



## 5<sup>th</sup> Newsletter, June 2019

Regional circular economy models  
and best available technologies  
for biological streams



### This is the 5<sup>th</sup> BIOREGIO Newsletter.

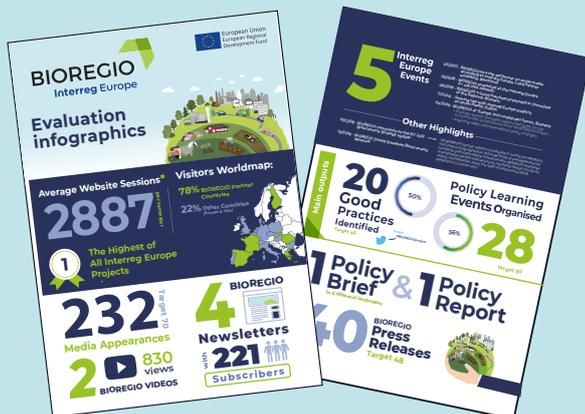
The activities of the **BIOREGIO** project continued in the 5<sup>th</sup> semester, aiming to boost bio-based circular economy through a transfer of expertise on best available technologies and cooperation. The semester included e.g. regional stakeholder group meetings, dissemination events, the 5th Interregional Event in Slovakia and over 10 new Good Practices registered on the Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform.

**BIOREGIO**, an Interreg Europe project implemented by 8 partners from 6 EU countries, Finland, Spain, Greece, Slovakia, Romania and France, will improve knowledge related to circular economy of biological materials and strive to increase the recycling rates of these materials. You can find more information about the 5<sup>th</sup> semester of **BIOREGIO** below. This newsletter is provided by the Slovak project partner, the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra.



Read more about **BIOREGIO**:  
[www.interregeurope.eu/bioregio](http://www.interregeurope.eu/bioregio)

### Explore BIOREGIO infographics at the end of the newsletter



### First Action Plan is ready

Find out how the Päijät-Häme region in Finland will boost bio-based circular economy

[www.interregeurope.eu/bioregio/action-plans/](http://www.interregeurope.eu/bioregio/action-plans/)



### New BIOREGIO video

Have a look at how BIOREGIO project inspired the policy instruments in the Nitra region, Slovakia



[www.interregeurope.eu/bioregio/library](http://www.interregeurope.eu/bioregio/library)

14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> May 2019

# BIOREGIO 5<sup>th</sup> Interregional Event in Nitra Region, Slovakia

The 5<sup>th</sup> BIOREGIO interregional event focusing on "*Biofuels and Agricultural Innovations*" took place in Nitra, Slovakia, on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019. The event was organised by the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra.

**The first day** started with three presentations dedicated to the policy development at the national and regional levels and to the issue of the circular economy as a lifestyle. Stakeholders from all partner regions presented their good practices and morning session included also fruitful discussion in small groups on selected topics. In the afternoon session, the regional Action Plan proposals were presented, followed by an interesting round table discussion on the action plans development. Representatives of the authorities had the opportunity to describe their cooperation within the stakeholder groups. The BIOREGIO team from SUA launched a short video on how the **BIOREGIO project inspired the policy instruments in the Nitra region.**



**Video: BIOREGIO project inspired the policy instruments in the Nitra region**

[www.interregeurope.eu/bioregio/library](http://www.interregeurope.eu/bioregio/library)

**During the second day**, participants had the opportunity to visit different sites in Nitra Region. The first stop was at the Biogas station at the University farm, which is designed to process manure and other types of feedstocks to produce heat and electricity. The second visited site was the wastewater treatment plant of Nitra city working on the mechanical and biological principle. Next stop was at the waste management facility of the Association of municipalities for a separate waste collection of

the Ponitrie region. Activities of the Associations also represent a regional example of a BIOREGIO good practice. At the end of the day, the BIOREGIO group visited the Distillery in Jelšovce equipped with a state-of-the-art technology and a sophisticated waste management.

## Thematic Discussions in Small Groups

Partners and stakeholders were discussing and exchanging ideas in groups on the following topics:

1. Policy instrument development challenges;
2. Technologies related to biofuels and agricultural innovations;
3. Bio-based circular economy as a lifestyle in your region: Citizen Involvement.

## Lessons Learned:

1. Policies related to bio-based circular economy are still underdeveloped in the Central and Eastern European countries compared to e.g. Finland or Spain. However, the strategic documents are already being prepared in cooperation with stakeholders from the national and regional levels. Regional activities related to bio-based circular economy are gradually supported using various funds and instruments.

2. From the technological point of view, the situation related to biofuels is basically favourable. Advanced technologies are, to a certain extent, implemented in all partner regions. Although the cooperation between companies, research and universities is already running, there is still a space for further improvement.

3. People are interested in bio-based circular economy and are willing to be involved through composting, separating waste and other activities that are available for them at the local level. Especially NGOs and municipalities are very actively working with local communities. Demotivating factors in some countries are e.g. weak engagement of responsible authorities or often changing legislation.

**Read more** ▶

[www.interregeurope.eu/bioregio/news/](http://www.interregeurope.eu/bioregio/news/)

Tweet!  
**#BIOREGIOproject**



2017

1-6 / 2017



### Semester 1

**Region in focus:**

Päijät-Häme, FINLAND

**Partners:** Lahti University of Applied Sciences & Päijät-Häme Regional Council

**Theme:** Regional model of biological streams

7-12 / 2017



### Semester 2

**Region in focus:**

Castilla La Mancha, SPAIN

**Partner:**

Deputy Regional Ministry of Environment

**Theme:** Biorefinery and high value products

2018

1-6 / 2018



### Semester 3

**Region in focus:**

Central Macedonia, GREECE

**Partners:**

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki & Region of Central Macedonia

**Theme:** Agricultural waste gasification

7-12 / 2018



### Semester 4

**Region in focus:**

ROMANIA

**Partner:** National Research and Development institute for Chemistry and Petrochemistry ICECHIM, Calarasi subsidiary

**Theme:** Main challenges in developing bio-based circular economy

2019

1-6 / 2019



### Semester 5

**Region in focus:**

Nitra, SLOVAKIA

**Partner:** Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra

**Theme:** Biofuels and agricultural innovations

7-12 / 2019



### Semester 6

**Region in focus:**

Pays de la Loire, FRANCE

**Partner:** Association of the Chambers of Agriculture of the Atlantic Area

**Theme:** Policy development and action plans

# Policy Instrument in Focus: Programme of Economic and Social Development of the Nitra Self-Governing Region

The partnership of the **Slovak University of Agriculture** and **Nitra Self-governing region** has successfully influenced this Programme. In 2017, thanks to the BIOREGIO project, new activities related to bio-based circular economy were introduced into the Instrument LEADER NSK, which is a part of this Programme. LEADER NSK is a unique instrument that provides funding for small-scale projects in Nitra region.

Further cooperation influenced the Programme also in 2018 and 2019 while developing the Update of the Action Plan of the Programme for the three-year period 2019 - 2021 (adopted in May 2019). Being inspired by BIOREGIO, the authors proposed the following actions that extend the issues related to bio-based circular economy:

- ✓ **Action 1:** Promoting the dissemination and application of the principles of the circular economy
- ✓ **Action 2:** Elaboration of concept materials for use of bio-waste energy and support for the introduction of bio-waste technologies
- ✓ **Action 3:** Implementation of measures and projects aimed at streamlining the management system with municipal waste, biodegradable municipal waste and bio-waste



BIOREGIO partners and stakeholders gathered at the 5<sup>th</sup> interregional event in Nitra, Slovakia.

2017

2018

2019

# Good Practices in Nitra Region, Slovakia

## 1. Programme to Support Integrated Rural Development LEADER NSK

LEADER NSK provides funding for small-scale projects in the Nitra Self-Governing Region (NSGR), Slovakia. It is based on the principles of the generally-known EU initiative LEADER (Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale), but it is funded from the NSGR own budget. In 2017, new sub-activities related to circular economy were introduced into the LEADER NSK, e.g. design of bio-waste energy strategies or support of bio-waste processing technologies.

## 2. Separate Collection and Recovery of Biodegradable Waste

Association for Separate Waste Collection of the Ponitrie Region has launched a successful project "Separate Collection and Recovery of Biodegradable Waste" for more than 80,000 inhabitants of 57 member municipalities in Nitra region. Previously, each municipality has dealt with waste management on its own. Now, the project addresses the unified waste management in the municipalities and introduces principles of bio-based circular economy.

## 3. Separate waste collection and composting of biowaste using the municipality's own resources

The municipality of Veľké Turovce separates paper, plastics, glass, metals and multilayer composite materials, edible fats and oils. The municipality decided to build its own small composting plant from its own resources. The composting plant has successfully operated since September 2018. This example shows that an effective waste management system is possible to operate even for the small village using its own limited resources. The municipality is now reaching the highest value of the average amount of separated waste per capita and it is also the leader of this approach in the adjacent region.

## 4. Production of biofuels from crops and oils

The Envien Group is the largest group interconnecting the most significant biofuel producers in Slovakia. It gathers three production plants in the town Leopoldov representing a waste-free production system since each main product together with related production side-streams have market application. Main biofuel products are blended to obtain conventional mixtures of diesel and gasoline for the Slovak market and abroad; side-streams from production are used mainly for feeding or as a co-substrate for biogas production in biogas plants and other purposes.

[Read more](#) ▶

[www.interregeurope.eu/bioregio/news/](http://www.interregeurope.eu/bioregio/news/)

This Newsletter reflects the author's views; the Interreg Europe programme authorities are not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.



### Upcoming in Semester 6

The 6<sup>th</sup> interregional event of BIOREGIO will be organised in **Nantes, France**, on 5.-6.11.2019. The event will finalise **Phase I** of the project, concluding Action Plans and presenting project success stories.



Lead partner:



[www.lamk.fi](http://www.lamk.fi)



[www.interregeurope.eu/bioregio](http://www.interregeurope.eu/bioregio)  
#BIOREGIOproject

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# Evaluation infographics



- based on data from 1/2017-4/2019 -



**BIOREGIO Website** → [www.interregeurope.eu/bioregio](http://www.interregeurope.eu/bioregio)

Average Website Sessions\*

**2887** per semester



**The Highest of  
All Interreg Europe  
Projects**

\* Source: Interreg Europe

**Visitors Worldmap:**

**78%** BIOREGIO Partner  
Countries

**22%** Other Countries  
(Europe & USA)



**232** Target 70

**Media Appearances**

**2**  **830**  
views  
**BIOREGIO VIDEOS**

**4** **BIOREGIO**  


**Newsletters**

with **221** 

**Subscribers**

# BIOREGIO Showcase

## 5 Interreg Europe Events

- 05/2017 - BIOREGIO as a top performer on social media according to Interreg Europe, Lead Partner workshop, Barcelona
- 05/2018 - BIOREGIO presented at the Interreg Europe 4<sup>th</sup> call info, Helsinki
- 09/2018 - BIOREGIO's Good Practises presented in Committee of the Regions, Brussels
- 11/2018 - Sharing tips with Interreg Europe projects on social media, Dublin
- 04/2019 - BIOREGIO at 'Europe, let's cooperate!' forum, Brussels
  - Thematic session: European regions taking the circular economy road: success stories from the BIOREGIO project
  - Inspiring video interviews about policy changes

## Other Highlights

03/2018 - BIOREGIO comments on the EU 2012 Bioeconomy Strategy update

→ "All BIOREGIO partner regions contributed in writing this feedback and unanimously agreed on the magnitude of strengthening the circularity and sustainability of bioeconomy. BIOREGIO would like to emphasize the fact of bioeconomy not being always circular by nature, and therefore, stress the need of bioeconomy being designed in a circular way."

10/2018 - BIOREGIO joined European Bioeconomy Network

Main outputs

20 Good Practices Identified

Target 40



Policy Learning Events Organised

28

Target 50



1 Policy Brief & 1 Policy Report

in 6 different languages

40 BIOREGIO Press Releases

Target 48



**35** BIOREGIO  
Internal  
Communication  
& Sharing **Target 48**

**36** BIOREGIO  
External  
Communication  
Events **Target ∞**

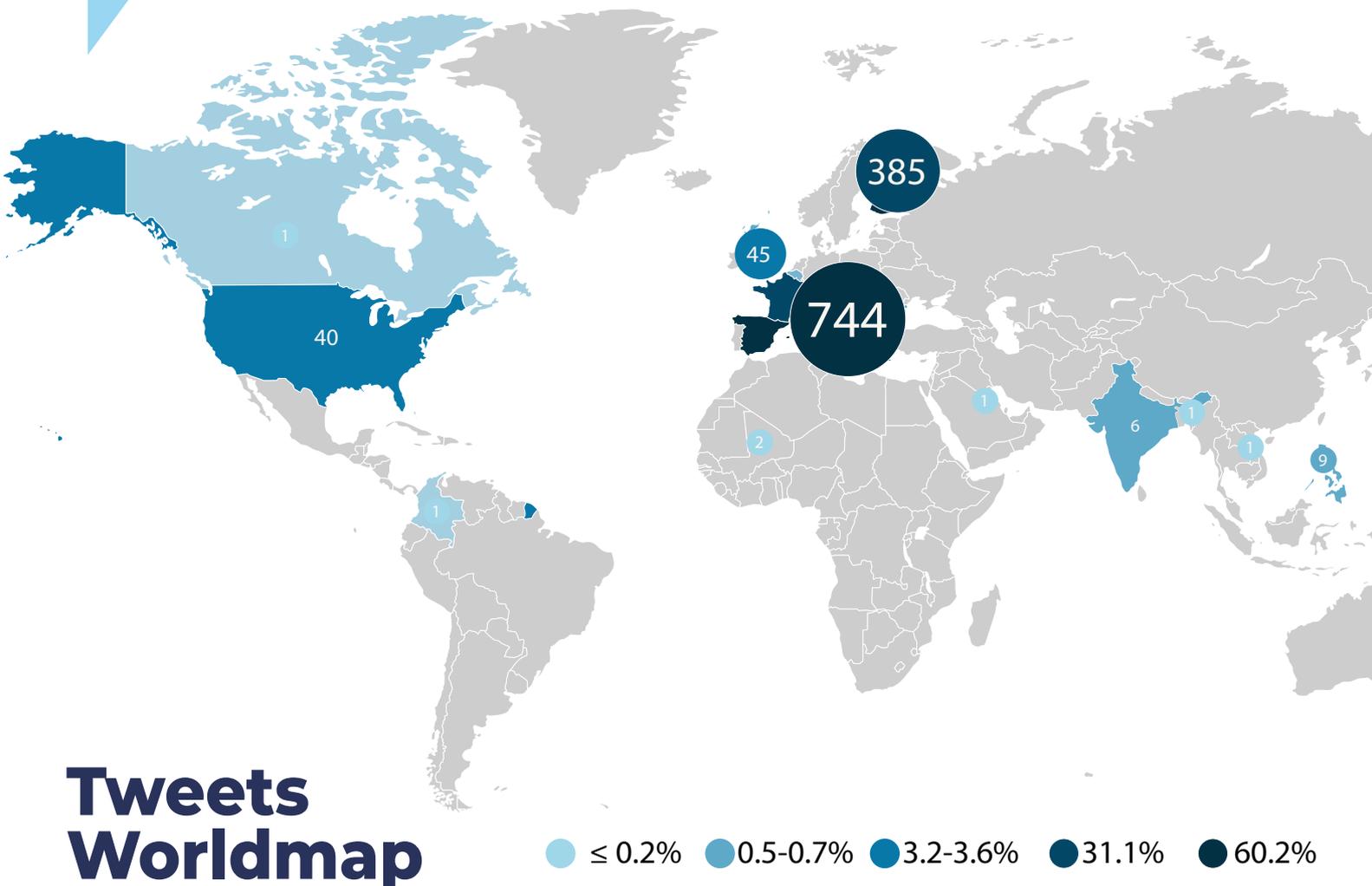
**13** **Target 18**

Regional  
Dissemination  
Events



- based on data from 4/2018-5/2019 -

## BIOREGIO on Twitter\*



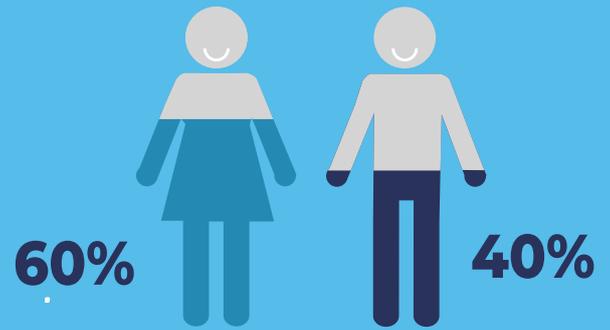
#BIOREGIOproject  
mentioned in the last 12 months

1243 times

#BIOREGIOproject  
engagement in the last 12 months

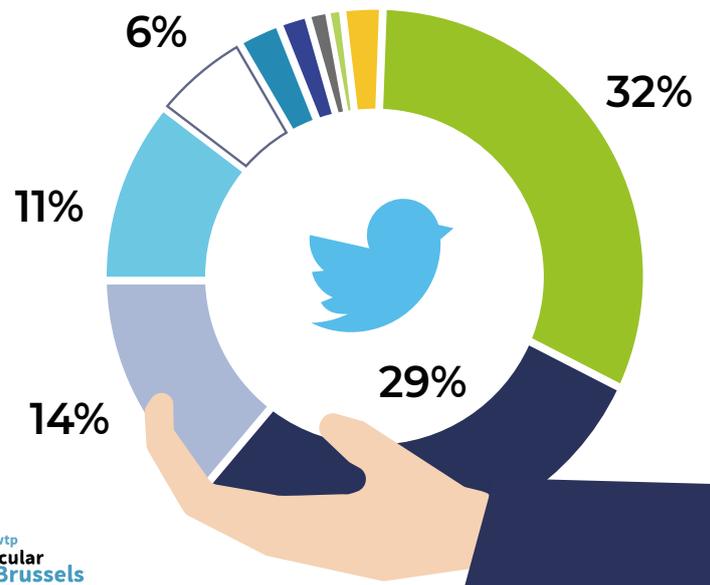
2.5K times

# Tweeters Gender



## #BIOREGIOproject Tweets Per Country

- Greece
- Finland
- Spain
- France
- United States
- Romania
- United Kingdom
- Canada
- Slovakia
- Other



## Top Hashtags

#PolicyBrief #biosourcée #biowaste  
 #lank #sibeliustalo #successtory #bioeconomie #Mioveni  
 #video #interregional #CentralMacedonia #Bucharest #wwtp  
 #Europa #paijathame #SlovakUniversityofAgriculture #bestpractice #Brussels  
 #biotalous #GoodPractice #Thessaloniki #Greece #Policy #Steering  
 #newsletter #Romania #GoodPractices #economiecirculaire  
 #greenlahti #RDFCM #Finnish #BioBasedCircularEconomy #MedioAmbiente #phliitto  
 #wastetreatment #BIOREGIOproject #Lahti #biodechets  
 #PHJ #dissemination #circulareconomy #paysdelaloire #EGCA2021  
 #innovations #GoodPractises #biobased #national #policyreport  
 #event #europecooperates #bioeconomy #lhtee #sitra #roadmap  
 #BIO2CHP #Spanish #AC3A #biobased #MaugesCommunauté  
 #regional #policylearning #BioBasedCircularEconomy #Helsinki #actionplans  
 #biorefinery #experiences  
 #LAMKgreen #instruments #kiertotalous #ActionPlan #sharing  
 #kiertoliike #Finland #Bulgaria #group



\* Source: Talkwalker, 2019

