



DELIVERABLE D4.3

## Report on the collaboration with relevant initiatives – P1

FOCUS STRATEGIC THINKING CONSULTANTS

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## Table of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
<b>AKIS</b>	Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems
<b>BBTs</b>	Bio-Based Technologies
<b>BCE</b>	Biorefine Cluster Europe
<b>D</b>	Deliverable
<b>DoA</b>	Description of the Action
<b>EC</b>	European Commission
<b>ETR</b>	European Transnational Regions
<b>FANs</b>	Forest and Agriculture Networks
<b>GDPR</b>	General Data Protection Regulation
<b>KPIs</b>	Key Performance Indicators
<b>M</b>	Project month
<b>OGs</b>	Operational Groups
<b>RBA</b>	Rural Bioeconomy Alliance
<b>SLRT</b>	Standing Liaison Round Table
<b>WP</b>	Work Package

## Executive Summary

This document presents an overview of the collaboration activities undertaken by BBioNets with other EU-funded projects and initiatives. It outlines the strategic approach used to identify and engage with relevant projects, and the series of activities performed to reach its targets.

Since the early stages of the project, collaboration has always been a core component of the BBioNets strategy, designed to leverage synergies, foster knowledge exchange across related projects and, thus, maximise their overall impact. The process of identifying relevant projects began during the preparation phase of the BBioNets “D4.1 - Plan for Dissemination and Exploitation including Communication activities”, when all consortium partners provided information on initiatives they considered relevant to the project’s scope and objectives. It was further pursued by conducting a thorough search in the EU Funding & Tenders Portal and recent Work Programmes to discern potentially relevant topics and successful proposals across various destinations. All pertinent information was collected in an excel file to facilitate project selection based on carefully determined selection criteria.

Over the first reporting period, BBioNets established partnerships with 29 individual projects and 5 platforms/networks clustering more than 50 projects in total. Its activities focused on joint communication and dissemination, information and data sharing, and co-organisation of events.

BBioNets’ key achievements include the alignment of dissemination efforts through coordinated social media campaigns, contribution to and promotion of each other’s newsletters and significant activities, attendance at joint meetings or events, the organisation of several joint workshops, cross-referencing in publications, and involvement or assistance in specific activities. These collaborative actions have contributed significantly to increasing the visibility and reach of both BBioNets and its partner projects, paving the way for a broader uptake of project outcomes. Overall, the results demonstrate the added value of inter-project collaboration in amplifying the impact of EU funding in research and innovation.

## 1 Introduction

Bringing together a variety of perspectives, approaches, and expertise, collaboration and networking among EU-funded projects are essential components to attain the goals of the European Commission's research and innovation programmes, and deliver more impactful outcomes.

This deliverable presents in detail the collaborative efforts of BBioNets with projects and initiatives that share similar objectives and audiences. The primary objective of such collaboration is to leverage synergies across multiple EU-funded projects to enhance practical knowledge and foster innovative solutions for farmers and foresters in the sustainable management and processing of biomass. By promoting cross-sector partnerships and knowledge exchange, these efforts encourage the adoption of best practices in biomass management, support innovation to enhance the value of agricultural and forestry biomass, and advance resource efficiency and sustainability in line with the EU Green Deal and the Circular Economy Action Plan.

This collaboration aspires to deliver concrete, measurable outcomes, including the organisation of joint activities, the development of tailored training materials to support farmers and foresters, and improved dissemination and outreach strategies to ensure the effective transfer of research results to end-users, particularly farmers and foresters.

The aim of this deliverable is twofold:

- to outline the strategic framework guiding the collaboration process, including criteria for selecting relevant projects, and
- to document the collaboration activities conducted during the reporting period to contribute to the overall objectives of the project.

Building on the achievements of the first reporting period, BBioNets is dedicated to further enhancing collaboration with other EU-funded projects to amplify impact and drive meaningful progress. Upcoming activities will aim to broaden the scope of joint initiatives, deepen stakeholder engagement, and refine collaborative approaches to align closely with the strategic goals of the European Commission's research and innovation programmes. By reinforcing these partnerships, the project seeks to create a stronger foundation for innovative solutions and sustainable practices that support the EU's transition towards a circular and climate-neutral economy.

## 2 Strategy & Methodological Approach

### 2.1 Initial steps

The consortium began quite early, and at different instances, the endeavour to build bridges with other projects and initiatives, pre-dating even the development of a concrete methodology to this end:

- Beginning of January 2024 (M3), the project coordinator and the “Liaison team”, FOCUS, engaged in a series of email exchanges with representatives of the [EU-FarmBook](#) project to explore collaboration ways. Based on their suggestion, numerous project partners registered to and participated in the EU-FarmBook pre-launch event, scheduled to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024. The expected collaboration would then be pursued according to the specifications provided during the event.
- Mid-January, the BBioNets coordinator, Ms Carmen Girón Domínguez, was contacted by their homologue of the [Soil-X-Change](#) project (BBioNets’ sister project) and invited to present online the BBioNets vision and objectives at the Soil-X-Change kick-off meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024. The dissemination manager of BBioNets also attended the meeting and exchanged a number of emails with Soil-X-Change representatives planting already the seeds for synergies.
- On 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2024, the Liaison team initiated a first cooperation attempt with the [ROBOCOOP-EU](#) project at the occasion of the [AGROTICA fair](#) (Thessaloniki, GR), where BBioNets was officially present with a stand. Potential joint actions were discussed and both projects posted to that effect on their social media accounts.
- On 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024, while drafting a suitable strategy, FOCUS applied for BBioNets to become a member of the [Rural Bioeconomy Alliance \(RBA\)](#) initiative.

From that point on, all efforts made to create synergies with other projects and initiatives followed a carefully devised methodological approach, taking into account several parameters and considerations.

### 2.2 Identification of relevant projects

The process of identifying relevant projects began during the preparation phase of “D4.1 - Plan for Dissemination and Exploitation including Communication activities”, when all consortium partners were asked to provide information about any projects they knew of and/or participated in that they deemed relevant to the BBioNets scope and objectives. The aim was to create an initial pool of potential “collaboration candidates” that could be contacted along the way.

In parallel, FOCUS was conducting a thorough search in the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#). After going through Work Programmes and discerning potentially relevant topics across various destinations, i.e. topics connected to the bioeconomy or primary producers, the team proceeded to research the proposals that had been selected for funding. An excel file was created to collect pertinent information about those projects, notably their scope and objectives, the countries represented, and a contact entity or person (Figure 1).

Acronym	Full Title	Type	Programm	Topic	GA number
NUTRI-KNOW	NUTRI-KNOW - BROADENING THE IMPACT OF EIP-AGRI OPERATIONAL GROUPS IN THE FIELD OF NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT: KNOWLEDGE EXPLOITATION AND EASY-TO-UNDERSTAND MATERIAL FOR FARMERS AND PRACTITIONERS	CSA	Horizon Europe	HORIZON-CL6-2022-GOVERNANCE-01-13	101086524
ShapingBio	Shaping the future bioeconomy across sectoral, governmental and geographical levels	CSA	Horizon Europe	HORIZON-CL6-2021-GOVERNANCE-01-04	101060252
Soil-X-Change	Fostering cross-border knowledge exchange and co-creation on sustainable soil and farm management	CSA	Horizon Europe	HORIZON-CL6-2023-GOVERNANCE-01-18	101133914
SCALE-UP	Concepts, tools and applications for community-driven bioeconomy development in European rural areas	CSA	Horizon Europe	HORIZON-CL6-2021-CIRCBIO-01-08	101060264
BRILIAN	Cooperative business models for bio-based chains in rural areas	IA	Horizon Europe	HORIZON-JU-CBE-2022-IA-02	101112436
BIO2REG	Enabling transition towards circular and systemic BIoEconomy model regions by a	CSA	Horizon Europe	HORIZON-CL6-2023-CircBio-01-10	101135420
FOREST4EU	European innovation partnership network promoting operational groups dedicated to forestry and agroforestry	CSA	Horizon Europe	HORIZON-CL6-2022-GOVERNANCE-01-13	101086216

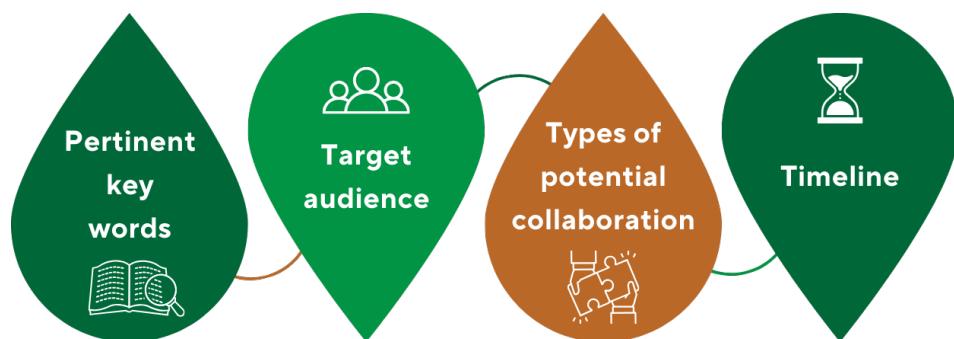
**Figure 1: Partial view of the exploratory excel file used for identifying relevant projects.**

## 2.3 Selection criteria

Having established a sufficiently exhaustive list of 96 candidate projects for that specific stage of the task, the discussion as to the project selection process began. It was widely debated that even though the bioeconomy and the rural world are closely related, all bioeconomy-related projects do not specifically target or incorporate in their scope farmers and/or foresters. The same way, all projects targeting primary producers do not necessarily delve into issues related to the bioeconomy aspect of BBioNets. To this end, **the collaboration endeavour should aim at projects situated at the intersection of both domains.**

It was also determined that in order for external projects to react positively to our collaboration query, a satisfactory number of common elements or topics of interest should be identified before initiating contact. An additional consideration to be taken into account was the completion phase of the projects to be approached. It was thus important to start by considering BBioNets' own cornerstones in terms of mission and objectives, and elaborating on the following elements (Figure 2):

- Pertinent key words
- Target audience
- Types of potential collaboration
- Timeline



**Figure 2: Selection criteria for relevant projects.**

### 2.3.1 Pertinent key words

The BBioNets project is revolving around a number of buzzwords that, at this instance, needed to be brought at the forefront and further expanded on:

- **Bioeconomy:** Bio-Based Technologies (BBTs), bio-based, ecosystems, circularity, sustainability, climate neutrality, multi-actor approach, knowledge exchange
- **Farmers/foresters:** a cornerstone among the identified project audiences
- **EIP-AGRI:** Operational Groups (OGs), expansion of OG outcomes, OG promotion

Those key words were agreed upon to guide the identification of commonalities with other projects and establish an initial discussion ground.

### 2.3.2 Target audience

Revisiting the BBioNets target stakeholders once again was deemed necessary in an effort to identify prospective cooperation pathways with any other projects:

- Farmers/foresters: primary producers, considered both individually but also as part of their wider value chains
- Operational Groups
- Farmers'/foresters' cooperatives and/or unions
- Multipliers/advisors: agronomists, public and private advisors
- Value chain actors: intermediaries active in the exploitation of agricultural/forest biomass, bio-based SMEs, etc.

### 2.3.3 Types of potential collaboration

Trying to envision the next steps and define some type of framework, an initial brainstorming session took place, aiming to pinpoint possible cooperation avenues. It was agreed that the most promising ones were the following:

- Co-organisation of events or participation in each other's ones
- Contribution to one another's newsletters
- Dissemination of events, activities and outcomes through each project's respective social media accounts and website
- Implementation of common communication/dissemination campaigns

### 2.3.4 Timeline

In order for the cooperation among projects to be fruitful, it was decided to contact ones that received funding and started either during the same period (under the same Call) or a year / a year and a half (1 – 1.5 years) before BBioNets (previous Calls).

The rationale was that all projects needed to be allowed sufficient time together to mesh with one another and find an appropriate pace and pattern to deploy their collaboration. More *mature* projects could benefit from the synergy by multiplying their dissemination channels and identifying potential partners to jointly organise some of their activities. *Younger* projects could gain traction by increasing the visibility of their social media accounts and website when tagging already widely known projects,

while at the same time promoting news, activities and outcomes of common interest to their own audience. Both mature and younger projects would stand to benefit, all the while attaining the utmost goal of such collaboration: greater impact and efficiency.

Once all above-mentioned essential elements were satisfactorily broached and decided upon, the process of determining which of the identified projects met that initial set of criteria and should be contacted began. Consulting the relevant excel file at the time, **19 projects stood out as promising candidates for collaboration.**

## 2.4 Contact initiation phase

The first communication with those projects was initiated in the form of **an email addressed to each one separately**, accompanied by a one-page BBioNets presentation in a dedicated project template (Figure 3, Figure 4). All recipients were asked to inform the Liaison team by return email of their willingness to investigate the potential of collaboration.

Dear [Project Name] representatives,

We are contacting you on behalf of the Horizon Europe project [BBioNets – Creation and promotion of Forest and Agriculture Networks to boost Bio-Based Technologies adoption and Value Chain development](#), considering that both our projects present certain similarities as to their scope and objectives.

We would like to inquire about your willingness to identify areas of common interest and explore the potential of synergies that could further promote our shared goals. We could combine forces [either at a regional/national level as both consortia include partners from the same country or](#) at the European scale, through joint promotion of results across our communication/dissemination channels, etc.

To this end, we include a short presentation of BBioNets (find attached), and kindly ask you to let us know if you would be interested in joining forces to advance sustainability through bioeconomy-related practices. If you wish, we can set up an online meeting at your earliest convenience to further discuss our collaboration potential.

Could you please acknowledge receipt of this email, so we can plan our next steps? Looking forward to working together and hearing from you,

On behalf of [FOCUS Strategic Thinking Consultants](#), responsible for the BBioNets collaboration with other projects,

xxx

Figure 3: Contact initiation email template.



The slide is a one-page presentation for BBioNets. It features a green header with the BBioNets logo and the text 'www.bbionets.eu'. Below the header, there are several sections with green headers and white text:

- BBioNets vision**: Grassroots initiatives at the heart of change: bolstering biomass reuse with Bio-Based Technologies (BBTs) and supporting climate resilience through mitigation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, circular economy and zero waste principles.
- What we do**: BBioNets 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.
- What we aim at**: The objective is to incite primary producers all over Europe to embrace and adopt BBTs that will enable them to reduce GHG emissions, make better use of underutilised biomass, create new diversified incomes, reduce costs through circular practices, increase farm/forest sustainable management, and create/develop new value chains.
- How we proceed**: BBioNets foresees the establishment of 6 regional Forest and Agriculture Networks (FANs) in Ireland, Spain, Italy, Greece, Poland and Czechia that will assemble representatives from multiple types of organisations in contact with farmers and foresters, individual primary producers representing established OGs or generally interested in BBTs, as well as farmers'/foresters' association representatives. A series of discussions will be held on foresters' and farmers' needs with regard to biomass processing in their respective environments, value chain creation, technology availability, etc., together with carefully targeted activities that will develop regionally, cross-regionally and at the European level.
- Who we are**: Logos of partner organisations: MTU (Meinhard Technische Universität), CETOASC (Centro de Estudios Avanzados), crea (Centro de Recursos para el Desarrollo), IUNG (Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation State Research Institute), CTA (Centro de Trabajo para el Desarrollo), AMERICAN FARM SCHOOL Thessaloniki - Greece, TEPRO (GOMBERGES AGRICOLA, S.L.), FOCUS (FOCUS), and BIO HUB (BIO HUB).

At the bottom, there are social media icons for Contact Us (info@bbionets.eu), Facebook (@bbionets.eu), LinkedIn (@bbionets.eu), Twitter (@bbionets\_eu), and YouTube (@BBioNetsEU). A small note at the bottom states: '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 4: BBioNets one-page presentation.**

10 project representatives responded readily, and BBioNets proceeded with the **organisation of bilateral meetings**. A preliminary review showed that, combined, those 10 projects would allow for a comprehensive approach:

- Most were mainly Coordination and Support Action (CSAs) projects like BBioNets, but synergies would also be created with Research and Innovation Action (RIA) and Innovation Action (IA) ones
- Our main “buzzwords” – bioeconomy, farmers/foresters, Operational Groups – would be covered through the calls of
  - two relevant Cluster 6 destinations, i.e. Destination 3 - Circular Economy and Bioeconomy Sectors & Destination 7 - Innovative Governance, Environmental Observations and Digital Solutions in Support of the Green Deal, and
  - the Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU)

Once the bilateral meetings were arranged, a thorough search was conducted both on the [CORDIS platform](#) to consult the project fact sheets, and their respective websites - whenever those were available due to the early-stage phase some projects were at. The objective, as stated previously, was to identify points of common interest that could serve as a basis for collaboration.

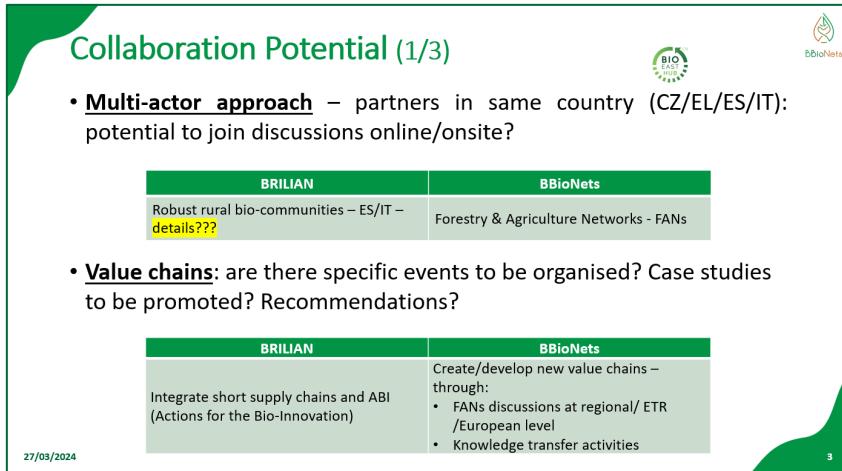
While going more in depth into the description of each project, new ideas for potential collaboration began to emerge:

- Several projects embraced in one way or another a “multi-actor approach” that would need to be clarified as to its concrete translation in each specific case. Where “local structures” were

envisioned, it would be worth investigating the possibility of joining forces at the national level if both projects featured partners in the same country. In all instances, the opportunities for a wider, European collaboration should be explored.

- The types of activities to be organised by each project should also be determined in order to discern potential occasions for either the participation in each other's events or the joint organisation of info-days, trainings, etc.
- The anticipated outcomes of each project should be highlighted to allow for potential dissemination and/or exploitation.

During this research effort, all commonalities and collaboration possibilities were recorded in individual files of .docx and .pptx format (Figure 5). The ppts were presented during the bilateral meetings to facilitate the discussion flow.



**Collaboration Potential (1/3)**

• **Multi-actor approach** – partners in same country (CZ/EL/ES/IT): potential to join discussions online/onsite?

BRILIAN	BBioNets
Robust rural bio-communities – ES/IT – details???	Forestry & Agriculture Networks - FANS

• **Value chains:** are there specific events to be organised? Case studies to be promoted? Recommendations?

BRILIAN	BBioNets
Integrate short supply chains and ABI (Actions for the Bio-Innovation)	Create/develop new value chains – through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FANS discussions at regional/ ETR /European level</li> <li>• Knowledge transfer activities</li> </ul>

27/03/2024

*Figure 5: Example of individual .pptx file.*

All meetings held were deemed successful and concluded with the mutual decision to pursue bilateral cooperation.

BBioNets informed other project representatives of its intention to establish a *Standing Liaison Round Table (SLRT)* and pursue further networking and multilateral cooperation among interested projects. This initiative was warmly welcomed by most project representatives who expressed their willingness to participate. More details about the SLRT provided under Sections 4.2.1.

## 2.5 Further collaborations

Going beyond those initial projects, BBioNets further enriched its collaboration network by both reaching out to relevant projects/initiatives and accepting invitations by third parties to join forces.

Having met the fixed objectives of the project in terms of expected collaborations<sup>1</sup> soon after the outset of this outreach activity, the team and partners felt that priority should be given to investing time and effort in meaningful joint actions over pursuing a never-ending expansion of its networks. This approach does not preclude consideration of additional potential partner projects; rather, it ensures a selective process aimed at maximising the impact of collaborative actions. The Liaison team remains fully committed to establishing new partnerships as opportunities arise throughout the lifetime of the project.

<sup>1</sup> More than 10 projects/initiatives within the 1st period, and more than 20 by the end of the project

### 3 Overview of Partner Projects & Networks

Up to April 2025 (M18), BBioNets has established partnerships with **21 individual projects and 5 platforms/networks** clustering more than 50 projects in total (see Section 3.2); that allowed for meaningful and productive collaboration (Table 1). Reflecting the classification used on the [Synergies page](#) of the BBioNets website, those projects and initiatives are grouped in this chapter under the following categories:

- projects participating in the SLRT
- other platforms/ networks
- individual projects (bilateral collaboration)

It should be stated, however, that BBioNets collaborated in several instances bilaterally with additional projects, either through those platforms/networks mentioned above or its own partners' acquaintances and based on the needs of the project. Those projects are not featured in detail in this document or the tables below because the collaboration activities were not part of the dedicated strategy but rather opportunities that arose along the way. Accounting for them ([CEE2ACT](#), [CINURGi](#), [MainstreamBIO](#), [PREMIERE](#), [ROBIN](#), [RuralBioUp](#), MSCA RISE [DeMANS Project](#), [NXTGENWOOD](#)) would bring the **number of individual projects BBioNets has collaborated with to 29**.

**Table 1: BBioNets more consistent partner projects.**

Standing Liaison Round Table			
 <b>AQUAGRI-KNOW</b>	 <b>BIO2REG</b>	 <b>BOOST4BIOEAST</b>	 <b>BRILIAN</b> BIOECONOMY IN RURAL AREAS
 <b>C4B</b>	 <b>FOREST4EU</b>	 <b>NUTRI-CHECK NET</b> OPTIMISING CROP NUTRITION	 <b>NUTRI-KNOW</b>
 <b>OPER8</b>	 <b>PRIMED</b>	 <b>Rural BioReFarmeries</b>	 <b>SCALE UP</b> community-driven bioeconomy development
 <b>ShapingBio</b>	 <b>SMURF</b> THE FOREST OWNERS' PROJECT	 <b>Soil-X-Change</b>	 <b>SYMBA</b>
Platforms/Networks			
 <b>BIOREFINE</b> CLUSTER EUROPE	 <b>EU-FarmBook</b>	 <b>RURAL BIOECONOMY ALLIANCE</b>	 <b>BEMAKIS</b> BIOECONOMY IN RURAL AREAS ATTRACTIVE
 <b>PLATAFORMA ASSESORES AKIS</b>			
Bilateral collaborations			
 <b>BioINSouth</b>	 <b>OptFor-EU</b>	 <b>ROBOCOOP-EU</b>	 <b>Small4Good</b>
 <b>stratus.</b>			

### 3.1 Projects participating in the SLRT

The projects included in this group belong mainly to those initially identified and complying to the criteria set by the Liaison team. They were contacted in the early stages of BBioNets to establish a network for cooperation. They could be considered as a “nucleus team” of the BBioNets collaboration efforts, focusing on *strategy* and acting as the initiators within the larger core team collaboration vision enfolding all partnerships.

The SLRT projects share a **common mailing list** ([slrt@bbionets.eu](mailto:slrt@bbionets.eu)) to facilitate communication, forward requests and notifications (e.g. call for/provision of input for each other’s newsletters, information about upcoming actions to be disseminated by interested projects, etc.), and propose the initiation of joint activities. They also have access to a **common online repository** (SLRT private channel hosted by MTU), organised and managed by FOCUS, featuring several folders and files that serve specific purposes (Figure 6).

Documents > SLRT - Common folder			
	Name	Modified	Modified By
	Collaboration_inaugural_event_26Apr24	Tuesday at 12:47 PM	delioglani
	Project_logos	Tuesday at 12:59 PM	delioglani
	Project_presentations	Tuesday at 12:59 PM	delioglani
	Project_upcoming_events_&_results	Tuesday at 12:59 PM	delioglani
	SLRT_project_information_STATIC_15May24....	Yesterday at 8:22 AM	delioglani
	SLRT_project_planned_activities_LIVE_16Ma...	A few seconds ago	dafni.delioglani

**Figure 6: SLRT repository organisation.**

Besides the initial group of projects invited, the SLRT welcomed additional ones which were either directly contacted by FOCUS or suggested by partner projects, as well as other SLRT members. The SLRT remains open for admission of new projects that share similar goals in the fields of the bioeconomy and agriculture/forestry.

**Table 2: Brief overview of the SLRT Projects in alphabetical order.**

Overview of SLRT projects	
	<b>AQUAGRI-KNOW</b> enhances on-farm water management by building on <b>EIP-AGRI operational groups (OGs)</b> outcomes. It aims to empower farmers across the EU to tackle water scarcity, <b>improve resource efficiency</b> , and <b>boost agricultural sustainability</b> . By fostering global knowledge exchange and creating a scalable framework, AQUAGRI-KNOW combines local practices with cutting-edge solutions to show how <b>smarter water management</b> can secure the future of farming, <b>protect vital resources</b> , and <b>build resilience to climate challenges</b> across Europe and beyond.

**BIO2REG**

**BIO2REG** aims to help greenhouse gas-intensive economies unlock their bioeconomy potential by moving towards model regions. The project encourages interregional exchange and cooperation, providing regional stakeholders with a conceptual framework for regionalisation in model regions. This involves mapping best practices in a **circular and sustainable bioeconomy**, assessing bioeconomy potential, offering **mentoring and training**, forming transition alliances, and making policy recommendations.


**BOOST4BIOEAST**

**BOOST4BIOEAST** (B4B) was developed to support the **BIOEAST Initiative**, and aims to empower national stakeholders in the Central Eastern European and Baltic countries for the **development of national bioeconomy action plans** and to build long-lasting structures and spaces of dialogue for national and macro-regional cooperation. The project follows the footsteps of its predecessor, the BIOEASTsUP H2020 project, building upon its outcomes that laid the foundation for **macro-regional networking among bioeconomy experts and policymakers** through the development of its Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (BIOEAST SRIA) and 11 Bioeconomy Concept Papers of 2022.


**BRILIAN**

**BRILIAN** has been conceived to support the adoption of **sustainable, cooperative business models in rural areas** and enable a **better transition to bio-based economies**, playing a pivotal role in revitalising these regions and fostering sustainable economic and social development, **making primary producers active actors of the supply chain**. BRILIAN implements a multi-actor approach for the validation of a group of Actions for the Bio Innovation.


**C4B**

Primary production in agriculture and forestry represents an essential part of the European **circular bioeconomy**. However, the involvement of primary producers in the circular bio-based economy is still limited, and the benefits are in most cases not fairly distributed along the value chain, to the disadvantage of primary producers. **Fair and sustainable business models** that create opportunities **for rural entrepreneurship** and develop new forms of successful rural business are therefore needed. **C4B** business models are designed to balance the share of power and profits across **novel bio-based value chains to accelerate the development of rural communities** and their economic viability and **enhance the cooperation among farmers, foresters and industry**.


**FOREST4EU**

**FOREST4EU** (European innovation partnership network promoting operational group dedicated to forestry and agroforestry) 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-CHECK NET**

**NUTRI-CHECK NET** aims to establish a self-sustaining, multi-actor, **Thematic Network** that builds farm-level adoption of best field-specific **nutrient management practices across Europe**. In nine countries farmers' Crop Nutrition Clubs (CNC) identify and share the nature of their uncertainties about crop nutrition, their challenges and barriers to change. Decision-systems and nutrition tools (including commercial products, services, and recent research outputs) are assembled by national experts from across Europe, including leading farmers, into a common online NUTRI-CHECK NET platform. CNCs will then evaluate the effectiveness of new protocols and tools selected from the toolbox to meet their main challenges.


**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.



[Oper8](#) [Oper8](#)'s main objective is to communicate alternative weed control solutions of each operational group to key stakeholders through networks across the EU. With the ambition to achieve a high impact and improve the **sustainability of the European agricultural sector**, Oper8 brings together 8 **operational groups** from 7 countries from the Mediterranean, Atlantic, and Nordic areas to ensure a balanced representation of different production systems. Oper8 focuses on issues, needs and barriers identified by the involved operational groups with their approaches, identified challenges and dissemination activities.



[PRIMED](#) [PRIMED](#) co-creates innovative forms of cooperation to **integrate primary producers in novel bioeconomy value chains with a multi-actor approach**. To do so, PRIMED is developing new **Circular Business Models in Bioeconomy** (CBMB) to produce high-value biobased products through advanced biorefineries and will demonstrate them in five Living Labs (LLab). PRIMED aims to also empower multi-actors to co-design a collaborative ecosystem to accelerate the bioeconomy, with an Open Access knowledge hub and toolkit (PRIMED digital toolbox)



[Rural BioReFarmeries](#) aims to advance the **bio-based economy in Europe** through the demonstration of a small-scale and decentralised green biorefinery model that enhances the **economic resilience of Europe's rural regions**; by exploring the transformative potential of grass as a bio-based material, this initiative will **help farmers adopt innovative technologies** and embed **circular and nature-friendly practices**, while tapping into **new income streams**.



[SCALE-UP](#) [SCALE-UP](#) aims to adapt, implement and evaluate tools to help regional actors to overcome the apparent bottlenecks towards fully exploiting bioeconomy potentials in their region. Its goals include: 1. **Increased capacity of regional multi-actor partnerships** to accelerate the development of marketable bio-based products and services; 2. **Strengthened collaboration between primary producers, SMEs, clusters, social actors, and policymakers**; 3. Improved knowledge about nutrient recycling potentials in regional bioeconomies; 4. High level of awareness and understanding of the bioeconomy and its impacts on local communities; 5. Promotion of a **sustainable, inclusive and just regional bioeconomy**.



[ShapingBio](#) [ShapingBio](#) provides evidence-based and concrete information and recommendations for better policy alignment and stakeholder actions to **realise the cross-sectoral potential of the bioeconomy** and to reduce the fragmentation across bio-based sectors and food system and policies across regions, domains and governance levels. It works on **creating a better understanding and information basis of the bioeconomy innovation eco-system** by providing a comprehensive mapping and analysis of initiatives, structures, policy instruments and key gaps across the EU macro-regions and different sectors related to policy and governance, applied R&D and technology transfer, collaboration (cross-sectoral), financing.



[SMURF](#) [SMURF](#) is a transformative project aimed at providing **sustainable solutions that benefit the entire European forest-based value chain**. It is aligned with the EU's Forest Strategy 2030 and works to enable 20 million forest owners across Europe to **generate economic activity** and provide employment in forests, while **managing forests to conserve and adapt to climate 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**.

 **SYMBA** aims at creating a **new and innovative Industrial Symbiosis (IS)** method to be replicated within EU according to the local/regional bio-based industrial ecosystem. It will implement a user-friendly and accessible AI database suggesting regional IS innovative processes to **create zero-waste value chains**, ensuring more local supply chains; a **better distribution of economic and social benefits among the stakeholders** and an increase in the economic value of final products.

### 3.2 Other platforms/networks

BBioNets applied early on to join an alliance relevant to the bioeconomy in the rural world, and was approached by another cluster pertinent to its goals. It also strived to join forces and contribute to the objectives set by major projects/platforms promoted by the EC (Table 3). The rationale of this endeavour is that such networking allows for greater *influence*, leveraging existing resources, expertise, and connections, potentially leading to mutually beneficial outcomes that are greater than what each party could achieve independently. Only accounting for its active participation in the Biorefine Cluster Europe and Rural Bioeconomy Alliance (presented in Table 3 below), **BBioNets is in close collaboration with over 50 projects**.

**Table 3: Other Networks.**

Overview of Other Networks	
	The <b>Biorefine Cluster Europe</b> (BCE) is an open-access, free-of-charge collaborative platform between EU projects dealing with <b>bio-based circular economy</b> . Currently, the BCE counts <b>more than 40 EU running projects</b> (Figure 7), half of which with a focus on nutrient recycling and recovery. The BCE is also the main organiser of high-level conferences, such as the <b>European Sustainable Nutrient Initiative (ESNI)</b> and the Biorefine Conference, which interconnect key actors in the field of nutrient recycling to keep high the topic in the EU Circular Economy Agenda.
ESNI Community – Involved projects	
 <b>More than 20 projects are already part of ESNI community</b>	
                      	

**Figure 7: Slide from the BCE's ESNI Working Group meeting (12 Nov. 2024).**



**EU-FarmBook** is a Horizon Europe project that is working at regional, national, and European levels to build an Online Platform, **gathering and sharing agriculture and forestry knowledge**. It offers an interactive, **multi-lingual meeting place for agriculture and forestry communities**, giving access to trustworthy knowledge objects according to findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable (FAIR) data principles.



Launched on 31st May 2023, the **Rural Bioeconomy Alliance** (RBA) is a cluster of **20 European-funded projects**<sup>2</sup> (Figure 8), aimed at accelerating and supporting the development of circular rural Bioeconomy initiatives in the EU. With a focus on **rural sustainable circular bioeconomy** initiatives, the RBA investigates, develops and analyses success stories, best practices, pilots, including ways to increase the adoption of circular bioeconomy concepts, mainly in rural areas.



*Figure 8: Rural Bioeconomy Alliance projects (24 Apr. 2025).*



**AKISConnect**, a joint venture by the **modernAKIS** and **ATTRACTISS** EU projects, is an online platform, where actors from all over Europe converge to leverage the power of Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS). It serves as a dynamic platform aimed at fostering collaboration, empowering local communities, and facilitating cross-country cooperation to drive transformative change in agricultural practices and innovation. The goal is to create a vibrant ecosystem where diverse stakeholders actively **contribute to advancing agricultural knowledge and innovation across Europe**.



**Plataforma de Asesores AKIS (AKIS Advisors Platform)** is a digital platform created by the **Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food (MAPA)** with the aim of facilitating a meeting point and knowledge exchange among the actors of the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS) at the national level.

<sup>2</sup> As counted on 24 April 2025

### 3.3 Individual projects (bilateral collaboration)

The projects featured under this group have forged bilateral collaboration, with varying levels of involvement and frequency of participation in shared activities (Table 4). They are not part of the SLRT either because they were not interested at that point in time or their goals were not fully aligned and preferred to establish bilateral collaboration with BBioNets.

**Table 4: Individual Projects (bilateral collaboration).**

Overview of Individual Projects	
	<b>BioINSouth</b> <a href="#">BioINSouth</a> aims to support decision-makers to incorporate considerations of ecological limits into their regional bioeconomy strategies and roadmaps, through digital tools relevant to <b>circular bio-based activities</b> . BioINSouth applies a multi-actor approach to provide regional solutions through <b>Multi Actor Regional Groups (MARGs)</b> and the creation of related <b>bioeconomy HUBs</b> , meaningfully incorporating environmental and socioeconomic aspects in bio-based industrial systems. It will build up its methodology in eight European regions (Campania – Italy, Peloponnese – Greece, Andalusia and Asturias – Spain, Centro Region – Portugal, Nouvelle-Aquitaine – France, Slovenia and, Cyprus) by establishing an equal number of use cases, thus <b>reinforcing the capacity of biobased value chains</b> in the Mediterranean.
	The project 'OPTimising FOREst management decisions for a <b>low-carbon, climate resilient future</b> in Europe ( <a href="#">OptFor-EU</a> )' aims to build a Decision Support System (DSS) to provide forest managers and other relevant stakeholders with tailored options for <b>optimising decarbonisation and other Forest Ecosystem Services (FES) across Europe</b> . Based on a supply-demand approach, the methodology combines an iterative process of data consolidation, modelling, and co-development of solutions alongside forest managers and other practice stakeholders in all European Forest Types. The DSS is being designed and tested in 8 case study areas, to provide a ready-to-use service, near to operational at European level, while a user adoption and up-take plan will maximise the societal and business impact.
	<b>ROBOCOOP-EU</b> <a href="#">ROBOCOOP-EU</a> proposes a breakthrough cultural change in the agricultural sector, by deploying effective <b>regional and circular bio-based Business Models</b> for the valorisation of waste streams from 3 agricultural sectors: grape, olive and stone fruit. The project specialises in the <b>enhancement of revenue streams for small and medium-scale farmers and cooperatives</b> . Its approach involves the systematic diversification of commercial opportunities within agricultural contexts. By establishing versatile bio-refineries, it facilitates the production of a comprehensive portfolio of bio-based products, enabling the integration of secondary streams in a holistic closed-loop system.
	<b>Small4Good</b> <a href="#">Small4Good</a> aims to <b>help small forest owners develop multifunctional management and business models</b> using digital and AI solutions. The project promotes biodiversity and carbon farming through payment for ecosystem services schemes. Its approach involves understanding the motivations of small forest owners and developing business and management models through a multi-actor living lab approach across Europe, promoting rapid prototyping and implementing realistic, locally adapted pathways towards multifunctionality. The project's outcomes will enable small forest owners across Europe to transition towards sustainable and multifunctional management, creating a <b>fair and inclusive bioeconomy</b> .
	<b>stratus.</b> <a href="#">STRATUS</a> aims to <b>connect advisors across Europe</b> to accelerate knowledge creation and sharing on Integrated Fertilisation Management, <b>supporting farmers to bring this knowledge into practice</b> to achieve the ambition of the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies. Thus, STRATUS will contribute to reducing nutrient losses to the environment while maintaining soil fertility.

## 4 Collaboration Activities – P1

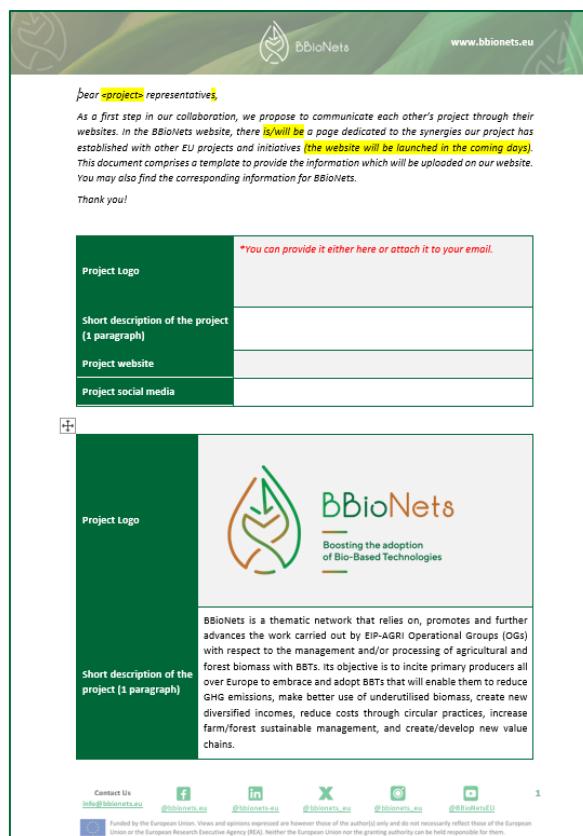
From BBioNets' outset through its mid-term, the consortium and its partners actively organised and participated in a variety of activities and events with a collaborative focus. They were all instrumental to disseminate and communicate the progress of the project, share insights, and strengthen its links with similar initiatives. By engaging in conferences, workshops, and joint efforts, BBioNets effectively expanded its reach and built constructive alliances within the broader community. Activities and events mentioned under this chapter are indicative and serve to showcase the different types of partnerships BBioNets forged.

**Note:** The exhaustive list of all BBioNets D&C activities has been reported on the SyGMA portal.

### 4.1 Cross-promotion through Communication Channels

All projects mentioned under Section 3, regardless of the group they fall under, responded positively to the BBioNets suggestion for cross-promotion of the established collaboration through their respective websites. Some projects, which had not initially considered it, even decided to add a dedicated webpage for this purpose.

To facilitate this process, BBioNets prepared a designated template requesting a short description, logo and the social media channels of the recipient project, providing simultaneously its own information (Figure 9).



**Dear project representative,**

As a first step in our collaboration, we propose to communicate each other's project through their websites. In the BBioNets website, there will be a page dedicated to the synergies our project has established with other EU projects and initiatives (the website will be launched in the coming days). This document comprises a template to provide the information which will be uploaded on our website. You may also find the corresponding information for BBioNets.

Thank you!

Project Logo	*You can provide it either here or attach it to your email.
Short description of the project (1 paragraph)	
Project website	
Project social media	

**Project Logo**

**BBioNets**  
Boosting the adoption  
of Bio-Based Technologies

**Short description of the project (1 paragraph)**

BBioNets 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. Its objective is to incite primary producers all over Europe to embrace and adopt BBTs that will enable them to reduce GHG emissions, make better use of underutilised biomass, create new diversified incomes, reduce costs through circular practices, increase farm/forest sustainable management, and create/develop new value chains.

Contact Us  
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[f](#) [in](#) [X](#) [G](#) [D](#)

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 9: BBioNets' dedicated template for website cross-promotion.

Following up on this exchange, the D&C teams of most projects<sup>3</sup> proceeded with updating their websites, and further promoted their bilateral collaboration by making social media posts on their respective channels.



**Figure 10: BBioNets website – ‘Synergies’ page.**

Once the initial cooperation steps were established, the BBioNets D&C team, FOCUS, initiated the “*Forging Partnerships*” campaign, using the project’s social media channels to showcase the main highlights of partner projects on (read more in “D4.2 - Plan for Dissemination and Exploitation including Communication activities – updated”). They also regularly reposted or promoted their news, events, and other information, based on either the interests of the BBioNets audience or specific requests for promotion.

Accordingly, BBioNets and several other projects offered their partners the opportunity to publicise their results and relevant news in their respective newsletters.

**Table 5: Indicative examples of Newsletter cross-promotion.**

Indicative examples of Newsletter cross-promotion	
	<a href="#"><u>Welcome to the 1st BBioNets newsletter! – July 2024</u></a>
	<a href="#"><u>Biorefine Bulletin News - September - October 2024 - BCE (Network)</u></a>
	<a href="#"><u>1<sup>st</sup> Newsletter – November 2024 – Soil-X-Change (SLRT – sister project)</u></a>
	<a href="#"><u>OptFor-EU news #4: Smart updates for sustainable forest management (bilateral collaboration)</u></a>

Going a step further, BBioNets strategically decided to devote the entire second edition of its newsletter to the importance of establishing collaborations, featuring news across 16 projects. This initiative was warmly welcomed and publicised accordingly (Figure 11, Figure 12).

<sup>3</sup> To BBioNets’ knowledge at the time; any further actions to this respect were not monitored.

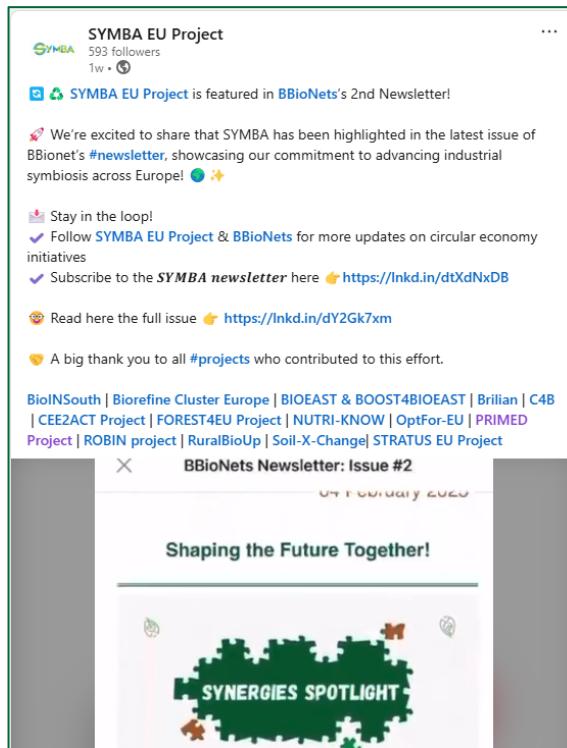


Figure 11: SYMBA's promotion of BBioNets' Newsletter.

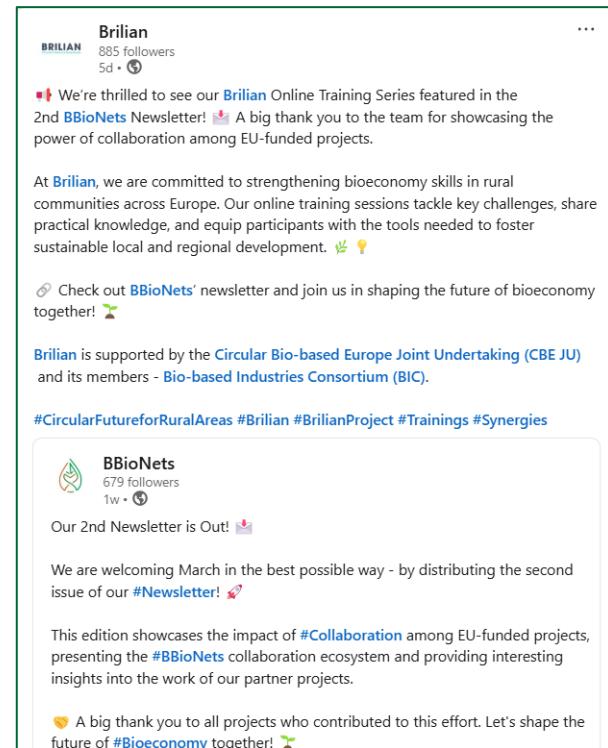


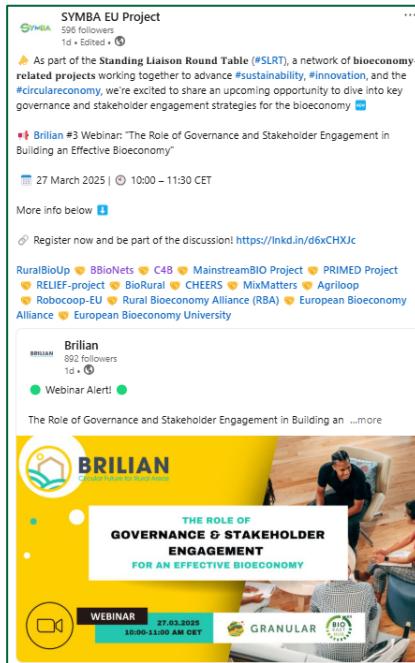
Figure 12: BRILIAN' social media post about BBioNets' Newsletter.

Additional examples of cross-promotion can be consulted in Table 6.

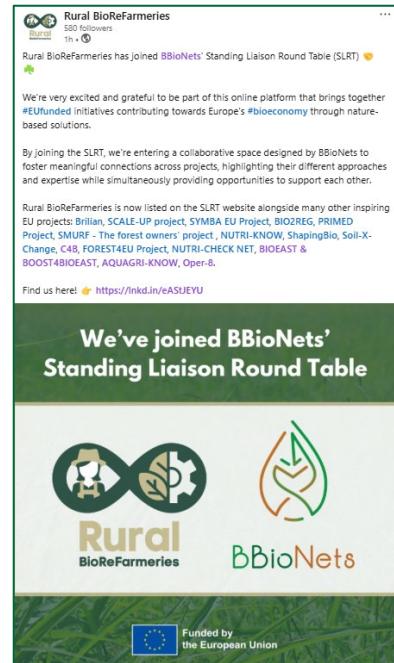
Table 6: Indicative examples of cross-promotion

Collaboration level	Description
Project Websites	<p>Partner projects feature their collaboration with BBioNets on their websites' dedicated pages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">BIO2REG</a> – SLRT project</li> <li>• <a href="#">BCE</a> – Network</li> <li>• <a href="#">OptFor-EU</a> – Individual projects (bilateral collaboration)</li> </ul>
Social media	<p>BBioNets regularly promotes its partner projects' <b>upcoming activities and events</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil-X-Change – <a href="#">Launch of 1<sup>st</sup> survey addressed to OG members</a></li> <li>• SMURF – <a href="#">Cascade Funding Initiative</a></li> <li>• NUTRI-KNOW – <a href="#">Webinar series on sustainable nutrient management</a></li> </ul> <p>BBioNets runs <b>campaigns</b> to highlight its synergies and promote results from its partner projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>"Forging Partnerships campaign"</b>: collaboration with <a href="#">SYMBA</a> project</li> <li>• <b>"BioPills campaign"</b>: a <a href="#">collaborative effort</a> of 12 projects (see section 4.2.1)</li> </ul>
Press Releases & Website articles	<p>BBioNets promotes its partner projects through press releases and website articles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">First Press Release</a> (June 2024)</li> <li>• <a href="#">ShapingBio Workshop on Stakeholder Engagement and Communication Strategies</a> (December 2024)</li> </ul>

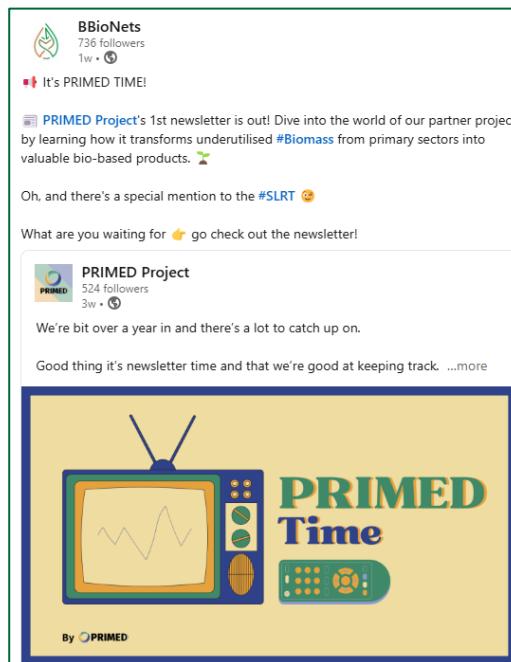
Additionally to the cross-promotion of projects and their activities and results, there have also been instances of promotion of the SRLT by some of the participating projects (Figure 13, Figure 14, Figure 15).



**Figure 13: Simultaneous promotion of the SLRT and participating project's event.**



**Figure 14: Announcement of joining the SLRT.**



**Figure 15: SLRT mention on newsletter.**

## 4.2 Inter-project activities

This section highlights several collaborative activities that were organised exclusively for and addressed to representatives of various projects. These initiatives provided platforms for setting strategies, exchanging knowledge and updates, and sharing best practices. Fostering cooperation and

dialogue, the activities described below aimed to accelerate progress toward sustainable, circular bioeconomy goals. They are presented under two different headings, based on the organising entity: BBioNets, and Other Platforms/Projects.

#### 4.2.1 Organised by BBioNets

##### SLRT: The “Cooperation inaugural event”

During the initial online meetings with representatives of the projects identified as potential collaboration candidates, BBioNets informed participants of its intention to establish the *Standing Liaison Round Table* to pursue further networking and multilateral cooperation, as pledged in its DoA.

After receiving positive feedback and confirmation of attendance, the Liaison team shared the “.docx” files prepared for the initial meetings (Figure 16). They requested any missing information related to the projects’ forthcoming activities and planned materials, as well as any additional suggestions for collaboration.



**Figure 16: Example of document for sharing information.**

The next step was organising the **SLRT “Cooperation inaugural event”** – an online meeting where several projects attended to get acquainted, exchange information and initiate multilateral collaboration. A doodle poll was shared to schedule a convenient date / time slot, along with a *Meeting Overview* document (Figure 17), and a .pptx template for each project to succinctly present its scope and activities (Figure 18). Additionally, a registration form was introduced to ensure compliance with GDPR requirements before sharing information across projects.

**Standing Liaison Round Table**

Organised by: 

**Going beyond bilateral synergies:**  
exploring collaboration pathways among several EU-funded projects

Perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When several projects decide to network, join forces and combine different viewpoints, approaches and expertise, this can only lead to a greater impact of their work</li> <li>• Facilitation of bilateral and multilateral collaboration among projects</li> <li>• Creation of a critical audience mass</li> <li>• Greater efficiency through wider outreach to beneficiaries</li> <li>• Maximization of impact in terms of activities and dissemination of anticipated results</li> </ul>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce projects with sufficient similarities as to their scope and objectives to initiate networking</li> <li>• Discuss collaboration opportunities and potential joint activities</li> <li>• Agree on a long-term strategy and vision (Roadmap)</li> </ul>
Structure	<p>Mobilisation and Mutual Exchange event</p> <p>Session 1 - Brief project presentations – “Tour de Table”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5-minute overview by each project representative as to their project identity, scope, objectives, anticipated activities and expected outcomes</li> <li>• Q&amp;A</li> </ul> <p>Session 2 - Brainstorming session on collaboration pathways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion on collaboration opportunities and potential joint activities</li> <li>• Definition of a Roadmap (long-term strategy and vision) to initiate a common action plan</li> <li>• Next steps</li> </ul>
Organiser	<p>BBioNets - <a href="https://bbionets.eu">https://bbionets.eu</a></p> <p>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 transnational project involving 12 partners from 9 countries. The work is carried out by EIP-AGRI Operational Group (Og6) with respect to the management and/or processing of agricultural and forest biomass with BBTs.</p>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project coordinators</li> <li>• Partners responsible for Dissemination and Communication</li> <li>• Partners responsible for synergies with other projects</li> <li>• Any other interested project representatives</li> </ul>

Virtual event | **26/04/2024**            2

Organised by: 

**Standing Liaison Round Table**



Project logo (please adapt this box to the size of your logo)

<Project Acronym>

<Presenter>, <Organisation>

Online Event, **DD/MM/2024**

**Figure 18: Cooperation inaugural event – project presentation template.**

**Figure 17: Cooperation inaugural event - Meeting Overview document.**

While organising the event, some representatives suggested inviting additional projects relevant to the common “*bioeconomy / primary producers*” scope. The BBioNets Liaison team acted on most of these suggestions, aiming to expand SLRT membership while ensuring the meeting remained within the committed 2-hour timeframe to accommodate all confirmed participants.

The event took place on **26<sup>th</sup> April 2024**, bringing together **29 representatives from 12 projects**, along with an EU official. Following a brief overview presented by each project, a brainstorming session generated valuable ideas for a long-term strategy and common action plan for this new collaboration.



**Figure 19: Cooperation inaugural event – meeting screenshot.**

A website article concerning this meeting was produced by FOCUS and is featured on the BBioNets project website: <https://bbionets.eu/cooperation-inaugural-event/>.

## SLRT: BioPills campaign

Acting on a campaign idea proposed by the SYMBA project, BBioNets managed the logistics and organisation of an SLRT online meeting on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024 (Figure 20). 12 out of the 14 SLRT projects at the time agreed to run the **“BioPills” social media campaign**, which aimed to spotlight how each project contributes to sustainability, innovation, and the circular economy.

Running from 21/10/2024 to 12/05/2025, the campaign aimed to share insights into various aspects of the bio-based industries through a series of posts, demonstrating how the projects collectively drive positive change. The plan devised envisioned creating one post per project, with the possibility of extending the effort for an additional round. BioPills were scheduled to be shared across social media every two weeks on Mondays, each focusing on a specific bioeconomy topic.

The projects that actively contributed to the campaign were: BBioNets, BIO2REG, BRILIAN, C4B, FOREST4EU, NUTRI-CHECK NET, NUTRI-KNOW, PRIMED, SCALE-UP, SMURF, Soil-X-Change, and SYMBA (see Table 2).



**Figure 20: SLRT - “BioPills” campaign meeting screenshot.**

As the coordinator of the campaign, BBioNets’ Liaison team created a dedicated folder within the SLRT repository to help participating projects structure their individual posts. It was essential for all participants to adhere to specific visual guidelines to maintain a cohesive visual identity for the campaign, ensuring its recognisability among the public while also showcasing the logos of the participating projects. Additionally, BBioNets was responsible both for the campaign’s inaugural post, introducing the initiative to all involved projects’ audiences, and the concluding one. Figure 21 and Figure 22 illustrate the visuals accompanying the inaugural post and BBioNets’ own contribution, respectively.

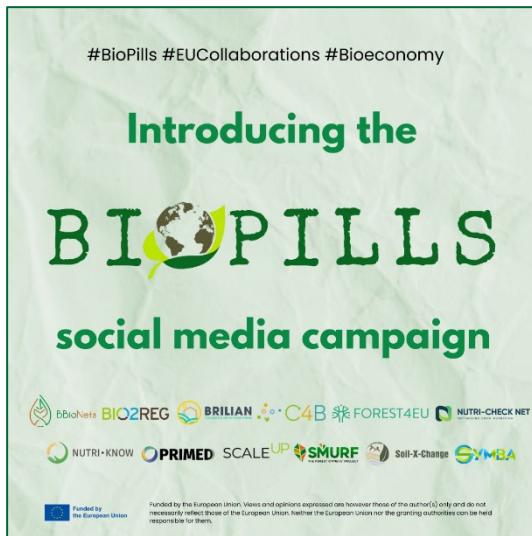


Figure 21: BioPills campaign - Inaugural post visual.

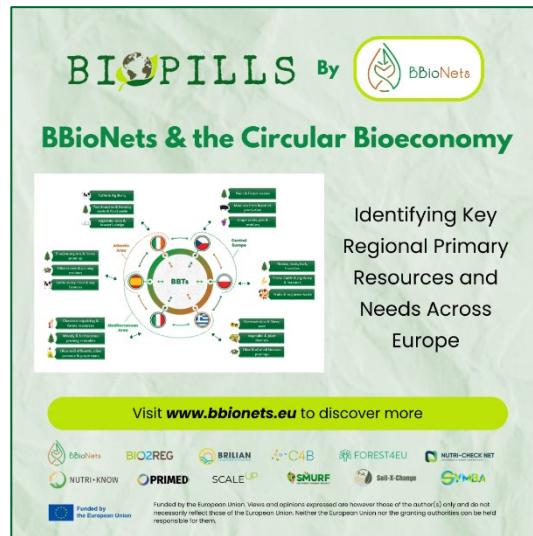


Figure 22: BioPills campaign - BBioNets post visual.

Information relevant to the analytics of the campaign is available in “D4.2 - Plan for Dissemination and Exploitation including Communication activities – updated”.

**Note:** In mid-April 2025, BBioNets' Liaison team contacted all participating projects to inquire about their willingness to renew the campaign for a 2nd round (as discussed during the October 2024 meeting) and its potential value. Based on the warm and positive reaction of the majority of projects, the campaign will be renewed in autumn 2025 and an invitation to participate will be extended to all SLRT members.

### SLRT: "Collaboration in Action: Unlocking the Potential of OGs" – Initiation of Joint Online Event by 5 Projects

FOCUS initiated an exchange of emails and targeted online meetings with the other four projects of the SLRT (at the time) that promote the work of EIP-AGRI OGs: FOREST4EU, NUTRI-KNOW, Soil-X-Change & AQUAGRI-KNOW (see Table 2).

The aim was to plan for the organisation of a joint event on OGs, held as a broader-scale version/adaptation of the BBioNets European ETR meeting (relevant information available in “D1.2 - Report on FANs interaction – initial version”). Under the slogan "Collaboration in Action: Unlocking the Potential of OGs", participants agreed upon the thematic and date/time of the event:

- Thematic: “The future of EIP-AGRI Operational Groups: challenges, opportunities and existing support services”
- Date/time: 14 May 2025, 10:00-13:00 CET.

Additional information on the event will be included in “D1.3 - Report on FANs interaction – final version” (August 2026), and “D6.1 - Report on the collaboration with relevant initiatives – P2” (August 2026).

### Other collaboration meetings with projects, networks or initiatives

Table 7: Meetings organised by BBioNets (beyond SLRT activities).

Organiser	Event	Description
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MTU	Meeting with South East Finland University, Tralee – Ireland, 22/01/24	Knowledge exchange visit of South East Finland University at MTU premises. <a href="#">BBioNets was presented</a> by its coordinator, who received sometime later follow-up information about Bio-Based Technologies from their side.
AFS	BRILIAN: Initial discussion on training activities	AFS, responsible for the development of BBioNets training material, asked FOCUS to be introduced to BRILIAN representatives with a view to collaborating in that front.
MTU	Meeting with Dutch CAP Network, online, 21/05/24	MTU connected with the Dutch CAP Network to share BBioNets aims, and look for OGs and potential Advisory Board members.
MTU	Meeting with Irish CAP Network, online, 31/05/24	MTU connected with the Irish CAP Network to share BBioNets aims, and look for OGs and potential Advisory Board members.
MTU	Meeting with ShapingBio, online, 11/06/24	MTU met with ShapingBio representatives to discuss potential collaboration during the Bioeconomy Ireland Week (10/24) and a ShapingBio event (01/25) about market development for bio-based products.

#### 4.2.2 Organised by other Platforms/Projects

The following is an indicative overview of meetings and workshops organised by fellow networks and projects that BBioNets partners have attended, demonstrating their active engagement with ongoing developments and emerging opportunities.

**Table 8: Meetings organised by BBioNets' Partnering Networks and Projects.**

Organiser	Event	Description
PREMIERE	Networking event for new Multi-Actor Projects from the Cluster 6-Gov-Calls 2023, online, 11/07/24	Following an invitation for coordinators of GOVERNANCE Call 2023 to join a networking event on the Multi-Actor Approach, Carmen Girón Domínguez (MTU) and Ephy Kouzi (FOCUS) contributed to the discussion on behalf of BBioNets.
RBA	Bimonthly online meetings (Figure 23)	Upon notification of BBioNets acceptance to the RBA on 23/07/24, FOCUS (liaison leader) and the project coordinator (MTU) made it a point to attend all bimonthly meetings. Pertinent news and invitations to forthcoming events were exchanged (e.g. invitation addressed by BBioNets to attend its December <i>European Transnational Regions</i> meetings) and thereafter communicated to the consortium partners or promoted through the project's social media.
ShapingBio	<a href="#">"Powering Stakeholder Engagement and</a>	<i>The invitation to this workshop was forwarded by ShapingBio using the BBioNets SLRT mailing</i>

Organiser	Event	Description
	<u>Communication for Bioeconomy</u> ” workshop, online, 29/10/24	<i>list.</i> The workshop aimed to gather insights from communicators and experts in stakeholder engagement, with a special focus on bioeconomy. As part of the broader ShapingBio initiative, this event supported the project's mission to accelerate bioeconomy innovation and knowledge deployment across the EU, while delivering evidence-based recommendations for better policy alignment and collaborative stakeholder actions. BBioNets was represented by FOCUS.
European Forest Institute	<u>Private meeting</u> among projects, Barcelona – Spain, 7/11/24	BBioNets was represented by its coordinator, Carmen Girón Domínguez (MTU), at the meeting organised in the wake of the 8th Mediterranean Forest Week. The goal was to encourage partnerships and foster synergies among 11 projects delving into the bioeconomy and related fields. The coordinator invited participants to attend the BBioNets' 1 <sup>st</sup> round of ETR meetings (12/24)
BCE	ESNI Working Group on Technologies for Nutrient Recovery, online, 12/11/24	<i>Working Group Planning Meeting</i> aiming to bring projects together and get better acquainted with their activities in terms of technological approaches to recover nutrients from different secondary sources, their current challenges, the main topics that could be of interest to them for 2025. BBioNets was represented by CREA.
BCE	ESNI Working Group on Policies/Path to market, online, 10/12/24	<i>Introduction and Planning Meeting</i> to encourage connections between EU projects so as to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, expertise and insights, and strengthen the impact of their policy recommendations and feedback towards policy makers. Theme: regulatory policies and market uptake of nutrients recovered from different secondary sources. BBioNets was represented by CREA and CTA.
SCAR AKIS	SWG SCAR AKIS 6th Mandate – 08th Meeting, 15-16/01/25	The BBioNets coordinator was invited to present the project as a best practice example on how to effectively disseminate EIP-AGRI OGs results among practitioners.
EU-FarmBook	Meeting with the BBioNets' EU-FarmBook ambassador, online, 27/01/25	Gina Geală met the BBioNets coordinator to provide guidance as to the 3 different routes of uploading information to the EU-FarmBook platform – detailed presentation of the API guidelines

Organiser	Event	Description
PREMIERE	Focus Group: “Operational Groups Go Horizon”, online, 7/04/25	FOCUS represented BBioNets in a discussion centring on the current situation of OGs in Multi-Actor Approach projects in Horizon Europe, key challenges, barriers and ways to enhance their participation.

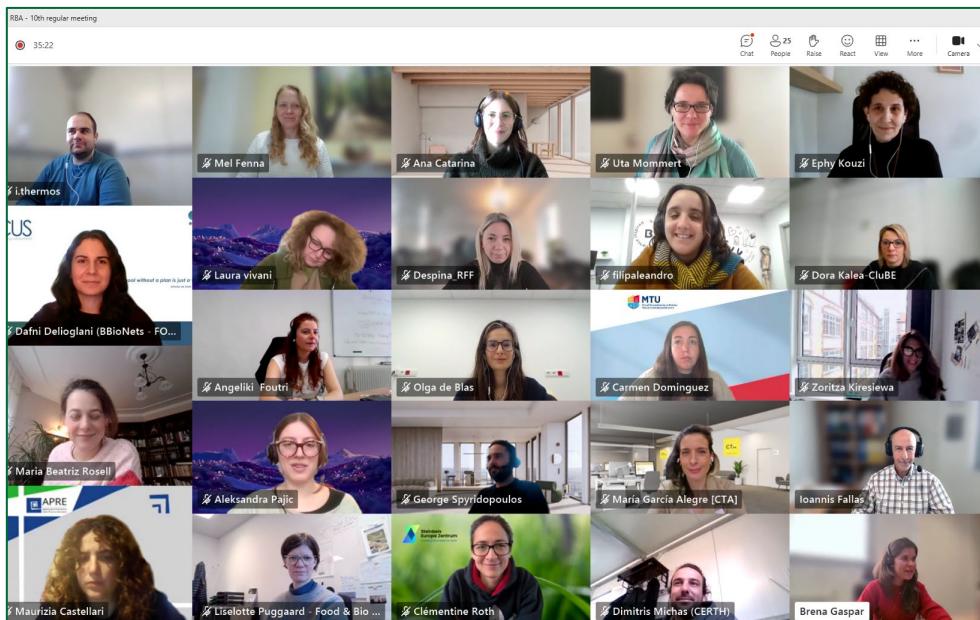


Figure 23: Group screenshot at the bimonthly RBA meeting with all 3 BBioNets representatives attending (28 Jan. 2025).

### 4.3 Events for a wider audience

Partners also actively engaged in a wide array of meetings and events, both organising and attending, recognising their crucial role in fostering knowledge exchange, strengthening collaborative ties, and driving the objectives of the project forward.

#### 4.3.1 Organised by 3<sup>rd</sup> parties

Table 9: Online meetings organised by 3rd parties for a wider audience.

Organiser	Event	Description
Soil-X-Change	Kick-off meeting, 24/01/24	MTU and FOCUS were invited at the kick-off meeting of BBioNets' sister project. MTU presented the objectives and activities of BBioNets.
EU-FarmBook	Several training seminars, beginning with their pre-launch event on 8/02/24	All consortium partners attended a number of EU-FarmBook's monthly online training sessions to prepare for their obligation to share BBioNets outputs.
BIO2REG	BIO2REG expert workshop on how to successfully fund bioeconomy transition, 4/06/24	A workshop with valuable insights and discussions on how various regions embraced the circular bioeconomy to drive regional transitions. Key drivers, challenges, and

Organiser	Event	Description
		successes of these transitions were explored. FOCUS represented BBioNets.
PRIMED	PRIMED Open Call Info Day, 12/09/24	Info Day webinar presenting an overview of the PRIMED project, an introduction to its Living Labs and their focus areas, while providing a step-by-step guide to the application process for their Open Call. BBioNets was represented by CREA.
AKISConnect	<p>Several events, indicatively:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digital Repositories - Bridging Research and Practice, 24/09/24</li> <li>• AKIS in action: Powering up advisors' knowledge through peer exchange, 24/10/24</li> <li>• AKIS in action: Strengthening AKIS through women-led innovation, joint event by FLIARA and modernAKIS projects, 19/11/24</li> </ul>	<p>Networking event series allowing for peer exchange and practical insights on a number of themes relevant to the BBioNets topic. The Liaison team (FOCUS) and several other partners made sure to regularly attend such events.</p>
BRILIAN	Workshop 'Policy alignment: toward a coherent and supportive framework', 23/01/25	FOCUS attended this webinar that delved into the critical role of harmonising policies across economic, social, environmental, and technological domains to build a cohesive framework that fosters sustainable growth.
ShapingBio	Workshop 'Policy Recommendations Validation', 02/04/25	CREA attended this webinar to contribute to ShapingBio's effort to produce recommendations after 3 years of consultations with stakeholders. BBioNets was invited to approve and refine these recommendations before they are communicated to the EC.

**Table 10: Onsite meetings organised by 3rd parties for a wider audience.**

Organiser	Event	Description
CEE2ACT (RBA member)	Greek Bioeconomy Day, Athens – Greece, 15/04/24	An event focused on the bioeconomy in Greece, attended by CBE JU Head of Programme Virginia Puzzolo. FOCUS represented BBioNets, giving an overview of the project and its goals during bilateral discussions (also with Ms Puzzolo) and distributing project brochures.
EU CAP NETWORK	Conference 'Operational Groups: Innovation in	MTU, AFS, TEPRO attended the Conference. BBioNets requested and was assigned a table,

Organiser	Event	Description
	'practice', Estoril – Portugal, 6-8/05/24	allowing for better promotion, visibility, and networking.
European Rural Development Network	European Rural Development Network Conference 2024, Vilnius – Lithuania, 11-13/09/24	IUNG promoted BBioNets at the Conference centring on green transformation of rural areas and recommendations for effective policies for rural development and agriculture.
Innovation Network in Agriculture and Rural Areas (part of the Polish Rural Network)	4th Annual Conference on Polish EIP Operational Groups, Lublin – Poland, 6-7/11/24	IUNG represented BBioNets at the Conference, establishing contacts and facilitating cooperation between Polish operational groups (OGs), while enabling the exchange of experiences in developing and implementing innovative solutions in agricultural production, processing and distribution of agri-food products.
EU CAP Network	Workshop on 'National networking for innovation and knowledge exchange', Reims – France, 20-30/01/25	Mara Lai from CREA represented both BBioNets and the Italian CAP Network at the meeting. BBioNets was invited to present its scope and work towards unlocking the potential of OG results and ensuring a wider uptake of innovative results.
ERIAFF, EFI, CEPF, EUSTAFOR, COPA-COGECA, ELO, Euromontana, and EU projects FOREST4EU and OptFor-EU	Forest Innovation Workshop and OptFor-EU Mid-term conference, Brussels – Belgium, 11-12/02/25	The project was represented by CREA during a slot in Breakout Session 1: Presentation and discussion on innovation initiatives Topic C – "Valorising non-wood forest products for healthy consumption patterns". At this panel, CREA had the opportunity to present some cases of the BioBased Technology Inventory related to non-timber forest products.
EU CAP Network	Workshop 'Circular bioeconomy - valorisation of forest by-products', Kouvola – Finland, 26-27/03/25	CREA represented BBioNets by participating at an interactive poster session to showcase and disseminate the project, and engaging in brief discussions afterwards. A joint event was organised with FOREST4EU, highlighting the achievements of two projects promoting the work of OGs.
EU CAP Network	Brokerage event 'Partnering for innovation with impact in agriculture and rural areas', Prague – Czech Republic, 29-30/03/25	CTA represented BBioNets, contributing to the dissemination and engagement of BBioNets in wider networking activities.

### 4.3.2 Organised by BBioNets

**Table 11: BBioNets Events & Activities where other Projects collaborated.**

Event/Activity	Description
BBioNets webinar " <a href="#">Empowering Ireland's Farmers and Foresters: A focus on Biobased solutions through BBioNets</a> ", Bioeconomy Ireland Week 2024, 15/10/24	Organised within the Bioeconomy Ireland Week 2024, MTU and Teagasc's webinar hosted a panel of bioeconomy experts from other projects, namely NXTGENWOOD, MainstreamBio and ShapingBio. Recording available on <a href="#">BBioNets YouTube channel</a> & article on <a href="#">website</a> .
<a href="#">1st Atlantic ETR Meeting</a> , online, 4/12/24	During the 1 <sup>st</sup> meeting of the Irish & Spanish FANs that focused on enhancing circularity in the forest sector, Álvaro Picardo, SMURF project's coordinator, and Edward Casey, MSCA RISE <a href="#">DeMANS Project</a> , participated as speakers, while Colm Faulkner represented and intervened on behalf of the <a href="#">NXTGENWOOD</a> project.
<a href="#">1<sup>st</sup> Central Europe ETR meeting</a> , online, 11/12/24	The first meeting of the Czech and Polish FANs on 'livestock and agricultural waste management' hosted speakers from the <a href="#">CiNURGi</a> , Soil-X-Change, MainstreamBio (RBA member), and BRILIAN projects, as well as the Cypriot <a href="#">OLIVER Nicosia Veg</a> Operational Group.

### 4.4 Other types of collaboration

In addition to cross-promotion, a shared online presence, and events, BBioNets has also undertaken or contributed to a variety of collaborative activities that extend beyond these categories. Each one further contributed to the projects' mutual growth and shared objectives.

**Table 12: Miscellaneous partnership activities.**

Description of activity
<b>ShapingBio</b> is acting as a <b>member of the Irish FAN</b> , actively participating in its activities.
Once initial collaboration with the <b>SMURF</b> project was established, BBioNets invited its coordinator, Álvaro Picardo, to join its <b>Advisory Board</b> . He graciously accepted and has been contributing to project activities.
Responding to an invitation circulated via the SLRT network, the <b>BBioNets coordinator</b> applied and was accepted as a bioeconomy expert in <b>SYMBA's Advisory Board</b> . This enables BBioNets to contribute to SYMBA's activities and further its own goals.
CREA attended the <b>PRIMED OPEN CALL</b> Info Day webinar with some of its <b>FAN members</b> . This resulted in some of them being interested in participating in the Open Call. They were not ready for the 1 <sup>st</sup> Call, but FOCUS liaised to obtain information for their timely participation in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Call.

After being personally invited, Iakovos Delioglannis from FOCUS became a member of the **C4B Stakeholder Panel** to represent BBioNets in knowledge and experiences exchange in the bioeconomy domain.

The SMURF coordinator requested BBioNets partners' assistance to promote the **second cascade funding of SMURF** to relevant stakeholders in their countries via their respective networks.

The Liaison team reached out on behalf of BBioNets to the three SLRT **projects** promoting the work of **EIP-AGRI Operational Groups** to discuss the challenges faced while **collecting financial data** from primary producers and ways to overcome them.

After BBioNets' presentation at the SCAR AKIS meeting (Jan. '25), **Plataforma de Asesores AKIS (AKIS Advisors Platform)** reached out and expressed its eagerness to become **involved** and disseminate the **project activities in Spain**.

**NUTRI-KNOW** reached out to all SLRT projects asking for **input to its two surveys**: one on the practice-oriented materials created, and a second on their Results Amplification Methodology (RAM), a structured framework for transferring knowledge to farmers, practitioners, and policymakers (April 2025).

## 5 Conclusions

The consortium firmly believes that the collaborative efforts undertaken during the first reporting period have proven highly successful, with results significantly exceeding the initial targets set for this phase. The strong commitment and proactive engagement of all partners have been instrumental in achieving these outcomes. By fostering synergies across aligned projects, leveraging complementary expertise, and actively engaging in activities, the consortium has established a solid foundation for impactful collaboration.

Looking ahead, the partners are committed to reinforcing these collaborations, building on the successes of this period to drive even more decisive and targeted actions. The solidly established relationships with other partner projects, combined with the more advanced stage of our own results and activities, are expected to create new opportunities for deeper collaboration. Future efforts will focus on scaling up joint activities, expanding stakeholder engagement, and further aligning collaborative strategies with the overarching objectives of the European Commission's research and innovation programmes. At the time of the submission of this document, the discussions and preparations for the organisation of joint events had already well progressed with other projects.

The consortium remains steadfast in its shared goal of advancing innovation, promoting sustainability, and maximising the impact of collaborative efforts for the benefit of end-users and society at large.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

While not explicitly mentioned throughout this document, EIP-AGRI Operational Groups are inherently included in BBioNets' collaborative efforts and are regarded as key partners in our activities. Their involvement is embedded in the framework of all our actions, reflecting their integral role in achieving the project's objectives. For example, OG representatives actively participate in our FANs (14 OGs) and Advisory Board (2 OGs), results from 82 OGs have been integrated into the BBioNets inventory and knowledge collection, collaborative actions with 85 OGs have taken place up to now (going beyond the consortium countries), while the outreach and knowledge-sharing initiatives of the project (scheduled to mainly be deployed in the second period) will heavily involve OGs. This implicit inclusion underscores their importance without the need for repetitive reference, as their contributions are considered a foundational aspect of our work.

## 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 <a href="mailto:carmen.dominguez@mtu.ie">(carmen.dominguez@mtu.ie)</a>
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 <b>management and/or processing of agricultural and forest biomass with Bio-Based Technologies (BBTs)</b> . 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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