghelința (a village concerned with bioenergy production) took place, by the Mayor of the commune and Mr. Bartha Sandor from the Green Energy Cluster.

The event was a special opportunity to highlight the role of biomass in the industries developed in Covasna and the opportunity of the BE-Rural project.

After a study visit took place in the commune of Ghelința in the first part of the day, in the second part of the day a working meeting took place which hosted, in addition to local entrepreneurs, regional public authorities and government policy makers at the governmental level. The meeting opened with a speech by Mr Borbély László, State Counselor in the Department for Sustainable Development, who presented Romania's progress in implementing the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (strategic document adopted by the United Nations in 2015).

During the event, good practice models were presented - taken over by the BE-Rural project - of the regional clusters coordinated within the Sfântu Gheorghe Business Incubator, their activities and vision on sustainable development. In the context of implementing the 2030 Agenda and the opportunity to strengthen the bioeconomy in rural areas presented by the BE-Rural project, local entrepreneurs tried to outline a vision for the next period, focusing on the link between the Bioeconomy and Regional Clusters.

The Development Agency of the Central Region presented the financing programs of the bioeconomy for the period 2021-2027, and the Institute for Research in Circular Economy and Environment presented the current state of the circular economy in Romania.

The event was also covered on Facebook. Following the event, the Sustainable Development Goals Romania group was launched - https://www.facebook.com/groups/826171611282120.