

Webinar 15 November 2021. 9:00-12:00

Mobilizing financial investment into bioeconomy related innovation
in the Central and Eastern European countries

Financing bioeconomy projects - Adding value to primary production.

Concept note

The aim of the webinar is to give information on financing instruments related to the biomass production and processing, with special attention to encourage beneficiaries and investors. In the context of available funds for applications at technology readiness level 3-9 aims to present public and private funding opportunities for Central and Eastern European Countries. One specific objective is to draw attention to the bottlenecks of the current system and to bring viable linkages between investors and market actors.

The **BIOEAST Initiative** under the patronage of **Hungarian Visegrad Group Presidency** organizes a workshop and panel discussion on funding opportunities by means of financial instruments. It targets the policy makers, public (ministries, agencies, offices) and private funders (banks) and the engagement of key stakeholders from different bioeconomy sectors of the BIOEAST macro-region. The purpose of the workshop is to provide information on European Circular Bioeconomy Fund (ECBF), European Investment Bank (EIB) and European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) financing possibilities, engaging good examples of already financed and potential future projects.

Depending on the TRL of bioeconomy applications the financing of projects is crucial, since the market access risks are high. The progress of sustainable and circular bioeconomy on the margins of fossil-based economy still has lower level-playing field. Among others two major aspects are prevailing, the new sustainable and circular applications are not yet market ready, thus still need to massively invest in research and innovation, and on the other hand, some of the running fossil-based applications are subsidized, or not taxed according their negative externalities. Thus, several sustainable applications and projects on valorizing the available biomass having TRL 3-7, are stocked in the “Death Valley”. It is difficult to get funding for new innovative projects in Central and Eastern Europe where the bioeconomy related national strategies where not yet developed.. For example in the past years in the BIOEAST countries’ IT sector was invested 20 times more private money than in bioeconomy, including the agri-food sector.

At European level, there is the funding available for bioeconomy related projects in the form of grants and financial instruments such as loans and equity and blending of funding sources is possible. The stakeholders are more active and their success rate in winning investors are higher from countries having bioeconomy strategy and action plan. During the past years modern biorefinery related investments are booming, we aim to show few good examples on financing such projects. The BIOEAST countries are still low or moderate innovators, but there are applications worth to be considered. We aim to help the BIOEAST countries bioeconomies offering to them viable financing opportunities for innovative projects.

The public health, biodiversity and climate change challenges could not be solved without sustainable and circular bioeconomy. Thus, **providing information and financing to the development of innovative bioeconomy projects in the BIOEAST macro-region provide benefits for national stakeholders, and implicitly for the food, industrial and energy security of the countries.** Especially in rural areas, the bioeconomy could provide competitive solutions and add value to the available biomass, while bringing enormous sustainability benefits with climate change mitigation and adaptation.



Link for registration:

<https://mailchi.mp/cb14b2ce0158/bioeconomy-innovation-investment-in-cee>

Draft Agenda
Online event

organized by the Hungarian Permanent Representation to the EU
92. Rue de Treves, 1040 Brussels

9:00 – 9:30 Introduction

Welcome by the Ambassador Gábor Baranyai

Introduction: Financing bioeconomy in Europe, Barna Kovacs, BIOEAST Secretary General, moderator

Keynote: 50 most relevant bio-based innovations influencing the coming decade, Sven Wydra, Head of Unit Fraunhofer-Institute Systems and Innovation Research (ISI)

9:30-10:10 Innovators and beneficiaries

1st session Examples of accessing the funds and feasible projects

1. two examples of already financed
2. two examples of potential projects

Break

10:25-11:10 Investors and funders

2nd session: Loans and equity: Public and private finance mobilizing the marketable projects (TRL 3-9)

1. European Circular Bioeconomy Fund
2. European Investment Bank: Agriculture and bioeconomy, Natural Capital Financing Facility
3. European Bank for Reconstruction and Development: Green Economy transition
4. Q&A

11:10-11:45 Panel discussion with speakers from the sessions

3rd session: Mobilizing the BIOEAST macro-region

