

# Deliverable 5.3

## Report on ecosystem building

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The information and views set out in this report are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the European Union. Neither the European Union institutions and bodies nor any person acting on their behalf.

## Table of Abbreviations and Acronyms

Abbreviation	Meaning
BIC	Bio-based Industries Consortium
BYA	Bioeconomy Youth Ambassadors
CBE JU	Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking
EC	European Commission
EuBioNet	European Bioeconomy Network
GA	Grant Agreement
GenB Ambassadors	Generation Bioeconomy Youth Ambassadors
JRC	Joint Research Centre
KOM	Kick-off meeting
KPI	Key Performance Indicators
MML	Mobilisation and Mutual Learning
MoEs	Ministries of Education
SP	Spain
STEAM	Science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics
STEM	Science, technology, engineering and mathematics
VET	Vocational Education and Training
WP	Work Package



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## Executive Summary

The collaboration with other projects and initiatives is a key pillar of the GenB methodology, to ensure great impact, adoption and further exploitation of the project's methods, tools, formats and lessons learnt.

Task 5.2 (hereafter T5.2) was dedicated to this activity from the very beginning of the project to its end, with the objective of promoting synergies with the other project funded under the same topic (BioBeo) and other EU projects and initiatives. This activity, that was implemented in strict collaboration with the European Bioeconomy Network – EuBioNet, a proactive alliance of nearly 160 projects and initiatives dealing with bioeconomy), had the following objectives:

- to share knowledge, contents and tools
- to animate the debate in bioeconomy education through the organisation of Mobilisation and Mutual Learning workshops
- to organise joint events
- to disseminate the project's outcomes through participation in events organised by third parties
- to leverage mutual promotion of outcomes through the respective channels

# 1 Introduction

This document provides a detailed report on T5.2 Ecosystem Building. The Task leader (FVA) coordinated the preparation of this document.

The deliverable is divided into the following sections:

- Chapter 2 provides an overview of the GenB methodological approach Methodology for the ecosystem building
- Chapter 3 Describes the collaboration with the sister project BioBeo
- Chapter 4 lists the collaborations with other projects
- Chapter 5 lists the collaborations with other initiatives
- Chapter 6 provides a quick overview of the EuBioNet working group in bioeconomy education
- Chapter 7 describes the three Mobilisation and Mutual Learning workshops organised by GenB
- Chapter 8 lists the speeches and collaborations during events organized by third parties
- Chapter 9 provides some conclusions and lessons learnt



## 2 Methodology for the ecosystem building

The GenB methodology for ecosystem building is deeply rooted in the European Bioeconomy Network (EuBioNet) experience and strengthened by the GenB Partners' relationship with similar projects and memberships in key European Networks such as Food 2030 Network and Scientix Ministries of Education STEM.

### 2.1 Continuous mapping of relevant projects and initiatives

Together with the bioeconomy education projects mapped at the time of the proposal preparation, various projects and initiatives have been funded during the GenB project lifetime. Additionally, GenB partners believe that it is important to enter into contact with different projects that are not strictly on bioeconomy education but might have some dimensions that are relevant for the project. As an example, projects dealing with STEM and STEAM education, ocean education, green education, or projects more focused on regional and rural development, as well as entrepreneurship education, can be interesting to exchange experience and lessons learnt.

Therefore, the continuous mapping of new funded projects took place to identify the most suitable ones. An entry point that proved to be effective was the invitation of those projects to enter the EuBioNet, and in particular, in the working group in bioeconomy education (see paragraph 2.3).

### 2.2 Establishing collaborations

In the last years, also thanks to the specific requirements of the EC and the agencies, most of the projects are open and interested in collaborations. In GenB, this activity was facilitated by the following factors:

- The involvement of the partners in projects, initiatives and networks in education, bioeconomy or both
- The facilitated access thanks to the EuBioNet
- The proactive attitude of partners in linking to new projects and initiatives
- The great relevance and interest of GenB events, which facilitated the attraction of new contacts

### 2.3 The EuBioNet working group on bioeconomy education

To stimulate the debate around bioeconomy education, the task leader FVA launched and animated the EuBioNet working group on bioeconomy education, with the aim to facilitate the exchange of good practices, explore the possibility of organising joint activities and draft a common action plan to avoid duplications and maximise the overall impact. The working group involved EU projects, expert groups, networks of schools and communities of practice in education.

A central activity of this working group was to facilitate the involvement of projects and initiatives in events and workshops organised with the support of the EuBioNet or by the various projects tackling the different educational levels. Examples of this activity are the three workshops detailed in chapter 6 and the speeches and collaboration during events organised by third parties, described in chapter 7.

## 2.4 Creation of the webpage dedicated to synergies

GenB created a [webpage](#) to showcase the collaboration established with other projects and initiatives. A total of 19 projects are included in the dedicated page.

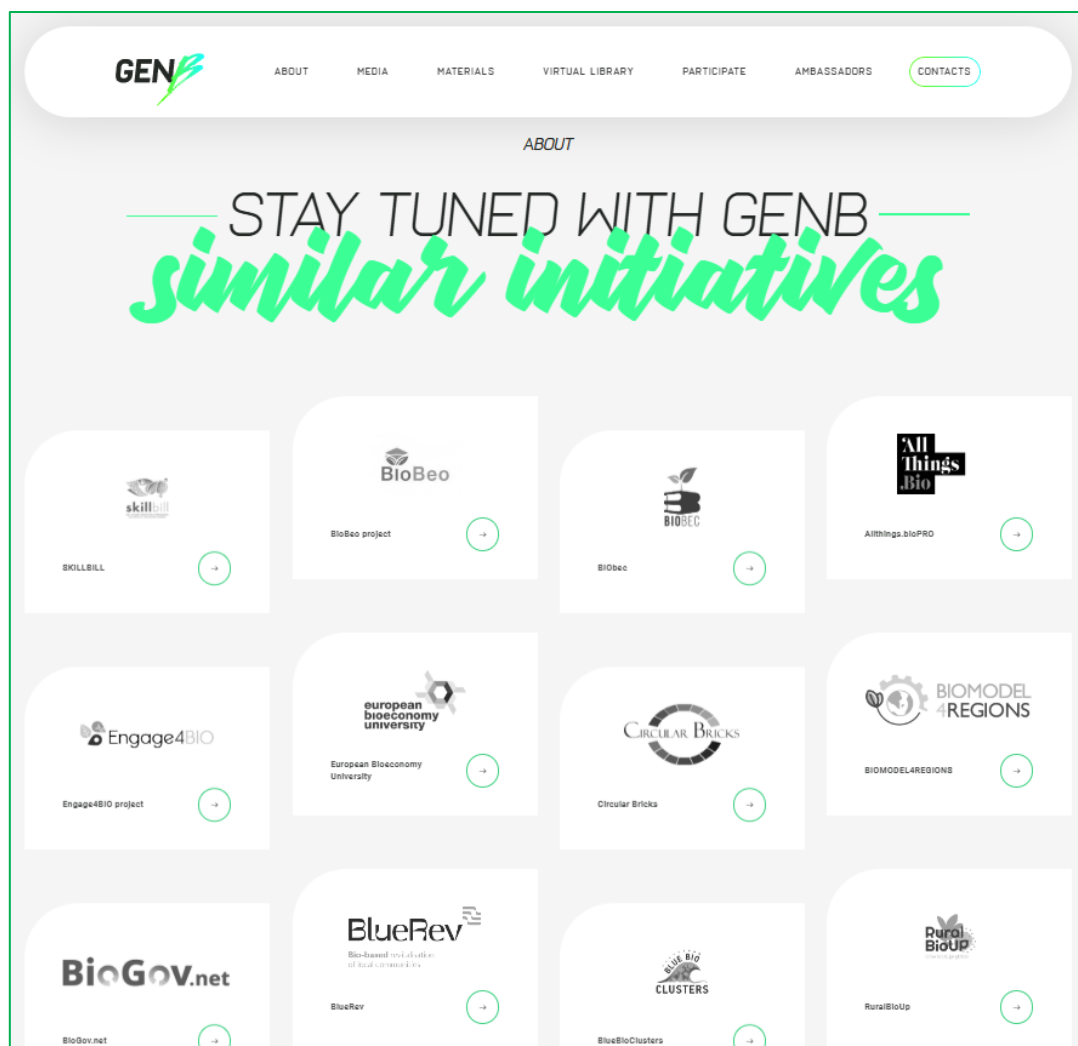


Figure 1 – Web page dedicated to GenB similar initiatives

## 2.5 Implementing joint activities

Despite the great interest, this willingness is not often translated into practical activities beyond an exploratory meeting. Also, thanks to the experience of the EuBioNet, GenB was very proactive in proposing collaboration opportunities.

To promote collaborations, the key elements to consider are:

- Share openly the results, learning from each other is the best way to increase impact and improve the quality of the project's results.

- Make sure that the information is “packaged” as Actionable Knowledge for the different projects and initiatives we are speaking with. This requires a preliminary study of the potential partner to make sure that we are proposing something that they can find relevant and suitable for their activities
- Give them visibility: invite projects to share their results or to propose questions to stimulate the debates (e.g. during the Mobilisation and Mutual Learning – MML workshops)

## 2.6 Consolidating the results in the form of recommendations

The European Commission, policymakers, the educational community, the industrial players and other stakeholders are looking for Actionable Knowledge and recommendations to be taken into consideration for their practice. Nevertheless, the element of time is a crucial issue, and the stakeholders in question are not disposed to allocating substantial time to a multitude of projects.. A good solution for that are formats like Projects2Policy, developed by EuBioNet in the context of Glaukos project and replicated in GenB and BioGov.net projects that facilitate the Mobilisation and Mutual Learning of projects and stakeholders around a specific topic to aggregate the results in a single, short, to-the-point and actionable policy brief. These contents can then be tailored for various target audiences (e.g. policy makers or educators) to make sure that they are delivered in the best shape to be adopted and taken into consideration.

The activity of this working group led to the development of a series of recommendations that have been delivered to policymakers in the context of various activities implemented in T5.3 and T5.4, to contribute to the revision of the bioeconomy strategy. In this regard, GenB was a good example of success and representatives of the project have been invited to deliver these recommendations in high-level events at national and European level.

Below a very short list of events:

- On 24 May 2024 GenB delivered policy recommendations to the Italian working group responsible for the revision of the Italian Bioeconomy strategy and to the European Commission.
- On 20 November 2024 GenB delivered policy recommendations to the European Commission during the EC High-level workshop organised by the European Commission’s DG Research & Innovation workshop in Brussels entitled “Bioeconomy education to enable the transition to a competitive, regenerative, and fair (bio)economy. Building the next union of skills in the bioeconomy”.
- On September 3, 2024, EUN delivered an online workshop “Policy Briefs in STEM Education” co-organised by GenB, Scientix® and Life Terra projects to discuss and define the format of policy briefs and what they should contain in order to meet the needs and plans of Ministries of Education (MoEs). The workshop was open to members of the Scientix Ministries of Education STEM representatives Working Group and their guests. More information can be found in [D4.5 GenB Policy recommendations](#).
- On 5 November, 2024, EUN delivered an online workshop “Policy recommendations on bioeconomy, oceans and trees in education” co-organised by GenB, Scientix®, Life Terra and EU4Ocean projects to present the GenB **lessons learnt, results** and draft policy recommendations and to discuss with the MoEs how to deliver **actionable policy support**. The workshop was open to members of the Scientix Ministries of Education STEM representatives Working Group and their guests. More information can be found in [D4.5 GenB Policy recommendations](#).

- On January 30, 2025, Q-PLAN organized the "Youth2Policy – For Our GenB Future" workshop, an international online event aimed at engaging youth in shaping actionable recommendations for policymakers on the bioeconomy. The workshop sought to leverage insights from previous youth debates to develop impactful policy suggestions and foster dialogue between young people and policymakers. The event featured presentations of key insights and recommendations from youth, which were addressed to the invited RTD Bioeconomy Policy officer (Giuseppe Pellegrino), who also participated as a speaker. More can be found to the official webpage [GenB International Bioeconomy Workshop | GenB](#).

### 3 Collaboration with sister project BioBeo

The collaboration with sister project BioBeo was central in all GenB activities from the very first months of the project. This took place through meetings and participation to events, as well as collaboration in creating contents.

The main objective of this collaboration was to discuss similarities and differences among the two projects, aligning the activities, share results and experiences, and organise joint events. Below a list of the main activities that took place during GenB and BioBeo lifetime.

#### 3.1 Online alignment meetings

For the entire duration of the projects, periodical meetings have been organised among the two projects, mainly involving the BioBeo coordinator, but also some other BioBeo partners. This was very useful to identify potential elements of collaboration and share results.

#### 3.2 Participation in the GenB and BioBeo Kick-off meetings

On 7 November 2022, GenB has invited the BioBeo Coordinator to its Kick-off Meeting at APRE's office in Rome. BioBeo had the opportunity to present the objectives and the workflow to be implemented throughout the lifecycle. Additionally, the sister projects have agreed on the relevance of sharing Bioeconomy and bio-sector contents throughout the life cycle of the projects. GenB representatives participated virtually in the BioBeo kick-off meeting, presenting the GenB project (November 17, 2022)



*Figure 2 – GenB kick-off meeting in Rome*

### 3.3 GenB participation to the workshop organised by the EC with BioBeo and the BYA

On 16 February 2023, the European Commission invited GenB to a one-day meeting and workshop together with Bioeconomy Youth Ambassadors (BYA) and BioBeo project to present their action plans and discuss possible collaborations. This alignment led to several collaborations, in particular in the context of the Bioeconomy Changemakers Festival, the GenB Bioeconomy Youth Debates (T3.4) and several communication activities (e.g. interviews to the BYA, joint formats, podcasts, etc).



*Figure 3 – First collaborations among GenB, BioBeo project and BYA*

### 3.4 Joint collaboration between GenB and BioBeo for the creation of educational contents

In winter 2023-2024, BTG collaborated with the sister project BioBeo. On behalf of GenB, BTG developed and contributed two pairs of playing cards (on faux leather and on denim-derived insulation material) to the bioeconomy card game Resource – Don't Go! Each card pair include an easier version (targeting 5-8 years old) and a harder version (targeting 15-18 years old). An example of the cards is shown in Figure 4.

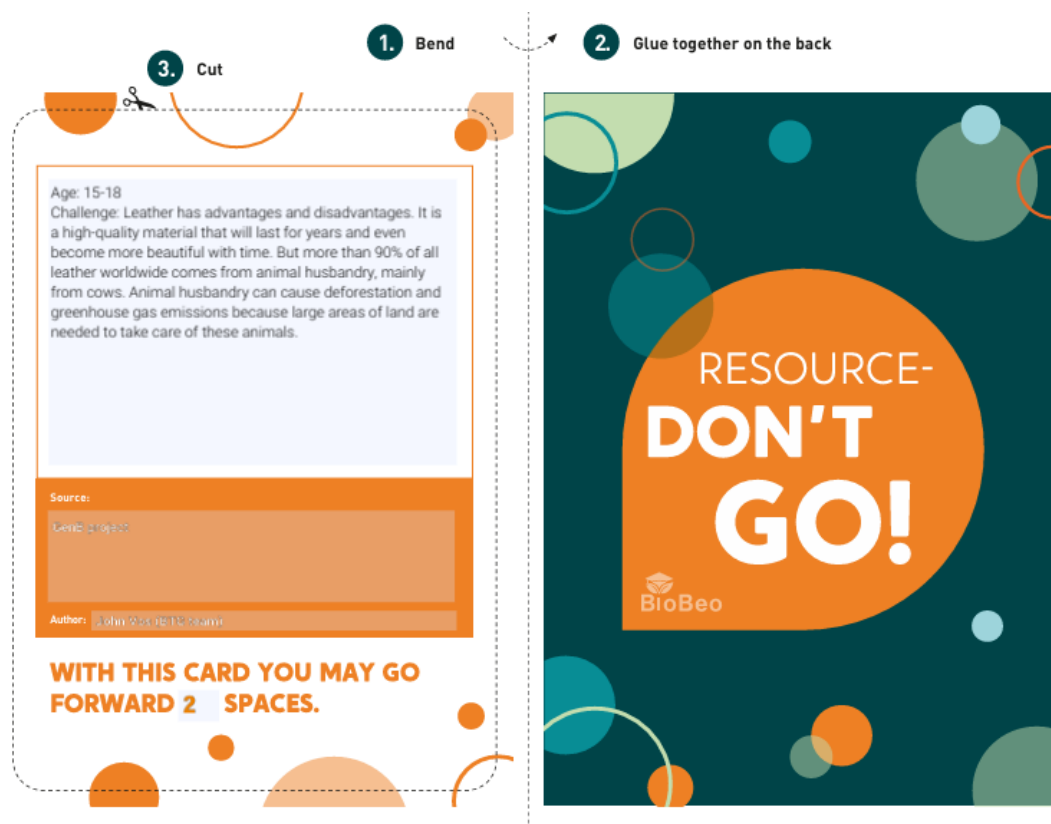


Figure 4 – Example of playing cards developed for BioBee project

Additionally, HSPN has been collaborating with BioBee partner FEE for the development of training materials such as Lesson Plans and training materials connected to the Eco-Schools Programme. In spring 2024, the HSPN developed two Lesson Plans and a set of training materials for formal and non-formal education. These were produced with the contribution and directions from the educational team of the FEE on Eco-Schools and the assistance of an external educator who is also collaborating with FEE on the BioBee project. The target group for Lesson Plan 1 was elementary school teachers (4th-6th grade), and for Lesson Plan 2, non-formal educators/multipliers targeting young people. The Lesson plans were accompanied by all the necessary resources. The Training Materials were developed in the form of 8 short presentations elaborating on each of the seven steps of the Eco-Schools Programme. All materials were peer-reviewed and approved by the FEE.



Figure 5– Lesson Plan 1 cover and materials developed in collaboration with FEE.

### 3.5 GenB participation to the Changemakers festival organised by BioBeo

GenB coordinator Chiara Pocaterra, APRE, attended the BioBeo [Bioeconomy Changemakers Festival](#) in Brussels on 15 March 2024. She presented the main results of the GenB project, in particular the products which can be used by young people. The audience was composed by students from 6 years old to 20 years old and by policy officers from the European Commission DG RTD Bioeconomy Unit, such as **Giuseppe Pellegrino** – Policy Officer – Bioeconomy Analysis and Bioeconomy Education and **Adrian Leip** – Head of Sector – Bioeconomy European Commission – DG Research & Innovation, Bioeconomy and Food Systems Unit (RTD.B2), together with the GenB/BioBeo **project officer Gaelle Le Boulter** from the European Research Executive Agency.

### 3.6 GenB and BioBeo dissemination event at the European Commission premises

On 21 November 2024, the **European Commission hosted a hybrid meeting** to spotlight the progress of two pivotal projects in bioeconomy education: **GenB** and **BioBeo**. This collaborative dissemination event marked a significant milestone for both initiatives as they move closer to their goals of fostering youth engagement in the bioeconomy.

During the event, the outcomes of the first 18 months of GenB and BioBeo were presented, highlighting the project's milestones, the innovative approaches to involving youth in bioeconomy education, and the policy recommendations tailored for Ministries of Education, emphasising the integration of bioeconomy concepts into educational frameworks.

The event involved again **policy officers from DG RTD**, such as **Giuseppe Pellegrino** and **Adrian Leip**, together with the GenB/BioBeo **project officer Gaëlle Le Boulter** and **consortium partners**, underscoring the collaborative efforts driving these projects.

### 3.7 GenB and BioBeo final event in Brussels

On 10 April 2025, **GenB-BioBeo** organised the joint final event “**Bridging generations: Education and Policy to shape a sustainable future**” in Brussels, where both projects explored how **education and policy can drive the transition towards a sustainable and circular bioeconomy**. This event showcased the results, educational models and tools developed by the **GenB and BioBeo** in the past two years.



Figure 5 – Banner of the GenB-BioBeo final event



The event marked a milestone in the shared mission to empower youth, educators, and policymakers through bioeconomy education, where also GenB and BioBeo project officer **Gaëlle Le Boulter** actively participated, highlighting the great effort performed and outstanding results achieved by both projects.

Figure 6 – GenB and BioBeo projects coordinators with the project officer

The day was structured around two key sessions. The first one focused on **education as a driving force** for the circular and sustainable transition, with keynote contributions from a diverse range of EU-funded initiatives, including **GenB, BioBeo, BioGov.net, SLEs, CLEVERFOOD, LOESS, and ProBleu**. Speakers explained the main challenges they experienced in achieving their project

results, highlighting how education can equip the next generation with the tools and mindset to lead the green transition.



Figure 7 – Picture from the first session with key projects in bioeconomy education

The second part of the event featured **policy recommendations** from GenB and BioBeo, followed by a dynamic **youth-policy dialogue**. In a lively exchange, **GenB Ambassadors** and **EU Young Ocean Advocates** engaged directly with representatives from the **European Commission's DG RTD and DG AGRI**, as well as the **Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU)**. This dialogue reinforced the importance of youth participation in shaping policies that directly affect their future.



Figure 8 – Picture of the second session on policy recommendations and youth-policy dialogue

A standout moment of the event was the **“Education in Action” experiential exhibition**, where visitors could explore a wide range of interactive tools and materials developed by GenB, BioBeo, and sister Horizon Europe projects: **BioGov.net**, **SLEs**, **CLEVERFOOD**, **LOESS**, **NBSeduWorld**, **ProBleu**, **Circular Schools**, **Life Terra**, **BlueMissionMed**, **thERBN** and **BlueRev**. The exhibition showcased creative educational approaches to engage citizens and raise awareness around bioeconomy and sustainability topics.



Figure 9 – Pictures for the GenB Exhibition corner

This occasion also represented a **valuable opportunity to strengthen collaborations and synergies** among key Horizon Europe projects working across **bioeconomy, blue education, food systems, and soil health** — laying the groundwork for integrated and cross-sectoral impact.

The event concluded with a powerful announcement of the GenB Coordinator (APRE): the formation of the **European Community of Practice for Bioeconomy Education**, led by GenB — a collaborative platform to continue fostering innovation, knowledge exchange, and systemic change in formal and informal education for sustainability for young people aged 4-18 y.o.



Figure 10 – GenB Team and Project Officer during the final event



## 4 Collaboration with other projects

Several meetings, activities and presentations were organised and co-organised by GenB partners to facilitate the awareness and knowledge exchanges among various projects engaged in bioeconomy education, governance and regional development, as well as with other relevant EU-funded projects and initiatives active in other domains (e.g. food consumption, ocean protection), but having similar objectives.

### 4.1 Collaboration with projects in bioeconomy education

GenB actively collaborated with various projects in bioeconomy education, fostering knowledge exchange, co-organising events, workshops and educational activities, participating in exhibition fairs and developing innovative learning materials to promote sustainable practices.

*Table 1 - Overview of bioeconomy education projects and type of collaboration established*

Project	Type of collaboration
Allthings.bioPRO	Coordinator FNR presented the Allthings.bioPRO (ATB for short) project at the Projects2Projects workshop in October 2022. At the Common Ground Camp in Athens (21-22 February 2023), and at behalf of project coordinator FNR, BTG presented the serious game Mission BioHero and the smartphone app Label BioHero under development in the ATB project. Findings of the desk research done for the game and app were re-used in GenB. Invited as speaker to provide results and lessons learnt to be further exploited.
BIObec	Many synergic activities were implemented throughout the projects (co-organisation of workshops in bioeconomy education, presentation of results and lessons learnt in the context of high-level events), ensuring alignment and maximising the exploitation of the results. Specifically, the two project have organised the “Projects2Projects” and “Developing skills in the bio-based industries: future bioeconomy education pathways” workshops.
BioGov.Net	Several partners are in common between GenB and BioGov.net (FVA, BTG, PEDAL, QPLAN, LOBA) and many synergic activities (e.g. co-organisation of workshops and events) were implemented throughout the projects, ensuring alignment and maximising the exploitation of the results (e.g. bioeconomy job profiles and skills needed produced by BioGov.net were implemented in the GenB capacity building package). Additionally, GenB partner HSPN has become a member of the BioGov.net Community of Practice (CoP) in Greece (invited by Q-PLAN), which serves as a gathering point for stakeholders across the entire value chain of the bioeconomy sector in the region.

	<p>In Slovakia, the two projects were jointly presented at the BioConnect workshop in Banská Bystrica on June 25, 2024, an event aimed at connecting stakeholders in the field of bioeconomy education. Furthermore, stakeholders also gathered at the Bioeconomy MeetUp in Lučenec on June 19, 2024, where representatives presented both GenB and BioGov.net to regional actors and education professionals. Finally, the "What's Next for Bioeconomy Education?" workshop series emerged from the collaboration between the two projects to explore diverse perspectives in bioeconomy education at European level — GenB targeting pre-university and communication, and BioGov.net targeting VET and lifelong learning. The objective was to create education and policy recommendations to contribute to the revision of the EU Bioeconomy Strategy. Finally, a GenB career info day was included in the context of Bioeconomy Changemaker Festival-Thessaloniki edition, along with BioGov.net and ROBIN projects, presenting bioeconomy career paths, skills needed and also real examples of jobs in bioeconomy, followed by a regional policy workshop.</p>
Circular Bricks	<p>The project was invited as speaker to provide results and lessons learnt to be further exploited.</p>
EBU Label	<p>Meetings with EBU Label representatives were organised to present the project and discuss possible collaborations.</p>
Engage4Bio	<p>APRE and ZSI, as partners in common between GenB and Engage4Bio, implemented several synergic activities (e.g. co-organisation of workshops and events) throughout the projects, ensuring alignment and maximising the exploitation of the results.</p> <p>Specifically, representatives of Engage4Bio have been invited to the GenB cross-fertilisation online workshop to discuss the role of art and culture in supporting the youth to understand the bioeconomy concepts and the actual challenges associated with the sustainable and circular transition.</p> <p>For the Austrian edition of the European Bioeconomy Changemakers Festival 2024, ZSI used the synergies between GenB and Engage4Bio and offered two workshops that build on each other. Central to the GenB workshop was the implementation of an 'inquiry-based learning' session, using the fishbowl methodology to facilitate an engaging and interactive dialogue between participants and experts. The workshop began with participants drawing questions from their experience of playing a bioeconomy card game from the Engage4bio project in the session before.</p> <p>Furthermore, ZSI has established an internal bioeconomy working group, consisting of staff working on the recent</p>

	Bioeconomy projects (GenB, Engage4Bio, BIOLOC, RuralBioUp). This group meets regularly and exchanges relevant information, updates on activities and possibilities for collaboration and synergies between the projects.
EU4Ocean	Collaboration was established on the organisation and implementation of the MOEs workshop to examine the formats of policy briefs most suitable for presenting policy recommendations in education and share the GenB results and recommendations.
LOESS	Representatives of the project have taken part in the GenB and BioBeo Final Event to showcase the results and lessons learnt from the project and explore how they can contribute to the future Bioeconomy Strategy at European Level.
NBSeduWorld	Collaboration was established on the organisation and implementation of Science Project Online Workshop 17 (SPOW17). In addition, representatives of the project have taken part in the GenB and BioBeo Final Event to showcase the results and lessons learnt from the project and explore how they can contribute for the future Bioeconomy Strategy at European Level.
Blue Lights	Collaboration was established on the organisation and implementation of the MOEs workshop to present policy recommendations on bioeconomy, oceans and trees in education.
Life Terra	Collaboration was established on the organisation and implementation of the MOEs workshop on examining the formats of policy briefs most suitable for presenting policy recommendations in education, on sharing the GenB results and recommendations
ProBleu	Representatives of the project have taken part in the GenB and BioBeo Final Event to showcase the results and lessons learnt from the project and explore how they can contribute for the future Bioeconomy Strategy at European Level.
Carbon Act	The project hosted GenB representatives as a part of their dissemination workshop, allowing the dissemination of GenB project and GenB Toolkit materials.
SKILLBILL	Representatives of the project have taken part in the GenB and BioBeo Final Event to showcase the results and lessons learnt from the project and explore how they can contribute for the future Bioeconomy Strategy at European Level. Moreover, SKILLBILL and BioGov.net hosted GenB at their booth in Forward Green Expo 2025 in Thessaloniki International Fair on Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2025. GenB had the opportunity to exhibit BioArt Gallery, distribute GenB gadgets and leaflets, share its videos on controversial issues and attract younger and older interested persons. Five

	teachers, with their pupils were also informed on the BioArt Gallery. Teachers were offered the “What bioeconomy?” book for kids (first version).
STE(A)M Learning Ecologies (SLEs)	APRE is a partner of the STE(A)M Learning Ecologies (SLEs) project. Co-design and Implementation of pilot projects in schools have been carried out through open schooling, living labs and STEAM-based approaches focusing on science education, inclusiveness, sustainability and innovation. Both the projects have leveraged the collaboration and engagement of schools and stakeholders to organise GenB “A Day in a Biorefinery” activity with middle school students and training and dissemination activities organised in Italy (e.g. webinars, capacity buildings, onsite dissemination events etc.). GenB and SLEs have also collaborated in common events organised in the context of their projects, involving respective partners as speakers to large-scale events (e.g. ECOMONDO, 2023; Policy learning event, European Parliament, Brussels; GenB final Event, Brussels).
“RECIBIOS – Challenge-based experimentation on BIOdegradable RECIpeS in lower secondary education”	Before the end of GenB project, RECIBIOS, an Erasmus+ KA210, used GenB biobased promotional materials and products along with Toolkits developed, to educate high school teachers on bioeconomy. The GenB Toolkit was presented during the Teacher Training of RECIBIOS organised by the Greek RECIBIOS Partner EDUQUEST on Friday, March 7, 2025. The team of conducted the training to equip teachers with the necessary knowledge and information for the pilot implementation of the RECIBIOS educational material inside classroom. Teachers were provided with GenB bioeconomy products (e.g., biodegradable cups, notebooks from coffee fibers etc.) in order to inspire students to explore bioeconomy through practical examples. The bioeconomy products were provided by Q-PLAN International.
Representatives from the concluded projects Transition2BIO, Biobridges, BIOVOICES, LIFT, BioCannDo	To build on their exploitable assets, results and lessons learnt.

## 4.2 Collaboration with other relevant projects

Beyond the collaboration with projects in bioeconomy education, that can be considered the natural siblings of GenB, the project promoted several collaborations with other projects, along two main categories:

- **Projects in awareness raising and education in general**, to facilitate cross-fertilisation and replicability of good practices, formats and tools developed during the project

- **Projects focusing on the creation of the bioeconomy support and development**, to provide the educational perspective and share successful GenB formats and tools (e.g. most of the modules of the capacity building for teachers and multipliers developed by GenB can be easily used to inform and empower other stakeholders, like policy makers)

Below a list of projects with whom GenB promoted collaborations, with a brief description of how the cooperation took place.

*Table 2 - Overview of the collaborations established with other relevant projects*

Project	Type of collaboration
ALFA	The project aims at supporting livestock farmers in EU countries in installing biogas systems. An easy example of the system was added in the New Edition of the Book for kids "What's Bioeconomy". Additionally, the ALFA logo has been added in the back cover of the Book for Kids "What's Bioeconomy- New Edition" since partners will use the book as gadget for the final event of the project.
BIOLOC	ZSI has established an internal bioeconomy working group, consisting of staff working on the recent Bioeconomy projects (GenB, Engage4Bio, BIOLOC, RuralBioUp). This group meets regularly and exchanges relevant information, updates on activities and possibilities for collaboration and synergies between the projects. Furthermore, relevant GenB news was disseminated regularly to the BIOLOC project partners and ZSI will attend and actively participate in the Climate Change Conference in St. Gilgen. Last year, ZSI held a GenB workshop in the framework of this conference and this year, in addition to presenting BIOLOC, GenB will showcase the GenB Toolkit and the Escape Game.
BIOMODEL4REGIONS	APRE, as a partner in GenB and Biomodel4Region, has established an ongoing collaboration between the projects, disseminating each other's objectives and results in the respective events.
BIOTRANSFORM	BIOTRANSFORM participated in the Career opportunities infoday, organised by GenB (Q-PLAN) on 14 <sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024 in the context of Bioeconomy Changemaker Festival-Thessaloniki Edition. BIOTRANSFORM participated in discussions, sharing the experience of BIOTRANSFORM.
BlueBioClusters	APRE had a meeting with BlueBioClusters on 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2023 to present GenB and discuss possible collaborations.
BlueMissionMed	FVA as partner in common between GenB and BlueMissionMed fostered cross-fertilisation of green and blue education, with the creation of hands-on labs, educational contents and formats to engage the large public and younger generations in bioeconomy and ocean&waters literacy.
BlueRev	APRE, as partner in BlueRev, has established an ongoing collaboration between the two projects, disseminating each other's objectives and results in the respective events. In particular, GenB has invited a BlueRev representative in the Final Event as speaker. Bluerev logo is in the New Edition of the Book for kids "What's Bioeconomy" since they will use the book as gadget for the final event of the project.
Brilian	APRE has established contacts with the project (Horizon Europe CBE JU) and a memorandum of understanding, which was signed in June 2024, for

	collaborating in joint communication activities and educational materials development. Brilian contributed to the content for a new flap (process of utilisation of the potato peels) of the New Edition of the Book for kids “What’s Bioeconomy”. The Brilian logo is also added on the back cover of the book, since the Brilian partners will use the book as gadget for project events.
CEE2ACT	GenB project was presented to CEE2ACT project partners in light of future collaborations.
CLEVERFOOD	As Members of FOOD 2030 Networks, GenB and CLEVERFOOD have had several opportunities to discuss the performance of the project. As consequence of this relation, APRE participated in meetings and events organised by the project and invited a representative of CLEVERFOOD to be a speaker at the GenB and BioBeo Final Event.
Circular Bricks project	APRE has established contacts with Unitelma Sapienza, who is working on the Circular Bricks project, to organise a meeting where the projects results have been explained.
HOOP	APRE has established contacts with ANCI Lazio, which worked on the Horizon 2020 HOOP project, to organise a webinar where the projects results are disseminated.
MainstreamBIO	QPLAN as partner in common between GenB and MainstreamBIO supported each other in activities. MaistreamBio representatives were invited and participated in Bioeconomy Youth Debates and in Youth2Policy workshop. Moreover, the two projects are linked on official websites and exchange newsletters
ROBIN	<p>PEDAL and QPLAN as partners in common between GenB and ROBIN implemented several synergic activities (e.g. co-organisation of workshops and events) throughout the duration of the projects, ensuring alignment and maximising the exploitation of the results.</p> <p>Specifically, ROBIN co-organised the Bioeconomy Changemaker Festival-Thessaloniki edition along with GenB on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The event included a GenB career info day, a presentation of ROBIN Business support and social entrepreneurship tools for bioeconomy. Additionally, Chiara Pocaterra APRE, GenB coordinator, is Advisory Board member of the ROBIN project.</p> <p>PEDAL also led the organisation of several GenB outreach events in Slovakia that were closely connected to the ROBIN project. These included the Bioeconomy Changemakers Festival in Nitra on 13th March 2024, participation in the regional environmental festival "ZA zelený kraj" held in Žilina on 13th June 2024, and the Bioeconomy Meetup in Lučenec on 19th June 2024. All of these events contributed to strengthening the collaboration between the two projects and expanding the outreach and impact of bioeconomy education and engagement activities across regions.</p>
RuralBioUp	<p>Several partners are in common between GenB and RuralBioUp (APRE, LOBA, ZSI) and many synergic activities (e.g. co-organisation of workshops and events) were implemented throughout the duration of the projects, ensuring alignment and maximising the exploitation of the results</p> <p>Specifically, APRE and FVA have collaborated with RuralBioUp project for the creation of training materials (webinars with multipliers WP2).</p>

	<p>ZSI has established an internal bioeconomy working group, consisting of staff working on the recent Bioeconomy projects (GenB, Engage4Bio, Bioloc, RuralBioUp). This group meets regularly and exchanges relevant information, updates on activities and possibilities for collaboration and synergies between the projects.</p> <p>Furthermore, ZSI staff, participated in workshops and meetings of the RuralBioUp project.</p>
Ruralities	APRE initiated contacts with Ruralities to present GenB and discuss possible collaborations.
SUSTRACK	Meetings with SUSTRACK representatives were organised to present the project and discuss possible collaborations.
thERBN	The Coordinator of thERBN participated in the Final Event of GenB and BioBeo, presenting the project which had started in January 2025 during the Education in Action” experiential exhibition. ThERBN will leverage GenB’s network, in particular the relations established by APRE since the GenB Coordinator is also a partner in thERBN. Moreover, the exploitation of GenB results in thERBN will also be explored.
VIBES	GenB supported the project in the promotion a survey on social and ethical aspects of bio-based products.

## 5 Collaboration with other initiatives and networks

To increase impact and adoption of GenB results (policy and educational recommendations, Toolkits, formats and methodologies) a number of collaborations have been promoted during the entire duration of the project, having different objectives and stakeholders, depending on the desired outcomes.

In particular, the collaboration with the EuBioNet was functional to easily get in contact with projects and initiatives, with GenB partner FVA serving as main promoter and animator of the network. These trusted relations facilitated the organisation of joint events (see chapter 6), involving the bioeconomy education working group.

*Table 3 - Overview of the collaborations established with other initiatives and networks*

Project	Type of collaboration
FOOD2030 Network	APRE has signed the agreement to be involved in the FOOD 2030 Network, in particular in the FOOD 2030 Networks - Follow-up on Education & Citizen Science: CLEVERFOOD project has brought together EU-funded projects, partnerships and networks that work on transforming the European food system. APRE attended the networking workshop organised in December 2023 in Brussels in occasion of the FOOD 2030 conference.
Eco-Schools Programme	HSPN has created synergies with the Green Key and Blue Flag sustainable tourism programmes of the FEE to promote the project, recruit Ambassadors, implement project activities and promote the GenB Toolkits and developed materials.
EU Blue Schools	FVA delivered a speech and shared some lessons learnt from GenB experience in the context of the EU Ocean Days in Brussels (March 2025)
European Bioeconomy University (EBU)	The European Bioeconomy University (EBU) is an alliance of the eight leading European universities in the bioeconomy field. GenB established a collaboration with key partners of EBU to ensure alignment of recommendations at different educational levels. EBU actively participated in the MML workshops in bioeconomy education (see chapter 6).
European Schoolnet	EUN has conducted several activities and developed career Factsheets in collaboration with Scientix. BioArt Gallery as well as dissemination of information about GenB project, materials and activities, to the project multipliers, have been presented and disseminated through multiple segments of ScientixTV. In addition, GenB Toolkits and other outcomes have been presented throughout online and face-to-face Science Projects Workshops and trainings in the Future Classroom Lab (2023-2025), as well as shared through the 2024 and 2025 STEM Discovery Campaign, to international teachers and educators. A TEDx Talk with

	<p>GenB Ambassador Emiliano Barbero, has been conducted as part of the Science Project Workshop (2024). Webinars with multipliers, 'Career Info-days' and 'A day in biorefinery' were conducted as online events and have been co-organised with Scientix and disseminated through Scientix social media channels, reaching various target groups. Finally GenB MOOC 'Bioeconomy for educators: Cultivating a Sustainable Future' has been developed in collaboration with Scientix and has been hosted, disseminated and coordinated with the support of European Schoolnet Academy (EUNA).</p>
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## 5.1 Collaboration with governance and policy stakeholders

GenB project was funded under GOVERNANCE topic. For this reason, one of the main stakeholders we wanted to engage to increase the project's impact were the policymakers. This activity took place both at European and National levels. Some collaborations established with policy stakeholders were particularly successful, leading to the adoption of GenB recommendations considering the revision of Bioeconomy Strategies, focusing on the bioeconomy education dimension.

*Table 4 - Overview of collaborations established with policy stakeholders*

Entity or Institution	Type of collaboration
National Coordination Group for Bioeconomy, under The Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers	<p>The National Coordination Group for Bioeconomy gathers various government ministries, the Committee of the 20 Italian Regions, the National Agency for Territorial Cohesion, and the Italian Technology Clusters on Green Chemistry and Agrifood.</p> <p>In March and April 2024, several meetings were organised with the working group to organise in collaboration with BIObec, BioGov.net and Engage4Bio, the first Projects2Policy workshop (on May 2024) with presentation of projects' results and recommendations. The objective was to enable knowledge transfer from projects to national Ministers and regional leaders, ahead of the revision of the European and Italian Bioeconomy Strategies. In this workshop the recommendations from projects will inform the roadmap for bioeconomy education in Italy.</p>
JRC	<p>GenB Partners have invited the Joint Research Centre -JRC as speaker to events and capacity building. For instance, Greet Janssens-Maenhout, Deputy Director of the Sustainable Resources Directorate and Head of the Forests and Bioeconomy Unit at European Commission, Joint Research Centre (EC-JRC), has participated in the political event titled "Bioeconomia circolare per la transizione ecologica: nuove competenze e bisogni formativi" held at Presidency of the Council of Ministers in Italy. The event was organised by APRE and FVA within the framework of WP4. During the session, the actor outlined the European Union's priorities regarding the</p>

	Bioeconomy Strategy and presented key aspects of the Knowledge Centre for Bioeconomy to the attendees.
CBE JU	Organisation of a workshop in bioeconomy education in the context of the first Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking - CBE JU Stakeholder Forum and participation to the communication working group.
Žilina Self-Governing Region	PEDAL collaborated with the region through participation in the “Za zelený kraj” envirofestival on 13 June 2024. In partnership with the Regional Development Agency, PEDAL presented the Bioeconomy Village, BioArt Gallery, and What’s Bioeconomy? book, engaging both students and policy stakeholders.
Banská Bystrica Self-Governing Region	In Slovakia, PEDAL met with representatives of the region during the Bioeconomy Changemakers Festival in Nitra (13 March 2024). The region, aiming to become a bioeconomy frontrunner, expressed high interest in using GenB materials to engage teachers and promote sustainability in education.
Different Ministries of Education across Europe	Organization of two online workshops under T4.3, one workshop on “Policy Briefs in STEM Education and a second one on Policy recommendations on bioeconomy, oceans and trees in education” with Scientix Ministries of Education STEM Representatives Working Group and their guests. The objectives of the workshops were to present the lessons learnt and results from the project, policy recommendations. and to discuss with the MoEs how to deliver actionable policy support.

## 5.2 Collaboration with organisations and events

Below an overview of the several synergies established with multiple organisations to facilitate the organisation of WP2 and WP3 activities, in light of increasing GenB impact.

*Table 5 - Overview of the collaborations established with organisations and events*

Entity or Institution	Type of collaboration
Several schools across the GenB partners’ countries	<p>Implementation of training activities, hands-on labs, focus groups, school projects and study visits, co-creation of innovative educational formats in the context of the Living Labs.</p> <p>Bioeconomy Art contest, Key Exploitation Results assessment.</p> <p>Examples include in Austria AHS Karajangasse and St. Gilgen International schools (secondary schools) and VS Südstadt (primary school); In Greece: 1<sup>st</sup> Junior High School of Kalamaria and Athens College Bodossaki Elementary School, in Italy the primary and low-secondary public school I.C Guicciardini in Rome and SOUx – the School of Architecture for Kids based in Taranto, Apulia; in Portugal “1<sup>o</sup> ciclo” schools of the municipality of Gaia, including Bandeira Elementary School; in the Netherlands</p>

	Bonhoeffer College in Enschede; in Slovakia the primary school at Budatínska and the primary school in Devínska Nova Ves.
Planetiers World Gathering	Planetiers World Gathering (PWG) is the biggest Portuguese international event for sustainable innovation. LOBA started collaborating with this initiative back in 2022 and across the project lifespan, leveraging this collaboration to host multiple sessions in the 2023 edition of the event.
Fabrica Centro Ciencia Viva	Fábrica Centro Ciência Viva is a science and technology outreach centre located in Aveiro (Portugal) that offers a variety of activities and interactive exhibitions for people of all ages. It has been the perfect stage and actor to collaborate with in the context of GenB activities engaging youth, interested in STEM and sustainability.
University of Aveiro	The University of Aveiro, through its collaboration with Fabrica Centro Ciência Viva, represented an incredibly valuable asset to support GenB activities. An example is the “jogos matematicos” (math olympics), a country-wide event engaging hundreds of students, where the Bioeconomy Changemakers festival – Portuguese Satellite Event was organised, leveraging the very high number of youths attending the event.
Municipality of Aveiro	LOBA established an on-going collaboration which will last after project’s end with the municipality of Aveiro in two contexts: 1) Within the organisation of the Bioeconomy Changemakers Festival 2) Within the development of GenB WP2 events and WP3 activities in the network of schools of Gaia, managed by the municipality. The municipality fostered the communications and overall organisation of GenB events organised by LOBA in multiple schools of the Gaia district.
School network of Gaia district	The school network of Gaia district, managed by the municipality of Aveiro, was a key actor in engaging young students and one of the most promising collaborations that may last after project’s end. The following schools, where GenB WP2 and WP3 activities were organised, expressed interest to LOBA in continuing exhibiting and performing similar activities from September 2025: EB Loureiro, Grijó, EB Cabo Mor, EB Campolinho 1, EB Marinha, EB Campolinho 2, EB Francelos, EB Lagos, EB Lagos, EB Vila chã.
Lazio Innova	Collaboration as partner in the 2023-2024 edition of the Startupper School Academy organised by Lazio Innova, which focused on sustainable living and integrating bioeconomy into built environments. High-school students received mentoring and training to develop their ideas into business plans, which were pitched to a jury. As part of the program, three online capacity-building webinars were delivered for students, teachers, and tutors.
EU Researchers’ Night across GenB partners’ countries	Participation at the local EU Researchers’ Nights in Italy, Austria and The Netherlands with bioeconomy quizzes, escape game, exhibitions and hands-on labs.

Geco for Schools	Collaboration in the GECO For School online educational platform to provide Italian secondary schools with educational modules related to bioeconomy and sustainability.
Maker Faire	Participation with the GenB booth and showcase of bioeconomy quizzes, escape game, exhibitions and hands-on lab.
ECOMONDO	The first bioeconomy career info day in Italy has been held in the context of Ecomondo – the Green Technology Expo – in November 2023.
ENI	Capacity building in bioeconomy for primary school teachers, in collaboration with ENI School program. The activity was implemented in Italy through the S.O.F.I.A. platform, which is recognised by the Ministry of Education and provides teachers with professional credits.
Eminent	EUN organised a face-to-face workshop “Contextualising STEM: Environmental Sustainability”, on 11 December 2024, during Eminent, European Schoolnet' annual conference. Among other EUN's initiatives results, GenB outcomes and draft recommendations were highlighted and discussed with various stakeholders, including ministries of education, industry partners, education practitioners, and academics.
The European Training Foundation (ETF)	On 20 November 2024, EUN disseminated the GenB project and the Toolkits to educators from across the world during the online event: Low-tech, High impact STEAM: the journey and the final output of the New Learning Club on innovative STEAM organised by ETF
Unitelma Sapienza	APRE organised one-to-one online informative meeting with Unitelma presenting the project and the main activities, as well as the results and exploitable formats, to educate and train the multipliers, by utilising the developed formats and materials. Moreover, APRE and FVA have involved Unitelma Sapienza in several GenB activities such as the validation meeting to validate the Bio Race Game and the Bioeconomy Changemaker Festival- Italian Satellite Event in Rome.
WWF Italia	APRE organised one-to-one online informative meeting with WWF Italia, presenting the project and the main activities, as well as the results and exploitable formats, with the aim of educating and train the multipliers by utilising the developed formats and materials.
Working group Schools: Learning for Sustainability Plenary meeting	On 12 March 2025 EUN disseminated the GenB project and highlighted the Policy recommendations report during the Working group Schools: Learning for Sustainability Plenary meeting organised by European Commission at EUN offices. The event was attended by various stakeholders ranging from policy makers to university professors, other organisations and industries.
Festival Expeditie Next (outdoor kids' science festival)	Participation with GenB booth, showcasing/demonstrating hands-on experiments, the draft GenB role-playing game, the bioeconomy book for kids, bio-based products and BioArt Gallery posters/banners.
MUSEON-Omniversum @ Museumnacht Kids, The Hague	Participation with GenB booth, showcasing/demonstrating hands-on experiments, the bioeconomy book for kids, the green chat quartet, the

	bioeconomy activity booklet, escape game assignments, and BioArt Gallery posters/banners.
Bioeconomy Summit	ZSI participated in the Austrian Bioeconomy Summit 2023, delivering a brief presentation on the GenB project, which was featured in a booklet. Furthermore, participants had the opportunity to explore the BioArt gallery online and valuable new contacts, useful for future project activities, could be established.
Valencian Toy Museum	AIJU organized the BioArt Gallery exhibition at the Valencian Toy Museum, located in Ibi (Alicante), Spain. The exhibition consisted of eight interactive panels developed within the project, providing information on the most innovative raw materials and their various bioeconomic applications. A special section of the exhibition focused on biobased products, with particular emphasis on toys, with the aim of demonstrating that it is possible to innovate with ecological awareness. So far, the exhibition has been mainly visited by school-age children, as well as teachers and families, consolidating itself as a successful educational proposal regarding bioeconomy.
Science Park of Miguel Hernández University	AIJU organised the BioArt Gallery exhibition. The exhibition consisted of eight interactive panels developed within the project, providing information on the most innovative raw materials and their various bioeconomic applications.
Spanish Federation of Biotechnologists - FEBIOTEC	In Spain, AIJU conducted an online informative webinar in collaboration with Febiotec. During these sessions, the most relevant resources developed by GenB were presented, tailored to the specific needs expressed by the institution.
Surfrider FOUNDATION	In Spain, AIJU conducted an online informative webinar in collaboration with Surfrider. During the meeting with Surfrider Foundation, focused on the protection and enjoyment of the world's ocean, the GenB project and its educational materials were introduced in detail. Surfrider Foundation expressed interest in the project and shared useful links from the Ministry of Education to support educational initiatives on sustainability
Development Agency of the Banská Bystrica Self-Governing Region	PEDAL co-organised two webinars in November 2024 focusing on bioeconomy introduction, the GenB Education Model, and the Toolkit. The agency expressed interest in using GenB resources to strengthen bioeconomy education in the region. Interactive tools and feedback questionnaires were used to collect input from participants.
Europe Direct Nitra	In Slovakia, PEDAL introduced the GenB materials during an online meeting. The Europe Direct team identified bioeconomy as a highly relevant topic for promoting EU priorities and expressed interest in using GenB tools in their local outreach activities.

Slovak Eco-Quality	PEDAL held an online meeting with Slovak Eco-Quality to explore synergies in sustainability-related education. The organisation appreciated the quality and applicability of GenB materials and discussed possible joint initiatives.
BioPark Slovakia	In Slovakia, PEDAL presented GenB resources during an online consultation. The organisation welcomed the materials as a helpful addition to their ongoing educational activities in the bioeconomy field.
Envirocentrum Banská Štiavnica	PEDAL conducted an in-person meeting with Envirocentrum in June 2024. The team showed interest in using GenB content to enrich their regional bioeconomy education efforts.
Mediterranean College Athens, School of Tourism and Hospitality	In Greece, the HSPN, in collaboration with Green Key Greece, organised an educational visit where the GenB project and the GenB Ambassadors Programme were presented and promoted to young students aged 17-19 y.o.
BCA College Athens, Hospitality and Tourism Management	In Greece, the HSPN, in collaboration with Green Key Greece, organised an educational visit where the GenB project and the GenB Ambassadors Programme were presented and promoted to young students aged 17-19 y.o.
Le Monde Institute of Hotel and Tourism Studies, Hotel Management, and Pastry Chef schools	In Greece, the HSPN, in collaboration with Green Key Greece, organised an educational visit where the GenB project and the GenB Ambassadors Programme were presented and promoted to young students aged 17-19 y.o.
Advanced School of Tourism Education of Rhodes	In Greece, the HSPN, in collaboration with Green Key Greece, organised an educational visit where the GenB project and the GenB Ambassadors Programme were presented and promoted to young students aged 17-19 y.o.
Greening Education Partnership, UNESCO, Municipalities of Greece	In Greece, the HSPN has undertaken the promotion of the UNESCO Greening Education Partnership, including a series of capacity-building webinars for educators from municipalities of Greece, where the GenB Toolkit was presented along with guidelines for its usage in the classroom.
Science United Project	The HSPN had a meeting with the co-founder of the Science United Project, a non-profit organisation located in Athens and supported by the Blossom Hill Foundation. SUP is dedicated to aims to supporting displaced students in all educational settings by providing capacity-building educational tools and kits to teachers and educators in general. During the meeting, the GenB Toolkits were presented and the possibilities of its use in science education for displaced students, along with the creation of science/bioeconomy kits, were discussed. GenB was invited to participate in the SUP Festival for educators taking place at the end of spring 2025.

### 5.3 Collaboration with youth networks

GenB analysed and connected with many youth associations and Ambassadors relevant to the bioeconomy and beyond. The continuous knowledge and good practices exchange with many of these networks supported the GenB activities, ensuring the effectiveness of the tools, not only for the specific activities of the project but also in light of future exploitation by other projects and initiatives.

The collaboration with youth networks took place mainly under WP3. For this reason, chapters 6 and 7 in D3.3 (Report on Engage, Empower & Take a role activities - Second Period) report in detail those collaborations, the main outcomes and lessons learnt stemming from the activities implemented. The collaboration to be included concerns the one with the Young Ocean Advocate which has been established after the submission of the D.3.3. The collaboration has been developed for the GenB – BioBeo Final Event where a Young Ocean Advocate, also serving as a GenB Ambassador, has been invited as a panellist to share recommendations on integrating the principles of the circular economy into the sustainable bioeconomy education.

## 6 Online mobilisation and mutual learning workshops

### 6.1 “Projects2Projects” workshop

“**Projects2Projects**” was organised in October 2022 in the context of the EC Bioeconomy Conference to maximise the exploitation of lessons learnt and the heritage of H2020 bioeconomy projects in communication, education, and stakeholder engagement, to effectively kick off the newly funded Horizon Europe ones. Although this activity took place before the official start of the GenB project, it can be considered as the kick-off of T5.2.

The participating EuBioNet projects were grouped according to the following thematic working groups/macro areas:

Macroarea 1 - enabling the bioeconomy ecosystem at European, National and Regional level (governance perspective)		Macroarea 2 - enabling the bioeconomy ecosystem at European, National and Regional level (boost circular economy and bioeconomy sectors perspective)	
H2020	Horizon Europe	H2020	Horizon Europe
BIOEASTsUP BE-Rural BioCircularCities LIFT	ShapingBio CEE2ACT BIOMODEL4REGIONS ROBIN BIOLOC BBC BlueRev RefreSCAR	BIOSWITCH Biobridges Tech4Biowaste MPowerBio BioeconomyVentures Enabling	BioRural MainstreamBIO RuralBioUp SCALE-UP BIOTRANSFORM
Macroarea 3 - standardisation, certification, labelling and monitoring		Macroarea 4 - bioeconomy communication and education/future skills for the bioeconomy	
H2020	Horizon Europe	H2020	Horizon Europe
STAR-ProBio STAR4BBI	HARMONITOR STAR4BBS SUSTCERT4BIOBASED 3-CO SUSTRACK	Transition2Bio BIObec Allthings.bioPRO BIOVOICES BIOSKILLS EBU Label	GenB BioBeo BioGov.Net Engage4BIO

Figure 11 – Overview of the macroareas and the projects clustered

The “Projects2Projects” workshop was divided into two parts. The first one was specifically dedicated to brief presentations of success stories from H2020 projects, with a special focus on exploitable assets.

This part was followed by a walking brainstorming/networking and four thematic group discussions, during which the Horizon Europe projects had the chance to present their main objectives and expected outcomes through the projects’ fiches, collected in the posters dedicated to the different macro areas.

The sessions, organised in thematic working groups, supported the networking and collaboration among the H2020 and the Horizon Europe projects with the objective of defining a common 2022/2023 action plan.

During the discussion, the following outcomes have been achieved:

- facilitate the identification and connection with similar activities
- enable the overview of who is doing what in the next months
- avoid duplication of efforts (e.g. organisation of a workshop on the same topic in the same period)

- maximise the impact and participation in events by joining efforts (e.g. co-organising an event addressing similar topics from different perspectives)
- facilitate the match between needs and offer (e.g. I'm organising a conference, I look for speakers, good practices)



*Figure 12 – One of the working groups working on the joint action plan during the workshop*

All the materials stemming from the workshop, including the PPT presentations, projects' fiches and joint action plans per each macroarea, are available on this [EuBioNet dedicated page](#), and the outcomes were also showcased in the EuBioNet corner organised in the EC premises during the Bioeconomy Conference held in Brussels.

**Impact:** The event reached 76 registered participants and was finally able to reach around 60 attendees and involve 40 projects on stage, and an additional 9 projects participating.



Figure 13 – The EuBioNet corner during the EC Bioeconomy Conference

## 6.2 “Developing skills in the bio-based industries: future bioeconomy education pathways”

“Developing skills in the bio-based industries: future bioeconomy education pathways” was organised in December 2023 in Brussels in the context of the CBE JU Stakeholder Forum, in collaboration with BIObec and BioGov.net projects. The workshop brought together the most relevant projects in bioeconomy education to outline the necessary and missing skills and future job profiles, as well as to discuss the skills-related regional dimension and priorities and share strategies to attract students and professionals towards careers related to the bioeconomy.



**CBE JU  
Stakeholder  
Forum 2023**  
6-7 December Brussels



**BIObec**



**BioGov.net**



**GEN**  
YOUNG BIOVOICES  
FOR A SUSTAINABLE  
FUTURE



**EUROPEAN  
BIOECONOMY  
NETWORK**

**Developing skills in the bio-based industries:  
future bioeconomy education pathways**

7 December 2023, from 9.00 to 10.45, Brussels (onsite event)  
In the context of CBE JU Stakeholder Forum

Figure 14 – Banner of the workshop at the CBE JU Stakeholder Forum

During the workshop, success stories and formats for designing educational pathways (e.g., competence centres, business models and educational frameworks) were presented and discussed to understand how effectively address the skills needed in the bio-based sector.

In the opening remarks, **Giovanna Rizzetto (CBE JU)** highlighted the importance of such events to foster dialogue and identify needs and challenges in bioeconomy education, to properly address them in current or

future EU initiatives. In this context, through Inspirational and interactive discussions with participants, the event

- ensured knowledge exchange, transferability, replicability and exploitation of EU-funded projects and initiatives' outcomes
- improved the quality and impact of ongoing projects and initiatives in bioeconomy education, facilitating collaboration and mutual learning
- provided actionable recommendations and guidelines for future bioeconomy education pathways.

Specifically, **GenB** contributed to the discussion by providing an overview on the main formats designed to engage younger generations in the bioeconomy, such as games and gamified experiences, bioeconomy careers info-days with young testimonials presenting future skills and future jobs profiles, TEDx talks, school projects to grow future entrepreneurs in the bioeconomy, "A day in a biorefinery" study visit, Toolkits, MOOC and capacity building for teachers and finally the GenB Ambassadors program.

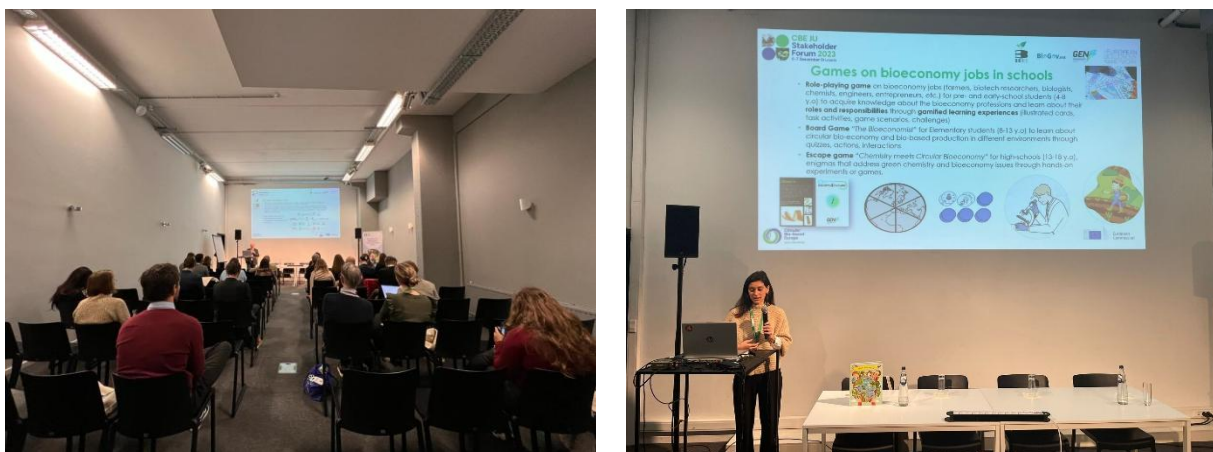


Figure 15 – Some pictures from the workshop

The following interactive discussion engaged participants from relevant EU-funded projects and networks (e.g. Allthings.bioPRO, BioBeo, Engage4Bio, Circular Bricks, EBU and EBU Label, ICA CoP Bio-Edu, BIOEAST initiative - including BioEast UniNet), which shared their contributions to respond to the following questions:

- How can bioeconomy education respond to regional and industry needs and priorities?
- What are the future bioeconomy and bio-based economy job profiles and skills needed?
- How to inspire, inform and attract students and professionals towards careers related to the bioeconomy?
- How can future projects and initiatives bridge the gaps between skills needed and educational pathways?

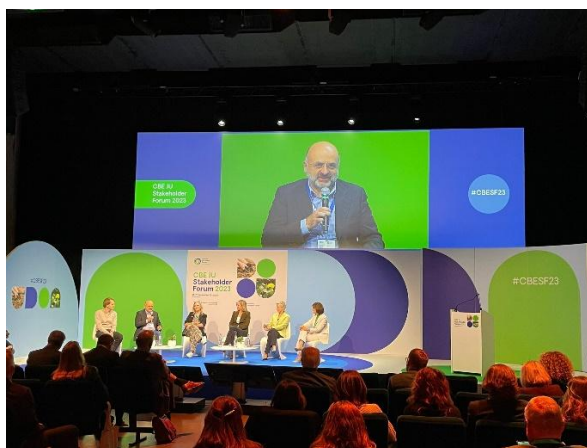
Their inputs were gathered through Mentimeter and the audience agreed on the need to

- facilitate a more structured cooperation among educational providers, industries and local authorities, to ensure that the educational curricula are co-created and able to address specific (present and future) needs and requirements
- organise events to support networking and encourage knowledge sharing and best practices
- increase on-the-job trainings and opportunities for younger generations to have direct and practical educational experiences in industries
- enhance transversal skills, foster multidisciplinary and systemic thinking in addition to more technical skills
- stimulate dialogue with policymakers to effectively create a governance system in the bioeconomy which can ensure the implementation of such educational pathways at different geographical levels (lack of legislation and unified frameworks, need for funding and public support)
- provide motivation and foster inclusiveness through innovative arts-based approaches, using different tools, gamified approaches and more engaging methodologies, while promoting the bioeconomy.

**Nelo Emerencia (Bio-based Industries Consortium-BIC)** closed the workshop by providing remarks on how the BIC working group in education will make sure to embed the main suggestions that emerged during the discussion, highlighting again the relevance of such debate for the entire educational community.

These insightful inputs will contribute to the definition of policy recommendations that will be considered for future activities in the domain, targeting different levels and considering the regional specificities and needs. They also contributed to informing the [recommendations delivered by CBE JU](#) as outcomes of the Forum.

The workshop reached around 30 participants, and the main takeaways from the discussion were presented by BIObec's coordinator, Prof. Davide Viaggi, in a plenary session, reaching around 400 stakeholders participating in the CBE JU Stakeholder Forum.



*Figure 16 – The main takeaways from the workshop presented at the CBE JU Stakeholder Forum plenary session*

### 6.3 “What’s Next for Bioeconomy Education? Pre-University education and communication perspectives”

This workshop was organised by GenB project as part of the **"What's next for bioeconomy education?" workshops series**, whose aim was to provide insights and recommendations from EU-funded projects, towards the bioeconomy strategy revision.

The objective of the workshop was to involve participants in an interactive exercise to co-design educational and policy recommendations to inform the revision of the **European Bioeconomy Strategy**.



Figure 17 – Banner of the "What's next for bioeconomy education?" workshop

After presenting key case studies and good practices, along with education and policy recommendations from leading EU-funded bioeconomy projects, such as GenB, BioBeo, BIOVOICES, Allthings.bioPRO, and Scientix, participants engaged in an interactive discussion and collaborative co-creation session.

The session, divided into two parts, uses a MIRO board pre-filled with insights from the opening inspirational case studies. One part focused on developing educational recommendations for both formal, non-formal and informal education, emphasising awareness and learning strategies to be adopted by the educational community. The second part targeted policymakers, co-creating policy recommendations for sustainable bioeconomy education governance models at the European level. This process encouraged knowledge exchange on best practices, innovative policies, and regulatory measures to enhance bioeconomy education across diverse educational settings.

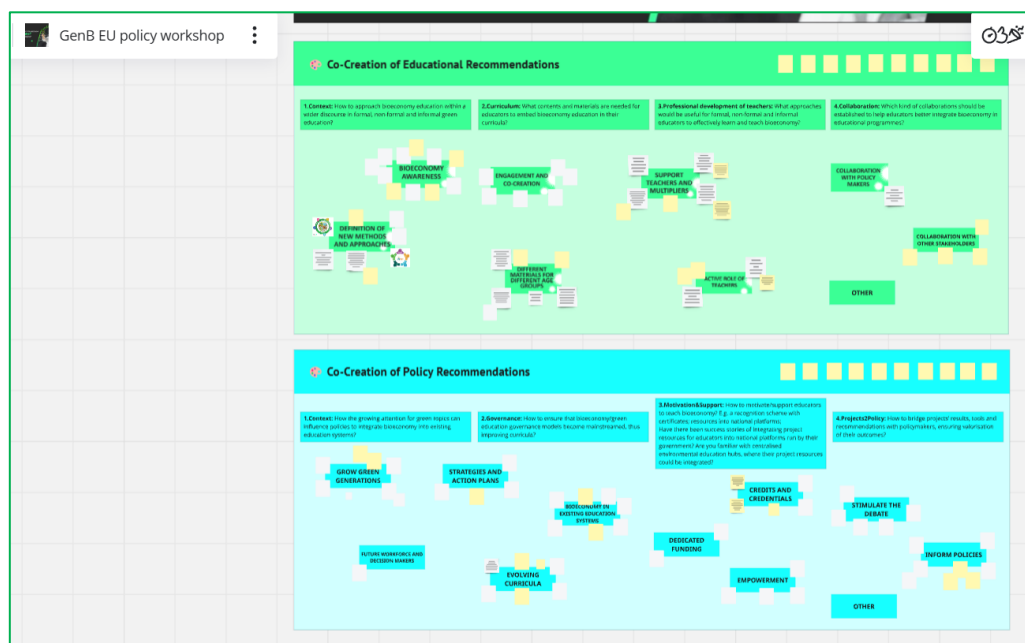


Figure 18 – Screenshot of the inputs collected in MIRO during the interactive sessions

Below an overview of the questions that guided the two interactive sessions. These were designed to spark debate, foster collaboration, and trigger innovative thinking by encouraging diverse stakeholders to explore and address the challenges, opportunities, and strategies for effectively integrating bioeconomy education and policy into current systems.

Table 6 - Guiding questions using during the interactive sessions in MIRO

Interactive Discussion 1 - Co-Creation of Educational Recommendations, <i>Guiding questions</i>	Interactive Discussion 2 - Co-Creation of Policy Recommendations, <i>Guiding questions</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Context:</b> How to approach bioeconomy education within a wider discourse in formal, non-formal and informal green education?</li> <li>• <b>Curriculum:</b> What contents and materials are needed for educators to embed bioeconomy education in their curricula?</li> <li>• <b>Professional development of teachers:</b> What approaches would be useful for formal, non-formal and informal educators to effectively learn and teach bioeconomy?</li> <li>• <b>Collaboration:</b> Which kind of collaborations should be established to help educators better integrate bioeconomy in educational programmes?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Context:</b> How the growing attention for green topics can influence policies to integrate bioeconomy into existing education systems?</li> <li>• <b>Governance:</b> How to ensure that bioeconomy/green education governance models become mainstreamed, thus improving curricula?</li> <li>• <b>Motivation&amp;Support:</b> How to motivate/support educators to teach bioeconomy? E.g. a recognition scheme with certificates; resources into national platforms: Have there been success stories of integrating project resources for educators into national platforms run by their government? Are the project participants familiar with centralised environmental education hubs, where their project resources could be integrated?</li> <li>• <b>Projects2Policy:</b> How to bridge projects' results, tools and recommendations with policymakers, ensuring valorisation of their outcomes?</li> </ul>

The workshop gathered **36 participants** representing different projects and initiatives active in bioeconomy education and governance.

## 7 Speeches and collaboration during events organised by third parties

### 7.1 EC High-level workshop in bioeconomy education

On Wednesday 20 November 2024, GenB project participated in the European Commission's DG Research & Innovation workshop in Brussels entitled ***"Bioeconomy education to enable the transition to a competitive, regenerative, and fair (bio)economy. Building the next union of skills in the bioeconomy"***.

This event gathered around **100 experts in bioeconomy education** to discuss concrete future policy needs on this subject to be addressed in the **update of the European Bioeconomy Strategy**. Participants included high-level policy makers such as **Joanna Drake** – Deputy Director-General: Planet, People and Science for Policy – Directorate-General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission, **Peter Wehrheim** – Head of Unit, Bioeconomy & Food Systems – Directorate-General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission, **Giuseppe Pellegrino** – Policy Officer, Bioeconomy & Food Systems – Directorate-General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission, **Ioana Dewandeler**, Policy Officer Higher Education – DG Education and Culture of the European Commission and **Norbert Lins**, Member of the European Parliament (MEP).

On this occasion, **APRE** presented the GenB interim results, providing an overview of the comprehensive tools developed and initiatives implemented to support educators, youth, and stakeholders in general in fostering bioeconomy education and engagement. These resources are tailored to make bioeconomy concepts accessible, engaging, and actionable for pre-university students and broader audiences, through hands-on labs, gamified experiences, engaging educational videos, quizzes and cards, as well as a MOOC in bioeconomy designed for teachers.

APRE also introduced the outcomes of the **GenB workshops involving different Ministries of Education** organised on 3 September and 5 November, as well as the **results from the EU workshop "What's Next for Bioeconomy Education?"**, held on 28 October, which brought together experts, educators, and policymakers to discuss educational and policy recommendations for future pre-university education and communication strategies.

Additionally, the **GenB Ambassador Nicholas Ferrini** participated in the session dedicated to "Youth and Bioeconomy Education", together with representatives from the Bioeconomy Youth Ambassadors and the Youth Champion of the International Advisory Council on Global Bioeconomy. Nicholas presented specifically the GenB Ambassadors Program through the different activities implemented, such as TEDx pitches, large-scale events and social media campaigns. A huge relevance was given to the capacity building and mentorship activities that GenB Ambassadors received from the project, to be empowered with knowledge, tools and formats and actively take a role in their communities.

Finally, **world café breakout groups** were organised among the invited experts, allowing focused group discussions on critical topics. Participants divided into the different tables explored questions such as "What role can bioeconomy education play in upskilling the bioeconomy workforce of our society?" and "What

policy actions can support these efforts?”. These intimate, collaborative dialogues allowed for a deeper dive into challenges and opportunities, generating targeted insights and actionable recommendations to bridge education, workforce development, and policy support for the bioeconomy at different educational levels.

## 7.2 Speeches in events organised by other projects

GenB partners participated in several speeches in events organised by other projects, to present the projects results, formats and tools, promote events, as well as share recommendations and lessons learnt with the wider educational community. The following table describes a selection of these speeches.

*Table 7 - Overview of the speeches performed by GenB partners in events organised by other projects*

Context	Activity performed
39th Science Projects Workshop in the Future Classroom Lab (25/03/2023)	Presentation of GenB project, GenB Toolkit materials and awareness raising activities.
Future Classroom Lab workshop: Imagination and Creativity in the World - Where STEM Meets Arts (17/04/2024)	Presentation of GenB project, good practices and materials included in the GenB Toolkit, as well as awareness raising activities.
40th Science Projects Workshop in the Future Classroom Lab (17/06/2023)	Presentation of GenB project, good practices, GenB Toolkit materials and awareness raising activities.
STEAM learning Ecologies (SLEs) project seminar "Open education and STEAM skills" (20/06/2023)	Presentation of good practices and results stemming from the GenB Living Labs.
STEAM Learning Ecologies (SLEs) project "Informative webinar for pilot projects" (September 2023; July 2024).	Presentation of good practices and science education materials from GenB.
5th International Summer School on Circular Bio-economy and Sustainable Development (26/07/2023)	Presentation of GenB strategies and tools in bioeconomy communication and awareness-raising activities.
Workshop "Engaging the future: Stakeholder involvement in the EU Bioeconomy" (4/10/2023)	Presentation of good practices in communication and stakeholder engagement, stemming from GenB.
Circular Bricks project webinar on bioeconomy education (10/03/2023)	Presentation of GenB and EuBioNet.
Circular Bricks project final event (9/02/2024)	Presentation of the key results from GenB.
A Science Project Online Workshop 17 (SPOW17): 'Sustainability in and outside of the classroom: from Bioeconomy to Nature-Based-Solutions' (28/02-13/03/2024)	Presentation of GenB Project and GenB Toolkit, specifically the career factsheets, role-playing game and the book for kids "What's Bioeconomy"
Future Classroom Lab workshop: Imagination and Creativity in the World - Where STEM Meets Arts (19/03/2024)	Presentation of GenB Project and GenB Toolkit.

Scientix STEM Discovery Campaign 2024 (01/02-30/04/2024)	Campaign where GenB materials were disseminated and reports of implementation were collected, among other STEM activity reports.
6 <sup>th</sup> National Conference on the circular economy (6° Conferenza Nazionale sull'economia circolare) (10/05/2024)	Presentation of GenB objectives and activities.
OTTERS Webinar: The role of Education in Citizen Science (27/06/2024)	Presentation of GenB activities and launch of a call for collaboration during OTTERS.
BIO2REG expert workshop: Bioeconomy education on a regional basis (1/07/2024)	Presentation of GenB and EuBioNet.
6th Summer School in Circular Bioeconomy and Sustainable Development (1/07/2024)	Presentation of the GenB Students2Students format, engaging young people to raise awareness and educate peers and younger students in the bioeconomy.
2024 Science Projects Workshop – Carbon Act Dissemination Workshop (05/07-06/07/2024)	Presentation of GenB Project and GenB Toolkit, specifically the career factsheets, role-playing game and the book for kids “What’s Bioeconomy”
Malnisio Science Festival (22-23-24/11/2024)	Presentation of GenB and the Book for Kids “What’s Bioeconomy”
Low-tech, High impact STEAM: the journey and the final output of the New Learning Club on innovative STEAM: online event (20/11/2024) organised by ETF	Presentation of GenB project and the Toolkits to educators from across the world
MainstreamBIO webinar "Youth in the Bioeconomy- Impact and importance of involvement the youth in the bioeconomy sector" (29/01/2025)	Presentation of the GenB model to inspire, engage and empower young ambassadors to take a role, presentation of the GenB Youth Debates and Youth2Policy workshop.
BioGov.net webinar "From Awareness to Action: Arts in Bioeconomy Education for a Just and Green Transition" (18/02/2025)	Presentation of the BioArt Gallery and Bioeconomy village as inspirational case study in the BioGov.net methodological approach to link bioeconomy education and art.
INTED Conference 2025 (3-5/03/2025)	Presentation of the educational games developed by GenB for bioeconomy, highlighting their positive impact on students' learning and motivation.
Workshop “Strengthening blue education in Europe: how can EU Mission Ocean & Waters deliver high(est) impact?” (3/03/2025)	Participation in the workshop “Strengthening Blue Education in Europe”, organised in Brussels by BlueLightS, Probleu and SHORE projects in the context of the EU Ocean Days organised by the European Commission, as part of the EU Mission Ocean. Lessons learnt, innovative formats and successful case studies developed by GenB in engaging citizens and young people were shared with the blue education community to foster cross-fertilisation between green and blue education. The workshop aimed to explore how the EU Mission Ocean and Waters can maximise educational impact.

FCL Course: STEM and Active Learning: A Dynamic Approach to Teaching (18/03/2025)	The GenB project and resources were presented to the international educators during the one-week FCL course at EUN offices. Following the presentation, participants had to develop an action plan about teaching green competencies in their classroom, considering the various resources.
Scientix STEM Discovery Campaign 2025 (01/02-30/04/2025)	GenB materials were disseminated and reports of implementation were collected in a Scientix STEM Discovery Campaign 2025, among other STEM activity reports.
FORWARD Green Expo 2024, physical International Expo in Thessaloniki, Greece (07/3/2024)	GenB Project was presented in the open stage event organised by HSPN in the framework of the Green Key sustainable tourism Programme of the FEE. The Green Key also supported the dissemination of GenB materials (leaflet, BioArtGallery and promotional video) at the Programme's exhibition Booth.
Working group Schools: Learning for Sustainability Plenary face-to-face meeting (12/03/2025) organised by EC	GenB project and Policy recommendation report were disseminated to various stakeholders.
FORWARD Green Expo 2025, physical International Expo in Thessaloniki, Greece (14/3/2025)	GenB was hosted by BioGov.net in its Forward Green Expo booth, on Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2025, where GenB had the opportunity to disseminate BioArt Gallery and promotional GenB bio-based products (notebooks, t-shirts, poo jotter, pens, etc)
Athens Science Festival (ASF) 2024 (16-21/04/2024) in Athens, Greece	The Bioeconomy Village interactive exhibition was hosted throughout the Festival. Moreover, two hands-on lab activities were implemented. Both activities were paired with the BioArt Gallery format and an audiovisual presentation on Bioeconomy for elementary school students.
Blue Flag Greece Award ceremony 2024 (24/05/2024) in Kalamata, Greece	GenB was invited to the Blue Flag Greece (sustainable tourism programme of the FEE) award ceremony 2024, where we had the opportunity to implement GenB hands-on labs and inquiry-based learning activities with elementary schools from the municipality of Kalamata in the framework of the Programme's educational activities.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Posidonia Festival (25/5/2024) in Rafina, Attica, Greece	GenB was hosted by the Festival dedicated to the promotion and protection of the <i>Posidonia oceanica</i> meadows in Attica. GenB had a booth with promotional materials (leaflets, posters, bio-product exhibition) both days of the Festival, while on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> day hands-on labs activities were also implemented.



## 8 Conclusions and lessons learnt

The GenB project's ecosystem-building activities demonstrate the power of strategic collaboration, youth engagement, and proactive knowledge exchange in shaping the future of bioeconomy education in Europe. Drawing on the strengths of the European Bioeconomy Network (EuBioNet), GenB created a thriving ecosystem of over 50 European projects and initiatives, establishing synergies that significantly amplified the reach and relevance of its tools, formats, and recommendations. This network approach ensured that the project's outputs were not only disseminated widely but also adapted, reused, and further developed by a broad community of educators, policymakers, youth ambassadors, and organisations.

Youth played a key role through the GenB Ambassadors Programme and partnerships with other youth networks, ensuring authentic youth participation in education and policy dialogues.

The project's collaborative spirit was equally evident in the design and implementation of joint events, particularly the mobilisation and mutual learning (MML) workshops, such as "Projects2Projects" and "What's Next for Bioeconomy Education?". These workshops were key in aligning different EU-funded projects, identifying shared goals, and avoiding duplication of efforts. They also enabled collective policy thinking, successfully delivering recommendations on education and policy at national and EU levels, contributing to the revision of bioeconomy strategies.

The project's sustained policy engagement also underscored the importance of delivering consolidated and usable recommendations. Policymakers are increasingly seeking clear, impactful insights formats like the policy co-creation workshops organised by GenB allowed for aggregation of multiple project results into single, coherent briefs, ensuring that lessons learnt could be taken up at both national and European levels. This format helped bridge the gap between project-based knowledge and institutional adoption, reinforcing the value of collaborative governance. Finally, the establishment of the European Community of Practice - CoP for Bioeconomy Education will ensure the legacy of GenB and the synergies established with the educational community in the bioeconomy sector will continue to grow beyond the project's lifetime.

# GEN

## OUR CONSORTIUM



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