

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

Report on setting up the logistical support for HORIZON-CL6-2024-CircBio-01-7 (BioFairNet)

Deliverable 6.7

This deliverable has not yet been reviewed by the European Commission. Its content might therefore change as a result of the review process.

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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:

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1 Background

This report provides an overview of the activities undertaken to establish technical and logistical support for the Innovation Action (IA) “BioFairNet” (HORIZON-CL6-2024-CircBio-01-7), within the framework of Task 6.3 of BIO2REG. The BioFairNet project kicked off in January 2025. The support effort within this Task 6.3, led by Forschungszentrum Jülich (FZJ) and supported by KVC (Kveloce), BIOC (BIOCOM), and PU (Panteion University), aimed to prepare the ground for a sustained and tailored collaboration between BIO2REG and BioFairNet, as envisaged in the respective project calls: BIO2REG under [HORIZON_HORIZON-CL6-2023-CircBio-01-10](#) and BioFairNet under [HORIZON_HORIZON-CL6-2024-CircBio-01-7](#).

2 Support activities and implementation

2.1 Conceptual preparation

A detailed concept note outlining BIO2REG’s technical and logistical support modalities, tools, and suggested collaborative formats was developed and submitted as [Deliverable 6.3 Concept note on technical and logistical support for HORIZON-CL6-2024-CircBio-01-7](#) in January 2025. It serves as a reference framework to guide future collaboration and contains the following key components:

- Proposal of a **bi-monthly meetings Jour Fixe (JF) meeting** to support BioFairNets demonstration to transition towards bioeconomy model regions.
- **Invitation to integration BioFairNet into the BIO2REG network** starting in summer 2025 including invitations to events and the interregional exchange taking place in 2026.
- **Overview on results and toolbox and their availability**, including regionalization concepts, Multi-Criteria Assessment guidance, stakeholder guides on transition measures in bioeconomy model regions and transition support materials.
- **A timeline for phrased engagement** over 2025-2026.

2.2 Communication and coordination

To initiate and align support activities, following actions were implemented.

| Activity | Description | Date |
|---|--|--|
| Participation at the BioFairNet Kick-Off meeting | FZJ joined BioFairNet Kick-Off Meeting in Naples and introduced regionalization concept | 17 Jan 2025 |
| Concept note delivery | FZJ shared Deliverable 6.3 on technical and logistical support | 31 Jan 2025 |
| Exchanges between BioFairNet and BIO2REG | Coordination meetings held with BioFairNet | 29 Nov 2024 25 Feb, 24 Apr, 13 May 2025 |
| BIO2REG results shared so far | Regionalization framework (Deliverable 1.1), stakeholder engagement plan (Deliverable 4.1) | Ongoing |
| BIO2REG regional network event in the Rhenish mining region, Jülich Germany “Lost in Transformation? Putting Bioeconomy into Practice!” | Participation of a BioFairNet partner in the full day event | 9 May 2025 |

Furthermore, BioFairNet was invited to the BIO2REG Annual Meeting held on 20–21 January 2025.

These initial interactions confirmed BioFairNet’s identified need for in:

- Stakeholder engagement approaches
- BIO2REG’s regionalization concept and Multi-Criteria-Assessment
- Best practices and case studies in systemic regional transformation

3 Coordination status June 2025

The collaboration between BIO2REG and BioFairNet is evolving, with careful consideration of the distinct starting points, thematic priorities, and timelines of both projects. During the initial collaboration set-up phase between November 2024 and June 2025, exchanges between the two projects have focused on aligning overarching perspectives and identifying initial synergies.

BioFairNet officially kicked-off in January 2025 and, with a planned runtime of four years, is currently focused on establishing a strong foundation for its Innovation Action. The initial project months have therefore been dedicated to administrative setup, internal coordination, and an extensive academic literature review to consolidate conceptual frameworks on mining and intensive agriculture and prepare for stakeholder engagement and implementation activities. Based on their literature research results, they plan to identify their 2-3 coal regions currently relying on GHG-intensive economic activities.

Given BioFairNet’s current project phase, the initiation of cooperation with its 2-3 selected regions—taking into account their specific conditions, characteristics, and challenges—and a deeper technical integration are anticipated during Reporting Period 2 of BIO2REG, following the completion of BioFairNet’s initial literature review and project setup activities.

Next steps

Looking ahead, continued support will be provided under BIO2REG Task 7.3 starting in July 2025. As part of this next phase, the following activities are planned:

- **Conceptual feedback** on BioFairNet’s sector-specific review will be provided by BIO2REG in July 2025.
- **Input on regional case studies for the bioeconomy transition** will follow in August 2025, drawing on best practices from Deliverable 1.4 (Guides for regional stakeholders on transition measures towards bioeconomy model regions). These inputs will leverage practical insights from systemic bioeconomy implementation on the regional level.
- **Finalization of discussions** is expected between July and September 2025 regarding:
 - **A joint online dissemination activity** planned for October 2025 and
 - **Support for stakeholder identification**, scheduled between October and December 2025.

In parallel, once the collaboration is formally established, the baseline questions for the BIO2REG impact assessment (Task 6.4) will be once more submitted to BioFairNet. These questions were first introduced in Deliverable 6.3, at a time when the collaboration was still in an early exploratory stage. During the next reporting phase, beginning in July 2025, the questions will be revisited to ensure that BIO2REG’s support activities can be effectively evaluated.