

European Community of Practice for bioeconomy Lower Education

Terms of Reference

1. BACKGROUND

Bioeconomy is a complex concept that crosses and links many economic sectors and (EU) policies. One overarching cross-sectoral goal in this respect is promoting a post-petroleum, low carbon and sustainable economy that helps achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement, Sustainable Development Goals and of the Green Deal package.

A wide range of data, information and expertise needs to be exploited for efficient policy making in this context. Knowledge Centres are virtual entities coordinated by the JRC - the science and knowledge service of the European Commission – to improve knowledge management in specific areas. They bring together experts and knowledge from different locations inside and outside the Commission and process science-based evidence in order to inform policy-makers in a transparent, tailored and concise manner about the status and findings of the latest scientific evidence. They also inform the scientific community about emerging policy issues and concrete knowledge gaps that need closing. Knowledge Centres include a Community of Practice (CoP): a network of people who work on a common type of activity or practice area, and who share knowledge regularly on their practice, either in person or virtually, to help each other perform better.ⁱ The European Commission's Knowledge Centre for Bioeconomy was set up in July 2017, as a single 'corporate' entry point for bioeconomy-related knowledge. The Community of Practice (CoP) on Bioeconomy is part of the Knowledge Centre for Bioeconomy and supports its objectives.

2. OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

The specific objectives of the CoP on Bioeconomy are to:

1. Connect specialists in this area and interested people, enable peer-to-peer communication and foster collective interactions among members;
2. Be a platform for collaboration that creates synergies between knowledge users, between knowledge producers, and between knowledge users and producers;
3. Contribute to a holistic perspective of the Bioeconomy that allows assessing all intended and unintended

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impacts of planned policy measures, within the specific policy domain and beyond and under a short, medium, or long-term perspective; 4. Help promoting coherence between bioeconomy-relevant policies by bringing together relevant competences from across a wide range of fields that are potentially relevant for a sustainable, circular Bioeconomy. The specific tasks of the CoP on Bioeconomy are to: 1. Provide a common, accessible, public and usable collection of knowledge to support the work of Knowledge Centre for Bioeconomy that may be made available via the Knowledge Centre's ICT platform; 2. Provide specialised assessments, for example addressing ad hoc policy requests or concerning complex and disputed scientific/technical issues; 3. Review data, information, and knowledge offered to the Knowledge Centre for Bioeconomy with regard to its relevance and reliability (quality check); 4. Identify gaps and/or emerging topics, evaluate needs and how to address them and propose new areas of work if need be; 5. Contribute to other activities of the Knowledge Centre for Bioeconomy, including synthesis and analysis, particularly if an issue concerns several sectors or disciplines.

3. MEMBERS

The CoP shall consist of individuals interested to participate and to contribute. The CoP will aim to cover a broad range of scientific and technical skills and competences and thematic dimensions that are relevant to a sustainable and circular bioeconomy which significantly reduces the environmental footprint of the socio-economic system. Interested people, either Commission staff or external participants from academia, Member States' authorities, international organisations, etc. may voluntarily express an interest to join the CoP Bioeconomy, through the web platform of the JRC at any stage, and will be accepted as members. At any time, CoP members can leave the CoP using the dedicated option in the membership profile page. A database of CoP members that complies with the applicable rules regarding Personal Data Protection will be maintained and updated by the CoP managers.

4. TOOLS AND INSTRUMENTS

An online Community workspace will facilitate discussions (forum), sharing news, events and other information between the members, promoting a lively and easy exchange of knowledge, creating synergies, and in general supporting the cooperation between the CoP members across their affiliations. This workspace will be accessible by its members (EC and external) with login and password. Access rights will allow each member to comment and upload content but not to change the basic structure of the workspace.

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A series of complementary offline activities will support the development of a true community in which knowledge sharing is facilitated through dialogue and personal interaction. These activities will, inter alia, aim to identify knowledge gaps or produce ad hoc expert advice through meetings, lectures, presentations and workshops on topics of interest, brainstorming sessions and studies to complement the knowledge base and knowledge network of the KCB. Participation and contribution in those activities will be on a voluntary basis. External participants that are not members of the CoP may also be invited to those activities on an ad-hoc basis.

5. GOVERNANCE

The CoP is managed by [APRE](#) for as long as the CoP will identify a new form of collaboration and an organisational structure that will allow the sustainability of the CoP, including a secretariat.

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