

Informed consent

30th June 2025

1 What is BIO2REG?

Driven by a shift towards sustainable development, regions with carbon-intensive economies, such as coal mining, intensive agriculture, forestry, and fisheries and peat production, are undergoing significant structural change that may imply negative outcomes such as economic disruption, unemployment, social strain, and regional inequality. The bioeconomy, which utilises renewable biological resources and technologies for food, materials or energy, production, can play a crucial role in shaping structural change. It has the potential to create new value networks, thereby promoting knowledge-based growth and jobs, ecosystem revitalisation and resilience, resource efficiency and circularity, and innovation, while taking into account the context-specific economic, social and environmental conditions of a region.

BIO2REG is a 3-year project (1st January 2024-31st December 2026) funded by the European Union under the Horizon EU Programme (Grant Agreement no 101135420). **BIO2REG aims to enable the systemic transition of greenhouse gas-intensive regions through concrete and actionable measures to become bioeconomy model regions.** The nine partners in BIO2REG, listed below, seek to equip regional stakeholders with an array of practical knowledge and tools to design and implement a region-specific transition, such as a Multi-Criteria Assessment framework and guides for a self-assessment of bioeconomy model region potential, a network of regions that promotes direct stakeholder interaction and mutual learning, an interregional exchange programme.

The activities framed within the Public Engagement Strategy of BIO2REG project will require the collection and processing of certain types of personal data. Each partner is responsible for the personal data they collect and process during their activities under the framework of the project:

1. **Forschungszentrum Jülich (FZJ)** (coordinator) (Germany). FZJ is one of the largest European research institutions located in the Rhenish mining region. Bioeconomy is a strategic topic at FZJ covering research in plant sciences, biotechnology, biorefineries and innovative agriculture. In 2018, BioökonomieREVIER (BÖR) was initiated at the Institute for Plant Sciences to shape the regional green transition towards a circular and sustainable bioeconomy model region, compensating for the consequences of the lignite phase-out in 2030 and the associated job losses. BÖR's networking and coordinating activities build on a multi-actor approach targeting and engaging with all regional stakeholders e.g. industry, farmers and farming communities, regional authorities, science, NGOs and the civil society. BÖR develops



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and demonstrates circular value chains and climate-neutral, resource-efficient and bio-based business models by engaging with stakeholder groups. These activities include novel cooperations on usage of residues from other industries, as well as bio-based products in the construction sector, the chemical sector or also in the combination with the energy sector like photovoltaics or hydrogen economy.

2. **Panteion University (PU)** (Greece). Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences placed in Athens, Greece, is a public university that conducts research and offers courses and degrees in a wide range of scientific fields, such as economic and regional development, international and European studies, science and media, sociology, political science and history. Panteion's Institute of Urban Environment and Human Resources linked to the department of Economic and Regional Development has the following key focus areas: Urban Environment, Urban Planning and Human Resources, Economic Dimensions of the Urban Environment, Sustainable Cities, Natural Resources and Ecosystem Services, Environmentally Sustainable Economic Development, Management of Water Resources, Real Estate Market and the Socioeconomic aspects of Climate Change in urban and rural contexts.
3. **Kveloce (KVC)** (Spain). Kveloce is a Research and Development consultancy located with branches in different bioeconomy regions in Spain (Valencian Community, Murcia, Asturias) with strong expertise in the drafting and implementation of citizen engagement strategies and co-creation methods applied to different social or environmental innovation projects, and the performance of social impact assessment (within research and innovation projects) including social acceptance. Besides, they are involved in academic initiatives related to the creation and management of technological based innovative businesses and to the multidisciplinary evaluation of public policies.
4. **BIOCOM Interrelations GmbH (BIOC)** (Germany). BIOC is a Berlin-based SME that develops, communicates, and disseminates knowledge in the Life Sciences domains biotechnology, bioeconomy and medical technology. Besides network management and secretariat organisation, BIOC provides communication consultancy (incl. social media strategy and marketing), realise stakeholder engagement and co-creation events such as citizen dialogues and living labs and design capacity trainings and educational materials. Their design and creation expertise range from digital and print products, websites and information platforms, film and animation as well as social media.
5. **Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC)** (Belgium). The Bio-based Industries Consortium is a non-profit organisation to represent the private sector in a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) with the European Commission, focused on strengthening the bio-based industries sector in Europe. BIC's industry members cover the whole value chain, from primary production to market of multiple and diverse sectors, but also has associate members such as research organisations, academia and trade associations. Furthermore, BIC operates a digital partnering and funding platform for regions and the industry to create local value chains and support access to finance.
6. **RISE Research Institutes of Sweden (RISE)** (Sweden). RISE is an independent research institute owned by the Swedish state that ensures the competitiveness of the Swedish business community and contributes to a sustainable society. RISE helps developing technologies, products, services and processes that contribute to a sustainable world and a competitive business community in collaboration with and on behalf of companies with a focus on SME, academia and the public sector. About 30 research institutes and about 130 test beds work together as an independent actor with a wide range of competences. Its Bioeconomy and Health Division pools expertise in process technology, pharmaceutical development and design of materials and surfaces focussing on biorefinery value chains as well as products and processes for agriculture, food and nutrition, pulp, paper and packaging.
7. **Matís** (Iceland). Matís is a government-owned, non-profit, independent research company and works on research and food innovation for the benefit of the business community and society as a whole. Matís promotes increased value creation and to foster food security and public health and works on value and innovation from the country's underutilized life resources, such as microorganisms, enzymes, algae, etc. Matís plays a major role in value creation, strengthens food production and competitiveness of Icelandic economy and products - and at

the same time promotes sustainability and environmental protection. Matís has an excellent expertise in the blue bioeconomy on marine and freshwater resources and products, with a strong focus on circular economy and cross-linking food and biotechnology sectors.

8. **BIOEAST HUB CR (BHCZ)** (Czech Republic). BIOEAST HUB CR was established in line with the BIOEAST governance paper and with the support of the Ministry of Agriculture as the first national bioeconomy HUB in the BIOEAST region and working body of a BIOEAST initiative. BIOEAST HUB CR is a national network of stakeholders (SMEs, NGOs, research organisations) oriented on bioeconomy. It also develops regional branches in the Just Transition Funding Region of the Czech Republic. BIOEAST HUB CR is leading two macro-regional Thematic Working Groups (TWG) on “Fresh Water Based Bioeconomy” and “Bioeconomy Education” and coordinates the BIOEAST Uni Net - a network of bioeconomy universities from the BIOEAST macro-region.
9. **Homo Silvestris Europae (HSE)** (France) Homo Silvestris Europae is a Paris-based SME for advisory, management, coordination and support to strengthen the circular economy and strategic development. Ensuring successful transition to becoming a strong actor in the circular bioeconomy is at the heart of HSE’s philosophy. Building on almost 30 years of work experiences in the forest-based sector, covering European initiatives, platforms, networks, alliances and cooperation with a wide range of circular bioeconomy sectors, HSE supports and advises the transformation to a sustainable robust and resilient green growth.

2 How personal data are collected

Personal data in BIO2REG are collected directly and indirectly.

Directly: Personal data will be obtained directly from individuals in a variety of ways:

Personal data are obtained directly from individuals through a variety of means, including:

- Participation in interviews or surveys organised by the project team.
- Registration for BIO2REG events and meetings (on-site or online) using tools such as:
 - Brevo (SendinBlue GmbH, Köpenicker Straße 126, 10787 Berlin, Deutschland): Used for participant registration and communication. Brevo stores the data on its servers and uses it exclusively for event organization and reminders. The system uses a double opt-in process, ensuring explicit consent. Further details can be found in [Brevo’s privacy policy](#).
 - Jotform (Jotform LTD, 25 Cabot Square, London E14 4QZ)
 - Microsoft 365 for Business forms
- Attendance at BIO2REG events and meetings, both on-site and virtual.
- Establishment of cooperative relationships with other projects or institutions through fairs, meetings, and third-party events.
- Interactions with the BIO2REG website.
- Subscription to the BIO2REG newsletter.
 - Brevo (SendinBlue GmbH, Köpenicker Straße 126, 10787 Berlin, Deutschland): Used for newsletter. Brevo stores the data on its servers and uses it exclusively for the sending of confirmation mails and newsletters. Behavioural data are evaluated by the BIO2REG team only. The system uses a double opt-in process, ensuring explicit consent. Further details can be found in Brevo’s privacy policy.
- Application to and participation in the BIO2REG network.
 - Brevo (SendinBlue GmbH, Köpenicker Straße 126, 10787 Berlin, Deutschland): Used for network member registration and communication. Brevo stores the data on its servers and uses it exclusively for the sending of confirmation mails. Behavioural data are not evaluated. The system uses a double opt-in process, ensuring explicit consent. Further details can be found in Brevo’s privacy policy.
- Application to and participation in exchange instruments and mentoring sessions.
- Engagement in co-creation workshops or mentoring as representatives of participating regions.
- Direct contact via email with BIO2REG project representatives.

Indirectly: If personal data are obtained indirectly, this processing is generally covered by the exception of Article 14.5(b) or, if not, compliance with the obligations set out in Article 14 of the GDPR will be ensured.

3 Types of personal data collected

In our project, we will provide forms through which you can contact us, subscribe to our newsletter(s), or register for an account in our website, and we may ask you to provide us with certain personally identifiable information that can be used to contact or identify you ("Personal data").

Personal data collected will be restricted to those necessary for the smooth implementation of the project and the measurement of impact of project activities. These data include:

- Contact details (name/ surname, e-mail address)
- Professional information (job title, type of organisation, field of expertise)
- Demographics (e.g., age, gender, country, region, academic background).
- Information about what a person knows or considers (through e.g. surveys, interviews focus groups and other co-creation activities)
- Audio recordings, videos and photos (from people that attend our events or participate in a video interview)

4 How personal data are processed

Personal data will be processed with the following purposes:

- Gaining knowledge and insights (e.g., through interviews, surveys, focus groups) to e.g. identify best-practices or to assess the impact of the project on regions and stakeholders.
- Disseminating BIO2REG project results to different types of stakeholders
- Sending invitations and providing access to guests attending BIO2REG events and webinars
- Administering, maintaining, and ensuring the security of BIO2REG information systems, applications, and websites
- Creating communication or dissemination outputs, such as press releases, videos, etc.
- Processing online requests or queries, including responding to communications from individuals
- Complying with contractual, legal, and regulatory obligations

5 Online and onsite workshops or events

Before the workshop

If you have registered via the registration page configured by BIO2REG and provided by tools such as Jotform, Brevo or Microsoft 365 for Business you can participate in our workshop. The following data will be requested for this: *first name, surname and e-mail address*. In addition, optional data can be requested per workshop, which can be viewed on the registration page associated with the respective webinar, such as organisation, position, gender. This information is automatically transmitted to e.g. Jotform or Brevo. They are used to send the access link to the workshop, event details and reminder e-mails for the workshop or the event to the participant as well as to receive a registration status.

During the workshop

For Online workshops, the connection to the workshop session (e.g. Microsoft Teams) is also encrypted. The system stores the following additional information about the participant:

- Registration date and time
- Start and end of participation
- Questions posted within the workshop platform

- Selection of answers for surveys
- Video and sound transmission.

The video and sound transmission in the workshop will be recorded and made available for download only within the project consortium. You will be informed when the recording starts. During the workshop, participant data (name, first name, company) will be visible to other participants.

6 Use of video and photo material from workshops and events

As part of the BIO2REG project's communication and dissemination efforts, photo and video recordings may be taken during workshops and events. These materials serve to document activities, illustrate discussions, and enhance outreach efforts in print media, online publications, and social media.

Consent and data protection

Participants registering for a BIO2REG workshops or events will be asked for their **informed consent** regarding the use of photos and/or video recordings. At the same time, they will receive a **link to the consent form**, which provides detailed information on **data storage, use, processing, and their rights**, including the option to revoke consent. By providing consent, participants acknowledge that:

- Photos and/or video recordings may be taken during the event.
- These materials may be used for promotional and communication purposes in print products, online platforms, and social media by the project and its partners.

Withdrawal of consent

Participants retain the right to withdraw their consent at any time. If they no longer wish for their images or recordings to be used, they can request their removal by contacting the responsible person listed in Chapter 9 of this document.

BIO2REG remains committed to ensuring transparency and respecting the privacy of all participants while promoting an open and engaging dialogue through its events and outreach materials.

7 Legal basis for data collection and processing

Personal data will only be accessed by the [project team](#), and processed only for the objectives above. Your provided information will be treated in best security and confidentiality conditions during the runtime of the BIO2REG project until 31 December 2026. Personal data will be processed on the basis of your consent (Art 6 par. 1 a GDPR). In case that activity/workshop will be recorded via audio or video recording, photos, you will be made aware of this before the start of the recording. Data collected through registration tools such as Brevo is used exclusively for event organization and reminders. No data is shared with third parties or used for other purposes. Participants may withdraw their consent at any time, without affecting the lawfulness of processing already carried out.

Results will only be disclosed anonymously, no personal, company- or institution-related details will be published. All data will be stored on a dedicated server and shared only within the project team. Individual documents in the project team will be shared via a closed, externally protected Microsoft Teams group secured with a two-factor authentication.

8 How long will personal data be retained?

Personal data will be retained to provide our services, stay in contact with you and to comply with applicable laws, regulations, and contractual obligations to which we are subject.

Please note that we have an obligation to retain data concerning projects funded by the Horizon Europe Framework Programme for Research and Innovation of the European Union for up to five years after the end of the project until 31st December 2031 unless further retention is requested by auditors. After the expiry of the retention period, and unless further legitimate grounds for retention arise, we will dispose of personal data in a secure manner.

9 Your rights

You have the following rights regarding our processing of your personal data:

Participation and withdrawal. Your participation in this activity is completely voluntary and you may withdraw at any time by informing the activity leader that you no longer wish to participate.

If you feel uncomfortable at any stage of the procedures, you should immediately interrupt the activity and you can ask for deletion of the recorded material. No questions will be asked about your reasons, but you can provide them and complain if you wish so. If you have any questions or concerns about the activity, please do not hesitate to turn with the responsible BIO2REG partner organizing the event.

Right of access, rectification and erasure. In accordance with the European Union's Regulation on personal data protection (Art. 15 to 22 and 34 of the General Data Protection Regulation DGPR 2016/679) you have the right to access, modify, object and erase your information.

Right to complain. You also have the right to lodge a complaint (Article 77 GDPR), to the relevant, supervisory authority in your country.

In case you wish to exercise this right, you have any questions or suggestions regarding this data policy, or concerning data protection in general, please contact Denise Gider, Forschungszentrum Jülich, Germany, d.gider@fz-juelich.de (BIO2REG project coordinator).

10 Revisions of this privacy policy

This privacy policy is valid from 30/06/2025 replaces any other previous notifications that we had issued in the past regarding our personal data management practices. We reserve the right to revise this Policy at any time. The current version will always be uploaded to our website indicating the date of entry into force, so that you know when the most recent revision takes place. If there are critical changes in this policy or our personal data practices change significantly in the future, we will notify you by posting the changes on our website.

11 Disclaimer of liability for third party websites

We are not responsible for the privacy practices or content of third-party websites or social media, and we expressly disclaim any liability for any loss or damage that may be caused by the use of these links.

We recommend you read the privacy policy of each website and social media features you interact with, before allowing the collection and use of your personal data.