



## What's next for Bioeconomy Education? Insights and Policy pathways from European Workshop

The future of bioeconomy education in Europe took centre stage at the “What's Next for Bioeconomy Education? VET and Life-long Learning Perspectives” policy workshop, held on 29 October 2024 and organised by the BioGov.net project. Gathering over 60 experts from 34 initiatives across 28 countries, the event sparked dynamic discussions on how to modernise bioeconomy learning pathways to support Europe's sustainability transition.

The workshop, co-organised with leading EU initiatives such as Engage4BIO, Circular Bricks, Scientix, and ICA-CoP Bio-Edu, spotlighted the urgent need for cohesive education-policy integration, innovative curricula, and inclusive lifelong learning opportunities. The outcomes were later shared with high-level stakeholders at the European Commission's November 2024 event on bioeconomy education in Brussels.

### Key Recommendations from the Workshop:

- **Modernise Curricula:** Embed bioeconomy and circular economy topics at all educational levels, promoting transversal skills such as critical thinking, entrepreneurship, and systems thinking.
- **Strengthen Policy Integration:** Support multi-ministerial collaboration to align educational reform with broader sustainability goals.
- **Foster Inclusion and Accessibility:** Ensure bioeconomy education reaches diverse communities, including rural populations, migrants, and NEETs, through tailored content and formats.

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- **Promote Practical Experience:** Encourage partnerships with industry through apprenticeships, interdisciplinary hubs, and hybrid learning programs.
- **Empower Educators:** Support continuous professional development and “train-the-trainer” schemes, recognising achievements through certifications and micro-credentials.
- **Invest in Data-Driven Policy:** Collect and share evidence-based data to guide regional and EU-level bioeconomy strategies.
- **Support with Funding and Incentives:** Prioritise bioeconomy VET and lifelong learning in EU funding mechanisms, simplify access for local initiatives, and explore innovative public-private business models.

### Interactive Highlights

Participants engaged in a collaborative Miro session and were inspired by presentations from:

- **Selenia Marinelli :** Regional learnings from 8 Communities of Practice.
- **Viola Pinzi:** Guidelines from Engage4BIO for regional educational hubs.
- **Nadia Sansone:** Circular Bricks’ train-the-trainer materials.
- **Eddy Grand-Meyer:** Cross-sectoral STEM education insights from Scientix.

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- **Han van Osch** : Lifelong learning models for bioeconomy professionals.

For the full workshop report and materials, visit:  
[www.biogov.net/library](http://www.biogov.net/library)

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## About us

The **BioGov.net** project supports the mobilisation of local resources and stakeholders in Estonia, Italy, Netherlands, Greece, Slovakia, Czechia, Portugal, and Germany to establish innovative governance models in the bioeconomy. Doing this will secure optimal decision-making processes, social engagement of all actors and the uptake of sustainable innovations. The work includes completing various assessments to create a training framework and support consumers, industry and public bodies to switch to socially and environmentally responsible behaviour. The results will help local biosystems, regulators and policymakers improve knowledge, skills, the bioeconomy and good governance.

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