

GENB POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Authors: Gina Mihai, Isidora Salim, Eddy Grand-Meyer, Agueda Gras-Velazquez (European Schoolnet)

Contributors: See list of contributors in the full report

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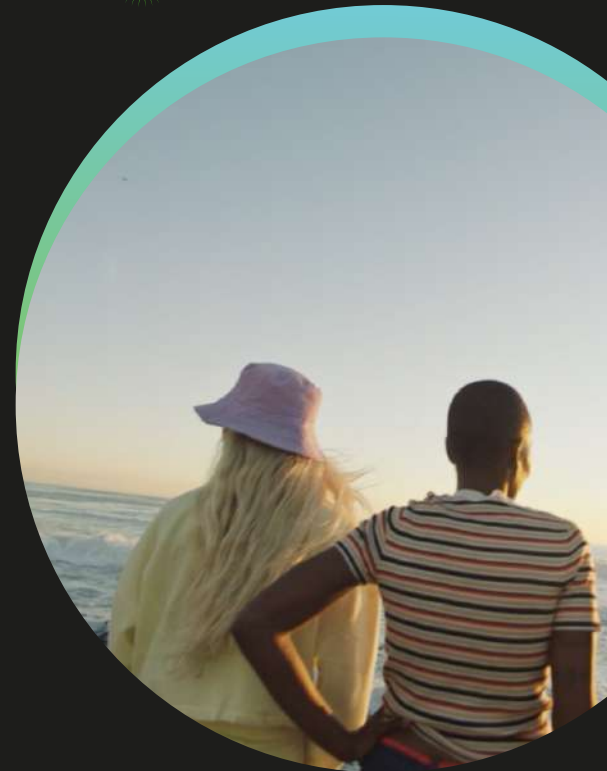
OUR CONSORTIUM



1 THE GENB PROJECT

The GenB project co-created new formats, approaches, methods, tools and activities to engage young people across three age groups (4-8, 9-13, and 14-19 years-olds), as well as teachers, non-formal educators and multipliers, bioeconomy experts and other project stakeholders to educate them on bioeconomy, bio-based products, and career opportunities within the field. Findings from these sessions revealed preferred educational formats for each age group, highlighting insights for effective bioeconomy education methods. Included activities also aim to encourage teamwork and leadership in classrooms, positively shifting dynamics and promoting a deeper understanding of bioeconomy topics.

Bioeconomy is an economic system that uses biomass – renewable biological resources, such as plants, animals, and microorganisms – to produce goods, energy, and services. In education, Bioeconomy is considered as a very important and useful topic to introduce to students. Understanding the connection between education and bioeconomy, the GenB project worked towards educating and empowering students to become more aware, sensitive and interested in environmental issues, sustainability and circularity.



2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the lessons learned through the different activities, GenB proposes recommendations for 1) European Commission; 2) Ministries of Education and other decision makers; 3) Teachers and educators; 4) Heads of Schools, to include bioeconomy, as part of the environmental sustainability in education activities in Europe. The recommendations for each group can be connected to five areas:

- Bioeconomy in the Curriculum: outlining what bioeconomy is, benefits of learning bioeconomy in school, curriculum reform and how it can be transformed
- Professional development of teachers and recognition
- Collaboration
- Resources on GenB: the type of resources, access to the resources, how the resources need to get the endorsement of the national government
- Technology and inclusion

THE KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EUROPEAN COMMISSION INCLUDE:

- In view of the reshape of the European Bioeconomy Strategy, it is essential to send few clear signals to DG ENVI (The Directorate-General for Environment), DG RTD (The Directorate-General for Research and Innovation) and lastly to DG EAC (The Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture)
- Skills is one of the backbones of the European Bioeconomy strategy and we should remind it here for jobs and new enterprises of the future
- Last but not least, the importance of investing in STEM particularly addressing women

THE KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND OTHER DECISION MAKERS:

- Support and optimise curriculum reform for the inclusion of green education
- Create national CPD (Continuing Professional Development) programs and recognize courses for CPD national requirements
- Improve access to resources and tools and endorse repositories and include in national resources
- Provide guidance for schools to create the space and time for collaboration and endorse practice networks
- Support the uptake of new technologies to enhance teaching and improve inclusion

THE KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TEACHERS AND EDUCATORS ARE THE FOLLOWING:

- Make use of ready-to-use tools and resources that foster bioeconomy teaching and learning
- Focus on skills and competences

AND THE KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HEADS OF SCHOOLS INCLUDE:

- Shape an enabling environment for bioeconomy
- Promote long-term school project

3 GENB OUTPUTS SUPPORTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations listed above are supported by several key outputs developed by the GenB project.

A few examples of useful outputs connected to the recommendations are highlighted in the Table 1.

Table 1: GenB outputs supporting the recommendations

OUTPUT	LINK TO THE OUTPUT	RECOMMENDATION
GENB REPORT ON CO-DESIGN ACTIVITIES	D1.2 report on co-design activities GenB	Support and optimise curriculum reform for the inclusion of green education
GENB VIRTUAL LIBRARY	GenB	Improve access to resources and tools and endorse repositories and include in national resources; Make use of ready-to-use tools and resources that foster bioeconomy teaching and learning
GENB MOOC, VARIOUS EVENTS	Moc bioeconomy for educators: cultivating a sustainable future GenB, events GenB	Create national CPD programs and recognize courses for CPD national requirements; Make use of ready-to-use tools and resources that foster bioeconomy teaching and learning
GENB TOOLKITS	Toolkits GenB	Support the uptake of new technologies to enhance teaching and improve inclusion; Make use of ready-to-use tools and resources that foster bioeconomy teaching and learning
GENB AMBASSADORS	Ambassadors GenB, materials for GenB ambassadors GenB	Provide guidance for schools to create the space and time for collaboration and endorse practice networks; Make use of ready-to-use tools and resources that foster bioeconomy teaching and learning

4 MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.genb-project.eu/>

<https://www.scientix.eu/resources/knowledge/projects/project?id=1620806>

<https://www.facebook.com/biovoices/>

<https://www.twitter.com/biovoices/>

<https://www.instagram.com/biovoices/>

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