

STANDARD PRIVACY POLICY FOR BBioNets

1 Who we are:

BBioNets is a 3-year Coordination and Support Action running from November 2023 to October 2026, funded by the European Union under the Horizon Europe Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

In response to the increasing need for grassroots initiatives and knowledge sharing to address major challenges such as climate resilience and increased mitigation of GHG emissions, while supporting zero waste and circular economy with biomass reuse, BBioNets constitutes a **thematic network** that will rely on, promote, and further advance the work carried out by EIP AGRI Operational Groups (OGs) with respect to **management and/or processing of agricultural and forest biomass with Bio-Based Technologies (BBTs)**, being BBTs those technologies or practices that use either non-food feedstock or circularity principles -or both- for delivering diverse products.

Applying the quintuple helix model and a multi-actor approach both within the consortium itself and on the ground activities, BBioNets will set up 6 **regional Forest and Agriculture Networks - FANs** (IE, ES, IT, GR, PL, CZ) that will ensure balanced representation of all kinds of stakeholders.

The partners of the BBioNets consortium, listed below, process certain types of personal data for the purposes of the project. Each partner is responsible for the personal data they collect and process during their activities under the framework of the project:

1. **[Munster Technological University - MTU \(coordinator\)](#)** (Ireland) is a university based in South-West Ireland, formed in 2021 through the merger of Institute of Technology, Tralee, and Cork Institute of Technology. The main participant on the project is the Circular Bioeconomy Research Group (CircBio) who are a leading national and European research group in the domain of circular bioeconomy, participating on high profile projects and educational initiatives. The multidisciplinary group participate on projects ranging from biorefinery demonstration, supply chain analysis, environmental and economic sustainability analysis, sustainable food systems and many more. They are also involved in education, leading Ireland's first master's degree in Bioeconomy, alongside University College Dublin. The research group is also home to the Circular Bioeconomy Cluster South-West with a membership of over 50 SME's working on bioeconomy activity.
2. **[Teagasc – The Agriculture and Food Development Authority](#)** (Ireland) is the Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority. It is the national body providing integrated research, advisory and training services to the agriculture and food industry and rural communities in Ireland.
3. **[Council for Agricultural Research and Economics - CREA](#)** (Italy) is the leading Italian research organization dedicated to the agri-food supply chains. It operates as a legal entity under public law, and is supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forests (Masaf). The Agricultural Policies and Bioeconomy Centre develops cognitive and interpretative analysis of economic and social dynamics related to the agrifood, forestry and fish sectors. It carries out surveys on the features and evolution of rural areas and the respective competitive factors. It provides support in the processing of sectorial policies, monitoring their evolution and assessing the effects on the systems.
4. **[Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation – IUNG](#)** (Poland) is the largest and oldest research & development centre in Poland, conducting a broad range of research activities comprising crop production, soil science and fertilisation, as well as recognition and protection of agricultural areas against various forms of degradation. The research conducted at IUNG supports activities of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Poland, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development,

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local government and administrative authorities, agricultural advisory services, farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs.

5. **Technological Corporation of Andalusia – CTA** (Spain) is a strategic partner for innovation located in Andalusia, Spain. It helps companies, universities, public administrations and other organisations to successfully achieve their R&D objectives and to valorise the results. Founded in 2005 with the support of the Andalusian Regional Government, CTA is a private foundation working to promote innovation with more than 170 member companies.
6. **American Farm School – AFS** (Greece) provides formal agricultural education, technical and professional training, outreach and consultancy, new product development, entrepreneurial support, innovation facilitation, demonstration farm services and applied research. The holistic approach and overall practical role of the institute is met through the operation of the two 145-hectare demonstration farms which are considered as “its living laboratory”. The Innovation and Impact HUB is involved in a multitude of activities and projects in the agri-food sector that revolve around digital technologies adoption, sustainable agricultural practices, professional education, social impact and the formation of farmer networks and working groups for the modernization and sustainable development of the sector.
7. **TEPRO Consultores Agrícolas SL** – TEPRO (Spain) is a Spanish Consulting firm with over 45 years’ experience and expertise in agricultural farm management covering all the typical Mediterranean crops. It provides comprehensive farm management to a portfolio of over 300 farms in terms of technical advice based on best practices towards sustainability and more resilient and precision agriculture through implementing accessible and affordable new, innovative and towards zero residue practices and technologies.
8. **FOCUS Strategic Thinking Consultants – FOCUS** (Greece) is a business consulting firm providing innovation management and capacity building services in a number of fields, including circular bioeconomy and bio-based economy and social innovation. It supports innovation, sustainability, strategic thinking and adaptability to an ever-changing environment, putting to good use an extensive network of multidisciplinary partners and allies at regional, national and European level.
9. **BIOEAST HUB CR – BIOEAST HCZ** (Czechia) is the first national bioeconomy BIOEAST HUB in the BIOEAST region established in line with the BIOEAST Governance and Roadmap and with the support of the Ministry of Agriculture CZ that was established to gather stakeholders and support their engagement in bioeconomy. BIOEAST HUB CZ is leading two macro regional Thematic Working Groups Bioeconomy Education and Fresh Water Based Bioeconomy. BIOEAST HUB CZ is involved in the H2020, Horizon Europe, BBI-JU and CBE-JU projects.

For further information, we can be contacted at: www.bbionets.eu

2 How we collect your personal data:

We collect personal data both directly and indirectly:

Directly. We obtain personal data directly from individuals in a variety of ways, including but not limited to the following cases:

An individual subscribes to our newsletter/s.

An individual contacts us via email on info@bbionets.eu.

An individual registers to attend meetings and events we host and during attendance at such events.

We establish cooperative relationships with an individual.

We provide professional services pursuant to our contract with the European Commission.

An individual participates in an interview or survey organized by us.

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Indirectly. We obtain personal data indirectly about individuals from a variety of sources, including:

- Our research partners.
- Our networks and contacts.
- Public and open data sources such as public registers, news articles and internet searches.
- Social and professional networking sites (e.g., LinkedIn).

2.1 What types of data we collect:

We only collect data that is necessary for the smooth implementation of our project. This data falls into the following categories:

- Contact details (name/ surname, e-mail address, mobile phone number).
- Professional information (job title, organization, field of expertise).
- Demographics (e.g., age, gender, nationality).
- Information about what a person knows or believes.
- Videos and photos (from people that attend our events).

2.2 Bases of lawful processing:

We process personal data on the following legal bases:

Legal obligations - for processing activities required to ensure compliance both with applicable national and European legislation as well as with the specific legal and regulatory framework of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme for Research and Innovation of the European Union.

Consent – for processing activities such as organization of surveys and interviews, completion of questionnaires and dissemination of project results.

Contractual obligations - for processing activities such as reporting to the European Commission and complying with publicity obligations of the project.

2.3 What we do with your personal data:

We process your personal data with the purpose of:

- Conducting research (e.g., interviews, surveys).
- Disseminating our project results to different types of stakeholders.
- Sending invitations and providing access to guests attending our events and webinars.
- Administering, maintaining, and ensuring the security of our information systems, applications, and websites.
- Processing online requests or queries, including responding to communications from individuals.
- Complying with contractual, legal, and regulatory obligations.

2.4 How we secure your personal data when we process it:

We continuously apply a personal data risk assessment process to identify, analyse, and evaluate the security risks that may threaten your personal data. Based on the results of this risk assessment, we define and apply a set of both technical and organizational measures to mitigate the above security risks, including but not limited to:

- Data Protection Policies to guide our personnel when processing your data.
- Written contracts with organizations that process personal data on our behalf.

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Non-Disclosure Agreements with our personnel.
 Back-up process, antimalware protection, access control mechanisms, etc.
 Some of our partners have appointed a Data Protection Officer.

2.5 Do we share personal data with third parties?

We may occasionally share personal data with trusted third parties to help us deliver efficient and quality services. When we do so, we ensure that recipients are contractually bound to safeguard the data we entrust to them before we share the data. We may engage with several or all the following categories of recipients:

- Parties that support us as we provide our services (e.g., cloud-based software services such as Dropbox, Microsoft SharePoint, Google).
- Our professional advisers, including lawyers, auditors, and insurers.
- Law enforcement or other government and regulatory agencies or other third parties as required by and in accordance with applicable law or regulation.
- The European Commission according to our relevant contractual obligations.

2.6 Do we transfer your personal data outside the European Economic Area?

We do not own file servers located outside the European Economic Area (EEA). However, some partners may use cloud and / or marketing services from reputable providers such as SharePoint, DropBox, etc., situated both inside and outside the EEA. We always check that such providers comply with the relevant GDPR requirements before using their services.

2.7 Do we use cookies?

Our website uses a singular cookie originating from the [Koko Analytics](#) plugin.

Cookies are small pieces of data generated by a website and stored on your computer by your web browser. The cookie used in BBioNets is utilised for the purpose of gathering statistical data, specifically in regards to the number of visitors, the frequency of page views, and the sources of referrals. It is pertinent to note that this process does not involve the tracking of events, nor does it entail the collection of any personal or device-related information. You are informed about the use of this cookie and can manage your preferences. For more information on how to manage the cookie used by this website, please visit: <http://www.aboutcookies.org/>

Cookie Designation	_koko_analytics_pages_viewed
Domain of Application	bbionets.eu
Validity Period	5 Hours

2.8 Your rights

You have the following rights regarding our processing of your personal data:

- Right to withdraw consent** – You can withdraw consent that you have previously given to one or more specified purposes to process your personal data. This will not affect the lawfulness of any processing carried out before you withdraw your consent.

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Right of access – You can ask us to verify whether we are processing personal data about you and, if so, have access to a copy of such data.

Right to rectification and erasure – You can ask us to correct our records if you believe they contain incorrect or incomplete information about you or ask us to erase your personal data after you withdraw your consent to processing or when we no longer need it for the purpose it was originally collected.

Right to restriction of processing – You can ask us to temporarily restrict our processing of your personal data if you contest its accuracy, prefer to restrict its use rather than having us erase it, or need us to preserve it for you to establish, exercise or defend a legal claim. A temporary restriction may apply while verifying whether we have overriding legitimate grounds to process it. You can ask us to inform you before we lift that temporary processing restriction.

Right to data portability – In some circumstances where you have provided personal data to us, you can ask us to transmit that personal data (in a structured, commonly used, and machine-readable format) directly to another entity.

Right to object – You can object to our use of your personal data for direct marketing purposes, including profiling or where processing has taken the form of automated decision-making. However, we may need to keep some minimal information (e.g., e-mail address) to comply with your request to cease marketing to you.

Right to make a complaint to your local Data Protection Authority (DPA) (see https://ec.europa.eu/justice/article-29/structure/data-protection-authorities/index_en.htm) regarding any concerns you may have about our data handling practices.

To ask us to do anything of the above, you can contact us by email: info@bbionets.eu. We will promptly examine your request against the relevant requirements of the laws and regulations governing privacy and personal data protection and we will answer the latest within 30 days after receiving your request. We will ask from you some kind of identification (e.g., photocopy of your identity card or passport) to avoid non-authorized reveal of your personal data. If, for reasons of complexity of the request or a multitude of requests, we are unable to respond promptly, we will notify you within 30 days of any delay, which in no case may exceed two months from the expiration of the 30-day deadline.

2.9 How long do we retain personal data?

We retain personal data to provide our services, stay in contact with you and to comply with applicable laws, regulations, and contractual obligations to which we are subject. Please note that we have an obligation to retain data concerning projects funded by the Horizon Europe Framework Programme for Research and Innovation of the European Union for up to five years after the end of the project (unless further retention is requested by auditors). After the expiry of the retention period, and unless further legitimate grounds for retention arise, we will dispose of personal data in a secure manner.

2.10 Disclaimer of liability for third party websites

Although our site may contain links to third-party sites, including the sites of the consortium partners, we are not responsible for the privacy practices or content of these sites, and we expressly disclaim any liability for any loss or damage that may be caused by the use of these links. We do not monitor the privacy practices or the content of these sites. If you have any questions about the privacy practices of another site, you should contact the site's responsible personnel. We suggest you read the privacy policy of each website you interact with, before allowing the collection and use of your personal data.

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We may also provide social media features that allow you to share information on your social networks and interact with our project on various social media sites. The use of these social media features may result in the collection or sharing of information about you. We recommend that you check the privacy policies and regulations of the social networking sites you interact with, so that you can be sure that you understand what information may be collected, used, and disclosed by these sites.

2.11 Children

We do not knowingly collect, use, or disclose information from children under the age of 16. If we learn that we have collected the personal information of a child under 16, we will take steps to delete the information as soon as possible. Please immediately contact us if you become aware that a child under 16 has provided us with personal information.

3 Revisions of this Privacy Policy

This Privacy Policy is valid from **15/03/2024** and replaces any other previous notifications that we had issued in the past regarding our personal data management practices. We reserve the right to revise this Policy at any time. The current version will always be uploaded to our website indicating the date of entry into force, so that you know when the most recent revision took place. If there are critical changes in this policy or our personal data practices change significantly in the future, we will notify you by posting the changes on our website.

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