

**COMPANY PROFILE**

**BIOCHICA srl**

**2020**



**BioChiCa**



Il valore dell'innovazione



## *Company Profile*

**BIOCHICA srl** is an innovative start-up that results from European Project "Enabling" (<https://www.enabling-project.com/>, H2020). Thanks to the 16<sup>th</sup> partner collaboration, European's network allowed a fertile background for **BIOCHICA srl** creation.

This contest created a platform for transferring the needed knowledge to the start-up development and allowed contacts and collaborations consolidation with company and research centers both on Italian and European scale.

The start-up foresees an important research and development activity, with the aim of evolving to the systematic production phase of bioactive molecules passing from laboratory to industrial scale up.

In this phase **BIOCHICA srl** is expected to participate in national and European projects and to strengthen relations with stakeholders, from suppliers of raw materials, to customers, to laboratories and accredited research entities. Subsequently phase 2 will be started with the aim of implementing the structure on an industrial / corporate scale.

Another strategic focus in the research activities of **BIOCHICA srl** is to enhance alternative biomass sources for the production of functional molecules capable of diversifying the market and obtaining new synergies, respecting criteria of **environmental sustainability** and **economic circularity**.

The functional molecules based on polysaccharides and natural antioxidants are the constituent material of different materials characterized by biodegradability, recyclability and non-toxicity; these characteristics, together with their antiseptic, antioxidant and antifungal nature, make their different application effective in the agricultural and food fields, pharmaceutical and biomedical sectors. Furthermore, part of the extractable polysaccharides represents powerful chelating agents capable of successfully breaking down the presence of heavy metals and hydrocarbons in the waters. Further technological developments include the use of polysaccharides (Chitin-based) for the creation of bioplastic polymers currently used in the food-packaging sector.

Currently the production of various polysaccharide-based raw materials is concentrated in Asian countries.

**BIOCHICA srl** wants to respect the quality and environmental sustainability criteria in line with European Standards, decreasing the dependence of biobased products on third countries.

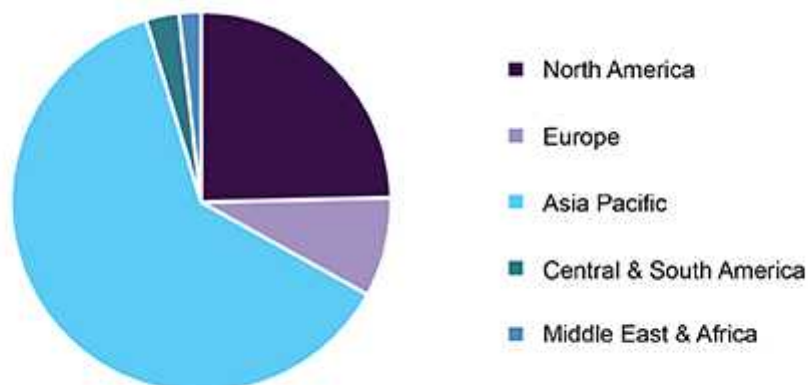
**BIOCHICA srl** has the aim of starting a process of sustainable development from the valorization of biomass through the extraction of active molecules or "Chemical Building Blocks" from local residues coming from the fish, agro-industrial and agro-forestry sector.

**BIOCHICA srl** has the aim of organizing the local reference chains for the development of a "critical biomass" capable of supporting an adequate industrial production of BBPs - Biobased Products on a European scale, through participation in the BBI Network.

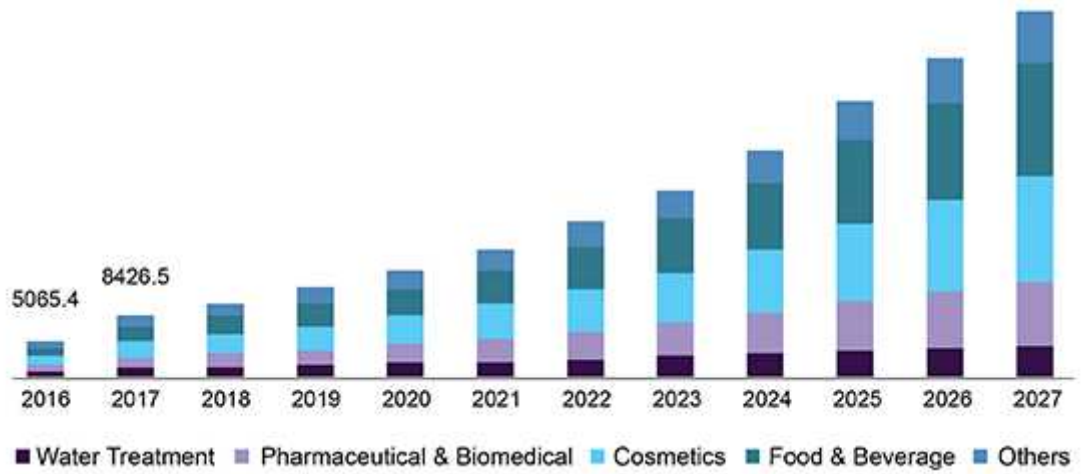
**BIOCHICA srl** works for the launch of a replicable business model on the Italian and European market, the latter still lacking organized supply chains for the enhancement of residual biomass for BBPs usage.

On an international scale, the production of functional molecules is mainly concentrated in China and Japan (Fig. 1) with a clearly growing annual demand until reaching a forecast of demand greater than 100 ktons / year in the coming years (2027), against the current 10 ktons / year (Fig. 2).

**Fig. 1: Global market for chitin-based products 2019 (%)**



**Fig.2: Global demand growth forecast (tons) of bio-polysaccharide products (2016-2027)**



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