


D T.2.1.1 Missing Links for Regional Circular Bioeconomies ROMANIA



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1. Introduction

Results of the first output from the GoDanuBio project (“Analysis of Circular Bioeconomy Framework Conditions (WP T1)” provide an overview of current strategies and governance structures in the Danube macro-region and offer a hint on the existing gaps of circular bioeconomy, in terms of concentration (critical mass of relevant actors), capacity (skills), conditions (rules, legislation procedures) and culture (social acceptance and impact of circular-bioeconomy approaches). The outputs from WP T1 should serve as a basis for the identification of actors that are currently neglected in the bioeconomisation of the respective regions.

2. Methodology

The aim of this report is to create an overview of actors that are neglected in the circular bioeconomy so far but are needed to co-create sustainable development models. To also serve as inspiration source, good practice examples (projects/initiatives/business models) that already exist in individual regions of GoDanuBio or outside the consortium area were collected.

The methodology encompassed the following steps:

Step 1. Analysis of the regional reports T.1.2.1 Development of regional stakeholder reports

Each region has identified the existing actors involved in the bioeconomisation process. They have been divided into 4 categories:

- Industry (chambers of commerce, clusters, cluster organisations, enterprises, professional associations)
- Academia & Research (universities, research institutes, competence centers)
- Public (state agencies, local government, regional/central government, regional development agencies)
- Society (NGOs, informal civil organisations)

These represent the maximal typology of actors to be considered in the elaboration of the Integration Plan for prospective actors for developing a sustainable and holistic circular economy (T2.1).

Some categories of actors are currently involved in the bioeconomisation process in all regions (e.g., universities), others are not and hence the regional gaps occur.

The current situation and the pre-identified gaps are shown in a google drive shared document (Annex 1)

Step 2. Identification of good practice examples

When adding a missing actor in the list, the partners have relied on the shared experience from other partners that have identified that specific missing actor.

The following table shows the shared experience for Romania.

Type of stakeholder	Pre identified actors	Examples /Type of cooperation
Industry		
Chamber of commerce		
clusters	Green energy, wood, agri-food	-Elaboration of RIS3 regional strategy; National Strategic Plan in the context of Common Agricultural Policy 2021-2027.
Cluster organisations	Association of clusters	DanuBioValnet project (Interreg Danube Programme)

enterprises		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -BIOEAST projects; -C-VoUCHER projects, financed by Horizon 2020, INNOSUP-01 component Cluster facility projects for generating new value chains; -BIOVOICE project; -Few SMEs are registered on platform circular economy (European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform).
Professional associations	Packaging, SMEs associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Involved in elaboration of RIS3 regional strategy; -Implement of an integrated packaging waste management system; -Organize events to promote agri-food, renewable energies, recycling etc. -Partner in Be rural project financed by Horizon 2020;
Academia & Research		
universities	General, technical, agronomic sciences, environmental science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Master in bioeconomy -Master in Bioeconomic Management in the Context of Sustainable Growth -Elaboration of RIS 3 national, RIS 3 regional. - BIOEAST projects. -Horizon 2020, Interreg Europe, Interreg Danube projects -National research projects in bioeconomy -Members of DTC network;(The Danube Transfer Centre Network is a dynamic transnational structure in the Danube Region dedicated to fostering innovation and knowledge transfer between academia and the economic environment);
Research institutes	Romanian Academy, Institute for Economic Forecasting, Chemistry, Biology,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Elaboration of RIS3 national, RIS3 regional; -National research projects in bioeconomy; -Horizon 2020, Interreg Europe, Interreg Danube projects as: BIOREGIO project- Interreg Europe; Danube S3Cluster- Interreg Danube); Be rural project -Horizon 2020; -BIOEASTsUP project “Advancing Sustainable Circular Bioeconomy in Central and Eastern European countries”- Horizon 2020).
Competence centres		
Public		
State Agencies	Innovation agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -A funding agency for research projects in bioeconomy domain; -Elaborate RIS3 national

Local Government	Association of Communes, Cities Iasi, Timisoara, Cluj Napoca, Alba Iulia etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Organize events to promote agri-food, renewable energies, recycling etc not focus on bioeconomy; There are currently 12 municipalities in Romania that have committed to and are in the process of becoming zero waste cities; The biggest municipality in the network is Iași city, which joined the international network “Zero Waste Municipalities” since 2017.
Regional/Central Government	Ministry for Environment, for Agriculture, Development, Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -BIOEAST Initiative (National Contact Point for BIOEAST); -Coordinate national policy in bioeconomy and circular economy; -Elaborates -National Strategic Plan in the context of Common Agricultural Policy 2021-2027; -Monitoring Committee for Rural Development Programmes; -National points of contact for Interreg Europe, Interreg Danube Programmes; -Project focus on bioeconomy: DanuBioValnet project.
Regional Development Agencies	8 Regional Development Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Elaborate regional RIS3 strategies; The bioeconomy and the circular economy are topics of interest for regional development agencies both in the regional development plan and in the regional smart specialization strategies-RIS3; -Participating regions in BIC bioeconomy platform (ADR North- East, ADR Centre Region); -Projects focused on the circular bioeconomy as:- BIOREGIO project; RETRACE project; SinCE-AFC Project, -financed by Interreg Europe; -SinCE-AFC project; DanubeS3Cluster project financed by Interreg Danube ; SCREEN project- financed by Horizon 2020; -C-VoUCHER program, financed by Horizon 2020.
Society		
NGOs	Circular Economy and Environment Foundation for the Development of Civil Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Projects in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development; -ROCES Project; -Organize events to promote circular economy agri-food, renewable energies, recycling etc -Participation of NGOs in education policy for sustainable development.
Informal civil organizations		

Step 3 Identification of the potential stakeholders

In Romania the pre-identified gaps are: chambers of commerce, competence centers, and informal civil organisations as shown in Annex 1 (google drive shared document).

The potential stakeholders are fill in Annex 2 (google drive shared document).

Step 4 Identification of good practices

The identified good practices are listed in Chapter 4 and will be further described in a dedicated template which will be integrated into the Best Practice Brochure (D.T2.1.2).

3. Missing Actors

Stakeholder group	Industry
Stakeholder subgroup	Chamber of Commerce
Position in the network	<p>The network of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Romania is one of the strongest business environments in the country bringing together the 42 county chambers of commerce and industry, as well as other bilateral chambers of commerce, some branches of professional associations and companies. They organize economic missions, training programs, seminars or conferences, issue certificates of origin etc.</p> <p>One relevant example is the Timis Chamber of Commerce, Industry¹, which is member of EIT Climate-KIC Romania Hub², provides the EIT Climate-KIC Accelerator programme and hosts one technology information centre. They are strongly involved in international projects in the RO-HU and RO-SRB cross border cooperation programmes.</p>
Importance for GoDanuBio	Dissemination of GoDanuBio results; regional bioeconomy hub

Stakeholder group	Academia & Research
Stakeholder subgroup	Competence centres
Position in the network	<p>The National Network for Innovation and Technology Transfer (ReNITT) includes 48 specific organizations: technology transfer centers, technology information centers, technology and business incubators, 4 science and technology parks, which are accredited by Research Ministry.</p> <p>ReNITT aims to increase the visibility of research and development units and improve the competitiveness of SMEs by developing services for knowledge and technology transfer.</p> <p>Some of them are members of the Enterprise Europe Network, providing services in support for SME innovation and internationalisation.</p> <p>As to the bioeconomy field, we find following technology transfer centres:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Danube Delta Technological Information Centre ³ -Technology Transfer Centre CTT-UGAL⁴ - Pole of competitiveness IND-AGRO-POL⁵
Importance for GoDanuBio	Capitalize the results of GoDanuBio project in other projects; Dissemination of GoDanuBio results;

¹ www.cciat.ro

² <https://climatelaunchpad.org/country-leads/>

³ <http://ddni.ro/wps/ro/acasa/>.

⁴ (<http://www.dfctt.ugal.ro>)

⁵ <https://www.inma.ro/indagropol/>

Stakeholder group	Society
Stakeholder subgroup	Informal civil organizations
Position in the network	<p>There are some NGOs involved in projects to develop civic initiatives among people as:</p> <p>Association for the Support of Rural Youth through Integration and Personal Development- ASTRID</p> <p>The Resource Centre for Active Citizenship (CRCA).</p> <p>More Green Association</p> <p>Association „Turul Madar, Covasna County</p> <p>Community Youth Association, Bistrita county.</p> <p>The Youth for Education and Society Association</p> <p>Association for Active Development, GO FREE - Association for the Support of Civil Society (project European Youth Village⁶)</p>
Importance for GoDanuBio	GoDanuBio results could be directly transferred to citizens and local NGOs to increase their awareness of the importance of bioeconomy for rural area.

⁶ <https://europeanyouthvillage.eu/>

4. Good Practice Examples

4.1. 1 village 1 MW⁷

Ghelinta is a bioenergy village implemented in the context of "1 village 1 MW", a regional oriented concept of using local biomass sources for district heating. Located in Covasna County, Ghelinta is a small village that produces and uses most of its energy demand from local biomass sources (agriculture, forestry, and waste) using the "1 village 1 MW" concept. To promote this concept, Green Energy Innovative Biomass Cluster Romania developed a R&D project that aimed to transfer and adapt experiences gained in countries where bioenergy villages already existed (Germany and Austria).

4.2. Social Innovation Enterprise

The Clean Team Proiect SRL⁸ in Ghelinta, Covasna County, was established as a social innovation enterprise because of a ESF funded project.

The services provided by The Clean Team Proiect SRL are gardening, urban cleaning services, landscape, and land planning services.

4.3. Business Incubator Sf Gheorghe

The Business Incubator⁹ in Sfântu Gheorghe was established in 2006 with support of a UNDP dedicated programme. Over the years, the incubator went beyond its original scope and became one of the major actors of the regional innovation eco-system, supporting the generation of the regional clusters (Pro Wood, Green Energy, AgroFood Covasna, Transylvania textile & Fashion). It hosts a business accelerator and is member of a digital innovation hub. The Incubator turned into a centre of competence in bio-economy generating several regional, national, and international research and cooperation projects in this field.

4.4. Circular Economy in Transylvania Textile & Fashion Cluster

Transylvania Textile & Fashion¹⁰ is a regional cluster in the field of textile and fashion located in the centre region in Romania and was founded in 2013. Currently, it consists of 44 members, 32 of which are small and medium enterprises. Besides the SMEs, members include universities, research institutions, consulting companies, city councils. Transylvania Textile & Fashion Cluster has taken up the issue of textile waste, a very eager problem in the textile sector and the cluster members are working daily on creative solutions to reintroduce the textile waste in the value chain, to extend the time interval that a piece of textile is used.

4.5. C VoUCHER Scheme

Romanian Development Agency of North-West implemented C- VoUCHER project¹¹ financed by Horizon 2020, between March 2016- April 2021. The C-VoUCHER consortium was led by FundingBox Accelerator and was composed of 13 partners from 6 European countries (Denmark, Romania, France, Poland, Spain, and Sweden).

C-VoUCHER aims at generating new cross-sectoral and cross-border value chains with a circular economy approach, by combining industrial value chains (agro-food, health, sea industries, textile & manufacturing) with enabling technologies (digital, hybrid & engineering), through design thinking concepts.

The Romanian SMEs selected and invited to the Circularity Value Replication Programme were: SC TAILOR STUDIO SRL (made-to-measure clothing design) and Transylvania Brew SRL (cider apple pomace and apple lees waste reduction). One of the 6 innovative SMEs that joined the second round of Circularity Programme was SC Fibrex CO SRL (re-using waste from composite materials).

⁷ <https://www.greencluster.ro/english/one-village-1-mw-concept.html/>

⁸ <https://www.cleanteamproiect.ro/>

⁹ <https://www.asimcov.org/activities/business-incubator>

¹⁰ <http://transylvaniatextile.eu/activities-services/>

¹¹ <https://c-voucher.com>