BIO2REG

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

BIO2REG Connect Event and 2nd Annual Meeting*

Event report

March 2026

Denise Gider, Eva Onkels, BioökonomieREVIER at Forschungszentrum Jülich

*Full title Deliverable 7.2: 2nd Annual Meeting and its minutes

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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 promotes regional networking, interregional exchange and cooperation, and provides 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 – BIO2REG Connect & Annual Meeting 2026

This publicly available Deliverable reports on BIO2REG Connect, held on 3 February 2026, and the second BIO2REG Annual Meeting, held on 4 February 2026.

On 3 February 2026, BIO2REG Connect organized by Forschungszentrum Jülich and KnowBio (previously BIOCOM) gathered more than 60 representatives from regional authorities, research organisations, clusters and European institutions in the Representation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia to the European Union in Brussels. The meeting focused on how Europe's bioeconomy ambitions can be implemented at regional level. Regions across Europe are facing structural transformation pressures, while the circular bioeconomy offers opportunities to translate regional strengths such as forests, agricultural land and marine resources into sustainable value creation. The programme combined five keynote inputs, eight regional pitches and project presentations supporting bioeconomy transition with interactive discussions and a floor moderation on regional needs and implementation pathways. A common conclusion emerged: successful bioeconomy transition requires regions to identify their specific strengths, set clear priorities and translate them into concrete action. The following day, on 4 February, the second BIO2REG Annual Meeting took place, allowing partners to align on progress of 2025 and prepare activities of 2026 such as the BIO2REG exchange programme or the upcoming network webinars. A detailed internal document recording more the procedural part of the Annual Meeting and in-depth discussions was shared with the BIO2REG consortium on 26 February.

2 BIO2REG Connect 3 February

The detailed agenda of BIO2REG Connect is provided in the Annex in Chapter 5.1.

2.1 Aim

The objective of BIO2REG Connect was to strengthen interregional exchange on the implementation of the bioeconomy transition and to enhance regional action planning capacities. The event aimed to connect regional authorities, intermediaries and European initiatives in order to facilitate peer learning, knowledge transfer and coordinated implementation pathways.

2.2 Keynotes

2.2.1 Setting the scene: regional pathways for a fair bioeconomy transition

Figure 1: Introductory words to BIO2REG Connect (Source: BIO2REG)

Evdokia Achilleos, Head of Sector at the European Research Executive Agency (REA) in the Biodiversity, Circular Economy and Environment Unit, in her keynote highlighted how BIO2REG and REA help to deliver on the EU Bioeconomy Strategy. She reminded that a major pillar of this new strategy is the EU Biotech Act, which aims to help SMEs and innovators navigate the path from research to market. She provided examples on how Research and Innovation can help to close the gap between lab-scale innovation and industrial-scale biorefineries, ensuring that European innovations are valorised in Europe, as well as the key role of Social Science and Humanities in Research and Innovation. She also emphasized the role of BIO2REG in bridging the gap between research and regions by driving synergies among stakeholders and enabling the transformation of CO2-intensive regions into sustainable bioeconomy regions across Europe.

Sam Hout Ledo from the European Commission's DG for Research and Innovation, who focuses on regionalizing the bioeconomy and has previously worked in regional policy and on citizen engagement in climate change, gave a keynote on why the bioeconomy is so important for the EU. He shared the Commission's priorities for 2024-2029, like sustainable prosperity and competitiveness and highlighted four key areas for developing the bioeconomy: scaling up innovation and investment, developing markets, securing sustainably sourced biomass and creating global partnerships, while also emphasizing industrial symbiosis, public procurement and initiatives such as the Blue Bioeconomy Innovation Initiative. He also introduced the European Commission's Bioeconomy Youth Ambassador Programme, which engages young professionals in promoting sustainable bioeconomy pathways, and presented a video message from Panagiotis Koronaios, EU Bioeconomy Youth Ambassador and PhD student at BIO2REG partner Panteion University, underlining the importance of youth involvement in shaping the bioeconomy transition.

Ulrich Schurr, Director of the Institute of Plant Sciences at Forschungszentrum Jülich and leading BioökonomieREVIER, emphasized the importance of regionalizing the bioeconomy, noting that while strategies provide a framework, they must be adapted to local contexts, considering differences in innovation systems, resources, markets, human capital, regulations, and trade. He highlighted that successful transformation requires engaging multiple stakeholders and shifting from technology readiness to solution readiness. Initiatives such as the regional initiative BioökonomieREVIER, a model for sustainable bioeconomy development in the Rhenish mining region, demonstrate how regionally adapted bioeconomy approaches can contribute to global sustainability goals.

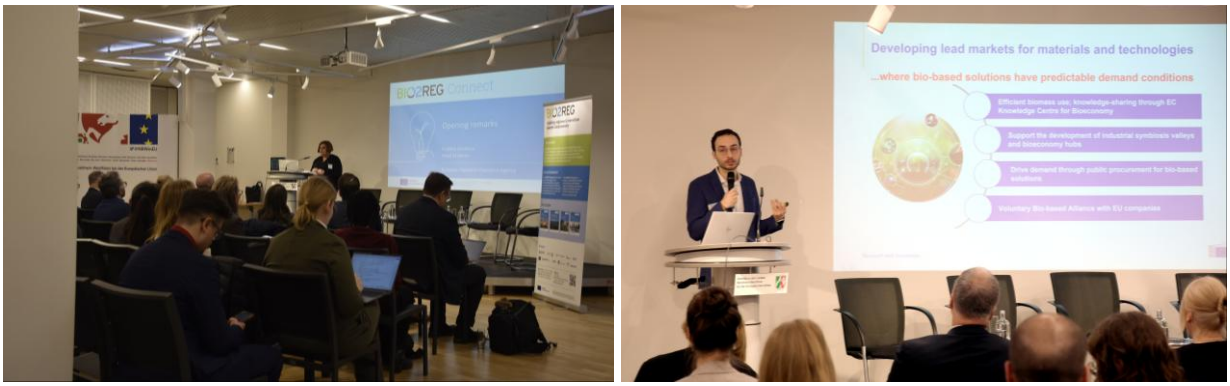

Figure 2: Keynote presentations by Evdokia Achilleos and Sam Hout Ledo (Sources: BIO2REG)

Figure 3: Keynote presentations by Ulrich Schurr and Jan-Philipp Kramer (Sources: BIO2REG and Denise Gider, Forschungszentrum Jülich)

2.2.2 From strategy to action: regional pathways for the bioeconomy

Jan-Philipp Kramer, Director & Partner at Prognos AG and Head of its Brussels office, in his role as team leader of the S3 Community of Practice, presented on Smart Specialisation as a key EU instrument to scale circular and bio-based innovation by aligning regional strengths, investments, and interregional cooperation. The S3 Community of Practice supports EU regions in designing and implementing Smart Specialisation priorities, fostering mutual learning and strengthening evidence-based policy development across Europe. He highlighted major challenges from a fragmented regulatory landscape and disconnected innovation ecosystems, as well as the two "Valleys of Death" at the prototype and commercialisation stages that hinder scaling in the EU bioeconomy. At the same time, he argued that fragmentation can also be a strength, as Europe's diverse regional capabilities and ideas create a broad innovation base. If strategically connected through Smart Specialisation, these differences enable more resilient, competitive, and investable bioeconomy value chains across Europe.

Denise Gider, BioökonomieREVIER at Forschungszentrum Jülich and coordinator of BIO2REG, presented project as a Horizon Europe action (2024-2026) designed to help regions bridge the gap between bioeconomy ambitions and concrete implementation. The project supports greenhouse gas-intensive and structurally transforming regions in translating bioeconomy objectives into tangible action rooted in regional strengths and challenges by strengthening regional innovation ecosystems, stakeholder engagement and circular bio-based value chains. Through dedicated tools as well as capacity-building and networking formats such as BIO2REG Connect, thematic webinars, the BIO2REG Network and the Exchange Programme, the project supports regions in identifying their specific strengths and advancing their bioeconomy transition. It also helps make existing best practices in regional bioeconomy implementation more visible, facilitates peer learning and contributes to the development of systemic bioeconomy model regions adapted to local conditions.

2.3 Panel discussion keynote speakers

Participants: Evdokia Achilleos, Sam Hout Ledo, Jan-Philipp Kramer, Ulrich Schurr, moderated by Antje Grobe, DIALOG BASIS

The panel discussion focused on the needs and opportunities for regional bioeconomy development. A central theme was the importance of leveraging regional strengths and identity. Many regions are already implementing concrete bioeconomy initiatives and actively showcase these efforts. Making these initiatives tangible and visible can strengthen local engagement and foster a stronger sense of regional identity and confidence among residents. The discussion also highlighted the need to move from fragmentation to strategic diversity. Regions should recognize and

use their unique resources and capacities, viewing diversity as an advantage, particularly in terms of resilience and innovation potential.

Figure 4: Panel discussion (Source: BIO2REG)

Effective implementation of bioeconomy strategies requires combining top-down guidance with bottom-up participation. Co-creation, living labs and active involvement of local experts and communities are essential to identify relevant opportunities, ensure practical outcomes and foster long-term commitment. The panel emphasized capacity and funding challenges. Many regional bioeconomy units are understaffed and operate mainly on a project basis, which can hinder stability and continuity. Stable funding, along with active support from private sector partners, is crucial to ensure sustainable regional development.

Finally, the discussion addressed the importance of scaling and achieving long-term impact. Initiatives should be designed to create lasting effects, maintaining momentum and retaining motivated local actors. This approach not only supports immediate regional development but also allows communities to thrive across generations.

2.4 Regions pitches and support services for the bioeconomy

2.4.1 Regional pitches

Denise Gider (BioökonomieREVIER at Forschungszentrum Jülich) presented the transformation of the Rhenish mining region in Germany from lignite-based industry towards a circular bioeconomy model region, positioning bioeconomy as a driver of regional structural change. She highlighted how the initiative BioökonomieREVIER integrates industry, agriculture, research institutions and municipalities to develop new bio-based value chains, strengthen regional innovation capacity and address existing barriers to practical implementation.

Figure 5: Rhenish mining region pitch by Denise Gider, BioökonomieREVIER, Forschungszentrum Jülich (Source: BIO2REG)

Mattias Drotz (RISE) presented the Swedish region's bioeconomy landscape, highlighting strong forest-based value chains and large-scale industrial initiatives such as the Östrand biorefinery and Södra's kraft lignin production to replace fossil-based materials. He also emphasised Sweden's cluster-based approach and strategic investments in bio-based infrastructure, including electrified forestry transport, wood-based construction and the Bioeconomy Arena, aimed at accelerating innovation and scaling sustainable bioeconomy solutions.

Figure 6: Swedish region pitch by Mattias Drotz, RISE (Source: BIO2REG)

Katrín Hulda Gunnarsdóttir (Matis) presented Iceland's fisheries- and aquaculture-based bioeconomy, highlighting the country's strong dependence on seafood exports and its advanced value-added processing model built on close research-industry cooperation. She outlined current

transition priorities, including further value creation from marine resources, energy transition and electrification, waste valorisation, regulatory adaptation and addressing public concerns to ensure sustainable growth of both fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

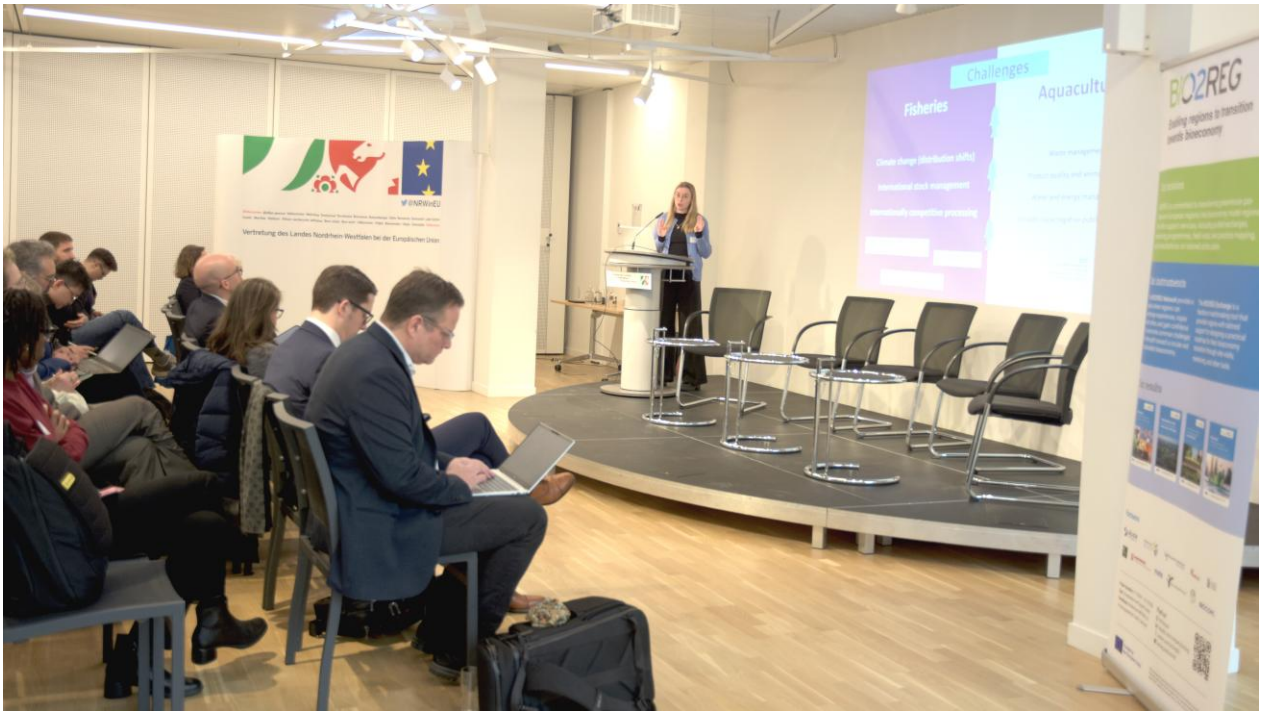

Figure 7: Iceland region pitch by Katrín Hulda Gunnarsdóttir, Matis (Source: BIO2REG)

George Sakellaris (BIOEAST Hub CR) presented the BIOEAST macro-region, comprising eleven Central and Eastern European EU Member States with high biomass availability and strong agricultural and forestry sectors, but uneven bioeconomy uptake. He highlighted key gaps in technology scaling, access to finance, stakeholder coordination and policy alignment, while emphasising the need for shared pilot infrastructures, blended finance instruments and stronger EU-national-regional cooperation to accelerate bioeconomy development in the region.

Figure 8: BIOEAST macro-region pitch by George Sakellaris, BIOEAST Hub CR (Source: BIO2REG)

Gorka Altuna, Head of Development of Bioeconomy Projects at HAZI, presented the Basque Country's pathway towards a forest-based bioeconomy, highlighting the region's strong industrial base and its significant forest resources covering 68 percent of the territory. He outlined the Basque Circular Economy and Bioeconomy Plan 2020–2024, public innovation support schemes and the Enkarterri Priority Action Area as concrete instruments to build a resilient bioeconomy ecosystem through public-private collaboration, targeted pilot funding and industrial scaling initiatives.

Figure 9: Basque region pitch by Gorka Altuna, HAZI (Source: BIO2REG)

2.4.2 External services to support region's bioeconomy transition

Siebe Briers, Deputy Coordinator of the EFI Bioregions Facility, presented the Bioregions platform, coordinated at the European Forest Institute. The initiative is a regionally led collaborative network promoting a sustainable and circular forest-based bioeconomy across the entire value chain, from forest resources to end products. He highlighted its role in strengthening framework conditions through policy learning, innovation support, awareness and engagement activities, enabling regions to enhance interregional cooperation and scale forest-based bioeconomy solutions.

Figure 10: EFI Bioregions Facility pitch by Siebe Briers (Source: BIO2REG)

Lara Valentín (PNO Innovation S.L.) presented ToBeReaL, a Horizon Europe Coordination and Support Action that provides free technical, business, regulatory and social assistance services to help regions turn bioeconomy projects into scalable, financeable and socially accepted initiatives. Through a structured five-phase support approach and a flexible “ToBe Coins” system, regions can combine tailored expert services to de-risk technology scale-up, strengthen investment readiness, align regulatory frameworks and foster stakeholder engagement across the bioeconomy value chain.

Figure 11: ToBeReaL pitch by Lara Valentín, PNO Innovation S.L. (Source: BIO2REG)

The PRIMED was presented by Marcos Jimenez Sanchez, EuropaBio. As an EU funded initiative the project supports the integration of primary producers into innovative bioeconomy value chains through circular business model development and multi-actor co-creation. Through five Living Labs across Europe, PRIMED demonstrates advanced bio-based processes, develops shared agendas and provides tools such as an open-access business model navigator and digital toolbox to foster collaboration and new bio-based value chains.

Figure 12: PRIMED pitch by Marcos Jimenez Sanchez, EuropaBio (Source: BIO2REG)

2.5 Floor moderation and breakout session: Mapping regional needs and action pathways

A dedicated floor moderation session was organised as an interactive, large-group workshop format to actively involve all participants in identifying priorities and challenges for regional bioeconomy transition. The format combined plenary discussion with physical movement and thematic clustering: key action pathways were visually presented on the floor across six thematic areas (Business and Finance; Technology Transfer and Innovation; Education; Infrastructure; Regulation and Policy; Stakeholder Involvement and Communication). Participants were invited to position themselves, provide feedback, extend the proposed actions and relate them to their regional experiences. Participants' inputs were first captured directly on the floor using large post-its placed next to the thematic action pathways, then transferred to a virtual Miro board and further elaborated during the breakout discussions, where the contributions were reviewed for completeness and analysed in terms of interlinkages between thematic fields. This approach ensured inclusive participation and immediate cross-sector exchange.

The session began with the presentation of core action pathways for each thematic field, illustrated by practical examples. Participants were then asked to adapt, complement and contextualise these pathways according to their regional realities. The discussion confirmed that European regions differ significantly in terms of biomass availability, infrastructure maturity and human resource capacities. However, several common structural challenges emerged across regions.

Figure 13: Floor moderation in action to map regional needs and action pathways (Source: Eva Onkels, Forschungszentrum Jülich)

In particular, participants highlighted the need for simplified and more coherent regulatory frameworks, as well as improved coordination between EU, national and regional policy levels. Greater flexibility in supporting emerging technologies was also considered essential to accelerate scaling processes. Infrastructure gaps were frequently mentioned, including insufficient transport connections, limited access to research infrastructure and inadequate scaling facilities such as biorefineries and pilot plants.

Another recurring issue concerned the difficulty of engaging industry and private investors, which in some cases results in limited financial resources for implementation beyond pilot stages. The discussion underscored that strengthening business engagement, improving bankability of projects and fostering public-private investment mixes are critical enabling conditions for successful bioeconomy transition.

The floor moderation concluded with breakout discussions in smaller groups, where participants reflected on possible solution pathways within and across thematic areas and collected the aspects in a virtual Miro board. The outcomes demonstrated the need for integrated, cross-sector approaches that combine regulatory alignment, infrastructure development, technology transfer, skills development and stakeholder activation to translate regional bioeconomy ambitions into tangible action.

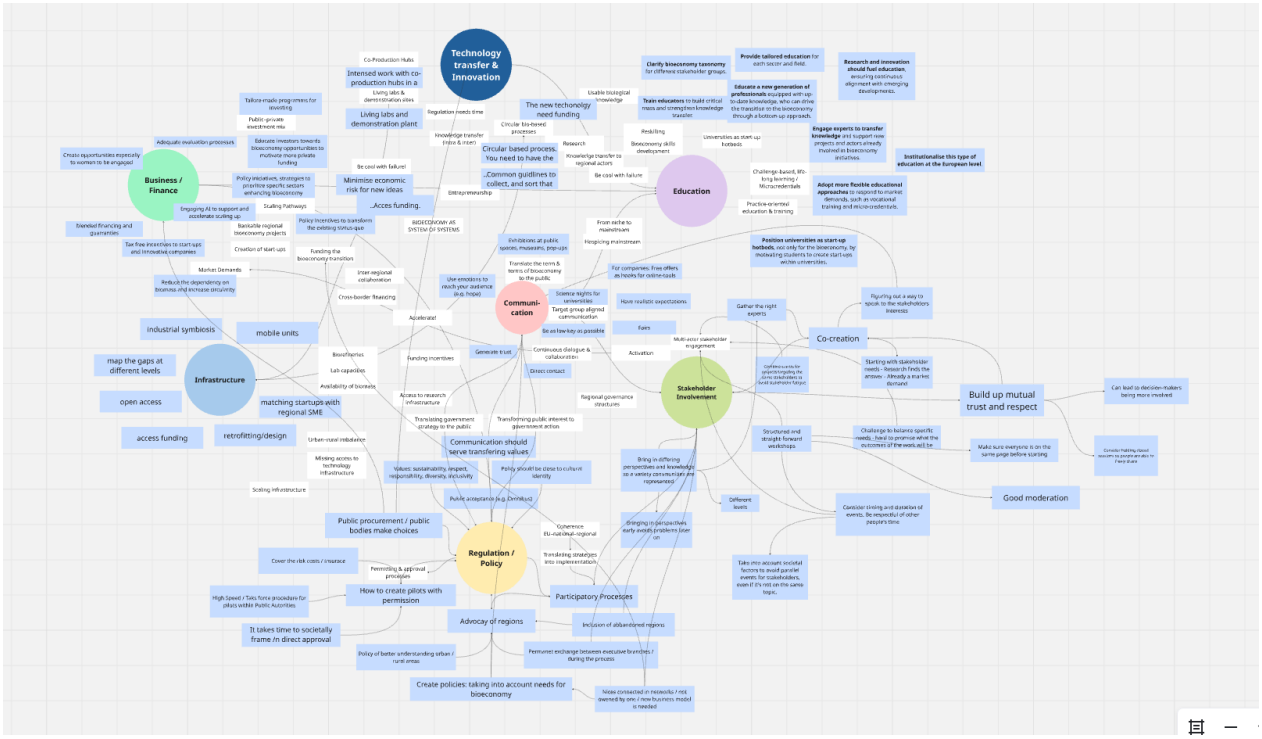

Figure 14: Results of the floor moderation and breakout sessions

2.6 Networking and reception

At the end of the event, dedicated time was reserved for structured and open exchange. Guiding questions steered the discussions toward two core aspects: the specific expertise or support each participant could offer and practical approaches to implementing bioeconomy at regional level. While some participants engaged in targeted conversations, others used the opportunity for broader reflection and informal exchange on the day's key takeaways.

3 BIO2REG second Annual Meeting 4 February

On 4 February, the BIO2REG consortium met for its second Annual Meeting to review progress, discuss key challenges and align on next steps. The detailed agenda is provided in the Annex in Chapter 5.2. The following section summarises the main outcomes, while the full minutes were shared internally with the consortium on 26 February.

3.1 Introductory speeches and recap 2nd project year

Presented by Denise Gider, BioökonomieREVIER, Forschungszentrum Jülich, BIO2REG coordination

The Annual Meeting opened with a welcome, followed by a collective reflection of the entire consortium on the BIO2REG Connect event, which was positively evaluated for its interactive format, diverse participation and effective moderation, with suggestions for hybrid participation and extended discussion time. Partners also reviewed project progress, highlighting a successful mid-term evaluation, the submission of 23 deliverables and six achieved milestones, while an interactive Mentimeter session confirmed strong interest in continued exchange activities, scaling pathways, funding opportunities, policy implementation and the long-term sustainability of the BIO2REG network.

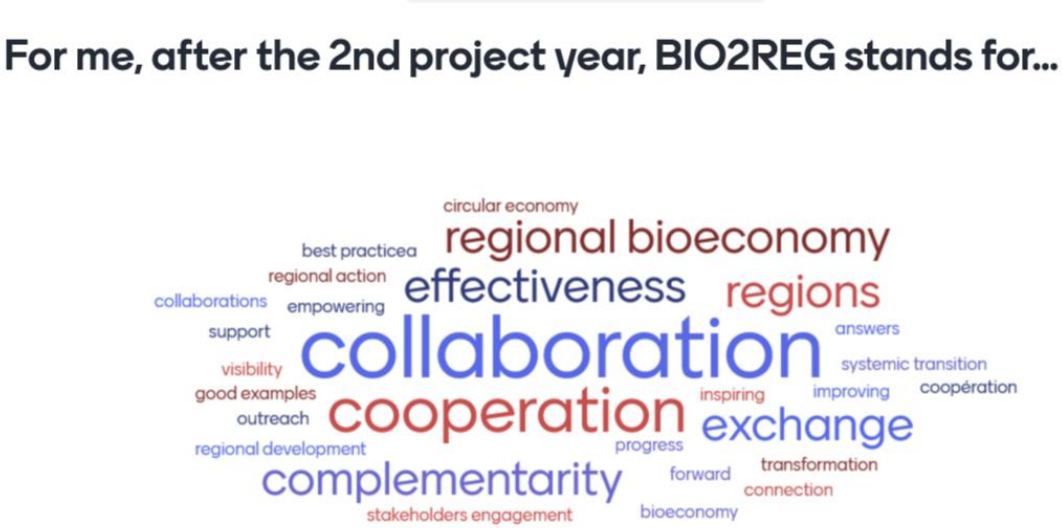

Figure 15: Mentimeter survey on BIO2REG project scope

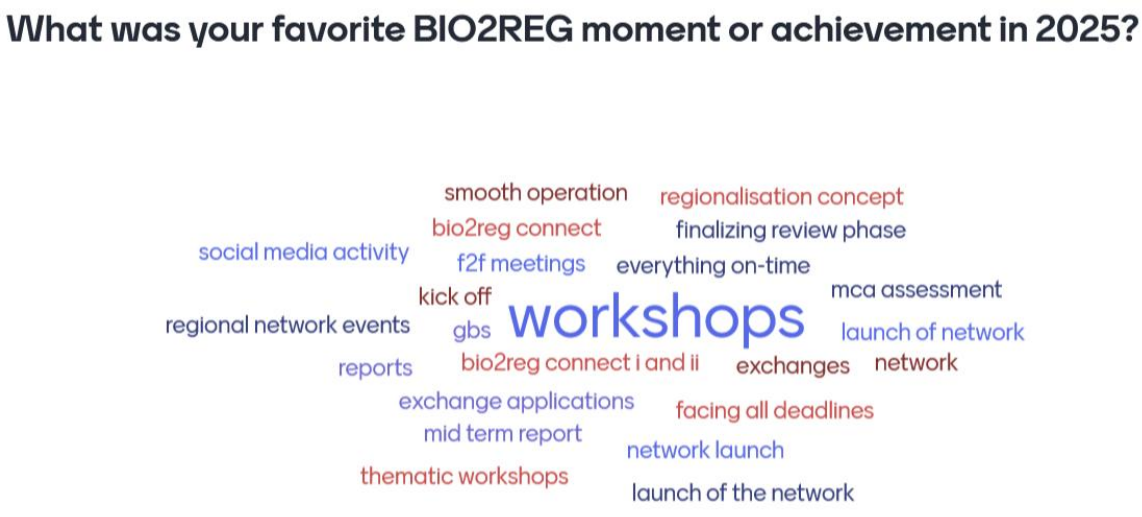

Figure 16: Mentimeter survey on favourite BIO2REG moment in 2025

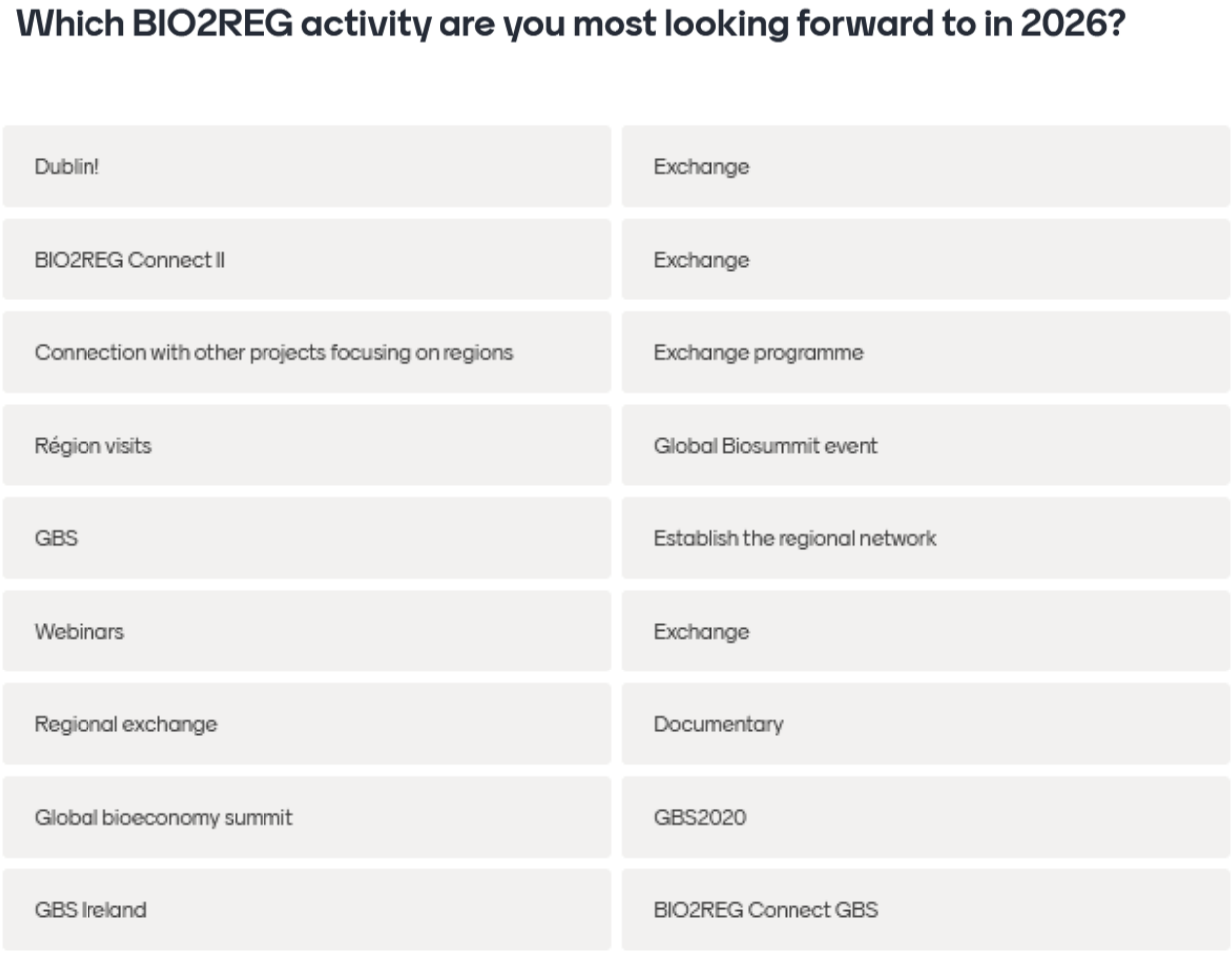

Figure 17: Mentimeter survey on key BIO2REG activities in 2026

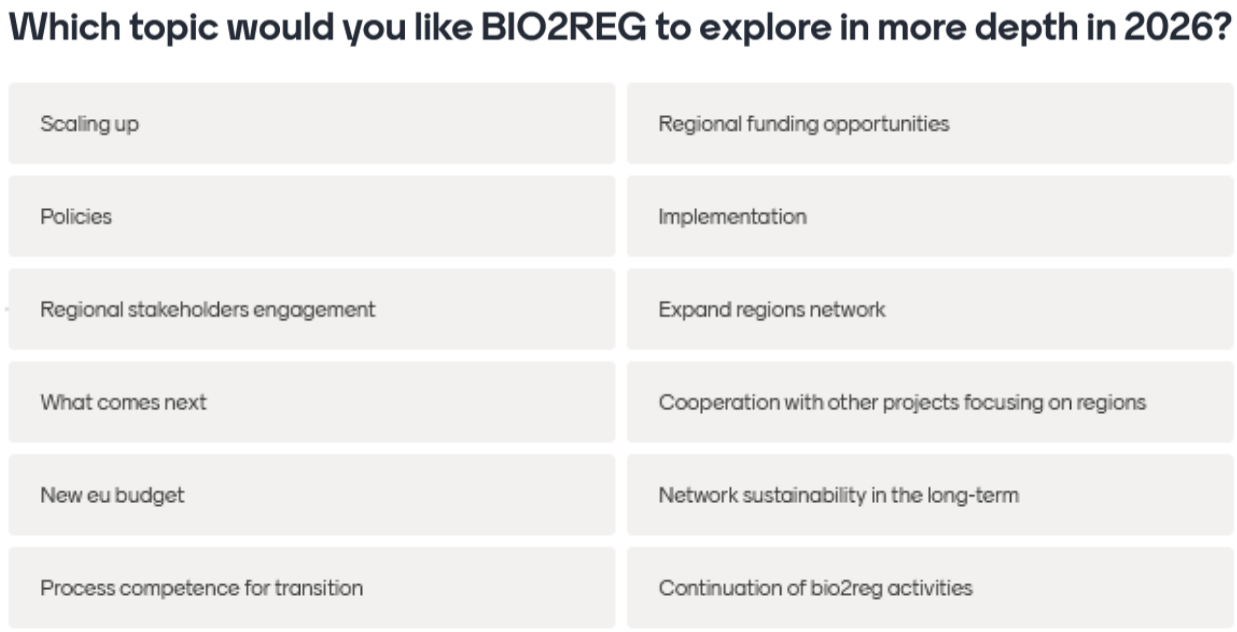

Figure 18: Mentimeter survey on priority topics for BIO2REG exploration in 2026

4 Work Package presentations

4.1.1 WP1: Assessing regional potential towards circular and systemic bioeconomy model region transition

Presented by Panagiotis Kalimeris, Institute of Urban Environment and Human Resources, Panteion University (PU) – WP 1 leader, Task 1.2 and Task 1.3 leader

Denise Gider BioökonomieREVIER, Forschungszentrum Jülich – Task 1.1 and 1.4 leader

WP1, completed in June 2025, established the conceptual and analytical foundation for BIO2REG by developing a regionalization concept and a Multi-Criteria Assessment framework enabling regions to evaluate their bioeconomy potential across economic, environmental and social dimensions (Task 1.2 and Task 1.3). In addition, 64 European best practices were mapped and consolidated into a practical guide, providing regions with concrete examples, validated indicators and hands-on tools to support their transition towards circular and systemic bioeconomy model regions (Task 1.4)

4.1.2 WP2: Establishment of an interregional network structure on circular and systemic bioeconomy model region transition

Presented by Gabriela Munares, Kveloce (KVC) – WP2 and Task 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 leader

WP2 established the BIO2REG interregional network structure by developing a formal network concept, creating a database of user-friendly interaction tools, launching the BIO2REG Network Hub in Summer 2025 and organizing five regional network events across Europe. By January 2026, the network had initiated and conducted webinars and outreach activities, attracted 78 registered members and laid the foundation for continued matchmaking, interregional exchange and collaborative bioeconomy action planning.

4.2 WP3: Boosting the development of circular bioeconomy model regions by an interregional exchange

Presented by Denise Gider, BioökonomieREVIER, Forschungszentrum Jülich – WP 3 leader

WP3 developed and launched a structured interregional exchange instrument to strengthen regional stakeholder capacity. The instrument enables two regions to engage in a facilitated peer exchange combining site visits, structured matchmaking and tailored mentoring to transfer practical implementation know-how. Activities included defining transparent call procedures, eligibility criteria and matchmaking mechanisms and successfully attracting 14 high-quality applications after extended outreach. The region will be selected by beginning of March, following an evaluation by the consortium, a structured matchmaking process which included validation by the entire consortium and also feedback by the Advisory Board. A summary of the evaluation and matchmaking criteria was presented, highlighting aspects such as regional transition challenges, institutional capacity and continuity, stakeholder collaboration, motivation and expected regional impact, existing bioeconomy enabling conditions and the potential contribution of the region to the exchange. The timeline for the exchange was confirmed, with regional visits and mentoring activities scheduled to take place between March and August 2026. The visits will be complemented by tailored mentoring services before, during and after each visit to support participating regions in refining their bioeconomy roadmaps and implementing practical action pathways.

4.2.1 WP5: Communication, dissemination and exploitation

Presented by Uta Mommert, KnowBio (BIOC) – WP 5, Task 5.1-5.3 leader

Presented by Denise Gider, BioökonomieREVIER, Forschungszentrum Jülich – Task 5.4 leader

WP5 ensured the visibility, stakeholder engagement and policy impact of BIO2REG through continuous communication, dissemination and exploitation activities, including newsletters, news posts, social media campaigns, the launch of the Network Hub and targeted outreach supporting the interregional exchange instrument. In parallel, policy learning was advanced through dedicated policy briefs on governance and funding, while a documentary film and final dissemination conference are planned to further amplify results and showcase regional bioeconomy transformation pathways. Communication activities achieved strong visibility and engagement, exceeding several KPI benchmarks, including more than 12,000 website visits, over 31,000 page views, strong LinkedIn performance with more than 760 followers and high engagement rates, as well as a newsletter open rate above 67%, demonstrating effective outreach to the project's target audiences.

4.2.2 WP6/7: Project management

Presented by Denise Gider, BioökonomieREVIER, Forschungszentrum Jülich, WP6/7 and Task 6/7.1-Task 6/7.3 leader

Presented by Gabriela Munares, Kveloce (KVC) – Task 6/7.4 leader

As BIO2REG is implemented as a lump sum project, project management and reporting are structured in two parts per reporting period (WP 6 and WP7) to ensure clear allocation of tasks and budget. WP6 and WP7 ensured effective project governance, financial management and strategic coordination, successfully completing the first periodic review, delivering 23 Deliverables and six Milestones by January 2026 and strengthening cooperation with related EU initiatives while maintaining robust risk and data management procedures. The consortium agreed to update the project risk analysis based on internal reporting results, including the update of potential risks and corresponding mitigation actions. An impact assessment framework was established and baseline surveys conducted through regional events and the Network Hub, confirming positive progress towards BIO2REG's impact targets and ensuring continuous monitoring until project completion.

4.3 Workshops

4.3.1 WP2 activities: Network webinar activities in 2026

Moderated by Gabriela Munares, WP2 leader

A World Café session was organised to co-design the 2026 BIO2REG network webinars on forestry, energy production and fishery, enabling partners to refine thematic priorities, identify key innovations and suggest relevant speakers.

Figure 19: World Café session to co-design the BIO2REG network webinars (Source: BIO2REG)

The discussions helped align the upcoming webinars with regional needs by addressing forestry value chain integration, community-scale energy solutions and fisheries-related regulatory and logistical challenges.

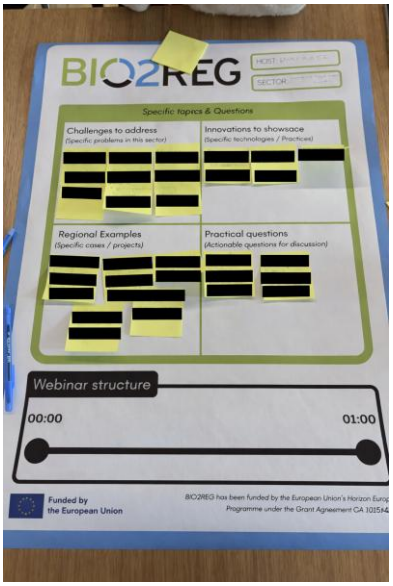

Figure 20: Exemplary results to set up the webinar for the energy production webinar concept (Source: Eva Onkels, Forschungszentrum Jülich, minorly adapted)

4.3.2 WP3 Exchange activities: Evaluation, selection, format and mentoring

Moderated by Denise Gider, BioökonomieREVIER Forschungszentrum Jülich - WP3 leader

An update was provided on the progress of the interregional exchange process, including the evaluation methodology, overall interest received and the structured roadmap towards implementation, followed by a structured workshop with all partners to validate the proposed region matches. The exchange format foresees tailored mentoring before, during and after each visit to support participating regions in refining their bioeconomy transition roadmaps, with implementation planned for spring to summer 2026.

4.4 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Moderated by Denise Gider, BioökonomieREVIER, Forschungszentrum Jülich, BIO2REG coordination

The Executive Committee including all WP leaders reviewed the internal reporting results for July to December 2025, discussed Key Performance Indicator progress, exploitation plan updates and risk management and agreed on the timeline for the next reporting phase (January to May 2026). In addition, strategic collaboration with other projects, potential participation in calls and related funding opportunities were assessed, with decisions taken on follow-up actions and future positioning. The details are presented in the internal meeting minutes which was shared on 26 February with the consortium.

5 Annex

5.1 Agenda BIO2REG Connect

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
	"The Bioeconomy: a strategic opportunity for Europe and its regions" Sam Hout Ledo, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission
	"Bioeconomy Innovation Regions – Unlocking Regional Pathways for the Bioeconomy" Ulrich Schurr, BioökonomieREVIER, Forschungszentrum Jülich
09:45	FROM STRATEGY TO ACTION: REGIONAL PATHWAYS AND SUPPORT FOR BIOECONOMY TRANSITION
09:45	**"Smart Specialisation for Scaling Circular and Bio-based Innovation"** Jan-Philipp Kramer, Partner Prognos, S3 Community of Practice
10:00	**BIO2REG Explained: Supporting Regions in Their Bioeconomy Journey** Denise Gider, BioökonomieREVIER, 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 › EuropaBio, PRIMED project: Marcos Jimenez Sanchez
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

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5.2 Agenda 2nd Annual Meeting

BIO2REG 2nd Annual Meeting

Representation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, Brussels
Rue Montoyer 47, 1000 Brussels

BIO2REG

AGENDA Annual Meeting 04/02/2026

08:30	**ARRIVAL AND WELCOME COFFEE**
09:00	**RECAP NETWORK EVENT DAY 1 AND OVERVIEW DAY 2** *Denise Gider BioökonomieREVIER, Forschungszentrum Jülich*
09:15	**RECAP 2nd YEAR PROGRESS** *Denise Gider BioökonomieREVIER, Forschungszentrum Jülich*
WP1 ASSESSING REGIONAL POTENTIAL TOWARDS CIRCULAR AND SYSTEMIC BIOECONOMY MODEL REGION TRANSITION*	*ended 06/2025
09:30	**WP1: PROGRESS, CHALLENGES, OVERLAPS AND NEXT STEPS** *Panagiotis Kalimeris, Institute of Urban Environment and Human Resources, Panteion University*
09:45	**Q&A WP1**
WP2 ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERREGIONAL NETWORK STRUCTURE ON CIRCULAR AND SYSTEMIC BIOECONOMY MODEL REGION TRANSITION	
09:55	**WP2 PROGRESS, CHALLENGES, OVERLAPS AND NEXT STEPS** Gabriela Munares, Kveloce
10:10	**Q&A WP2**
WP3 BOOSTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF CIRCULAR BIOECONOMY MODEL REGIONS BY AN INTERREGIONAL EXCHANGE	
10:20	**WP3 PROGRESS, CHALLENGES, OVERLAPS AND NEXT STEPS** *Denise Gider, BioökonomieREVIER, Forschungszentrum Jülich*
10:35	**Q&A WP3**
10:45	**COFFEE**
WP4/5 COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION AND EXPLOITATION	
11:00	**WP4/5: PROGRESS, CHALLENGES, OVERLAPS AND NEXT STEPS** Uta Mommert, BIOCOM
11:15	**Q&A WP4/5**
WP6/7 PROJECT MANAGEMENT INCL. IMPACT ASSESSMENT	
11:25	**WP6/7: PROGRESS, CHALLENGES, OVERLAPS AND NEXT STEPS** Denise Gider, BioökonomieREVIER, Forschungszentrum Jülich
11:50	**Q&A WP6/7**
12:00	**LUNCH**
WORKSHOP: WP2 NETWORK ACTIVITIES	
13:00	**NETWORK WEBINAR ACTIVTIES IN 2026: CONCEPT, FORMAT AND ROADMAP** Moderated by Gabriela Munares, Kveloce
WORKSHOP: WP3 EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES	
14:00	**EXCHANGES ACTIVITIES IN 2026: EVALUATION, SELECTION, FORMAT AND MENTORING** Moderated by Denise Gider, BioökonomieREVIER, Forschungszentrum Jülich
CLOSING REMARKS	
15:00	**CLOSING REMARKS AND NEXT STEPS** *Denise Gider, BioökonomieREVIER, Forschungszentrum Jülich*
15:15	**COFFEE**
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING	
15:30 - 16:30	**Moderated by Denise Gider BioökonomieREVIER, Forschungszentrum Jülich**