



## PROJECT UPDATES



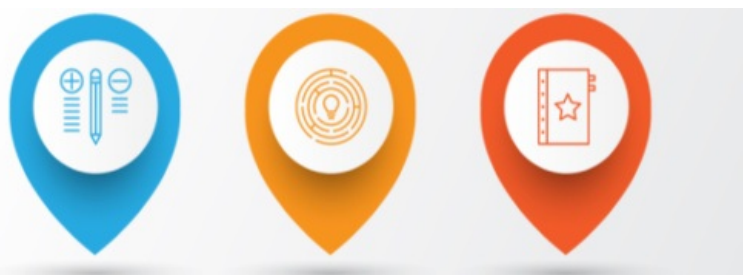
### All together again for our final conference

"**Inspiring regional agendas for inclusive bioeconomies**" was the title of BE-Rural's Final Conference in Frombork, Poland, 11-14 July 2022. The [conference proceedings](#) provide a comprehensive summary of the various working sessions and expert talks that took place during the two days of meetings. Mostly, the conference offered the space for reflecting on the main **project outputs** and further elaborating in a World Café workshop **four targeted policy recommendations** on the promotion of co-creation spaces in the bioeconomy. The conference was concluded with field trips providing participants with a glimpse of rural development initiatives happening in the **Vistula lagoon region**.



### BE-Rural's lessons learned and policy guidance

BE-Rural partners took stock on their activities and analysed the three main **participatory tools** applied throughout the project to ultimately come up with a [series of practical lessons learned](#). Drawing on evidence-based findings, these lessons learned translate into key recommendations presented in the [BE-Rural Policy Paper "Promoting Effective Co-creation Spaces in Regional Bioeconomies"](#).



**Last take-away from the project: three policy briefs**

Three **policy briefs** relevant for different governmental levels ultimately derive from our evaluation work made on the stakeholder and public engagement activities undertaken throughout the project. They provide targeted policy recommendations on:

- [Improving funding for bio-based business models](#)
- [Enabling rural regions to recognise the ecological boundaries framing the bioeconomy](#)
- [Mainstreaming the bioeconomy in Pre-Accession Assistance \(IPA\) projects in the Western Balkans](#)



### What about a sustainability screening?

We decided to go the extra mile by conducting a **sustainability screening** on the two pilot regions of Stara Zagora, Bulgaria, and Vidzeme, Latvia. [This report](#) aims to support decision-makers in giving further attention to sustainability angles in the development of **regional bioeconomy strategies and roadmaps**.

## BE-RURAL NETWORK OF KNOWLEDGE

In order to keep facilitating knowledge exchange amongst the regions after the end of the project, BE-Rural launched on the occasion of the EU Green Week 2022 a pan-European Network of Knowledge. The BE-Rural Network of Knowledge aims to identify and disseminate good practices and to facilitate knowledge sharing across European regions. It is an informal group open to all bioeconomy stakeholders interested in exchanging on experiences about, for example, the elaboration process of bio-based business models, the design and implementation of bioeconomy strategies and roadmaps, or the integration of bioeconomy concepts in academic curricula.



Access here the Network of Knowledge  
(hosted by the Sustainable Development  
Goals Network Romania)

## 3-MINUTE Q&A WITH ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER



Ana Cuadrado Galván, Tech to Market Project Adviser, [European Innovation Council](#) (ex-Project Officer, [CBE JU](#))

Galván discusses, among others, the 7-year legacy of the Bio-Based Industries Joint Undertaking (BBI JU), the ambitions of the new partnership CBE JU (Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking), and the digitalisation of the bio-based sector.

FULL INTERVIEW



## BE-Rural: Visit the new Virtual Bio-Based Pop-up Store

Several bio-based pop-up stores brought the **innovative potential of bioeconomy** to life for hundreds of local residents in most of the OIP regions. For the end of the project, we moved the bio-based pop-up store online making it available to everyone! Discover a [digital bioeconomy marketplace](#) with **more than 50 bio-based products** on shelf and two sections dedicated to the OIP regions of Stara Zagora, Bulgaria, and Covasna, Romania.

[>>> Read more](#)

## EVENTS



### 5th South East European (SEE) Conference on Sustainable Development of Energy, Water and Environment Systems

With more than 200 participants, the 5th SEE SDEWES Conference successfully managed to bring together researchers and specialists from the region, but also from other parts of the world, to present research progress and discuss the future directions and priorities in the various areas of **sustainable development** concerning **South East Europe**. Project partners from the Macedonian section of [SDEWES](#) gave a presentation promoting the [Bioeconomy Development Roadmap for the Strumica Region](#). Fruitful discussions on the methods used and further impacts at regional and national level followed the presentation. [>>> Read more](#)



### Final participatory events in the OIP regions

Between 26 May and 05 July 2022, more than 200 participants were guided through the [Virtual Bio-based Pop-up Store](#) in various events taking place in Covasna, Romania, and Stara Zagora, Bulgaria. From food tastings and focused workshops to interactive presentations by local entrepreneurs, different formats were adopted in order to **raise awareness about bioeconomy**, the UN SDGs, and the innovation potential of the two regions.



## Bio-based ideas return to Cēsis, Latvia

More than two years after the [opening of the first bio-based pop-up store](#) in Cēsis, Latvia, the regional partner [SILAVA](#) organised in the context of the [8th LAMPA Conversation Festival](#), 1-2 July 2022, several **recreational activities** for children. The young participants were asked to create products out of **wood biomass feedstocks**. As a reward, they could all play games sustainably produced out of different tree species. [>>> Read more](#)



## EU Bioeconomy Conference 2022

The **European Commission** is preparing a high-level conference called 'The Bioeconomy - Enabling the European Green Deal in Challenging Times'. The conference will take place on 6-7 October 2022 in Brussels, Belgium. The findings of the **EU Bioeconomy Strategy Progress Report**, adopted in June 2022, will be presented and next steps in EU bioeconomy policy action will be discussed. [>>> Read more](#)

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



### CONTACT:

<https://be-rural.eu/contact/>

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