

ENRD Seminar

'Bioeconomy: Seizing the opportunity for rural Europe'

Agenda

3rd July 2019

**Albert Borschette Congress Center, Rue Froissart 36
Brussels, Belgium**

Following the launch of the EU's revised Bioeconomy Strategy and Action Plan in 2018, and anticipating the new CAP framework post-2020, it is timely to explore the role of the bioeconomy for EU's rural areas. The bioeconomy provides a means to shift towards environmentally, socially and economically sustainable, de-carbonized production and consumption patterns based on renewable materials. As such the bioeconomy presents valuable opportunities to regenerate rural areas with new, green and climate-friendly jobs, business models and markets.

The objective of this ENRD Seminar is to shed more light on the opportunities presented by the bioeconomy to rural actors, including farmers, foresters and other rural entrepreneurs, as well as to local communities and national authorities implementing and managing rural development initiatives.

The seminar will combine practical examples, presentations, discussions and working groups, in order to:

- share and discuss experiences from different EU Member States concerning the effective deployment of bioeconomy initiatives in rural territories;
- showcase how sustainable rural bioeconomy can be supported through a coherent use of European public instruments, in particular the Rural Development Programmes; and
- provide insights into the preparation of the future CAP Strategic Plans and ideas on how they could include support to rural bioeconomy.

The Seminar will build on the work carried out by the ENRD Thematic Group on 'Mainstreaming the Bioeconomy'.

Timing 🕒	Agenda item 📄
08.00 – 09.00	Registration and coffee
09.00 – 09.15	Welcome and introduction to the day's objectives and agenda
<i>Session 1: What is the rural bioeconomy? (plenary)</i>	
09.15 – 09:40	Opportunities in the bioeconomy for rural areas - ENRD Contact Point
09.40 – 10.20	Policy and practice: The synergies between the bioeconomy and Rural Development Policy - EU delivering the bioeconomy to rural areas, Galin Gentchev, DG AGRI, European Commission - Experiences of rural bioeconomy: the practitioners' perspective, Caroline Van der Heyden, Boerenbond, BE - Q&A
10.20 – 10.30	Introduction to the breakout groups - ENRD Contact Point
10.30 – 11.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
<i>Session 2: Interactive breakout groups</i>	
11.00 – 13.00	<p>Five different topics addressed in parallel breakout groups, built around examples from different EU Member States</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Building a rural bio-based value chain (11.00-13.00, room 0A) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interactive facilitated exercise 2) Rural climate action through bio-based initiatives (11.00-12.00, room 0B) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carbon sinks in rural areas - recommendations of an EIP-AGRI Focus Group, Gottlieb Basch, University of Evora, PT - Carbon Action initiative, Nicholas Wardi, Baltic Sea Action Group, FI 3) Building local bioeconomy through smart villages (11.00-12.00, room 0C) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Smart Arctic Cluster, Eero Purontaus, Regional Council of Lapland, FI - Building a local food ecosystem, Jean-Francois Pecheur, Local Action Group Pays de Condruses, BE-Wallonia 4) Creating an enabling environment – What are the challenges to ensure policy coherence? (12.00-13.00, room 0B) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key barriers to scaling up rural bioeconomy initiatives, Pablo Fernandez, Cooperativas Agroalimentarias, ES - Examples of policy coherence enabling rural bioenergy production, Jean-Marc Jossart, Bioenergy Europe, EU

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	5) Regional approaches to bioeconomy (12.00-13.00, room 0C) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Knowledge Based Bioeconomy Action Plan of Vidzeme region, Inese Suija Markova, Institute for Environmental Solutions, LV - Gathering rural bioeconomy actors in Friuli-Venezia-Giulia region, Pierpaolo Rovere, Agrifood and Bioeconomy Cluster, IT
13.00 – 14.00	<i>Networking lunch</i>
<i>Session 3: Present and future opportunities for supporting rural bioeconomy through the CAP (plenary)</i>	
14.00 – 14.40	Feedback from the breakout groups
14.40 – 15.00	How to support rural bioeconomy with current tools? - ENRD Thematic Group recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maeve Henchion, TEAGASC, IE - Meri Siljama, Confederation of European Forest Owners, EU
15.00 – 16.00	How to mainstream the bioeconomy in rural areas now and in the future? Panel discussion with MS Managing Authorities, rural stakeholders and the European Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aurélia Barteau, Regional Ministry of Agriculture, Grand Est Region, FR - Clara Lopes, Ministry of Agriculture, PT - Oana Neagu, COPA-COGECA, EU - Benoit Esmanne, DG AGRI, European Commission
16.00 – 16.30	Closing words <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Neda Skakelja, DG AGRI, European Commission

