



Overview of state of play on bioeconomy in **Romania**

Workshops

“Facilitating development of bioeconomy policy – needs and gaps” Brussels, 3rd May, 2019
and

“Supporting the development of national bioeconomy strategies” Brussels 14th June 2019



What is currently available for a bioeconomy strategy ?

National Strategic framework related to the bioeconomy sector currently available

- 1. The National Strategy in Sustainable Development – Government General Secretariat
- 2. The National Strategy for Research, Development and Innovation 2014-2020 – Ministry of Research and Innovation - sets bioeconomy as one of the areas of "smart" specialization in areas such as agriculture, aquaculture and fish farming, forestry.

At the national level, regional and a national debates were organized by the Ministry of Research on the priorities of bioeconomy development and the priority thematic directions were carried out. Research was carried out on the identification of priorities for the development of the bio-economy in Romania for the period 2016-2030

- 3. The National Energy Strategy – Ministry of Energy - the Renewable Bio Energy chapter refers to (agro) bio-economy.
- 4. Research –Development – Innovation Strategy - Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development - *has the main strategic objective in the field of bio-economics to assess the medium and long term feasibility of the national bio-economic potential for production non-food bio-resources under the impact of climate change.*
- 5. *At the level of the Ministry of Agriculture, we will carry out a project with the support of the Romanian Academy aimed at strengthening the administrative capacity to manage public policies in the bio-economy sector and the development of skills for central and local government employees.*

Communication initiatives and public awareness activities/actions

- A Round Table organised by BBI and MARD entitled "Opportunities for jobs, growth and investment: Developing the bioeconomy and the bio-based industries sector in Romania " - gathered the relevant representatives of the ministries of environment, forestry, research, finance, economy, business environment, academia and research centres, industry stakeholders as well.
 - The High Level Conference on Agricultural Research - a basis for the development of European agriculture, rural areas and bioeconomy, organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Romania, proposed by the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.*
 - The Romanian-Dutch collaboration is to shape an agricultural training program that builds on the circular agriculture vision and will include themes such as food production, food waste reduction and sustainable agriculture.
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What are our target sectors for bioeconomy?

- ▶ Agriculture represents a major sector of production of resources for the bioeconomy in Romania, alongside the forestry, aquaculture and fishery, pharmaceutical industry, food industry.
- ▶ Exploiting biomass and biofuels are subdomains with obvious potential
- ▶ Increase the competitiveness of the bioresource production sectors - for agriculture, horticulture, forestry, animal husbandry, aquaculture and fishery



What are the responsible public bodies and relevant stakeholders?

- ▶ Currently, there is no entity in charge for coordinating the activity of an interinstitutional thematic working group on bioeconomy
- ▶ Some ministers took different steps individually in this respect, as mentioned before (slide 1)
- ▶ Few common meetings took place on this topic, without a clear outcome
- ▶ **Still no national political engagement on bioeconomy**, no common vision, only the previously mentioned approaches composed of disparate elements, that is likely to yield tangible and unitary results in the future.



What are the short-term and long-term external policy support needs ?

	Process related support	Technical assistance support	Strategy drafting support
Building Block 1: Describe the bioeconomy concept at national level			
Building Block 2: Assess current state of bioeconomy and ambition within the EU Strategy	<p>Analyzing how national policy can support the sectoral development of a bio-economy</p> <p>Investment orientation to support the development of a new business model based on bioeconomy for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - expanding the use of biomass, - increasing the use of by-products and residues, - Extension of wastewater use - etc 		<p>Information and promotion measures for BE, networking</p> <p>Analysis of government sector responsibilities and stakeholder involvement in strategy development</p> <p>Creating and coordinating the thematic working group on BE</p>
Building Block 3: Define bioeconomy measures, platforms and initiatives to achieve targets			
Building Block 4: Leverage on the national and EU policies for sustainable bioeconomy	Correlation of relevant sectoral policies for bio-economy - policy synergies	Analysis of national legislative framework – identifying possible legislative barriers for developing the bioeconomy sector	<p>Develop a roadmap for defining the framework for sustainable development of the bio-economy</p> <p>Organizing new value chains</p>



Actions to advance the development of the bioeconomy strategy

- ▶ Above all, it is necessary to set up an interministerial thematic working group on this issue
- ▶ A governmental entity should take the lead of this WG on bioeconomy ...and then, natural steps will be taken.

