

BIO2REG Connect

February 3rd

2026

Brussels

Unlocking Regional Pathways for the Bioeconomy



Representation of the State of
North Rhine-Westphalia
Rue Montoyer 47
1000 Brussels



bio2reg.eu/bio2reg-connect



Programme

08:30 Registration

09:00 Opening remarks

09:10 SETTING THE SCENE: REGIONAL PATHWAYS FOR A FAIR BIOECONOMY TRANSITION

Opening remarks

Evdokia Achilleos, Head of Sector, European Research Executive Agency

“The Bioeconomy: a strategic opportunity for Europe and its regions”

Sam Hout Ledo, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission

“Bioeconomy Innovation Regions – Unlocking Regional Pathways for the Bioeconomy”

Ulrich Schurr, BioökonomieREVIER, Forschungszentrum Jülich

09:45 FROM STRATEGY TO ACTION: REGIONAL PATHWAYS AND SUPPORT FOR BIOECONOMY TRANSITION

09:45 “Smart Specialisation for Scaling Circular and Bio-based Innovation”

Jan-Philipp Kramer, Partner Prognos, S3 Community of Practice

10:00 BIO2REG Explained: Supporting Regions in Their Bioeconomy Journey

Denise Gider, BioökonomieREVIER, Forschungszentrum Jülich

10:15 Panel discussion with all keynote speakers

10:45 Coffee Break

11:15 REGION'S PITCHES AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR THE BIOECONOMY

Regional pitches

Rhenish mining region: Denise Gider, BioökonomieREVIER at Forschungszentrum Jülich

Swedish regions: Mattias Drotz, RISE

Icelandic regions: Katrín Hulda Gunnarsdóttir, Matís

Eastern European Regions: George Sakellaris, BIOEAST HUB CZ

Basque country: Gorka Altuna, HAZI Foundation

External services to support regions' bioeconomy transition

- › Bioregions Facility, European Forest Institute: Siebe Briers
- › PNO INNOVATION Spain, ToBeReal project: Lara Valentin
- › EuropaBio, PRIMED project: Marcos Jimenez Sanchez

12:30 Lunch

13:30 COLLABORATIVE WORKSHOP: MAPPING REGIONAL NEEDS AND PATHWAYS

Floor moderation to co-create key needs and action pathways

14:30 Coffee Break

Breakout groups: Deepen and exchange key regional needs and action pathways

Group highlights and takeaways

15:50 BIOECONOMY SPEED-DATING SESSION

Exchange with regions and experts

16:20 Closing Remarks

16:30-
17:30 Reception