



DELIVERABLE D1.2

Report on FANs interaction – initial version

FOCUS Strategic Thinking Consultants

APRIL 2025

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Table of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
D	Deliverable
WP	Work Package
SLRT	Standing Liaison Round Table
BBTs	Bio-Based Technologies
FAN	Forest and Agriculture Network
RPFA	Regional Partner for Forestry and Agriculture
OG	(EIP-AGRI) Operational Group
DoA	Description of the Action
ETR	European Transnational Region

1 Introduction

Networking and collaboration facilitate the effective exchange of knowledge and best practices. Since its very inception, BBioNets has acknowledged them as vital conduits for addressing the specific needs of farmers and foresters in the promotion and uptake of Bio-Based Technologies (BBTs).

As part of its overall methodology, BBioNets has applied a two-level multi-actor approach to respond to the European farmers' & foresters' needs. It proceeded with initially establishing 6 **regional** Forest and Agriculture Networks (FANs), one in each of the consortium countries (early 2024), to encourage cooperation among primary producers, industry, policy makers and researchers. The aim has always been to enable an exchange of ideas and experiences on the most urgent needs and emerging opportunities for primary producers with respect to the deployment of BBTs in their day-to-day operations, encompassing their cost/effectiveness dimension for each region.

The role of the FANs extends beyond their national borders, though. To achieve their intended objective of better reaching, capturing and transferring knowledge from OGs and introducing additional BBTs, the FANs have been invited to work together at a double cross-regional level:

- as 'European Transnational Regions' (ETRs), based on the approach envisioned by the project (Figure 1), and
- the European level.

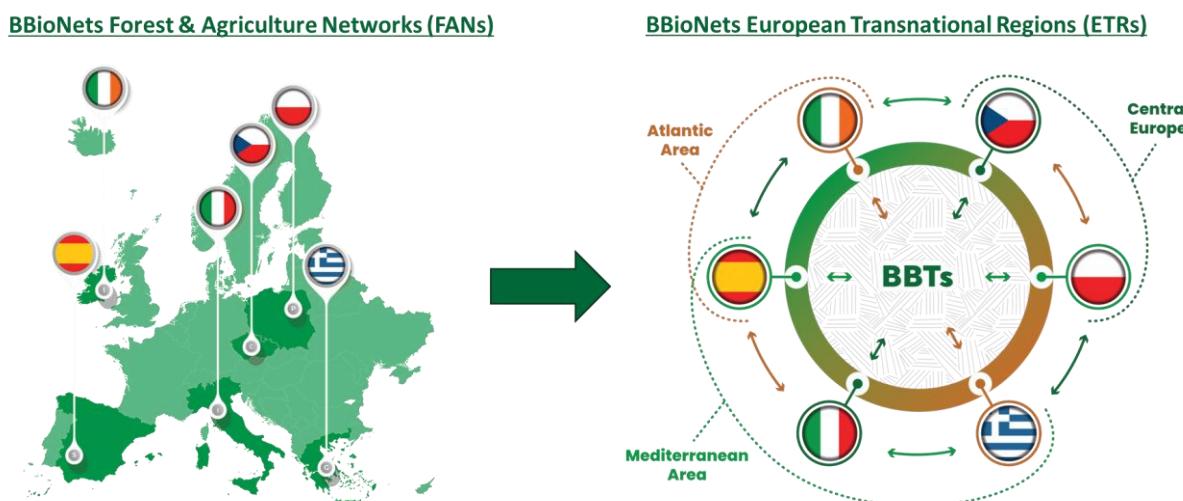


Figure 1: BBioNets two-level multi-actor approach - from regionally to cross-regionally.

According to the initial BBioNets plan, each FAN acts as part of an **ETR sub-network**, namely the Atlantic Area (IE, ES), Central Europe (PL, CZ) and the Mediterranean Area (IT, GR, ES). The knowledge gathered, analysed and validated at FAN and consortium level, along with BBioNets tools and materials, are being communicated and discussed, informing all stakeholders of regional OG practices and results, stimulating debate and knowledge exchange as to regional concerns, solutions and opportunities, and the possibility of transferring them at a wider geographical scale.

Cross-fertilisation is also pursued at the ***European level***, targeting countries in Northern, Southern, Eastern, Western, and Central Europe, with all FANs convening for two dedicated meetings. The aim is to exchange on forestry and agriculture needs and challenges, and advance knowledge stemming from each and all regions in a bid for interaction and cross-pollination useful to all sub-networks. Those meetings also serve to further promote the EIP-AGRI Operational Groups (OGs) concept, discuss related hurdles and solutions, and propose approaches to foster OG creation.

These cross-regional sub-networks play a crucial role in bridging the gap between policy implementation and on-the-ground realities. By meeting at regular intervals, they enhance their collective capacity to develop targeted solutions that support agricultural productivity, sustainability, and resilience. Their structured interactions foster a dynamic learning environment that enables them to refine their methodologies and adapt to emerging challenges. Such exchanges ensure that primary producers benefit from the most effective strategies tailored to their unique circumstances.

The aim of this deliverable is twofold: **(a)** to outline the strategic framework guiding the FAN collaboration and networking process, and **(b)** to document the first round of meetings conducted during the reporting period to contribute to the overall objectives of the project.

2 Strategy & Methodological Approach

Having analysed the requirements and parameters of the BBioNets Description of the Action (DoA) about the cross-fertilisation among FANs, FOCUS formulated a plan of action to be shared with all partners of the consortium.

This process began with FOCUS closely monitoring the formation of the FANs and the progress achieved in the knowledge collection and high-level study of regional dynamics carried out by the consortium. The objective was to make this plan as effective as possible, accounting for the evolution of the project, and the needs and challenges identified by one of its main stakeholders, i.e. primary producers. Identifying the overall objectives of the Task was the next step towards that direction:

- Inform stakeholders across ETRs of both different and similar regional practices and results with respect to BBTs and OGs;
- Exchange knowledge on regional concerns, solutions, opportunities and their potential transfer at a wider geographical scale;
- Promote OG creation and future collaboration across ETRs and at European level.

It was then time to brainstorm and define an approximate timetable, as well as a logical series of interconnected thematic to be dealt with during both the ETR meetings and the European ones.

Under the 3-year duration of the BBioNets project, the overall plan foresees:

- 3 meetings at ETR level;
- 2 meetings at European level;
- The participation of 2-3 experts per FAN.

The suggested timeline of the ETR/European meetings should take into consideration **(a)** the progress of each FAN, **(b)** the availability of its members, and **(c)** the structured flow of all complementary activities of the project (e.g. individual FAN meetings, project policy events at national and European level, knowledge transfer activities, etc.). International meetings should be held at regular intervals, without losing sight of the dedicated regional ones though, so as to avoid overburdening their participants but maintaining their interest in project activities alive. Considering the overall activities and maturity level of the project at different stages, the timeline proposed is depicted in Figure 2:

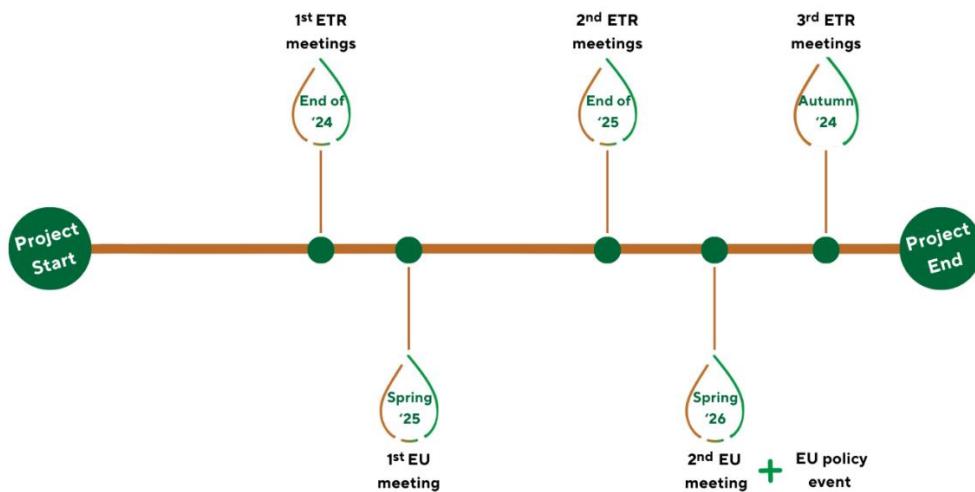


Figure 2: Cross-fertilisation meetings timeline

Similar to the timeline considerations, the topics to be broached during the cross-fertilisation meetings should be related to the regional FAN gatherings and activities, account for the project progress, and support the policy events scheduled during the 2nd period of the project. The discussion thematic proposed can be viewed in Figure 3 below:

1st ETR meetings (end of '24)

- introduction of participants
- current BBTs regional practices (*similarities / differences*)
- general framework (*challenges, solutions, enabling (?) policies*)
- level of knowledge about OGs / interest in OG creation

2nd ETR meetings (end of '25)

- OGs & BBTs: where are we?
- Issues to tackle in EU policy meeting

3rd ETR meetings (autumn '26)

- policy event conclusions,
- BBioNets assessment,
- next steps (OGs)

1st EU meeting (spring '25)

- OGs enabling establishment conditions (adequate knowledge, funding, subsidised topics, ...)
- bioeconomy-related OG challenges (biomass availability, financing, know-how,...)

2nd EU meeting (in conjunction with EU policy event (spring '26)

- 6 RRs – BBTs: experiences & uptake,
- OG promotion & further synergies

Figure 3: Indicative discussion topics for the cross-fertilisation meetings.

By the time the plan of action was presented to the partners (July 2024, M8 – 1st month of the Task), the establishment of the BBioNets FANs was completed and their first meetings were underway, allowing for a productive discussion and approval of the suggested indicative actions and timeline.

Organisation of the ETR meetings

During discussions held under other Tasks of the project, several ideas emerged, along with aspects to consider as to the scale, impact, and promotion of all ETR meetings. Two significant changes were thoroughly considered and agreed upon by the consortium in terms of the overall concept of those meetings:

1. Partners expressed the opinion that, instead of restricting the ETRs to the initially established clustering of the Atlantic Area (IE, ES), Central Europe (PL, CZ) and the Mediterranean Area (IT, GR, ES)¹, it would be more beneficial to pursue cross-fertilisation between different pairings / sub-networks of countries, based on common resources, needs and challenges, or specific topics. It was suggested, for instance, that representatives from the Greek and Irish FANs could potentially meet to discuss the topic of sheep wool as a common resource identified in both countries. All partners agreed that a number of project outcomes (e.g. high-level study of regional dynamics, the BBT inventory, etc.) and the FAN deliberations should be used as guiding parameters for the next round of meetings. **It was thus decided to organise the first round of**

¹ The concept of these meetings was to facilitate discussions among experts from regions that share the same characteristics based on the “Interreg VI B transnational co-operation programmes” (Climate-Adapt). <https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/countries-regions/transnational-regions>

ETR meetings based on the geographical distribution of the FANs as mentioned in the DoA, and then 'adapt' the concept for optimal results.

2. Accordingly, it was agreed to widen the ETR meetings beyond their initial scope of FAN members' attendance. The idea was to invite representatives from other EU-funded projects, thus opting for additional input (external to the BBioNets ecosystem), enhanced collaborations, and broader geographical coverage. Those representatives would be invited as speakers, ensuring a reinforced flow of information and feedback from more experts across projects and/or initiatives.

Organisation of the European Cross-fertilisation meetings

As lead partner of both the cross-fertilisation/interconnection of the FANs and T4.2 "Liaison with relevant initiatives", FOCUS made the **tactical choice to broaden the scale of the 1st European meeting** of its FANs. In concert with the BBioNets coordinator, the team contacted the **other 4** (at the time) Standing Liaison Round Table (SLRT)² **projects promoting the work of EIP-AGRI OGs**. The aim was to investigate their willingness to co-organise a European event, and transform the 1st European cross-fertilisation meeting, anticipated to deal with fundamental issues pertaining to the formation and implementation of OGs, into a **joint event** fostering dialogue and valuable insights **across 5 EU-funded projects** that promote OGs, regardless of their thematic focus. It was believed that such an endeavour would:

- expand the outreach of the event (audiences + geographical coverage)
- allow to present different perspectives
- enhance the quality of the results
- reinforce collaboration among Thematic Networks

After receiving a positive response from all projects contacted and informing the BBioNets partners, FOCUS proceeded with all necessary steps for the organisation of its 1st European cross-fertilisation meeting/wider collaborative event (see Section 4).

² A network for cooperation established by BBioNets. Additional information available in D4.3 "Report on the collaboration with relevant initiatives – P1".

3 Cross-regional Meetings - ETR level

3.1 Practical organisational steps

The next step in organising the first ETR meetings was to validate the approximate dates & discussion topics. FOCUS initiated early on (September 2024) a series of email exchanges to facilitate the organisation of dedicated online discussions with the partners involved in the preparation of each ETR meeting. Despite the common approach across the project, the objective was to refine discussion topics to better reflect and allow for potential local specificities.

During 3 individual online meetings, the partners involved came to a common decision on the broader thematic to be broached in their ETR, the date, each partner's role, and the structure of the forthcoming meeting. A more thorough definition of the topics, invitation of external speakers, and several organisational details were ironed out via a series of emails.

Assisted by all partners, FOCUS undertook the preparation of:

- each individual concept note;
- the invitation banner for partners to inform and invite interested stakeholders to the meetings;
- the .pptx template for presentations;
- the agenda of each meeting;
- the creation of a registration form.

The latter was considered necessary to account for GDPR considerations, as the consortium decided to record and upload all ETR meetings to the [BBioNets YouTube channel](#) (Figure 4). By uploading the videos, BBioNets made certain their content would be accessible for wider audiences that did not have the opportunity to attend.

Going a step further, the decision was made to produce short documents in the aftermath of the meetings, ensuring that the valuable knowledge and insights of each one were communicated to the whole BBioNets consortium and its FAN members. These documents summarise the main discussion points and highlights of the meetings, and are presented as '**Key Takeaways**', made also available to AKIS actors across Europe through the [BBioNets website](#) (Figure 5).

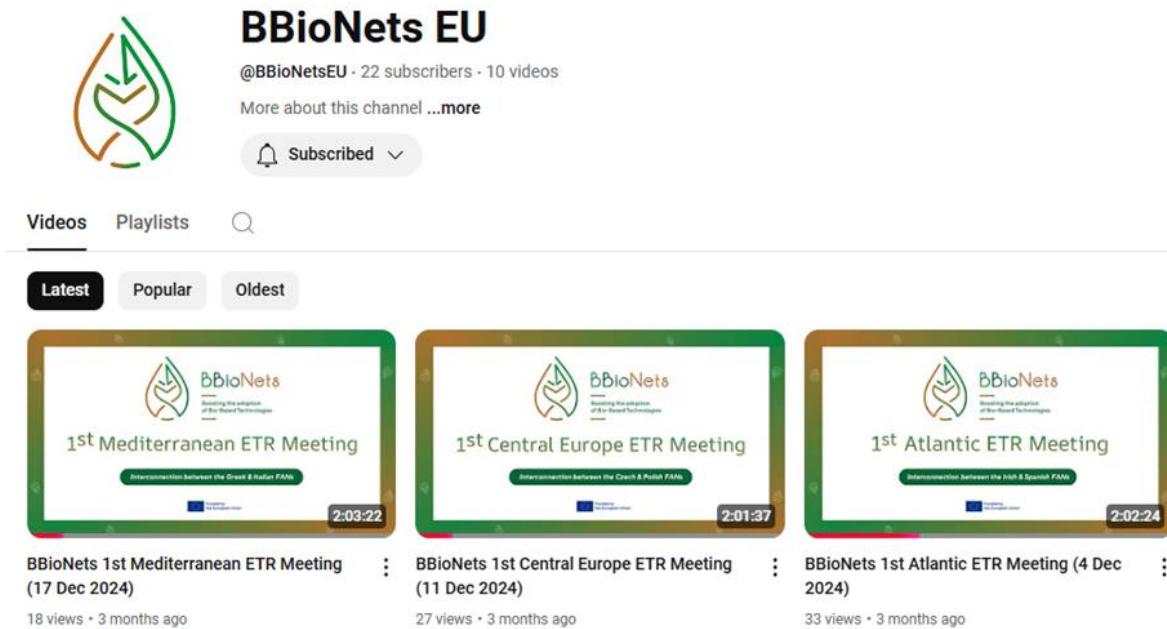


Figure 4: ETR meetings on BBioNets YouTube channel.

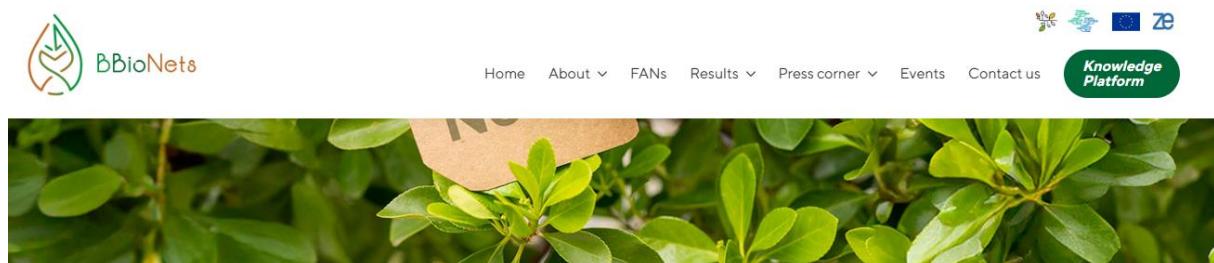


Figure 5: ETR meetings articles on BBioNets website.

3.2 1st Atlantic ETR Meeting

Date / Time	4 December 2024 / 11:00 – 13:00 CET
Platform	MS Teams
Discussion topics	<p>Key challenges and solutions for the forestry sector in Ireland and Spain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing circularity in the forest sector through acquisition of technology infrastructure for the collection of forest biomass and/or shared technology infrastructure for its valorisation for bioeconomy purposes. Identification of foreign regional funding mechanisms to implement so as to boost the valorisation of forestry biomass for bioeconomy purposes. Specific processing of forest biomass with BBTs for their low-value and/or high-value by-product valorisation.
External speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Álvaro Picardo - Deputy Director for innovation in forest policies at CESEFOR (ES) Edward Casey – EU Funding Manager at AMBER centre (IE) José Ramón Guzmán – Directorate-General for Forestry Policy and Biodiversity, Regional Government of Andalucia (ES)
Project representatives attended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SMURF project (Horizon Europe, CSA, member of BBioNets SLRT) DeMANS Project (MSCA RISE) NXTGENWOOD project (Agriculture, Food and the Marine dpt, Ireland)
Key takeaways	https://bbionets.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/1st_Atlantic_ETR_Key_Takeaways.pdf
Video recording	https://bbionets.eu/1st-atlantic-etr-meeting-key-takeaways



Figure 6: 1st Atlantic ETR Meeting – screenshot

Cross-fertilisation Meeting
1st Atlantic ETR Meeting
Interconnection between the Irish & Spanish FANS
 4 December 2024 | Online

Concept
 This cross-fertilisation meeting arises from the identification of regional realities, specific challenges and needs within the BBioNets regional Forest and Agriculture Networks (FANS). There are, however, common needs to be addressed among the different regions. When different FANS connect together and network, this can only lead to a greater impact of their work, hence the objectives of these cross-fertilisation meetings:

- Exchange on common difficulties and concerns about applied Bio-Based Technologies (BBTs).
- Outline of breakthroughs and emerging opportunities.
- Capture and promotion of knowledge created by national EIP-AGRI Operational Groups (OGs).
- Facilitation of bilateral and multilateral collaboration among FANS and OGs

Objectives
 The first meeting of the Irish & Spanish FANS **wishes to focus** on the following topics (to be decided with speakers):

- Topic 1: Increasing circularity in the forest sector through acquisition of technology infrastructure for the collection of forest biomass and/or shared technology infrastructure for its valorisation for bioeconomy purposes.
- Topic 2: Identification of foreign regional funding mechanisms to implement so as to boost the valorisation of forestry biomass for bioeconomy purposes.
- Topic 3: Specific processing of forest biomass with BBTs for their low-value and/or high-value by-product valorisation.

Structure

Introduction

- Welcome and agenda presentation.

Session 1 - Overview of the forestry sector status in each region

- Presentation of common needs, biomass, current national funding, current BBTs identified, etc.

Session 2 - Panel discussion

- Short introduction of invited speakers.
- Knowledge exchange (short presentations by speakers regarding Topic 1, Topic 2 or Topic 3).
- Panel discussion (targeted questions to panellists to enhance further discussion with the FANS).
- Open discussion and identification of further collaboration potential with FANS and panellists.

Sign-up Form
[Interested in participating? Sign up here: https://shorturl.at/4swpc](https://shorturl.at/4swpc)

Organizer
 BBioNets - www.bbionets.eu
 BBioNets is a three-year project aiming to bolster biomass reuse with Bio-Based Technologies (BBTs) and support climate resilience through mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, circular economy and zero waste principles. It is a thematic network that relies on, promotes and further advances the work carried out by EIP-AGRI Operational Groups (OGs) with respect to the management and/or processing of agricultural and forest biomass with BBTs.

Participants

- Irish and Spanish FAN members active/interested in the forest sector and relevant BBTs
- Representatives from relevant projects
- EU-CAP National Contract Points
- Farmers, foresters, Operational Group members

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Figure 7: 1st Atlantic ETR Meeting – Concept Note

Cross-fertilisation Meeting
1st Atlantic ETR Meeting
Interconnection between the Irish & Spanish FANS
 4 December 2024 | Online | Registration required

Agenda

Irish Time	Spanish Time	Slot	Presenter
09:00 - 09:05	10:00 - 10:05	Welcome	MTU
09:05 - 09:10	10:05 - 10:10	BBioNets project presentation	MTU
Session 1 - Overview of the forestry sector status in each region			
09:10 - 09:20	10:10 - 10:20	Short overview of the Irish forestry sector	MTU
09:20 - 09:30	10:20 - 10:30	Short overview of the Spanish forestry sector	CTA, TEPRO
Session 2 – Panel discussion			
Introduction of invited speakers and short presentations by speakers			
09:30 - 09:50	10:30 - 10:50	Topic 1: Increasing circularity in the forest sector through acquisition of technology infrastructure for the collection of forest biomass and/or shared technology infrastructure for its valorisation for bioeconomy purposes.	Álvaro Picardo – CESFOR José Ramón Guzmán – Directorate-General for Spanish Forestry Policy
09:50 - 10:00	10:50 - 11:00	Topic 2: Identification of foreign or regional funding mechanisms that could be implemented to boost the valorisation of forestry biomass for bioeconomy purposes.	Edward Casey - AMBER Centre
10:00 - 10:10	11:00 - 11:10	Topic 3: Specific processing of forest biomass with BBTs for their low-value and/or high-value by-product valorisation.	Maria Rosa Mosquera Losada - Universidad Santiago de Compostela
10:10 - 10:45	11:10 - 11:45	Panel discussion and knowledge exchange session for Topics 1, 2 and 3	Moderated by MTU
10:45 - 11:05	11:45 - 12:05	Q&A (Continuing knowledge exchange)	Moderated by MTU
11:05 - 11:10	12:05 - 12:10	Closing	MTU

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Figure 8: 1st Atlantic ETR Meeting – Agenda



Figure 9: 1st Atlantic ETR Meeting – Invitation Banner



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3.3 1st Central Europe ETR Meeting

Date / Time	11 December 2024 / 11:00 – 13:00 CET
Platform	Google Meet
Discussion topics	<p>Current state of the bioeconomy in Czech Republic and Poland, emphasising on livestock and agricultural waste management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection, handling, storage, treatment, and land application methods. • Challenges hindering their exploitation (e.g. security issues, efficiency, transportation, availability, tech or knowledge limitations). • Lessons learnt and good practices (e.g. nutrient recycling/recovery). • Value chains
External speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piotr Skowron – Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation (PL) • Anna Gołdys – Agricultural Advisory Center in Brwinów (PL) • Magdalena Borzęcka – Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation (PL) • Nicos Larkos – Agrotech Innovations (CY) • Clara Fernando Foncillas – Danish Technological Institute (DK)
Project representatives attended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil-X-Change project (Horizon Europe, CSA, member of BBioNets SLRT) • Brilian project (Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking, IA, member of BBioNets SLRT) • MainstreamBIO project (Horizon Europe, CSA) • BioRural project (Horizon Europe, CSA) • FERTITEC project (Horizon Europe, CSA) • CiNURGI project “Circular nutrients for a sustainable Baltic Sea Region” (Interreg Baltic Sea Region) • OLIVER Nicosia Veg Operational Group (EIP AGRI)
Key takeaways	https://bbionets.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/1st_CE_ETR_Key_Takeaways.pdf
Video recording	https://bbionets.eu/1st-central-europe-etr-meeting-key-takeaways/

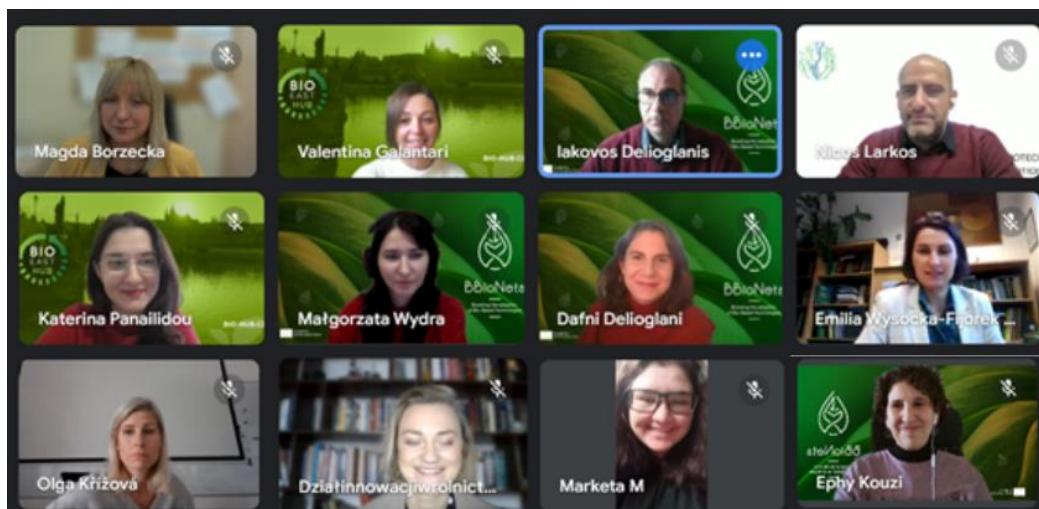


Figure 10: 1st Central Europe ETR Meeting –screenshot



Cross-fertilisation Meeting
1st Central Europe ETR Meeting
Interconnection between the Czech & Polish FANs
 11 December 2024 | Online

Concept
 This cross-fertilisation meeting arises from the identification of regional realities, specific challenges and needs within the Bio-based Forest and Agriculture Networks (FANs). There are, however, commonalities to be found among FANs based on climate considerations, available biomass, practices, etc. When different FANs come together and network, this can only lead to a greater impact of their work, hence the objectives of these cross-fertilisation meetings:

- Exchange on common difficulties and concerns about applied Bio-Based Technologies (BBTs).
- Outline of breakthroughs and emerging opportunities.
- Capture and promotion of knowledge created by national EIP-AGRI Operational Groups (OGs).
- Facilitation of bilateral and multilateral collaboration among FANs and OGs

Objectives
 The first meeting of the Czech & Polish FANs wishes to focus on livestock and agricultural waste management (to be decided with the speakers):

- Topic 1: Collection, handling, storage, treatment, and land application methods.
- Topic 2: Challenges hindering their exploitation (e.g. security issues, efficiency, transportation, availability, tech or knowledge limitations).
- Topic 3: Lessons learnt and good practices (e.g. nutrient recycling/recovery).
- Topic 4: Value chains.

Structure
 Introduction
 Session 1 - Overview of the livestock and agricultural waste management status in each region
 Session 2 - Panel discussion
 Sign-up Form
 Interested in participating? Sign up here: <https://shorturl.at/Kattwe>
 Organizer
 BBioNets - www.bbionets.eu

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Figure 11: 1st Central Europe ETR Meeting – Concept Note



Cross-fertilisation Meeting
1st Central Europe ETR Meeting
Interconnection between the Czech & Polish FANs
 11 December 2024 | Online | 11:00 – 13:00 CET
<https://meet.google.com/rpe-zwqz-wtv>

Agenda

Time	Item
11:00 – 11:10	Welcome and BBioNets project presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iakovos Deligianis - FOCUS STC (Greece) Session 1 – Overview of the BBioNets analysis in each region
11:10 – 11:30	Agricultural waste management - current status in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poland: Małgorzata Wydra - Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation • The Czech Republic: Katerina Panaliidou - BIOEAST Hub Session 2 – Panel discussion
11:30 – 11:40	Introduction of invited speakers and short presentations by speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrient recycling practices – new opportunities for agriculture • Małgorzata Wydra - Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation (Poland) <i>CINURGI</i> project "Circular nutrients for a sustainable Baltic Sea Region"
11:40 – 11:50	Selected outcomes of "soil related" Operational Groups in Poland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anna Golińska - Agricultural Advisory Center in Brzniów (Poland) <i>Soil-X-Change</i> project "Fostering cross-border knowledge exchange and co-creation on sustainable soil and farm management"
11:50 – 12:00	Digital tools to support nutrient recycling practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Małgorzata Wydra - Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation (Poland) <i>MainstreamBio</i> project "Mainstreaming small-scale bio-based solutions across rural Europe via regional multi-sector innovation platforms and tailored innovation support"
12:00 – 12:10	Agriculture and Forestry waste management within the Circular Bio-Economy model <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicos Larkos - Agrotech Innovations (Cyprus)
12:10 – 12:20	From the field to the market: a Danish experience on agricultural waste management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clara Fernando Fonillas - Danish Technological Institute (Denmark) • Anni Simonsen - Food & Bio Cluster Denmark
12:20 – 12:30	Compost Quality Program – Sustainable Recycling of Biowaste <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Květoslava Hejčková - Agricultural and Ecological Regional Agency (Czech Republic) Panel discussion and knowledge exchange session
12:30 – 13:00	Moderators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Małgorzata Wydra - Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation (Poland) • Valentina Galantari - BIOEAST Hub (Czech Republic) Questions from the audience
13:00 – 13:05	Closing

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Figure 12: 1st Central Europe ETR Meeting – Agenda.



Figure 13: 1st Central Europe ETR Meeting – Invitation Banner

3.4 1st Mediterranean ETR Meeting

Date / Time	17 December 2024 / 14:00 – 16:00 CET
Platform	Google Meet
Discussion topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current status of bioeconomy in Italy and Greece, emphasising on common types of biomass and technologies implemented for biomass processing to obtain outputs. • Social dimension of the introduction and uptake of new technologies, skills needed, impact on local communities.
External speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dimitrios Mertzis & Stefanos Tsiakmakis – c-founders of BIO2CHP (GR)
Key takeaways	https://bbionets.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/1st_Med_ETR_Key_Takeaways.pdf
Video recording	https://bbionets.eu/1st-mediterranean-etr-meeting-key-takeaways/

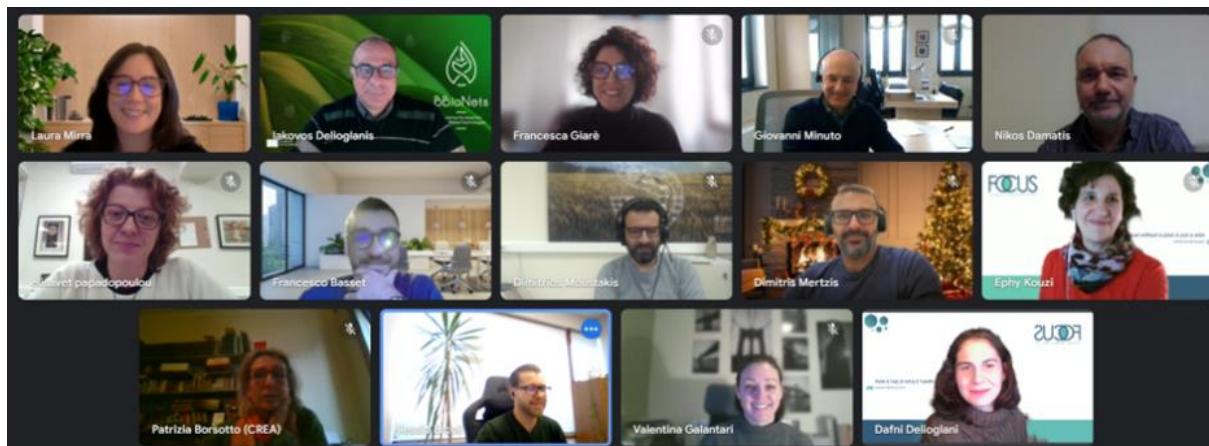


Figure 14: 1st Mediterranean ETR Meeting –screenshot



Cross-fertilisation Meeting
1st Mediterranean ETR Meeting
Interconnection between the Greek & Italian FANs
 17 December 2024 | Online | 14:00 – 16:00 CET

Concept
 This cross-fertilisation meeting arises from the identification of regional realities, specific challenges and needs within the BBioNets regional Forest and Agriculture Networks (FANs). There are, however, commonalities to be found among FANs based on climate considerations, available biomass, practices, etc. When different FANs come together and network, this can only lead to a greater impact of their work, hence the objectives of these cross-fertilisation meetings.

- Exchange on common difficulties and concerns about applied Bio-Based Technologies (BBTs).
- Outline of breakthroughs and emerging opportunities.
- Capture and promotion of knowledge created by national EIP-AGRI Operational Groups (OGs).
- Facilitation of bilateral and multilateral collaboration among FANs and OGs.

Objectives
 The first meeting of the Greek & Italian FANs wishes to focus on the following topics:

- Topic 1: Identification of common types of biomass and technologies implemented for biomass processing to obtain outputs.
- Topic 2: Social dimension of the introduction and uptake of new technologies, skills needed, impact on local communities.

Structure

Introduction

- Welcome and agenda presentation.

Session 1 - Overview of the biomass and BBTs identified in each region

- Presentation of common needs, available biomass, BBTs currently identified, national funding, financial insights, etc.

Session 2 - Panel discussion

- Short introduction of invited speakers.
- Panel discussion (including targeted questions to enhance further discussion with the FANs).
- Open discussion and identification of further collaboration potential with FANs and panelists.

Sign-up Form
 Interested in participating? Sign up here: <https://shorturl.at/2BcdI>

Organizer

BBioNets - www.bbionets.eu
 BBioNets is a three-year project aiming to bolster biomass reuse with Bio-Based Technologies (BBTs) and support climate resilience through mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, circular economy and zero waste principles. It is a thematic network that relies on, promotes and further advances the work carried out by EIP-AGRI Operational Groups (OGs) with respect to the management and/or processing of agricultural and forest biomass with BBTs.

Participants

- Greek and Italian FAN members active/interested in biomass processing and relevant BBTs
- Representatives from relevant projects
- EU-CAP National Contact Points
- Farmers, foresters, Operational Group members

BBioNets is funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Executive Agency (REA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

Figure 15: 1st Mediterranean ETR Meeting – Concept Note



Cross-fertilisation Meeting
1st Mediterranean ETR Meeting
Interconnection between the Greek & Italian FANs
 17 December 2024 | Online | 14:00 – 16:00 CET
<https://meet.google.com/bu-lcoa-pqr>

Agenda

Time	Item
14:00 – 14:10	Welcome and BBioNets project presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iakovos Delioglani - FOCUS STC (Greece)
14:10 – 14:30	Session 1 - Overview of the BBioNets analysis in each region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of common needs, available biomass, BBTs currently identified, national funding, financial insights, etc • Greece: Dimitrios Moustakis – American Farm School • Italy: Francesco Bassetti – Council for Agricultural Research and Analysis of the Agricultural economy
14:30 – 14:50	Session 2 – Panel discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short introduction of participants - name, organisation, country, Operational Group, project, etc. Moderator: Iakovos Delioglani - FOCUS STC (Greece)
14:50 – 15:30	Identification of common types of biomass and technologies implemented for biomass processing to obtain outputs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dimitris Mertzis & Stefanos Tsiknakis – BIO2CHP Co-Founders (Greece) Moderator: Dimitris Moustakis – American Farm School
15:30 – 15:50	Social dimension of the introduction and uptake of new technologies, skills needed, impact on local communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura Mirra and Francesca Giare Council – Agricultural Research and Analysis of the Agricultural economy (Italy) • Elisavet Papadopoulou – American Farm School (Greece)
15:50 – 16:00	Closing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iakovos Delioglani - FOCUS STC (Greece)

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Figure 16: 1st Mediterranean ETR Meeting – Agenda



Meeting Invitation

BBioNets
 Boosting the adoption of Bio-Based Technologies

We invite you to our
1st Mediterranean ETR Meeting

Interconnection between the Italian & Greek FANs

ONLINE | **TUESDAY**
 17 December 2024 | 14:00 CET

SIGN UP

Funded by the European Union

www.bbionets.eu

Figure 17: 1st Central Europe ETR Meeting – Invitation Banner



4 Cross-regional Meetings – European level

4.1 Practical organisational steps

After receiving the positive reaction of the 3 SLRT projects initially invited (FOREST4EU, NUTRI-KNOW and Soil-X-Change), FOCUS organised a series of preparatory meetings to discuss and agree upon the details of the event. The newest addition to the SLRT, the AQUAGRI-KNOW project (started on February 2025), joined along the way. The overall objective is to:

- Capitalise on the experience of ‘mature’ projects nearing completion - FOREST4EU, NUTRI-KNOW
- Provide feedback to midterm projects - BBioNets, Soil-X-Change
- Support the new AQUAGRI-KNOW project in refining its strategy.

Table 1: Overview of the SLRT Thematic Networks co-organising the event alongside BBioNets.

Thematic Networks	
	FOREST4EU FOREST4EU aims at connecting existing OGs from different countries around Europe , in order to favour the transfer of knowledge and best practices between experts in this field. The project has established 5 multi-actor EU cross-countries Innovation Topic Hubs (ITHubs) related to 5 identified topics in forestry and agroforestry sectors : wood mobilisation; forest adaptation to climate change; improving approaches, models and tools of sustainable forest management; non-wood forests products; and agroforestry. The ITHubs act as cooperation and innovation networks for an efficient knowledge transfer-exchange between different regions in Europe.
	NUTRI-KNOW NUTRI-KNOW aims at improving nutrient management practices in European agriculture . By consolidating knowledge from various EIP-AGRI OGs across EU member states, it seeks to address urgent needs, challenges, and opportunities for farmers. Through a platform and thematic network, NUTRI-KNOW aims to facilitate the exchange of information, strengthen knowledge flows, and promote sustainable agricultural practices. Ultimately, the project aims to reduce reliance on imported mineral fertilisers, improve agricultural and environmental management, and enhance the overall efficiency and sustainability of the European agri-food sector.
	Soil-X-Change By connecting farmers, researchers, policymakers, and stakeholders, Soil-X-Change (BBioNets' sister project – funded under the same topic) aims to enhance Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems, promoting sustainability, smart agriculture, and climate-neutrality. It focuses on harmonising and disseminating research and practical solutions through an EU-wide network of European Innovation Partnership Operational Groups . Soil-X-Change emphasises co-design and co-creation, developing user-friendly tools like a data dashboard and adaptation guide to empower farmers with actionable knowledge. The initiative seeks to foster sustainable soil management , contributing to a healthier agricultural ecosystem and a sustainable food production system .
	AQUAGRI-KNOW AQUAGRI-KNOW enhances on-farm water management by building on EIP-AGRI operational groups (OGs) outcomes. It aims to empower farmers across the EU to tackle water scarcity, improve resource efficiency , and boost agricultural sustainability . By fostering global knowledge exchange and creating a scalable framework, AQUAGRI-KNOW combines local practices with cutting-edge solutions to show how smarter water management can secure the future of farming, protect vital resources , and build resilience to climate challenges across Europe and beyond.

During the meetings mentioned above and emails exchanged among the project representatives, the role and responsibilities of each co-organiser were discussed and agreed, while FOCUS coordinated the joint effort and, similarly to the individual ETR meetings, prepared the following for the European joint event:

- The **concept note** outlining the key objectives and structure of the workshop;
- The **agenda** providing details on the speakers and presentation topics;
- **Guidelines** regarding both the structure of the agenda and the scope of each topic;
- The **branding concept** of the **event** (Invitation Banner, social media images, etc.) to be used for its promotion;
- The **presentation template**;
- The **registration form** (GDPR consent, dedicated field to gather questions for panel); and
- A **common online repository** for all co-organisers to share the latest versions of the material used for the organisation of the event.

A list of potential speakers was created and, following an agreement among the co-organisers, invitations were sent, while a promotion campaign was launched on Friday 28th March.

4.2 1st European Cross-fertilisation Workshop

Title	The future of EIP-AGRI Operational Groups: challenges, opportunities and existing support services
Key message	Collaboration in Action: Unlocking the Potential of OGs
Date / Time	14 May 2025 / 10:00 – 13:00 CET
Platform	Google meet
Discussion topics	<p>The workshop will focus on the operation of OGs across Europe, highlighting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Factors that enable and support the formation & implementation of OGs. • Barriers and challenges faced by primary producers when preparing and/or implementing an OG. • Strategies used in various Thematic Networks to attract, support, and promote OGs. • Information, training tools, materials and services made available to OGs.
External speakers	<i>At the time of this deliverable's submission, the list of speakers had not been finalised yet</i>
Video recording	<i>Not available yet</i>
Key takeaways	The outcome of the discussions will be summarised in a joint paper, to be made widely available

Organisers

The workshop is co-organised by 5 Thematic Networks engaging with OGs to:

- Capitalise on the experience of 'mature' projects nearing completion - FOREST4EU and NUTRI-KNOW.
- Provide feedback to midterm projects - BBioNets and Soil-X-Change.
- Support the new AQUAGRI-KNOW project in refining its strategy.

BBioNets (www.bbionets.eu) is a thematic network that relies on, promotes and further advances the work carried out by Operational Groups with respect to the management and/or processing of agricultural and forest biomass with Bio-Based Technologies.

FOREST4EU (www.forest4eu.eu) is a European innovation partnership network connecting and promoting existing Operational Groups in the fields of forestry and agroforestry from different countries around Europe, in order to favour the transfer of knowledge and best practices between experts in this field.

NUTRI-KNOW (www.nutri-know.eu) aims at improving nutrient management practices in European agriculture. By consolidating knowledge from various Operational Groups across EU member states, it seeks to address urgent needs, challenges, and opportunities for farmers.

Soil-X-Change (<http://soil-x-change.eu>) aims to bring together Operational Groups and key stakeholders working on sustainable soil management to create an EU-wide network, share knowledge, introducing ready-to-use practices.

AQUAGRI-KNOW (<http://aquaagri-know.eu>) aims to empower farmers across the EU to tackle water scarcity, improve resource efficiency, and boost agricultural sustainability and to create a circular water value chain.

Participants

- OG representatives around Europe
- EU-CAP National Contact Points
- National AKIS stakeholders
- Farmers, foresters, advisors, multipliers

Concept

Operational Groups (OGs) are action and result-oriented groups, bringing together multiple actors with diverse practical and scientific backgrounds - primary producers, researchers, advisors, businesses, environmental groups, consumers interest groups, etc. - to tackle a certain practical problem or opportunity, a 'need from practice', that may lead to an innovative solution. The Rural Development Programmes developed by each Member State or region provide financial support to OGs, while numerous Thematic Networks funded under HORIZON2020 and Horizon Europe offer a wide range of awareness-raising, capacity building, advisory and brokering services. Going beyond the development, testing and implementation of innovative solutions, cross-fertilisation of experience in forming and supporting OGs is vital. Sharing different approaches, challenges and solutions fosters constructive discussions and enhances the exploitation of emerging opportunities.

Objectives

The workshop focuses on the operation of OGs across Europe, highlighting:

- Factors that enable and support the formation and implementation of OGs.
- Barriers and challenges faced by primary producers when preparing and/or implementing an OG.
- Strategies used in various Thematic Networks to attract, support, and promote OGs.
- Information, training tools, materials, and services made available to OGs.

Structure

- Lessons learnt stemming from 4 Thematic Networks' engagement with OGs.
- Experiences from OG formation and operation – the OGs' perspective.
- The future of OGs – the EU Cap Network perspective.
- Panel discussion – How to better support OGs?
- Available resources for OGs: information and training material, support tools and advisory services.

Sign-up Form

Interested in participating? Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/E4GsdFbRzPirzHr9>



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Figure 18: 1st European Cross-fertilisation workshop – Concept Note

Time	Item
10:00 – 10:10	Welcome – Overview of the workshop
10:10 – 10:50	OG engagement strategy deployed in 4 Thematic Networks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-organising projects' representatives
10:50 – 11:20	Case studies: experiences from OG formation and operation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OG representatives
11:20 – 11:50	The evolution of OGs – current challenges and opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EIP AGRI representative
11:50 – 12:00	Short survey on OGs across Europe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soil-X-Change representative
12:00 – 12:30	Panel discussion – How to better support OGs?
12:30 – 12:50	Available resources for OGs: Information and training material, support tools and advisory services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-organising projects' representatives
12:50 – 13:00	Closing remarks

Figure 19: 1st European Cross-fertilisation workshop – Agenda (initial version)

Figure 20: 1st European Cross-fertilisation workshop – Invitation Banner

5 Conclusions

The consortium is confident that the collaborative endeavours undertaken during this initial reporting period have demonstrated significant success in establishing robust interconnections between the BBioNets FANs and other projects. The outcomes achieved are deemed to be constructive, underscoring the efficacy of the adopted engagement strategy.

The strong commitment and proactive involvement of all partners have been instrumental in realising these positive results. Through the joint meetings, the project has effectively fostered synergies, leveraged the complementary expertise present across the FANs, and cultivated a shared understanding of project objectives.

Building on the lessons learnt of the first reporting period, BBioNets is dedicated to further enhancing collaboration among its FANs. It also intends to amplify the impact of those interactions by -reaching out to additional EU-funded projects and EIP-AGRI Thematic Networks that promote Operational Groups (OGs). Such an approach should catalyse meaningful exchanges and progress, while reinforcing collaborative approaches to drive the implementation of innovative and sustainable solutions that correspond to the farmers' and foresters' needs to transition towards a circular and climate-neutral economy.

Document information

Title	BBioNets – Creation and promotion of Forest and Agriculture Networks to boost Bio-Based Technologies adoption and Value Chain development (GA No 101133904)
Start – end date	1/11/2023 – 31/10/2026 (36 months)
Project type	Coordination and Support Action
Programme	Horizon Europe – Cluster 6
Funding	1,998,636.20 €
Coordinator	Munster Technological University Ms. Carmen Girón Domínguez (carmen.dominguez@mtu.ie)
Project overview	BBioNets constitutes a thematic network that relies on, promotes, and further advances 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) . The project has set up 6 regional Forest and Agriculture Networks – FANs (IE, ES, IT, EL, PL, CZ) that identify local needs, prioritise specific BBTs and share BBT knowledge ready for practice to farmers and foresters, boosting the (re)definition of value chains, stimulating cross-fertilisation beyond borders, and bringing Europe to the forefront of farming, forestry and bioeconomy with economically viable and sustainable practices.

Consortium



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