

2017 BIOECONOMY INVESTMENT SUMMIT

Placing sustainability at the heart of the investment agenda

The 2017 Bioeconomy Investment Summit took place in Helsinki on 13-15 December 2017, gathering together almost 500 policymakers, investors, scientists, journalists and industry from 40 countries.

The summit aimed to place sustainability at the heart of the investment agenda, asking what was needed to transform the bioeconomy from niche to norm. As well as reflecting on the importance of the policy and investment environment, speakers looked at the opportunities and challenges which the bioeconomy provides for smart, sustainable and inclusive business.

Five clear priorities emerged:

A science-informed narrative

We need to create a compelling bioeconomy narrative to engage our increasingly urbanized societies, which are more and more disconnected from nature and its biological cycles. A science-informed narrative, based on the need for a new economic paradigm: ensuring that prosperity takes place within the renewable boundaries of our planet.

A long-term policy framework

We need an ambitious and long-term bioeconomy policy framework to enable the creation of a **Bioeconomy Single Market**. The framework needs to ensure predictability for investors and companies, enhance risk-taking capacity and define priority pathways to move towards a low carbon economy, where a circular bioeconomy becomes a growth engine. Measures should include an effective carbon price and the cancellation of subsidies for fossil fuels.

Connect the Circular Economy and the Bioeconomy

The bioeconomy in the future will need to provide solutions for major industrial sectors to move from fossil-based and non-renewable materials to renewable biological solutions (as part of the solution to fight climate change and other environmental problems). However, biological resources are renewable but not unlimited. Their use and transformation needs to be intelligent, efficient and sustainable. The circular economy and the bioeconomy “concepts” need to be brought together as the basis for the new economic paradigm. They are two concepts that mutually reinforce each other and cannot succeed in becoming mainstream without each other.

The need for investments

Investments are key to catalyzing a transformational change in our economy. Moving from the current linear fossil economy towards the future circular bioeconomy requires massive investments to transform the current technological reality that is the bioeconomy now, into the future economic reality. Massive investments do not only mean investments for massive projects, as many bioeconomy companies face challenges in finding the correct scale investments for their level of operations.

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The fundamental role of forests

Forests are our most important biological infrastructure and the main source for non-food non-feed renewable biological resources in Europe. Sustainable forestry as basis for a bioeconomy also implies understanding and providing other important ecosystem services like biodiversity, water and soil. Recognizing the role of forests for a sustainable European bioeconomy is fundamental, and sustainable forestry provides great possibilities to create synergies between bioeconomy and biodiversity due to the long-term nature of forests. Investing in biodiversity and our natural capital is a key priority, to help ensure the resilience of forest resources and combat climate change.

More information

A conservative estimate of the global media reach (Meltwater online statistics) is 13 million. Social media presence further added to the impact of the summit. The event was attended by a journalists reporting for a wide variety of media organisations, including the BBC, The Economist, Mainichi Shimbun (Japan), Scientific American/ Świat Nauki (Poland), Deutsche Welle, De Standaard (Belgium) and Jiemian (China).

Discover the conversations on [Twitter](#).

The event was livestreamed, and you can watch the recordings here:

[Full length webstream](#)

[Session 1: A new paradigm for a new era](#)

[Session 1 panel discussion](#)

[Session 2: Investing in the bioeconomy – from niche to norm](#)

[Session 3: Bioeconomy in action – smart, sustainable, inclusive and global business](#)

Event website: www.2017bioecosummit.eu

The 2017 Bioeconomy Investment Summit was organised by the European Forest Institute in collaboration with the City of Joensuu, Regional Council of North Karelia, Natural Resources Institute Finland and European Commission.

