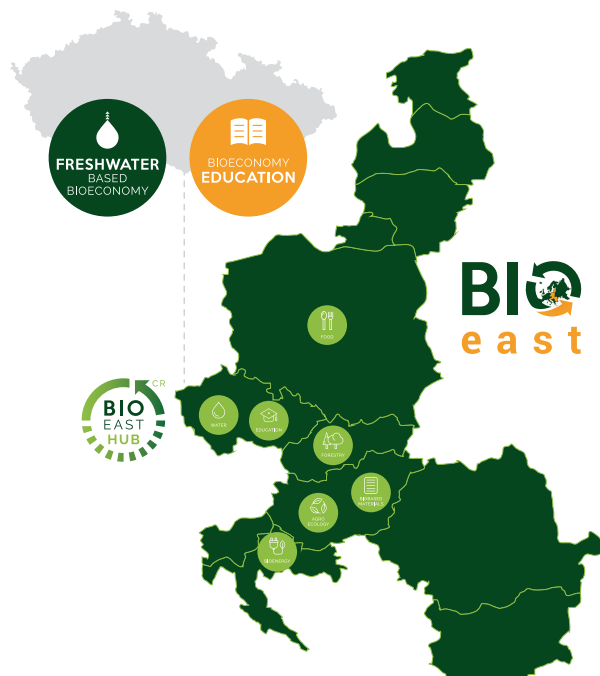


NETWORK OF THE BIOECONOMY UNIVERSITIES IN THE BIOEAST MACRO REGION

Established under the umbrella of Bioeast initiative

The 2021 BIOEAST Foresight Report highlighted the structural problems in the bioeconomy related education and skills development in the Central and Eastern European macro-region. The lack of human resources in higher education and research means that it could become one of the main bottlenecks to accomplishing the goals of the European Green Deal.

The BIOEAST Initiative fully acknowledges the importance of the coordinated approach and tackle the issue of bioeconomy education in the BIOEAST macro region, the TWG Bioeconomy Education (TWG BE EDu) was established in 2020 to meet the specific macro regional education needs of the BIOEAST macro-region. Its main goal is to maximise the efforts in increasing knowledge sharing, networking, mutual learning, development of joint activities and events.



The missing national strategy and action plan for bioeconomy in the vast majority of the **BIOEAST** countries is a factor that is slowing down bioeconomy deployment. If on the national level bioeconomy is rather known (yet not fully understood in the big picture), the concept of bioeconomy (BE) needs to be fully explained preferably in national languages. Missing BE education was recognized as a key obstacle for Green Deal Implementation in the **BIOEAST** Foresight, the BIOEAST Initiative established a dedicated Thematic Working Group on bioeconomy Education and a network of bioeconomy universities BIOEAST Uni Net. The cooperation with EBU & ICA-CoP has been established and is being supported also by the EU projects.

There are several emerging issues

- Inadequate awareness, training tailored for policy makers (f.e. peer review style MLE/PSF activities) that will explain and demonstrate the added value of bioeconomy and the need to support BE related education;
- Lack of evidence based baseline study examining impact of BE education in EU countries that are leaders in bioeconomy as an inspiring example;

The following recommendations were identified for boosting bioeconomy education in the BIOEAST macro-region:

- Support actions that enables to properly explain the concept of BE to policy makers and support the alignment with educational programme;
- Cooperative actions that familiarize stakeholders with the BE concept; showcasing good international examples;
- Support for developing regional strategies including organizing annual events.

NETWORK OF THE BIOECONOMY UNIVERSITIES FROM THE CENTRAL AND EASTER EUROPE

OVERVIEW OF THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE BIOEAST MACRO-REGION BASED ON THE THEMATIC STUDY

Common action in bioeconomy education



Education in primary and high schools: teaching principles of circularity, acting local and global at the same time and raising interest for bio-based careers;



At universities: a systematic curriculum is needed, combining life science, engineering, economics and marketing, and enabling the dynamics for the development of transversal skills, capable to support the students to become bioeconomy entrepreneurs or management. Most of the universities in the **BIOEAST** region cover to a great extent the bioeconomy educational aspects, but through different faculties and/or modules, therefore they are not providing a comprehensive and inclusive bioeconomy education to the students;



Vocational training: there is a need to match requirements for skills in various sectors involving regional and local actors. In the same perspective the sectorial factor should be included.

Research and educational organisations should **form a synergistic network with business initiatives and public bodies** that work together on sustainable solutions for bioeconomy education.



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BIOEAST UNINET is structural body of the macro-regional thematic working group

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