

ENRD Seminar

'Bioeconomy: Seizing the opportunity for rural Europe'

Draft Agenda

3rd July 2019

**Albert Borschette Congress, Center Rue Froissart 36
Brussels, Belgium**

Following the EU's revised Bioeconomy Strategy and Action Plan in 2018, and anticipating the new CAP framework post-2020, it is timely to explore the role of the bioeconomy for EU's rural areas. As a means to shift towards environmentally, socially and economically sustainable, de-carbonized production and consumption patterns based on renewable materials, the bioeconomy presents valuable opportunities to regenerate rural areas with new, green and climate-friendly jobs, business models and markets.

The objective of this ENRD Seminar is to shed more light on the opportunities presented by the bioeconomy to rural actors, including farmers, foresters and other rural entrepreneurs, as well as to local communities and national authorities implementing and managing rural development initiatives.

The seminar will combine practical examples, presentations, discussions and working groups, in order to:

- share and discuss experiences from different EU Member States concerning the effective deployment of bioeconomy initiatives in rural territories;
- showcase how sustainable rural bioeconomy can be supported through a coherent use of European public instruments, in particular the Rural Development Programmes; and
- provide insights into the preparation of the future CAP Strategic Plans and ideas on how they could include support to rural bioeconomy.

The Seminar will build on the work carried out by the ENRD Thematic Group on 'Mainstreaming the Bioeconomy', in particular concerning the available support instruments to promote the development of sustainable bio-based value chains that create income and employment in rural areas while preserving ecosystems.

Timing 🕒	Agenda item 📄
08.00 – 09.00	Registration and coffee
09.00 – 09.15	Welcoming words and introduction to the day's objectives and agenda
<i>Session 1: What is rural bioeconomy (plenary)</i>	
09.15 – 09.40	Opportunities in the bioeconomy for rural areas
09.40 – 10.20	Policy and practice: The synergies between the bioeconomy and Rural Development Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EU / Practitioner perspective - Q&A
10.20 – 10.30	Introduction to the breakout groups
10.30 – 11.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
<i>Session 2: Interactive breakout groups</i>	
11.00 – 13.00	Five different topics addressed in breakout groups, built around examples from different EU Member States <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Building a rural bio-based value chain 2) Rural climate action through bio-based business models 3) Bioeconomy as a strategy for smart villages 4) Creating an enabling environment – What are the challenges to ensure policy coherence? 5) Territorial approaches to bioeconomy
13.00 – 14.00	<i>Networking lunch</i>
<i>Session 3: Present and future opportunities of supporting rural bioeconomy through the CAP (plenary)</i>	
14.00 – 14.30	Feedback from the breakout groups
14.30 – 15.00	How to support rural bioeconomy with current tools? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ENRD Thematic Group recommendations
15.00 – 16.00	Panel discussion with MS Managing Authorities, rural stakeholders and the European Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reactions to cases presented during the day and on the potential of the support instruments - How to mainstream bioeconomy in rural areas in the post-2020CAP Strategic Plans?
16.00 – 16.30	Closing words, next steps