

Bridging generations: Education and Policy to shape a sustainable future



GenB Consortium



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Brussels, 10 April 2025

ACE Events - Avenue d'Auderghem 22 (Brussels)

9.30 – 15.00

Concept note

Bioeconomy uses renewable biological resources to produce goods, energy and services, being a driver for economic growth, job creation and long-term sustainable development. It's essential everyone undertakes a commitment to promote a sustainable transition and address its associated challenges, such as responsible management of natural resources, global competition that respect the ecological conditions of the Earth and environmental impacts (updated Bioeconomy Strategy 2018).

For this reason, the Action 2.4 of the Strategy emphasises the education to the bioeconomy to empower young people to tackle current and future global challenges.

The same vision has been confirmed again by the re-elect President Ursula von der Leyen who, in the political guidelines "EUROPE'S CHOICE" for the next European Commission 2024-2029, and in the Mission Letter to Jessika Roswall, Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy, reaffirmed the importance of the bioeconomy and the enabling role of education for the achievement of the political objectives such as prosperity and competitiveness, inclusive societies and environmental sustainability.

The European Commission has funded through Horizon Europe two coordination and support actions, GenB and BioBeo, both aiming at identifying new educational pathways to support young people in the green transition through the sustainable and circular bioeconomy. Both projects are getting to the end after a 30 month journey and are eager to share their results, educational models, tools and materials.

This event contributes to the discussion for the revision of the Bioeconomy Strategy providing policy makers and other relevant stakeholders with actionable knowledge and recommendations, ready to be exploited in bioeconomy education as well as in other educational contexts.

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10th of April 2025

9.30

Registration & Welcome Coffee

10.00-10.15

Welcome and Introduction (Conference Hall)

- Chiara Pocaterra, Head of Projects Department – APRE, GenB project
- Máire Nic and Bhaird, Maynooth University, BioBeo project
- Gaëlle Le Boulter, Project Officer GenB and BioBeo, REA (European Research Executive Agency – European Commission)

10.15-
continuing

Education in Action (Conference Hall)

Experiential exhibition of bioeconomy tools and materials developed by GenB, BioBeo, BioGov.Net, SLEs, CLEVERFOOD, LOESS, NBSEduWorld, ProBleu, Circular Schools, Life Terra, BlueMissionMed and BlueRev HORIZON EUROPE projects, to raise awareness and educate the young generation and citizens.

10.30-11.30

Education as main driver of the circular and sustainable transition towards the future Bioeconomy Strategy (Conference Hall)

Moderator: Moderator: Flavia Fusconi (APRE, GenB) & Laoise Ní Chléirigh (Maynooth University, BioBeo)

Roundtable:

- GenB project: Chiara Pocaterra, Head of Projects Department -APRE
- BioBeo project: Tom Curran, UCD
- BioGov.Net project: Selenia Marinelli, Bio-Architect and Project Manager – FVA
- SLEs project: Laura Mentini, Project Manager – APRE
- CLEVERFOOD project: Clara Boissenin, Project Manager- ECSITE
- LOESS project: Giuseppe Mossuti, Project Manager, Science Education Department – EUN
- ProBleu project: Eli Bonfill i Molina, Institut de Ciències del Mar (ICM-CSIC) – Remote

11.30 – 12.00

Coffee Break and Education in Action (Lounge area)

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12:00-13:00	<p>Recommendations to shape future circular and sustainable bioeconomy education (Conference Hall)</p> <p>Moderators: Moderators: Susanna Albertini (FVA, GenB) and Lee Wray-Davies (Foundation for Environmental Education, BioBeo)</p> <p>Roundtable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eddy Grand-Meyer, Outreach & Engagement Specialist" -European Schoolnet, GenB project - Sakshi Anand, UCD, BioBeo project - Wim Haentjens - Policy Officer, European Commission, DG Research and Innovation - Nicolás Giacomuzzi-Moore, Executive Director, Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU) - Michael Losch, Coordinator for Bioeconomy, European Commission, DG AGRI - Valentina Vavassori, GenB Ambassador (GenB project, FVA) - Kristina Kolarova, GenB Ambassador, (GenB project, PEDAL) - Alessia Careccia, GenB Ambassador and EU Young Ocean Advocate (BlueRev and GenB, APRE)
13.00-15.00	<p>Networking Lunch and Education in Action (Lounge area)</p>

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