

**PROMOTING THE ADVANCEMENT OF BIOECONOMY  
IN CENTRAL, EAST AND SOUTH-EAST EUROPE:  
ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN INITIATIVE  
AND THE OUTCOMES OF DANUBIONET PILOT PROJECT**

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**ADDED VALUE OF COOPERATION IN BIOECONOMY RESEARCH**

**TWO YEARS PROGRESS OF THE BIOEAST INITIATIVE**

OMÉK National Agriculture and Food Exhibition and Fair

Budapest, Hungary

20 September 2017



**Regional Cooperation for European Integration**  
while providing  
**A Bridge between Macroregions**

The Central European Initiative (CEI) is an international organization with its membership encompassing 18 Countries of Central, East and South-East Europe.

The CEI is committed to supporting the implementation of macro-regional strategies as well as the neighborhood dialogue and enlargement

CEI interest in Bioeconomy is determined by its socio-economic potential. This is particularly meaningful for CEI area, where related activities could foster rural development, valorise human resources, trigger industrial rejuvenation and unleash the innovation potential.

*The CEI developed a specific methodology, combining multilateral diplomacy and project management*

Regional Cooperation for European Integration  
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# Towards a Danube **BIO** region ?

**CoR: The EU needs to step up its efforts to support the bioeconomy in regions and cities**

📅 15 May 2017 👤 II Bioeconomista

★★★★★ 🗳️ 2 Votes



*Katrin Budde*

The European Union needs to step up its efforts to support regions and cities as they seek to tap into the huge bioeconomic potential available from using Europe's natural resources sustainably, the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) argues in an opinion that calls for the EU to launch a comprehensive overview of its current bioeconomy strategy.

In the framework of Danube-INCO.NET, CEI contributed to:

- ✓ promoting clustering and «triple-helix» networking
- ✓ identifying synergies and complementarities
- ✓ implementing two pilots in collaboration with

**Pannon Pro Innovations, BOKU, ZSI, BIOS AUSTRIA, ICA-CASEE**



➤ **TOWARDS A DANUBE BIOECONOMY RTI STRATEGY FOR APPROPRIATE REGIONAL ADDED VALUE CHAINS**

➤ **DANUBIONET: BUILDING A BIOECONOMY RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY NETWORK IN THE DANUBE REGION**

**THE PILOTS GENERATED TWO POSITION PAPERS. BASING ON THEM, WE ELABORATED ON A SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF BIOECONOMY IN THE EUSDR.**

**DANUBE-INCO.NET**

**Advancing Research and Innovation in the Danube Region**

*Funding programme: 7th Framework Programme*

*Funding volume: > 2 Mio*

*Duration: 42 Months (01/2014 – 06/2017)*

*Participation: 19 Partners from 14 countries*

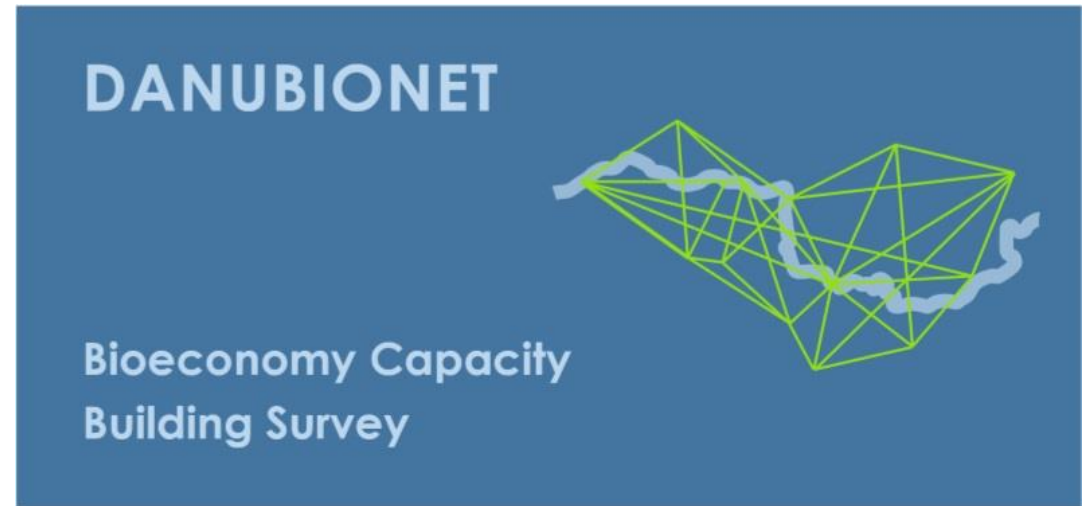
This project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement no 608622.



<http://danube-inco.net/>

# Good example

The pilot action had double objectives

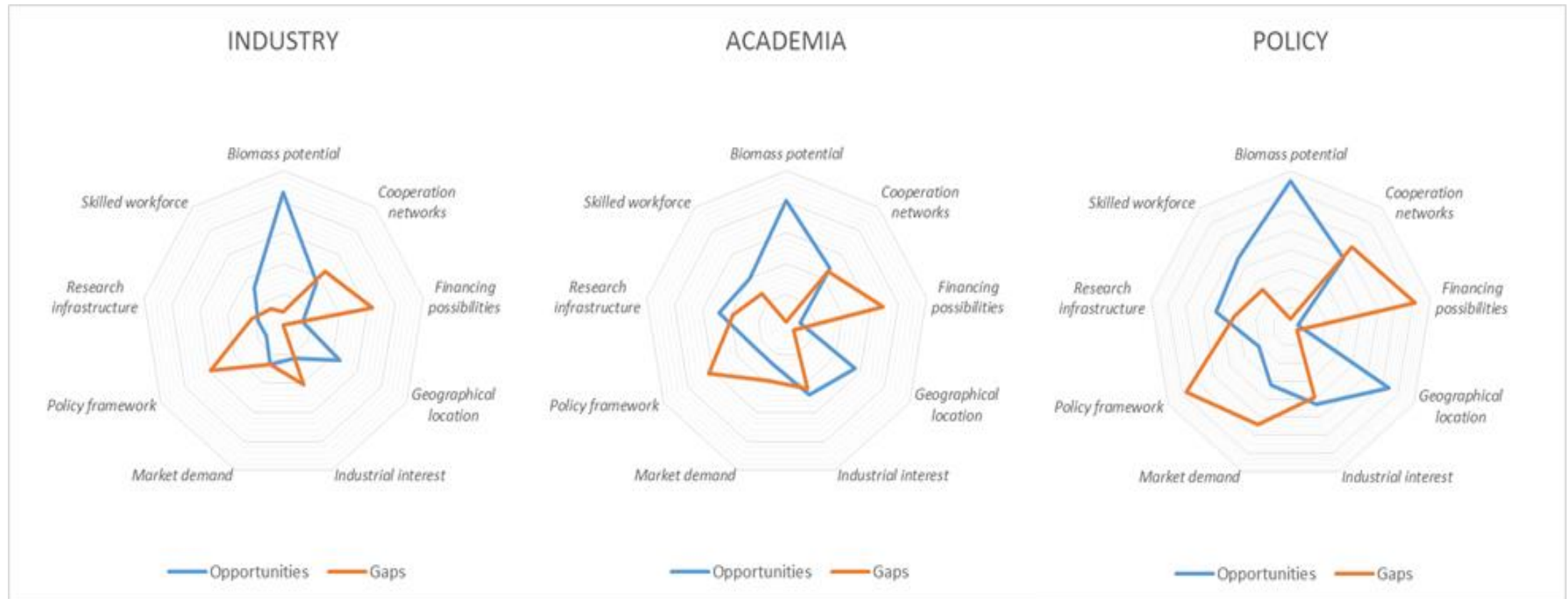


- **Map stakeholders and define their position in the supply chain:** Preparation and online promotion of the mapping questionnaire for the Danube Region. The target group is along the Triple Helix.
- **Facilitate cooperation and generation of new projects:** by open innovation approach to recruit solutions to real industry challenges and organizing two events for them.



# Challenges

What are the main opportunities and what is missing for the Danube Region?



# Challenges

Triple-Helix cooperation: results provide an opportunity to draft a strategy to align demands of industry and focus of academia & public.

	Bottlenecks seen by businesses		Solutions by academia		Support by public sector	
	%	#	%	#	%	#
Conversion technology	50,0	1	41,7	4	35,7	4
Economics of process	40,9	2	47,9	2	21,4	9
Standardization and labelling	40,9	2	8,3	10	35,7	4
Biomass trade	27,3	4	29,2	7	21,4	9
Conversion efficiency	27,3	4	47,9	2	32,1	7
Impact assessment or LCA	22,7	6	52,1	1	39,3	2
Demand for bio-products	18,2	7	22,9	9	25,0	8
Resource efficiency	18,2	7	29,2	7	39,3	2
Biomass sourcing (availability)	9,1	9	41,7	4	75,0	1
Valorisation of by-products/	4,5	10	33,3	6	35,7	4
Other	9,0	-	8,4	-	14,3	-



# Good examples

## Open innovation events:

Side event of the ERDN conference in Budapest organized by AKI on 6th October 2016, challenge owner is DOW Agrosiences: wastewater sludge based nutrient recycling

Follow-up: concept for LIFE proposal for next year submission, focus on: agricultural emissions (fertilizer replacement)



**14th European Rural Development  
Network Conference**

Budapest, 3-5 October 2016



**Knowledge sharing and innovation in agriculture and rural areas**

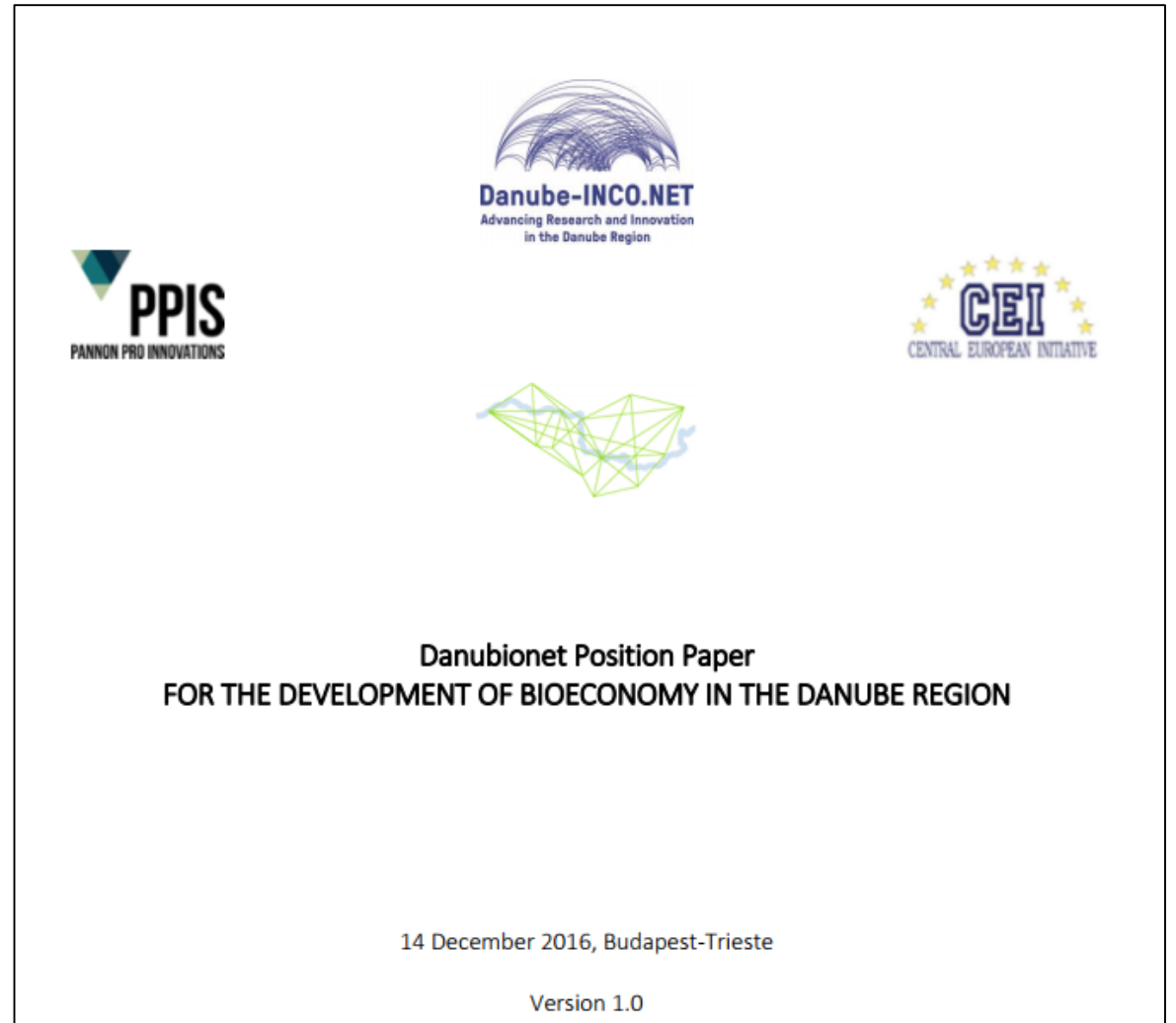
Separate event in Timisoara together with local stakeholders on 25th October 2016, challenge owner is the Hungarian Biogas Association

Follow-up: submitted proposal for DTP Interreg, focus on: biogas integration into energy system and bioeconomy

# More details

Main findings and conclusions of the Danubionet pilot are available at:

[http://era-platform.eu/files/1614/8942/2245/Position Paper DANUBIO NET.PDF](http://era-platform.eu/files/1614/8942/2245/Position_Paper_DANUBIO_NET.PDF)



## CONCLUSIONS & WAY FORWARD

*Central, East and South-East Europe, and particularly the Danube Region, could have a competitive advantage by shifting to Bioeconomy as a comprehensive, innovative and sustainable economic paradigm. This would give impulse to wide-ranging modernization, with positive impacts on economic growth, job creation, rural development, environment, etc.*

- **Strengths:** solid academic tradition and capacities, important primary sector & biomass availability, industrial tradition, proximity and strong cultural ties
- **Weaknesses:** lack of coordination among stakeholders, limited access to finance, infrastructural weaknesses and depletion, instable regional/cross-border cooperation among stakeholders
- **Opportunities:** wide market with similar characteristics, openness to innovation and room for deployment of new industries, untapped biomass potentials, much needed agricultural renaissance and industrial rejuvenation, potential to develop regional networks and markets
- **Threats:** demography, political ambiguity, scarce purchasing power, high dependency on foreign capitals and imports, centripetal tendencies and new barriers

ENHANCE COOPERATION

FOSTER INNOVATION

IMPLICATE BIOMASS PRODUCERS

COMMIT SOCIAL SCIENCES

ENGAGE WITH CONSUMERS

MOTIVATE POLICYMAKERS

# Thank you for your attention

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CEI  
& FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES, VISIT  
OUR WEBSITE: [WWW.CEI.INT](http://WWW.CEI.INT)



The screenshot shows the CEI website homepage. At the top, there is a blue header with the CEI logo and the tagline "... regional cooperation for European integration and bridge between macro-regions ...". Below the header, there is a navigation menu with links for "About Us", "Areas of Cooperation", "Media Centre", and "Special Events & Awards". The main content area is divided into several sections: "In brief" (founded in 1989, regional intergovernmental forum), "EU Projects" (Cooperation Activities, Know-how Exchange Programme, Technical Assistance in Cooperation with the EBRD), "Presidency 2017" (On 1 January 2017, the Presidency of the CEI was assumed by Belarus - member since 1996), "Mission & Objectives" (CEI Plan of Action 2014-2017), "Secretary General" (Welcome from Amb. Giovanni Caracciolo di Vietri), "Event calendar" (September 2017), "Latest news" (Mon, 11/09/2017: Andriy Lyubka from Ukraine: recipient of CEI Fellowship for Writers in Residence 2017), and "Upcoming events" (CEI International Summer School: "Envisioning Moving Frontiers: Migration Management, Minority Protection and the Enhancement of Territorial Cooperation").



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# DISCUSSION ITEMS

## 1. PREDICTABILITY

How to ensure stable and consistent policy outlook for investments in Bioeconomy?

How to harmonize policies in different ministries and at different levels of governance, incl. the transnational dimension?

## 2. SUBSIDIARITY

How to create/enhance bi-directional interaction between national and sub-national governments?

## 3. COOPERATION

How to build cross-sectoral cooperation and clustering among Bioeconomy stakeholders in the Danube Region?

## 4. COMPETITVENESS

How to exploit the socio-economic potential of Bioeconomy?

How to increase entrepreneurial literacy and capacities, and support technology transfer from academia to industry?

## 5. ACCESS TO FINANCE

How to facilitate access to finance for activities and initiatives related to Bioeconomy?

# DISCUSSION ITEMS

## 6. FEEDSTOCKS

How to quantitatively and qualitatively assess the biomass potential in the regions?

How to optimize existing monitoring practices and indicators?

## 7. SUSTAINABILITY

How to enhance sustainability and foster rural development while increasing competitiveness?

## 8. MOBILIZATION

How to optimize existing or elaborate innovative (smart) logistical concepts for sustainable mobilization of biomass?

## 9. MARKETS

How to develop and implement market pull measures for bio-based products, with particular regard to certification schemes and labelling?

## 10. TECHNOLOGIES

How to promote technology neutral decision-making and objective cost-benefit benchmarking?