



**Italy**  
Italia



Green chemistry and bio-based textiles are important pillars of the bioeconomy in Italy – the north being mainly industrialised, the south predominantly agricultural. Since 2017 the country has a dedicated bioeconomy strategy at national level. With an annual turnover of approx. EUR 297 000 million and 1 840 000 people employed in the bioeconomy, Italy is one of the leading countries in the European bioeconomy.\*



Nearly half of the Italian beneficiaries operate on demo-scale with production facilities demonstrating the feasibility and market readiness of a technology or product. One first-of-its-kind flagship biorefinery funded by BBI JU aims to establish bio-based products on the market.

### Examples of BBI JU projects with Italian beneficiaries :

- ④ **FIRST2RUN** grows cardoon on arid and marginal wasteland to deliver bio-based vegetable oils used in the manufacture of bioproducts and bioplastics. This flagship project will generate new incomes for local farmers and create an estimated 600 jobs in an area with a high unemployment rate due to progressive marginalisation of fields.
- ④ **ReInvent** will develop multifunctional, sustainable and low-cost materials and fibres with enhanced properties and performance. These can replace the petroleum-based insulation and structural products used in buildings and vehicle interior products.
- ④ **EMBRACED** will turn Absorbent Hygiene Products (AHP) waste destined to landfill or incineration into valuable bio-based materials such as building blocks, polymers and fertilizers. It actively involves the local community in the collection and recycling of AHP waste and creates new jobs in the value chain.
- ④ **BioBarr** will develop new bio-based and biodegradable food packaging materials using wastes and agro-industrial co-products. This project provides an opportunity for innovation and job creation and allows Europe to reduce its dependency on imported oil. It will generate additional income and sustainable development to rural areas.

\*Source: EC Bioeconomy Knowledge Center (2015)



**1** first-of-its-kind **flagship biorefinery** funded by BBI JU is turning vegetable oil from cardoons into bioproducts



**46%** of beneficiaries are SMEs



Nearly **1.9 million** people employed in the **bioeconomy sector**



▶ [More information about BBI JU projects in Italy](#)



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