

**Projects and initiatives presented  
during the  
EU CAP Network workshop  
'Circular bioeconomy – valorisation of  
forest by-products'**

**26 - 27 March 2025 | Kouvola, Finland**



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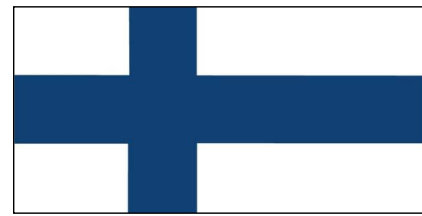
Project	Country	Contact
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# SUCCESSFUL INITIATIVES AND INNOVATION



# Combined Heat and Power from fresh woodchip at scale of 0,5–2 MW



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<https://projektit.seamk.fi/kestavat-ruokaratkaisut/eip-chp/>



## DESCRIPTION OF THE INNOVATION:

This innovation enables the burning of woodchips with moisture content up to 40% at a scale of 500 kW and introduces ORC technology for electricity generation, enhancing the economics of distributed energy production using low-value solid biomasses.

## VALUE FOR PRACTITIONERS

Fresh woodchips are less expensive to produce, store, tie in less capital while offering more energy output than dried wood. Electricity generation adds novel value at this scale and enables stable distributed power production with local biomass.

## GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Southern Ostrobothnia, Finland

## INVOLVED ACTORS:

Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences

Finnish Forest Centre Seinäjoki  
Veljekset Ala-Talkkari Oy

Chicken farms Kangas,  
Kattelus and Rantala

Pipu Ky

## PROJECT BUDGET:

170 000 €

## SUCCESS FACTORS:

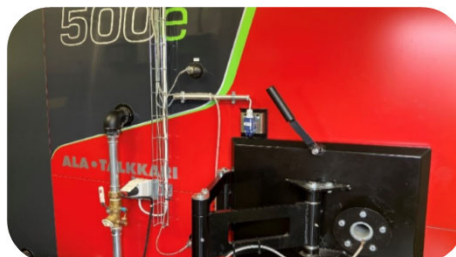
The innovations of fresh wood containing more energy than dry and utilizing Organic Rankine Cycle history by Seinäjoki UAS, other RIs and the company Ala-Talkkari who advanced their woodchip power plant models to meet the new demands in chemical, mechanical, and automation capabilities.

## CHALLENGES

For electricity production, the capital costs are higher than those of large-scale solutions. Energy markets contain inertia against change as current needs are catered to through one way or another.

## NEXT STEPS:

Further explore heat and power storage, burning other local solid but low value biomasses and the potential roles in smart grids and support the other renewables.



# Valorisation of forest by-products (WP5 – OneForest project)

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## DESCRIPTION OF THE INNOVATION:

The ONEforest project aimed to develop a multi-criteria decision support system for a common forest management approach, designed to strengthen forest resilience while managing sustainable wood flows. For the purposes of this meeting, an important aspect of the project was the objective of WP5, which focused on identifying innovative methods for reusing waste from the wood industry, particularly the development of biocomposites useful for maintaining moisture in forest nurseries.

## VALUE FOR PRACTITIONERS

In the context of the circular economy, the development of technologically advanced materials capable of integrating polymer material sciences and microbial resource management.

## SUCCESS FACTORS

Urgent need for innovative materials applicable to the floriculture, agro-forestry, and urban green markets, including city parks, green roofs and walls, and balconies.

## CHALLENGES AND RESEARCH NEEDS

Valorization of residual wood fibers, combined with natural polymers and microbial strains, to produce innovative and multi-functional polymer composites that can regulate the soil water content, release nutrients, and absorb pollutants.

### GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

- Mediterranean forests, CSR of Spain + study sites in Italy and Karst in Slovenia
- Alpine forests, CSR of Switzerland + study sites in the Alpine part of Slovenia
- Continental forests, CSR of Germany
- Boreal/ Hemi-boreal forests, CSR of Estonia + study site in Estonia + supportive data from Sweden

### INVOLVED ACTORS:

Rosenheim Technical University of Applied Sciences, University of Trento, Free University of Bolzano/Bozen, University of Ljubljana, Technische Universität Graz, BayFOR Bavarian Research Alliance GmbH, Estonian University of Life Sciences, Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Restoration, Forest Science and Technology Centre of Catalonia, University of Tartu, Technical University of Munich, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Castile and León Wood and Forest Services Centre, University of Freiburg, Tuscany Region, Technical University of Dresden, University of Göttingen, Working Group on Natural Forestry in Germany, Climate Endowment Management GmbH

### PROJECT BUDGET:

€ 5 241 423,75

### NEXT STEPS:

Include beneficial microbes in biopolymers, including pollutant degraders. Counteract AntR spread in polluted urban green areas. LCA to ensure the sustainability standards that minimize environmental impact and hence support resilient agroforestry practices with improved soil productivity and ecosystem health.



# Potential of using local non-wood products for the production of plant extracts, tannins and resins



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## DESCRIPTION OF THE INNOVATION:

The innovation of this project lies in exploring new products that are currently not utilized (e.g. buds or resins) or that are waste from forest activities (e.g. branches, bark) and their viability for local industries of plant extracts, tannins and resins. To do this, the following actions are carried out: identification of product's characteristics, evaluation the resource available, definition of good practices and study of the possible market chains.

## GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Massís del Montnegre i el Corredor, Serra de Llaberia (Catalonia, SPAIN)

## INVOLVED ACTORS:

Agrupació forestal del Montnegre i el Corredor SL, Empresa d'inserció laboral de la Serra de Llaberia SL, Sociedad Resinas Naturales, ARKEMA, CEMSA, Phytoterapia, A3 Leather Innovation Center

## PROJECT BUDGET:

12.498€

## VALUE FOR PRACTITIONERS

The crowns and bark of *Quercus sp.* and *Pinus sp.* may be of interest to the leather industry. *Pinus halepensis* and *Pinus pinaster* have a remarkable potential for resin and their buds for the extract food industry. Wide areas of rosemary may also be of interest to the extract industry.

## SUCCESS FACTORS:

The industry interest and the practicality of forest logistics.

## CHALLENGES AND RESEARCH NEEDS

Pilot project: forest treatment and logistics, chemical analyses, evaluation of costs and yields.

## NEXT STEPS:

Focus on the usage of waste of forest activities (ex. branches, bark but also heather for biochar and fences) and explore funding opportunities to carry out pilot projects and improve the actual marketing circuits



# NEW INNOVATIVE VALUE CHAINS







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Diputació de Girona - Parc Natural i Reserva de la Biosfera del Montseny



## GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Montseny Natural Park and Biosphere Reserve, Catalonia



## INVOLVED ACTORS:

Girona and Barcelona provincial councils, Catalan government, forest owners' associations, and livestock farmers' associations.

## NEXT STEPS:

In the field of **forest wood chip production and biomass heating networks**, efforts focus on expanding biomass-based heating networks through feasibility studies.

Regarding the **improvement and revaluation of the chestnut tree**, the first resistant varieties will be commercialized to ensure sustainability and product quality.

Finally, concerning **forest climate credits**, work is underway to consolidate a market that monetizes the environmental benefits of sustainable forest management and strengthens the role of forests in combating climate change.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE INNOVATION:

### Production of Forest Wood Chips and Biomass Heating Networks

The use of forest biomass is promoted to generate renewable energy, utilizing wood from sustainable forest management and fire prevention efforts. The installation of municipal biomass boilers and district heating networks is also encouraged.

### Improvement and Revaluation of the Chestnut Tree

The goal is to enhance the health and economic value of the chestnut tree through sanitary protection and sustainable forest management. This includes the selection of plant material, characterization of wood and fruit, as well as market and commercialization studies.

### Forest Climate Credits

Economic value is assigned to ecosystem services derived from sustainable forest management. Each credit certifies one hectare of resilient landscape that captures carbon, regulates water, and conserves biodiversity.

## VALUE FOR PRACTITIONERS

### Production of Forest Wood Chips and Biomass Heating Networks

Provides a sustainable and local energy source, reducing dependence on fossil fuels. Enhances forest management by utilizing residues and reducing wildfire risks. Lowers energy costs for municipalities and rural communities.

### Improvement and Revaluation of the Chestnut Tree

Increases the resilience and economic value of chestnut tree forests. Promotes market development for high-quality chestnut wood and products. Preserves native chestnut varieties, ensuring long-term sustainability.

### Forest Climate Credits

Creates an economic incentive for sustainable forest management. Supports carbon sequestration, water regulation, and biodiversity conservation. Allows forest owners to monetize their environmental contributions.

## SUCCESS FACTORS:

### Production of Forest Wood Chips and Biomass Heating Networks

Collaboration between forest owners, municipalities, and energy providers. Financial incentives and grants to promote biomass heating systems.

### Improvement and Revaluation of the Chestnut Tree

Market demand for high-quality chestnut wood and its derivatives. Investment in research and innovation to improve disease resistance and productivity.

### Forest Climate Credits

Project leadership by the forest owners' association. Recognition of ecosystem services through economic compensation mechanisms. Standardized certification processes ensuring credibility and transparency.

## CHALLENGES AND RESEARCH NEEDS

In **forest wood chip production and biomass**, supply chain management must be improved, and storage and transport optimized to ensure stability, security, and quality.

For the **improvement of the chestnut tree**, it is essential to develop resistant and adapted varieties and innovate in processing and commercialization to increase its market value.

**Forest climate credits** require stable policies and secure financial mechanisms to reduce volatility and build trust.



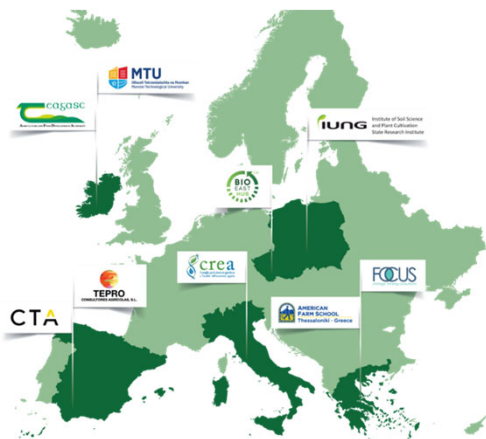
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SCAN ME

<https://bbionets.eu/>



## DESCRIPTION OF THE INNOVATION:

BBioNets aims to assist farmers and foresters in adopting Bio-Based technologies (BBTs) and bolster biomass reuse to support climate resilience through mitigation of greenhouse gases emissions, circular economy and zero waste principles.

## VALUE FOR PRACTITIONERS

BBioNets set up 6 Regional Forest and Agriculture Networks (FANs) to identify local needs, prioritise specific BBTs and share BBT knowledge ready for practice to farmers and foresters.

## SUCCESS FACTORS:

Broad collaboration networks and the BBioNets Knowledge platform that features the BioBased Technology Inventory, Assessment tool, Regional dynamics, and Road Maps to implement the best BBTs in the regional scenario.

## CHALLENGES AND RESEARCH NEEDS

A key challenge across these countries is the need for training, innovation, collaboration, advanced processing technologies, infrastructure development, and stronger networks to ensure efficient and sustainable bio-economy systems.

## GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Ireland, Spain, Italy, Greece, Poland, Czech Republic.

## INVOLVED ACTORS:

9 partners and 70 organisations involved (50% of them are primary producers and advisors)

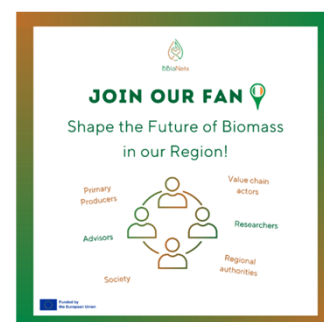
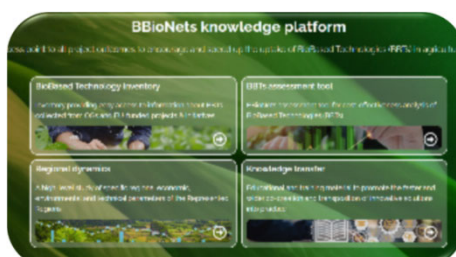
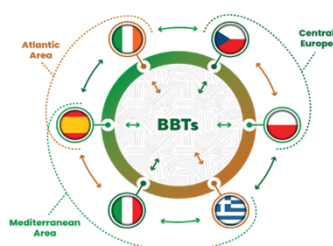
12 OGs involved to identify and validate regional needs and BBTs.

## PROJECT BUDGET:

1,998,636.20 €

Horizon Europe – Cluster 6

**NEXT STEPS:** Implement a wide variety of activities to foster further acceptance and adoption of BBTs (info-days, 'Train-the-Trainer' workshops, small-scale mentoring, online seminars). Further publicise the project and expand its FAN members.



# BIO4P

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<https://www.luke.fi/en/projects/bio4p>



## DESCRIPTION OF THE INNOVATION

Conifer needles contain valuable bioactive compounds. Natural waxes and oils, as well as phenolic compounds derived from these, can be used in value-added applications. The range extends from coatings for packaging, paper, and textile industries to specialty chemicals and cosmetics, food, and biomedical products.

## VALUE FOR PRACTITIONERS

BIO4P project aims to create favourable conditions for the production and commercialization of the extracts.

The project will develop raw material supply logistics and provide information about raw material availability. Processing methods will be optimized. Techno-economic feasibility of selected applications will be evaluated, and preliminary business models drafted.

## SUCCESS FACTORS

Waxes and other extracts from spruce needles have promising bioactive properties suitable for a wide range of applications. Extracts are also biodegradable.

## CHALLENGES AND RESEARCH NEEDS

Managing the supply chain of raw materials is one of the major challenges. Another challenge is the development of cost-effective production methods.

## GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Finland

## INVOLVED ACTORS:

Natural Resources Institute Finland  
Aalto University  
University of Oulu  
Lumene  
Caraway Finland  
Fazer Confectionary

## PROJECT BUDGET:

4,7 M€, whereof 3,0 M€ for public research.

## NEXT STEPS

Further development of supply chain and extraction methods.  
Chemical characterization & bioactivity testing of the plant extracts.  
Product prototypes: product safety analysis & techno-economic feasibility.



LUMENE



BUSINESS FINLAND



# CEforestry

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<https://interreg-baltic.eu/project/ceforestry/>



## DESCRIPTION OF THE INNOVATION

Innovation in forestry biomass residue processing: towards circular forestry with added value products. The objective of CEforestry is to develop new and innovative practices (circular economy concepts) in forestry and novel solutions to utilize forestry side stream in Baltic Sea Region.

## VALUE FOR PRACTITIONERS

Value will be achieved through innovative means of collaboration across sectors (researchers, target SMEs, large companies and other relevant actors) and demonstrated in pilot facilities.

## SUCCESS FACTORS

One key output is the industrial assortment and extraction of bioactive (antioxidant, antibacterial and antiviral) compounds from logging residues. These compounds have multitude of uses in fields such as functional foods, nutritional supplements, cosmetics and functional coating.

## CHALLENGES AND RESEARCH NEEDS

The project is ending during this year, and the focus is on the dissemination of results. Because of the open questions of the cost-effectivity and scalability of the processes, a new proposal has been planned.

### GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Interreg Baltic Sea Region (BSR)

### INVOLVED ACTORS:

Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences  
 University of Latvia  
 Kaunas University of Technology  
 Centria University of Applied Sciences  
 Mineral and Energy Economy Research  
 Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences  
 Natural Resources Institute of Finland (Luke)  
 JSC Biolat  
 Umeå University  
 Finnish Forest Centre  
 Aalto University  
 Greenback Ltd.

### PROJECT BUDGET:

2.31 M€

### NEXT STEPS:

Dissemination of project results and policy briefs



# FORADVISE project

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Website to be launched soon: [www.foradviseproject.eu](http://www.foradviseproject.eu)



## DESCRIPTION OF THE INNOVATION:

Establishment of a European advisory and extension network on forestry across Europe: a platform for stakeholders to leverage collective knowledge and expertise, exchange ideas, identify needs, and co-develop and implement innovative solutions.

## VALUE FOR PRACTITIONERS

FORADVISE aims to help advisors to be more competent, confident and proactive, and better equipped with a broad range of tools and skills, so they can better address the social, ecological and economic dimensions of forestry

Advisors will be up-to-date on the most efficient advisory methods to be able to transfer knowledge to practitioners effectively.

## SUCCESS FACTORS:

- FORADVISE project building up on the well-established FOREXT network
- Strong engagement of forest advisory organizations across Europe

## CHALLENGES AND RESEARCH NEEDS

- Expanding the network across Europe
- Identifying the most innovative advisory methods and forestry practices

## GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Europe

## INVOLVED ACTORS:

32 partners from 18 countries (12 national/regional advisory service organisations, 10 universities, 6 forest research organisations, and 4 SMEs)

Other European organizations providing advisory services to be involved along the project.

## PROJECT BUDGET:

4 Million EUR

## NEXT STEPS:

- Filling existing knowledge gaps in relation to structure and functioning of forest advisory across Europe
- Engaging advisory actors in *National and Regional Networks*
- Create international *Thematic Working Groups* on key forestry advisory themes

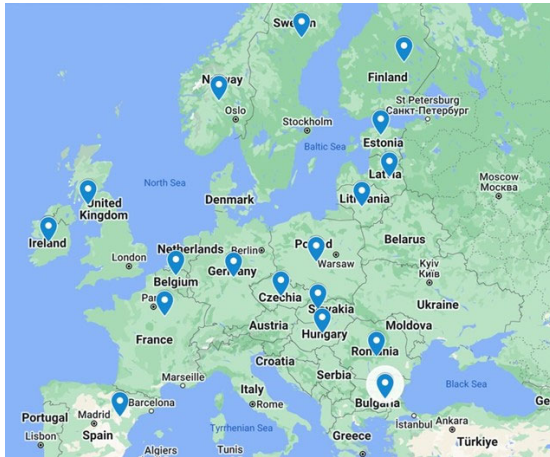


# FOREXT: The network of forest extension organizations in Europe

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[www.forext.eu](http://www.forext.eu)



## GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Europe

## INVOLVED ACTORS:

21 organisations in 16 countries (Feb 2025)

## PROJECT BUDGET:

Annual fee by member organizations

## DESCRIPTION OF THE INNOVATION:

FOREXT is the first network to bring together European forest extension organisations. It aims to help its members to build their capacities in training and education of private forest owners, improving forest extension services across Europe.

FOREXT supports its members through international collaboration, enhancing advisory skills, tools, and services via knowledge exchange and the development and participation in European projects.

## VALUE FOR PRACTITIONERS

Improving the skills and motivation of forest advisors by reinforcing their capacity and ability to assist practitioners and forest owners.

- Exchanging best practices, experts and expertise
- Developing knowledge transferring skills
- Transferring up-to-date knowledge to practitioners
- Development and sharing of extension tools
- Establishing joint learning platforms

## SUCCESS FACTORS:

- FORADVISE project building up on FOREXT work
- Wide geographical coverage; access to relevant networks, experts, best practices and tools

## CHALLENGES AND RESEARCH NEEDS

Identification of the most efficient and innovative knowledge transfer methods and forestry practices, adapted to the country/regional context and aligned with EU policies.

## NEXT STEPS:

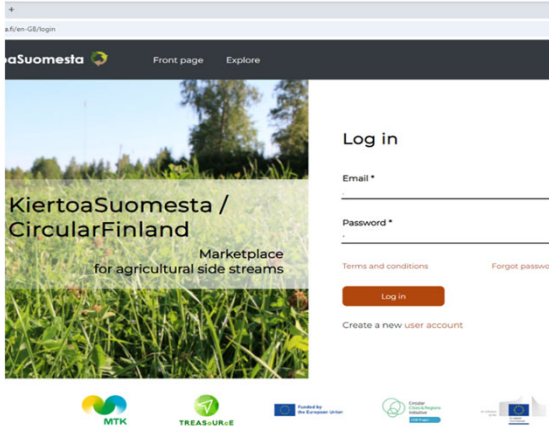
- Work in collaboration with the FORADVISE project
- Expand the network and support new activities and initiatives





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[www.KiertoaSuomesta.fi](http://www.KiertoaSuomesta.fi)



## DESCRIPTION OF THE INNOVATION:

KiertoaSuomesta.fi is a digital marketplace that connects sellers and buyers of biobased side streams. Serving both agriculture and forestry, the platform facilitates the trade of side streams. By promoting circular economy solutions, it helps turn underutilized materials into valuable resources.

## VALUE FOR PRACTITIONERS

The platform creates new business opportunities for primary producers through enabling the trade of biobased side streams. By turning waste into marketable resources, it supports sustainable business models and strengthens rural economies.

## SUCCESS FACTORS:

Redeveloped in the TREASoURcE (Horizon Europe) project and relaunched in 2023, the platform continues to grow as user participation increases. A larger network enhances its value, enabling a more efficient marketplace for side streams.

## CHALLENGES AND RESEARCH NEEDS

Scaling up user engagement remains a challenge, but targeted outreach is addressing this. The biobased side stream market is still developing, with some materials lacking established value. Research on market mechanisms and new innovations could accelerate growth in the sector.

## GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Finland

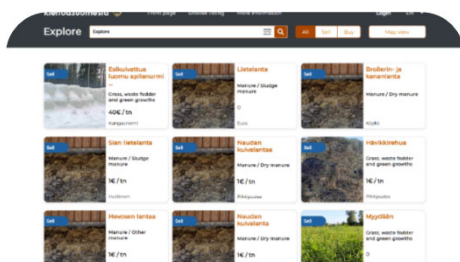
## INVOLVED ACTORS:

MTK – Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners

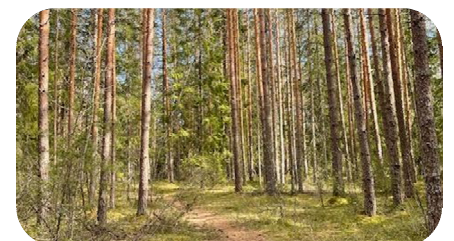
## PROJECT BUDGET:

Piloting in 2019 with €45,000 (co-funded: Rural Development Programme), 2022 funded by TREASoURcE, Horizon Europe

**NEXT STEPS:** We aim to facilitate manure exchange, introduce a logistics service for biobased materials, and increase marketing to attract users. The marketplace will continue to support all biobased side and waste streams.



**KiertoaSuomesta.fi**



# EXPERIENCES ON BUSINESS MODELS, GOVERNANCE AND COOPERATION





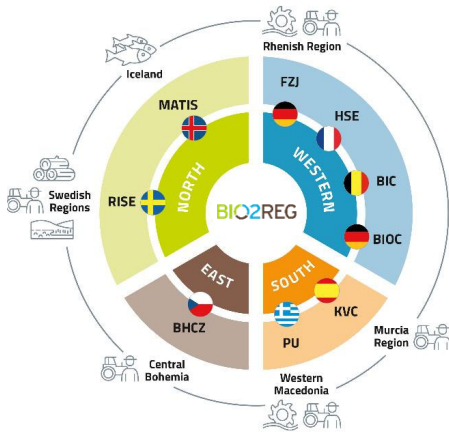
# BIO2REG: Enabling regional and circular bioeconomy transition



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## BIO2REG

[bio2reg.eu](http://bio2reg.eu), [www.linkedin.com/company/bio2reg](https://www.linkedin.com/company/bio2reg)



### DESCRIPTION OF THE INNOVATION:

BIO2REG helps GHG-intensive regions—such as those reliant on forestry, coal, agriculture, fisheries, and peat—transition to circular bioeconomy model regions. It supports them to translate strategies into region-specific action plans, enabling circular solutions that create jobs, drive innovation, and enhance sustainability based on regional strengths and conditions. By fostering bioeconomy model regions, BIO2REG integrates e.g. value chains, social aspects, education, living labs, infrastructure, and funding for a practical and just regional transformation.

### VALUE FOR PRACTITIONERS

BIO2REG provides e.g. regional authorities with strategic tools for bioeconomy policy, supports businesses and research in advancing bio-based innovations, and enables civil society to engage in circular bioeconomy planning.

### SUCCESS FACTORS:

Tailored regionalization actions for local conditions, stakeholder-driven approach, ecosystem collaboration, knowledge sharing, capacity and trust building, strong use cases.

### CHALLENGES AND RESEARCH NEEDS

Addressing sector and region-specific bioeconomy transition hurdles, strengthen regional cooperation, long-term structures driving the transition.

### GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

9 European partners engaging further regions across Europe, with a focus on GHG-intensive regions seeking socio-economic and ecologic transformation.

### INVOLVED ACTORS:

Regional innovation ecosystem: Policymakers, regional developers, businesses, researchers, and civil society driving circular bioeconomy transitions.

### PROJECT BUDGET:

Horizon Europe Cluster 6, Coordination & Support Action, Budget: € 1.98 Mio, 2024-2026.

### NEXT STEPS:

Join the BIO2REG network to unlock your region's bioeconomy potential! In mid 2025, we are launching an interregional network to drive regional transitions, host five regional network events, and map best practices—including circular forestry. In 2026, we will offer interested regions a guided, mentored interregional exchange.





## DESCRIPTION OF THE INNOVATION:

**Biomass Utilization for Renewable Energy and Bioproducts:** 1. Efficient valorization of biomass from aquatic, forestry, agricultural, and municipal waste; 2. Development of biological and thermal processes to convert biomass into bioproducts with high added value, including renewable gases (biomethane); 3. Research on gasification and syngas purification to optimize the Water-Gas-Shift (WGS) process and enhance biomethane production. **Regional Bioeconomy Innovation Hub:** 1. Establishing an Innovation Valley that connects universities, research institutions, private sector companies, and government agencies; 2. Building modern R&D infrastructure, including Biotechnology Labs, Central Forestry Laboratory; 3. Creating a smart specialization model for the Banská Bystrica region in bioeconomy and climate adaptation measures.

## GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Veľké Dravce, Slovakia  
+Banská Bystrica self-governing region

## INVOLVED ACTORS:

14 partners – including BioPark Slovakia, CoLAB BIOREF, Banská Bystrica self-governing region, National Forest Centre, Forests of the Slovak Republic, Matej Bel University, etc.

## PROJECT BUDGET:

15.5 mil.€

## VALUE FOR PRACTITIONERS

Efficient Biomass Valorization, Renewable Gas Technologies, New Business Opportunities, Support for Regional Bioeconomy Hubs, Investment in Sustainable Technologies, Alignment with EU Sustainability Goals, Job Creation and Workforce Development, Regional Competitiveness

## SUCCESS FACTORS:

Strong and Multidisciplinary Consortium, Cutting-Edge Innovation in Circular Bioeconomy, Alignment with EU and National Strategies, High-Quality Research & Technological Infrastructure

## CHALLENGES AND RESEARCH NEEDS

1. High variability in composition and quality, affecting conversion efficiency -Optimization of pre-treatment, logistics, and processing methods for different biomass sources; 2. The production of biomethane and syngas through gasification and methanation is still not widely implemented due to high costs and process inefficiencies.

## NEXT STEPS:

Evaluation of biomass logistics and supply chains, feasibility study, project funding, Training the Next Generation of Bioeconomy Experts, Scaling Up and Commercializing Bioeconomy Innovations



# Forest Joensuu

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[www.forestjoensuu.fi](http://www.forestjoensuu.fi)



## DESCRIPTION OF THE INNOVATION:

Forest Joensuu is a globally unique innovation ecosystem for forest bioeconomy, integrating education, world-class companies, and top-tier research. The region excels in forest industry digitalization and innovation, leveraging strengths in materials, photonics, and emerging technologies.

## VALUE FOR PRACTITIONERS

Forest Joensuu aims to discover new opportunities, modernize old practices, and shape the new era of the forest bioeconomy. Bio-based solutions offer significant growth potential for various manufacturing industries, including, fuel, food, clothing, cosmetics, packaging, and construction.

## SUCCESS FACTORS:

The President of the Republic of Finland granted the internationalization award to Forest Joensuu in 2024. The awarded community involves more than 600 companies, which employ over 6,000 people. The combined annual turnover of the companies exceeds 2 billion euros. The close cooperation supports the creation and commercialization of new innovations.

## CHALLENGES AND RESEARCH NEEDS

The emphasis is on the circular solutions, where industry side streams, such as biogenic carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), are utilized for value-added products.

## GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Joensuu, North Karelia, Finland

## INVOLVED ACTORS:

- Business Joensuu
- City of Joensuu
- Natural Resources Institute Finland
- University of Eastern Finland
- Karelia University of Applied Sciences

## PROJECT BUDGET:

Innokaupunki Joensuu  
2022-2026 4.9 MEUR

## NEXT STEPS:

A comprehensive research, product development and pilot center for CO<sub>2</sub> capture and processing in Eastern and Southeastern Finland will be established.

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# Connecting forestry and Agroforestry partnerships across Europe



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<https://www.forest4eu.eu/>

## DESCRIPTION OF THE INNOVATION:



Certification; forest fertilization; soil moisture; nature-based solutions and technology for forestry and agroforestry improvement; biochar; resin; cork; truffles;...

These examples show the increase in the amount and quality of by-products (biomass, buildings, etc.).

## INVOLVED ACTORS: FOREST4EU -Project partners' locations



PROJECT BUDGET:  
€ 2,006,668.75

## VALUE FOR PRACTITIONERS

Increased the income (forest owners, advisory system, technology providers for by-products); improved the efficiency of supply chains and the marketability of NWFP, diversified the use of forest resources—accessibility of scientific knowledge for practitioners (capacity building material developed in FOREST4EU).

## SUCCESS FACTORS:

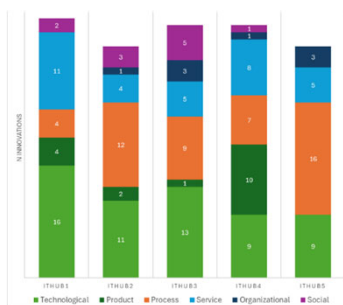
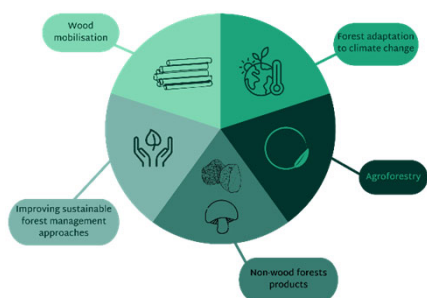
Engaging raw material producers, successful communication among the partners, share of responsibilities and tasks.

## CHALLENGES AND RESEARCH NEEDS

Logistic management, service providers engagement, research addressing the cost/benefits dimension.

## NEXT STEPS:

Improvement of capacity-building material (videos, fact sheets, and articles) and its sharing; use distinct channels. Conferences and webinars. Open discussion regarding by-products at our final event (Sept – Nov 2025).



 FOREST4EU Project  
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 forest4eu.eu





## DESCRIPTION OF THE INNOVATION:

Hubs act as collaborative networks, bringing together stakeholders like farmers, foresters, investors, policymakers, clusters, and civil society organizations.

The primary objective is to co-design and implement action plans targeting 18 value chains, thereby mainstreaming bio-based business models in rural areas.

## VALUE FOR PRACTITIONERS

- Knowledge Enhancement
- Networking Opportunities
- Market Access

## SUCCESS FACTORS:

- Stakeholder Engagement
- Capacity Building
- Collaborative Networks

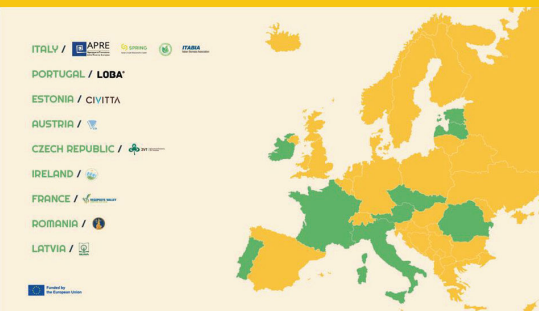
## CHALLENGES AND RESEARCH NEEDS

- Technological Advancements
- Knowledge Gaps
- Policy Integration

## NEXT STEPS:

- Continued Implementation of Regional Action Plans
- Enhancement of RuralSpot Platform
- Strengthening Synergies with Related Initiatives
- Dissemination and Capacity-Building Activities

## GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:



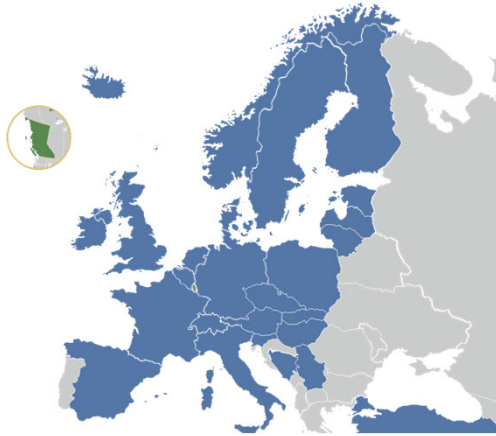
## INVOLVED ACTORS:

- Farmers
- Foresters
- Clusters
- Business support organisations
- Policymakers
- Civil society organisations
- Investors
- EEN local contact point, etc.

## PROJECT BUDGET:

2 998 823,75 €

\*Empowering EU Rural Regions to scale-Up and adopt small-scale Bio-based solutions: the transition towards a sustainable, regenerative, inclusive and just circular bioeconomy (RuralBioUp) (ID 101060618)



## GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Vienna, Austria

Meetings take place in different countries and online

## INVOLVED ACTORS:

Representatives from 27 Pan-European countries, 150 experts from stakeholder organisations, research and industry

## PROJECT BUDGET:

450.000 EUR until September 2026

## DESCRIPTION OF THE INNOVATION:

- A dedicated forum for multilateral policy, knowledge and experience exchange between public and private actors.
- It contributes to shaping the framework conditions for sustainable wood-based value chains and develops wood-related policy solutions, measures and recommendations.

## VALUE FOR PRACTITIONERS

- Exchanging between all actors along the value-chain stimulating wood-based innovations and highlighting the added value of sustainable wood use
- Working on a joint understanding of a wood-based circular bioeconomy in Europe

## SUCCESS FACTORS:

- A common understanding based on the Policy Paper 'A Wood-based circular Bioeconomy for a sustainable Europe'
- Technical Working Groups (Governance, Building, Innovation, Education and Communication) co-led by different countries

## CHALLENGES AND RESEARCH NEEDS

- 'Wood' as a policy issue is scattered across many ministries – cross-sectorial approaches required
- Reconcile different policy needs across stakeholders (use vs protection, energetic vs. material)



## NEXT STEPS:

- Translation of Policy Paper, development of Policy Briefs
- Integration of Ministries beyond forestry into the work of the initiative



# EU CAP Network workshop 'Circular bioeconomy – valorisation of forest by-products'

26 - 27 March 2025 | **Kouvola, Finland**

All information on the workshop is available on the  
event webpage:

<https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/events/eu-cap-network-workshop-circular-bioeconomy-valorisation-forest-products>

