

Raising awareness of governments on bioeconomy, based on the experiences of the BIOEAST initiative

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Objectives of BIOEAST

- 1. Initiate cooperation:** establish a multi-stakeholder network to facilitate joint actions;
- 2. Provide an evidence base:** establish data-driven support for implementation of policies;
- 3. Support strategies:** create the cross-sectorial approach for the development of a national circular and bioeconomy strategies;
- 4. Focus on research:** map specific challenges for a Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda;
- 5. Improve skills:** train a new generation of dedicated multi-stakeholder actors;
- 6. Develop synergies:** promote regional, national, EU and international funding opportunities;
- 7. Increase visibility:** draw attention to specific challenges of the CEE regions.

Main actors involved

Political agreements of 11 AGRI Ministers

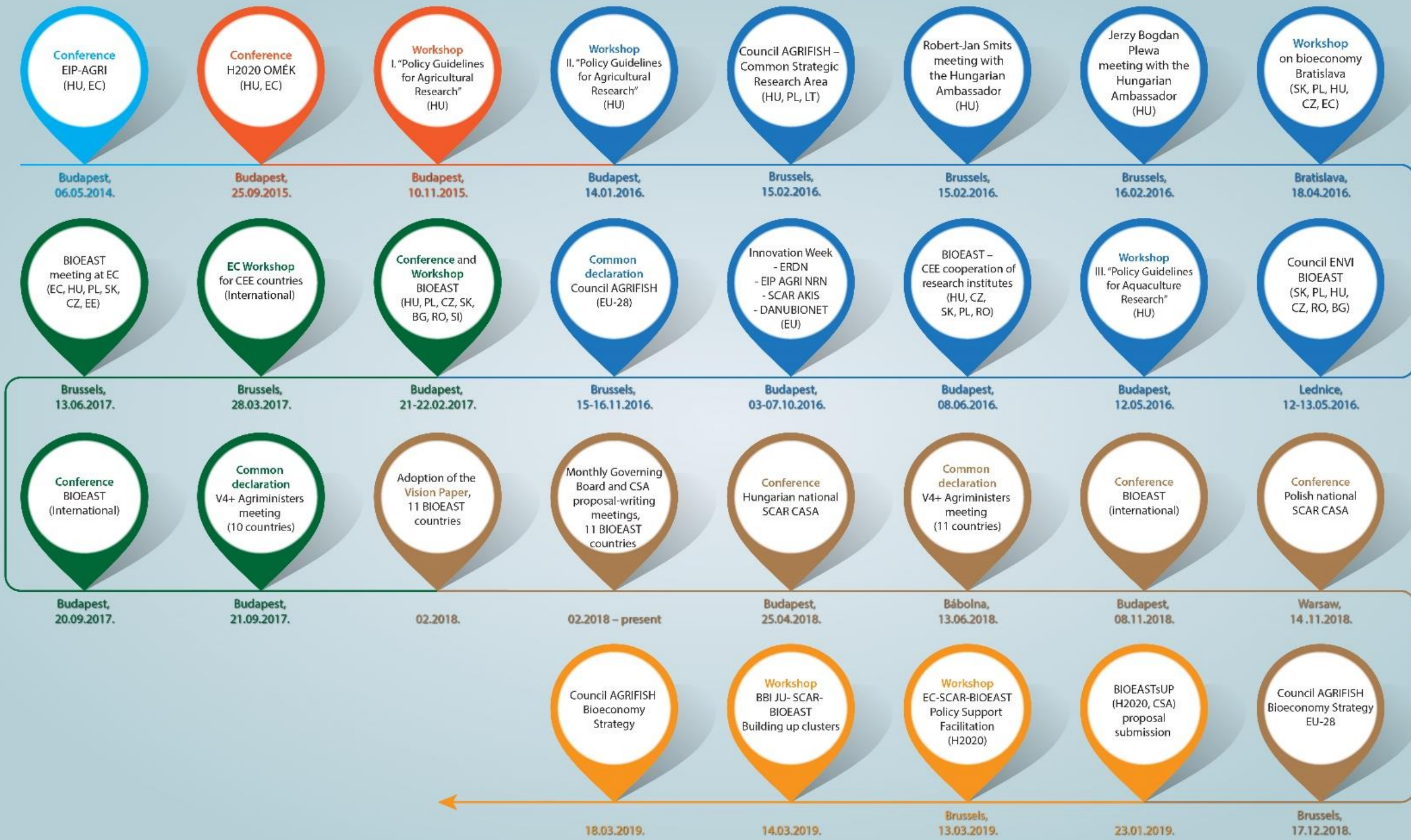
26. October 2016: VISEGRAD 4 Group + 3 Countries: on stronger inclusion into H2020

21. September 2017: VISEGRAD 4 Group + 4 Countries: on broadening the remit of the BIOEAST initiative beyond H2020

13. June 2018: VISEGRAD 4 Group + 7 countries: on the Vision for BIOEAST

9. May 2019: VISEGRAD 4 Group + 7 countries: on the future role of the BIOEAST Initiative in the context of Horizon Europe **(agri+research ministers!)**





Why do we need to raise awareness of policy makers in BIOEAST countries?

- There are no priorities set for the bioeconomy, in most cases even the definition is missing.
- There is a lack of unified position within ministries and between ministries on bioeconomy (only sectoral thinking, decision making capacity and preparedness is limited).
- There is a lack of formal inter-ministerial dialogue.
- Policy instruments and legislation are not associated with the bioeconomy.
- Lack of data and information **to show potential**: no national data analysis about biomass potential, availability/demand, market, consumer acceptance of bio-based products, the bioeconomies effect on economy (employment, rural areas, GDP..).

National level awareness raising – example of Hungary

Already existing official elements	
Ministry of Agriculture (HuMA): Department for Knowledge-based Agriculture	Coordination of BIOEAST, BIOEASTsUP, AKIS plan, EIP – initiator on bioeconomy discussion
RDI Working Group (Chamber of Agri/HuMA)	Mainly researchers from academia and institutes and industrial players - knowledge exchange, dissemination, awareness raising, networking, funding opportunities in Horizon, thematic workshops for research priorities
Improved participation in Standing Committee of Agricultural Research (SCAR) WGs / FACCE JPI / ERA-NETs	SCAR national event in 2018
Conferences and workshops organised in Hungary 2015-2019 (Latest 2018 November: High-level BIOEAST international conference in Budapest, key note speaker: director of DG RTD)	Able to mobilise researchers and some key industrial players nationally and macro-regionally.
2019 February: Workshop organised for researchers by HuMA	H2020 proposal writing + lectures on bioeconomy/BIOEAST
Websites (BIOEAST and EIP-Agri) and booklets prepared on bioeconomy	Communication, updated regularly
Power4bio (AKI, Bay-bio) + BIOEASTsUP projects (HuMA, AKI)	Support regional and national level bioeconomy
BIOEAST Governing Board / Secretary/ National Contact Point	Bridging between national and macro-regional level. BIOEAST macro-regional cooperation helps to keep bioeconomy in the political thinking at national level
BIOEAST Studies (AKI, JRC, Nova/SCAR CASA) No national, in-depth, complex, nationally financed study on bioeconomy	State of play of CEE bioeconomies / Socio-economic insights into the bioeconomy in BIOEAST countries But national data analysis needed for policy makers

Main results

- **POWER4BIO** H2020 project (started in 2018): supporting BIOEAST from regional level, collecting good examples, bioeconomy cluster building.
- **BIOEASTsUP** H2020 CSA project (starting 2019): to develop macro-regional SRIA and national strategies, all 11 BIOEAST countries involved.
 - **capacity building of policy makers** (and stakeholders),
 - **interministerial working group** : common understanding of bioeconomy in the countries. Identification of value chains at national level and financing forms of bioeconomy activities.
 - **national thematic working groups, and Bioeconomy Hubs,**
 - **macro-regional BIOEAST Thematic Working Groups** (5).
- **PSF (Policy Support Facility)** will be developed together with EC to have Mutual Learning Exercise between those who have and have not yet bioeconomy strategies – sharing good practices.
- Discussion will start in ministry concerning **CAP Strategic plan** (how to integrate bioeconomy).

Key lessons

Long process (2015-): raising awareness of policy makers is difficult and takes time.

BIOEAST macro-regional cooperation helps to keep bioeconomy in the political thinking at national level.

IMPORTANT to have:

- keep bioeconomy/BIOEAST on political agenda (Visegrad 4, Agri Council etc.),
- initiator who coordinates,
- training of policy-making level / but also the decision-making level,
- data for policy on national bioeconomy (economic, environmental, social benefits, feasibility, viability..),
- identification of good examples,
- inter-ministerial cooperation,
- high-level national events,
- constant communication with EC!

Thank you for your attention!

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