

EU Danube Region Strategy

PA 8 LIGHTHOUSE

GREEN TECH, CIRCULAR ECONOMY & CIRCULAR BIOECONOMY



CEE2ACT

Empowering Central and Eastern European countries to
develop circular bioeconomy strategies and action plans

Basics

Acronym: CEE2ACT

Name: Empowering Central and Eastern European countries to develop circular bioeconomy strategies and action plans

Country: Hungary, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Serbia, Austria, Germany

Scoring: 45/50



Key Project Data:



2022 – 2025



3.998.371,25 EUR

Funded by Horizon Europe

Project Coordinator:



GEONARDO (HU)



<https://www.cee2act.eu/>

Contact Person:



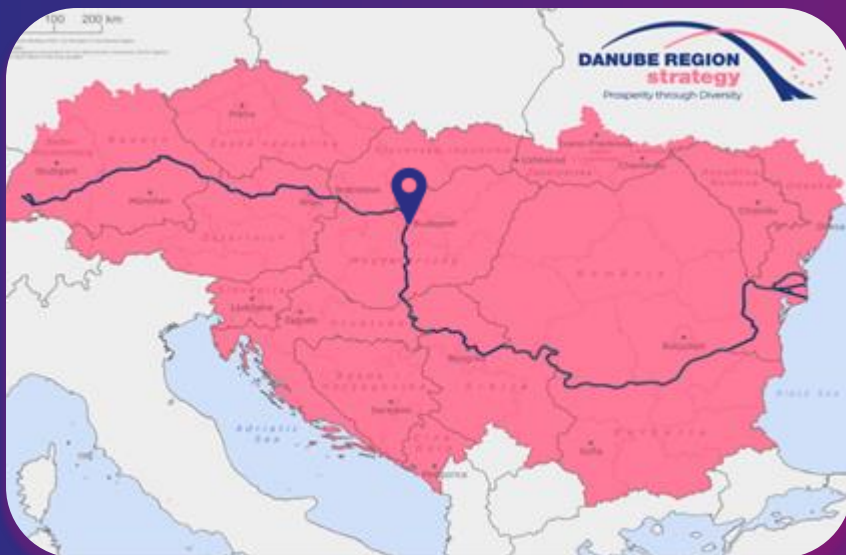
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Consortium

CEE2ACT



Coordinator:

GEONARDO, Hungary

Partners from the Danube Region:

- University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna, Austria
- Executive Forestry Agency, Bulgaria
- WWF Adria, Croatia
- Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, Czechia
- Association of Small- and Medium-Size Enterprises of Covasna County, Romania
- Institute of Forestry, Serbia
- Bioeconomy Cluster, Slovakia
- Anteja ECG D.O.O., Slovenia

And other partners from outside of the Danube Region

About the project

CEE2ACT empowers Central-Eastern Europe countries (CEE) and beyond to **develop circular bioeconomy strategies** and **action plans** through innovative governance models.

The project is empowering 10 Central and Eastern European countries (**Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia**) in developing their **national bioeconomy strategies and action plans** through establishment on **national bioeconomy hubs and knowledge transfer from experienced countries** - countries with a more advanced bioeconomy policy (Austria, Belgium, Finland, Germany, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands). The project will provide a set of **National-level roadmaps** for the bioeconomy strategies in the target countries that will be a result of the participatory bottom-up approach.

CEE2ACT Partnership



INNOVATION

Governance model transformation, National Bioeconomy Hubs, Customizable Toolbox, Cross-border peer learning



SUSTAINABILITY

Policy anchoring, Capacity building and knowledge transfer



SCALABILITY

Replicable structure, Adaptability



**Steinbeis
Europa Zentrum**
Enabling Innovators to Grow



Interreg Programme
Danube Region



Co-funded by
the European Union



REPUBLIC of CROATIA
Ministry of
Economy



Baden-Württemberg
Ministry of Economic Affairs,
Labour and Tourism

Methodology

CEE2ACT applies a bottom-up, participatory, and multi-actor methodology designed to empower CEE countries in developing circular bioeconomy strategies:

Baseline analysis → Hub creation → Co-creation of roadmaps

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Knowledge transfer and inspiration– Tailored exchanges and workshops– Analyses of socio-economic and environmental contexts– map bioeconomy potential, gaps, and country-specific needs | <ul style="list-style-type: none">– National Bioeconomy Hubs– Engaging a wide range of actors (government, academia, private sector, NGOs, farmers, foresters, and civil society) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Applying interactive co-creation methods and peer-to-peer learning– Creation of context-relevant strategies, built on shared knowledge– Development of digital tools and country-specific roadmaps, including stakeholder mappings |
|--|--|--|

→ In one sentence, this multi-layered methodology ensures that the project is adaptable, scalable, and capable of fostering durable and inclusive policy outcomes.

Objectives and Activities

The **CEE2ACT project's activities and objectives** are designed not only to build capacities in the target countries but also to ensure a **long-term impact through institutional anchoring, policy integration, and community engagement**. The most important are:

Objective	Activities
Empowering CEE countries to develop bioeconomy strategies and action plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Knowledge transfer and best practices from experienced countries – Design of inclusive, stakeholder-based strategies – Establishing National bioeconomy hubs as platforms for collaboration among stakeholders
Facilitating multi-actor engagement and co-creation of strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Establishing National bioeconomy hubs as platforms for collaboration among stakeholders
Help countries develop and implement effective bioeconomy strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Creating a set of practical tools, guidelines, templates, and methodologies for bioeconomy policy design and implementation
Foster learning, cooperation, and networking among countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Development of a Knowledge Transfer Mechanism – Peer-to-peer exchanges, thematic workshops, and study visits
Outline strategic priorities, implementation steps, and monitoring frameworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Producing National Bioeconomy Roadmaps
Just and equitable bioeconomy transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Focusing on inclusivity and participatory approaches

Outcome

CEE2ACT



CEE2ACT brings added value by enabling CEE countries to transition from fragmented efforts to structured, inclusive bioeconomy strategies. Its impact lies in **bridging knowledge and policy gaps** through the **transfer of proven governance models and best practices** from experienced countries to CEE target countries.

The table below illustrates how each key measure of CEE2ACT contributes to specific outcomes and benefits:

Activity/Measure	Outcome
Baseline Analyses of Bioeconomy in Each Country	Identification of key actors, existing policies, biomass potential, and main barriers and opportunities → Served as foundation for informed strategy development
Establishment of National Bioeconomy Hubs	Functional, multi-actor platforms in each country that bring together stakeholders
Enhanced Capacities and Knowledge Transfer	Improved understanding and capabilities for bioeconomy development
Development of the CEE2ACT Digital Tools	More transparent, participatory, and data-informed governance of the bioeconomy sector and development of a comprehensive set of practical resources
National Bioeconomy Roadmaps	Creation of tailored roadmaps containing strategic objectives, priority actions, and implementation mechanisms aligned with EU bioeconomy goals
Memorandum of Understanding	Ensuring institutional commitment and sustainability of the National Bioeconomy Hubs beyond the project's duration.

Barriers

Lack of institutional coordination between the countries

Solution:

National Bioeconomy Hubs as formalized multi-actor platforms

Low stakeholder awareness and engagement

Solution:

Implementation of inclusive engagement methodologies, training, and workshops

Insufficient data and fragmented knowledge

Solution:

Baseline analyses helped close key knowledge gaps by providing structured overviews

Limited access to best practices in some countries

Solution:

Knowledge transfer from experienced countries

Top-down policy approach

Solution:

Introduction of bottom-up, participatory co-creation processes

Tips

Ideas for future replication could include the following

Scaling the baseline analysis methodology for other thematic areas or subnational levels

Extending digital tools to improve monitoring, data access, and citizen participation in bioeconomy policy development

Adopting the CEE2ACT model of National Bioeconomy Hubs for ongoing stakeholder coordination, consultation, and innovation in bioeconomy governance

Using CEE2ACT 'Toolbox' as a replicable resource

CEE2ACT

