

FUTURE OF THE DANUBE REGION: GREEN TRANSITION AND CIRCULAR BIOECONOMY

Enhancing the Competitiveness and Sustainability of Enterprises – Climate neutrality, Raw material supply and New Business Models

An event within the framework of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), Priority Area 8 (Competitiveness of enterprises)

WHEN:

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST, 2023

WHERE:

ZAGREB (CROATIA),
HOTEL INTERNATIONAL, MIRAMARSKA CESTA 24
AND ONLINE

BACKGROUND:

The world has changed through the Covid-pandemics, greenhouse gas emissions and other causes of climate change. The countries in the Danube region with the war in Ukraine in its east, and its consequences in terms of increasing energy prices, and lost and interrupted access to raw materials and markets, interrupted supply chains are significantly affected. A green transition is the answer of human society. These changes are pushing regions to strengthen regional development by using their resources more efficiently, i. e. to redirect their economies towards circular economies and circular bioeconomies. For enterprises, circular bioeconomy is offering important contributions to become more sustainable, reach climate neutrality, secure raw material supply from regional sources and new business models. Questions to be asked are: Where do we stand? What technologies and skills are already available? Do these technologies make economic sense? What can we improve? How to find funding for the projects? Which skills are necessary to implement these processes? How to proceed? How can we cooperate?

Join us in Zagreb or online and use the opportunity to inform yourself and discuss these and other related topics on how to accelerate the transition from a fossil-based economy to a circular bioeconomy and how to recover raw materials from waste and waste water to strengthen the sustainability and resilience of the SMEs in the Danube region!

Registration with this link: <https://form.jotform.com/223172327440044>

PROGRAMME:

12.15-13.00 Lunch

13.00-13.30 Registration

13.30-13.45 Introduction and welcome messages

- **Ana Dijan**, Coordinator of EUSDR PA 8 Working Group "Circular Bioeconomy – to support the competitiveness of enterprises", Director of Croatian Wood Cluster (Conference moderator)
- **Nirvana Kapitan Butković**, Coordinator of [EUSDR Priority Area 8](#), [Croatian Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development](#)
- **Carmen Hawkins**, Coordinator of [EUSDR Priority Area 8](#), [Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labour and Tourism](#)
- **Anita Sever-Koren**, [Head of Directorate for Agricultural Policy, EU and International Cooperation](#), [Croatian Ministry of Agriculture](#)

13.45-15.00 Part 1: Where we stand

- Keynote lecture: **Scandinavian experience / Torfi Jóhannesson**, [Nordic cooperation](#)
- **Vanguard initiative / Ilaria Re**, [Consorzio Italtotec](#)
- Panel discussion: **SWOT of circular bioeconomy in the Danube region**
Introduction: **Barna Kovacs PhD**, [BIOEAST](#) Secretary General
Participants: **Anita Sever-Koren**, [Ministry of agriculture Croatia](#); **Prof. Dr. Marina Tišma**, Faculty of Food Technology Osijek; **Daniel Cosnita**, [Clustero Romania](#), **Mateo Ivanac**, [Croatian Chamber of Economy](#)
- Q&A

15.00-15.15 Coffee break

15.15-17.15 Part 2: Where is the potential?

- **Urban and industrial circular bioeconomy:** Showcases for utilizing waste and wastewater streams for industrial purposes / **Dr. Sebastian Awiszus**, [Baden-Württemberg Ministry of the Environment, Climate Protection and the Energy Sector](#)
- **Financing and Investments in the Danube Region:** What's in it for SMEs and Start-ups? / **Sergi Costa**, [BIOPRO Baden-Württemberg](#)
- **Financing possibilities for bioeconomy projects - new calls / Tajana Radić**, [Croatian Chamber of Agriculture](#)
- **Panel discussion: Financing and investments in the circular bioeconomy in the Danube Region**
Participants: **Dr. Phd. Jasmina Ranilović**, [Podravka](#); **Marko Mitrovič**, [Optifood](#), / **Sergi Costa**, [BIOPRO Baden-Württemberg](#), **Tajana Radić**, [Croatian Chamber of Agriculture](#)
- Q&A

17.15-17.30 Closing remarks

- **State Secretary Hrvoje Bujanović**, Croatian Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development
- **State Secretary Dr. Patrick Rapp**, Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labour and Tourism

End of the conference

17.30-18.00 Short break

18.00-19.00 Workshop: Seed money call - 1st brainstorming

19:00 Evening reception (By invitation only)