



## PROJECT UPDATES



### Drafting of Bio-based Strategies and Roadmaps Begins

This fall, BE-Rural has entered into the critical stage of the project: the **formulation of bioeconomy strategy and roadmap documents**. Building upon a wealth of knowledge generated in the project thus far, the Open Innovation Platforms (OIPs) have been hard at work drafting their bio-based strategies and roadmaps.

An initial building block for these documents was carried out earlier in the summer in which the OIPs, working together with bioeconomy entrepreneurs and other regional stakeholders, developed suitable, **locally-adapted business models** and explored their market potential. More detailed information can be found in [Deliverable 5.2](#).

In early September, the project convened online for a **strategy exchange meeting** where the draft strategies were presented, and critical feedback exchanged amongst the consortium.



### BE-Rural Sustainability Screening

As the BE-Rural project has progressed, the need to incorporate the notion of ecological limits of our regions has become clear. With this in mind, BE-Rural has developed a [sustainability screening for regional bioeconomy strategies](#) to easily assess the sustainable biomass potential. Using data from the OIP regions, the approach will be tested out and further developed. In doing so, BE-Rural will help fill a gap in the availability of easily accessible methodologies designed for regional-level assessments.

## FOCUS ON...

### Strumica, North Macedonia

The favourable climate conditions in **Strumica** make the region the largest producer and exporter of **agricultural products** in the country. Within the BE-Rural project, one focus will be on the **energy conversion of biomass materials generated on agricultural fields or farms (field-based residues)**, as well as those **generated during the processing of agricultural products (process-based residues)**.

[Learn more about Strumica](#)

## 3-MINUTE Q&A WITH...



Dr. Rainer Janssen, Managing Director Projects, WIP Renewable Energies

### - What has been the role of WIP as a project partner of BE-Rural?

WIP Renewable Energies was essentially involved at the starting stage of the BE-Rural project. At the time, we provided the OIP partners with as much background information as possible about the **ecological and socio-economic environments surrounding** their regions and the possibilities offered by the bioeconomy in terms of **business model and technological deployments**. We thus collected and analysed information from their regions and already-existing bioeconomic systems to eventually come up with a series of [reports](#), including a [handbook](#) on regional and local bio-based economies available in seven languages. In this early mapping exercise, we closely worked with Ecologic Institute, as well as the OIP partners.

### - What were some of the key challenges you faced?

The main challenge we encountered was to fine-tune our research, especially on technologies and business models, to the needs of the regional partners. Ending with research results that would not have been of high relevance and value to the OIP partners would have been counterproductive given the fundamental nature of this analytic work for the rest of the project. To make sure our findings matched the on-the-ground realities of the five focal regions, we ran PESTEL analyses with the OIP partners. At that point, adopting a **standardized approach** across regions to complete the PESTEL analysis was also a challenging task.

### - How has WIPs work fed into the core goal of BE-Rural, the development of bio-based strategies and roadmaps?

All the knowledge we generated and synthesised, with the support and dedication of the OIP partners, grounded the project and provided a base from which they could select **best practices and good examples** that could be applied and reproduced in their regions. This analytical work transcended the project and spanned a lot of ideas for **bioeconomic developments**. Not only, did it increase the resources of the five regional partners to structure their bioeconomy strategy and roadmap development processes, but it also supported their capacity to make informed decisions. Last but not least, we also saw that the resources and information we have been developing in the first phase of the project facilitated the tasks of the OIP partners in fostering support towards **bioeconomy strategies** in their regions.

## EVENTS



## Upcoming BE-Rural Capacity Building Workshop

Calling all **early-career researchers and research & innovation SMEs** from the five target innovation countries (Bulgaria, Latvia, North Macedonia, Poland and Romania) to participate in a BE-Rural Capacity building workshop on **25 and 27 October, 2021!** The workshop seeks to enhance the capacities of these groups to engage successfully in research & innovation activities and cooperation. For more information, the draft agenda, and to register, follow the link. [>>> Read more](#)



## Bio-Based Pop-Up Store Sparks Interest in North Macedonia

As part of the month long Open Strumica Festival in August, a big tent was set up for five days in the centre of Strumica, North Macedonia, showcasing a range of innovative and regional bio-based products. **More than 50 sustainable products coming from more than 20 different countries**, including the five OIP regions where the BE-Rural project operates, were on display. More insights and photos can be found in the news report here. [>>> Read more](#)



## Summer School Inspires Educators

In May, BE-Rural organised a [virtual summer school](#) for teachers interested in developing curricula and [educational materials](#) on the bioeconomy. More than 100 attendees from 12 countries, including the five main target countries, but also other countries such as Croatia and Slovenia came together to hear from a range of speakers including representatives from the Scottish Industrial Biotechnology Innovation Centre (IBiolC) and to discuss BE-Rural's educational material.

Read more about the outcomes [here!](#)

## BE-RURAL ON STAGE

**26-29.04.21 // [European Biomass Conference](#) // *Online***

The Latvian State Forest Research Institute (SILAVA) from the OIP region in Latvia participated in the European Biomass Conference & Exhibition, the world's largest conference specialised in biomass. Read more about the Latvian [case study](#) presented, which investigates the bioenergy potential of fast-growing tree plantations.

**24-25. 06.21 // [6th International Scientific Conference](#)**

## **“Business and Regional Development” // Online**

BE-Rural was represented by the consortium partners BIOCUM and the National Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Poland (NMFRI) at the virtual conference “Business and Regional Development” in Stara Zagora held under the patronage of the Mayor of Stara Zagora municipality, Mr. Zhivko Todorov. In the international session, Adam Mytlewski from NMFRI shared information on the polish lagoon regions and their progress towards a circular bioeconomy based development strategy and Clément Robjins, BIOCUM AG shared insights from Be-Rural and the development of rural bioeconomies by focusing on regional strengths.

### **06-07.10.21 //EFIB 2021 // Vienna, Austria**

The BE-Rural project was presented with a poster in the Innovation Campus of the 14th European Forum on Industrial Biotechnology and the Bioeconomy (EFIB). The conference is organised by EuropaBio with the support of BIOCUM AG and LISAvenna.

### **31.10-12.11.21 //COP26// Glasgow, Scotland**

Our partners, University of Strathclyde Glasgow, will be taking advantage of the COP26 to present BE-Rural at one of the many events happening alongside the summit. More information to come on the project website!

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



#### **CONTACT:**

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

*This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 818478.*



This email was sent to {{ contact.EMAIL }}  
You received this email because you are registered with EU Project BE-Rural

[Unsubscribe here](#)

