

Bioregions Facility launch event: Connecting knowledge for regional action

9 March 2020, Palacio Euskaduna, Bilbao, Spain

Background

Developing a sustainable, inclusive and ambitious circular bioeconomy is a key element for sustainable development and the decarbonisation of our economy. The transformation towards a circular bioeconomy requires an intelligent, efficient and sustainable use of ecosystems and biomass to produce biomaterials, products and services, that can replace high carbon and energy intense and non-renewable natural products like plastics, concrete or steel.

This transformation requires regional action due to the specificity of natural ecosystems, availability of forest and other bioresources as well as existing technological and socio-economic conditions. However, to succeed and scale up, regional action should be based on international cooperation within a joint European vision.

Regions aiming to advance a forest-based circular bioeconomy need to work together to unlock their regional potential on the forest circular bioeconomy. This includes joint strategies and actions, capacity building plus partnering and exchanging experiences around: Innovation, Institutions, Infrastructures and Investments.

The newly established Bioregions Facility will begin this interregional peer exchange and cooperation with this launch event in Bilbao.

Programme

9:00 Registration and coffee

Opening session

9:30 Welcome & opening

Arantxa Tapia Otaegi, Minister of Economic Development and Infrastructure of the Basque Government

Marc Palahí, Director of European Forest Institute

European context

Chair: Marc Palahí, Director of European Forest Institute

9:45 Introduction to forest-based circular bioeconomy

Peter Wehrheim, Head of the Bioeconomy and Food Systems Unit in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation

10:00 Private-public partnerships for the bioeconomy

Philippe Mengal, Director of Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking



10:15 Investing in the Circular Bioeconomy

Adrian Enache, Forestry Sector and Rural Development Specialist at European Investment Bank

10:30 Moving forward innovation in the bioeconomy: lessons learnt from an angel investor

Nick Lyth, CEO of Green Angel Syndicate Ltd

10:45 Institutional closure

Iñigo Urkullu, Lehendakari (President) of the Basque Government

10:55 Coffee break

Regional perspectives

Chair: Diana Tuomasjukka, Principle Scientist at the Bioeconomy Programme, EFI

11:15 The role of regions to achieve the circular bioeconomy

Ulrika Landergren, Chair of the Commission for Natural Resources (NAT) of the European Committee of the Regions

11:30 Introducing the Bioregions Facility

Inazio Martinez de Arano, Head European Forest Institute Mediterranean Facility

11:45 Basque bioeconomy experience and plans

Arantxa Tapia Otaegi, Minister of Economic Development and Infrastructure of the Basque Government

12:10 North Karelian bioeconomy experience and plans

*Risto Poutiainen, Regional Mayor of North Karelia, Finland
Harri Palviainen, CEO of Business Joensuu*

12:35 North Rhine Westphalian bioeconomy experience and plans

Hubert Kaiser, Head of the Department of Forestry and Nature Conservation and Head of State Forestry Administration, North Rhine-Westphalia

13:00 Discussion and closing words

13:15 Photo

13:20 - 14:15 Networking lunch

Excursion

14:30 – 19:00 Basque bioeconomy examples of products, landscape and services

[More details](#)