

[Im Browser öffnen](#)**BIO2REG****1st issue, September 2024**

# Newsletter



## Welcome to the BIO2REG community

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Over the first project months, the BIO2REG team has made significant progress in compiling best practices and success stories from bioeconomy model regions, a promising approach to sustainable development and regional transformation. **Regions with carbon-intensive economies**, such as those dependent on coal mining, intensive agriculture, and forestry, often face economic disruptions, environmental challenges, and social strain. **These regions stand to benefit the most from the bioeconomy's ability to create jobs, drive sustainable growth, and revitalise ecosystems.**

### BIO2REG is committed to unlocking regions' bioeconomy potential

By mapping best practices and providing hands-on stakeholder guides, along with opportunities for exchanges, mentoring, and tailored frameworks, we empower regional stakeholders – like municipalities and development agencies – to design and implement transitions that leverage their region's strengths and address their specific social, economic, and environmental challenges.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are excited to host **five regional network events** in Sweden, Spain, Czech Republic, Greece, and Germany. These events will provide stakeholders a forum for knowledge exchange, share best practices, and advance their regional bioeconomy action plans. To further strengthen collaboration, the **BIO2REG network** will be launched next year, inviting regions across Europe to join forces and support one another in advancing the regionalisation of the bioeconomy.

We invite you to join us in shaping a sustainable and resilient future for Europe's regions.

[Learn more about the project](#)

## Latest news



### **Key driver: Workshop focuses on bioeconomy education**

Experts share best practices to educate children, scientists, and everyone in between, aiming to align regional priorities and industry needs.

[Read more](#)

## Spotlight on bioeconomy model region: Murcia



*Image by ninjason1 on Freepik*

The Region of Murcia faces a number of crucial challenges, encompassing environmental threats (water scarcity, unsustainable agricultural practices causing severe impacts on fresh and sea water quality, soil health, and air pollution, inefficient waste management), economic vulnerability (low connection between research and industry, lack of differentiated market niches in bioeconomy) and social inequalities (high unemployment rates, scarce labour opportunities in high skilled sectors, low investment in education/training, low social cohesion). This highlights the need for a systemic bioeconomy transition to promote resource efficiency, sustainable farming, and circular economy solutions for long-term environmental and socioeconomic resilience.

The region in the Southeast of Spain is predominantly driven by the agrifood sector, with 35.9% of its land dedicated to arable farming. In 2021, the Region of Murcia introduced its Research and Innovation Smart Sustainable Specialisation Strategy (RIS4) for 2021-2027, focusing on water cycle management, carbon capture through bioenergy, and waste management. As part of these efforts, the Horizon 2020 project VALUEWASTE piloted the selective collection of the Organic Fraction of Municipal Solid Waste, converting it into protein for food and feed, as well as bio-fertilisers. In addition, our partner **Kveloce** is participating in two Horizon Europe projects: ViSS and Agro2Circular. **ViSS** aims to establish a new value chain centred around PHBV – a copolymer in the PHA family – as a safe, sustainable, and cost-effective alternative to traditional plastics. Meanwhile, **Agro2Circular** (A2C) focuses on developing the first territorial systemic solution for upcycling key residues from the agrifood sector into high-value products. A2C will be demonstrated in the Region of Murcia as a replicable model for implementing circular economy initiatives across Europe.

*Sources: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1757780223001038>;*

*<https://www.ris4regiondemurcia.es/en/contexto-regional/>*

More about bioeconomy model regions

## More workshop news



## “Fair and just”: Workshop explores social aspects of bioeconomy transition

Bioeconomy stakeholders brainstorm courses of actions for regional actors to overcome the key social challenges.

[Read more](#)

## BIO2REG workshop on funding bioeconomy transitions

Experts identify the main challenges and success factors in developing practical funding guides for regional stakeholders.

[Read more](#)

Follow us for more:



## Upcoming bioeconomy events

3.-4. October 2024, Bologna, Italy

**IFIB – International Forum on Industrial Biotechnology and Bioeconomy**

9. October 2024, Stuttgart, Germany, and online

**ROBIN 1st Mutual Learning Workshop**

15.-17. October 2024, Örnsköldsvik, Sweden

**11th Nordic Wood Biorefinery Conference 2024**

23.-24. October 2024, Nairobi, Kenya

**Global Bioeconomy Summit (GBS)**

[See all events](#)



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