

2nd Annual Training Webinar
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SCAR Bioeconomy Strategic WG 2025-2027

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SCAR Bioeconomy - key activities for the 4th mandate

I. Develop RDI recommendations on dedicated topics

- Poly-crisis and bioeconomy response
- Regional Dimension of the bioeconomy

II. Policy support

- Active participation in the EU Bioeconomy Strategy update
- Participation/support of FP10 planning
- Linking with relevant HE partnerships 2020-27 (CBE JU in particular) and active participation in the shaping of the post-2027 ecosystem
- Linking with relevant key actions of the EU Biotech and Biomanufacturing Initiative

III. Outreach

- Cooperative actions with other SCAR WGs and beyond on dedicated topics (see I.)
- Co-operation on SCAR 6th Foresight



Joint SCAR Bioeconomy & Forest SWG Statement on Update of the Bioeconomy Strategy

1) A Circular and Resource-Efficient Bioeconomy - More Value from Less Resources

- a) Support policy coherence
- b) Align with existing initiatives
- c) Integrate technologies
- d) Develop Strategic RDI frameworks
- e) Develop integrated rural and regional policy approaches
- f) Align definitions and standards

2) From Lab to Fab - Priorities for Scaling Up

- a) Integrate bioeconomy into European industrial policy
- b) Set targets and follow-up implementation
- c) Develop cross-cutting policies
- d) Incorporate environmental benefits into existing frameworks

Cross-Cutting Theme: Competitiveness and Fair Transition

(long-term competitiveness, multi-use of ecosystems, integrated b-b value chains, biodiversity as key to innovation)

3) Securing Sustainably Sourced Biomass Supply

- a) Diversify agriculture and forest management
- b) Utilize big data
- c) Invest in innovative technologies in agriculture
- d) Develop proactive strategies

4) A Globally Competitive European Bioeconomy Sector

- Reinforce bioeconomy's position
- Harmonise carbon certification standards
- Create attractive investment environment



Ongoing joint activity: SCAR Bioeconomy, Forest and ARCH

-The risks to the Bioeconomy and the bioeconomy's contribution to the resilience of the European society in times of poly crisis

- ✦ **Exploring the role of bioeconomy management (bioeconomy under threat) and sustainable development (bioeconomy as a solution) in a poly-crisis driven world**
- ✦ **Poly Crisis:** describes a situation where multiple global crises occur simultaneously and interact in complex ways, amplifying their effects.
- ✦ **Research Questions:**
 - Strategic approaches to strengthen the resilience of the European bioeconomy in times of poly crisis
 - Bioeconomy value chains contributions to Europe's strategic autonomy
- ✦ **Potential Case Studies**
 - Reconstructing the Ukraine, what can timber-based value chains contribute
 - Regional peaks and lows of wood supply due to weather events, environmental disasters
 - Fertilizer Crisis



Previous Group Activities 2023-2024



Introduction

Polycrisis and enhanced role of the bioeconomy in Europe

The COVID-pandemic and the recent geopolitical turmoil have exposed the vulnerability of European economies, which rely heavily on imported production inputs. We are facing polycrisis in a sense that many different challenges are happening at the same time, and their short and long term solutions need more proper understanding. The significance of the security of supply to ensure the functionality of our societies in Europe has drastically increased. Improving the **security of supply**, especially in terms of raw materials and inputs for energy and food, needs both immediate actions and longer-term planning.

Bioeconomy, rooted in renewable natural resources can address these challenges. It contributes to **material and energy stability** by maintaining a circular flow of materials and objects, thus avoiding resource exhaustion. It increases not only security of supply, but also resonates with the pursuit of climate and biodiversity objectives. Economic, social, climate and biodiversity aspects can be reconciled in the bioeconomy.

The EU's strategic commitments towards a systematic and accelerated transition to a circular bioeconomy indicate positive developments. Progress has been made in terms of accelerated economic growth and competitiveness of core bioeconomy sectors. Bio-based technologies and materials are being gradually mainstreamed into a growing number of industries previously relying solely on fossil-based raw materials. However, as Figure 1, reveals, the sectors' contribution to the overall economic performance of bioeconomy structure remains static, suggesting that the potential of bioeconomy is not yet fully exploited in terms of achieving higher added value from sustainable and circular biomass processing.

