
ICA Bioeconomy Task Force



REPORT

4th ICA Rectors and Deans Forum

Oct. 24th, 2014



The Bioeconomy

- The Bioeconomy encompasses the production of renewable biological resources and their conversion into value added products, as food, feed, bio-based products and bioenergy.
- Its sectors include agriculture, forestry, fisheries, food and pulp and paper production, as well as parts of the chemical, biotechnological and energy industries

(EU, 2012)

ICA TASK FORCE Aims

- Define ICA as representing the European Life Science Universities in the development of the Bioeconomy at the European level
 - Contribute to the implementation of the EU action plan for bioeconomy in education, research and innovation by seeking synergies among ICA members and other EU and international institutions, industries, and networks
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Objective 1

Map and maintain a database of ICA member institutions activities in the bioeconomy

in relation to the regional and European (EU bioeconomy action plan) strategies in research, innovation, higher education

Objective 2

- Develop strategies for research based higher education in the Bioeconomy
 - linking of disciplines
 - market demands (generalists vs. specialists)
 - International perspectives (opportunities for joint study programmes)
 - Life-long learning (offers for people from industry, certificates)
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Objective 3

- Support the development of research and innovation for the Bioeconomy by ICA member institutions
 - Support links with industry for knowledge and innovation transfer
 - Support opportunities for Private Public Partnerships
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Linkage at the European Level

- DG Enterprise and Industry Expert Group BioBased Products
 - DG Research and Innovation
 - EU Bioeconomy Panel
 - EU Bioeconomy Observatory run by the Joint Research Centre
 - European Technology Platforms
 - European Plant Science Organisation (EPSO)
 - EuopaBio
 - Council of European BioRegions (CERB)
 - International Water Association (IWA) Resource Recovery Cluster
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Task Force Members

connecting with EU Committees

Gianluca Brunori (new member)– Long term expert for the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research Strategic Working Group (SCAR) – working group on sustainable bio-resources for a growing bioeconomy

Erik Steen Kristensen – EU Expert Group Biobased products

Cristina Silva & Carmen Socaciu – Members of the EU Bioeconomy Panel

Connecting with ICA Members

- The Task Force will establish an ICA Bioeconomy Contact in each ICA member institution.
 - There could be an annual meetings of the ICA Bioeconomy Contacts to cement the relationship between the ICA Bioeconomy Task Force and the ICA Bioeconomy Contacts, and hence between the ICA Task Force and ICA's member institutions.
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Meeting your expectations

- Exchange of best practice
 - Share knowledge from different perspectives of the Bioeconomy and the components of the Bioeconomy – Think Tank approach
 - Degree Programme curriculum planning
 - Develop a Position Paper outlining the contribution of Life Science Universities to the development of the Bioeconomy
 - Representation of Life Science Universities at the European level
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Activities of the Task Force Bioeconomy

since ICA Rectors and Deans Forum 2013

- Networking with European Stakeholders
 - Planning of a Satellite Event for the Bioeconomy Stakeholders Conference in Torino (7/8 Oct. 2014)
 - Contribution of Ulrich Schurr to the session “*Creating the key enabling conditions for the bioeconomy: Human capital: getting the right people with the right skills for the rights jobs*”
 - Workshop “Feeding the World”, held by Prof. Ulrich Schurr at the “European Forum Alpbach”, August 14-19, 2014, Austria
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ICA Promoted Satellite Meeting at the EU Bioeconomy Stakeholders Conference 8-9 Oct. 2014, Torino

- **Title: Life Science Universities as Partners for Developing the Bioeconomy**
 - **Target Audience:**
 - Participants attending the EU Stakeholders Conference.
Participants from Industry, Policy Makers and Universities
 - **Programme:**
 - Engagement in Public-Private Partnerships
 - Education for a Skilled Workforce
 - Engagement in Policy Development
 - **Satellite Meeting cancelled before official announcement due to uncertainties in reaching the target audience properly**
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Selected key messages from the BioEconomy Stakeholders Conference 2014 in Torino

- Title "From sectors to system, from concept to reality"
 - Summary conclusions from session "*Human capital: getting the right people with the right skills for the rights jobs*":
 - Bioeconomy implementation requires education to
 - Provide educated society able to discuss new developments on a basis of knowledge
 - Valorize knowledge from disciplinary excellence
 - Integrate knowledge and form networks for a joint target (= implementing a sustainable Bioeconomy)
 - attract and generate entrepreneurship to make Bioeconomy real
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Next Steps 1

- Identification of ICA members contact persons for the Bioeconomy Task Force
 - Mapping ICA members interests & competencies in bioeconomy in relation to the regional and European (EU bioeconomy action plan) strategies in research, innovation, higher education
 - Led by Prof. Ulrich Schurr, Bioeconomy Science Center (BioSC), Jülich
 - collaboration of BioSC, ICA Task Force, EPSO and ETP Plants for the Future
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Next Steps 2

- Meeting of Task Force on Dec. 10, 2014 (Amsterdam Airport)
 - Planning of further activities:
 - ICA Task Force Bioeconomy Workshop in Brussels (May/June 2015)
 - Programme based on the concept of the (cancelled) Satellite Event for the BioEconomy Stakeholders Conference in Torino
 - Proposed Outcome: **Communiqué** containing main messages for further networking and awareness activities
 - Contribution to the 6th CASEE Conference “*Latest trends in Bioeconomy in the Danube Region*”
 - May 24-26, 2015, Slovak University of Agriculture, Nitra, SK
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ICA Task Force for “Growing the Bioeconomy”

Thanks for your attention!

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