

BBioNets

Boosting the adoption of Bio-Based Technologies

Co-Creating Policy Recommendations for the Uptake of Bio-Based Technologies

Giorgia Giordani, Patrizia Borsotto (CREA)

September 2026

Funded by the European Union

Article information

Title	Co-Creating Policy Recommendations for the Uptake of Bio-Based Technologies
Authors	Giorgia Giordani – CREA Ricerca Patrizia Borsotto – CREA Ricerca
Brief summary	The BBioNets project established a participatory co-creation process across its six Forest and Agriculture Networks (FANs) to accelerate the regional uptake of Bio-Based Technologies (BBTs). Integrating desk research, stakeholder mapping, and interactive policy workshops, the methodology engaged farmers, foresters, researchers, businesses, and policymakers. This collaborative framework allowed each regional network to analyse local biomass availability, identify key Points of Attention (POAs) using SWA/DYN matrices, and co-design tailored pathways to address regional barriers to a circular bioeconomy. Synthesis of these regional findings at a final policy workshop in Brussels culminated in project deliverable D6.3 and six executive summaries outlining prioritised actions, timelines, and funding opportunities. Across regions, core priorities emerged regarding funding, policy coherence, and regulatory reform. Ultimately, six overarching European policy recommendations were established to drive bioeconomy implementation: expanding market demand, integrating bioeconomy incentives into the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), de-risking investments through blended finance, harmonising EU waste and residue regulations, strengthening multi-level governance, and expanding education and skills across the value chain.
Article date	01/09/2026
BBioNets Work Package	WP6 - Dissemination, Communication, Exploitation and Sustainability - P2 | T6.4 - Policy recommendations and replication

Funded by
the European Union

Views and opinions expressed are 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.

© 2026 by BBioNets consortium is licensed under CC BY 4.0. To view a copy of this license, visit https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0.

Introduction

The development and uptake of Bio-Based Technologies (BBTs) vary considerably across Europe, reflecting differences in regional resources, policy frameworks, innovation ecosystems, and socio-economic conditions. To address this diversity, the BBioNets project implemented a co-creation process combining desk research, inception documents, stakeholder mapping, and policy workshops across all Forest and Agriculture Networks (FANs).

The process began with the identification of Initial Points of Attention (POAs), derived from SWA (Strengths, Weaknesses, Assets) and DYN (Dynamics) matrices, regional assessments, and previous project outputs. These preliminary findings were subsequently validated and prioritised through a participatory dialogue involving farmers, foresters, advisors, researchers, policymakers, businesses, and civil society representatives. This collaborative approach ensured that the resulting recommendations were technically robust, socially relevant, and firmly rooted in regional realities.

Through this process, each FAN identified its specific territorial needs, assessed the availability of local biological resources, and prioritised the BBTs with the greatest potential to deliver sustainable regional impacts.

The co-creation process culminated in a final policy event held in Brussels on 27 May 2026, where BBioNets partners presented the outcomes of their regional pathways and jointly agreed on a common set of policy recommendations addressing the broader European context.

The results of this work have been consolidated in the project deliverable *D6.3 – Policy Recommendations for the Uptake of Bio-Based Technologies (BBTs)*. In addition, the findings from the regional co-creation exercises have been summarised in **six executive summaries**.

These executive summaries provide **an overview of the main challenges affecting the adoption and implementation of BBTs in each participating country, the biomass available within each region, and the technologies identified as having the greatest potential based on local conditions**. Therefore, they offer **a concise yet comprehensive picture of each BBioNets FAN and its pathway towards a more circular and sustainable bioeconomy**.

Methodology

The methodology adopted focused primarily on a participatory approach aimed at actively involving regional stakeholders and leveraging their expertise as an effective tool to foster dialogue and promote a shared understanding of the state of the art regarding BBTs at both regional and European levels.

Each regional FAN had to:

- Inform policymakers and stakeholders about the project's key findings.
- Identify the point of attention (POA), i.e., thematic and intervention areas that could be improved through the implementation of targeted policies.
- Foster dialogue between researchers, policymakers, civil society, and other relevant stakeholders.
- Collect feedback and identifying current and emerging policy needs.

- Identify opportunities for policy integration.
- Facilitate policy discussions at national and European levels to assess different policy options and design more effective policies

More specifically, for what is reported in the executive summaries, FANs had to carry out the process reported in the Figure 1.

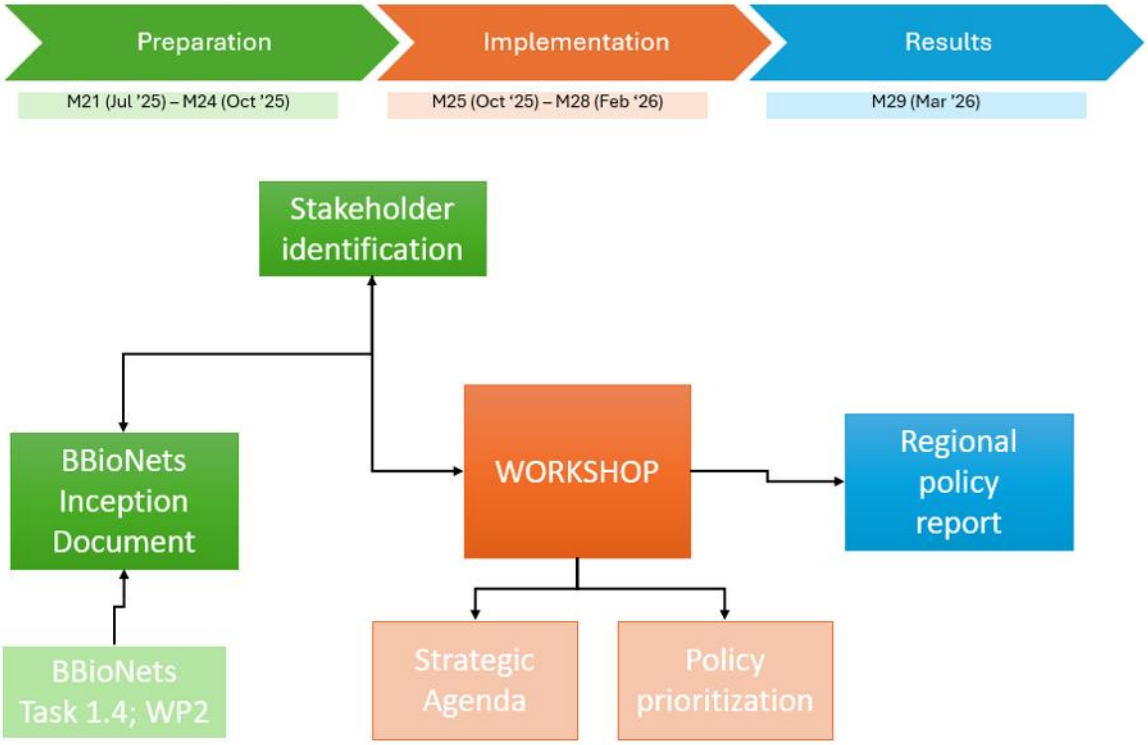


Figure 1: Diagram representing the activities to be carried out for the organisation of a policy workshop and Fiche representing the preparatory steps.

The diagram examines each stage of the regional co-creation process. First, stakeholders capable of contributing to the policy workshops were identified and listed. Subsequently, inception documents were prepared, defining an initial set of POAs based on the SWA and DYN matrices. Finally, the FANs organised a concluding workshop to confirm the POAs and formulate recommendations. The regional results were then compiled into dedicated regional policy reports.

The BBioNets European policy workshop in Brussels synthesised the evidence and recommendations emerging from the regional policy events, turning territorial experiences into shared European policy messages. The event helped compare regional findings, identify common policy bottlenecks, and define which issues require EU-level coordination or national and regional implementation.

Results

The executive summaries provide information regarding: i) the POAs identified in each region, ii) the relevant target groups, iii) potential funding sources to foster the adoption of BBTs, iv) the proposed timelines for implementing actions, and v) the key actions proposed to mitigate the identified critical issues. Each document concludes with a summary table presenting this information.

This regional effort led to the development of a set of common recommendation themes (Table 1), highlighting priority areas where policy intervention is needed. Building on these outcomes, the BBioNets FANs convened for a final Policy Workshop on 27 May 2026. During the workshop, participants identified six key recommendations to support the development and implementation of European bioeconomy policies (Table 2).

Table 1. Common recommendation themes among BBioNets FANs.

Common Recommendation Theme	Italy	Greece	Ireland	Spain	Poland	Czech Republic
Regulatory Simplification and Residue Status	X	X	X	X	X	
Inter-ministerial Coordination and Policy Coherence	X	X	X	X	X	X
Training (Lighthouse Farms, Demonstrations, Peer-to-Peer Learning, etc.)	X	X	X	X		
Logistics infrastructure, Bio-Hubs and Centres	X	X	X	X		X
Market Development (Supply/Demand)	X	X	X	X		
Funding, Scale-up and De-risking Support	X	X	X	X	X	X
Communication and Visibility of Opportunities	X	X	X	X		X

Table 2. European policy recommendations.

Thematic area	Main recommendations
Market & demand	Introduce mandatory targets for bio-based content in products, rebalance incentives currently focused on bioenergy, and gradually phase out fossil fuel subsidies.
CAP & primary producers	Integrate the bioeconomy into CAP Strategic Plans and eco-schemes, provide incentives for dedicated crops and by-products, and simplify access to funding for small farmers.
Investments & business models	Promote public-private funds, blended finance instruments, and cooperative or decentralised models to reduce investment risks in rural biorefineries.
Regulation & residue management	Harmonise EU-level criteria for waste classification and End-of-Waste status, and define common standards for biodegradable products and bio-based materials.

Thematic area	Main recommendations
Multi-level governance	Involve policymakers in Living Labs, EIP-AGRI Operational Groups, and territorial networks, while valorising facilitators and demonstration farms to transfer field-based evidence into policy.
Education & skills	Include the bioeconomy in school and university curricula to bridge knowledge gaps and strengthen skills across value chains.

Conclusions

The executive summaries provide information on regional co-creation processes carried out in line with the project's objective: to identify and define priorities regarding regional needs, resources, and policy recommendations to foster the adoption of BBTs across European countries.

Consequently, these documents offer an immediate overview of the state of play in each geographical context involved in the BBioNets project.

Their value lies primarily in summarising points of attention (POAs), target groups, potential sources of financial support, proposed timelines, and key actions for implementing BBT adoption, while taking relevant challenges into account.

References

D6.3 – Policy Recommendations for the Uptake of Bio-Based Technologies (BBTs)

BBioNets

www.bbionets.eu

Document information

Title	BBioNets – Creation and promotion of Forest and Agriculture Networks to boost Bio-Based Technologies adoption and Value Chain development (GA No 101133904)
Start – end date	1/11/2023 – 31/10/2026 (36 months)
Project type	Coordination and Support Action
Programme	Horizon Europe – Cluster 6
Funding	1,998,636.20 €
Coordinator	Munster Technological University Ms. Carmen Girón Domínguez (carmen.dominguez@mtu.ie)
Project overview	BBioNets constitutes a thematic network that relies on, promotes, and further advances the work carried out by EIP-AGRI Operational Groups (OGs) with respect to **management and/or processing of agricultural and forest biomass with Bio-Based Technologies (BBTs)**. The project has set up 6 regional Forest and Agriculture Networks – FANs (IE, ES, IT, EL, PL, CZ) that identify local needs, prioritise specific BBTs and share BBT knowledge ready for practice to farmers and foresters, boosting the (re)definition of value chains, stimulating cross-fertilisation beyond borders, and bringing Europe to the forefront of farming, forestry and bioeconomy with economically viable and sustainable practices.
Consortium	MTU, cagasc, IUNG Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation State Research Institute, crea, CTA, American Farm School Thessaloniki, TEPRO, FOCUS, Bio East Hub

info@bbionets.eu

/bbionets-eu /bbionets.eu @bbionets_eu

@bbionets-eu.bsky.social @bbionets_eu @BBioNetsEU

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.