

# BRANCHES

## Boosting RurAl bioeconomy Networks following multi-actors approaCHES

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# Deliverable

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## D1.1 Strategic plan to set the knowledge transfer networks of BRANCHES

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## DISCLAIMER

The sole responsibility for the content of this publication lies with the BRANCHES project and in no way reflects the views of the European Union.

## 1 Executive summary

The networks developed in the BRANCHES project workpackage 1 will be promoted at three levels:

- European knowledge transfer network (connected to EIP-Agri focus groups)
- National Thematic Networks (denoted NTN, in ES, IT, DE, PL, FI)
- 5 incipient networks in 5 additional EU countries “collaborators” promoted by national organisations (called “facilitators” as expressed in the Letters on Interest (LoI): PT, LT, LV, CZ, SL).

*Deliverable 1.1 Strategic plan to set the knowledge transfer networks of BRANCHES* addresses the structure and actions to be developed by the networks in this regard. In order to assure the needs of the stakeholders are addressed and the design of the network is aligned, surveys have been carried out in this initial phase of the project with representatives from the different stakeholders’ categories targeted (foresters, agriculture associations, industry associations, regional and national authorities, experts, research institutions, etc.) in each country to compile information. Additionally, the report includes a list of benefits and opportunities for those actors potentially joining the BRANCHES Networks.

Feedback obtained was used not only to adapt and refine the network development strategy but also to contribute to work packages 2, 3 and 4. During the survey process interactions were already established with potential participants of the BRANCHES networks therefore, this activity was also used as a first engagement action.

Technical partners and sectorial partners of each country have joined forces to develop a structure for each country NTN, assign roles and define actions foreseen in each NTN but also contact with potential participants of the networks to retrieve key information and to further develop the network’s activity. Efforts and roles have been assigned in each case taking into account the specificities of each region, stakeholders targeted characteristics and seeking to launch the networks successfully. At EU level, CIRCE and LUKE are capturing the interests from EIP Agri groups and from other sectorial organisations.

In the end, the network strategy plan has been designed to boost knowledge transfer and increase cross-fertilisation with innovative practices. The country specific characteristics and associated stakeholders’ needs have been considered seeking to ensure a successful establishment of the networks.

## 2 Deliverable Description

### *Purpose of the document*

This report contains a description of the process carried out by each National Thematic Network (NTN) team to design and structure the networks in their corresponding countries. The objective is to establish and monitor the interactions with multiple practitioners, organisations, scientists and EIP-Agri focus groups members whilst ensuring sufficient engagement and a knowledge transfer of innovative practices. The deliverable additionally includes the potential NTN members’ feedback seeking to tune the contents and adapt the NTN strategy in order to meet their interests and needs.

*Deliverable D1.1, Strategic plan to set the knowledge transfer networks of BRANCHES, has been prepared by WP1 leader (CIRCE) with inputs from all the other project partners.*

### 3 National thematic networks

#### *BRANCHES NTN objective*

The main goal of the BRANCHES project is to foster knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas, enhancing the viability and competitiveness of biomass supply chains and promoting innovative technologies, rural bioeconomy solutions and sustainable agricultural and forest management.

The knowledge transfer networks established in the 5 targeted countries will support knowledge transfer and encourage innovation, make knowledge accessible to targeted stakeholders (sectorial actors such as farmers, foresters, cooperative or forest associations but also research institutions, administrations bodies, etc.) and increase opportunities while positioning regional interest in the research and innovation.

#### *NTN strategy definition*

Most relevant features to define the National Thematic Network structure and foreseen actions are developed in the following sections:

- Name
- Objectives
- Targeted stakeholders
- Governance: management board, advisory board, etc.
- Physical site: web page, participants database, contents shared database
- Engagement strategy and registration
- Network activities planned

In order to design the network strategy and structure, internal discussion has been carried out within each national team. The national teams are composed of partners involved in the consortium from the corresponding country. Additionally, interaction with representative stakeholders (chapter 10) has been used to refine the design and already start initial contact with potential members of the networks. Although these designs have built on the one hand on expertise and knowledge of the country team members and on the other hand on the feedback received, the design could be adapted if necessary, during the project lifetime in order to better adjust to NTN participants and potential members expectations. For this aim, additional surveys will be performed periodically during the project lifetime.

#### *NTN members database*

List of potential NTN members includes:

- Public administration/Regional government/policy makers
- Enterprises/sectorial associations
- R&D
- Practitioners
- NGO's

- Others

In order to more accurately identify NTN members, subcategories have been defined and adapted by each NTN team to better represent the targeted stakeholders in each country. Actors joining the NTN networks will register in general by means of an e-form (further information regarding the registration e-form for registration will be described in D1.2). The information gathered will be reported in the participants database in order to monitor the networks' growth and for reporting purposes (*Table 1*).

**Table 1: Information gathered of each member in the NTN members database**

	Database of participants joining the network
Number	
NTN	FI, PO, DE, IT, ES
Stakeholders' Category	1-Public administration 2-Enterprises/sectorial associations 2- R&D 3-NGO 4-Others
Stakeholders' Subcategory	*
Country	
Topics of interest (code)	Optimised supply chains for sustainable biomass supply Cost-effective technologies for bioenergy production Regional development models that support bioeconomy innovations

	Subcategories*
Public administration	National administration, regional administration and local administration
Enterprises/sectorial associations	Private and state forests, nurseries, harvesting enterprises, forest associations, farmers, agriculture associations, agriculture cooperatives, industry associations, entrepreneurs, logistic centers, pre-conditioning facilities, transformation industry, bioenergy association, biomass suppliers, technology producers, recovery of by-products, bioenergy production-ESCOs, other bio-based industries, clusters
R&D	Technological centre, public or private research institutes, public universities, technological facilities, other R&D institutions
NGO	Civil society and land development agencies, trade associations, environmental organisations, rural development organisations, other NGOs
Others	Local leaders or influencers, experts, consultants, freelance, action group, financial organisations, intermediates, advisory organisations, other

One of the most relevant inputs retrieved by the registration form is the topics of interest. This information will be used to tune the information transferred so that the contents received by the participants meet their interest and needs. For instance, an NTN member that has selected only the topic related to Optimised supply chains for sustainable biomass supply will not receive contents related to cost-effective technologies for regional development models.

### *Content shared database*

Networks' activity will be monitored by means of a database in which all NTN country teams will register the contents shared in their NTN (see *Table 2*). The database will be regularly updated by the technical and sectorial partners and will be discussed internally by each NTN country team to confirm that the contents meet the stakeholders' expectations and needs. For this aim, as previously mentioned, surveys will be launched periodically to retrieve information from the NTN members and potential participants to identify their interests. Results obtained will be also shared in order to have a bidirectional flow of information.

**Table 2. The form for the registration of the contents shared by the NTNs**

	Contents shared database
NTN	
Author	
Entity	
Website link and or institutional email	
Country	
Stakeholders' category	
Stakeholders' subcategory	
Entry title	
Type of entry	
Topic	
Topic matching stakeholders' interests	(see stakeholders database)
Link	
Date	
Type of dissemination	

### *Award to the best innovative practice*

In order to raise interest among NTN members or potential members, an award will be given to the best innovative practice recorded by the NTN. A call for practitioners will be launched in M12 and M24. The practitioners willing to win the award will report their practice in a simple factsheet

that will be prepared by CIRCE and presented in D1.2. The practices gathered by Technical Partners (TPs) will be placed in the BRANCHES/NTN webpages and promoted through social media and other dissemination channels. The best practice will be selected from the appropriately filled factsheets. The granted award for the winner will cover the expenses of travels and accommodation to a project meeting/event, where the innovative practice can be presented to wider public. Additionally, the practices captured through this award action will be included as Practice Abstracts (PAs) within WPs 2 and 3. Further details in this regard will be described in D1.2.

## 4 Finland NTN

### *Name*

Name of the Finnish thematic network for boosting rural bioeconomy is **Knowledge from Research – innovation network of agriculture and forestry**, in Finnish: **Tutkimuksesta potkua biotalouteen – maa- ja metsäbiotalouden innovaatioverkosto**. The idea behind is that research in bioeconomy has accelerated during the last ten years and a vast amount of knowledge has been generated. However, due to the multiple sectors and complex value chains involved, a significant part of that valuable information is in danger to stay untapped and not communicated appropriately to farmers, foresters and entrepreneurs who are expected to supply raw materials and endorse bioeconomy as a major part of rural development in their regions.

### *Objectives*

The objective of the Finnish thematic network is:

- to promote cost- and resource-efficient supply chains for sustainable biomass supply and cost-effective bioeconomy technologies integrated with bioenergy production,
- to discuss the framework conditions and main challenges related to uptake of the innovative technologies to enable regional sustainable development and uptake for the efficient methods,
- the exchange of potentially replicable innovations in two ways: 1) from the BRANCHES project to the NTN and 2) from the NTN to the BRANCHES project.

### *Targeted stakeholders*

Different target groups have been identified (stakeholders' categories) during the project and listed previously in chapter 3 *National thematic networks*. Finnish NTN will try to reach actors from each target group. The aim is to cover sufficiently all target groups involved in the rural biomass value chains.

### *Governance: management board, advisory board, etc.*

Two bodies can be differentiated in the Finnish NTN governance, the Management Board and the Advisory Board.

Luke, VTT and MTK will lead the Management Board during the project lifetime. In general, the Management Board will be in charge of:

- the invitation distribution and participants engagement,
- sharing the project results with the participants according to their interests,
- carrying out surveys to retrieve feedback from participants,



- monitoring the network development,
- and reporting the network activities.

The Management Board will organize the Annual General Meeting, during which the activities performed by the Finnish NTN will be discussed in order to identify possible improvements and needs to address. According to the discussion, the yearly action plan is produced, in which the responsibilities of each party of the Management Board is clarified for the next action period. During the project, three (3) Annual General Meetings will be organized during the project months 11 (11/2021), 17 (5/2022) and 28 (4/2023). The minutes of these Meetings will be documented.

The Finnish NTN Advisory Board will be formed from a group of at least two advisors (either rotating or permanent). The Advisory Board members will join the Annual Meeting to get an overview of the network activity. Invitations to join the Annual General Meeting will be sent by the Management Board. The persons invited to the Advisory Board each year will be selected depending on the expected topics to be covered during the meeting and according up-coming events to be discussed so that maximum benefit can be obtained from their presence. Most probably, the Advisory Board members do belong to NTN participants and have expressed their interest in more active role (e.g. in surveys). Rotation will be based on advisors' willingness, so they can freely also choose to continue the role year after year. The Advisory Board members will be requested for specific advises and their voice considered for decision making by the Management Board.

Luke has expressed their intention to maintain the network after the BRANCHES project ends. The continuation depends on how efficiently the formed network functions during the project. The question of post-project actions will be discussed during the project (task 1.5) and if further network activities are intended after project, the NTN members will be informed and asked, whether they do want to continue in the network.

The following table (*Table 3*) provides an overview of the entities participating in the network governance structure.

**Table 3. Proposed entities participating in the network governance structure and Annual General Meetings.**

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Management Board	Luke, VTT, MTK	Luke, VTT, MTK	Luke, VTT, MTK
Advisory Board	At minimum two (2) advisors selected annually from the NTN members' list depending on the Annual General Meeting topics.		
Heritage			Luke (tentatively)

### *Physical site: web page, participants database, contents shared database*

The network physical site will be located in web as an interleaf to the BRANCHES webpages with the name of the Finnish NTN. Luke will manage the NTN interleaf page. The NTN web page will contain country specific information of main events promoted and foreseen (e.g. workshops and networking events) as well as links to the specific Practice Abstracts distributed by the NTN. The web page also contains a link, through which the reader can join the network and other related activities. The NTN webpage in touch with the BRANCHES webpages benefits the NTN members since they can at one go access also the other material produced by BRANCHES. The activities will be reported in the contents shared database stored for the BRANCHES project reporting purposes and for monitoring the progress of dissemination.

A participant database will be created in which basic information of the NTN participants will be stored for project reporting purposes (subscribers will be informed the data is collected for this aim and not to be shared with other third parties). The database will be managed carefully taking into account the European GDPR. The database is described in chapter 3 *National thematic networks* and the Management Board member organisations' Data Protection Managers will agree them. On purpose of future management of the database, the data protection issue will be discussed in Task 1.5 (how to communicate to persons who have subscribed, handling of future network, etc.). Additionally, it will be discussed further during first months after launching of the network if visualizing the participants that have joined the Finnish NTN could be useful. Such case participants will be able to be visualised (organisation and/or person) e.g. on the NTN webpages, once legal aspects associated to the GDPR are solved. For the moment, the network will be launched without depicting in the network webpage any participants' information.

### *Engagement strategy and registration*

Potential participants will receive an invitation including a link to the e-form to join the Finnish NTN that will be further described in D1.2. The e-form will be accessible at the NTN web page as well. E-form will retrieve very basic information about the new participant including the topic/s of their interest in order to adjust the information delivered according to their expectations and needs. The three (3) main topics addressed are in line with the BRANCHES work packages as previously explained in chapter 3.

### *Network activities planned*

The participants will receive information related to practice abstracts (produced in WP2 and WP3) according to their interests, of the BRANCHES events such as workshops, conference, show cases, etc., and the newsletters.

Participants will be offered to subscribe to:

- 1) Distribution lists through email to receive PAs / News as soon as they are released and available in the webpage (tailored according to what they select). Estimated frequency 3-6 times/year.
- 2) Mailing alerts: when specific event is approaching, when call for awards is launched (low frequency, and according to timing of a specific event).
- 3) Newsletters: estimated frequency every 3-4 months, compiling previous PAs, relevant news / updates and coming events.

## 5 Germany NTN

### *Name*

The name selected is "Bioeconomy in practice" and German "Bioökonomie in der Praxis".

### *Objectives*

The main objective of the network is to engage key stakeholders of the German bioeconomy to share current good practices and innovations on bioeconomy supply chains, biomass production and conversion technologies and to make them participants in the analysis of their adoption and implementation. Focus of this analysis is the relevance for the value chains of importance for the country and specifically in the regional context. Of particular relevance is the engagement of stakeholders in the definition of strategic actions to overcome the identified challenges (as planned in WP4) and that will impulse the transformation towards bioeconomy from the local level towards the national bioeconomy goals.

### *Targeted stakeholders*

Following the project aims and based on the strategic areas of interest for the German bioeconomy a multi-actor approach has been followed for the establishment of the German NTN. Focus of this NTN are key bioeconomy sectors and value chains with the potential to generate high-added value products, such as biochemicals, bioplastics, biomaterials and lastly bioenergy. Several stakeholder categories have been identified as indispensable to include in the NTN such as the primary sector (agriculture and forestry), industry and sectorial associations, academia and R&D as knowledge holders, public administration at national and regional level, civil society representatives and NGO's. Likewise, subcategories of stakeholders have been initially identified to be invited to the German NTN.

### *Governance: management board, advisory board, etc.*

The governance of the Network is constituted by a management board that includes all three German partners in BRANCHES. That is the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ), the Deutsches Biomasseforschungszentrum (DBFZ) and the Bioeconomy Cluster e.V (BEC). The functions of the management board are mainly the strategic steering of the network, as well as the planning and organisation of dissemination activities, namely the dissemination of Practice Abstracts generated in the project, other insights generated in the project and project events. The management board will meet twice a year to revise the development of dissemination actions in relation with the defined NTN's objectives and possible required adjustments if necessary. One of the management board meetings will be the Annual General Meeting, which will include apart from the management board the participation of the Advisory Group and core group partners. Furthermore, a Secretariat has been defined as a role to be share among the partners in the management board. The role will be exchanged every 6 months. The partner that assumes the role of Secretariat will be in charge of distributing invitations to target participants (e.g. first invitation to participate in the NTN and invitations to events), answer petitions received from the NTN participants, set-up the agenda for the management board meetings and generate the meeting minutes. Other task in relation to the maintenance and good development of the network will be distributed among the management board partners, including the monitoring of the network development, reporting on planned activities and distribution of knowledge developed during the project.

Currently, there is no clarity regarding specific candidates for the German NTN Advisory Group, since it will depend on the stakeholders that accept the invitation to participate on the NTN and the main focus topics of their interest. Consideration about which type of institutions could support German NTN as advisors have been made, to for instance include a regional ministry and regional resource planning institution, as well as representatives of rural development. From the national level it has been mostly consider to involve a representative from the German Bioeconomy Council. The final decision over the advisors to be invited to be part of a potential Advisory Group will be taken after the network is launched.

Finally, as Core Group partners are considered all external partners that have been strongly engaged and/or collaborated as multipliers of the NTN activities and knowledge base. The Core Group will be established as the initial step in the formation of the NTN, as to build over already existing networks and available stakeholder structures for the national bioeconomy. Thus, as multipliers the following institutions have been considered: clusters in diverse bioeconomy thematic in line with the objectives and focus previously described for the NTN (green chemistry, forestry, bioplastics, etc.), sectorial associations, research networks, farmers and foresters' associations, regional agencies.

The main role of the multipliers is two-fold. On one side to let us know the main interest and needs of their networks, to target and filter the information that will be shared among the NTN and on the other side to extend the dissemination of content and information being generated.

*Table 4* summarizes the thematic network structure designed.

**Table 4: NTN structure**

	Management Board (MB)	Secretariat of MB	Advisory Group	Core Group
Participant partners	DBFZ, UFZ, BEC	One MB Member	To be defined	To be consolidated after NTN kick-off.
Function	All project time	Role changing every 6 months	Advisory role on the managing of the NTN and regarding adding value with BRANCHES content to NTN participants	Strongly engaged institutions in the NTN and multiplying NTN activities and content with their own networks.
How will be involved	Already, from the project	Already, from the project	Will be contacted per telephone and email to be part of the AG. A first meeting with interested institutions will be carried out after the NTN kick-off.	Firstly, invited by the MB to participate and register to the NTN. Then, through defined modes of communications (e.g. emails reminders, newsletters)
Role	Planning NTN actions, communications to NTN participants and follow-up of the plan.	Attending to organisational aspects necessary for plan development	Participation in Annual General Meetings and contacted for punctual aspects in case it is considered necessary by the MB	Filtering information of importance for their networks and further disseminating it.

	Dissemination of PA, events and project results.			
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### *Physical site: web page, participants database, contents shared database*

A subpage within the main page of one of the German partners will be generate. More details could be clarified in coming weeks due to technical considerations. The main purpose of this page will be to provide basic information about the project in German language and a site for the registration to the network.

A participants database will be created with basic information of NTN stakeholders, stored for the purposes of BRANCHES dissemination activities and communications. During the registration process to participate in the NTN, persons registering to the NTN will be dutifully informed of the data management policies in place and, the aim for storing their data, and that in any case this will not be shared with third parties. Further discussions about the management of participants information for the sake of the network activities will be carried out with project partners and following internal data management policies from the German partners.

### *Engagement strategy and registration*

As previously mentioned, the first institutions to be invited to the NTN will be the multipliers, so that later through them, actions within the NTN could reach a larger number of stakeholders. They will be invited by email accompanied with an information flyer, redirecting them to a registration for the kick-off meeting of the NTN to be hold at the end of October 2021 in digital format. The registration form will request basic information for further contact and stakeholders' categorisation. After this, a discussion with the participants will be started in order to identify their preferences regarding contents and levels of participation. The results of the first survey in Task 1.1 will be used to guide the discussion and the definition of potential benefits defined for the German NTN (chapter *10 Stakeholders' feedback*).

### *Network activities planned*

Main activities of the network will be the dissemination of Practice Abstracts generated in WP2, WP3 and WP4, dissemination of project events and the insights gained during project activities, such as workshop summaries, show cases, business cases and analysis of regional bioeconomy models. Likewise, activities will give the option to participants to share their innovative practices within the thematics of interest (to be defined with participants) in NTN reunions, workshops organised in Germany in the framework of WP3 and WP4 and news of the project.

The specific modes of communication with the participants will be defined during the NTN Kick-off meeting, offering the following possibilities:

- To receive email reminders about project events (according to project events calendar).
- Newsletters that compile PA's and insights of the project every 4 months.
- Other modes of communication that are most suitable to the different stakeholders' subcategories will be discussed with the multipliers during the NTN kick-off meeting. For instance, chatgroups or news entries in specific stakeholder online platforms.

This will allow to identify the preferences of actors engaged already in the multipliers networks and adapt accordingly the materials generated for the German NTN.

## 6 Italy NTN

### *Name*

The name of Italian NTN is “Biomass Focus Group”.

### *Objectives*

In line with the project objectives, purpose of the Italian network is to establish a close connection with the larger pool of practitioners through their associations and representatives. That will allow bi-directional knowledge transfer that reflects the bottom-up philosophy of the whole project. Through the NTN, practitioners will inform the project about their needs and preferences, while the project will transfer relevant knowledge to the practitioners themselves, with the NTN acting as a most effective dissemination network, capable of transmitting information down to a vast number of members.

### *Physical site: web page, participants database, contents shared database*

The information related to the participants of the Italian NTN Advisory Board is collected in an excel spreadsheet and refers only to the minimum information required to reach the participants: name, affiliation, country, stakeholder category and sub-category, reference topic of interest and contact information. ITABIA and CNR are responsible for the privacy of data and have already implemented the informed consent procedures as requested by the project BRANCHES. That included: Explanation of the purposes of the NTN; information on the two institutions involved (ITABIA and CNR); the related statement that participation is voluntary; the statement describing the procedures adopted for ensuring data protection / confidentiality / privacy.

All technical information to be made available to the Italian NTN will be stored in the project website ([www.branchesproject.eu](http://www.branchesproject.eu)) that is free to access to everybody and is also acting as document repository for all the project activities. Any special events organized at the National level will be also advertised through the Italian page of the project available on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/Branches-Project-102750441854104>).

### *Engagement strategy and registration*

The Italian NTN has been established by creating the Advisory Board. Members of the Advisory board will then contact their affiliated members to share the needed information.

### *Network activities planned*

Italian NTN members will receive copies of the practice abstracts produced in WP2 and WP3 and will be asked to evaluate and comment them concerning relevance, importance and clarity. Given the experience of the Advisory Board members in the bioeconomy sector, they will also ask to suggest best practice to report in the Italian PA.



Furthermore, they will be invited to all workshops, conferences, show case days, etc. and will be asked to broadcast information about these events, promoting participation among their affiliated members. Additionally, NTN members will receive the project newsletter and will disseminate it through their own networks.

## 7 Poland NTN

### *Name*

The name chosen for the Poland National thematic network is National Bioeconomy Network – Poland (NBN-PL).

### *Objectives*

The main objectives targeted by the NBN-PL include:

- Support knowledge transfer and encourage innovation.
- Make knowledge accessible to all.
- Make connections and facilitate engagement as well as increase project opportunities for members.
- Positioning regional interests in the research and innovation.

### *Targeted stakeholders*

Targeted stakeholders include all categories mentioned in chapter 3, meaning public administration, enterprises/sectorial actors, R&D institutions, NGOs and others (experts, consultants, etc.).

*Governance: management board, advisory board, etc.*

NBN-PL governance structure will include:

- Management Board: will be lead by the Centre for Bioeconomy and Renewable Energies, Univerity of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Poland ([cbeo@uwm.edu.pl](mailto:cbeo@uwm.edu.pl)).
- Advisory board: consist of representatives of SMEs – (1) acting in agriculture "CN Nidzica" ([biuro@cnnidzica.pl](mailto:biuro@cnnidzica.pl)) and (2) law company including area of renewable energy "Kancelaria Radcy Prawnego Michał Krzykowski" ([m.krzykowski@onet.eu](mailto:m.krzykowski@onet.eu)).
- Secretariat: runned by Centre for Bioeconomy and Renewable Energies, Univerity of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Poland ([cbeo@uwm.edu.pl](mailto:cbeo@uwm.edu.pl)).

*Physical site: web page, participants database, contents shared database*

The network physical site will be accesible by means of the web page (provisional): <http://www.uwm.edu.pl/cbeo/projekty/branches> while the databases will be administrated by the Centre for Bioeconomy and Renewable Energies, Univerity of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Poland.

*Engagement strategy and registration*

The engagement strategy designed includes:

- Preparing the invitation including a list of benefits and opportunities for those joining BRANCHES Network.
- Sending an invitation to potential participants.
- Registration of the network's members.
- Organisation of the stakeholder's data according to the network's structure design.
- Actions to keep the stakeholders' interest: participation of the stakeholders in workshops, show-case days, seminars, organised along the project lifetime.

Knowledge transfer actions foreseen in the network framework through web page include the transfer of practice abstracts, fact sheets, information from workshops, show-case days and seminars for the participants of the network and collaboration with other networks.

Regular follow-up and communication with stakeholders will be performed through periodic surveys and other means and updating of the NBN-PL will be carried out according to the stakeholders' feedback.

#### *Network activities planned*

The activities foreseen in the NBN-PL include the organisation of seminars, workshops, show-case days, innovative practices and preparing practice abstracts and brochures.

Action will also take place to establish a fruitful collaboration with a partner from Lithuania, in this first period will include the preparation of the invitation for cooperating partner and sending invitations for workshops, show-case days, seminars and study visit organised along the project lifetime and knowledge transfer actions.

## 8 Spain NTN

### *Name*

Different names were considered taking into consideration the main aim of the network is to promote the "innovation exchange". Finally, the name chosen for the Spanish network is: **Network for Exchange of Innovation and Experiences on biomass utilization INTERcamBio**, in Spanish: **Red de Intercambio en Innovaciones y Experiencias con Biomasa**.

### *Objectives*

As previously mentioned, the main objective of the network is to promote the exchange of innovations regarding the value chain logistic, biomass valorisation technologies, etc. But also successful experiences that could be potentially replicated in other regions across Europe.

Therefore, it is essential to gather actors interested on possible innovations along the biomass value chain and valorisation schemes that could be potentially implemented or promoted seeking to improve the efficiency, profitability or sustainability of existent or new initiatives.

### *Targeted stakeholders*

As previously mentioned, different target groups have been identified (stakeholders' categories), so the Spanish NTN will target actors from each category in order to cover all actors involved in the biomass value chain. The sectorial category regroups a very large number of stakeholders, and



it will have a special weight in the Spanish NTN since this category involves most types of practitioners, who will play a relevant role to achieve a fruitful use of the knowledge transferred.

*Governance: management board, advisory board, etc.*

Two different bodies can be differentiated regarding the network governance. The Management Board will be led by AVEBIOM and CIRCE during the project lifetime. The functions of the Management Board will include the Annual General Meeting during which the activities performed by the network during the year will be discussed in order to identify possible improvements and needs to address. Additionally, the yearly action plan will be defined accordingly. Although the possibility to create a Secretariat was considered at the beginning, it was decided that the Management Board can assume the work that could be assigned to the network secretariat. Therefore, Management Board will also be in charge of the invitation distribution and participants engagement, answer petitions received when needed, write the minutes of the meetings (mainly Annual General Meeting), share the contents with the participants according to their interests, carry out surveys to retrieve feedback from participants, monitor the network development and report the network activities (contents shared database).

The Spanish NTN Advisory Board will be led by Honour Members. The advisory will be formed from a group of at least 2 advisors (either rotating or permanent). Invitations will be sent by the Management Board, specially to key stakeholders who have expressed interest during the initial contacts and surveys. They will be invited at the beginning of project and will decide if they are interested on being part of the Advisory Board or stay at a side as a close collaborator. Rotation will be based on advisors' willingness, so they can freely choose to continue the role year after year. The Advisory Board members will join the Annual Meeting to get an overview of the network activity. They will be requested for specific advises and their voice considered for decision making by the Management Board. Additionally, they will be involved in the selection of the best innovative practice award.

Additionally, to advisors, a figure of "Collaborator" is expected. These organisations may feed practices and may visualise the network. Some of the stakeholders invited as advisors may prefer to stay as collaborators, more on the side of the practical operation of the network. Collaborators' role is not to be in the steering of the decisions but contributing to promote the information and innovation exchange. Under the consideration of the Management Board, and depending on the evolution of the network, collaborators could be grouped into one or more technical working groups. However, this figure is at the moment not foreseen for the first year of the project.

The network is intended to be further exploited after the project lifetime, in this regard, AVEBIOM has already expressed his intend to maintain the network after BRANCHES project ends, and to carry out the exploitation once the project has finalized, though other co-partners could also participate. This issue will be further discussed in task 1.5 during the project.

The following table (*Table 5*) provides an overview of the entities participating in the network governance structure.

**Table 5. Proposed entities participating in the network governance structure**

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Management	AVEBIOM-CIRCE	AVEBIOM-CIRCE	AVEBIOM-CIRCE

Honour members	ASEMFO, MAPA	REDR, COOP AGRI	COSE, RRN
Heritage			AVEBIOM (other co-partners could be welcomed. To discuss in T1.5) Statutes drafting
<p>MAPA: Ministry of Agriculture (through the DG on Rural Development, Innovation and Agri-food transfer)            ASEMFO: Spanish Association of Forestry Companies            REDR: Spanish Network for Rural Development (national organisation of LAGs)            COOP AGRI: Spanish Agri-food cooperatives            COSE: Spanish Association of Forestry Owners            RRN: National Rural Network (instrument of Ministry of Agriculture; to be converted into the national CAP network under the new CAP period)</p>			

*Physical site: web page, participants database, contents shared database*

The network physical site will be a specific web domain managed by AVEBIOM (e.g. [www.intercambiom.org](http://www.intercambiom.org)). Additionally, AVEBIOM site will include a specific section on BRANCHES and INtercamBIOM network. The website main page (landing page) will provide easy access to the practice abstracts that have been shared in the network and main events promoted and foreseen along the year.

As previously explained, internally, a participant database will be created in which basic information of the NTN participants will be stored for project reporting purposes (subscribers will be informed the data is collected for this aim and not to be shared with other third parties). On purpose of future management of the database this issue will be discussed in Task 1.5 (how to communicate to subscribed persons, handling of future network, etc.). Additionally, it will be further discussed during first months after launching of the network if visualizing the participants that have joined the Spanish NTN could be useful. In such case, participants will be able to be visualised (organisation and/or person), once legal aspects associated to the GDPR are solved. For the moment, the network will be launched without depicting in the network webpage any participants' information.

*Engagement strategy and registration*

Potential participants will receive an invitation to join the Spanish NTN including the registration link (e-form). The e-form will also be accessible in the landing page. E-form will retrieve very basic information about the new participant including the topic/s that are interesting for each participant in order to adjust the information received by the stakeholders to their expectations and needs. The 3 main topics addressed are aligned with the workpackages developed in the projects as previously mentioned in chapter 3.

*Network activities planned*

The participants will mainly receive information regarding practice abstracts produced in WP2 and 3 according to their interests but also dissemination events such as workshops, conference, show cases, etc. and newsletters.

Participants will be offered to subscribe to:

- a) Distribution lists through WhatsApp, Telegram or email: to receive PAs / News as soon as they are released and available in the webpage (tailored according to what they select). Estimated frequency 2-4 weeks.
- b) Mailing alerts: when specific event is approaching, when call for awards is launched (low frequency, and according to timing of a specific event).
- c) Newsletters: every 3-4 months, compiling previous PAs, relevant news / updates and coming events.

Newsletters will also be shared as an alternative and more comprehensive communication tool. It will gather PAs that may have been previously shared in WhatsApp and Telegram distribution list, relevant news / project updates and coming events or calls for participation.

The aim of the proposed range of possibilities is to offer to the different types of stakeholders the opportunity to follow project in different ways according to their preferences.

An additional action to raise interest will be implemented through the award given to the best innovative practice as describe in chapter 3. All innovative practices collected will be placed in the network webpage.

Internally, an annual meeting will be held by the Management Board (Honour members will be also invited as previously commented) in order to discuss the activities performed during the year and design the action plan for the next year.

## 9 List of benefits and opportunities for the actors joining the BRANCHES network

National thematic networks (NTNs) are orientated to become knowledge exchange networks. Thus, they benefit by:

- Increasing project opportunities for participants in the field of research and innovation.
- Saving time: tailor made information gathered in one place.
- Contributing to increase synergies between partners and participants of the network.
- Increasing members' visibility towards the European Commission (linked to the interaction with EIP-AGRI Focus Groups).
- Inspiring: sharing best and innovative practices serves as inspiration to find ways to overcome current barriers.
- Contributing to personal development: Knowledge expansion.
- Flexibility to share with people all over Europe (no geographical restriction).
- Raising awareness at national or European level (NTN and EU information network) regarding existent innovations (workshops, show cases, Pas, etc.).
- Giving regular updates of the innovations related to bioenergy supply chains and conversion technologies.

- Giving a possibility to participate in physical and virtual events organized during the project lifetime, in which innovations already in practice are show cased (show cases are disseminated through the NTN channels).
- Giving actors new ways to connect with different stakeholders (researchers, clusters, etc.) by participating in workshops, show cases or seminars organized.
- Gaining visibility (e.g. Advisory Board and awarded stakeholders).
- Getting a better understanding of the existent framework conditions to promote and adopt innovations (by sharing WP4 contents).
- Helping participants to gather information on the bioeconomy processes and identify added value they can generate.
- Enhancing understanding among actors of the supply chain (by events, etc.).
- Contributing to build a feeling of common interests in activities of local bioeconomy.
- Contributing to enhance public understanding, acceptance and support.
- Contributing to build resilience of bioeconomy communities in rural areas.

Even though, it is not foreseen that NTNs contributed to networking or matchmaking to trigger new collaborations, the networks evolution may lead to such activities, which will additionally provide the following benefits to participants:

- Increase possibility to future project opportunities.
- Provide a space for actors to build consortium/partnership.
- Profile heterogeneity: the network regroups participants with different profiles and expertise.

BRANCHES NTNs development and participation can offer additional opportunities considering different aspects:

- Increase opportunities for rural population.
- Increase environmental awareness.
- Contribute to promote the development of networking activities.
- Boost innovation especially in rural areas.
- Raise awareness regarding the high regional diversification of agricultural/forestry conditions and profits.
- Contribute to diversification of energy sources.
- Contribute to modernization of agriculture/forestry.
- Increase potential of farms to exploit innovations.
- Promote optimized technology solutions.
- Synchronization of national policy with the EU policy.
- Improve efficiency in transferring R&D into practice.
- Increasing access to knowledge.

To summarize, members looking for increasing their visibility or promoting the innovation they have successfully developed can find opportunities by participating in the BRANCHES networks while for more standard participants the main aim is to increase their knowledge through the information and updates they will receive regularly.

## 10 Stakeholders' feedback

Surveys were planned and performed aiming to retrieve valuable information to tune the networks' design and contents according to the potential participants' interests and needs. Therefore, an online survey was developed (see Annex I) for this purpose. The results obtained are summarized in this section. Survey participants were in line with the categories and subcategories that are targeted in the networks (R&D, enterprises/sectorial associations, public administrations, NGO or others).

### **Other operative networks and position for BRANCHES networks**

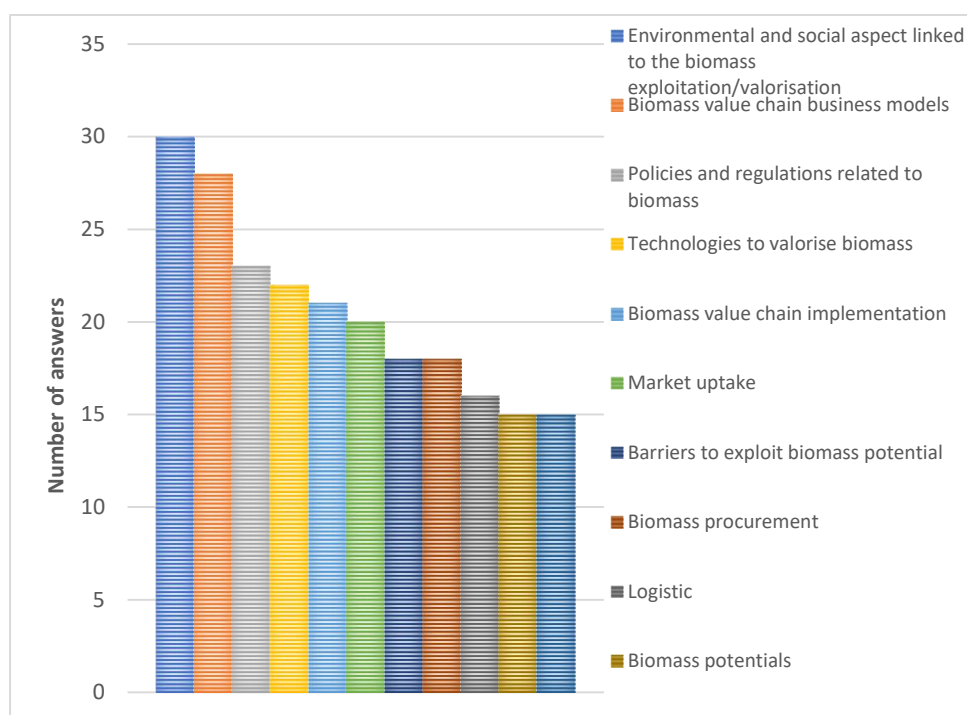
The first questions asked was related to the stakeholders' participation in networks. According to the feedback received 23 % of the participants surveyed know more than 6 operative networks, only 8 % know between 6 and 4 networks, 44 % know between 1 and 3 operative networks, 11 % know just one and 13 % don't know any operative network. These operative networks are in 40 % of the cases only national, in 18 % of the cases only European and in 43 % of the cases national and European. Nevertheless, 25 % of the participants declared that they have never participated in a network, which is quite a large number that BRANCHES project intends to decrease.

Topics NOT covered in existing networks that are interesting to the participants include:

- Developing spatial data for regional purposes.
- Business models, but primarily models for "non-business-as-usual" are required in existing and future networks.
- Private financing for circular biomass valorisation.
- Gas emissions into the atmosphere.
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from energy chains.
- Use of forest biomass residues and circular bioeconomy.
- Forest work permits.
- Lack of information on carbon sequestration in agriculture.
- Bioeconomy.
- National wood chain (not for energy use).
- Enhancement of national forest biomass.
- Biomass for green building sector.
- Markets and timber industry.
- Origin and traceability of forest biomass.
- Mechanization and logistics.
- Use of ash from combustion of biomass plants.
- Public participation.
- Methodologies for LCA and related approaches.

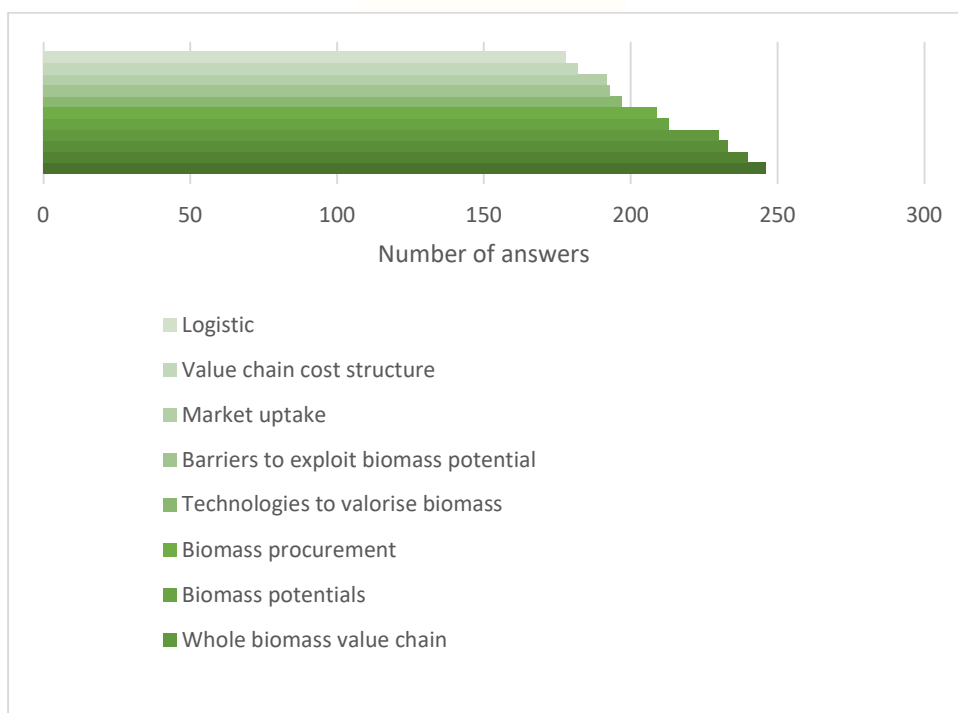
- Production Energy and bioplastic from Potato wastes and starch.
- Food waste.
- Combustion and pretreatment systems.
- Unify management of forestland of small and medium forest owners.
- Bioproducts.
- Innovative machinery.

In this sense, according to the rates provided by the participants and considering the list of topics given, the topics for which the lack of information is more urgent are depicted in *Figure 1*. Environmental and social aspects linked to biomass exploitation and biomass value chain business models are clearly the two topics for which stakeholders found a higher lack of information. The answers provided are in line with the answers to the previous question, therefore, reinforcing the necessity to address these matters.



**Figure 1. Ranking of topics regarding the lack of information**

In addition, the participants were asked to rate the topics that should be addressed in order to cover their expectations, see *Figure 2*.



**Figure 2. Most relevant topics for the stakeholders addressed**

The option was given to identify additional topics relevant for NTN target group reached by the questionnaire. Following answers were given.

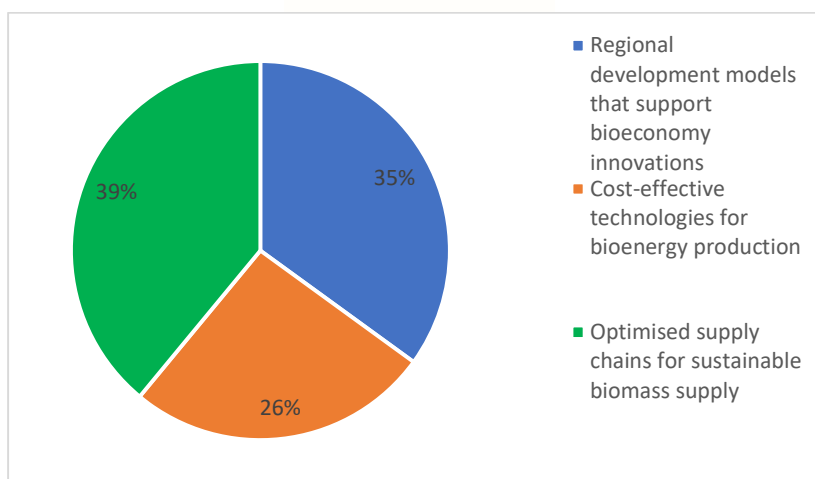
- Biomass concept, stronger fossil fuels lobbies.
- Increasing biomass use at local level for biofuel production.
- Assessment focusing on the implementation of measures at local and regional level to promote biomass use.

This information will be taken into account in the project to address as much as possible the interest of the potential network members.

### **Topics of the BRANCHES network**

The contents developed in the BRANCHES network will focus on 3 different topics. The surveyed participants were asked to select the topics on which they would like to receive information:

- Regional development models that support bioeconomy innovations
- Cost-effective technologies for bioenergy production
- Optimised supply chains for sustainable biomass supply



**Figure 3. Willingness to receive information on the contents developed in BRANCHES project**

From *Figure 3* we can say that there is a significant number of participants that selected all three topics, therefore willing to receive information on these subjects.

Additionally, participants were asked to identify bad practices detected in other networks:

- Not involving enough grassroots practitioners.
- Frequently networks advocate for bioeconomy sectors and cherry pick scientific results for their benefit, there is more lobby that more neutral approaches to bioeconomy.
- Not much information about problem in public sphere.
- Small volume of information to local leaders.
- Lack of cooperation between government and stakeholders.
- Networks are run in many cases by research institutions therefore they are oriented in this field lacking collaboration with actors.
- Newsletters could be address to specific topics or send messages.
- Small companies don't have capacity to go through the huge amount of information received.
- Too much information that is not adapted to participants' interests.
- Lack of collaboration (participants only receive information).
- Generation of strategies and action plan missing.
- Not sufficient proximity and accessibility to the primary sector.
- Sustainability in the long term (when there is no budget allocated, they don't last long).
- Promote participation (share good practices).
- There are different initiatives and networks that work on similar issues, so there should be strategies to avoid overlapping of efforts and foster the accumulation of knowledge and experiences both methodologically (e.g. how to integrate different actors) and content-wise (e.g. know-how on an specific technology).



On the contrary, good practice detected in other networks include:

- Opportunity to use the results of network in practice.
- Dissemination of results, use of virtual spaces to reach out different relevant actors for biobased value chain.
- Develop tools/manuals to facilitate knowledge transfer.
- Good communication and understanding of the cultural differences.
- It is a good practice to have a clear leader even though the organizational structure is horizontal.
- Sufficient resources of networking

### **Preferred format to receive information**

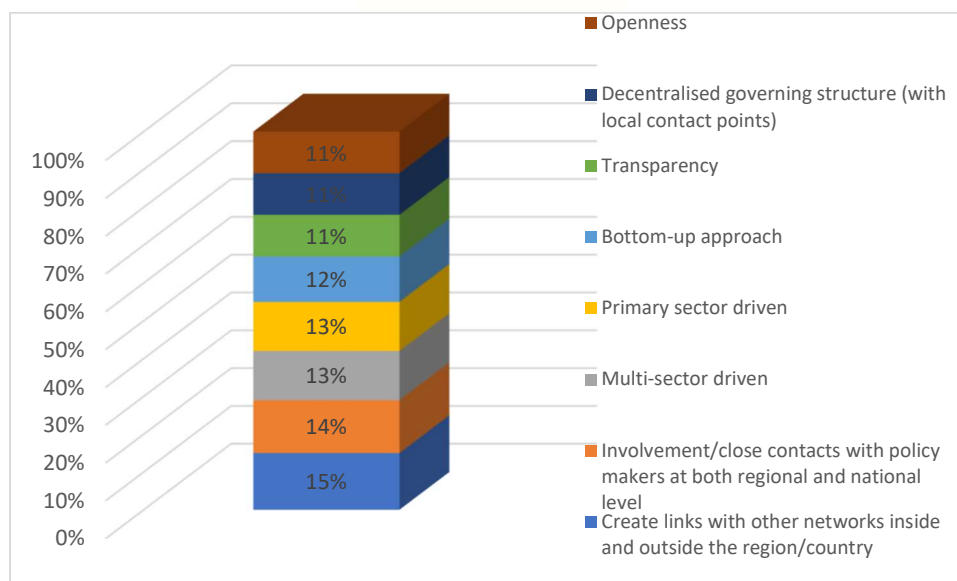
Considering the materials that will be prepared and transferred in the NTN, stakeholders were asked about the most suitable format to transfer the innovations for them and most convenient frequency to receive the information. According to the answers provided, suitable formats are best practice factsheet or practice abstracts, information regarding relevant events such as conferences, workshops, etc, at both national and European level, newsletters, and reports about key results of the projects. Preferred periodicities are depicted in *Table 6*.

**Table 6. Information periodicity**

	Frequency
Best practices	Majority wishes to receive the information "As they are produced, no matter the frequency"
Information about events (show cases/workshops/conferences) at both national and European level	Majority wants to receive it seasonally
Newsletter	Majority wishes to receive it every 3-4 months
Key results of the project	Majority wishes to receive it annually

### **Preferred characteristics of the network**

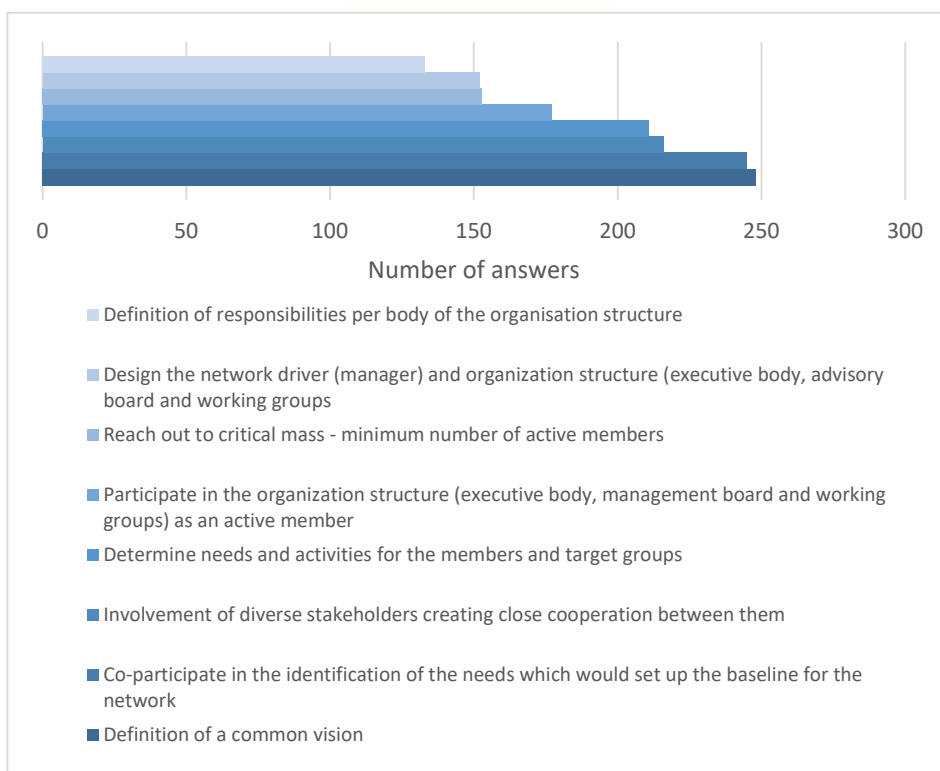
Surveyed participants rated also the characteristics of a network that would get their attention and increase their willingness to participate; results are depicted in *Figure 4*.



**Figure 4. Desirable characteristics of a network**

According to the results, creating links with existing networks in the region and at national or European level is key, but also the involvement of policy makers at both regional and national level. All characteristics achieved quite close percentages, therefore it can be considered all are relevant.

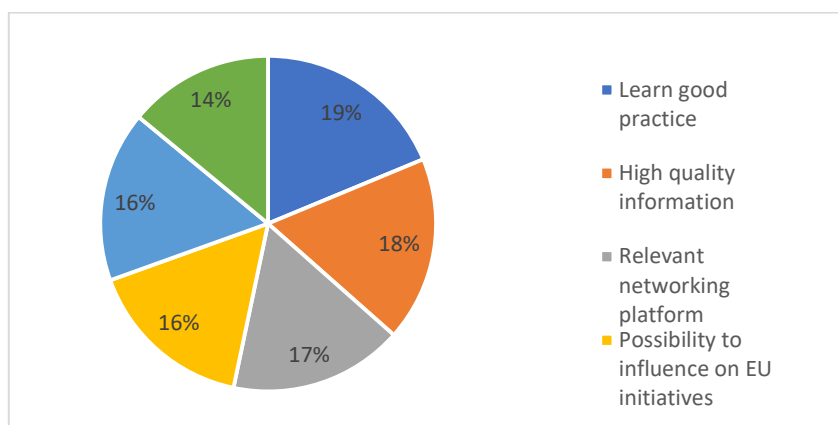
Participants were also asked about their willingness to get involved in the development of new created networks (*Figure 5*). According to the results obtained, the most interesting activities for the stakeholders surveyed are the definition of the common vision and the co-participation in the identification of the needs, which would set up the baseline for the network. These aspects will be further addressed during the project by means of periodic surveys that will retrieve feedback from the NTN members and potential participants in order to confirm that their needs and interests have been addressed and to identify new topics to tackle.



**Figure 5. Participation in a network development**

Regarding their participation in the Management Board after the project lifetime for instance, 61 % of the participants indicated they would be willing to participate while 39 % refused to participate.

Regarding EIP-AGRI focus groups, 85 % of the actors surveyed indicated they don't currently participate in the Focus Groups, therefore only 15 % participate. Main reasons identified by the actors surveyed to participate in these structures are depicted in *Figure 6*. It can be extracted that the most relevant benefits to get involved in Focus Groups is the possibility to learn good practices followed by the access to high quality information although all aspects achieved a close rate therefore all aspects should be considered. These aspects will also be key in the development of the network contents.



**Figure 6. Reasons to participate in Focus Groups**

There are also aspects that could be improved according to the surveyed participants. The main improvement refers to the type of information: too general information provided. Other possible improvements gained lower scores in the questionnaire, so they are assumed not that relevant.

In any case, most of the surveyed participants agreed (78 %) that it would be interesting to strengthen the communication, coordination and contribution with instrumental EU technical groups (such as the Focus Groups), which is one of the tasks for the project.

## 11 Network in 5 additional EU countries collaborators

### *Objective definition*

Complementary to the NTN sub-network and the EU informative network, a third action is foreseen to transfer “practical knowledge” on biomass supply and bioenergy technologies to 5 additional EU countries which are named as “collaborators” (see *Table 7*).

**Table 7. EU collaborating countries to expand knowledge transfer**

Country	Organisation
Latvia	Latvian state Forest research Institute SILAVA
Lithuania	Vytautas Magnus University Agriculture Academy
Czech Republic	Mendel University, Brno
Slovakia	Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra
Portugal	AVIPE- Associacao de viticultores do Concelho de Palmela Centro da Biomassa para a Energia

Technical partners are in charge to contact the collaborating entities called “facilitators” to discuss the actions to be performed and to prepare the strategy. The knowledge transfer actions agreed will mainly depend on the region-specific characteristics and targeted stakeholders’ interests.

Key contact persons of the facilitators are expected to participate in the 5 online seminars of T1.4 (from M6 onwards).

Additional knowledge transfer actions could include for instance the facilitator visiting the technical partners to transfer BRANCHES practices in an internal meeting or the opposite, participating in a workshop or a speech at a conference, bringing a “facilitators” key person to visit a showcase in the ambassadors country. The technical partner/s from each country team will organize their resources to perform the type of actions mentioned. In principle two visits should take place, either the facilitator visiting the ambassador or vice versa.

### *Strategy definition*

#### *Latvia*

Luke has had first contacts to Latvian State Forest Research Institute (SILAVA). Establishing a National Thematic Network to Latvia (NTN-Latvia) has been proposed and agreed on January 10<sup>th</sup>

2021. The first meeting to discuss the details of the network activities and to prepare the strategy for the NTN-Latvia was on August 18<sup>th</sup> 2021.

The Network Management Board will include Senior Researcher Andis Lazdinš (SILAVA, Latvia) and Finnish representatives from Luke, VTT and MTK. If other relevant parties to join the Management Board come up when the Network is built up, the Management Board can be extended. This/these contact person/s will be invited to visit a showcase day in Finland and they will participate in five (5) online seminars related to BRANCHES. Finnish representatives will perform ideally two (2) visits to Latvia.

The objective of the NTN-Latvia are:

- to transfer knowledge on cost- and resource-efficient supply chains for sustainable biomass supply and cost-effective bioeconomy technologies integrated with bioenergy production,
- the exchange of potentially replicable innovations in two ways: 1) from the BRANCHES project countries to the Latvia and 2) from the Latvia to the BRANCHES project countries,
- promote the BRANCHES events foreseen (e.g. workshops and networking events).

The NTN invitation will be distributed widely aiming to reach the target groups identified in the project and, thus, sufficient target group in the rural value chain in Latvia. In addition, the BRANCHES outputs relevant to Latvia (e.g. PAs) will be distributed on agreed channel. The relevance will be discussed with the local representative.

### *Lithuania*

The network developed in Lithuania will be named National Bioeconomy Network – Lithuania (NBN-LT). The network is aiming to transfer knowledge on biomass supply chains, bioenergy and other renewable energy and bio-based technologies in rural areas, but also to promote transboundary cooperation and make knowledge accessible to all, especially to stakeholders involved in the network. Targeted stakeholders are in line with the ones targeted in the NTNs.

The network governance management board will be led by the Prof. Algirdas Jasinskas from Vytautas Magnus University (Kaunas, Lithuania) in cooperation with NBN-PL (Prof. Marek Marks, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Poland).

Physical site to access the network will be the web page: <https://zua.vdu.lt/en/faculties/faculty-of-agricultural-engineering/projects/national-bioeconomy-network-lithuania-nbn-lt/>

Engagement strategy will replicate the NBN-PL case meaning the preparation and sending of invitations including a list of BRANCHES benefits and opportunities to potential stakeholders in Lithuania.

The activities planned by the NBN-LT include providing information to stakeholders of NBN-LT and NBN-PL. The systematic on-line meetings has been established where the planned actions and the network strategy will be discussed. One of the short-term effect of the international conference in Lithuania “BRANCHES: Boosting Rural Bioeconomy Networks – Lithuanian-Polish Network” planned in the framework of the 10th International Scientific Conference ‘Rural Development 2021: Challenges for Sustainable Bioeconomy and Climate Change’, 21-23 September 2021, Vytautas Magnus University Agriculture Academy, Kuanaus, Lithuania.

Knowledge transfer action will be realised through workshops to present stakeholder's current activities and proposals for cooperation, performance of actions to keep the NTN-LT interest (participation in workshops, show-case days, seminars, conferences along the project lifetime), make materials/actions of BRANCHES available for collaborating country (through webpage, translation) and knowledge transfer through web page: practice abstracts, factsheets, information from workshops, show-case days and seminars for the participants of NTNs.

Additionally, key contact persons will transfer best practices in meetings, workshops or and participation in the minimum 5 online seminars.

UWM will inform the cooperating partner about the current BRANCHES events and actions.

### *Portugal*

First contacts have been held already with both facilitators: "AVIPE- Associacao de viticultores do Concelho de Palmela" and "Centro da Biomassa para a Energia" to discuss the actions that could be more interesting for the region and their stakeholders.

The activities foreseen in the coming months include sharing the Practice Abstracts produced from which more interesting ones will be selected and translated in order to guarantee the information is available for the stakeholder in a suitable format. Additionally, their participation in the online webinars organised is also expected, once the dates are established facilitators will be informed in order for them to save the dates.

CIRCE will inform both entities about the events organized within the project framework in order to identify the most interesting ones for them to attend (1 visit each is foreseen). Two events were already mentioned: AVEBIOM will organize a workshop at the fair taking place in Valladolid this year (September 2021) and CIRCE will do the same taking advantage of the FIMA Fair taking place in Zaragoza in February 2022.

Additionally, in case they identify a different knowledge transfer action that could be interesting and could contribute to increase the information transfer they were asked to contact CIRCE in order to assess how it could be implemented.

### *Czech Republic*

Like for all other NTNs, the general objective of the Czech is to involve national stakeholders in the bioeconomy within project activities. Through the NTN, stakeholders will be able to indicate their specific knowledge needs and offer information about their own experiences, while at the same time broadcasting the knowledge produced within the project to a larger pool of interested parties through their own networks. The name of Czech NTN is still being discussed among the organizers and will be agreed upon (and communicated) soon.

The Czech NTN will gather a number of relevant actors, including the State Forest Company, local and national entrepreneurs and the many students attending lectures at Mendel University in Brno – many of which come from families in the forestry business and are likely to start their own practice shortly after leaving the University (or already while attending it).

The Governance of the Czech NTN is entrusted to the faculty of forestry, Mendel University in Brno. The organizers have opted for a lean structure, given the limited resources allocated to collaborators, which must be managed as simply and efficiently as possible. The Czech NTN will

gather regularly at sectors events, organized and managed by Mendel University. By exploiting the synergies with the extension activities already planned by Mendel University, one will achieve maximum effect with minimal additional resource expenditure. The person responsible for the Czech NTN is Professor Tomas Zemanek. E-mail: tomas.zemanek@mendelu.cz

The information related to the BRANCHES project will be broadcasted through the faculty of forestry – Mendel University website, which will link the project website and contain ad-hoc project news in its news page.

The Czech NTN will reach out to stakeholders through the Mendel University website and the institutional and personal contacts of its staff, who have established a wide network of practitioners interested with the project subjects. Outreach will be maximized through the many seminars, demonstrations and other extension activities organized by Mendel University. Czech NTN participants will receive copies of the practice abstracts produced in WP2 and WP3 and will be asked to comment them. The NTN managers (Mendel University) will also attend the five statutory seminars according to the project plan. In particular, Mendel University has already disseminated Information about BRANCHES to stakeholders on occasion of the DemoGreen event, held in June 2021 (<https://www.demogreen.eu/>). In that occasion, Mendel University presented the project poster, distributed information materials and organized a seminar where preliminary information about BRANCHES was presented to the attending stakeholders.

### *Slovakia*

The country counts with a very engaged network at National level under the National Bioeconomy Cluster, which also counts with a digital platform. Thus, the Slovakia NTN will be represented by the bioeconomy related networks in which the Slovak University of Agriculture is active.

The general objective of the Slovakian NTN is to disseminate knowledge and events produced within BRANCHES project with national stakeholders in the bioeconomy. The Slovak NTN will be activated for the dissemination of Practice Abstracts and any other additional knowledge generated within the project to interested parties in Slovakia. Likewise, sharing the exchange of experiences among BRANCHES partners, findings in other BRANCHES NTNs and the bioeconomy networks in Slovakia.

The Slovakian NTN is anchored in the Slovak University of Agriculture, which is a key strategic partner within the National Bioeconomy Cluster and is connected through this network to representatives of the business sector (agricultural farms and food processors), R&D actors, academia, regional and local governments as well as civil society. The cluster has also developed the digital “platform for bioeconomy in Slovakia”, endorsed by the Ministry of Agriculture. The cluster has developed a proposal (project) of establishing the Regional Digital Innovation Hub for Agrifood Industry (DIH AgriFood SK) with national scope. This project has been accepted by regional government as one of core projects for investment within the action plan of strategic regional development until 2030. Currently, regional representatives are negotiating this project with the Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic. The target group of the platform: agrifood entrepreneurs (start-ups, SME’s, big industries). reaching, which facilitates the exchange and coordination among engaged institutions. The Governance of the Slovakian NTN is entrusted to the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra and it will be based on existing structures for communication and



exchange. The Slovak NTN will gather during research and agrifood events already planned by the University and identified together with DBFZ as good opportunities for synergetic activities. The use of already established channels of communication with bioeconomy sectors and other national and regional networks of interest will provide with effective dissemination of materials from BRANCHES project and facilitate the feedback from interested parties from the Slovak NTN.

All information related to the BRANCHES project will be announced through the Office of Project and Transfer Activities in the Slovak University of Agriculture's website, redirecting to BRANCHES project website and related news of interest for the Slovak Network. The Slovak NTN will reach out to stakeholders through the university's website and, as previously mentioned, adjacent networks in which the University participates. For instance, e.g. BIOEAST, EIT Food Hub, the European consortium "Food, Nutrition and Health Research Infrastructure" via National Platform AgroBioFood Nitra, Strategic Working Group "Sustainable Bio-Resources for a Growing Bioeconomy" (thematic working group under the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research), the Danube Transfer Center Network etc. This will assure a wide network of actors from the primary sector, academia and R&D, industry (start-ups, SME's and big industries), policy representatives and civil society with already proven interest in the topics developed during the project. Further engagement will be reached through planned activities of the university and exchanges with the project partners. In this regard, participants of the NTN will receive practice abstract produced during the WP2, WP3 and WP4 and be engaged to provide feedback on them. Other products generated during the project, such as workshop summaries and analysis of regional bioeconomy models will also be shared with the Slovak NTN. The NTN managers (Slovak University of Agriculture) will also participate in five online seminars organized in the framework of BRANCHES. A potential visit from the Slovak NTN managers to one of the project's showcase has been discussed, as well as a potential visit from DBFZ to one of the events of the university. The specific details of an exchange visit will be finalized based on the activities plan in the project.

## 12 European knowledge transfer network

In addition to the national dimension of the networking activity, European-wide networking activities can have impact in socio-economic terms in the field of bioeconomy. The national networks could benefit from strengthening and more actively participating in international network. In some cases, in fact, members of the national networks are also working and contributing to European networks. Furthermore, the participation of national networks or members of those national networks in those EU networks could increase public acceptance and stakeholders' awareness of bioeconomy in rural environments.

Due to the specific economic, environmental and social challenges of some regions at EU level, some regions/local and rural environments and their stakeholders tend to be detached from classic European-wide networks.

In some cases, regions are lacking behind on involvement in bioeconomy projects and international networking. The coordination and alignment with the EU networks will contribute to emphasize the benefits of networking with a large pool of experts and peers from other regions/countries. For example, by means of enlarging the international dimension of the



networks, participants (stakeholders in the field of bioeconomy in each national networks) could increase the chances of engaging in rural bioeconomy projects, maintaining (business) relationships, sharing knowledge on standards to raise social prestige of bio-based products and sharing high value-added products and best practices. Overall, the potential alliances could have a major impact on the social perception of rural bioeconomy and could further encourage international cooperation between stakeholders. At this stage of the project, the current task is aiming at identifying the existing EU networks and identifying the potential interests from them in exploring cooperative frameworks with national networks. The WP2-4 will consider those EU networks as potential entities to look for synergies and getting to common ground in case there is the need for a/several national network/s.

Thus, as a complementary exercise, an analysis of the status of the existing EU networks has been accomplished. This analysis has concluded with a thorough list of existing related rural bioeconomy networks at EU level, selecting 46 European-wide networks (ANNEX II). The information collected will be useful at different stages of the project. Some of those identified networks will be very likely contacted to correlate with at EU level in WP2 to WP4.

As next steps, the national networks could align with the EU ones to:

- Define the special challenges and needs of each targeted BRANCHES national networks.
- Raising awareness by highlighting the solutions that networks offer to address these challenges and by sharing experiences and best practices with the EU sister networks, in case they exist.
- Identifying further potentials in networking linked to the BRANCHES national networks' unique (economic, environmental and social) capacities.

### *Survey*

Among the objectives of the project, BRANCHES will develop National Thematic Networks at European and national level to enhance the knowledge exchange regarding optimized supply chains for sustainable biomass supply and conversion technologies. As part of the steps in the development of those networks, a survey to address existing EU networks has been worked out (chapter 11 *Network in 5 additional EU countries collaborators*). It was sent out to 5 reference EU networks. 3 responses were gathered. So, an analysis of the existing and selected networks (*Annex II. List of networks*) was completed to enrich the analysis.

### *EIP-AGRI*

The EIP-AGRI is in essence an EU network in addition to the listed 46 networks working in topics related directly or indirectly to the bioeconomy field. Nevertheless, EIP-AGRI is a very relevant and special network of instrumental importance to pay attention during the execution of BRANCHES.

The European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI) was launched in 2012 to contribute to the European Union's strategy 'Europe 2020' for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. This strategy sets the strengthening of research and innovation as one of its five main objectives and supports a new interactive approach to innovation: European Innovation Partnerships.

Different types of available funding sources can help get an agricultural innovation project started, such as the European Rural Development policy or the EU's research and innovation programme

Horizon 2020. The EIP-AGRI contributes to integrating different funding streams so that they contribute together to a same goal and replicate results.

Rural Development will in particular support Operational Groups and Innovation Support Services within a country or region. Horizon 2020 will fund multi-actor projects and thematic networks involving partners from at least three EU countries. Other policies may offer additional opportunities.

The EIP-AGRI is specially of interest to the BRANCHES project because it is an extremely relevant initiative to bring together innovation actors (farmers, advisers, researchers, businesses, NGOs and others) in agriculture and forestry, at EU level. Together they form an EU-wide EIP network. EIP within this network, Operational Groups, Multi-actor projects and Thematic Networks are all key building blocks. While Operational Groups are funded under the Rural Development Programmes, Multi-Actor projects and Thematic Networks are supported by the H2020 Programme. EIP-AGRI Operational Groups are project-based and tackle a certain (practical) problem or opportunity which may lead to an innovation. The Operational Group approach makes the best use of different types of knowledge (practical, scientific, technical, organisational, etc.) in an interactive way. An Operational Group is composed of those key actors that are in the best position to realise the project's goals, to share implementation experiences and to disseminate the outcomes broadly. Operational Groups are currently being set up in several EU countries and regions.

As such, the EIP-AGRI is a well-defined and on-going network. But each country and region participate at different degree. Also, at European level, the networks are not themselves participating in the EIP-AGRI. They are not members of this initiative. Nevertheless, they are indirectly linked and they would be pleased to strengthen the links with this EIP.

Furthermore, as explained before, EIP AGRI is composed by several governance structures and pursue different objectives, such as, Operational Groups, Multi-actor projects and Thematic Networks. In this respect, the opinion extracted from the survey is that the existing Thematic Networks of the EIP-AGRI are seen as a positive governance structure. However, the focus Operational groups are not considered as relevant as the TN. Hence, Operational focus groups could be improved. Lastly, it is suggested that other sister EIPs (European Innovation Partnerships) in other domains like raw material for example, could be inspiring to learn from in the search of more active Operational groups to be improved in case of the targeted EIP-AGRI.

Lastly, also from the surveys, EIP-AGRI is seen as a positive platform to offer more neutral approaches to bioeconomy than other networks that are more policy oriented in the field.

#### *Interests and practical aspects of European networks*

Most of the selected EU networks cover, at different degree of detail, information related to biomass procurement, biomass potentials, logistic, technologies to valorise biomass, market uptake, biomass value chain implementation, barriers to exploit biomass potential, environmental and social aspect linked to the biomass exploitation/valorisation, policies and regulations related to biomass exploitation/valorisation, biomass value chain business models or biomass value chain cost structure. Each network focuses more on several of them, but in essence, as European representatives, they all the EU networks are expected to cover the whole value chain. Accordingly, their dissemination and communication principles also address all those elements. In addition, the identified networks consider technologies to valorise biomass as a key topic for them. They act somehow as intermediates between “technology providers” in the area of

conversion technologies and providers of feedstock and final users. Thus, they follow the development of technologies of application in their respective fields, among others, related to valorisation of biomass of all kinds as one of their main pillars of interest.

In terms of governance structure, it is broadly accepted that transparency is the instrumental driver for those networks to consolidate their position as representatives of a substantial number of members. Their reasoning behind all those networks is preserved if they represent all kind of stakeholders. In addition, in most of the cases, the bottom-up approach has been implemented as a normal procedure to get to common ground. Furthermore, the European networks also experience the challenge of analysing and digesting a lot of information. On the one hand, data is the key asset for them to use for positioning actions, but on the other hand, they risk handling so long list of reliable sources of information, and then, lacking resources to select the most relevant information for their members.

Lastly, it is worth bearing in mind that in some cases, there are some discouraging elements when a national network is exploring to join European activities. Lessons on the barriers to joining international networks, for instance membership fees can discourage many potential stakeholders from joining international networks, but more importantly, not all benefits of membership are transparent to stakeholders, resulting in lower awareness. In addition, in some national and local/rural environment, the non-traditional use of the traditional resources is less accepted by both producers and consumers. There is also a gap between market and R&D, and several SMEs do not operate at international but at regional level, which hinders knowledge transfer within the sector. As a result of the measures taken due to Covid-19, networking has largely moved into the online world, facilitating, and accelerating cross-border and transnational communication, however many enterprises have faced unprecedented difficulties during this period, affecting on their abilities to network.

## Annex I. Survey template

**BASIC INFORMATION ON DATA PROTECTION.** According to the General Data Protection Regulation. (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016. **Responsible:** Consortium partners Project BRANCHES. **Purpose:** Your data may be used under your consent, with the aim of analysing of the survey, and if needed, to contact you for telephone/online call. **Exercise your rights:** You are entitled to exercise your rights of access, rectification, elimination, limitation, opposition, portability and to not be subject to a decision based solely on automated processing by contacting by email to BRANCHES consortium. **More information:** Check our Privacy Policy at the end of the document.

- I have been informed about the treatment of my data **Mandatory**
- I allow the interviewer to contact me for a further interview if needed and record the meeting for internal use in the project **Optional**
- I wish to receive newsletters/info about the activities of BRANCHES project **Optional**

Name:

Email:

Country:

BRANCHES project aims at increasing the implementation of new cost-efficient technologies; mobilizes more biomass and creates innovative business opportunities in rural areas by improving and strengthening connections among practice and science of bio-based economy.

Among the objectives of the project BRANCHES will develop national thematic networks at European and national level to enhance the knowledge exchange regarding optimized supply chains for sustainable biomass supply and conversion technologies.

This survey intends to gather the feedback of different types of stakeholders (industry associations, farmers, foresters, administrative bodies, researchers...) regarding the networks' structure and operation and their interests and needs, barriers, etc. in order to address these topics in the national or European networks.

### GENERAL INFORMATION OF THE APPLICANT:

- 1) Type of stakeholder
  - Public administration
    - National
    - Regional
    - Municipalities
  - Enterprises/sectorial
    - Private foresters
    - State foresters
    - Harvesting enterprises

- Forest associations
- Farmers
- Agriculture cooperatives
- Agriculture associations
- Entrepreneurs
- Industry associations
- Bioenergy associations
- Transformation industry
- Technology producers
- Bioenergy production
- Biomass suppliers
- ESCOs
- Other bio-based industries
- Clusters
  - Forest
  - Agriculture
  - Bioenergy
  - Other (please specify)
- R&D
  - Research institutes
    - Public
    - Private
  - Universities
  - Other R&D institutions
- NGO
  - Environmental
  - Social
  - Rural development
- Others
  - Interest groups from civil society:
    - Local leaders
    - Influencers
    - Action Group
    - Other (please specify)
  - Financial organizations
  - Intermediates
  - Knowledge brokers
  - Experts
  - Consultants
  - Advisory organisations
  - Educators

2) How many active networks do you know? Are they national or European?

- None
- Just one
- 1-3
- 4-6
- >6
  
- National
- European

3) Do you participate in any bioeconomy-related network at national and European level? If yes, in which domain?

- Biomass procurement
- Logistics
- Technologies to valorise biomass
- Market uptake
- Whole biomass value chain
- Barriers to exploit biomass potential
- Environmental and social aspect linked to the biomass valorisation
- Policies and regulations related to biomass valorisation
- Others (Please, explain)

4) Any good or bad practice that you have detected in other networks that you consider desirable to implement or avoid?

.....

5) Is there any topic not covered by existing networks as far as you know but would be of your interest?

- Yes, please comment .....
- No

SCOPE OF NETWORKS in the agriculture and forestry field:

6) Regarding the biomass value chain, do you consider there is a lack of information for practitioners regarding any of these topics?

- Biomass procurement
- Biomass potentials
- Logistic
- Technologies to valorise biomass
- Market uptake
- Biomass value chain implementation

- Barriers to exploit biomass potential
- Environmental and social aspect linked to the biomass exploitation/valorisation
- Policies and regulations related to biomass exploitation/valorisation
- Biomass value chain business models
- Biomass value chain cost structure
- Others, please specify

7) In view to your interests and in the definition of new networks of your interest, What topics should be addressed to cover your expectations? (classify from most important to less relevant from 0 (no interests) to 5 (a high level of interest)).

- Biomass procurement
- Biomass potentials
- Logistic
- Technologies to valorise biomass
- Market uptake
- Whole biomass value chain
- Barriers to exploit biomass potential
- Environmental and social aspect linked to the biomass value chain
- Policies and regulations related to biomass value chain
- Biomass value chain business models
- Value chain cost structure
- Others, please specify

#### ADDED-VALUE OF JOINING A NEW NETWORK

In the definition of the services and material to be provided to the members of the new network, what kind of information and how often would you like to receive it as member of the network?

- Newsletter
  - Every 3-4 months
  - Biannually (semerter)
  - Annually
- Best practices
  - Monthly
  - Seasonally
  - As they are produced, no matter the frequency
  - Annually
- Information of meetings/workshops/events at both national and European level
  - Monthly
  - Seasonally
  - Biannually

- Key results of the project
  - Annually
  - Each two years
  - One report in year X and another update in year X+3
  - Other (please, include your preferences)

#### GOVERNING STRUCTURE

8) What characteristics should a network have to get your attention and participate? Please, rate from 0 to 9 (9 most relevant, 0 less relevant).

- 1) Openness
- 2) Transparency
- 3) Bottom-up approach
- 4) Primary sector driven
- 5) Multi-sector driven
- 6) Create links with other networks inside and outside the region/country
- 7) Decentralised governing structure (with local contact points)
- 8) Involvement/close contacts with policy makers at both regional and national level
- 9) Others

9) The contents developed in the BRANCHES network will focus on 3 different topics, would you be interested in participating in the related working groups (discussion over the key aspects to cover, etc.) or receive information from one or several of the following themes? Please, indicate in which one/s

- Optimised **supply chains** for sustainable biomass supply
- Cost-effective **technologies** for bioenergy production
- **Regional development models** that support bioeconomy innovations

#### BRANCHES NETWORKS

A thematic network like BRANCHES networks brings together businesses/industry, academics or research organisations, government agencies (national, regional, etc.) and NGO or consultants/experts among other to facilitate knowledge transfer and to build better links between science, innovation and business.

10) Considering BRANCHES project will launch national and European networks in the following months in which of the following steps would you like to participate in the development of the newly created network? Please, rate 1 (low) 5 (high).

- a. Definition of a common vision
- b. Design the network driver (manager) and organization structure (executive body, advisory board and working groups)
- c. Participate in the organization structure (executive body, management board and working groups) as an active member.
- d. Definition of responsibilities per body of the organisation structure.
- e. Involvement of diverse stakeholders creating close cooperation between them



- f. Reach out to critical mass - minimum number of active members
- g. Determine needs and activities for the members and target groups
- h. Co-participate in the identification of the needs which would set up the baseline for the network.

11) Would you be willing to participate in the Management Board which meets once a year to discuss the network activities among others?

- Yes
- No

#### LINKS BETWEEN THE NETWORKS LOCAL AND EUROPEAN DIMENSION

One of the aims of the local networks is to represent their members at both local but also European level. The aim of BRANCHES is to channel the regional and local needs to the European domain. Especially, the EIP- AGRI is an extremely important network. It acts as a very active network which all kind of inputs and opinions are voiced in an open and transparent way. Thus, a strong interaction and participation in this EU forum is critical, to maximise the impact of what it is happening at local level and be successfully explained and supported at the European level. The EIP-AGRI acts as an exchange platform of good practices, so called practice abstracts (PA). This enables the access to a wide knowledge and good examples of high explication potential.

12) Do you participate or have participated in any EIP-AGRI focus groups?

- Yes
- No

If yes, what is/was the main theme?

- “forest biomass”
- “agroforestry”
- “forest practices and climate change”
- “circular horticulture”
- “renewable energies in farms”
- Other (list: <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/focus-groups>)

If yes, what is a specific interest to you as member of this network? Please rate 1 (low) to 5 (high)

- High quality of information
- Relevant networking platform
- Ability to influence on EU initiatives
- Learn good practices
- Build up new alliances
- Gain visibility
- Others (please, elaborate on your experience)

13) What could be improved in your opinion? Please, explain what it is missing, or you find still not completely successful.

Please specify and rate from 0 (low rate) to 5 (high rate)

- Too general information provided
- Short term scope
- Old-fashion remote communication channels
- Lack of leadership
- Limited interaction among members
- Others \_\_\_\_\_

14) EIP-AGRI Focus Groups can play a key role to further promote knowledge transfer. Would be interested to strengthen the communication, coordination and contribution with those instrumental EU technical groups?

- Yes
- No

15) If any, how are the results of the Focus Groups currently transferred to the stakeholders?  
Please specify \_\_\_\_\_

### **Informed Consent Form for interviews**

In compliance with the provisions of the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April, 2016, related to the protection of natural persons with respect to personal data processing and the free movement of these data and the rest of the current regulations that impact the subject of privacy and data protection, Consortium partners Project BRANCHES (GA n° 10100375), as owner of the survey, inform its users of the conditions in personal data processing, pursuant to this privacy policy.

**CONTROLLER:** Consortium partners Project BRANCHES:

Data controller	VAT number	Address	Telephone	Privacy policies	Data Protection Officer
Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE)	FI-02446292	Luonnonvarakeskus, Latokartanonkari 9, 00790 Helsinki, Finland	(+358) 295326000	<a href="http://tilastokeskus.fi/met&lt;br/&gt;a/svt/tietosuoja_kayannot&lt;br/&gt;.html">http://tilastokeskus.fi/met a/svt/tietosuoja_kayannot .html</a>	kirjaamo@luke.fi
Consiglio Nazionale Delle Ricerche (CNR)	IT-02118311006	Piazzale Aldo Moro 7, 00185 Roma, Italy	(+39) 0649931	<a href="https://www.cnr.it/it/priv&lt;br/&gt;acy-cookie-policy">https://www.cnr.it/it/priv acy-cookie-policy</a>	rpd@cnr.it
VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland	FI-26473754	Koivurannantie 1, 40400 Jyväskylä, Finland	(+358) 2042345680	<a href="https://www.vttresearch.c&lt;br/&gt;om/en/data-privacy-and-&lt;br/&gt;accessibility?trackers=paus&lt;br/&gt;e">https://www.vttresearch.c om/en/data-privacy-and- accessibility?trackers=paus e</a>	Seppo.Viinikainen@vtt.fi
Uniwersytet Warmiński Mazurski Olsztynski (UWM)	PL-7393033097	ul. Romana Prawocheńskiego 9, pok. 109, 10-719 Olsztyn, Poland	(+48) 895233678	<a href="http://www.uwm.edu.pl/p&lt;br/&gt;olityka-cookies">http://www.uwm.edu.pl/p olityka-cookies</a>	bkw@uwm.edu.pl
Deutsches Biomasseforsch	DE-259357620	Torgauer Straße 116,	(+49) 3412434117	<a href="https://www.dbfz.de/en/&lt;br/&gt;data-protection">https://www.dbfz.de/en/ data-protection</a>	Mandy.Koehler@dbfz.de

hungszentrum Gemeinnutzige (DBFZ)		04347 Leipzig, Germany			
Centro de Investigación de Recusos y Consumos Energéticos (CIRCE)	ESG- 50556091	Avenida Ranillas, Edificio Dinamiza, 3D. Planta 1, 50018, Zaragoza, Spain	(+34) 976976859	<a href="http://www.fcirce.es/politica-de-privacidad-y-cookies">http://www.fcirce.es/politica-de-privacidad-y-cookies</a> <a href="http://www.fcirce.es/clause-protection-data-formation-activities-circe-foundation">http://www.fcirce.es/clause-protection-data-formation-activities-circe-foundation</a>	protecciondatos@fcirce.es
Italian Biomass Association (ITABIA)	IT- 05230851007	VIA VENAFRO 5 000, 00159, Rome, Italy	(+39) 067021118	<a href="http://www.itabia.it/data-protection">www.itabia.it/data-protection</a>	itabia@mclink.it
Metsätaloustuottajain Keskusliitto (MTK)	FI-02151945	Maa- ja metsätaloustuottajain keskusliitto MTK ry., Simonkatu 6, 00101 Helsinki, Finland	(+358) 204131	<a href="http://www.mtk.fi/tietosuojalauske">www.mtk.fi/tietosuojalauske</a>	first name.last name@mtk.fi
Asociacion Española de la Valorización Energética de la Biomasa (AVEBIOM)	ESG- 47538525	C/ Panaderos 58, entreplanta A, 47004, Valladolid (Spain)	(+34) 983113760	<a href="http://www.avebiom.org/politica-de-privacidad">www.avebiom.org/politica-de-privacidad</a>	info@avebiom.org
Helmholtz Zentrum für Umweltforschung (UFZ)	DE- 141507065	Permoserstrasse 15, 04318 Leipzig, Germany	(+49) 3412351271	<a href="https://www.ufz.de/index.php?en=44326">https://www.ufz.de/index.php?en=44326</a>	datenschutz@ufz.de
Warmińsko- Mazurski Ośrodek Doradztwa Rolniczego (WMODR)	PL- 7393452902	Warmińsko- Mazurski Ośrodek Doradztwa Rolniczego z siedzibą w Olsztynie ul. Jagiellońska 91, 10-356 Olsztyn, Poland	(+48) 895357684	<a href="https://wmodr.pl/">https://wmodr.pl/</a>	administrator@w-modr.pl
Bioeconomy Cluster Management (BCM)	DE- 291796214	BioEconomy e. V., Am Haupttor 4310, 06237 Leuna, Germany	(+49) 0346143340 1	<a href="https://www.bioeconomy.de/en/impressum-datenschutz/">https://www.bioeconomy.de/en/impressum-datenschutz/</a>	office@bioeconomy.de

**PURPOSES OF THE PROCESSING AND LEGAL BASES:** The personal data of the participants of the survey will be managed by Consortium partners Project BRANCHES for the main purpose of appropriately analysing the responses, which will entail the following processing purposes and legitimation bases:

**A) Information on data processing of participants of the survey:**

PURPOSES	LEGAL BASES
To use of your personal and opinion data from the completion of the surveys only for research purposes	Article 6.1.a) GDPR Express consent of the concerned person
To contact you for a personal interview if some data is missing or	

to make a deep analysis of your responses.	
To record the meeting of the personal interview only for research purposes within the project	
Where applicable, if requested in writing by the user, to send information by any means, including electronic means, on other surveys.	

**Data recipients:** The personal data of the participants in the survey can be communicated to the European Commission and its corresponding control bodies.

**International Transmissions:** It is placed on the record that the server of survey complies with the requirements established in the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and which in any case it will be located in Europe. The server of the survey will not lead to international transmissions of personal data, except under legal obligation, in which case, it will comply with the requirements established for this in the GDPR, and the users will be informed in a timely manner.

**Data storage period:** The data will be stored in keeping with the criteria indicated below and during the required periods of legal and administrative responsibilities that may result in each case. During these required periods the data will remain blocked and once the periods have passed, the data will be deleted using a secure method.

**Revocation of consent:** You have the right to revoke your consent, with respect to the processing activities based on your consent, at any time and free of charge by sending an e-mail to all the Data Protection Officers indicated in the table of the following point without this revocation being able to be retroactive with respect to the processing activities already carried out.

**Exercise of rights:** You have the right to exercise your rights of access, rectification, deletion, limitation, opposition, portability and to not be subject of individual automated decisions before the Data Protection Officers through the e-mail addresses that are indicated below. Furthermore, you have the right to file a claim before the competent Data Protection Agency or equivalent control authority, in the cases in which your rights have not been addressed.

Data controller	Privacy policies	Data Protection Officer
Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE)	<a href="http://tilastokeskus.fi/meta/svt/tietosuoja_kaytannot.html">http://tilastokeskus.fi/meta/svt/tietosuoja_kaytannot.html</a>	kirjaamo@luke.fi
Consiglio Nazionale Delle Ricerche (CNR)	<a href="https://www.cnr.it/it/privacy-cookie-policy">https://www.cnr.it/it/privacy-cookie-policy</a>	rpd@cnr.it
VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland (VTT)	<a href="https://www.vttresearch.com/en/data-privacy-and-accessibility?trackers=pause">https://www.vttresearch.com/en/data-privacy-and-accessibility?trackers=pause</a>	Seppo.Viinikainen@vtt.fi
Uniwersytet Warmiński Mazurski Olsztynie (UWM)	<a href="http://www.uwm.edu.pl/polityka-cookies">http://www.uwm.edu.pl/polityka-cookies</a>	bkw@uwm.edu.pl
Deutsches Biomasseforschungszentrum Gemeinnützige (DBFZ)	<a href="https://www.dbfz.de/en/data-protection">https://www.dbfz.de/en/data-protection</a>	Mandy.Koehler@dbfz.de
Centro de Investigación de Recursos y Consumos Energéticos (CIRCE)	<a href="http://www.fcirce.es/politica-de-privacidad-y-cookies">http://www.fcirce.es/politica-de-privacidad-y-cookies</a> <a href="http://www.fcirce.es/clause-protection-data-formation-activities-circe-foundation">http://www.fcirce.es/clause-protection-data-formation-activities-circe-foundation</a>	protecciondatos@fcirce.es
Italian Biomass Association (ITABIA)	<a href="http://www.itabia.it/data-protection">www.itabia.it/data-protection</a>	itabia@mclink.it
Metsätaloustuttajain Keskusliitto (MTK)	<a href="http://www.mtk.fi/tietosuojalauseke">www.mtk.fi/tietosuojalauseke</a>	first name.last name@mtk.fi
Asociación Española de la Valorización Energética de la Biomasa (AVEBIOM)	<a href="http://www.avebiom.org/politica-de-privacidad">www.avebiom.org/politica-de-privacidad</a>	info@avebiom.org
Helmholtz Zentrum für Umweltforschung (UFZ)	<a href="https://www.ufz.de/index.php?en=44326">https://www.ufz.de/index.php?en=44326</a>	datenschutz@ufz.de
Warmiński-Mazurski Osrodek Doradztwa Rolniczego (WMODR)	<a href="https://wmodr.pl/">https://wmodr.pl/</a>	administrator@w-modr.pl
Bioeconomy Cluster Management (BCM)	<a href="https://www.bioeconomy.de/en/impressum-datenschutz/">https://www.bioeconomy.de/en/impressum-datenschutz/</a>	office@bioeconomy.de

**Modification of the privacy policy of the survey.** In case of modification of this Privacy Policy, the participants will be duly informed of the change in the personal data processing conditions.

## Annex II. List of networks

Name of the network	Field of the network	Organiser	Frequency of network's meeting	Venue of meeting	Description of Network	Webpage	Contact person of network	E-mail address of contact person
<b>Bioeconomy and Climate Action in Rural Areas</b>	Circular-Bioeconomy	ENRD Contact Point	every two months	Brussels, Belgium	The TG will explore the types of activity within rural bioeconomy value chains that provide the most significant climate benefits. The TG contributes to the EU Circular Bioeconomy Strategy and Action Plan by enabling exchange on sustainable ways of deploying bioeconomy in rural areas and by exploring how the Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) and other financing instruments can be best used to support this. The TG also aims at promoting synergies between new bioeconomy strategies at national and regional levels, and the CAP priorities on climate.	<a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/enrd-thematic-work/greening-rural-economy_en">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/enrd-thematic-work/greening-rural-economy_en</a>	Laura Jalasjoki	<a href="mailto:Laura.jalasjoki@enrd.eu">Laura.jalasjoki@enrd.eu</a>
<b>European Bioeconomy Network (EuBioNet)</b>	Circular-Bioeconomy	BIOVO ICES Project	ad-hoc	EU	The European Bioeconomy Network (EuBioNet) is a proactive alliance of EU funded projects dealing with Bioeconomy promotion, communication and support. The main goal is to maximise the efforts, increasing the knowledge sharing, networking, mutual learning, coordination of joint activities and events.	<a href="https://eubionet.eu">https://eubionet.eu</a>	<a href="https://eubionet.eu/contact-us/">https://eubionet.eu/contact-us/</a>	<a href="https://eubionet.eu/contact-us/">https://eubionet.eu/contact-us/</a>
<b>Strategic Network Bioeconomy</b>	Circular-Bioeconomy	BECY			The Strategic Network Bioeconomy (BECY) is an international network of the University of Hohenheim in the research area bioeconomy. Five renowned European as well as North and South American universities belong to the network. The benefit from international cooperation and a global viewpoint for research and teaching in the area of bioeconomy. The specialization of the joint work lies on the sustainable implementation of the currently rather European research area in South America.	<a href="https://becy.uni-hohenheim.de/startseite">https://becy.uni-hohenheim.de/startseite</a>	Bianca Janic	<a href="mailto:bianca.janic@verwaltung.uni-hohenheim.de">bianca.janic@verwaltung.uni-hohenheim.de</a>

<b>ERRIN Bioeconomy Working Group</b>	Circular-Bioeconomy	European Regions Research & Innovation Network	regularly / nearly monthly	Belgium	The Bioeconomy Working Group focuses on increasing the influence of regions and their stakeholders in shaping the European circular bioeconomy while also working to increase the awareness of the sector as a whole. The group covers the bioeconomy in the widest sense, tackling issues related to topics such as food systems, forestry, bioenergy, biowaste, bio-based products etc. Seeing the growing role of the bioeconomy in decarbonisation efforts, the group also concentrates on the ecological sustainability of these solutions. The group develops contacts with European policymakers to increase cooperation and projects between European regions in bioeconomy.	<a href="https://errin.eu/working-groups/bioeconomy">https://errin.eu/working-groups/bioeconomy</a>	Working group leaders: Jorge Molina Villanueva Delegation of the Government of Navarra Anniina Palmu West Finland European Office Angèle Liaigre Pays de la Loire	<a href="mailto:info@errin.eu">info@errin.eu</a>
<b>European Bioeconomy Alliance</b>	Circular-Bioeconomy	EUBA	regularly	Europe	The European Bioeconomy Alliance is a unique cross sector alliance dedicated to mainstreaming and realising the potential of the bioeconomy in Europe What brings us together: The production and use of renewable resources as feedstock for making innovative, value-added everyday products and materials The commitment to maximise the unused potential of European renewable resources to encourage the production of bio-based products and materials "Made in Europe" Resource efficiency and sustainability as driving business principles	<a href="http://www.bioeconomyalliance.eu/">http://www.bioeconomyalliance.eu/</a>	<a href="http://www.bioeconomyalliance.eu/contact">http://www.bioeconomyalliance.eu/contact</a>	<a href="mailto:hello@bioeconomyalliance.eu">hello@bioeconomyalliance.eu</a>
<b>European Starch Industry Association</b>	Circular-Bioeconomy	Starch Europe	regularly	Europe	Starch Europe is the trade association which represents the EU starch industry both at European and international levels. Its membership comprises 25 EU starch-producing companies, together representing more than 95% of the EU starch industry and, in associate membership, 7 national starch industry associations. The European starch industry manufactures over 600 products including native starches, modified starches, liquid and solid sweeteners as well as oils, proteins and fibres that are used as ingredients and functional supplements in a vast array of food, feed and industrial applications. Our issues on the bioeconomy Starch is renewable and biodegradable. As such it is a well-suited raw material for the sustainable use of agricultural products in the bio-based industry. For the last 30	<a href="http://www.starch.eu">www.starch.eu</a>	General inquiries : Véronique Deridder	<a href="mailto:info@starch.eu">info@starch.eu</a>

					<p>years, the EU starch industry has been producing bio-based products that are used as raw materials, generally replacing fossil-fuel-based ingredients, in the fermentation, chemical, cosmetics, textile, paper, plastics and detergent industries. The EU starch industry makes considerable investments in Research and Development (over 100 million Euros annually), most of it in the development of bio-based products. The role of the bio-based products as alternatives to fossil-fuel counterparts, and their importance in developing a sustainable economy based on renewable materials in Europe, has been recognised in the EU 2020 strategy and its focus on the bioeconomy, as well as initiatives such as the Lead Market Initiative on bio-based products (November 2009 report) and the European Commission Communication of February 2012 on a bioeconomy for Europe and its associated bioeconomy Action Plan. AAF is a strong supporter of these EU initiatives, in particular the Lead Market Initiative, and we are fully committed to playing our role in ensuring their effective implementation.</p>			
<b>European Compost Network (ECN)</b>	Circular-Bioeconomy	Im Dohle nbruch 11 44795 Bochum (Germany)	monthly	Europe	<p>ECN is a membership organisation on management of organic resources with 63 members from 28 European Countries. The objectives of ECN are to promote corresponding visions and the adoption of sustainable systems for organic waste management through integration of strategies, technological development and improvement of practices. Increase knowledge and know-how amongst – stakeholders-, via networking platforms, information dissemination, educational campaigns, etc.</p>	<a href="https://www.compostnetwork.info">https://www.compostnetwork.info</a>	Dr Stefanie Siebert (Executive Director)	<a href="mailto:siebert@compostnetwork.info">siebert@compostnetwork.info</a> Tel: +49 (0) 234-4389447
<b>Association of Cities and Regions for sustainable Resource management (ARC+)</b>	Circular-Bioeconomy	63 Avenue d'Auderghem, 1040 Brussels	monthly	Europe	<p>ACR+ is an international network of cities and regions sharing the aim of promoting a sustainable resource management and accelerating the transition towards a circular economy on their territories and beyond. (waste prevention, waste management, resource saving, transition to circular economy, exchanging information,</p>	<a href="https://arcplus.org/en/">https://arcplus.org/en/</a>		<a href="mailto:info@arcplus.org">info@arcplus.org</a> +32 (0)2 234 65 00
<b>European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform</b>	Circular-Bioeconomy	A joint initiative by the European Commission	regularly	Europe	<p>Welcome to the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform, your space to exchange and interact. On this virtual platform you can - contribute by submitting content for this website (good practice, publication, event, network...) via our submission forms - engage with other stakeholders on our discussion forum - and</p>	<a href="https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/en">https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/en</a>	00 6 7 8 9 10 11	<a href="https://europa.eu/european-union/contact">https://europa.eu/european-union/contact</a>

		and the European Economic and Social Committee			stay up-to-date with all ongoing activities of the Platform by subscribing to our newsletter.			<a href="#">en</a>
<b>Circular Europe Network</b>	Circular-Bioeconomy	CEN	regularly	Europe	ACR+, the Association of Cities and Regions for sustainable Resource management, wants to support local and regional authorities in being ambitious on circular economy and will therefore support and help them to adopt aspiring circular economy strategies. That is why ACR+ decided to launch a specific project on circular economy planning by cities and regions: the Circular Europe Network (CEN).	<a href="https://www.circular-europe-network.eu/">https://www.circular-europe-network.eu/</a>	Contact form	<a href="https://www.circular-europe-network.eu/contact/">https://www.circular-europe-network.eu/contact/</a>
<b>European Rural Development Network (ERDN)</b>	Agriculture	ERDN	quarterly	EU countries	The efforts of the Network's members in investigation of rural processes provide extensive information needed to understand the specificity of rural development in CEE, especially in the context of the EU policy reforms and enlargements.	<a href="http://erdn.eu">http://erdn.eu</a>	Chmieliński Paweł	<a href="mailto:Pawel.Chmielnski@erigz.waw.pl">Pawel.Chmielnski@erigz.waw.pl</a>
<b>International Biomass Torrefaction Council (IBTC)</b>	Agriculture	IBTC	regularly / nearly monthly	Europe /outside Europe	The International Biomass Torrefaction Council (IBTC) is a Brussels based international platform founded in 2012, which brings together more than 20 companies from all over the world. IBTC was founded by Bioenergy Europe (former AEBIOM) and resulted from the joint efforts of major torrefied biomass stakeholders who decided to create a discussion platform of companies with similar interests. IBTC was also initiated in collaboration with the Dutch Torrefaction Association (DTA). IBTC is a unique network connecting all companies with a shared interest in torrefaction and solid biofuels, connecting industry players and academia for undertaking actions to drive forward torrefied biomass.	<a href="https://ibtc.bioenergyeurope.org/">https://ibtc.bioenergyeurope.org/</a>	IBTC	<a href="mailto:calderon@bioenergyeurope.org">calderon@bioenergyeurope.org</a> <a href="tel:+3223184100">+32 2 318 41 00</a>



<b>European Biomass Industry Association</b>	Agriculture	EUBIA <a href="#">Scotland House Round-Point Schuman 6 1040 Brussels, Belgium</a>	regularly	Europe	European Biomass Research Network (EUBREN) consists of a selection of universities and research centres across Europe. Its efforts consist on promoting and supporting new industry-oriented initiatives in cooperation with investors, small and large private enterprises. Given the unique capacity of this sector, research activities carried out at every TRL, have a crucial role for the final take-off and commercialization of the new technology.	<a href="https://www.eubia.org/">https://www.eubia.org/</a>	Giuliano Grassi Secretary General; Giulia Fanelli Communication Manager	<a href="mailto:eubia@eubia.org">eubia@eubia.org</a> ; <a href="mailto:Communication@eubia.org">Communication@eubia.org</a> ; <a href="tel:+322828440">+32 (0) 2 282 84 40</a>
<b>The EU Vegetable Oil and Protein Meal Industry</b>	Agriculture	FEDIOL	regularly	Europe	FEDIOL, the EU vegetable oil and protein meal industry association, represents the European oilseed crushers, vegetable oil refiners and bottlers. FEDIOL members are 12 national associations and associated company members in 5 different EU countries. With about 150 facilities in Europe, the sector provides 20 000 direct jobs. FEDIOL's members process rapeseed, sunflower seed, soybean and linseed, converting them into oils and meal for food, feed, biofuel, bioenergy and non-energy technical uses essentially on the European market.	<a href="http://www.fediol.be">www.fediol.be</a>	FEDIOL aisbl	<a href="mailto:fediol@fediol.eu">fediol@fediol.eu</a>
<b>European Algae Biomass Association (EABA)</b>	Agriculture	Viale Belfiore, 10 - 50144 Florence - Italy	regularly	Europe	The general objective of the European Algae Biomass Association (EABA) is to promote mutual interchange and cooperation in the field of biomass production and use, including biofuels uses and all other utilisations. It aims at creating, developing and maintaining solidarity and links between its Members and at defending their interests at European and international level. Its main target is to act as a catalyst for fostering synergies among scientists, industrialists and decision makers in order to promote the development of research, technology and industrial capacities in the field of Algae.	<a href="https://www.eaba-association.org/en">https://www.eaba-association.org/en</a>	Jean-Paul Cadoret (president)	<a href="mailto:jean-paul.cadoret@eaba-association.org">jean-paul.cadoret@eaba-association.org</a>
<b>Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases</b>	Agriculture	Secretariat, currently hosted by New Zealand	regularly	global	The Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases brings countries together to find ways to grow more food without growing greenhouse gas emissions. It was launched in December 2009. The Global Research Alliance is focused on research, development and extension of technologies and practices that help deliver ways to grow more food (and more climate-resilient food systems) without growing greenhouse gas emissions.	<a href="https://globalresearchalliance.org/">https://globalresearchalliance.org/</a>	Secretariat	<a href="mailto:secretariat@globalresearchalliance.org">secretariat@globalresearchalliance.org</a>

					The Global Research Alliance is founded on the voluntary, collaborative efforts of countries. Its membership and governance arrangements are underpinned by a Charter, signed by all participating countries.			
<b>European Agroforestry Federation</b>	Agriculture	EURAF	regularly	Europe	<p>The European Agroforestry Federation (EURAF) aims at promoting the use of trees on farms as well as any kind of silvopastoralism throughout the different environmental regions of Europe. EURAF has about 280 members from 20 different European countries. EURAF's aim to promote the adoption of agroforestry practices across Europe by:</p> <p>Any communication means, including lobbying for agroforestry adapted policies at the European scale.</p> <p>Organizing a bi-annual conference.</p> <p>Sending an electronic newsletter to all members.</p> <p>Managing a dedicated website, with functionalities to share information, scientific results and policy issues on agroforestry.</p> <p>Achieving specific agreements with national and international agroforestry societies or other related societies for the exchange of information and the organization of joint congresses, symposiums and seminars.</p> <p>Meeting monthly to delineate actions to target awareness of agroforestry systems mainly at policy level.</p> <p>Promoting events and participate in research projects providing networking throughout Europe.</p>	<a href="http://www.eurafagroforestry.eu/">www.eurafagroforestry.eu/</a>	Secretariat	<a href="mailto:info@eurafagroforestry.eu">info@eurafagroforestry.eu</a>

<p><b>Agroforestry Innovation Network</b></p>	<p>Agriculture</p>	<p>AFINET</p>		<p>Europe</p>	<p>AFINET has five specific objectives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To establish the system and methodological basis for knowledge exchange, based on the Regional Agroforestry Innovation Networks (RAINs) implementation:</li> <li>2. To build the Agroforestry Knowledge Cloud (KC) that will foster knowledge exchange by integrating and synthesizing existing pools of information. It will include knowledge coming from the RAINs, (innovative practices and experiences as well as regional, national and international project results, grey and scientific literature. All the available resources will be gathered into this state-of-the-art Knowledge Cloud repository that will work as a source of knowledge and experience on innovative agroforestry practices at EU level.</li> <li>3. To improve the applied knowledge about AF practices of the different target groups, through specific dissemination activities and training, in order to promote sustainable land management throughout Europe. AFINET will create several materials to share the information collected: innovation factsheets, videos, innovations tutorials, newsletters, training modules and technical articles. Partners will also organize events at regional at international level.</li> <li>4. To maximize synergies between European, national and regional policies related to the agroforestry sector to support the effective implementation of the innovations proposed.</li> <li>5. To communicate the AFINET outputs across Europe and internationally, through close interactions with farmer networks and extension services</li> </ol> <p>Agroforestry (AF) is a type of climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practice of deliberately integrating woody vegetation (trees or shrubs) with crop and/or animal systems to benefit from the resulting ecological and economic interactions.</p> <p>Based on the economic and environmental relevance of this activity, a consortium of 13 partners from 9 European countries, launch AFINET (AgroForestry Innovation NETWORKs), a thematic network aimed to foster the exchange and the knowledge transfer between scientists and practitioners in the agroforestry. AFINET will act at EU level in order to take up research results into practice and to promote innovative ideas to face</p>	<p><a href="http://www.euraagroforestry.eu/afinet">http://www.euraagroforestry.eu/afinet</a></p>	<p>Rosa Mosquera-Losada (project coordination)</p> <p>Javier Rodriguez Rigueiro (project management)</p>	<p><a href="mailto:afinet.usc@gmail.com">afinet.usc@gmail.com</a></p>
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					challenges and resolve problems of practitioners.			
<b>Nordic Biochar Network</b>	Agriculture	NBN	every few months	Nordic countries	<p>A joint initiative of researchers in the Nordic countries to increase and spread knowledge about biochar. We are continuously working on extending our network, planning events, workshops, conferences and sharing knowledge about biochar.</p> <p>If you would like to get in touch with other biochar researchers, producers and users, learn more about biochar or share your knowledge, join the Nordic Biochar Network.</p>	<a href="https://www.nordicbiochar.org/">https://www.nordicbiochar.org/</a>	Secretariat	<a href="mailto:mail@nordicbiochar.org">mail@nordicbiochar.org</a>
<b>European Irrigation Association</b>	Agriculture	EIA	regularly	global	The mission of the EIA, a non-profit European organisation, is to improve the products, practices and services used to manage water resources and to contribute to the global improvement of the environment. The EIA informs and collaborates with European Agriculture, Turf and Golf industries to promote the conservation, distribution and recovery of water resources for economical needs.	<a href="https://irrigationeurope.eu/">https://irrigationeurope.eu/</a>	Secretariat	<a href="mailto:info@irrigationeurope.eu">info@irrigationeurope.eu</a>
<b>Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations, General Confederation of Agricultural Cooperatives</b>	Agriculture	COPA COGECA	regularly	Brussels, Belgium	COPA and COGECA are Europe's strongest farming representative organisations. Overall membership of both organisations has risen to 76 organisations from the EU Member States. COPA has 50 Working Parties, dealing either with specific, production-related topics (e.g. cereals, beef meat) or with general questions (e.g. environment, rural development). Most of these Working Parties are constituted jointly with COGECA, but both COPA and COGECA also have separate Working Parties of their own.	<a href="https://copa-cogeca.eu/Menu.aspx">https://copa-cogeca.eu/Menu.aspx</a>	Secretariat	<a href="mailto:mail@copa-cogeca.eu">mail@copa-cogeca.eu</a>

<b>European Landowners' Organization</b>	Agriculture	ELO	regularly	Brussels, Belgium	ELO sets out to encourage sustainable development and management, whilst promoting biodiversity, sustainable bioenergy, food safety, responsible packaging, and combating climate change. ELO relies on the Organization's ability to bring together rural actors, NGOs and political decision makers at local, regional, national and European levels. ELO is in direct contact with political decision makers at the highest level, economic leaders and various stakeholders involved in the rural activities. Its more than 54 members from all over Europe give it a powerful and efficient network to better understand, to explain and to influence the EU decisions.	<a href="https://www.europeanlandowner.org/">https://www.europeanlandowner.org/</a>	Secretariat	<a href="mailto:elo@elo.org">elo@elo.org</a>
<b>European Biotechnology Network</b>	Biotechnology	Belgium. Rue de la Science 14b  1040 Brussels	monthly events	EU, Switzerland, Norway	The primary goal of the European Biotechnology Network is to improve cooperation in the fields of biotechnology and the other life sciences, primarily between the 28 member states of the European Union, Switzerland and Norway. Biotech professionals from science and research, industry, academia, organisations or state agencies and authorities are invited to become involved in the network and make use of the services it provides. Its task is to facilitate international cooperation in the fields of biotechnology and the life sciences in the European sphere. In the long run, this will improve, accelerate and increase the use of advances in science and research – especially in the areas of medicine and environmental protection – as they make the transition from the lab to general use.	<a href="https://european-biotechnology.net/">https://european-biotechnology.net/</a>	President: Andreas Mietzsch	emoffice@european-biotechnology.net www.european-biotechnology.net (Phone: +32 2 588 70 71) and Contact through website: <a href="https://european-biotechnology.net/contact/">https://european-biotechnology.net/contact/</a>

<p><b>European Biotechnology Thematic Network Association</b></p>	<p>Biotechnology</p>	<p>EBTN</p>	<p>a few times in a year</p>	<p>EU countries</p>	<p>The objectives of the Association, which is a non-profit making Association, are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to implement, consult or supervise programmes for the assessment of skills and knowledge in sciences with an emphasis on biotechnology;</li> <li>to undertake programmes concerning education, training and research, especially those concerning innovative approaches;</li> <li>to operate as a consultant or assessor in programmes concerning education and training;</li> <li>to provide certification of achievement when assessments have been carried out under appropriate conditions;</li> <li>to co-operate with established professional or other associations in the furtherance of its objectives;</li> <li>to extend the reach of all aspects of education in biotechnology beyond national border.</li> </ul> <p>The direct target groups are the students, postgraduates, post-doctors and other personnel of Institutions, research centres and Enterprise employers. Indirect target groups are the Institutions, the Industries, the Trade Unions and Education and Labour Ministries.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.ebta.eu/">http://www.ebta.eu/</a></p>	<p>President: Munis Dündar</p>	<p><a href="mailto:dundar@erciyes.edu.tr">dundar@erciyes.edu.tr</a></p>
<p><b>European Association for Bioindustries</b></p>	<p>Biotechnology</p>	<p>Europa bio Avenue des Arts 53 1000 Brussels, Belgium</p>	<p>almost monthly</p>	<p>Europe /outside Europe</p>	<p>EuropaBio represents 81 corporate and associate members and bio regions, and 15 national biotechnology associations in turn representing over 1800 biotech SMEs at a Member State level. EuropaBio has a board of management made up of representatives of member companies. The board is supported by the EuropaBio team who carry out day to day activities and is managed by a Secretary General.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.europabio.org/">https://www.europabio.org/</a></p>	<p><a href="#">For healthcare and industrial biotechniques Kai Künnecke</a> <a href="#">For GMO and agricultural biotechniques Lucie McMurtry</a></p>	<p><a href="#">For healthcare and industrial biotechniques k.kuennecke@europabio.org +32 2 739 11 81</a> <a href="#">For GMO and agricultural biotechniques</a></p>

								<a href="mailto:biotech.enquiries@mcmurtry@europabio.org">biotech.enquiries@mcmurtry@europabio.org</a> <a href="tel:+3227391162">+32 2 739 11 62</a>
<b>European Pellet Council c/o Bioenergy Europe</b>	Energy	EPC <a href="#">Place du Champ de Mars 2 1050 Brussels, Belgium</a>	regularly - Every year	Europe	The European Pellet Council (EPC) is the voice of the wood pellet sector in Europe. Its members are national pellet associations or related organisations from 18 countries. EPC was founded in 2010 and is a network of Bioenergy Europe. EPC is the platform of the European pellet sector dedicated to solving the issues attached to the transition from a niche product to a major energy commodity. These issues include the standardisation and certification of pellet quality, safety, security of supply, education and training, and the quality of pellet-using devices. In this regard, EPC is coordinating the development of ENplus® quality certification and is constantly adapting this system according to market needs (e.g. certification of industrial pellets, sustainability aspects, etc.). Pellets will become a leading source of renewable energy in Europe, providing a credible solution for people and businesses as a standardised commodity. Pellets are seen as an environmentally benign product delivering added value to energy use in a well-functioning market.	<a href="https://epc.bioenergyeurope.org/">https://epc.bioenergyeurope.org/</a>	EPC Join us! <a href="https://form.jotform.com/81303248269962">https://form.jotform.com/81303248269962</a>	<a href="tel:+3223184100">+32 2 318 41 00</a> <a href="https://epc.bioenergyeurope.org/about-us/contacts/">https://epc.bioenergyeurope.org/about-us/contacts/</a>
<b>European Biogas Association</b>	Energy	EBA <a href="#">Rue d'Arlo n 63-67, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium</a>	regularly	Europe	EBA is the voice of renewable gas in Europe. Founded in February 2009, the association is committed to the active promotion of the deployment of sustainable biogas and biomethane production and use throughout the continent. EBA counts today on a well established network of over 100 national organisations, scientific institutes and companies from Europe and beyond.	<a href="https://www.europeanbiogas.eu/">https://www.europeanbiogas.eu/</a>	EBA Secretariat	<a href="mailto:info@europeanbiogas.eu">info@europeanbiogas.eu</a> <a href="tel:+3224001089">+32 24 00 10 89</a>

<b>European renewable ethanol association</b>	Energy	ePURE	regularly	Europe	<p>ePURE represents the interests of European renewable ethanol producers to the EU institutions, industry stakeholders, the media, academia and the general public. Based in Brussels, ePURE speaks for 35 member companies and associations (including 19 producers), with around 50 plants in 16 EU Member States, accounting for about 73% of the EU's installed production capacity. The organisation, established in 2010, promotes the beneficial uses of ethanol throughout Europe.</p> <p>Our mission is to promote the use of renewable ethanol in Europe by contributing in a constructive and proactive manner to the development and implementation of EU policies and legislation that empower our industry to deliver economic and societal benefits. We pursue this by providing expert advice and input to the EU institutions, Member State governments, Brussels-based stakeholders and wider society.</p>	<a href="https://www.epure.org/">https://www.epure.org/</a>	<p>office: Rue de la Loi 223 B-1040 Brussels Belgium T: +32 2 657 6679</p>	<a href="mailto:info@epure.org">info@epure.org</a>
<b>The Association of European Renewable Energy Research Centers (EUREC)</b>	Energy	The Association of European Renewable Energy Research Centers Place du Champ de Mars 2, B-1050 Brussels	monthly	Europe	<p>The purpose of the association is to promote and support the development of innovative technologies and human resources to enable a prompt transition to a sustainable energy system. The members are research and development (R&amp;D) groups spread across Europe, operating in all renewable energy technologies (wind, biomass, small hydro, marine, geothermal, photovoltaics, solar thermal electricity, and solar thermal heating and cooling). EUREC is a platform for networking to exchange information on the technology innovations related to renewable energy.</p>	<a href="https://eurec.be/">https://eurec.be/</a>		<a href="mailto:info@eurec.be">info@eurec.be</a> <a href="#">contact through website:</a> <a href="https://eurec.be/about/contact/">https://eurec.be/about/contact/</a>
<b>Deutsches Biomasseforschungszentrum</b>	Energy	DBFZ: Torgauer Str. 116 D - 04347 Leipzig	monthly	Germany	<p>The object of the Institute is application-oriented research and development in the field of energetic and integrated material use of renewable raw materials in the bioeconomy with special consideration of innovative techniques of economic effects and environmental concerns. The development of new processes, procedures and concepts takes place in close cooperation with partners from industry and commerce and other research institutions: DBFZ is networked with</p>	<a href="https://www.dbfz.de/en/">https://www.dbfz.de/en/</a>	<p>Prof. Dr. Michael Nelles</p>	<a href="mailto:info@dbfz.de">info@dbfz.de</a> <a href="#">contact through website:</a> <a href="https://www.dbfz.de/en/the-">https://www.dbfz.de/en/the-</a>



					agricultural, forestry and environmental research, including departmental research, non-university large-scale research, state research institutions, selected universities and other German, European and international institutions in the field of biomass research.			<a href="mailto:dbfz/employee-directory/employee/michael-nelles/page/Kontakt/phone:+49(0)3412434-112">dbfz/employee-directory/employee/michael-nelles/page/Kontakt/phone:+49(0)3412434-112</a>
<b>The European association of cities in energy transition</b>	Energy	Energy Cities Renewable Energy House Rue d'Arlo n 63-65 1040 Brussels, Belgium	regularly	Europe	Energy Cities is a network of 1,000 local governments in 30 countries. Energy Cities goal is a wise use of resources while strengthening local participation and well-being in a democratic Europe. Energy Cities wants a radical transformation of the energy systems and policies, giving citizens the power to shape a decentralised and renewable energy future.	<a href="https://energy-cities.eu/">https://energy-cities.eu/</a>	Secretariat	<a href="https://energy-cities.eu/contact-us/">contact through website: https://energy-cities.eu/contact-us/</a>
<b>European Regions Research &amp; Innovation Network - Working Group on Energy and Climate Change</b>	Energy	ERRIN	regularly	Europe	ERRIN is a platform of more than 125 regional stakeholder organisations from 22 European countries. ERRIN focuses solely on research and innovation policy and funding programmes, as well as project development. The members are mainly regional authorities, universities, research organisations, chambers of commerce, and clusters. ERRIN facilitates regional collaboration and knowledge exchange.	<a href="https://errin.eu/">https://errin.eu/</a>	Ryan Titley (Director of Projects)	<a href="mailto:ryan.titley@errin.eu">ryan.titley@errin.eu</a>
<b>EUROCITIES - Working Group on Environment</b>	Energy	EUROCITIES Square de Meeûs 1, B-1000 Brussels	regularly	Europe	EUROCITIES brings together the local governments of over 140 of Europe's largest cities and over 45 partner cities, that between them govern 130 million citizens across 39 countries. Through six thematic forums, a wide range of working groups, projects, activities and events, they offer members a platform for sharing knowledge and exchanging ideas. EUROCITIES influences and works with the EU institutions to respond to common issues that affect the day-to-day lives of Europeans.	<a href="http://www.eurocities.eu/">http://www.eurocities.eu/</a>	Secretariat	<a href="mailto:info@eurocities.eu">info@eurocities.eu</a>

<b>Network of Aquaculture Centers in Central-Eastern Europe</b>	Fisheries	NACEE	regularly	Central-Eastern Europe	<p>The Network is a voluntary union of Central and Eastern European institutions and professionals active in the field of aquaculture, in which all members retain their full independence. The day-to-day operation of the network is coordinated by the elected Executive Board, which is responsible to the General Assembly. The Board also maintains the secretariat, which is located in Szarvas, Hungary. The operation and finances of NACEE are controlled by the Supervisory Board, while the research agenda of the Association is determined by the Technical Advisory Committee.</p> <p>All member institutions assign a liaison officer (preferably speaking both English and Russian) who maintains regular contact with the Secretariat. The language of the communication is English or Russian. Members inform the Secretariat about events, which may count on the interest of other members. The Secretariat then distributes the information among the members of the Network. The Secretariat also disseminates major information from European organisations and institutions, which may be relevant for members of the Network. Regular meetings of the General Assembly are held annually. New members can join the Network with the approval of the General Assembly.</p>	<a href="https://www.nacee.eu/en/">https://www.nacee.eu/en/</a>	Mrs Szvetlana Lengyel  NACEE Technical Secretary	<a href="mailto:szvetlana@nacee.eu">szvetlana@nacee.eu</a>  <a href="mailto:new@gmail.com">new@gmail.com</a>
<b>European Marine Research Network</b>	Fisheries	EUROMARINE	regularly	global	<p>EuroMarine is a European marine science network launched in 2014. It represents the merger of the scientific communities of three former European Networks of Excellence:</p> <p>EUR-OCEANS</p> <p>Marine Genomics Europe</p> <p>MarBEF.</p> <p>It was designed by the EuroMarine preparatory project (2011-13; funded under the seventh European Framework Programme) as a bottom-up organization and meant to be a voice for the European marine scientific community. It is intended as a durable structure and was established as a consortium for an initial duration of 10 years. A Legal Entity will be established in 2016 as a support structure under the control of the Consortium. EuroMarine initially counted 66 (founding, 2014) member organisations (MOs), 55 of which</p>	<a href="https://www.euroromarinetwork.eu/">https://www.euroromarinetwork.eu/</a>	Generic contact address, Catherine Boyen (CNRS) Chair, Philippe Cury (IRD) Chair	<a href="mailto:coordination@euroromarinetwork.eu">coordination@euroromarinetwork.eu</a> ; <a href="mailto:boyen@sb-roscoff.fr">boyen@sb-roscoff.fr</a> ; <a href="mailto:philippe.cury@ird.fr">philippe.cury@ird.fr</a>

					<p>were 'full voting' members contributing to the 2014 budget.</p> <p>The primary goals of EuroMarine are to support the identification and initial development of important emerging scientific topics or issues and associated methodologies in marine sciences, as well as to foster new services relevant to the marine scientific community.</p>			
<b>Forest Bioeconomy Network (ForBioeconomy)</b>	Forestry	EFI	monthly	EU countries	<p>EFI facilitates and stimulates forest-related networking and promote the dissemination of unbiased and policy-relevant information on forests and forestry. EFI also advocates for forest research and for the use of scientifically sound information as a basis for forest policies.</p>	<a href="https://www.efi.int">https://www.efi.int</a>	Harald Mauser, Bernhard Wolfslehner	<a href="mailto:harald.mauser@efi.int">harald.mauser@efi.int</a> , <a href="mailto:bernhard.wolfslehner@efi.int">bernhard.wolfslehner@efi.int</a>
<b>European State Forest Association</b>	Forestry	EUSTAFOR	regularly	Europe	<p>The European State Forest Association (EUSTAFOR) represents commercially-oriented state forest companies, enterprises and agencies that have sustainable forest management (SFM) and sustainable wood production as major concerns.</p> <p>The Association currently has 35 members in 24 European countries.</p>	<a href="https://eustafor.eu/">https://eustafor.eu/</a>	Mr. Piotr Borkowski Executive Director	<a href="mailto:piotr.borkowski@eustafor.eu">piotr.borkowski@eustafor.eu</a> ; +32 (0)2 239 23 04; +32 (0)474 989 319; <a href="mailto:office@eustafor.eu">office@eustafor.eu</a>
<b>European National Forest Inventory Network</b>	Forestry	ENFIN	yearly	Europe	<p>National Forest Inventories (NFIs) represent comprehensive, reliable, large-scale monitoring systems. ENFIN serves as a European network to promote NFIs, harmonise forest information and support decision makers in a broad range of forest related policies. The overall objectives of ENFIN are to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide a platform for the harmonisation of forest inventory information at European scale</li> <li>optimise synergies between NFIs and promote new knowledge and enhanced methods</li> <li>support forest policies with harmonised forest information and adapt data collection to new emerging policy needs.</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.enfin.info/">http://www.enfin.info/</a>	Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Klemens Schadauer (Federal Research Centre for Forests, Austria)	<a href="mailto:klemens.schadauer@bfw.gv.at">klemens.schadauer@bfw.gv.at</a>

<p><b>Forest-based Sector Technology Platform</b></p>	<p>Forestry</p>	<p>FTP</p>	<p>regularly</p>	<p>Europe</p>	<p>The Forest-based Sector Technology Platform (FTP) is a European Technology Platform (ETP) dedicated to the forest-based sector. It is the meeting place for industry, forest owners and public authorities, to discuss and build up a critical mass of knowledge on common research and innovation needs for the sector, and to decide on the best ways to cooperate.</p> <p>In this way, FTP delivers sound, scientific, strategic and EU-relevant information to public funding providers, thus facilitating opportunities for targeted investments in research, technological developments and innovation (RTDI).</p> <p>The main aim of FTP is to develop, promote and implement a Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, to advance competitiveness and sustainability of the forest-based sector through innovation. This is set out in FTP's mission statement.</p> <p>FTP is the primary focal point for the European Commission with regard to forest-based research and innovation. Through its strong representation in various EU advisory bodies and expert groups, FTP advises policymakers on the sector's RTDI priorities. FTP also collaborates with other organizations in various initiatives and projects aimed at profiling the forest-based sector as the key actor in and enabler of the bioeconomy. It has been acknowledged as one of the most successful among the 38 ETPs recognized by the European Commission.</p> <p>FTP is open to the entire forest-based sector. Please contact the National Support Group for your country to engage with the activities of the network at national level.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.forestplatform.org/">http://www.forestplatform.org/</a></p>	<p>Johan Elvnert Managing Director</p>	<p><a href="mailto:johan.elvnert@forestplatform.org">johan.elvnert@forestplatform.org</a> <a href="http://www.forestplatform.org">www.forestplatform.org</a> <a href="http://db.forestplatform.org">db.forestplatform.org</a></p>
<p><b>Confederation of European Forest Owners</b></p>	<p>Forestry</p>	<p>CEPF</p>	<p>regularly</p>	<p>Europe</p>	<p>The Confederation of European Forest Owners (CEPF) is the umbrella association of national forest owner organisations in Europe. Representing family forestry in Europe, CEPF promotes the values of sustainable forest management, private property ownership and the economic viability of the forest sector.</p> <p>Based in Brussels, CEPF is a non-profit organisation, representing the interest of nearly 16 million forest owners. These are private individuals, families and cooperatives, which take care of approximately 60% of the European forest</p>	<p><a href="http://www.cepf-eu.org/">http://www.cepf-eu.org/</a></p>	<p>Secretariat</p>	<p><a href="mailto:office@cepf-eu.org">office@cepf-eu.org</a></p>

					area.			
<b>European Chemistry Thematic Network</b>	Industry	ECTN 39 rue des Deux Eglises 1000 Brusse ls, Belgiu m	general assembl y - yearly	EU coun tries	<p>The European Chemistry Thematic Network Association (ECTN), is a non-profit making association registered in Belgium and is an outcome of six years of network activity (1996-2002). The Association was created to provide a sustainable future for the European Chemistry Thematic Network, a network funded by the European Commission through the Erasmus programme.</p> <p>Higher education institutions, national chemical societies and chemical companies comprise our members. There are currently over 120 members of the network coming from 30 different European countries and with associate members world-wide.</p> <p>Expert European groups work on a range of topics and produce reports with a real European dimension. These reports and recommendations are available on our website. A multi-lingual series of tests that can be used for certification / validation of competence in chemistry at various levels is now available online. Associated E-learning facilities have been produced. The purpose of the tests is to validate the competence of all citizens, irrespective of their learning path.</p>	<a href="http://ectn.eu/">http://ectn.eu/</a>	<p>Professor Emmanuel Sinagra</p> <p>President of the ECTN Association</p> <p>University of Malta</p>	<a href="mailto:president@ectn.eu">president@ectn.eu</a>
<b>Confederation of European Paper Industries</b>	Industry	CEPI	regularly	Europe	<p>The Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI) is a non-profit-making organisation. CEPI is headed by Director General Jori Ringman with a staff of 17, based in Brussels. It has four standing committees, which take long-term strategic perspectives on the issues affecting the industry. These are the Environment and Safety, Climate Change and Energy, Forest and Recycling committees under which a number of ad-hoc issue groups operate. The Association Directors' Group (ADG) is the senior advisory group to the Director General of CEPI and is composed of Director Generals of National Associations. CEPI is managed by a 33-person Board, and is composed of representatives of National Associations and Chief Executive Officers (CEOs). The Board is currently chaired by</p>	<a href="http://www.cepi.org/http://www.cepi.org/">http://www.cepi.org/http://www.cepi.org/</a>	<p>CEPI aisbl Confederation of European Paper Industries 250 Avenue Louise, box 80 B-1050 Brussels Belgium Tel: +32 2 627 4911 Fax: +32</p>	<a href="mailto:mail@cepi.org">mail@cepi.org</a>



					“The main objective of BON Europe is to push for an economically and politically favourable landscape for bioplastics in Europe”, says François de Bie, Chairman of European Bioplastics. “This includes promoting legislative measures to encourage market uptake and eco-design of products, equal access as well as use of responsibly sourced renewable raw materials, as well as promoting an efficient waste management infrastructure throughout Europe that supports separate biowaste collection and organic recycling.”			
<b>European Chemical Regions Network</b>	Industry	ECRN	monthly	Europe	The European Chemical Regions Network (ECRN) has the intention to create a greater awareness for the regional dimension with those involved in the shaping of policies in Europe. The network gives access to experiences made in regional development of chemical regions between all relevant actors and creates synergies between "best practices" in dealing with the ongoing restructuring of chemical regions and the improvement of mainstream Structural Funds Programmes.	<a href="https://ecrn.net">https://ecrn.net</a>	Monica Banca	<a href="mailto:office@ecrn.net">office@ecrn.net</a>
<b>Vanguard Initiative</b>	Industry	Vanguard Initiative	regularly	Europe	The Vanguard Initiative is a network of European regions which is dedicated to advancing industrial innovation in Europe and offer a platform for businesses, clusters, knowledge institutions. Vanguard Initiative seeks to lead by example in developing interregional cooperation and multi-level governance for supporting clusters and regional eco-systems to focus on smart specialisations in priority areas for transforming and emerging industries	<a href="https://www.s3vanguardinitiative.eu/">https://www.s3vanguardinitiative.eu/</a>	Farha Brahmi (Network Manager)	<a href="mailto:farha.brahmi@s3vanguardinitiative.eu">farha.brahmi@s3vanguardinitiative.eu</a>