

D.T3.2.4

Brain Trust Roadmap

Poly4Eml/Anteja ECG d.o.o.
12 / 2022



Project Information

Project Title: GoDanuBio - 'Participative Ecosystems for fostering the revitalization of rural-urban cooperation through governing Danube Circular Bioeconomy'

Project code: DTP3-471-4.1

Lead partner: BIOPRO Baden-Württemberg GmbH

Start of the project: 01/07/2020

Duration: 30 months

<http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/godanubio>

Deliverable Information

Author/-s: Mateja Novak, Mateja Dermastia

Deliverable no.: D.T3.2.4

Submission date: 12/12/2022

Dissemination level: Public

Version	Date	Content	Written by	Reviewed by
1	09/12/2022	V.1	Poly4EmI/Anteja ECG d.o.o.	BIOPRO
2	12/12/2022	Final	Poly4EmI/Anteja ECG d.o.o.	

Table of content

1	Introduction	4
2	Recommendations from the transnational dialogues.....	4
3	The Brain Trust's role.....	5
4	The Brain Trust's approach	5
5	Actions	6

Disclaimer:

The information and perspectives set out in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the European Commission. Neither the European Commission institutions and bodies nor any person acting on their behalf may be held responsible for the use that may be made of the information contained therein

1 Introduction

The Danube Circular Bioeconomy Brain Trust (Brain Trust) was established in March 2021. Eight high-level bioeconomy experts from the Danube Region constitute the initial group: Prof. Dr. Ralf Kindervater, CEO BIOPRO Baden-Württemberg, Dr. Barna Kovacs, BIOEAST Secretary-General, Dr. Gerd Meier zu Köcker, CEO RegioClusterAgentur Baden-Württemberg and Danube Alliance Secretariat, Pavla Bruskova, Expert Supervisor NCA-CZ¹, Ana Dijan, Project Manager at the Croatian Wood Cluster, Nirvana Kapitan Butković, Coordinator of Priority Area 8 of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), Croatian Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Daniel Cosnita, CEO CLUSTERO² and Mateja Dermastia, CEO Anteja ECG.

The Brain Trust was formed to serve as motivation and information point for the bioeconomy development in the Danube Region. The first meeting of the Brain Trust's initial group was held on the 28th of April 2021. A general consensus was reached on the following organizational details: in challenging times during the Ukraine war, the Brain Trust was assigned to pave the way to a new circular bioeconomy strategy in the Danube Region. The Brain Trust led two transnational strategy dialogues. The focus of the first transnational dialogue, held in Ulm, was on the impact of the Ukraine war on the Danube region (Ulm, 1st July 2022), while the second transnational dialogue focused on the circular bioeconomy governance in challenging times (online, 3rd November 2022).

2 Recommendations from the transnational dialogues

The primary step forward in the Danube Region's circular bioeconomy is to set political priority regardless of political affiliation. Only by having political priorities, we can move forward with a programme on the national level, project development and implementation. The Danube Region has various outstanding projects linked to the circular bioeconomy, but needs to significantly increase the capitalisation of the results and investments. Well-coordinated efforts of the clusters in the Danube Region, infrastructures and capacity at the level of the Ministries, agencies, and financial institutions could drive the circular bioeconomy in the Danube Region in years to come. Three strategic actions that will drive this kind of change and ensure a 55% reduction in GHG (Greenhouse Gas emissions) by 2030 are summarized below.

¹ National Cluster Association in the Czech Republic

² Romanian Cluster Association

3 The Brain Trust's role

- The Brain Trust serves as an institutional and infrastructural framework for mutual learning on regional policy agendas in circular bioeconomy across the Danube Region.
- The Brain Trust provides policy-makers, clusters, regional development and business agencies with advice on how to set up and execute circular bioeconomy strategies and related support schemes.
- The Brain Trust will help to consolidate regional efforts and strengthen institutional capacities; it will also identify transformative opportunities to tackle resilience and sustainability challenges for reaching 2030 targets.

4 The Brain Trust's approach

1. The Brain Trust will work closely with the circular bioeconomy drivers in the Danube Region to enable decision-makers to have a clear vision on the development and options of the circular bioeconomy in the Danube Region. Those drivers are:

- **The Danube Alliance**³ will drive a circular bioeconomy in the Danube Region. The Danube Alliance, PA8 flagship project, sprang to life to strengthen the SME competitiveness in the Danube Region. It is the fastest growing cluster network in the region and a value chain incubator with significant potential in terms of resilience, circularity and bioeconomy. The Danube Alliance will provide the Danube-wide network with databases of good practices, models and tools for knowledge transfer between diverse networks.
- **The BIOEAST Initiative**⁴ is a forward-looking policy forum on the governmental level. The support and participation of Ministries and experts in the work of the BIOEAST Initiative should be stimulated. So far, Ministries of Agriculture and Research are the most represented, whilst other relevant Ministries are missing. The top-down approach to the bioeconomy policy should be linked to the bottom-up initiatives like the Danube Alliance.

2. The Brain Trust will provide strategic inputs to the circular bioeconomy policy dialogues

- The Brain Trust will support policy dialogues with the design and implementation of further transnational and regional policy forums.
- The Brain Trust will support policy dialogues by providing position papers, white papers and concrete recommendations.

3. The Brain Trust Secretariat

³ <https://competitiveness.danube-region.eu/danube-alliance/>

⁴ <https://bioeast.eu/home/>

- The Danube Alliance will provide a secretariat to the Brain Trust.
- Alternatively, the Brain Trust Secretariat can be embedded in the PA8 as a dedicated Working Group or a PA8 activity (e.g. element of a new flagship).

5 Actions

The Brain Trust 2023 Roadmap includes four actions:

Action 1: The establishment of the secretariat

Action 2: A Danube Alliance / PA8 meeting is planned for the first quarter of the next year to agree on the support, actions and communication for the 2023

Action 3: Setting-up the 2023-2024 working plan

A Brain Trust meeting will be organized in March 2023 with the representatives of the PA8, Danube Alliance and BIOEAST. The meeting will serve to appoint the Brain Trust's chairman and the co-chair, and to agree on key objectives and activities for 2023.

Action 4: Implementation of activities