



**Bioeconomy Strategic
Working Group**

SCAR BSW and BBI JU SRG JOINT WORKSHOP

Advancing the Creation of Regional Bioeconomy Clusters in Europe

14th March, Brussels, BBI JU (09:00-17:00)

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Background: The [Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking](#) (BBI JU) widening participation strategy intends to increase the participation of member states, associated countries, regions and stakeholders in the initiative to leverage the full EU bio-based potential. The study “Bioeconomy development in EU Regions”¹ published by the European Commission (DG RTD), demonstrates the direct link between the high participation of a certain country in the BBI JU and the presence of clusters. Clusters are closer to territories and can make the necessary link between the regions and the bioeconomy / the BBI JU initiative. Moreover, clusters are instrumental to leverage the participation of SMEs in the Bioeconomy.

The [SCAR Bioeconomy Strategic Working Group](#) (BSW) aims at facilitating informal exchanges between MSs on regional, national and European activities; at implementing strategies and on encouraging research and innovation (e.g. needs, hurdles, challenges, organisational matters etc.) in the broad area of the Bioeconomy. BSW’s ambition is to be the central platform in Europe overseeing different initiatives at national and European level and to translate this into conclusions on actions.

In line with these aims, the BBI JU State Representatives Group (SRG), an advisory body to the BBI JU, has recognised the relevance of cluster development in the context of the deployment of the European Bioeconomy potential. The BBI JU SRG is, therefore, organising a joint workshop with BSW on the 14th March to exchange best practices for the creation of regional thematic clusters; to identify drivers for creation of clusters and to share experiences on successful Bioeconomy related clusters from around Europe.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/research/bioeconomy/pdf/publications/bioeconomy_development_in_eu_regions.pdf

The **specific objective of the workshop** is to stimulate interest in creating regional bioeconomy clusters in regions and countries which are less active in the bioeconomy and bio-based sectors via an exchange of knowledge and experiences in developing such clusters. The **final aim of the workshop** is to foster support for the bioeconomy in general and for increased participation in the BBI JU Initiative of underrepresented countries, including SMEs.

Participants: The workshop will bring together experts and representatives of bioeconomy related clusters, SRG delegates, SCAR BSW members and policy makers at national and regional level to discuss the key elements for cluster development and their role in supporting the bioeconomy. Participants will include representatives from countries which are currently less active.

Expected outcomes: Through this workshop, BBI JU SRG and BSW expect to stimulate a transfer of know-how, identify best practices and key drivers for cluster creation in Bioeconomy, so that participation of underrepresented countries in BBI can be further increased. A workshop report will be prepared with recommendations for policy-making supporting the development of clusters based on the outcomes of the discussions. The event will also provide a new networking opportunity for bioeconomy actors with a focus on regions that could play a much more prominent role in the European bioeconomy in future and additionally, this workshop will create a new opportunity of closer collaboration between SCAR BSW and BBI JU SRG delegates and others.

Date and time: Thursday 14th March 09.00 – 17.00

Venue: BBI JU offices (Avenue de la Toison D'Or 56)

JOINT SCAR BSW and BBI JU SRG WORKSHOP ON CLUSTER CREATION

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Time	Subject
08:30 09:00	Registration of the participants
09:00-09:30	Opening of the meeting. Background, context and objectives <i>Philippe Mengal Executive Director BBI JU</i> <i>Eleni Zika, Head of Programme BBI JU</i> <i>Fabio Fava Chair of BBI JU States Representatives Group</i> <i>SCAR BSW tbc</i>
9:30	Session I Policy support for cluster development <i>Moderator: Alex Percy-Smith</i>
09:30 -09:35	<i>Introduction to session I by the moderator</i>
09:35-10:00	EC support to European regions and countries to design cluster policies and cluster development : The European Cluster Collaboration Platform and The European Cluster Observatory. <i>Hélène Diane DAGE, DG GROW. Unit F.2– Advanced technologies, Clusters and Social Economy</i>
10:00 -10:10	Danube S3 Cluster: developing smart and coordinated clusters policies based on the smart specialization concept. Fostering transnational cluster cooperation in Agro-food sector. <i>Florina Rascanu. Development and Communication Directorate, South Muntenia Regional Development Agency, Romania tbc</i>

10:10 - 10:20	BIOEAST Initiative: a macro-regional vision for helping the bioeconomy clusters building. <i>Barna Kovacs, Secretary General BIOEAST</i>
10:20- 10:45	Session I discussions
10:45- 11:10	<i>Networking coffee and tea</i>
11:10	Session II Best practices from establishing more general clusters targeting natural resources Panel discussion - Moderator: Alex Percy-Smith
11:10 11:15	<i>Introduction to session II by the moderator</i>
11:15 12:30	Agrofood resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pôle Industries & Agro-Resources , IAR (FR) - Cluster Food+I (ES) Wood resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Croatian Wood Cluster (HR) - Paper Province Värmland (SE) Biomarine resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forum Oceano - Maritime Economy Cluster (PT)
12:30-13:00	Session II Q&A from the participants
13:00 14:15	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:15	Session III Cluster development and the bioeconomy Panel discussion - Moderator: Alex Percy-Smith

14:15 14:20	<i>Introduction to session III by the moderator</i>
14:20 15:35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BioEconomy Cluster Germany (DE) - Green Chemistry Cluster (IT) SBIOC, the Spanish Biobased Cluster (ES) - Bioeconomy initiative. Bioeconomic Growth Center Guldborgsund (DK) - Bioeconomy Cluster (SK)
15:35-16:00	<i>Session III Q&A from the participants</i>
16:00 16:30	Workshop Conclusions
16:30-17:00	Next steps
17:00	End of the meeting