

D.T1.1.2

Mapping of governance structures

Synthesis report

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1. List of acronyms and definitions

Acronym	Definition
Bio-based economy	The production of renewable biological resources and the conversion of these resources and waste streams into value added products, such as food, feed, biobased products and bioenergy, including both traditional and emerging sectors, i.e. agriculture, forestry, fisheries, food and pulp and paper production, as well as parts of chemical, biotechnological and energy industries
Biomass	Biomass is defined as "the biodegradable fraction of products, waste and residues from biological origin from agriculture (including vegetal and animal substances), forestry and related industries including fisheries and aquaculture, as well as the biodegradable fraction of industrial and municipal waste."
Cluster	Clusters are generally described as groups of companies, mainly SMEs and other actors (government, research and academic community, institutions for collaboration, financial institutions) co-locating within a geographic area, cooperating around a specialized niche, and establishing close linkages and working alliances to improve their competitiveness.
EUSDR	The EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) is the Danube macro-regional strategy that provides an opportunity to improve cooperation within the Danube region. It has identified common goals and approaches for implementing them more effectively through transnational collaboration. EUSDR constitutes a strategic agenda that should guide relevant policy instruments at the EU, national and regional level by closely aligning and mutually reinforcing them
PP	A Project Partner within this project
Region	Regions within the project and which are represented by the Project Partners. Some of the regions, like Slovenia or Czech Republic represent the national level as well.
S3	Smart Specialization Strategies (S3): Smart Specialization is a strategic approach to economic development through targeted support for research and innovation. It involves a process of developing a vision, identifying the place-based areas of greatest strategic potential, developing multi-stakeholder governance mechanisms, setting strategic priorities and using smart policies to maximise the development potential of a region.
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
VC	A value chain is a set of activities that a firm operating in a specific industry performs in order to deliver a valuable product (i.e., good and/or service) for the market. The concept comes through business management and was first described by Michael Porter in 1985.

2. Introduction

The Danube region and cities are facing major social upheavals with a view to demographic change. Many changes such as the rural exodus due to better employment opportunities for younger workers in the cities as well as the related better living conditions in the cities are responsible for this. This creates further challenges in these regions such as depopulation of the areas due to out-migration and low-skilled workers staying behind.

The aim of the EU project "GoDanuBio" is to decelerate and counteract these processes by using the circular bioeconomy. The circular bioeconomy is to be brought into focus and strengthened in the Danube region. A transformation from a fossil-based to a bio-based economy should take place. An important aspect here is the sustainable use of biological resources as well as processes for the development of new bio-based products and services, especially in rural areas. In addition to promoting the bio-economic approach, the goal is to establish new participatory political systems and concepts to support demographic change at regional and local levels. Another goal is to promote cross-regional cooperation and strategic development of the bioeconomy in the Danube macroregion. Overall, an ecosystem for systematic multi-level governance will thus be developed with stakeholders from the interested public, academia, industry and policy-making.

2.1. GoDanuBio: "Participative Ecosystem for fostering the revitalization of rural-urban cooperation through governing Danube Circular Bioeconomy"

During the project implementation, the circular bioeconomy will be used as a tool to foster regional development: it is a concept focusing on the transition of a fossil-resource based economy towards an economy making use of sustainable production of biological resources and processes to develop new products and services, thus setting rural areas and their development into focus. The concept catalyzes interdisciplinary cooperation between different policy areas and productive sectors to actively address demographic change. In this sense, GoDanuBio will create value through participative governance, knowledge exchange, untapping biobased value chains and, ultimately, raising the attractiveness to stay and even move to rural areas.

2.2. Purpose of the document

The document represents a synthesis report based on eleven regional/national policy reports developed all partners (PPs) in WP T1 of this project. These reports mapped regional strategies and governance structures for fostering the revitalization of rural-urban cooperation. The regional reports aimed to identify and analyze current regional strategy/-ies in the region that are related and aim at structural changes to tackle demographic change and rural development via new forms of rural-urban cooperation in the field of circular-bioeconomy, and subsequently also gain knowledge from obtained information. Thus, the PP mapped related strategies

targeting these three areas. This synthesis report leads to a comprehensive overview on the mapping of strategies in the regions dealing with bioeconomy, demographic change and rural development. The report forms the basis for setting up a common policy dialogue scheduled for the second half of the project and is an important asset for the preparation of the macroregional framework conditions report (D.T1.2.2). The content of the regional policy reports prepared by the PPs is based on publicly available studies and databases, the current knowledge on regional strategies, and existing policy instruments. In chapter 2 a brief overview of the strategies on regional level is given, whereas chapter 3 summarizes the individual mapping reports and draws six key findings out of them.

3. Strategies and Governance Structures for Fostering the Revitalization of rural-urban Cooperation in Partners' Regions at a Glance

Three PPs have regional strategies and related documents in place (Baden-Württemberg (Germany), Upper Austria (Austria), 8 development regions (Romania)). However, all other PPs represent the national level and therefore only have national strategies in place, if any. These are summarized in brief in the following sections:

3.1. Baden-Württemberg

The Federal State Baden-Württemberg has three strategies in place that deal with related topics. The "Baden-Württemberg's government's sustainable bioeconomy strategy"¹ (2019) from the Ministry of Rural Affairs and Consumer Protection and the Ministry of the Environment, Climate Protection and the Energy Sector aims to support sustainable developments in the field of bioeconomy to pave the way for the transformation of a fossil-based to a bio-based economy. In Baden-Württemberg the state government plans to allocate 50 million euros over the period 2020 to 2024 to implement the planned measures for the "Sustainable Bioeconomy Strategy", in addition there is another state support for innovative bioeconomy projects with six million euro.² The implementation of the strategy should also be seen as a contribution to the European Green Deal (2019). The strategy was developed from the basis of a research strategy in 2013 ("Setting up the bioeconomy in the system").

Two other strategies, the "Innovation Strategy Baden-Württemberg" (2020), Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labour and Housing as well as "Digitisation Strategy Baden-Württemberg" (2017), Ministry of the Interior, Digitisation and Migration, partly cover the aspects of circular

¹ https://mlr.baden-wuerttemberg.de/fileadmin/redaktion/m-mlr/intern/dateien/publikationen/Landesstrategie_Biooekonomie-BW_en.pdf, last accessed 26/01/2020

² <https://www.baden-wuerttemberg.de/de/service/presse/pressemitteilung/pid/land-foerdert-innovative-biooekonomie-projekte-mit-sechs-millionen-euro-1/>, <https://um.baden-wuerttemberg.de/de/service/presse/pressemitteilung/pid/landesstrategie-nachhaltige-biooekonomie-fuer-baden-wuerttemberg-vorgestellt-1/>

Bioeconomy, demographic change and rural development by defining them as key topics or areas of concern.

3.2. Bulgaria

The mapping report for Bulgaria mentions two current strategies. The first one is the **“Innovation strategy for smart specialization (ISSS)” (2014-2020)** and the other is the **“National Strategy for SMEs” (2021-2027)**, both from the Ministry for Economy. Interestingly, a new strategy, called **“Strategy for Transition to the Circular Economy of the Republic Of Bulgaria for the period 2021 - 2027”** is currently under development to support circular economy and sustainable development.

3.3. Croatia

The “Croatian Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3)” (2016-2020) (Government of the Republic of Croatia, Official Gazette 32/2016) sets the framework to transform the Croatian economy and to increase its competitiveness by concentrating knowledge resources and linking them to a limited number of priorities. **Food and Bioeconomy** were selected as a thematic priority area. There are several additional strategic documents (called proposal for strategies) addressing energy development, low-carbon development and national development strategy.

3.4. Czech Republic

Since 2019, the Czech Republic has a dedicated Bioeconomy strategy in place, (**“Bioeconomy concept in the Czech Republic from the perspective of the Ministry of Agriculture” (2019-2024)**, initiated and owned by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic. By means of the **Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020**, owned by the Ministry for Agriculture of the Czech Republic, measures and actions are foreseen to support rural development by stimulating regional competitiveness and eliminating disparities between rural and more developed regions within the Czech Republic.

There are additional strategies and programmes in place that partly target one or several of the three fields of concern.

- **The Research, Development and Innovation Concept of the Ministry of Agriculture for 2016-2022** (Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic)
- **Regional Development Strategy (RDS) of the Czech Republic 2014-20** (Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic)
- **National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) of the Czech Republic (2019)** (Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Ministry of the Environment)

In general, the bioeconomy topic has been most thoroughly handled by the Czech Ministry of Agriculture that issued and adopted the document of “The bioeconomy concept in the Czech

Republic from the perspective of the Ministry of Agriculture for the years 2019-2024”. Although the concept is restricted to one sector only, it enables to apply the tools and funding responding to the bioeconomy goals within the Czech agriculture. The sectoral isolation and lack of inter-ministerial cooperation in the national bioeconomy policy development is still a hurdle to overcome.

3.5. Hungary

There were four main strategies for Hungary with relevance to circular bioeconomy, demographic change and rural development.

- The **“National Environmental Program”** (2015-2020) with the objectives to contribute to ensuring the environmental conditions for sustainable development (Hungarian Government) and the Hungary’s Digital Agricultural Strategy (2019, Ministry of Agriculture) has the circular bioeconomy on focus.
- For demographic change there is the **Family Protection Action Plan** (2019-2020) with the Government, family organisations as initiator of the strategy. Objectives of the strategy: Protecting the finances of families in periods of economic distress, Giving incentives to increase child birth, Improve the financial position of families in general.
- And the **Rural Development Programme** (2014-2020) Commission and Member State. The Objectives of the strategy was to increase the sustainable agricultural potential in rural areas and improve that quality of life in rural areas.

3.6. Republic of Serbia

The Republic of Serbia has a broad set of sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies in place. The **“Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2014 – 2024”** directly targets challenges related to rural development (Ministry for Agriculture and Environment Protection). Improving the quality of life in rural areas and reducing poverty is one of the key objectives of the strategy.

Circular Bioeconomy and demographic change are addressed in the following strategies

- **Smart Specialisation Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2020 to 2027** (Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development and the Public Policy Secretariat of the Republic of Serbia)
- **Sustainable Urban Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia until 2030** (Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure of Serbia)
- **Industrial Policy Strategy of the Republic of Serbia from 2021 to 2030** (Ministry for Economy)

- **National Strategy of Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Goods, 2012–2022**
(Ministry for Environment)

3.7. Romania

Due to the fact that, in the project, Romania attended both on a national and on a regional level, the strategies mentioned in the report address measures for Romania as well as for the eight development regions.

The mapping reports identified the following **national strategy**:

- **National Strategy for RDI 2014-2020** (Ministry of National Education and Research). It defines, among other topics, bioeconomy, energy environment and climate change as key priority areas.

The other two strategies cover partly the rural development issues.

- **National Strategy of Rural Development 2014-2020** (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development). It is also in elaboration the new national strategy of rural development for the next planning period 2021-2027. In accordance with European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, the Romanian rural development plan will focus, among others, on promoting Bioeconomy in rural areas.
- **Strategy for agri-food development in the medium and long term-Horizon 2020-2030** (Ministry of Rural Development and public Administration)

And the following **regional updated strategies**:

- **The Smart Specialization Strategy of the South Muntenia Region 2021-2027**
- **North East Region Smart Specialization Strategy 2021-2027** (i.e. Smart specialization fields: environment-circular economy; agro-food and wood industry)
- **North West Region Smart Specialization Strategy 2021-2027**
- **The Smart Specialization Strategy of the Central Development Region 2021-2027**
- **The Smart Specialization Strategy of the South East Development Region 2021-2027**
- **The Smart Specialization Strategy of the South West Oltenia 2021-2027**
- **The Smart Specialization Strategy of the West Development Region 2021-2027**
- **The Smart Specialization Strategy of the Bucuresti-Ilfov 2021-2027**

3.8. Slovakia

The mapping activities identified three relevant strategies that deal with the three relevant areas. The **“Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation of the Slovak Republic” (2013)** (Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic) defines five priority areas of which the domain “Healthy Food” deals with topics like sustainable and competitive agricultural and forestry; production of primary resources; production of safe health-promoting food with high nutritional and added value or complex technologies; and systems for reducing the negative impacts of agricultural activities on the environment.

- **Greener Slovakia - Strategy of the Environmental Policy of the Slovak Republic until 2030** (The Envirostrategy 2030, owned by the Ministry for Environment of the Slovak Republic) aims to achieve a better environmental quality as well as a sustainable and circular economy.
- **The Strategy of Economic Policy of the Slovak Republic until 2030** (Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic) defines the main strategic goal of economic policy, which is to increase the competitiveness of the Slovak economy with emphasis on productivity growth of all production factors through priority areas, including environmental and energy efficient economy, and regional development together with the agriculture.

3.9. Slovenia

There were four main strategic documents identified for Slovenia with relevance to circular bioeconomy, demographic change and rural development.

- **Rural Development Programme of the Republic of Slovenia for the period 2014-2020** (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food), which is a joint programme document of the Republic of Slovenia and the European Commission constituting the basis for the absorption of financial resources from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD);
- **The Resolution on the National Programme on Strategic Directions for the Development of Slovenian Agriculture and Food** (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food) "Our Food, Rural and Natural Resources from 2021"
- **The Resolution on the Strategic Guidelines for the Development of Slovenian Agriculture and Food Industry until 2020 – "Ensuring Food for Tomorrow"** (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food) and
- **Slovenia's Smart Specialisation Strategy** (Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy) (RIS 3 - S4).

Whereas the first three strategies and resolutions mainly focus on rural development, the Strategy S4 of Slovenia also covers circular bioeconomy to a certain extent. Even though there are no bioeconomy goals set out, it should be noted that the Strategy S4 promotes networks for the transition to circular economy, connecting stakeholders into value chains according to the principle “economy of closed material cycles” to develop new business models for the transition to circular economy.

3.10. Upper Austria

The region has one very generic regional strategy in place, called **#upperVision2030** (2020) , which serves as a strategic framework for action and support. All three topics are mentioned in the strategy and considered of high relevance. #upperVision2030 was initiated and is implemented by Business Upper Austria - OÖ Wirtschaftsagentur GmbH and Government of Upper Austria.

4. Key Findings

The following chapter presents the key findings of the synthesis report taken from the individual regional reports of the project partners (PPs). Appendix 1 contains a survey of all strategies and programmes of the PP regions that address the three main topics at a glance.

A total of 35 strategies and related documents were identified indicating that the topics GoDanuBio is dealing with are of high concern. Around one quarter of these strategies specifically target one of the three relevant topics, whereas the majority of the related strategies have a broader scope and only partly address one or several topics GoDanuBio is dealing with.

Figure 1: Distribution between specific and generic strategies mapped

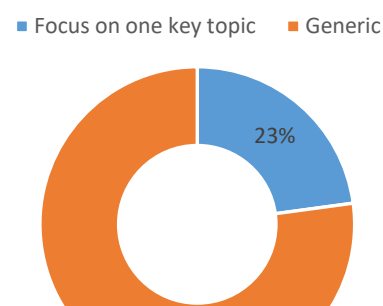


Table one displays how the PP regions cover the three main topics.

Region	Strategy		
	Circular bioeconomy	Demographic change	Rural development
Baden-Württemberg			
Bulgaria			
Czech Republic			
Croatia			
Hungary			
Romania			
8 development regions (Romania)			
Serbia			
Slovenia			
Slovakia			
Upper Austria			

Green: Specific strategy intended to cover one of the three main topics; orange: strategy in place, which deals with the main topics;

In the following, six key findings can be identified as a synthesis of the individual PP reports.

Finding 1: There is a very different understanding of circular bioeconomy among the PP regions

The results show that the regions have a different understanding of the term "bioeconomy". In the cases where there is a dedicated bioeconomy strategy, it is usually well defined. In cases where an overarching strategy is in place, such as often the RIS3 strategies of the PPs, a definition tends to be dispensed with.

Finding 2: Circular bioeconomy, demographic change and rural development are of high concern in all PP regions

The results show that the three relevant topics are addressed in all PP regions and are accordingly high on the political agenda. Furthermore, the regions are involved in a large number of supra-regional platforms, which illustrates the cross-regional importance of these topics. While circular bioeconomy and demographic change are often addressed under the topic of "contributing to

solving societal challenges", the topic of "rural development" is often addressed together with aspects of agriculture. Only Baden-Württemberg combines circular bioeconomy and rural development under the topic "Sustainable Bioeconomy in Rural Areas".

Finding 3: Different public bodies are owners of related strategy development and implementation

The results show that due to the cross-sectoral nature of the three topics, different ministries are involved in strategy development and implementation in many PP regions. At the same time, it also shows that the strategy owners tend to implement them independently, although all three strategies have a high thematic overlap.

Finding 4: PP regions address the three main topics to a very different extent

Although all three main topics targeted by GoDanuBio are usually high on the political agenda, they are addressed in very different ways. This is done either within the framework of a dedicated strategy (e.g. Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020 - Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic) or in the context of an overarching strategy, such as often the RIS3 strategies of the PPs. In these cases, the GoDanuBio topics are regarded as priority areas, fields of action or fields of specialization, which are to be addressed with specific measures and instruments.

Finding 5: Only some regions have dedicated strategies and programmes in place focusing one a dedicated topic

7 out of 11 partners have at least one specific strategy in place, which are

- Rural Development Programme 2014-2020- Commission and Member State and Hungarian Village Programme - Government and the small villages of Hungary
- Rural Development Programme (Czech Republic, 2014-2020)
- National Strategy of Rural Development (2014-2020, Romania)
- Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2014 – 2024
- Rural Development Programme of the Republic of Slovenia for the period 2014-2020;
- Bioeconomy Concept Czech Republic (2019-2024)
- Baden-Württemberg's government's sustainable bioeconomy strategy (2019)
- Greener Slovakia - Strategy of the Environmental Policy of the Slovak Republic until 2030

It is characteristic that the GoDanuBio topics are tackled in detail, often including dedicated measures to be implemented and / or backed by programmes / funding schemes.

Finding 6: RIS3 is the most prominent strategic approach applied

Dedicated strategies that address one of the three priority themes tend to be an exception (s. Fig. 1 and Finding 5). In most cases, the GoDanuBio topics are addressed in strategies that are more generic. This is especially true for the topic of "demographic change", for which none of the PP regions has its own dedicated strategy. Rather, this topic is dealt with in the superordinate strategies to varying degrees of intensity. The RIS3 in particular, which are of decisive importance for the PP regions as the basis for ERDF structural funds, often address all three or at least the majority of the three priority themes.

5. Conclusion and Outlook

A total of 35 strategies and related documents were identified indicating that the topics GoDanuBio is dealing with are of high concern. Except the Central Region (Romania) all PPs have specific or at least generic strategies in place targeting circular bioeconomy, demographic change or rural development. This is a good base for upcoming activities within the GoDanuBio project.

The outlook given by the PPs looks promising. Bulgaria, for example, is developing its own circular bioeconomy strategy. In Baden-Württemberg the state government plans to allocate 50 million euros over the period 2020 to 2024 to implement the planned measures for the "Sustainable Bioeconomy Strategy", half for the Ministry of Rural Areas and Consumer Protection and half for the Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy Management.³ In addition to the implementation of the "Sustainable Bioeconomy Strategy", Baden-Württemberg have another state supports for innovative bioeconomy projects with six million euro.⁴ The Czech Republic is currently developing the Regional Development Strategy 2021+ with a clear focus on demographic change. Hungary and Serbia are both in the process of developing a "Circular Bioeconomy" strategy.

³ <https://um.baden-wuerttemberg.de/de/service/presse/pressemitteilung/pid/landesstrategie-nachhaltige-biooekonomie-fuer-baden-wuerttemberg-vorgestellt-1/>

⁴ <https://www.baden-wuerttemberg.de/de/service/presse/pressemitteilung/pid/land-foerdert-innovative-biooekonomie-projekte-mit-sechs-millionen-euro-1/>

Appendix

Survey of strategies identified by the PP.

Region	Strategy		
	circular bioeconomy	demographic change	rural development
Baden-Württemberg	Sustainable Bioeconomy Baden-Württemberg	Innovation Strategy Baden-Württemberg Digitalisation Strategy	
Bulgaria	National Strategy for SMEs	Innovation strategy for smart specialization (ISSS)	
Czech Republic	Bioeconomy concept Czech Republic The Research, Development and Innovation Concept National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) of the Czech Republic	Regional Development Strategy (RDS) of the Czech Republic	Rural Development programme
Croatia	Croatian Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3) Proposal of the Strategy for energy development of the Republic of Croatia	Proposal of the National development strategy of the Republic of Croatia	
Hungary	National Environmental Program Hungary's Digital Agricultural Strategy	Family Protection Action Plan	Rural Development Programme Hungarian Village Programme - Government and the small villages of Hungary
Romania	National Strategy for RDI		National Strategy of Rural Development

			Strategy for agri-food development in the medium and long-term
8 development regions (Romania)			
Serbia		Smart Specialisation Strategy of the Republic of Serbia Sustainable Urban Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia	Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period
Slovenia	Smart specialisation is a strategy	National Programme on Strategic Directions for the Development	
Slovakia	Greener Slovakia - Strategy of the Environmental Policy of the Slovak Republic	Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation of the Slovak Republic Strategy of Economic Policy of the Slovak Republic	
Upper Austria	economic and research strategy #upperVISION2030		