



DELIVERABLE D5.4

## BBioNets Advisory Board

MUNSTER TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

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## Table of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
AB	Advisory Board
BBTs	Bio-Based Technologies
CZ	Czechia
D	Deliverable
EL	Greece
ES	Spain
ETRs	European Transnational Regions
FANs	Forest and Agriculture Networks
IE	Ireland
IT	Italy
MQP	Project Management and Quality Plan
OGs	Operational Groups
PC	Project Coordinator
PGA	Project General Assembly
PL	Poland
WP	Work Package



# Executive Summary

The BBioNets Advisory Board (AB) will play a key role throughout the duration of the project, complementing the consortium's efforts by providing strategic guidance on the BBioNets activities, supporting the validation and credibility of the main project outcomes, and increasing their visibility and sustainability.

The AB will comprise a diverse pool of professionals from various backgrounds and expertise in the sectors of forestry and agriculture, such as representatives of Operational Groups, cooperative/farmer associations, cooperative/forest associations, and regional authorities.

All AB members will function as "*project consultants*" providing valuable feedback to align project activities and outcomes with the needs of users and stakeholders, as well as "*project ambassadors*," helping the promotion and dissemination of the project through their various networks. Drawing upon their extensive networks, they will facilitate collaborations and alliances to ensure BBioNets' successful implementation.

The BBioNets AB is expected to:

- Validate the "regional scenarios", i.e. a list of the most suitable Bio-Based Technologies for each targeted region.
- Test the BBTs assessment tool, i.e. an online tool matching the most suitable Bio-Based Technologies to each target region based on technical, environmental, economic, and social aspects.
- Suggest relevant Bio-Based Technologies and EIP-AGRI Operational Groups to include in the BBioNets online inventory and knowledge collection.
- Recommend the most suitable communication and dissemination channels to enhance the project outreach.
- Occasionally participate in BBioNets online meetings.

The 4-step process followed for the identification of the experts to be involved in the BBioNets AB is the following:

1. Nominations: each partner identified and proposed experts according to the expertise and profile needed for the project.
2. Assessment and selection: the proposed candidates were assessed, and the most suitable ones were selected.
3. Invitation and engagement: partners formally invited the experts selected by sending them the pertinent administrative documentation from the invitation kit.
4. Acceptance: the experts who accepted the invitation signed the requested documents signed.

As a result of the partners' efforts, the Advisory Board at this early stage of the project is composed of **eleven (11) experts** who are committed to meet their role as BBioNets AB members.



# 1 Introduction

This document is the **Advisory Board (AB) report, D5.4, of the BBioNets project**, funded through the European Union's Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon Europe under Grant Agreement No 101133904.

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).

Applying the *quintuple helix* model and a *multi-actor approach* both within the consortium itself and on the ground activities, BBioNets is currently setting up **6 regional Forest and Agriculture Networks - FANs** (IE, ES, IT, EL, PL, CZ) that ensure balanced representation of all AKIS stakeholders. Additionally, BBioNets promotes a second level of multi-actor approach a cross-regional promotion of the interaction amongst FANs, each one acting as a subnetwork of **European Transnational Regions (ETRs)**<sup>1</sup>, in this case the Atlantic Area (IE, ES), Central Europe (PL, CZ) and the Mediterranean Area (IT, GR, ES).

Individual FANs will identify local needs and, through co-creation and joint actions, prioritise specific BBTs, benefit from and validate knowledge material developed by the consortium building on previous EIP-AGRI OGs and EU-funded project results. Moreover, FANs will assist BBioNets in sharing BBT knowledge ready for practice to farmers and foresters, through Educational and Training Material and Knowledge Transfer Activities, 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.

BBioNets encompasses a multi-disciplinary consortium of 9 partners from 6 different countries, comprising research organisations (MTU, TEAGASC, CREA, IUNG) and intermediaries/ advisors/ multipliers (CTA, TEPRO, FOCUS, AFS, HUB-CR).

In this context, BBioNets has set up its **Advisory Board (AB)**, comprising diverse professionals in the forest and agriculture sectors, from different backgrounds, acting as an external group that provides feedback and guidance regarding the applicability and appropriateness of specific BBTs for each region.

More specifically, the report on the AB is structured in three sections, as follows:

- Section 1: context of the report and its structure.
- Section 2: description of the AB, its rationale, organisation, management, how it was created and member's role and benefits.
- Section 3: Terms of membership of the AB.
- Section 4: composition of the Advisory Board members.
- Section 5: summary of the contents of the deliverable.
- Section 6: includes references used in this document and to other AB deliverables applicable to this project consulted for the creation of this deliverable [2-5].

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<sup>1</sup> <https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/countries-regions/transnational-regions>

Finally, the Annexes include (i) the *Declaration of Acceptance* that was completed by the experts who agreed to become a member of the AB, (ii) the *Terms of Reference for the AB*, as well as (iii) the *Consent Form* for the handling of the AB personal data.



## 2 BBioNets Advisory Board

### 2.1 Rationale of the Advisory Board

As per the BBioNets main objectives, the creation of an AB was planned to act as a consultation body, which will comprise a number of external to the consortium eminent experts coming from diverse backgrounds (representatives of EIP-AGRI OGs, cooperatives/ associations, regional authorities, research institutions, etc.) to offer a blend of expertise that represents various groups of stakeholders from the fields of bioeconomy, circular economy, agriculture and forestry, business support, green value chains, etc.

The type of members within the AB reminds of the triple helix model [1], i.e. representation from three different sectors involved in the development of a socially organised knowledge, in this case multi-regional and OG-oriented in the circular bioeconomy and bio-based technologies. In this case, the typology of members agreed at proposal level are as follows:

- Operational group representatives.
- Cooperative or farmer/forest association.
- Regional authority representatives from each European Transnational Region (ETR) covered by the project.

The goal, at proposal level, was to gather at least 7 members for the Advisory Board (**Figure 1**), in other words:

- Operational Group representatives (2)
- Cooperative/farmer association (1)
- Cooperative/forest association (1)
- Regional authority representative from each ETR (1)



**Figure 1: Minimum number of AB members.**

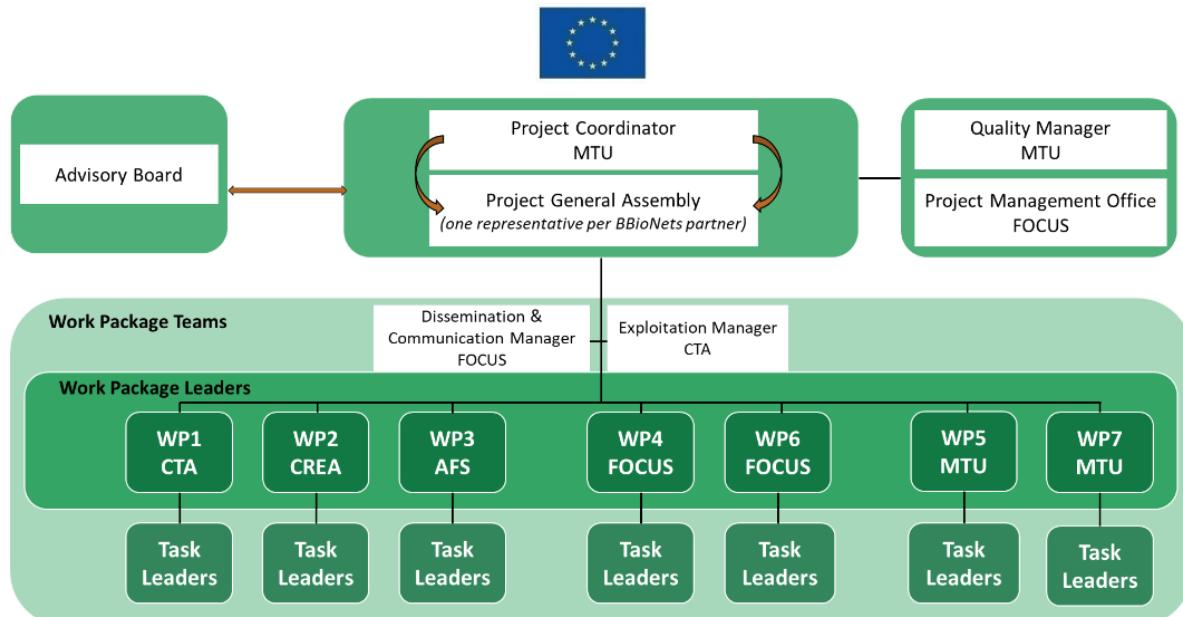
At the time this report was written, **BBioNets was able to recruit 11 members** for the Advisory Board:

- Operational Group representatives (2)
- Cooperative/farmer association (2)
- Cooperative/forest association (2)
- Regional authority representatives (5: 2 Central Europe ETR, 1 Atlantic ETR, 1 Mediterranean ETR and 1 Atlantic/Mediterranean ETR).

In this regard, the next sections present the organisation and management of the Advisory Board, its creation the member's role and benefits, and the terms of membership.

## 2.2 Organisation and management of the Advisory Board

According to the Project Management and Quality Plan (MQP), the position of the AB with regards to the management structure of BBioNets (*Figure 2*), is at the same level as the Project Coordinator (PC) and the Project General Assembly (PGA); however the AB's main role is to offer consultation to both the PC and the PGA, rather than controlling or intervening directly in the projects activities (*Figure 2*).



*Figure 2. BBioNets management structure.*

As per the management of the AB, **MTU** (project coordinator) will act as *Chair of the Advisory Board*, coordinating the collaboration among its members, and regularly interact with them on any relevant issue, while ensuring that for each task requiring input from the AB, the partners have beforehand prepared an action plan and all necessary briefings and material. Only then, will the Chair introduce a partner who may directly communicate with the AB to achieve the expected goals at each time. **FOCUS** will assist MTU in the administrative and procedural aspects of the AB formation.

## 2.3 Creation of the Advisory Board

A tailored process for the creation of the BBioNets AB was followed as explained in *Figure 3*.



**Figure 3. BBioNets Advisory Board creation process.**

### 2.3.1 Nomination of experts

The setting up of the Advisory Board followed an open and transparent process. Each partner identified and proposed experts according to the expertise and profile needed for the project in the different ETRs. These experts were nominated considering the following:

- External to the consortium.
- The nominee cannot already be part of the FANs, however, somebody else from its entity could be nominated.
- Representatives of EIP-AGRI OGS.
- Representatives of cooperatives/ associations
- Regional authority representatives from each European Transnational Region (ETR) covered by the project.
- Background aligns to fields of bioeconomy, circular economy, agriculture and forestry, business support, green value chains, etc.

Keeping these considerations in mind, the partners collaborated to identify and suggest 10 experts from Europe, thus kickstarting the subsequent selection procedure. The list of nominees evolved throughout time increasing and decreasing as the following steps were executed.

### 2.3.2 Assessment and selection

After the nomination of the proposed candidates were assessed by the PC prior their selection. Their background needed to fit with BBioNets thematic, described in the nomination section, and belong to one of the typologies of members:

- Operational Group representatives in the thematic area of BBioNets
- Cooperatives/farmers associations
- Cooperatives/forest association
- Government representative in different ETRs.

If the candidate proposed met the required characteristics, the candidate was selected and the partners who nominated them followed the invitation and engagement process.

### 2.3.3 Invitation and engagement

After the PC assessment of the nominee, and its selection, each project partner led the invitation of the selected experts nominated by their organisation by sending them the pertinent administrative documentation from the invitation kit (see **Appendix I Declaration of Acceptance**, **Appendix II Terms of Reference** and **Appendix III Informed Consent Form for more details on the invitation kit**).

During the invitation and engagement phase several proposed AB members declined their invitation, resulting in a re-starting of the process, where the partners re-nominated new members, which were assessed, selected, and invited to the BBioNets AB. Only a second round of nominations were needed to meet the minimum criteria.

### 2.3.4 Acceptance

Once the nominee had accepted the role of the Advisory Board member, its profile information was gathered and stored, to further use it in this deliverable, in the webpage, and further activities. The AB members consented to give their contact details (full name, email, phone number), their professional info (organization, job position, field of expertise) and their opinions on the subject matter, which will not be publicly attributed to them without their consent.

Moreover, they consented BBioNets to use their data to contact them to carry out all the related activities of the Advisory Boards (AB) and to resolve any ambiguities, questions and other issues that may arise after and because of those activities; to record their data to keep track of the AB process; to be used in the project's deliverables; to promote their profile through a dedicated section in the project web portal.

## 2.4 Advisory Board member's role

Each member of the AB should “wear two hats,” in other words, the members will function as “*project consultants*” providing valuable feedback to align project activities and outcomes with the needs of users and stakeholders, as well as “*project ambassadors*,” helping promote and disseminate through their various networks of BBioNets outcomes.

Furthermore, the AB members will be engaged through digital means in the following activities:

- **Validation of the “regional scenarios”**, i.e. a list of the most suitable Bio-Based Technologies for each targeted region taking into consideration the current practices, needs and resources of the respective region as well as its dynamics, maturity and potential.
- **Testing the BBTs assessment tool**, i.e. an online tool matching the most suitable BBTs to each target region based on technical, environmental, economic, and social aspects.

- **Suggestion of relevant BBTs and EIP-AGRI OGs** to include in the BBioNets online inventory and knowledge collection.
- **Suggestion of most suitable communication and dissemination channels** to enhance the project outreach.
- **Occasional participation in online meetings** (no more than 2 per year) depending on the activities held in BBioNets, such as, workshops, dissemination events, etc.

## 2.5 Advisory Board member's benefits

Similarly, as any quid pro quo relationship, several benefits are offered to BBioNets AB members, to enhance their participation, and engagement with the project. These are as follows:

- **Networking opportunities and visibility** as an expert stakeholder in a large multi-stakeholder community in the bio-based and agricultural domain.
- **First access to meaningful insights, knowledge and practical tools** generated exclusively within the context of the project and its activities.
- Unique opportunity to **align the project results with the needs of their stakeholders** to ensure that they make the most out of its value propositions.

### 3 Terms of membership

Once an expert accepts being part of the AB, they will provide BBioNets with valuable feedback aimed at aligning the project's outcomes with the needs of users and stakeholders. Participation in the AB will be governed by the following principles:

- The AB will be open to new members for further expansion to draw from additional expertise and increase the outreach of BBioNets. New members could be appointed to the AB when necessary and as the project evolves.
- Although members of the AB may be selected because of their affiliations with key organisations, they serve on the AB in their **individual capacity** to represent the interests and views of their stakeholder communities.
- **Members of the AB may not delegate another person to carry out the role expected from them** or be replaced by any other person without prior written agreement with the BBioNets consortium.
- Members of the AB are appointed for the entire duration of the project (i.e. until October 2026). If for any reason an AB member loses links to important networks or constituencies, the consortium may decide to fill in this gap by appointing additional members.
- The contribution of AB members is **on a pro bono basis**. In the exceptional case where an AB member is invited as a speaker to a BBioNets event, the travel and accommodation expenses may be reimbursed with preliminarily agreed procedure.
- Participation in the AB is **entirely voluntary**. There will be no adverse consequences if an AB member decides not to participate or to withdraw at any stage. In fact, AB members may withdraw their participation at any time by informing the AB Chair (see Section 4 of the current document).
- AB members may also request for their data to be erased without giving a reason and without prejudice. Anonymous data already collected will be used because this information cannot be traced back to a specific person, but no further data or input will be collected, nor any other procedure will be carried out in relation to the specific member. Further details on how the project collects, handles data and more are available in D5.2 “Data Management Plan – Initial version”, submitted in February 2024.



## 4 BBioNets AB members

### 4.1 Advisory Board composition

The Advisory Board is composed of 11 experts who accepted the Advisory Board Terms of Reference and signed a Declaration of Acceptance and the Informed Consent Form and are thus committed to meet their role as BBioNets AB members. The current composition of the BBioNets AB encompasses the following experts.

*Table 1: Composition of the BBioNets Advisory Board.*

No	Name	Organisation	Position	Country	Type	Proposed by
1	Robert Borek	<a href="#">Polish Agroforestry Association</a>	Chair	Poland	Coop./farmer association	IUNG
2	Cynthia Giagnocavo	<a href="#">University of Almería</a> and <a href="#">Coexphal</a> .	Cátedra (Chair) of Agriculture, Cooperative Studies and Sustainable Development UAL-Coexphal	Spain	Coop./farmer association	CTA
3	Sofia Mannelli	<a href="#">Chimica Verde Bionet</a>	CEO	Italy	Forest association	CREA
4	Alvaro Picardo	<a href="#">CESEFOR Foundation</a>	Deputy Director for innovation in forest policies	Spain	Forest association	MTU and FOCUS
5	María Cristina Cabeza Fernández	<a href="#">TRADE, Agencia Pública Empresarial para la Transformación y el Desarrollo Económico de la Junta de Andalucía</a>	Technology advisor and International Projects Manager - Agrofood sector expertise	Spain	Gov. Representative (Atlantic / Mediterranean ETR)	CTA
6	Patrick Barrett	<a href="#">Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)</a>	Agricultural Inspector - Bioeconomy, Agriculture Knowledge & Innovation System & Agri-Digitalisation	Ireland	Gov. Representative (Atlantic ETR)	MTU
7	Radek Macháč	<a href="#">OSEVA Development and Research Ltd.</a>	Head of Grassland Research Station at Zubří	Czech Republic	Gov. Representative (Central Europe ETR)	CR-HUB



<b>8</b>	Aleksander Bomberski	<a href="#"><u>Agricultural Advisory Centre in Brwinów (CDR)</u></a>	Head of the Department of Innovation in Agriculture, National Innovation Broker	Poland	Gov. Representative (Central Europe ETR)	IUNG
<b>9</b>	Paolo Aceto	<a href="#"><u>Regione Piemonte</u></a>	Head of Development Services Sector and controls for agriculture Piedmont Region	Italy	Gov. Representative (Mediterranean ETR)	CREA
<b>10</b>	Afroditi Ntomproulou	<a href="#"><u>MENIKIO and Dairy up OG</u></a>	Quality Control & Assurance Manager	Greece	Operational Group	AFS
<b>11</b>	James Gaffey	<a href="#"><u>Munster Technical University, CircBio research group</u></a>	Co-Director of the Circular Bioeconomy Research Group at Munster Technological University	Ireland	Operational Group	MTU



## 4.2 Advisory Board member qualifications

A short profile of each member of the Advisory Board is provided to showcase their expertise and outline their competence in being part of the BBioNets Advisory Board.

### **Robert Borek, Chair at Polish Agroforestry Association**

Robert Borek is an agronomist and senior researcher at IUNG. For several years he has been involved in interdisciplinary research within the topics of sustainable agriculture, including agroforestry (projects: [SustainFARM](#), [AFINET](#), [AGROMIX](#), [REFOREST](#)), bioeconomy development ([BioECON](#), [BioEASTsUP](#)), low-carbon farming practices ([LCAgri](#) Biostrateg, [CARBON FARMING Interreg](#)), organic farming ([FOODLEVERS](#)) ecosystem services, provided by agroecosystems ([ECOSERV-POL](#)), livestock sustainability ([PATHWAYS](#)) and adaptation of agriculture to climate change (a strategic task for Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development). He is a member of European and Polish expert groups working on sustainable agriculture, agroforestry, bioeconomy, and agri-environmental assessment of the CAP Rural Development Program. Robert is a founder of the Polish Agroforestry Association and is developing interdisciplinary networks at a national level related to integrated crop, livestock and non-food production.

### **Cynthia Giagnocavo, Cátedra (Chair) of Agriculture, Cooperative Studies and Sustainable Development UAL-Coexphal at University of Almería and Coexphal.**

Dr Cynthia Giagnocavo, professor in the Faculty of Economics and Business Management at the University of Almería (UAL), Spain and the director of the Cátedra (Chair) of Agriculture, Cooperative Studies, and Sustainable Development UAL-Coexphal. She is President of the Global Board of the International Cooperative Alliance Committee on Cooperative Research, board member of the International Cooperative Alliance European research board, and member of CIRIEC International Scientific Commission Social & Cooperative Economy. Her research focuses on sustainable food and agricultural systems, including transitions to Agri-ecological-technical systems, exploring the intersection of organisational, technical, social, economic, and institutional innovation, with an emphasis on cooperatives, innovative business models and social enterprise. She has led numerous European and international projects on sustainable business models, innovative knowledge systems, entrepreneurship, agri-food supply chains, and the application of innovative technologies and digitalisation processes from a socio-economic perspective.

She is also an experienced Barrister, Solicitor and Attorney qualified in Canada (Ontario), England and Wales and New York State. She has worked in both London and Madrid for the global law firm Clifford Chance LLP in structured finance and banking groups, advising leading European and global banks and corporate entities. Before relocating to Europe, she worked in Toronto, Canada at the international law firm of Davies, Ward, Phillips & Vineberg in the areas of corporate, banking and securities law and as legal counsel for the Ontario Clean Water Agency.

### **Sofia Mannelli, CEO at Chimica Verde Bionet**

Sofia Mannelli has chosen to live on the wild island of Capraia where she is the creator and coordinator of the Capraia Smart Island Project. She has a degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Florence. She worked for 10 years at the soil microbiology laboratory of ENEA Casaccia in Rome.

For the past 25 years, she has been working on bioenergy and green chemistry. Since 2012, she has been President of Chimica Verde Bionet, the association whose aim is to promote and develop research and industrial application of raw materials of plant origin and the decarbonisation of the economy. She has been Councillor for Green Chemistry and Bioenergy to three Ministers of Agriculture and on one of these occasions she was Coordinator of the working group 'Legislation



and Regulatory Simplification' and drafted the internal sector plan for the national bioenergy supply chain table promoted by Ministry of Agriculture. She promotes, organises, and participates in Training Courses and Masters and Conferences on Smart Island, bioenergy, and green chemistry.

#### **Álvaro Picardo, Deputy Director for innovation in forest policies at CESEFOR Foundation**

Álvaro Picardo, forester, born in Madrid (Spain) in 1961, works as Deputy Director for innovation in forest policies at [CESEFOR foundation](#).

Previously, Álvaro worked for 38 years as an official of the regional forest administration of Castilla y León. Until December 2023, he was Technical Advisor to the [General Direction in Natural Heritage and Forest Policy](#) of the regional government [Junta de Castilla y León](#) (Spain). His main activities included participation in the drafting of the Castilla y León Forestry Law and in the main forest policy instruments of the region, such as the Forestry Plan, the Bioenergy Plan, the Forest Resources Mobilization Program, or the Habitat Plan (to promote wood construction and green cities and villages).

Álvaro has also developed his activity in the international arena, within the framework of the [Standing Forestry Committee](#) of the European Commission, the [International Model Forest Network](#) and various forestry cooperation and innovation projects, in collaboration with the CESEFOR foundation, of which he was President between 2015 and 2018. He has taken part in several H2020 projects, like [ROSEWOOD](#) and [INCREDIBLE](#), with a large involvement in the promotion of Non Timber Forest Products, like resin, wild mushrooms, pine nuts and others, as well as pastoralism in forests and other wooded land, for the prevention of forest fires. Fighting forest fires and designing prevention activities, through bioeconomy and generation of value, economic activity and employment in rural areas has been a key pillar of my entire professional career, that also included extensive reforestation and the design of forest subsidy lines for reforestation, forest planning and fire prevention.

Between 2000 and 2004 he was Head of the Forest Management Service of Junta de Castilla y León and before that date he worked as district forester in charge of public forests management for 12 years, in the provinces of Burgos and León. Álvaro has a Forestry Degree from Polytechnic University of Madrid (1985) and a Master of Sciences degree on Natural Resources from the University of California at Berkeley (1988).

#### **María Cristina Cabeza Fernández, Technology advisor and International Projects Manager - Agrofood sector expertise at TRADE (Agencia Pública Empresarial para la Transformación y el Desarrollo Económico de la Junta de Andalucía).**

María Cristina Cabeza has a degree in Industrial Chemistry, Diploma of Advanced Studies on Chemical Engineering and University Expert in Technology Management and Foresight (University of Seville, Spain). She works as a senior advisor for Agencia Empresarial para la Transformación y el Desarrollo Económico, with her main tasks related to knowledge transfer and promotion, technology internationalisation and financing assessment for R&D projects (regional and national Programmes and European Programmes) as well as innovation support services targeted to Andalusian companies and RTDs in the Agrofood and Bioeconomy areas. As member of the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) she has organised and co-organised several International Brokerage events and company missions. At the EEN, she holds the role of Sustainability Work Package co-leader at the Agrofood Sector Group.

Furthermore, she has managed the participation of her organisation as partner at Framework Programme projects focused on the bioeconomy and agrifood sector (H2020, FP7, Interreg), such as AGRIFORVALOR, TRAFOON and FoodSME-HOP.

Expert evaluator at international calls: Eurostars 3 Programme, IFD Innovation Fund Denmark - "Grand Solutions programme", Cost Action programme and project monitoring at EIC Transition programme.



**Patrick Barrett, Agricultural Inspector - Bioeconomy, Agriculture Knowledge & Innovation System & Agri-Digitalisation at Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine at Department of Agriculture, Forestry, and the Marine (DAFM).**

Patrick Barret is an Agricultural Inspector with the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine with responsibility for bioeconomy as outlined on gov.ie - The Bioeconomy (www.gov.ie). He has responsibility for developing and implementing the national bioeconomy action plan 2023-2025. He is also part of the States Representative Group for the Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU) (europa.eu), participates in the European Bioeconomy Policy Forum technical group and attends the International Working Group | Sustainable and circular bioeconomy for food systems transformation | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (fao.org). He previously was a co-author of the Deploying the bioeconomy in the EU: A framework approach for bioeconomy strategy development: 10 policy recommendations for building national bio economies toward a fair and just climate neutral Europe as part of the Policy Support Facility established by the EU Commission to support the implementation of the EU Bioeconomy Strategy.

**Dr. Radek Macháč, Head of Grassland Research Station at Zubří at OSEVA Development and Research Ltd.**

Dr. Radek Macháč has served as a senior researcher at OSEVA Development and Research Ltd since 2012, leading the Grassland Research Station in Zubří. OSEVA specializes in agricultural, environmental, and renewable energy resource research and consulting. The company undertakes numerous research projects supported by the Czech Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Education, collaborating with various research institutes, universities, and companies both domestically and internationally.

Dr. Radek earned his PhD from the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague between 2001 and 2007, following his magister studies at the Agricultural University in Brno from 1989 to 1994. His primary research focuses on grass and grassland, particularly in grass seed crop production. Key areas of interest include herbicide selectivity for grass species, fertilization techniques, plant growth regulator applications, weed, pest, and disease management, as well as adapting grass seed crop establishment methods to climate change conditions. Additionally, his current endeavours involve grass and buckwheat breeding.

**Aleksander Bomberski, Head of the Department of Innovation in Agriculture, National Innovation Broker at Agricultural Advisory Centre in Brwinów (CDR)**

Aleksander is a graduate of biotechnology in the Bydgoszcz University of Science and Technology. He completed postgraduate management studies at the Faculty of Finance and Management of the WSB Merito University in Bydgoszcz. Author of a doctoral thesis in the field of economics and advisory in agribusiness at the Bydgoszcz University of Science and Technology. A graduate of the Master of Business Administration MBA studies at the Jagiellonian University in Toruń.

He is author of national and international research articles and publications in the field of innovation, knowledge transfer, brokerage process and creating multi-actor approach (MAA) project structures in the agri-food industry. Academic lecturer at the Department of Economics at the WSG University in Bydgoszcz.

Furthermore, he is head of the Innovation in Agriculture Department at the Agricultural Advisory Centre in Brwinów. Coordinator of several national and international projects implemented under the Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe, National Centre for Research and Development and EIP Operational Groups.

Acting as the National Innovation Broker, he conducted over 200 training courses, consultations, workshops and conferences for entrepreneurs, scientists, agricultural producers, and advisors throughout the country and abroad. Member of the board of the European Agricultural Advisory Forum (EUFRAS) from 2020. He served as Knowledge and Innovation Officer in the structures of the



European Commission as part of the European Innovation Network EIP-AGRI in Brussels. Representative of national advisory entities in expert groups operating at the European Commission. Expert of grant committees at the Warsaw University of Life Sciences - SGGW.

### **Paolo Aceto, Head of Development Services Sector, and controls for agriculture in Piedmont region at Regione Piemonte**

Since 2022 Paolo has been the Head of the Agricultural Development and Control Services Office of Regione Piemonte.

In the last 15 years he has been involved in regional coordination of services for agricultural development, technical assistance, agricultural demonstration, and dissemination; information and training for farmers and agricultural advisors; agricultural research; innovation transfer; interventions regarding genetically modified organisms.

Previously, Paolo also worked at the University of Turin dealing with forage farming and mountain pastoralism. He has a degree in Forestry Science from the University of Turin. He also obtained a PhD from the University of Florence in forage farming and mountain pastoralism with a thesis on the relationships between wildlife, cattle breeding, and pastures.

### **Afroditi Ntomproulou, Quality Control & Assurance Manager at MENIKIO and Dairy up OG**

Experienced Quality Assurance Specialist with a demonstrated history of working in the dairy industry. Strong quality assurance professional graduated from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH). MSc Food science and technology.

### **James Gaffey, Co-Director of the Circular Bioeconomy Research Group at Munster Technological University**

James Gaffey is Co-director and Principal Investigator (PI) of the [CircBio Group](#) at Munster Technology University (MTU), formerly Institute of Technology Tralee.

James manages a portfolio of research projects spanning biorefineries, sustainability, agriculture, supply chain development and market uptake. These include RIA, DEMO and CSA projects.

James co-leads a team of approximately 30 researchers within the CircBio Group and lecture at postgraduate level. He is also an academic collaborator in the [SFI BiOrbic Bioeconomy Centre](#).

He has been awarded almost €40 million in total project funding between 2018-2022, including €9 million in funding for MTU.

Some of the projects James is involved are: Rural BioReFarmeries (2024-2029) - Coordinator on a forthcoming CBE JU Innovation Action. Green Biorefinery (2023-) - co-PI on a DAFM infrastructure grant to design and develop Ireland's first integrated green biorefinery and anaerobic digestion demo scale unit in Cork. [MainstreamBIO](#) (2022-2025) - PI of the project, an EU-wide initiative working to mainstream small-scale bio-based solutions within primary production sectors. [ROBIN](#) (2022-2025) - PI of the project, an EU-wide initiative working with regional assemblies to co-design bioeconomy policy and governance structures. [BIO4AFRICA](#) (2021-2025) - co-PI and Work Package Leader, which will implement and test small-scale biorefinery diversification opportunities across 4 African countries. [Farm Zero C](#) (2021-2023) - Work Package Leader, working to develop a net zero emissions dairy farm. [AgroBridges](#) (2021-2024) - PI and work package leader on the H2020 AgroBridges short food supply chain initiative. [COOPID](#) (2021-2023) - PI and work package leader on the H2020 COOPID project supporting bioeconomy knowledge exchange within primary production. [Biorefinery Glas](#) (2019-2021) - co-ordinator and PI of the EIP-Agri Operational Group Biorefinery Glas, which is Ireland's first small-scale biorefinery demonstration project and evaluates a model for farmer diversification into the bioeconomy.



## 5 Conclusions

The BBioNets consortium deemed it necessary to create an Advisory Board from the beginning of the project for external experts to provide strategic counsel and support from the early stages of the project activities.

The establishment of the AB is crucial for the success of BBioNets. Through their guidance, diverse expertise, and vast networks, advisory board members will be key actors in the implementation of the project and its sustainability after its lifespan. As the project progresses, new members may be added to the AB, bringing fresh perspectives to the project, enriching its networks, and offering new opportunities for collaborations.



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## Appendix I Declaration of Acceptance

# Declaration of Acceptance

## To join the BBioNets Advisory Board

*(for individuals appointed as members of the BBioNets Advisory Board in their individual capacity)*

I, the undersigned, \_\_\_\_\_ certify that I have read and agree to abide by the BBioNets Advisory Board **Terms of Reference**.

- I pledge that I will participate in the BBioNets Advisory Board in my individual capacity.
- I certify that no conflict of interests exists that could be considered as prejudicial to my independence in acting as a member of the BBioNets Advisory Board.
- I undertake not to divulge any information given in the context of the work of the Advisory Board, unless the BBioNets consortium agrees to release me from this obligation, and to respect the confidentiality requirements.
- I declare to accept entirely and with no reservations my appointment as BBioNets Advisory Board member as described in the Terms of Reference.
- I consent that any input or contribution I provide as member of the BBioNets Advisory Board may be used by the BBioNets consortium for reporting purposes or to align the activities to be developed in BBioNets with the needs of final users to ensure that they make the most out of its value propositions.
- I consent to the processing of my personal data needed for my participation in the BBioNets Advisory Board.

Name and Surname:

Place:

Date:

Signature:



## Appendix II Terms of Reference



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

### Advisory Board

### Terms of Reference

**GA number 101133904**



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the European Union



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# Introduction

You have been invited to the **BBioNets Advisory Board** following the recommendation of at least one of the BBioNets partners. The current document outlines the Terms of Reference that will help you understand what this involves before you decide to participate. Please take the time to carefully read this document and ask for any clarifications you may require.

## BBioNets in a nutshell

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

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

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

## Project partners

The BBioNets consortium brings together a consortium of 9 partners across 6 different countries:

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



production, soil science and fertilisation, as well as recognition and protection of agricultural areas against various forms of degradation. The research conducted at IUNG supports activities of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Poland, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, local government and administrative authorities, agricultural advisory services, farmers, and agricultural entrepreneurs.

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

## Advisory Board members' expected role and benefits

### Expected role.

The AB is set up and operated to share its knowledge and expertise with the consortium of the project in key implementation stages. Its members will support BBioNets implementation acting as:

- ‘***Project consultants***’ providing valuable feedback to align project activities and outcomes with the needs of users and stakeholders.
- ‘***Project ambassadors***’ keeping their various networks informed of project outcomes.



To fulfil this role, it is envisaged that the AB members will be engaged through digital means in the following activities:

- **Validation of the “regional scenarios”**, i.e. a list of the most suitable Bio-Based Technologies for each targeted region taking into consideration the current practices, needs and resources of each region as well as its dynamics, maturity and potential.
- **Testing the BBTs assessment tool**, i.e. an online tool matching the most suitable BBTs to each target region based on technical, environmental, economic, and social aspects.
- **Suggestion of relevant Bio-Based Technologies and EIP-AGRI Operational Groups** to include in the BBioNets online inventory and knowledge collection.
- **Suggestion of most suitable communication and dissemination channels** to enhance the project outreach.
- **Occasional participation in on-line meetings** (no more than 2 per year) depending on the activities held in BBioNets, such as, workshops, dissemination events, etc.

## Expected benefits.

The project **provides several benefits** to its AB members, such as:

- **Networking opportunities and visibility** as an expert stakeholder in a large multi-stakeholder community in the bio-based and agricultural domain.
- **First access to meaningful insights, knowledge and practical tools** generated exclusively within the context of the project and its activities.
- Unique opportunity to **align the project results with the needs of their stakeholders** to ensure that they make the most out of its value propositions.

# Terms of membership and Management

## Terms of membership

The AB shall be composed of eminent experts coming from diverse backgrounds (representatives of EIP AGRI Operational Groups, cooperatives / associations, regional authorities, research institutions, etc.) to offer a blend of expertise that represents various groups of stakeholders from the fields of bioeconomy, circular economy, agriculture & forestry, business support, green value chains, etc. These experts will provide BBioNets with valuable feedback aimed at aligning the project’s outcomes with the needs of users and stakeholders. Participation in the Advisory Board will be governed by the following principles:

- The AB will be open to new members for further expansion to draw from additional expertise and increase the outreach of BBioNets. New members could be appointed to the AB when necessary and as the project evolves.
- Although members of the AB may be selected because of their affiliations with key organizations, they serve on the AB in their **individual capacity** to represent the interests and views of their stakeholder communities.
- **Members of the AB may not delegate another person to carry out the role expected from them** or be replaced by any other person without prior written agreement with the BBioNets consortium.



- Members of the AB are appointed for the entire duration of the project (until October 2026). If for any reason an AB member loses links to important networks or constituencies, the consortium may decide to fill in this gap by appointing additional members.
- The contribution of AB members is **on a pro bono basis**. In the exceptional case where an AB member is invited as a speaker to an BBioNets event, the travel and accommodation expenses may be reimbursed with preliminarily agreed procedure.
- Participation in the AB is **entirely voluntary**. There will be no adverse consequences if an AB member decides not to participate or to withdraw at any stage. In fact, AB members may withdraw their participation at any time by informing the AB Chair (see Section 4 of the current document).
- AB members may also request for their data to be erased without giving a reason and without prejudice. Anonymous data already collected will be used because this information cannot be traced back to a specific person, but no further data or input will be collected, nor any other procedure will be carried out in relation to the specific member.

## Management

**MTU** (project coordinator) will act as *Chair of the Advisory Board*, coordinate the collaboration among its members, and regularly interact with them on any relevant issue, while ensure that for each task requiring input from the AB, the partners have beforehand prepared an action plan and all necessary briefings and material. Only then, will the Chair introduce a partner who may directly communicate with the AB to achieve the expected goals at each time. **FOCUS** will assist MTU in the administrative and procedural aspects of the AB formation.

## Contact point.

Any further information or any complaint or concern about any aspect of your experience as member of the Advisory Board can be addressed to the BBioNets coordinator that oversees setting up and manages the Advisory Board, using the details provided below:

**BBioNets coordinator:** Munster Technical University

**Contact person:** Ms Carmen Girón Domínguez

**Phone:** +353 (0) 66 714 4264 ext. 44264 / +353 (0) 832 067 285

**Email:** [carmen.dominguez@mtu.ie](mailto:carmen.dominguez@mtu.ie)

**Project website:** [www.bbionets.eu](http://www.bbionets.eu)



## Appendix III Informed Consent Form

### Informed Consent form

#### to join the BBioNets Advisory Board

*(for individuals appointed as members of the BBioNets Advisory Board in their individual capacity)*

#### Who we are.

We are Munster Technological University, and we are contacting you in the framework of BBioNets, a project funded by European Union under the Horizon Europe Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. A detailed description on how we handle personal data is presented in the Privacy Policy available through the project's website.

<b>Project</b>	BBioNets “Creation and promotion of Forest and Agriculture Networks to boost Bio-Based Technologies adoption and Value Chain development” (Contract Number 101133904)
<b>Chair of the BBioNets Advisory Board</b>	
<b>Name</b>	Carmen Girón Domínguez
<b>Organisation name</b>	Munster Technological University
<b>Address</b>	Dromtacker, Tralee, Co. Kerry, Ireland. V92 HD4V
<b>Phone</b>	+353 83 206 7285
<b>E-mail</b>	carmen.dominguez@mtu.ie

#### What do we need from you?

We invite you to become a member of the BBioNets Advisory Board that will be set up and operated to share its knowledge and expertise with the consortium of the project in key stages of its implementation.

To effectively conduct this duty, we need to process some of your personal data:

- Your contact details (full name, email, phone number)
- Your professional info (organization, job position, field of expertise)
- Your opinions on the subject matter, which will not be publicly attributed to you without your consent.



## Why do we need your data & what will we do with them?

We need your data to contact you to carry out all the related activities of the Advisory Boards (AB) and to resolve any ambiguities, questions and other issues that may arise after and because of those activities. We also need to record your data to keep track of the AB process. The project's deliverables that will be derived by the instructions of the AB will include your personal data, while your profile a will be promoted through a dedicated section in the project web portal.

We may share your data within the BBioNets consortium and other AB members that are also involved in this task and will participate in the drafting of the relevant deliverables.

We would also be very happy if you gave us your consent to contact you in the future to ask you to participate in other project's activities (e.g. surveys, interviews etc.) and to inform you about the project's progress (e.g., by sending you a newsletter or similar messages).

## How can you withdraw your consent?

You should know that you can withdraw your consent at any time by communicating either on the phone or by email with the responsible person listed in the previous page. With regards to the informational messages and newsletters you can always opt out by simply clicking the link "Unsubscribe" or something similar included at the end of all the relevant messages.

### **I hereby give my consent to the processing of my personal data needed for:**

*(Please, tick the boxes below to confirm that you give us your consent for the respective subject. Any boxes left unticked mean that you do not consent to the relevant subject.)*

#	Consent Subject	Tick box
1	My participation in the Advisory Board that will be set up for BBioNets to share its knowledge and expertise with the consortium of the project in key stages of its implementation.	
2	My participation in future activities of BBioNets (AB meetings, events, workshops)	
3	Receiving newsletters and messages regarding BBioNets activities	

---

Name

---

Date

---

Signature



# 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 will constitute a thematic network that will rely on, promote, and further advance the work carried out by EIP AGRI Operational Groups (OGs) with respect to **management and/or processing of agricultural and forest biomass with Bio-Based Technologies (BBTs)**. The project will set up 6 regional Forest and Agriculture Networks - FANS (IE, ES, IT, GR, PL, CZ) that will 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



[info@bbionets.eu](mailto:info@bbionets.eu)

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