
Sustainability and Participation in the Bioeconomy: A Conceptual Framework for BE-Rural

Deliverable 1.1 H2020 Research project BE-Rural

Publication

[Document](#)

Citation

Abhold, K., Gerdes, H., Kiresiewa, Z., Davies, S. (2019). D1.1 Sustainability and Participation in the Bioeconomy: A Conceptual Framework for BE-Rural. Deliverable of the H2020 BE-Rural project.

This report outlines the conceptual framework of BE-Rural and provides practical guidance to the design and implementation of the five regional Open Innovation Platforms (OIPs) within BE-Rural. This conceptual framework aims to provide guidance regarding the overall ambition of BE-Rural, and the foundations by which the project will operate throughout its duration. The first part of this document describes the context, objectives and regional focus to be taken within the project. The second part outlines key concepts and founding principles that lay at the heart of the project. Following this, the conceptual framework of BE-Rural is presented and discussed.

Overall, the founding principles that lay at the heart of BE-Rural include the principles of co-creation, openness and inclusiveness, sustainability and transparency. These are incorporated into the key concept of the Quintuple Helix Approach, in which knowledge and innovation generated by key stakeholders from policy, business, academia and civil society are placed within the larger frame of the environment. Supporting this, the Action Research Approach ensures that reflection is integrated throughout all stages of project work.

Building on these key concepts and principles, the BE-Rural conceptual framework lays out the methodological approach by which the regional OIPs will engage with relevant bioeconomy actors, explore options for sustainable small-scale business models for their regions and natural resources, and develop regional bioeconomy strategies and roadmaps. This approach follows the Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation (RIS3) process laid out by the European Commission and is connected to the project's individual work packages and tasks.

The overall goal of BE-Rural is to explore the potential of regional and local bio-based economies by supporting relevant actors in the participatory development of bioeconomy strategies, roadmaps and business models. The project focuses on regions in five modest and moderate innovator countries: Latvia, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria and North Macedonia.

Language

English

Authorship

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Funding

European Commission, [Directorate-General Research & Innovation](#) (DG Research & Innovation), International

Year

2019

Dimension

19 pp.

Project

[Bio-based Strategies and Roadmaps for Enhanced Rural and Regional Development in the EU \(BE-Rural\)](#)

Project ID

[2815](#)

Table of contents

- 1 Introduction to BE-Rural
 - 1.1 Objectives of the project
 - 1.2 Working with European regions
- 2 Foundations of BE-Rural
 - 2.1 Principles
 - 2.2 Quintuple Helix Approach
 - 2.3 Action Research Approach
- 3 The BE-Rural conceptual framework
 - 3.1 Building on RIS3
 - 3.2 Linking RIS3 to BE-Rural
 - 3.3 Action Research in BE-Rural

Keywords

[Bioeconomy](#)

[Economics](#)

[Education](#)

[Resource Conservation + Circular Economy](#)

Source URL: <https://www.ecologic.eu/17210>