



European
bioeconomy
university

EBU's vision of the future bioeconomy and the role of higher education institutions

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“Bioeconomy is not an automatic success”

Christine Lang

“EBU is a place where bioeconomy can grow”

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1. Process and outcomes

- Vision building process initiated in 2024
 - Preparatory work
 - Lessons learned and good practices from EBU projects
 - Literature
 - Ongoing debate...
 - Workshop in Vienna (14/15 October 2024)
 - Rounds of discussion on outcomes of the workshop
 - Writing process
 - (around 50+ experts involved from EBU & associate partners)
- Output
 - Position paper (EU consultation)
 - Reflection paper
 - ...

2. Bioeconomy vision, ambition, drivers, motivations

- Start from definition...
- ...and got into broad discussion on understanding of bioeconomy systems:
 - High-level ambitions/aspirations (quality of life, health,...)
 - Motivations and drivers (climate change, planet boundaries...)
 - Technologies (diversity, acceptance, strategic focuses...)
 - Societal transformation (social innovation, system organization, regulation...)

3. Role of HEI

- Central role of HEI in bioeconomy innovation systems
- Reshaping each HEI mission
 - Research (co-developed, long term, cutting edge topics...)
 - Education (skills, T-shaped, student-centred, Msc/Phd as pivot, all ages, teach the teachers, ...)
 - Third mission/impact (public engagement, industry collaborations,...)
- Integration among the 3 missions
 - e.g. FOEBE/DESTINY students/supervisors
- Need for rethinking our approach into transformative players (bioeconomy specific)

4. The EBU Alliance vision in support of the EU Bioeconomy Strategy – in short:

- Promote the role of HEIs and research to boost this innovative and competitive sector
- Deploy circular bioeconomy multi-disciplinary education programmes and projects
- Increase EU funding on bioeconomy R&I in the FP10
- Support structural activities beyond specific education or research projects
- Set up a coherent policy framework supporting circular bioeconomy R&I
- Support the EU in achieving an epochal shift towards the Green Transition
- ...with a leading role in global collaborations

5. Final thoughts

- Positive/constructive vision joining practical solutions and ambitious aspirations (with limits in mind)
- Live with definitory challenges: look at open spaces for collaboration/contribution rather than boundaries
- Transformative approach & focus on persons: changemakers through a changing concept and in dialogue with society

... work in progress (of course)
with news soon

Thank you very much

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