

Enabling transition towards circular and systemic BIOeconomy model regions by a Regions-to-Regions approach

Practice abstracts (batch 1)

Deliverable 5.1

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0.2	17.4.2025	FZJ, PU, KVC	Feedback
0.3	30.4.2025	BIOC internal	Incorporation of feedback and first draft Deliverable 5.1
0.4	02.5.2025	FZJ	Internal review
0.5	10.5.2025	BHCZ	Internal review
1.0	21.5.2025	BIOC	Final document
2.0	2.10.2025	Denise Gider (FZJ)	Disclaimer pending EC review removed from cover page and link added to Annex

BIO2REG in a nutshell

A circular bioeconomy is essential for achieving the EU's sustainability goals. However, the implementation of a regional bioeconomy is fraught with challenges. Bioeconomy model regions offer a systemic approach to the transition to sustainable development, based on circular economy concepts. The EU-funded BIO2REG project aims to help greenhouse gas-intensive economies unlock their circular bioeconomy potential by becoming Bioeconomy Model Regions.

The project will promote regional networking, interregional exchange and cooperation, and provide regional stakeholders with a conceptual framework for regionalisation in bioeconomy model regions. This includes mapping best practices in a circular and sustainable bioeconomy, assessing bioeconomy potential, providing mentoring and training, forming transition alliances and making policy recommendations. The project adopts a multi-stakeholder approach, developing tools and guidelines in collaboration with regional stakeholders and engaging with regions through guided exchanges on the ground.

Find out more:

Website: <https://bio2reg.eu>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/bio2reg>

X/Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BIO2REGeu>

BlueSky: <https://bsky.app/profile/bio2reg.bsky.social>

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Project partner abbreviations

FZJ	Forschungszentrum Jülich, BioökonomieREVIER, Germany
BIOC	BIOCOM Interrelations, Germany
KVC	Senior Europa (Kveloce), Spain
PU	Panteion University Athens, University Research Institute of Urban Environment & Human Resources, Greece
BHCZ	BIOEAST HUB CR, Czech Republic

1 Abstract

This deliverable compiled by BIOC related to T5.1 contains 3 practice abstracts in the EIP-AGRI common format that have been successfully submitted to the EIP-AGRI Project Database on the EU CAP Network website.

The project details were already submitted to the platform by BIOC at the beginning of the project in 2024. The project can be found here: https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/projects/enabling-transition-towards-circular-and-systemic-bioeconomy-model-regions-regions-regions_en

The second batch of practice abstracts will be delivered as Deliverable 5.8 in M36 also compiled by BIOC. A total target number of 6 practice abstracts is foreseen for the project.

2 Practice abstract 1: Regionalization concept

BIO2REG Regionalization Concept

The BIO2REG Regionalization Concept provides a practical framework for initiating and developing circular and systemic bioeconomy model regions. It helps regional stakeholders, including regional authorities, farmers, foresters and businesses, to translate global, macroregional and national bioeconomy strategies into actionable, region-specific plans with tangible impacts. The framework provides regions a structured guidance to strengthen regional economies, improve resource efficiency and drive innovation through bio-based and circular solutions.

A bioeconomy model region is a defined geographical area where circular bioeconomy principles drive innovation, sustainability and community well-being by linking bio-based resources and technologies, stakeholders and strategies. The BIO2REG framework serves as a blueprint for adapting circular bioeconomy practices to each region's unique strengths and needs, prioritizing key objectives such as sustainable food/feed sectors, fossil resource replacement, resource efficiency, environmental impact reduction and sustainable growth.

The regionalization concept was delivered by BioökonomieREVIER, Forschungszentrum Jülich, Germany. It is the foundation of BIO2REG's interventions, implemented through targeted activities across European regions to build stakeholder capacities and enabling them to initiate or further mature their bioeconomy model regions. It addresses critical questions: What are the key characteristics of a bioeconomy model region? What system dimensions (such as agriculture, industry, public policy, research) drive the transition to a regional circular bioeconomy? What role do regions play in this transition? What benefits might it bring, and what regional specificities should be considered? It also outlines how to use the services and tools for regions developed within the project and tailor them to the regional needs.

Links:

Regionalization concept

https://bio2reg.eu/wp-content/uploads/BIO2REG_Deliverable-1.1-BIO2REG-regionalization-concept.pdf

Bioeconomy model regions

<https://bio2reg.eu/bioeconomy-model-regions/>

Introduction to the BIO2REG project
<https://youtu.be/IIVx4BDaYQ8>

3 Practice abstract 2: Multi-criteria assessment

Multi-criteria assessment to identify regional bioeconomy potential

To support a transition to a sustainable and circular bioeconomy, particularly at the regional level, a normative and comprehensive Multi-criteria assessment (MCA) framework was developed within the BIO2REG project. It quantitatively assesses regional bioeconomy potential through practical, easy-to-use indicators. It serves as a decision-analysis technique that will provide useful and practical information for regional stakeholders to capture multiple potential dimensions of a regionalised, circular bioeconomy.

The MCA was created to empower non-expert stakeholders to evaluate multiple dimensions of a regionalized circular bioeconomy effectively, offering actionable insights for fostering sustainable development. Toward this goal, an extensive literature review based on academic studies, international and EU reports and strategy, and both previous and ongoing bioeconomy projects identified 897 bioeconomy indicators, grouped into the economy, society, and environment categories. A thorough validation resulted in 41 quantifiable indicators.

This streamlined approach ensures a focused and practical selection of indicators for evaluating regional bioeconomy potential. This initial MCA framework will be further validated by presenting and discussing the results with experts and regional stakeholders. These discussions are set to ensure that, even though not every indicator may be applicable or relevant for each region, the framework as a whole is applicable to the different European regions. Based on the initial version of the MCA framework delivered by the Research Institute of Urban Environment & Human Resources at Panteion University Athens, Greece, BIO2REG will develop guides for regional stakeholders to enable them carrying out the MCA for their regions.

Links:

Guide for regional stakeholders to implement regional MCA framework assessment

[once available]

BIO2REG results <https://bio2reg.eu/results/>

4 Practice abstract 3: BIO2REG Network

BIO2REG Network

One of the central results of the BIO2REG project is the establishment of the BIO2REG Network, which aims to foster regional bioeconomy cooperation by connecting regional stakeholders, promoting innovation, and facilitating the sharing of best practices. Designed as a central hub on the project website, the network serves as a resource repository and a dynamic space for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and stakeholder interaction.

The BIO2REG Network concept was developed by consortium partner Senior Europa (Kveloce), Spain. It builds on existing bioeconomy initiatives and aims to complement current offerings, fill

gaps, and create synergies with other projects and platforms. It stands out by offering specialised stakeholder guides on transition measures and multi-criteria analysis methodologies that link theory with practical bioeconomy implementation and demonstration on the regional level. BIO2REG will also seek to extend and update training content from past projects, ensuring continued access to valuable resources while addressing implementation needs. Through its resources, community spaces, training, matchmaking events, and coordinated events calendar, BIO2REG offers comprehensive support for regions advancing in their bioeconomy transitions, complementing the broader European network.

The network is open to all upon registration, with a focus on local development agents, public sector representatives, bioeconomy clusters, entrepreneurs, researchers, and civil society.

Links:

Network [once available]

Report on final concept of BIO2REG network [once available]

BIO2REG results <https://bio2reg.eu/results/>

Geographical location:

EU/Germany, Spain, Greece, Czech Republic, Belgium, Sweden, Iceland, France.

5 Dissemination

The practice abstracts will be disseminated using all available channels outlined in the Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation Strategy and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (Deliverable 4.1).

Time frame	Channel	Activity
June 2025	Website	Share the publication on the EU CAP Network portal.
June 2025	Social Media Channels	Share the publication on the EU CAP Network portal on LinkedIn, Twitter and Bluesky.
July 2025	Newsletter	Include info on the publication on the EU CAP network portal in our next newsletter.
TBD	Events	Share information on this deliverable at selected events where it aligns with the agenda and is likely to be of interest to participants.

6 Annex: Publication to the EU CAP Network website

Link https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/projects/enabling-transition-towards-circular-and-systemic-bioeconomy-model-regions-regions-regions_en#tab_id=overview