

EU Danube Region Strategy

PA 8 LIGHTHOUSE

GREEN TECH, CIRCULAR ECONOMY & CIRCULAR BIOECONOMY



Bioeconomy Cluster

Serbia

Basics

Name: BIOECONOMY Cluster

Precursor organization: AGROINDUSTRY Cluster

Country: Serbia

Scoring: 44/50

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<https://www.bioeconomy.rs/en/naslovna-english/>

Key Project Data:



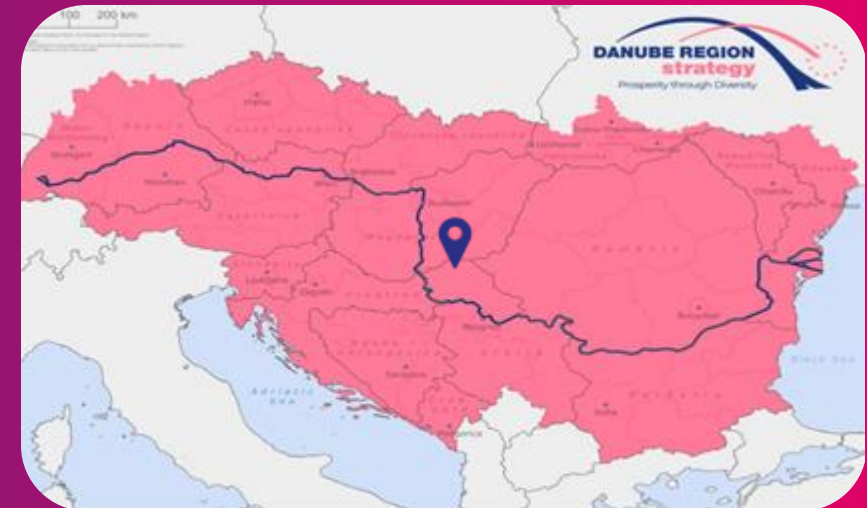
AGROINDUSTRY since 2010
BIOECONOMY since 2022

Project Funding in the past via EU Projects:



1,358,801.35 EUR
2,713,796.5 EUR

BIO-ECONomy Research Driven Innovation
GoDanuBIO



About the project

The **BIOECONOMY Cluster** is a network of companies that emerged from the AGROINDUSTRY Cluster in 2022. AGROINDUSTRY Cluster was a precursor organization to **encourage, improve and develop agricultural production** and the **food industry** on the territory of the Republic of **Serbia**.

The AGROINDUSTRY Cluster showed the members **advantages** of a **cluster organization** as a **network of interconnected companies**.

The BIOECONOMIC Cluster serves as **tool** for **connecting stakeholders, mutual assistance** and **joint presentation**.

AGROINDUSTRY participated in two projects to continue developing and connecting a circular bioeconomy concept:

- BIOECO RDI (2018-2020) – Interreg A ADRIATIC-IONIAN
- GODANUBIO (2020-2022) – Interreg B Danube Region

→ BIOECONOMY Cluster was established based on the knowledge, best practices and experience gained and shared through those projects



Activities

Serbia has a lot of natural resources as the basis for the development of bioeconomy applications

→ great potential for producing biomass, developed agriculture and food industry, potentials in forest and water resources

Focus:



Demand + supply side of the bio-based industries in Vojvodina



Processing of biomass produced in agriculture, especially in the field of fruit growing, medicinal & aromatic plants and hemp production and processing



Collection, use + processing of fruit trees residuals + byproducts of biomass processing + production of food

Aims from BIOECO-RDI:



Creating a collaborative network among Adriatic regions, enterprises and academia for collaborative research, knowledge transfer and skills development



Supporting the enterprise and cluster in the transition process toward an industrial model with higher level of innovation and international collaboration



Bridging the gap among the existing wide regional disparities



Activating a mutual learning process among regions with different levels of R.D.I. and bioeconomy business maturity

Methodology

Business cluster formation is a strategic process aimed at **improving the competitiveness** and **innovative potential** of enterprises through collective action and geographical concentration. The methodology supported by the **German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ)** was used.

1: Initial assessment and cluster mapping

Identifying potential clusters → based on sectoral + geographical criteria

2: Stakeholder Mobilization and Trust Building

Engage key stakeholders – private companies, public institutions, academic and research bodies, and civil society organizations

3: Cluster Diagnosis and Visioning

Deeper diagnostic phase: cluster stakeholders analyze themselves with SWOT analysis; based on analysis the group formulates a shared vision + defines strategic goals

4: Strategy development and action planning

Development of cluster strategy → translation into action plan with recommended focus on “quick wins”

5: Implementation through joint projects

Implementation of action plan through joint projects

6: Monitoring, Evaluation and Scaling

robust monitoring and evaluation;
scale activities, attract new members + strengthen institutional support



Impact

- **Key Activity:** raise + expand awareness → best way to achieve sustainability + well-being of citizens through transformation towards a bioeconomy system
- Awareness and visibility of bioeconomy applications in Serbia drastically increased

Outcome

- Forming a **legislative framework + defining policies** in the sectors Circular Economy and Bioeconomy
- Serbian **roadmap** for circular economy → to transform “take-make-dispose” to more sustainable system
- Serbian **Circular Economy Development Program (2022-2024)** → to support green transition through initiatives
- **CEE2ACT project** emphasized bottom-up approach for better bioeconomy transition in Europe → BIOECONOMY Cluster participated in formation of **Serbian Bioeconomy HUB**



Barriers

Lack of clear policy, legal regulation + financial support for cluster work

- no law that directly regulates the operation of clusters
- no national Cluster Development Strategy

Lack of active participation of entrepreneurs

- they do not yet know enough about the concept of bioeconomy and mix-up the concepts of green-economy, circular-economy and other

Varying quality and quantity of biomass

Lack of the connecting forces linking research with knowledge transfer and consulting

- most frequent difficulties towards entrepreneurial applications

Serbian Chamber of Commerce formed a working group for green procurement

- Lack of proposal consideration by policymakers