


# **D.T4.2.2**

## **Feedback reports on Co-Creation workshops**

### **Project region**



BRAIT/ BSMEPA  
09/ 2022

### Project Information

Project Title: GoDanuBio - 'Participative Ecosystems for fostering the revitalization of rural-urban cooperation through governing Danube Circular Bioeconomy'

Project code: DTP3-471-4.1

Lead partner: BIOPRO Baden-Württemberg GmbH

Start of the project: 01/07/2020

Duration: 30 months

<http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/godanubio>

### Deliverable Information

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## 1. General information about the co-creation workshop

Date of the workshop	12.09.2022
Topic of the workshop	The Bioeconomy Transition
Format of the workshop	Online
Region/Address	BULGARIA
Project partner(s) involved	BRAIT, BSMEPA
Guiding question/theme of the workshop	Engagement with local / regional administration towards the bioeconomy transition and bioeconomy projects implementation
Number of participants	26
Type of participants (Target groups) <sup>1</sup> and name of institutions	Local and regional authorities, sectoral agency, NGOs, Higher education and research, SME, public service provider, general public
Cooperation with experts (i.e. speakers, external moderators, politician...)	External moderator from Sofia Security Forum

## 2. Objective of the workshop

For the final co-creation workshop we've decided to implement all of the problems, questions and potential solutions the whole GoDanuBio project stands for. The objective of the workshop was to locate the position of all the parties on the way to bioeconomy – governance, business and consumers. The workshop introduced good practices, possible ways for development (through programs and projects) and finding cooperation among the audience. The focus was on rural-urban cooperation and the financial aspect of the bioeconomy transition. For the implementation of all the above, we brought together representatives from the local and the public authority, business, educational institutions and general public.

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<sup>1</sup> Please group the target groups according to the ones listed in page 42 of the Application Form

### **3. Initial situation of your region**

The situation in Bulgaria regarding bioeconomy is complicated. On one hand, we have bio products, sustainable value chains and potential to produce and even export. On the other, there are almost no strategies, policies and working mechanisms to promote bioeconomy among the SMEs. Alternatively, if there are some, they are not popular and generally available for the public.

In Bulgaria, we have this portal for public consultations, which we can name the best example on national level for participative governance. The problem is that the website is not popular enough. There is no commonly accepted way for people to speak aloud and their voice to be heard. The lack of information and the gap between the people and the politicians is what makes participative governance looking like something foreign in our country.

We chose the topic “Transition to bioeconomy” for the final workshop so we can show good working examples of bioeconomy in Bulgaria, discuss possible ways for cooperation and introduce possible ways for financing projects and SMEs.

There are number of mechanisms, grants or optional ways for financing “green, sustainable and bio projects/ products” if the company (not only SMEs, but also large companies are eligible) meets certain conditions for financing.

As one of our lecturers said, no matter how good, bio or eco your product is, if you put it in a cheap plastic package first you’re losing from its value, second you make it look cheaper than similar products from foreign markets, and third and most important – we can’t name this bioeconomy.

### **4. Methods used within the workshop**

For the final workshop, we chose the lecture method + presentations, followed by Q&A and brainstorming. We chose this format because the practice shows it is the most suitable for our audience. People feel safer if they see the presentation first, and after that, they can ask question which leads to a discussion.

## 5. Lessons learned for next upcoming workshops

This was our third and final workshop. We'll do our best the lessons learned throughout all three of them to be the base for the future initiatives for the popularization, implementation and encouragement of the bioeconomy in Bulgaria.

## 6. What did the local or/and regional administration and the citizens expect from the process of participative governance?

Both sides were expecting an active dialogue. Measures for SMEs regarding circular and bioeconomy were introduced and a discussion ensued. In general, producers want from the administration to be more opened for proposals and actual measures. Most important step at this point is for the citizens, business and other representatives (not part of the administration) to be introduced to a common mechanism whit which they will know to whom and how to address their wishes, needs, concerns and proposals and to reach the relevant authority. We believe that we did our best to meet everyone's expectations and to be of maximum use for all the participants in the workshop.

## 7. Outcome of the co-creation workshops

Outcome:	Name:	Stakeholder involved:	Expected duration:	Field of action (bioeconomy in general /rural development/urban rural cooperation)
Feature cooperation	N/A	SME + Association	Long term	Imparting knowledge for bioeconomy
Feature cooperation	N/A	SMEs	Long term	Rural development/ urban rural cooperation

The first outcome considers a proposition for feature cooperation between Hanon Systems Ltd. (in particular their initiative for Green and Clean Bulgaria) and the National Children's Network.

The lecturers from Hanon System presented their wonderful initiative to make children more involved and aware of the consequences from polluting, plastic using and so on. They created Project co-funded by the European Union Funds (ERDF and IPA)



a children's guidebook (expecting to be officially approved by the Ministry of Education) which they plan to distribute among municipalities so they can provide them to schools. One of the participants in the workshop happened to be the President of the National Children's Network and they gladly exchanged contacts so the book can reach even more children during different type of initiatives.

The second outcome was between SMEs – honey producers and a representative of a platform, promoting Bulgarian bio products worldwide.

Honey producers (micro and small enterprises) wanted to know how to be more relevant to external markets. Contacts were exchanged and hopefully both sides will be able to cooperate in the future.

## **8. Innovation potential for your region**

Bulgaria is a country with big potential for innovations. Regarding this after the last elections last year a new ministry was founded – the Ministry of Innovation and Growth. BSMEPA is part of this ministry and we provide support for the SMEs.

Thanks to this co-creation workshop a project idea was founded – to promote clean and green initiatives among the National Children's Network. The Hanon Systems Ltd. offers to anyone interested (municipalities, NGOs, etc.) a children book which introduces the impact of sustainable development to the new generation (waiting the official approval of Ministry of education), also free materials, banners, and a portable stand for different children initiatives.

## **9. Strengths and weaknesses of the process of participative governance**

The main problem while organizing the co-creation workshops was the lack of information to whom we should address our invitations in regional (we can say on national as well) level. For example when calling one Municipality to invite them to take part in the co-creation workshops and to present the GoDanuBio project an endless process of information transfer begins. One call is redirected to different department, than back to the main office, than trying to find out who in the municipality could be appointed responsible and eventually to speak to.

As a strength of participative governance, we can point the tons of fresh ideas with actual potential for development, the amount of well-educated new entrepreneurs and the possibility of young people to speak aloud their wishes.

The lack of information regarding ways for participative governance and the endless circle to whom we should address our ideas, complaints or proposals can be considered as the two main weaknesses in our country.

#### **10. Do you plan to use the process of participative governance also in future?**

We believe that in the natural process of development goes hand in hand with participative governance. Every single mechanism, funding, or program for development becomes more and clearer as the time passes and it is only a matter of time to create new ways for participation among the general public.

We as a national structure will do our best to promote the existing ways for participative governance and to make the public more informed and familiar with the bottom-up approach.

#### **11. Identified opportunities for rural development in your region**

Whit each year and especially after the Covid 19 pandemic we observe the opposite of urbanization. There are lots of associations, social media groups and initiatives for returning the young people to the countryside. There are municipalities which even financially stimulate families who decide to live in their municipality land. The young people can work remotely and ennoble the area where they live in. Crafts, traditions and know-how has been transferred from the locals to the new comers. There are regions who has been uncultivable for years but in the last few years, we can proudly say that investors are bringing them back to life.



## **12. Annexes**

1. Agenda of the co-creation workshop
2. Invitation of the workshop
3. Pictures of the workshop
4. Press releases of the workshop

**Engagement with local / regional administration towards the bioeconomy transition**

**Преходът към биоикономика**

**Дата: 12 септември 2022 г.**

**Начин на провеждане: Онлайн платформа**

**15.00 – 15.15** Откриване и представяне на проекта GoDanuBio – *модератор, Диана Боянова, Софийски Форум за Сигурност*

**15.15 – 15.35** Проект BIOEASTsUP. Възможности за кандидатстване по програма Хоризонт Европа и програма Life – *Теодора Маринова, Управител Куадро Синерджи ЕООД*

**15.35 – 16.00** Представяне на инициативата Clean Bulgaria – *Георги Ангелов, Евгени Петров, Nanon Systems*

**16.00 – 16.15** Представяне на проекти и сътрудничества в подкрепа на прехода към биоикономика – *Център "Чиста индустрия" при Българска стопанска камара – Илияна Павлова, Директор на Център „Чиста индустрия“*

**16.15 – 16.40** Финансови аспекти на прехода към биоикономика – *проф. Виржиния Желязкова, Директор „Финанси и финансов мениджмънт“, Висше училище по застраховане и финанси*

**16.40 – 17.00** Отговори на въпроси, свързани с набиране на финансиране по проекти, свързани с биоикономика - *Деница Цекова, Управител Инфинитус ЕООД*

**17.00 – 17.20** Уъркшоп част: brainstorming на проекти, свързани с кръгова биоикономика

Уважаеми дами и господа,

Имаме удоволствието да Ви поканим в онлайн уъркшоп на тема „Преходът към биоикономика“, който ще се проведе на **12.09.2022 г. от 15:00 часа**.

По време на събитието участниците ще имат възможност да разберат повече за различни аспекти от прехода към биоикономика в България, както и да обсъдят потенциала на страната ни в областта.

Събитието се организира като част от проекта GoDanuBio, който е съфинансиран от ЕС и има за цел да използва кръговата биоикономика в дунавския регион, като инструмент за ревитализиране на селските райони и насърчаване на регионалното развитие. Дългосрочната цел на проекта е да подобри социално-икономическия статус на региона, допринасяйки за опазването на околната среда, климата и ресурсите, както и за насърчаване развитието на селските райони.

В уъркшопа ще бъдат използвани съвременни методи и средства за комуникиране, работа в екип, форми за участие на гражданите в местното самоуправление, техники за стимулиране на общуването, дискутиране на план за действие за подобряване на гражданското участие по темата.

Участието е безплатно (финансирано от еврофондове като част от проекта GoDanuBio).

На този линк може да направите своята регистрация за събитието:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSei4wXrWSvOmiUbGljUlchQ0qgkxvqxZs4FMHpjUZuf5NpL4g/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0&usp=mail\\_form\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSei4wXrWSvOmiUbGljUlchQ0qgkxvqxZs4FMHpjUZuf5NpL4g/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0&usp=mail_form_link)

След направена регистрация ще получите линк за включване.





# Interreg



Danube Transnational Programme

**GoDanuBio**

**12**

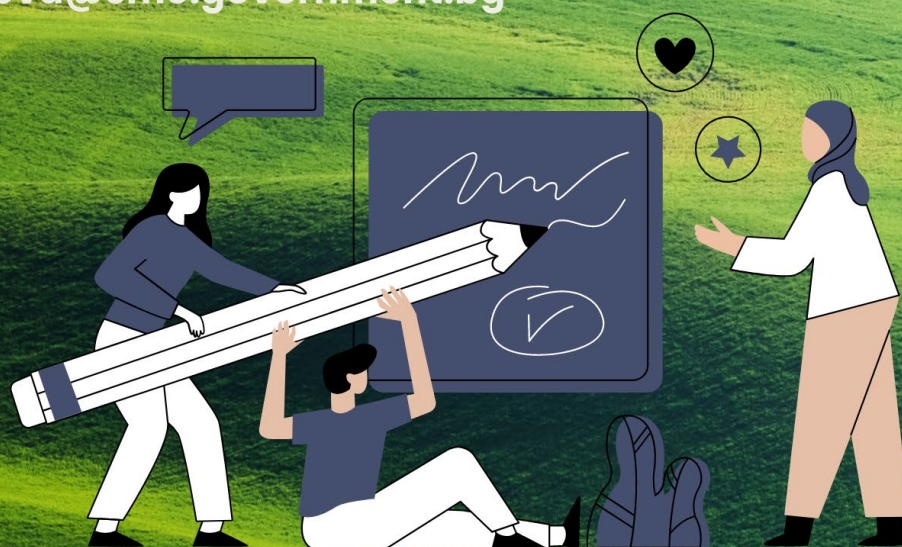
СЕПТЕМВРИ

**15:00**

## ПРЕХОДЪТ КЪМ БИОИКОНОМИКА

Безплатен финален онлайн уъркшоп

Лице за контакт: Ива Маринова  
[i.tsvetkova@sme.government.bg](mailto:i.tsvetkova@sme.government.bg)







Zoom Meeting

Recording

Диана Боянова, модератор is talking...

View

Teodora Marino...		Denitsa Tsekova	Ivanka Todorova	Таня Николова
Iva Tsvetkova B...	tsst	Теодора Атанас...	Diana, back up...	Lydia Kostova
ony Naydenov	eborisova	DR		Rumen Radulc
Mariya Zlateva_...	v.blazheva@uni...	Angel	vanyog	E-Tours
r.pesheva	Svetoslav Stanc...	Maria Dzhunlieva	Magdalena Mad...	Iordanov

Participants (28)

Find a participant

- tsst
- v.blazheva@uni-svishtov.bg
- vanyog
- Павлова - БСК
- Таня Николова
- Теодора Атанасова БРАИТ

Invite Unmute Me

Chat

КОНТАКТ?

<https://nmd.bg/members/teodora-marinova/>

работим по образователни екологични теми за деца - една от темите

Who can see your messages? Recording On

To: Everyone

Type message here...

Unmute Start Video Participants Chat Share Screen Record Live Transcript Reactions Leave

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