

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



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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
	EU policy keynote “The Bioeconomy: a strategic opportunity for Europe and its regions” Sam Hout Ledo, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission
	Regional development keynote
09:45	FROM STRATEGY TO ACTION: REGIONAL PATHWAYS AND SUPPORT FOR BIOECONOMY TRANSITION
09:45	Strategic keynote “Smart Specialisation for Scaling Circular and Bio-based Innovation” Jan-Philipp Kramer, Partner and Head of EU-Services Prognos
10:00	What is BIO2REG and how do we support regions in their bioeconomy journey? Denise Gider, Ulrich Schurr, 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
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

