



## PA Bioeconomy Steering Group Meeting

December 10 2024. MS Teams

### Protocol

#### 1. Welcome and selection of the Chair of the meeting

In the absence of an appointed the Chairperson of the Steering Group, Torfi Johannesson proposed to chair the meeting. This was approved.

#### 2. General information from the PACs

The PACs give information about recent, and planned activities.

- 1) The Polish precedence for the EUSBSR has notified the PACs for PA-Bioeconomy that they will abstain from chairing the Steering Group. The PACs will initiate a dialogue with the BSP with the aim to find a solution.
- 2) An update to the Action Plan for the PA-Bioeconomy is being prepared. More on that subject under pt. 4.
- 3) The PA-Bioeconomy was the organiser or co-organiser of five workshops on the Annual Forum in Visby:
  - a) **Food Security and Home Preparedness** PA-Bioeconomy was the main organiser together with PA-Secure and CBSS.
  - b) **Business-Driven Cooperation for Sustainable and Resilient Bioeconomy in the Baltic Sea Region**, organised together with PA-Innovation and the BioBoosters project.
  - c) **Macro-Regional Development Through Forest-Based Bioeconomy** organised together with Nordic Forest Research and the Swedish Forest Agency. Here you find a short news article about the workshop (<https://nordicforestresearch.org/blog/2024/10/31/war-torn-ukraine-seeks-forestry-cooperation/>).
  - d) **Aligning Cross-Sectorial Efforts to Reach Policy Goals on Saving the Sea**, organised together with PA-Nutri and HELCOM but with input from several other policy areas and DG Regio.
  - e) **Empowering Sustainable Rebuilding of Ukraine**, organised together with PA-Nutri and PA-Hazards.

- f) In addition the workshop [A Sustainable Catch: Promoting Low-Impact Coastal Fisheries and Communities on a Sub-Regional Level](#) was organised by Simrishamn Municipality, with reference to PA-Bioeconomy but without direct involvement from our side.
- 4) Earlier in the autumn, PA-Bioeconomy was involved in two events: [Nordic conference on co-location of marine industries](#) and [From Sustainable Agriculture to Healthy and Sustainable Food Choices](#). December 3 the event **Bioindustrial symbioses in the Baltic Sea Region** was held in Vilnius in co-operation between the Agricultural Ministry in Lithuania and the Nordic Council of Ministers.

### 3. Change in Rules of Procedure

The Common Structure of the SG Rules Procedure was changed by the NC group in June 2024. The updated structure allows more flexible timeline of the silent/written procedures within the Steering Groups, if there is such need, from the current minimum 10 business days requirement down to five.

*Decision:*

*The Steering Group of PA-Bioeconomy approves to change the minimum duration of silent/written procedures from 10 days to 5 days.*

*The Steering Group of PA-Bioeconomy approves that decision making documents for Steering Group meetings can be sent to the Steering Group latest 5 days before the meeting, instead of 10 days.*

The proposal was approved by the Steering Group and the Rules of Procedure will be updated accordingly.

### 4. Action Plan update

The PACs for PA-Bioeconomy are updating the Action Plan for the next programming period, defining outputs, outcomes, targets, and indicators. This work will culminate in a formal proposal sent for approval by the Steering Group in January 2025.

Given the scope of PA-Bioeconomy, it is crucial to balance scope, precision, and operationality. Actions must accommodate various bioeconomy initiatives and be measurable within limited resources.

Proposed actions:

1. Enhance food system resilience and rural cohesion in the BSR.
2. Reduce nutrient leakage from agriculture and forestry into the Baltic Sea.
3. Increase blue and green biomass valorisation in the BSR.

The wording of the actions is still being developed, and input from the SG is welcome. The PAC-group aims to link actions to actors: Action 1 with the Nordic Council, Lithuania's Ministry of Agriculture, PA-Inno, and PA-Secure; Action 2 with PA-Nutri and PA-Hazards; and Action 3 with the Submariner network.

Decision:

*The Steering Group for PA-Bioeconomy supports the proposed actions and expects the final version of formulations, along with description of background and impact analysis in a written procedure ultimo January 2025.*

**4. Any other business**

**5. Closing of the meeting**

Protocol from the meeting will be sent to the SG for silent/written approval.

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