

D T.2.1.1 Missing Links for Regional Circular Bioeconomies

SLOVENIA



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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 Slovenia.

Type of stakeholder	Pre identified actors	Examples/Type of cooperation
Industry		
Chamber of commerce	Commerce, agriculture and forestry	The Strategic Research and Innovation Partnership (SRIP) network; KOC Circular economy project; Bridging the gap in Bioeconomy (CRP project); Bridge2Bio project; Spodbujamo e-krožno
Clusters	Technology	Cities 2030 project; Radiant project

Cluster organisations		
Enterprises		-cooperate via projects with academy. -their cooperation with public and society is very weak. -a trend of increase of firms in the circular bioeconomy sector in the last few years.
Professional associations		
Academia & Research		
Universities		APPLAUSE, Bridge2Bio projects; Bridging the gap in Bioeconomy (CRP project); BIOEASTsUP projects, CEL.KROG (Discarded potentials of biomass) project; SHERPA (Sustainable Hub to Engage into Rural Policies with Actors) project.
Research institutes		-Projects: DEAR Food Wave, Winpol, Greencycle, Cinderela, InnoRenew, SRIP-Krožno gospodarstvo, APPLAUSE, Radiant, CEL.KROG, VET4BIOECONOMY, Bridge2Bio, DIABOLO, Bridging the gap in Bioeconomy (CRP project), project; -platform Circular Change
Competence centres		
Public		
State Agencies		
Local Government		Projects: Cities 2030, Applause, CircE, Greens
Regional/Central Government		BIOEAST Initiative; Project of decarbonisation of Slovenia; Projects: Care4Climate, Plan B for Slovenia, GoDanuBio, DanuBioValNet, AlpLinkBioEco, BIOEASTsUP, SHERPA, Forest Value; -platform Circular Change
Regional Development Agencies		engagement through LAGs
Society		
NGOs		
Informal civil organizations		

Step 3 Identification of the potential stakeholders

In Slovenia the pre-identified gaps are: cluster organisations, professional associations, competence centres, regional development agencies, 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	Cluster organizations - Slovenian Wood cluster ¹
Position in the network	One of the most visible clusters is a Slovenian Wood cluster, which is a non-profit organization founded in 1999 by 17 woodworking companies and two institutions, as a Wood Industry Development Centre. The Wood Industry Cluster comprises a third of employees in forestry and wood-processing industry and the most important research institutions in Slovenia. Their product lines cover most of the woodworking products, from sawmill and joinery products, to a wide range of furniture. In addition, some companies offer surface coatings, PU foam materials and energy, too. The mission of the Wood Industry Cluster is promotion of the integration of companies and research institutions, aiming at improving the knowledge transfer into the companies, facilitating their participation in international development projects and implementing projects of common interest, resulting in knowledge-based competitiveness.
Importance for GoDanuBio	Cluster brings together multiple SMEs in the wood industry and may facilitate joint projects among members and it also represents a bridge between SMEs and public agencies/government.

Stakeholder group	Industry
Stakeholder subgroup	Professional associations - The Association of the Wood and Furniture Industry ²
Position in the network	The Association of the Wood and Furniture Industry, in cooperation with the state, creates a business environment for the wood processing industry and business opportunities for the members of the association. Within the Association, members are enabled to connect in sections and cooperate with international organizations. The Association has two priority tasks: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• connecting companies in the industry to pursue common interests,• influencing the realization of common interests of decision-makers.

¹ <https://www.lesarski-grozd.si/en/>

² https://www.gzs.si/zdruzenje_lesne_in_pohistvene_industrije/vsebina/Kdo-smo-in-kaj-po%C4%8Dnemo

Importance for GoDanuBio	It brings together most Slovenian wood and furniture companies, which develop new value chains and best practices in bioeconomy, also through collaboration with the R&D institutions.
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Stakeholder group	Academia & Research
Stakeholder subgroup	Competence centre - The competence center of the circular economy network ³
Position in the network	The competence center of the circular economy network includes 27 partners: 6 micro, 5 small, 4 medium and 12 large companies. The common interest is interdisciplinary, interdisciplinary cooperation, networking, access to new knowledge, 'circular' competencies of employees, greater awareness of employees and employers about the need for lifelong learning about the circular economy, which contributes to the development of high-tech products, services, processes and technologies. Focus areas: sustainable energy, biomass and alternative raw materials, secondary raw materials, functional materials, processes and technologies, circular business models.
Importance for GoDanuBio	It enables developing new skills and building competences related to circular economy and bioeconomy. It can also help to disseminate GoDanuBio results and best practices.

Stakeholder group	Public
Stakeholder subgroup	Regional development agency
Position in the network	The Regional Development Agency for Podravje - Maribor helps with the development of 41 municipalities in Podravje regions. It offers service in the different fields, for example: regional development, project support, drawing EU funds, networking, attracting investors etc. Services are performed by different sectors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sector for Regional Development, ● Sector for Entrepreneurship, ● Sector for Research, Development and Innovation, ● Sector for Tourism.
Importance for GoDanuBio	Capitalizing the results of GoDanuBio project in other projects; Dissemination of GoDanuBio results

Stakeholder group	Society
Stakeholder subgroup	Informal civil organizations
Position in the network	Individuals and informal civil groups are important for pushing advocacy for nature protection and sustainability practices, Some individuals are well known and have therefore potentially big impact to society. Some informal civil groups represent industry fighting mainly against strict

³ <https://koc-krožno-gospodarstvo.si/>

	<p>environmental laws. Two examples of informal civil organizations that could play a role in bioeconomy development in Slovenia are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trajna association⁴, which is a non-governmental organisation aimed at supporting solidarity and cross-species co-sustainment by initiating commprojecty economies, creative research, organising workshops and designing eco-infrastructure, • Rural Youth Association⁵ as the only voluntary, national, and non-governmental organization that unites young people from rural areas, as well as all those who are interested in rural development.
Importance for GoDanuBio	Potential support for bioeconomy development and involvement in bioeconomy initiatives.

⁴ <https://trajna.com/>

⁵ <https://zspm.si/>

4. Good Practice Examples

4.1 Innovative Young Farmer

Each year the Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry of Slovenia and the Association of Slovenian Rural Youth organize the selection of Innovative Young Farmer. Candidates must live and work on a farm and be under 40 years of age. The goal of selection is to promote and disseminate the innovative idea, which makes an important contribution to the preservation and development of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. Also, at least one indicator must be distinguished. Indicators are:

- The idea brings innovations important for further development.
- The idea brings original approaches to work.
- That the changes introduced are reflected in the positive economic effects on the farm.

The title is awarded to the candidate who receives the highest number of points by the expert commission and online voting. Candidates and their ideas are promoted on different channels (TV shows, Youtube, social media etc.).

4.2 Houses for young families and couples

Due to the lack of housing and rising real estate prices, Institut Back To The Village had the idea to build villages with 50 prefabricated houses for young families and couples. Homes will have around 65 square meters and will cost about 50.000 €. The first pilot projects will be implemented in the Municipality of Ajdovščina and the Municipality of Lendava. As municipalities are expected to cede building land, this project is of more interest to smaller rural municipalities, where land prices are lower. For example, the Municipality of Ravne na Koroškem and the Municipality of Tišina also expressed their interest. This project will enable young people to buy real estate in Slovenian rural areas affordably.

4.3 Istrian Breakfast – a Local Bite⁶

Istrian Breakfast is a tourist product, the winner of the BigSEE TourismDesign Award 2021, which links three different levels of stakeholders: 1. small producers and farmers who produce genuine products, which maintain the gastronomical identity, 2. the accommodation providers, 3. the local providers of the experiences that are included in the price of the breakfast. Tourists receive five local experiences for free. They meet local people, local producers and discover their heritage and traditions. Tourists have the opportunity to visit the producers and taste different products, buy them and bring them home. The product was conceptualised with the intention to promote small local providers who usually do not have a big marketing budget, but nevertheless have high quality natural produce and authentic services to offer.

4.4 Hiška v Biljah / Tiny House

Robert and Tjaša became a well-known couple after they moved into a tiny mobile house named Hiška, established a food garden and began posting content about their daily life adventures on social media. Although they graduated from university they decided not to start with their career in the city. Instead they live and work as entrepreneurs

⁶ <https://www.istrianbreakfast.si/?lang=en>

in a rural town around 1 hour away from Ljubljana. They started with sustainable gardening (that includes ideas of permaculture and biodynamics) and designed their home in a way that they produce little garbage and consume small amounts of water and other resources. They established a firm called Zavod Obilje and manage a website with all resources needed to begin as a sustainable gardener (books and multimedia content). They also organise workshops in their garden.

4.5 Hiša Mandrova / Mandrova house⁷

After spending a few years in Amsterdam, Eva and Aljaž moved to a remote rural town of Novi Kot that is located on a high karst plateau above Čabranka river. They renovated a house which was built as a school in 1953. It was originally built using wood and lime plaster. They started with renovation on their own using wood fiber insulation, locally sourced wood and a combination of lime and clay plasters. On their 1,2 ha of property Eva and Aljaž are combining their knowledge of regenerative agriculture, traditional woodworking and are building everything themselves. With their story they wish to inspire young people to start producing their own food and to teach about local woodworking heritage. They have their website to promote their story. They organise traditional wood making and gardening workshops. They have worked as an artist and their project was initially sponsored by the Ministry for Culture and EU Cohesion Fund through Centre for Creativity. They give lectures and sell homemade products. Their unusual lifestyle has been presented in different magazines, TV and radio shows.

⁷ <https://hisamandrova.com/?cn-reloaded=1>