

# BioRural



Accelerating circular bio-based solutions integration in European rural areas

## The Problem

The current Bioeconomy in the EU is predominantly based on unsustainable and linear production systems while simultaneously, the wider economy is largely dependent on non-renewable resources and materials. While rural areas, in particular, face a multitude of overlapping economic, demographic and climate related challenges.

A sustainable bioeconomy could be the **main source of renewable materials while also re-developing rural areas**. Solutions towards a just circular rural bioeconomy currently exist, but they do so in isolation and with little synergy between stakeholders. In addition, despite significant investments in bio-based research and innovation in the EU, results have not been widely disseminated or successfully scaled, especially in rural areas. These small-scale bio-based solutions face an array of overlapping challenges (i.e. knowledge and technology transfer, fragmented Bioeconomy networks, investments for commercial scaling) that needs to be addressed.

## BioRural's Overall Objective

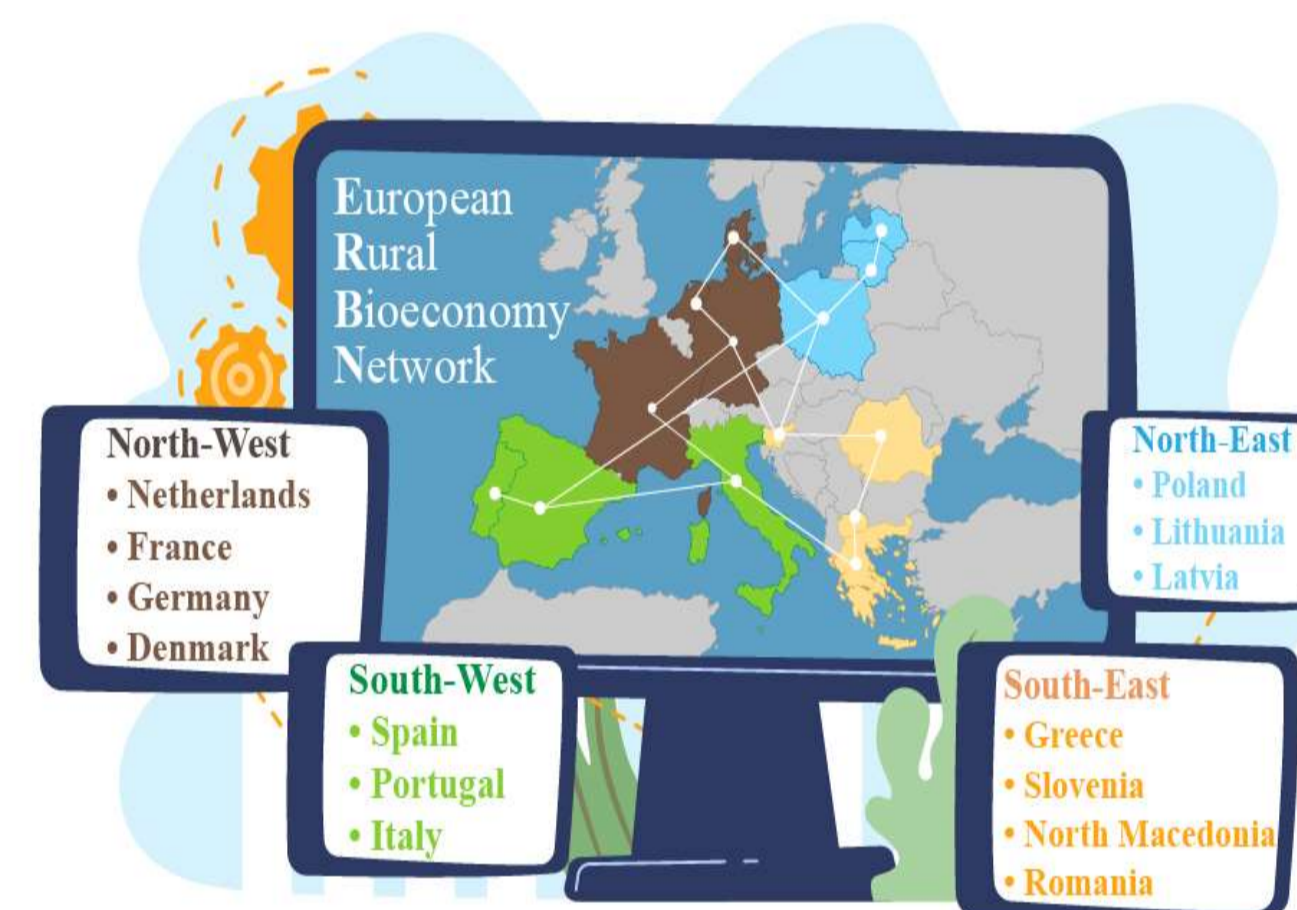
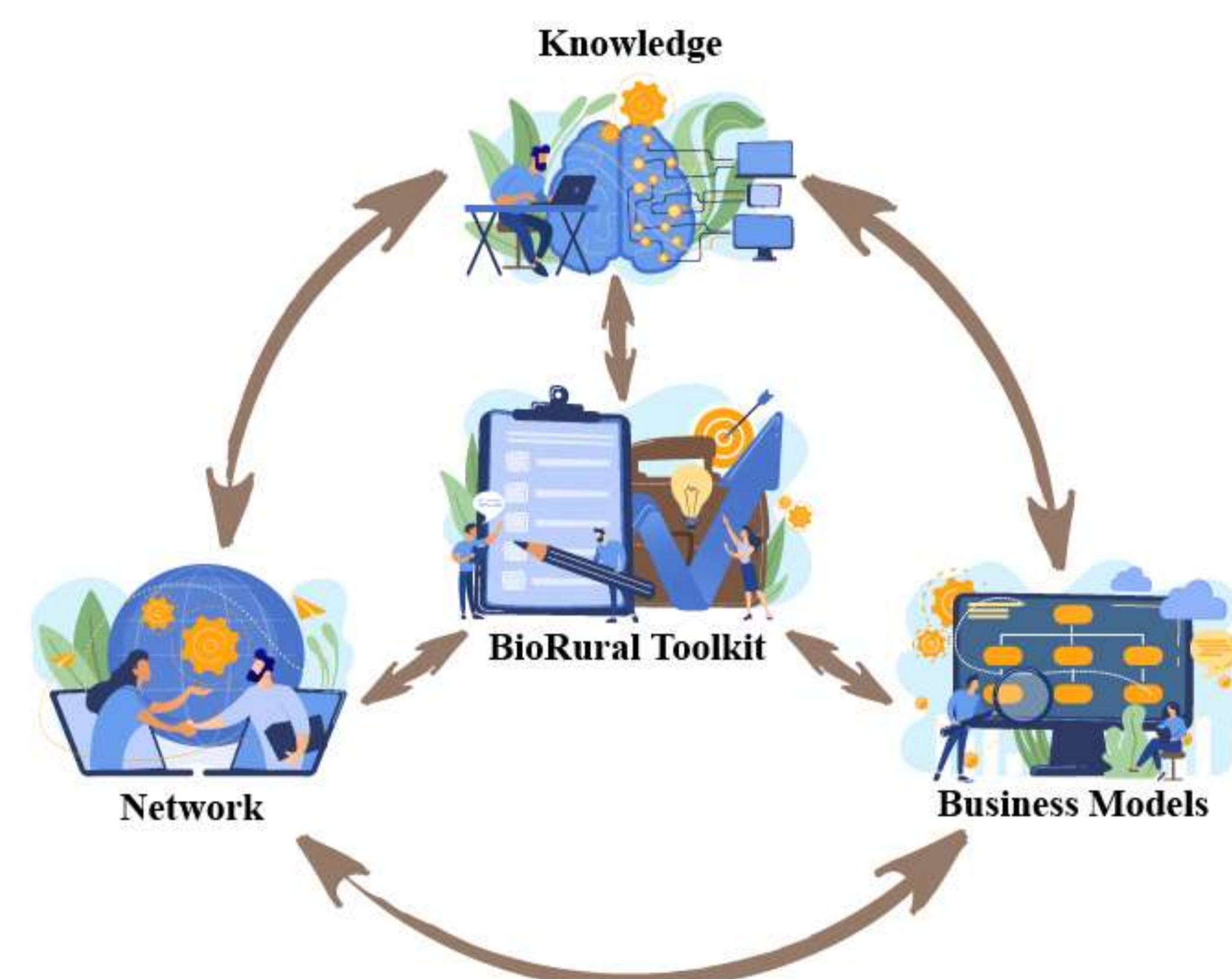
The main objective of BioRural is to create a **pan-European Rural Bioeconomy Network** under which stakeholders will cooperate to promote currently available small-scale bio-based solutions in rural areas. Such a framework will contribute in **bridging the gap between available novel high-end bio-based solutions and the everyday life of rural European citizens** by assessing the existing situation of the European rural Bioeconomy, capturing grassroots-level needs and ideas, promoting effective exchange of knowledge and information and investigating the business opportunities for regional development through bio-based solutions integration in rural Europe.

This way, BioRural will develop a transition framework towards a sustainable, regenerative, inclusive and just circular Bioeconomy across all Europe at local and regional scale and support innovators to scale-up inclusive and small-scale bio-based solutions in rural areas.

## The Project

BioRural is a three year multi-actor project combining the expertise of 19 partners from 14 countries. BioRural is based around the implementation of a three-pillar intervention scheme. First, BioRural will provide a framework to **increase knowledge** for rural stakeholders by addressing information gaps, conducting knowledge exchange workshops, and the development of an BioRural Toolkit that makes research results widely accessible.

Second, BioRural will create a wide **network** of stakeholders in a regional and pan-European level to interconnect actors that can boost circular Bioeconomy growth through the development of a European Rural Bioeconomy Network centred around **4 regional Rural Bioeconomy Platforms** and Bioeconomy success stories supported by a series of capacity building actions. Third, BioRural will develop **Business model blueprints** for the 5 main Bioeconomy themes that support the entrepreneurial establishment and maturation of future innovative bio-based solutions for rural areas and also ensure the post-project sustainability of the Bioeconomy Network and **the BioRural Toolkit**.



BioRural geographic division in Regional Bioeconomy Platforms (RBP) forming the European Rural Bioeconomy Network (ERBN)

NETWORK	KNOWLEDGE	BioRural TOOLKIT
<b>1 European Rural Bioeconomy Network</b> <b>4 Regional Rural Bioeconomy Platforms</b> <b>&gt;400 members</b> <b>20 Rural Bioeconomy Success Stories</b> <b>42 capacity building workshops</b> <b>4 regional workshops</b> <b>1 European Bioeconomy Challenge</b>	<b>EU Bioeconomy current status</b> <b>440 interviews with end-users/experts</b> <b>5 knowledge exchange workshops</b> <b>5 Bioeconomy business models</b> <b>Bioeconomy growth guidelines</b>	<b>&gt;400 Bioeconomy material</b> <b>Filmed workshops</b> <b>8 success stories videos</b> <b>Integration with EU's Knowledge Centre for Bioeconomy</b>

## Expected Outcomes /Impacts:

- Enhanced cooperation between key stakeholders resulting in sustainable business model pathways for bio-based innovations in rural areas.
- Provision of tailored/independent support to innovators to accelerate the development of marketable products and services and to improve the market penetration of bio-based solutions in Europe.
- Successful deployment of existing scientific and practical knowledge and more bio-based solutions introduced in rural areas in line with relevant policy initiatives.
- Regional, rural, local/urban and consumer-based transitions towards a sustainable, regenerative, inclusive and just circular economy and Bioeconomy across all regions of Europe.

## The Project Partners

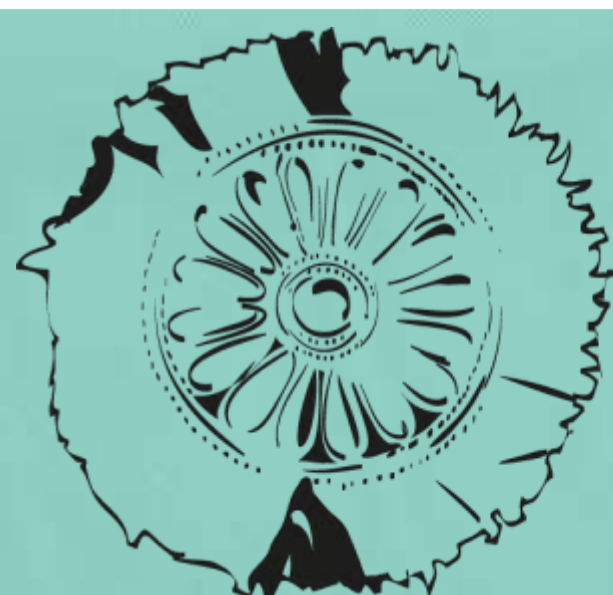


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