



PROJECT UPDATES



Five bioeconomy strategies for five rural regions

The five **Open Innovation Platforms** (OIPs) had a very active year-end in 2021 with the publication of their [regional bioeconomy strategies and roadmaps](#), which marked a pivotal milestone in the BE-Rural project. Most of the documents have been translated into English, and all of them were summarised in this [report](#). These strategic papers are the result of almost three years of **engagement, knowledge exchange** and **capacity building** amongst the project partners and across the stakeholders playing a prominent role in building what **tomorrow's bioeconomy** will be in these five OIP regions.



Keeping the momentum up in the innovation regions!

In order to ensure continued support for the further implementation of the **bioeconomy strategies and roadmaps** in the five OIP regions, [permanent regional bioeconomy stakeholder panels](#) were established. These are composed of up to eight members selected by the **stakeholder working groups** which contributed to the development of the strategy and roadmap documents. The permanent stakeholder panels will act as **bioeconomy promoters and ambassadors** both within their regions and towards their national governments, and will continue communicating the outputs of BE-Rural beyond the lifetime of the project.



Bulgarian and Romanian pop-up stores going digital

[Keep this link open in your browser](#), it will soon immerse you in an **online bioeconomy market!** Similar to the previous physical [bio-based pop-up stores](#), innovative **bio-based products and materials** will be showcased in a dynamic environment. You will also be able to test your knowledge on the bioeconomy and bio-based products on display, and to find more information on an interactive map about the bioeconomy potential of **Stara Zagora and Covasna regions**.

FOCUS ON...

Vidzeme and Kurzeme, Latvia

Vidzeme lies in the North East of Latvia while Kurzeme lies in the North West of Latvia. The territory of both regions is mostly covered by forest, which offers a high potential for by-products derived from forest management, such as young forest stand thinning and short rotation coppice. Additionally, renewable energy produced from forest biomass feedstocks is also identified as a promising sector for the regions.

[Learn more about these regions and their bioeconomy strategies](#)

3-MINUTE Q&A WITH ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER



Dr. Joachim Venus, Research Programme Coordinator "Material and Energetic Use of Biomass", [Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Engineering and Bioeconomy](#)

[FULL INTERVIEW](#)

EVENTS



R&I Capacity Building Workshop

Workshop on EU R&I funding in the bioeconomy field

[Almost 30 early-career researchers and research & innovation SMEs](#) from the five OIP countries (Bulgaria, Latvia, North Macedonia, Poland and Romania) took part in Autumn last year in a **BE-Rural Capacity Building Workshop** also attended by experts of the new **Horizon Europe framework programme**. Participants had the chance to exchange experience and good practices on how to engage with an international research community and to move from a project idea to a concrete proposal. [>>> Read more](#)



BE-Rural Face-to-Face Workshop 2

Virtual event via ZOOM
1 March 2022

2nd workshop to promote cross-regional knowledge-sharing

Building a **network of knowledge** across regions and **increasing the impact** of project outcomes not only at regional level but also **at national level** were central themes of discussion in the last online workshop organised in March 2022 by BE-Rural partners the [Bulgarian Industrial Association](#) (BIA) and the [Romanian Institute for Economic Forecasting](#) (IPE). The discussions were building on the results of a first similar workshop that had been held in September 2020. [>>> Read more](#)



Network of Knowledge on rural bioeconomy: launch event in June!

The aim of the network is to **share experiences** amongst rural regions engaging in the bioeconomy. The BE-Rural consortium, especially the OIP regions, would like to build on the work carried out so far and to **continue the exchanges** beyond the formal end of the project. **The network is open to regions from across Europe.** If you are interested in attending the launch event in June (date TBC), please get in touch with project partners [Carmen Pauna](#), IPE and [Stefan Kah](#), European Policies Research Centre, University of Strathclyde.

BE-RURAL ON STAGE

31.10-12.11.21 // [UK Universities' Climate Innovation Showcase @ COP26](#) // Glasgow, Scotland

Partners from the University of Strathclyde presented BE-Rural in a mini-booth set up alongside a series of posters and compelling images depicting the **climate innovation** work done by UK researchers. The exhibition was held in the context of the COP26 Conference organised in Glasgow.

04.11.21 // [Mobilization and Mutual Learning Workshop "Towards the green transition: boosting regional bioeconomy uptake through education and engagement"](#) // Online

The H2020-funded bioeconomy project, [Transition2Bio](#), organised an online workshop to address commonly-shared challenges in leveraging **communication and education about bioeconomy at regional level.** Representatives from several initiatives, including BE-Rural Project Coordinator, Ecologic Institute, were invited to present their viewpoints in an interactive round table.

31.01-01.02.22 // [SHERPA Annual Conference: Make it happen! Implementing the rural vision](#) // Online

The third annual conference of the [SHERPA](#) project looked into the valuable insights provided by the Multi-Actor Platforms implemented during the project. BE-Rural project coordinator, Holger Gerdes, Ecologic Institute, participated in a panel discussion bringing his perspectives on how **bioeconomy** and the **sustainable management of resources** can play a role in implementing the **rural long-term vision.** Read the [conference proceedings](#) for more information.

06-07.04.22 // [Transition2Bio Capacity Building event on how to raise awareness and communicate the bioeconomy](#) // *Online*

This event aimed at presenting the **capacity building** modules developed by the Transition2Bio project, testing them with different target audiences, and discussing them with a view to strengthening their effectiveness. On the first day, Dr Zoritza Kiresiewa, Ecologic Institute, presented on the **social, economic and environmental impacts** of the bioeconomy.

[Click here to find out more about BE-Rural](#)



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