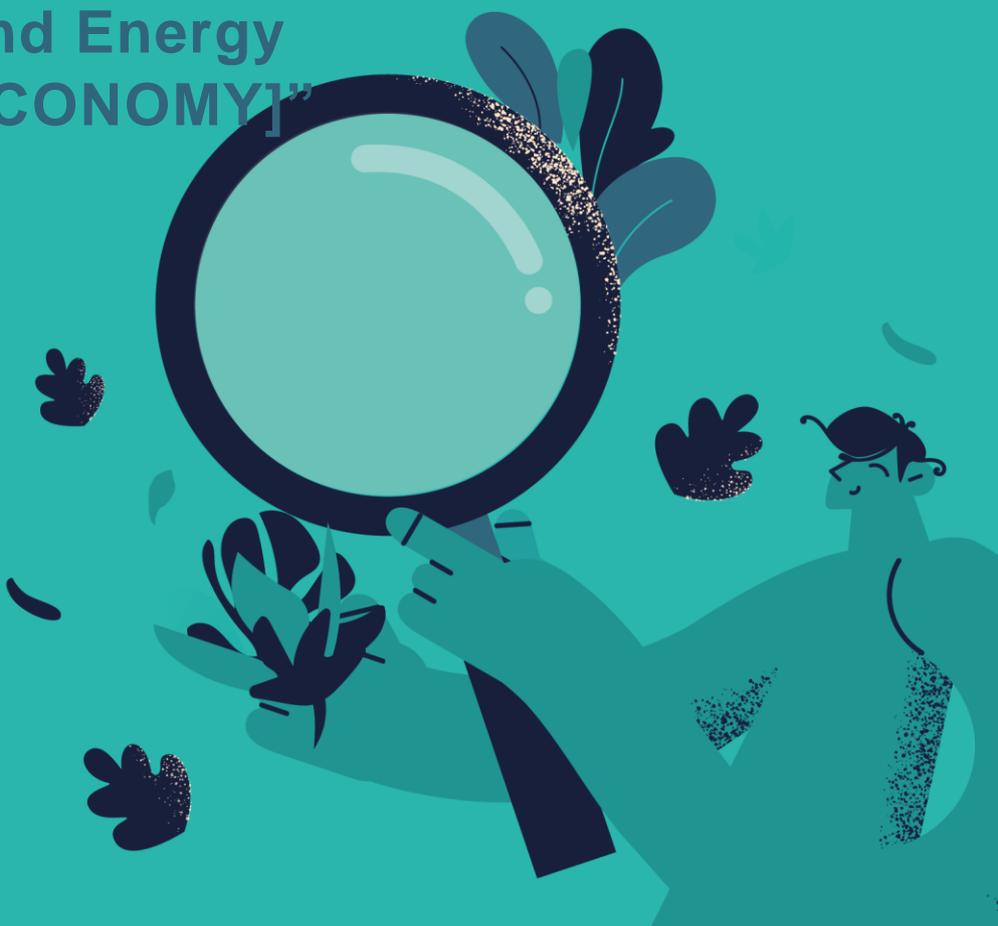
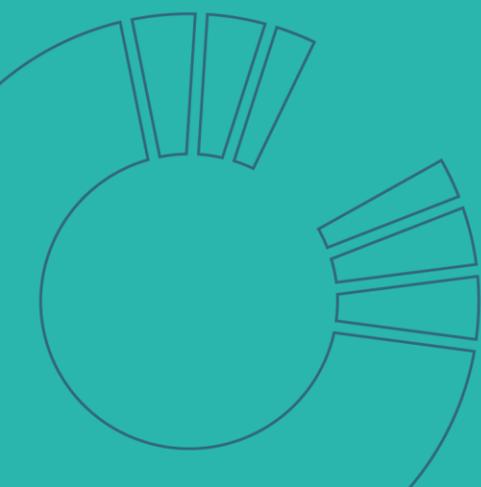


# Case Studies in Bioeconomy Education, Training and Skills Development

Case study sample: Research Project  
“Center for Sustainable and Circular  
Bioeconomy and Energy  
[Aegean\_BIOECONOMY]”

North and South  
Aegean Regions,  
Greece  
Q-PLAN





# Research Project “Center for Sustainable and Circular Bioeconomy and Energy [Aegean\_BIOECONOMY]”

## 1 Abstract

The project of the Department of Environment at the University of the Aegean aims to support the insular regions of the North and South Aegean in the transition from a linear to a circular bioeconomy model. The duration of the project is 30 months, and it is co-funded by the European Fund for Regional Development. The holistic approach of Aegean\_BIOECONOMY combines the recovery and valorisation of biological resources, promotion of sustainability and protection of the natural environment.

It is organised into four distinctive project activities, which will lead to the development of innovative services and platforms in the regions of interest in the North and South Aegean through the exchange of knowledge and experience, training, interactive workshops and other events.

At the same time, the project’s activities will contribute to the development of new regional strategies in line with the requirements of environmental legislation.

## 2 Target Groups

Researchers, relevant stakeholders, scientists and experts in the selected areas (e.g., sustainable production and biomass management, recycling of materials into new products, sustainable water resources management and hotel footprints), producers and consumers

## 3 Case Study Category

Bioeconomy education, training and retraining in entrepreneurial education

## 4 Training Provider

Department of Environment at the University of the Aegean

## 5 Region

North and South Aegean Regions

## 6 Language

Greek

## 7 Objectives of the Educational Format

Complementary education for professionals

## 8 Final Objective of the Educational Format

One particular objective of the project is the adoption of the EU bioeconomy strategy so that it reflects the specific conditions of the island regions. This can lead to new jobs, achievement of carbon neutrality, a shift to the circular economy model, a healthy natural ecosystem and modernisation and strengthening of the industry.

## 9 Scope and Context of the Educational Format

The support for a sustainable and circular bioeconomy in the insular regions of the North and South Aegean occurs through: knowledge and specialization of scientists, the development of new technologies, interdisciplinary education and training, the national and international networks of the University of the Aegean and new regional planning aligned with the environmental legislation.

## 10 Specific Skills and Competencies Addressed

Technical competencies

Valorisation competencies

Transversal competencies

The project provides new job opportunities and training in new technologies.

## 11 European Qualification Framework (EQF) level(s)

Level 7

## 12 Main Benefit to the Participants

The participant obtains education on the recovery and valorisation of biological resources, promotion of sustainability and protection of the natural environment. He/she receives knowledge on how to develop innovative services and learns more on how to address bioeconomy issues tailored to the regions of interest in the North and South Aegean. The participant is involved in the transition to a circular bioeconomy and the uptake of innovative technologies. Scientists and researchers receive training through the collaborative ecosystem at the national and international levels.

## 13 Main Cost Categories Considered

This project is coordinated by the Waste Management Laboratory of the Department of Environment, University of the Aegean and is co-funded by the European Fund for Regional Development (ERDF). The project is run by a scientific coordinator and employs 15 teaching staff members and 5 special technical laboratory staff.

## 14 Importance and Impact

With more than 20 partners and 8 laboratories participating, many interesting events occur based on that project. Some include the Aegean BIOECONOMY Open Day event or circular economy and green transition in the Aegean region, which is organized in parallel with the project.

## 15 Relevance (of the Format)

The format is highly relevant because it targets bioeconomy stakeholders and addresses several EQF levels. It also aims to support a sustainable bioeconomy in the insular region of North and South Aegean in the transition from a linear to a circular bioeconomy model. Moreover, the project's activities contribute to the development of new regional strategies in line with the requirements of the environmental legislation. The project promotes the adoption of the EU Bioeconomy Strategy, ensuring it reflects the specific conditions of the island regions.

## 16 How can it Inspire BioGov.net? (Why was it designed in this specific way / what are the success factors?)

This education format is specialised in bioeconomy and has the reference point of the insular regions. Having a predefined duration and a package of four activities, the project can be replicated in other European regions with similar characteristics (insular or coastal areas with touristic flows, natural wealth and maritime activities that have biological resources from agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture. The four activities of the project refer to i) the sustainable production and management of biomass, ii) sustainable water resources and soil management using nature-based solutions, iii) recycling of materials and production of new products and iv) reduction of the environmental footprint from the tourism industry.

The structure of Aegean\_BIOECONOMY aims to ensure the efficient and quality management of its deliverables, the coordination of actions and research groups, and the resolution of scientific–technical and legal–institutional issues that will arise during the project.

Because the Aegean\_BIOECONOMY combines sustainability and circularity in the project, all European universities that have similar labs to those of the Aegean University can replicate this project using ERDF funding.

## 17 Data Sources

- **Online resources:** <https://bioeconomy.aegean.gr/en>
- **Resource persons:** [bioeconomy@aegean.gr](mailto:bioeconomy@aegean.gr)
- **Other sources, if any:** -

## Consortium

CIVITTA



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