

Bioeconomy

Many definitions of the Bioeconomy exist. Defining Bioeconomy is of utmost importance as the definition is the basis on which key sectors are identified, policies designed and priorities acknowledged. Definitions change and evolve; some of them emphasize the technology aspect, others the economic contribution of the bioeconomy or the importance of a sound knowledge-base and the sustainable utilisation of biological resources. Some others interpret it in more philosophical terms, e.g. ("A vision for the future society" (Socaciu, 2014, p1) or "A future in which we rely on renewable biological resources to meet our needs for food, materials and energy" (EC, 2014). Despite the different visions similarities, such as the emphasis on economic output and a broad, cross-sectoral focus keep constant. The European Commission adopts a process-oriented definition of the Bioeconomy and defines it as: "the production of renewable biological resources and the conversion of these resources and waste streams into value added products, such as food, feed, bio-based products and bioenergy. Its sectors and industries have strong innovation potential due to their use of a wide range of sciences, enabling and industrial technologies, along with local and tacit knowledge." Source: "Innovating for Sustainable Growth - A Bioeconomy for Europe" (2012).

Bioeconomy comprises those parts of the economy that use renewable biological resources from land and sea – such as crops, forests, fish, animals and micro-organisms – to produce food, materials and energy. The market at EU level presents an annual turnover of around two trillion euro, and employs around 18 million people. It is already one of the Union's biggest and most important sectors while its potential for the future is even greater. Bioeconomy has been gaining momentum since September 2005 with 50 countries and regions around the world now having a Bioeconomy strategy or related document in place. Europe's Bioeconomy Strategy addresses the production of renewable biological resources and their conversion into vital products and bio-energy. It was recently updated to accelerate the deployment of a sustainable European bioeconomy so as to maximise its contribution towards the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as the Paris Agreement. The new strategy aims at strengthening the connection between economy, society and the environment. More engagement is necessary. The bioeconomy community needs to develop a clear, visible corporate identity. More global platforms are needed to share views and change views, and to learn mutually about practices, good and bad. This is one of the conclusions indeed also of the World BioEconomy Forum 2018.

Find below some articles related to Bioeconomy. Feel free to contact us at office@wbc-rti.info for your announcements and the information you would like to share with us!

• NEWS

- Posted on November 16, 2018
SERBIA IS READY TO INCREASE THE USE OF BIOMASS AS FUEL
According to a roundtable recently organized by UNECOOP with the support of the Association of the Cement Industry of Serbia (CIS) and the Faculty of Applied Ecology – Futura, Serbia's cement industry...
- Posted on November 16, 2018
SERBIA A AND BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA AMONG COUNTRIES TO IMPROVE GREEN TRANSITION SCORES
The countries are among those that improved their 2018 scores in the area of green transition compared to 2017, while the scores of Albania, FYR of Macedonia, Kosovo* and Montenegro, remained unchanged...
- Posted on November 16, 2018
SERBIA'S BUDGET FUND FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY TO QUADRUPLE TO OVER EUR 4 MILLION IN 2019
According to Balkan Green Energy News Serbia's budget fund for improving energy efficiency in 2019 will be worth RSD 500 million (about EUR 4.22 million), which was the fund's overall value over the past...
- Posted on November 16, 2018
LINKING BIOECONOMY WITH UNITED NATIONS' SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
The United Nations released 17 Sustainable Development Goals that communities all over the world have to meet. The BBI Public-Private Partnership published a series of BBI JU projects that have met the...
- Posted on November 16, 2018
THE BALKANS' ROLE IN SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE EU
Economic prosperity in rural areas is a major driver of cooperation in the Balkans, and thus necessary for the successful integration of the Western Balkan countries into the EU. This is one of the conclusions...
- Posted on November 16, 2018
GOAL OF 44% SHARE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY IN 2020 FOR BOSNIA'S FEDERATION
Bosnia's Federation government targets a 44% share of renewable energy in the entity's electricity mix in 2020. This was recently reported by SEE NEWS and "Renewables Now" platforms.
- Posted on November 16, 2018
WORLD BANK: PUBLIC INVESTMENT BOOSTS GROWTH IN WESTERN BALKANS
Recently a press release by the World Bank was issued and focuses on "higher but fragile" growth in Western Balkan countries which is supported by public investment and spending.
- Posted on November 14, 2018
PRESS RELEASE FROM FIRST WORLD BIOECONOMY FORUM
During the Forum it was announced that future EU budget doubles to Euro 10 billion.
- Posted on November 14, 2018
EUROPEAN LIST OF STRATEGIC RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES EXPANDS INTO BIOECONOMY AND OTHER NEW AREAS
Biotechnology, food and nutrition, material testing, holocaust and natural environment are among the topics covered by the six new pan-European research infrastructure projects that were announced today...
- Posted on November 14, 2018
COOPERATION ON ENVIRONMENT, CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND CLIMATE ACTION ENHANCED BETWEEN EU AND EASTERN PARTNERS
At the second Eastern Partnership (EaP) formal ministerial meeting on environment and climate change today in Luxembourg, the EU and the Eastern Partner countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia...
- Posted on November 14, 2018
A NEW BIOECONOMY STRATEGY FOR A SUSTAINABLE EUROPE (PRESS RELEASE FOCUSED ON ACTION PLAN)
On October 11 the Commission has put forward an action plan to develop a sustainable and circular bioeconomy that serves Europe's society, environment and economy.

- Posted on October 11, 2018
EC PRESENTS NEW BIOECONOMY STRATEGY
The European Commission (EC) has presented its new bioeconomy strategy for a sustainable Europe today in Brussels.

• EVENTS

- November 20, 2018 | Budapest, Hungary
BROKERAGE EVENT ON WOOD SECTOR AND BIOFUELS
The Danube macro-region provides ideal framework conditions in the field of forestry and biofuels due to high-quality natural resources, long tradition, well-known universities and SMEs operating in given...
- November 22-23, 2018 | Vienna, Austria
CONFERENCE: "PEOPLE'S FOOD - PEOPLE'S HEALTH: TOWARDS HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE EUROPEAN FOOD SYSTEMS"
With the conference Austria wants to facilitate a dialogue between all relevant stakeholders in the food system.
- November 26, 2018 | Nitra, Slovakia
BROKERAGE EVENT ON SMART AND INNOVATIVE PRECISION FARMING
Made in Danube and the Union of Slovak Clusters (UKS) are organising a matchmaking event to bring together the representatives of SMEs, R&D institutions and academia to foster local innovation capacity...
- November 26-27, 2018 | Paris, France
2ND GLOBAL FORUM ON GREEN ECONOMY LEARNING
The overall goal of the 2nd Global Forum on Green Economy Learning is to scale-up knowledge and skills development for devising green economy solutions that are inclusive and address concerns related ...
- November 27-29, 2018 | Paris, France
INCLUSIVE SOLUTIONS FOR THE GREEN TRANSITION: COMPETITIVENESS, JOBS/SKILLS AND SOCIAL DIMENSIONS
The OECD hold its 2018 Green Growth and Sustainable Development (GGSD) Forum on the theme of "Inclusive solutions for the green transition: Competitiveness, jobs/skills and social dimensions". The Forum...
- November 28-29, 2018 | Belgrade, Serbia
BALKAN ENERGY FINANCE FORUM 2018
BEFF brings together senior Energy sector stakeholders with international investors and key government figures to create a new vision for the region's future energy roadmap.
- December 4, 2018 | Brussels, Belgium
CLIMATE POLICY AND FOREST BIOECONOMY
This is a ThinkForest seminar which is the European high-level forum on the future of forests. The seminar will focus on climate targets and policies related to bioeconomy development in the future...
- December 4-5, 2018 | Berlin, Germany
13TH EUROPEAN BIOPLASTICS CONFERENCE
This year the leading bioplastics event in Europe – is taking place on 4/5 December 2018 at the Titanic Chaussee Hotel in Berlin, Germany.
- December 4-6, 2018 | Amsterdam, Netherlands
ALGAEUROPE 2018
This conference offers an unique opportunity for the exchange between academia and industry. The conference will be established in a networking based environment that allows discussions on the evolution...
- December 6, 2018 | Brussels, Belgium
THE 2018 EU AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK CONFERENCE
The EU Agricultural Outlook conference has become the key annual gathering of European stakeholders willing to engage and discuss the future of agriculture in Europe and the challenges which lie ahead...

- September 11-13, 2019 | Ruka, Finland
2ND WORLD BIOECONOMY FORUM
Experts from the leading edge of bioeconomy gather together in the outstanding nature of northeast Finland for roundtable discussions at the second ever World BioEconomy Forum in September...

• CALLS

- Deadline: January 23, 2019
CLIMATE-SMART AND RESILIENT FARMING (H2020 - LC-SFS-19-2018-2019)
Evidence on climate change is solid and reveals that it will affect the EU with European farming first in line through changes to rainfall regimes, rising temperatures, the variability and seasonality...
- Deadline: January 23, 2019
INNOVATIVE AND CITIZEN-DRIVEN FOOD SYSTEM APPROACHES IN CITIES (H2020-SFS-2018-2020)
The challenge of providing the inhabitants of European cities with affordable, safe, and nutritious food is both urgent and complex. Moreover, the health and wellbeing of EU citizens and consumers are...
- Deadline: January 23, 2019
CIRCULAR BIO-BASED BUSINESS MODELS FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES (H2020-RUR-2018-2020)
Based on an established agro-food system, proposals shall consider a variety of additional bio-based processes and end products that could be integrated into the system, and that are viable on a small...
- Deadline: January 23, 2019
SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR BIO-BASED PLASTICS ON LAND AND SEA (H2020-BG-2018-2020)
Activities shall focus on sustainability strategies and solutions for bio-based products and support the Plastics Strategy
- Deadline: February 1, 2019
THINK BIOBASED CHALLENGE - DESIGN CONTEST FOR BIOBASED EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL
The Think Biobased Challenge is inviting all college & university students to design unforgettable biobased educational materials catered to students in primary and secondary level and in vocational...

• PROJECTS

- BioCannDo
BIOCANNDO - BIOECONOMY AWARENESS AND DISCOURSE PROJECT
This project aims to increase awareness of bio-based products – products partly or wholly made of biomass.
- BIOMONITOR
BIOMONITOR
BioMonitor framework will enable professional stakeholders from different sectors to monitor and measure the bioeconomy and its economic, environmental and social impacts in the EU and Member States
- FORESDA
FOREST-BASED CROSS-SECTORAL VALUE CHAINS FOSTERING INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS IN THE DANUBE REGION
FORESDA wants to show that it is possible to transform the forest-based industries (FBI) into attractive and sustainable industry sectors.
- Danube S3 Cluster
TRANSNATIONAL CLUSTER COOPERATION ACTIVE ON AGRO – FOOD, BASED ON SMART SPECIALIZATION APPROACH IN DANUBE REGION
This DTP funded project intends to leverage the innovation-driven entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Danube area by developing smart and coordinated cluster policies in the context of RIS3 , to enhance...
- DanuBioValNet
CROSS-CLUSTERING PARTNERSHIP FOR BOOSTING ECO-INNOVATION BY DEVELOPING A JOINT BIO-BASED VALUE-ADDED NETWORK FOR THE DANUBE REGION

One of the planned outputs of this project will be the development of a Joint Bio-based Industry Cluster Policy Strategy (JBCE). Furthermore a bundle of new methods and tools to support clusters for transnational...

• DOCUMENTS

• **ACCESS TO EU FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (BIOECONOMY)**

This 2017 report focuses on the instruments suitable for the implementation of large Bio-based Industry investments.

• **A SUSTAINABLE BIOECONOMY FOR EUROPE (UPDATE 2018)**

Strengthening the connection between economy, society and the environment.

• **BIOECONOMY DEVELOPMENT IN EU REGIONS**

Mapping of EU Member States' / regions' Research and Innovation plans & Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3) on Bioeconomy.

• **BIOECONOMY COUNTRY REPORTS OF SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO (BY DANUBIOVALNET PROJECT)**

DanuBioValNet is a project funded by the Danube Transnational Programme with focus on "Cross-clustering partnership for boosting eco-innovation by developing a joint bio-based value-added network..."

• **WESTERN BALKANS REGULAR ECONOMIC REPORT: FALL 2018**

This is a semi-annual report by the World Bank series on recent economic developments and economic policies in the Western Balkans. The report looks at the economic performance and outlook for the Western...

• **SYNTHESIS ON BIOECONOMY MONITORING SYSTEMS IN THE EU MEMBER STATES - INDICATORS FOR MONITORING THE PROGRESS OF BIOECONOMY**

The EC review report of the EU Bioeconomy strategy concluded the need for better monitoring and assessment frameworks, "new actions are needed to develop relevant indicators and scientific evidence for..."

• **BIOECONOMY -- BRIEF ON JOBS AND GROWTH OF THE BIOECONOMY 2009-2015**

This brief on jobs and growth of the bioeconomy 2009-2015 is one out of a series of Bioeconomy Knowledge Centre briefs which intend to provide independent evidence for EU policy in this field. The following...

• **INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE (IPCC) REPORT ON GLOBAL WARMING**

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) launched its report on global warming on October 8th, 2018. The report is clearly stating urgency to limit global warming up to 1,5°C ...

• **FINANCING ENERGY EFFICIENCY INVESTMENTS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS**

This WBIF Publication provides a comprehensive overview of policies, targets, and investment mechanisms, with achievements to date, and plans for the future. The brochure includes details on retail...

• **ENERGY IN THE WESTERN BALKANS - THE PATH TO REFORM AND RECONSTRUCTION**

This Energy Policy Survey by the International Energy Agency (IEA) is the first comprehensive review of energy policies and strategies in the Western Balkan region, and also covers important cross...

• **RENEWABLES 2018**

Renewables 2018 is the IEA (International Energy Agency) market analysis and forecast from 2018 to 2023 on renewable energy and technologies. It provides global trends and developments for renewable...

• **GETTING (SOME) NUMBERS RIGHT – DERIVED ECONOMIC INDICATORS FOR THE BIOECONOMY**

JRC Publication containing proceedings of a side-event at the EUBCE, Copenhagen, 15 May 2018.

• **FINAL REPORT OF BOHEMIA FORESIGHT PROJECT**

The European Commission has published the final report of the BOHEMIA project, the main EU strategic foresight study to support future EU policy in research and innovation.

- **LINKS**

- **BALKAN GREEN ENERGY NEWS**

The project Balkan Green Energy News is a free-of-charge online platform covering sustainable energy (renewable energy, energy efficiency), electric vehicles, environmental protection...

- **WBC NATIONAL ROADMAPS FOR LIGNOCELLULOSIC BIOMASS AND RELEVANT POLICIES WBC FOR A BIO-BASED ECONOMY IN 2030**

This is a result of the S2Biom Fp7 funded project (D 8.3a) under responsibility of the Imperial College London (Calliope Panoutsou et.al.). Albania Bosnia & Herzegovina FYR of Macedonia...

- **GREEN FOR GROWTH FUND AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FACILITY**

The mission of the Green for Growth Fund is to contribute, in the form of a public private partnership with a layered risk/return structure, to enhancing energy efficiency and fostering renewable energies...

- **THE REGIONAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMME FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS**

The Regional Energy Efficiency Programme (REEP) aims to unleash the WB potential to benefit from the greater use of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures by providing a combination of financing...

- **GREENLINE WESTERN BALKANS CLUSTER FOUNDATION**

Greenline Western Balkans Cluster Foundation (GLWBCF) currently consists of 10 very strong and experienced companies and individual founders working in the area of education and research, local and regional...

- **ECOPANONIA – ECO ENERGY AND ECO CULTURE CLUSTER**

This Cluster's goal is to affirm the use of ecological energy sources, as well as to spread the knowledge of the availability, advantages and social-, ecological- and corporate benefits from...

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In Focus article: WB potential and opportunities for transition to a bio-based economy

Western Balkans needs a holistic approach in order to ensure prosperity of this diverse region. Opportunities, in terms of growth and jobs creation, arise from the transition to a low-carbon economy and the high potential for energy savings as well. The latest Western Balkans Regular Economic Report by the World Bank underlines for the region a higher but fragile growth, supported by public investment and spending but in need for reforms that unleash private investment and exports. Transition to a low-carbon economy and the high potential for energy savings represents an occasion in such a framework. Good opportunities for production of biomass are guaranteed indeed by the large rich biodiversity and natural resources in the Balkan region...

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FURTHER SELECTED EVENTS & CALLS

• EVENTS

- November 28, 2018 | WEBINAR , Hungary
HORIZON 2020 WEBINAR: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
Does Google not know the answer to your (a bit too specific) Horizon 2020 questions? Ask us anything H2020 related and Gabriella Lovász, Managing Director of Europa Media, will allocate 60 minutes...
- November 28-29, 2018 | Vienna, Austria
AUSTRIAN EU COUNCIL PRESIDENCY CONFERENCE ON IMPACT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES FOR A EUROPEAN RESEARCH AGENDA – VALUATION OF SSH IN MISSION-ORIENTED RESEARCH
This conference will bring the valuation (i.e. the provision of added value through SSH and arts-based research) and impact contributions of social sciences and humanities (SSH) research to transformative...
- November 27, 2018-December 1, 2018 | Vienna, Austria
6TH YOUNG SCHOLARS FORUM (YSF) ON CENTRAL- AND SOUTH EAST EUROPE
„Cross-border cooperation in Central and South East Europe“
- December 4-6, 2018 | Vienna, Austria
ICT 2018
The key European ICT research and innovation event is organised by the European Commission and hosted by the 2018 Austrian Presidency.
- December 11-12, 2018 | Vienna - Grand Hotel Mercure Biedermeier , Austria
HORIZON 2020 PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE
This 2-day training course will introduce the first crucial steps for getting a Horizon 2020 project started on the right foot, provide practical tips to ensure a sound technical implementation of...
- December 10-13, 2018 | Cambridge, United Kingdom
WORLD CONGRESS ON SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION (WCSNE-2018 - DEADLINE FOR PAPERS IS 15TH JULY)
The WCSNE is dedicated to the advancement of the theory and practices in special needs education. It promotes collaborative excellence between academicians and professionals from Educational and Industrial...
- January 29, 2019 | Brussels, Belgium
2019 INFODAY, ENSURING EXCELLENT RESEARCH BY INVESTING IN RESEARCHERS TALENTS, SKILLS AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT
Implementing the Human Resources Strategy to comply with art. 32 of the H2020 multi-beneficiary grant agreement
This INFO-DAY addresses 'newcomer' universities, research institutions and research funders...
- February 8, 2019 | Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
INFORM FINAL CONFERENCE
On 8 February 2019, the INFORM project will host the final conference in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- April 2-3, 2019 | Zagreb, Croatia
NETWORK ON TECHNOLOGY-CRITICAL ELEMENTS: FROM ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESSES TO HUMAN HEALTH THREATS (COST ACTION EVENT)
The meeting is the final meeting of the NOTICE COST action – Network on Technology-Critical Elements: From Environmental Processes to Human Health Threats and includes representatives from 24 European...
- May 11-13, 2019 | Valencia, Spain
INTED2019 (13TH ANNUAL TECHNOLOGY, EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE)
After 13 years, INTED has become an annual meeting point for lecturers, researchers, education professionals and technologists. Every year, INTED brings together over 700 delegates from 80 different countries...
- September 4-5, 2019 | Roma Eventi Fontana - Pontifical Gregorian University, Italy
ICSD 2019 : 7TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

European Center of Sustainable Development in collaboration with CIT University will organize the 7th ICSD 2019 Rome, Italy in the days: Wednesday 4 to Thursday 5 September, 2019. The 7th...

• CALLS

- **Deadline: January 29, 2019**
INFRAINNOV-01-2019: STIMULATE THE INNOVATION POTENTIAL OF SMES
Specific Challenge: Providing an effective mechanism for inclusion of innovative, agile SMEs in a landscape characterised by strong presence of public pan-European e-infrastructures (in particular ...
- **Deadline: January 31, 2019**
DIATOMIC - 2ND OPEN CALL FOR MICROELECTRONICS INNOVATIONS
The open call targets tech SMEs and Competence Centers in the areas of microelectronics and smart systems, as well as innovative startups/ SMEs linked to health, agrifood, and manufacturing sectorsThe...
- **Deadline: February 28, 2019**
COMMISSION LAUNCHES €2 MILLION HORIZON PRIZE IN SOCIAL INNOVATION
The European Commission launched on 27 November 2017 a Horizon Prize in Social Innovation to improve the mobility of older people. Submissions will be accepted until 28 February 2019 from any legal entities...
- **Deadline: March 20, 2019**
INFRAIA-01-2018-2019: INTEGRATING ACTIVITIES FOR ADVANCED COMMUNITIES
European researchers need effective and convenient access to the best research infrastructures in order to conduct research for the advancement of knowledge and technology. The aim of this action is to...
- **Deadline: March 20, 2019**
ENHANCING THE EOSC PORTAL AND CONNECTING THEMATIC CLOUDS
The aim of this topic is to facilitate wide, user-friendly and cross-disciplinary access to the data and services of the EOSC through the development of the necessary interfaces. The EOSC aims to offer...
- **Deadline: April 2, 2019**
SWAFS-08-2019 RESEARCH INNOVATION NEEDS & SKILLS TRAINING IN PHD PROGRAMMES
Specific Challenge: Within the New Skills Agenda (adopted in June 2016)[1] and in the Modernisation Agenda (adopted in May 2017)[2] specifications on innovative employment-oriented curricula recommendations...
- **Deadline: April 2, 2019**
SWAFS-09-2018-2019 SUPPORTING RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT GENDER EQUALITY PLANS
Specific Challenge: Gender equality is a key priority set with the Member States and Associated countries in the European Research Area. Research funding and performing organisations and universities...
- **Deadline: April 25, 2019**
INFRAINNOV-01-2019: STIMULATE THE INNOVATION POTENTIAL OF SMES
This call addresses the following challenge: "Providing an effective mechanism for inclusion of innovative, agile SMEs in a landscape characterised by strong presence of public pan-European e-infrastructures..."
- **Deadline: November 15, 2019**
WIDESPREAD-04-2019 ERA CHAIRS
Specific Challenge: With adequate institutional support outstanding researchers can have a decisive and positive impact on the culture and performance of research institutions. Yet issues such as the...

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ABOUT THE INFORMATION PORTAL

Access, registration and upload of content to WBC-RTI.info platform is free of charge. The Platform will be regularly updated in the upcoming years, and in particular focus on one selected theme per month; however much more information is collected and included in one of our databases - see below. If you would like to suggest a research topic or promote your R&I project or your research results to over 11,000 interested researchers and policy makers in WBC and Europe-wide, or if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us at office@wbc-rti.info.

INFORMATION SERVICE

The WBC-RTI.info platform acts as a source of high quality targeted information on research, technology and innovation in/with/for the Western Balkan countries (WBCs). The Platform is funded by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) and implemented by Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI).