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Press Release

To be released immediately

27 April 2021

The governance of circular bioeconomy - Practices and lessons learnt from European regions

ACR+ is launching a publication to show the development and implementation of circular bioeconomy strategies in different contexts, focused on three detailed regional cases of studies in Navarre, Bayern and Flanders. The publication is the result of the ACR+ working group on circular bioeconomy, launched at the request of ACR+ member Pays de la Loire.

Brussels, Belgium – In the framework of a collaboration agreement with the French Pays de la Loire region, ACR+ set up a **working group on circular bioeconomy**, with a particular focus on governance. The objective of the working group is to support the development of local or regional (intended as sub-national) roadmaps on circular bioeconomy where public authorities have a strong role in terms of steering and supporting the development of circular bioeconomy on their territory.

The governance of circular bioeconomy publication is the result of the ACR+ activities implemented via the working group. These activities included:

- **Desk research** on the EU framework relevant to circular bioeconomy as well as cases that were published within EU funded projects or various studies and that could include significant level of details regarding the governance of circular bioeconomy strategies at local or regional level;
- **Interviews of experts** involved in EU projects and/or in the development of circular bioeconomy strategy or related activities on their territory;
- **Meeting of the working group** participants in September 2020 with a presentation of three cases from Navarre, Bayern and Flanders.

The publication starts with a clarification of the concept of circular bioeconomy and the EU framework. Three detailed cases in **Navarre, Bayern and Flanders** provide information about the development and implementation of circular bioeconomy strategies in different contexts as well as lessons learnt. These cases were chosen on the basis of their geographical diversity, the degree of maturity of the strategy, the diverse approach followed in each case and the significant role of public authorities.

One of the main conclusions from the three case studies is that bioeconomy should be considered as part of the circular economy strategy, and that public authorities should take the lead for the development and coordination of circular bioeconomy on their territory. It is also key to ensure an integrative approach and that a participatory and inclusive process is set up in order to bring all relevant stakeholders around the table, from both an 'internal' perspective (relevant policy departments, in particular agriculture and fisheries, environment, economic development, research and innovation) and an 'external' perspective (in particular public authorities, private sector, research organisations, civil society representatives).



Héloïse Even, Programme Officer, stated that: *"Thanks to this report, the Pays de la Loire Region will be able to clarify and deepen its reflection on the development of a framework of actions for a circular and sustainable bioeconomy in the region. This analysis of governance models in several European territories is essential to properly identify all stakeholders and to break silos for the implementation of the relevant public policies."*

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Background information

- It is estimated that the bioeconomy contributes to almost 9% of the EU-27 labour force and 4.7% of the EU-27 GDP.¹
- Bioeconomy contributes to carbon savings of CO₂ emissions helping to reach the target reduction of 55% by 2030 (through carbon sequestration in soil in forests and bio-based products substitution fossil-based).²
- The European Circular Bioeconomy Fund with a volume of up to €250 million will invest in innovative circular bioeconomy projects, in the areas of agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries, the forest-based sectors, biochemicals and biomaterials and biomaterials.³

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*The **Association of Cities and Regions for sustainable Resource management (ACR+)** is an international network of cities and regions sharing the aim of promoting sustainable resource management and accelerating the transition towards a circular economy on their territories and beyond. Gathering over 100 members, the network is open to other key players in the field of material resource management, such as NGOs, academic institutions, consultancies, or private organisations. Members' needs and priorities define the network's activities, which include facilitating the exchange of experiences between members and the sharing of technical and policy information. To strengthen the knowledge and capacities of the network and promote innovation in the field of material resource management, ACR+ is also involved in several projects at the European level and in the Mediterranean region, in cooperation with its members.*

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¹ <https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-law-and-publications/publication-detail/-/publication/66722c8d-2e03-11eb-b27b-01aa75ed71a1>

² *ibid.*

³ *ibid.*