



Meeting of the Western Balkans Steering Platforms
on Culture, Education and Training & Research and
Innovation

Skopje, 03-06. 05. 2024.

Hungarian EU Presidency Priority in the Context of BIOEAST
Initiative and Strong Engagement of Western Balkans



MOMENTUM TO BUILD UP A R&I DRIVEN JOINT PROGRAMMING STRUCTURE

1. There is an increased attention on Eastern Europe
2. WB, UA and MD integration need to be facilitated
3. Central and Eastern Europe (public and private sectors) need knowledge transfer for sustainable transition



1. New European Parliament - June 2024
2. New Commission – new objectives and priorities Dec 2024 - Feb 2025
3. Hungarian EU Presidency July-Dec 2024
4. Polish EU Presidency Jan-July 2025
5. Starting the preparation of Multiannual Financial Framework 2025



CRISES AND CHALLENGES

- COVID-19 pandemic, war in Ukraine and in the Middle-East, unprecedented heatwaves, extreme weather conditions.
- The global agri-food and non-food supply chains are disrupted.
- The European food system security, supply chain security, and income security of producers and processors are endangered.
- The European natural resources, e.g. soil, freshwater and other ecosystem services are in bad conditions.
- The European society is scattered and confused about the future pathways.

BUY-INS IN LINE WITH THE EU PRIORITIES

- European Strategic Autonomy
- Rethinking the role of Europe in the context global supply chains
- European Food System security and policy
- Strong sustainability context for natural resources: soil, water, ecosystem services
- Stronger climate targets
- Bioeconomy, bio-manufacturing initiative: „from invented in Europe to produced in Europe”
- Digitalization



Rethinking the role of Central and Eastern Europe including Western Balkan and Eastern Partnership Countries (specifically Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia) on contributing to:

- 1.the EU Food System Security
- 2.the Strategic Autonomy of the EU
- 3.the SDGs, EU Green Deal targets and strategies



PARADIGM SHIFT IS NEEDED IN EUROPE FROM IMPORT ORIENTED APPROACH TO SELF-SUSTAINABILITY

The biomass produced and processed locally in Central Eastern Europe, along with the available soil and freshwater resources and ecosystem services, can be key elements for

- ensuring the security of a sustainable European food system,
- Europe's autonomy in a multipolar world.

For a successful shift the Central and Eastern region needs to have:

- 1.Improved conditions for knowledge creation and transfer
- 2.Increased investment in research and innovation
- 3.More efficient research funding structure
- 4.Human resource mobilization



1. To position the role of the macro-region (BIOEAST, WB, UA, MD) in the context of European Open Strategic Autonomy
2. To prioritise thematic focuses making an added value for both parts of Europe in the context of scarcity of natural resources, sustainability, food and energy security, and solution for societal impasse:

The nexus of sustainable soil-water-biomass supply chains could represent a valid thematic scope for R&I.
3. To bridge between different parts of Europe should be built
 - to create added value at local level increase research, knowledge transfer and adaptation at EU level.



BIOEAST AS A VALID PLATFORM FOR PREPARATION

1. It is well known at EU level and acknowledged by the Commission
2. The objectives are in line with the EU and the global context, including SDGs, Green Deal, etc.
3. There is already a well-functioning coordination mechanism, structure and resources for further actions in place



To agree on

1. the **necessity of a large-scale regional R&I-driven partnership**, aiming to make this partnership a priority for the new Commission;
2. the **involvement of neighbouring countries** along the BIOEAST, Western-Balkan, Eastern Partnership;
3. the **four thematic priorities** related to soil, freshwater, food system, and biomass valorisation at local level.



MILESTONES DURING THE HU EU PRESIDENCY

1. 4. July 2024: Conference in Brussels including the presentation of the BIOEAST ministerial level declaration on the commitment
2. 29 November 2024: Competitiveness Council: Conclusions asking the Commission to assess the feasibility and create a strategic roadmap for the partnership.
3. 4-6 December 2024: high-level conference in Budapest on thematic pathways, marking the needs



WHAT BRINGS A RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP?

1. Common pot of partnered countries and European Commission 50%-50%
2. Invested national funds stays in the country
3. Strategic priorities are set based on the macro-region's priorities
4. Countries research funders will have a strong input to future calls
5. Small consortiums and smaller sized calls helps to develop networks able to take part in the bigger Horizon Europe calls.
6. Engagement of private sector will be facilitated.
7. Forming future national and European policy priorities can be backed by the validated excellence based research results.

1. Ministerial level declaration: as of July the Hungarian EU Presidency would invite also the WB countries ministries to sign the BIOEAST common declaration which will be already signed by agri and research ministers from the BIOEAST countries.
2. We would like to mobilise:
 - Research funders from each country (ministries and/or agencies)
 - Policy networks: research, agri, bioeconomy
 - Thematic expert networks: soil-freshwater-foodsystem-bioeconomy
3. To assess the needs and to prepare for a future joint partnership!



SAVE THE DATE

PARTNERING FOR THE FUTURE

During the Hungarian Presidency of the EU, we are pleased to announce two upcoming events:

4th July 2024, Brussels

Policy Forum on Advancing Research and Innovation in Central and Eastern Europe within the Framework of Sustainable Natural Resource Management, Food Systems Security, and Biomanufacturing Policy Development

Venue: Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU: 92 Rue de Treves, 1040 Brussels

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Hungarian EU presidency event

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Thank you for your attention!

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