



Regenerative farming pilot

Brussels, 18.02.2026

Bioeconomy Cluster Slovakia - Daniel Ács



The Greet CE project (n. 101133227) is supported by the European Unions Interregional Innovation Investments (I3) Instrument.

From company to value chain ... and back



Value chains:

- Sustainable solutions for regenerative agriculture and plant nutrition
- Controlled environment agriculture
- Precision farming

Business cases:

- Agrismart solutions
- Enhancing Sustainable Agriculture and Plant Nutrients through Innovative Solutions
- Smart Technologies Supporting Regenerative Farming
- Urban and Vertical Farming
- Algae production and utilization (Aqualgae)

Challenges: Regenerative Farming vs Investments = focus on value chain

Needs assessment: Ad hoc vs systemic, individual vs sector/value chain

Key messages: Mapping of companies is „never-ending“ process

Activities to support SMEs: Learn & Connect

GREET CE events/activities (11) & Synergy events/activities (min 40)

- onsite workshops, online webinars, B2B meetings (Biograda (SK), Pyroproducts (SI))
- Int'l farm cross-visits (HR/SK, HU/SK, SK/HU,...)
- Exhibitions & Fairs (Agrokomplex, OMÉK, IFIB, ...)
- Co-organised, presentation, participation (e.g. SoilXChange)

Financial support to SME participation in external interregional B2B meetings (2 SMEs) – participation on 2 events (pros and cons)

Information disseminated

Challenge: Difficult to track & lack of feedback & follow-up – monitoring results/impact = clusters?

Key message: Follow real needs of a company – be flexible (bilateral meetings vs. workshops)

Activities to support SMEs: Learn & Connect






Submit your ideas for solutions that contribute to healthy soil – Call is now open!

International Conference “Healthy Soil as the Foundation of Change”

Would you like to present your practical solution, initiative or research that contributes to healthy soils? Take part in the poster session and share your contribution to sustainable agriculture!

How to apply:
Please fill in the registration form by **15 September 2025**.

[REGISTRATION](#)

Organisational support:

- Organisers will provide a unified poster template for all participants.
- Once the content is approved, we will print the posters – there is no need for presenters to bring their own prints.

For any questions, feel free to contact us at: bullova@bioeconomy.sk

We look forward to your participation and to sharing inspiring solutions together!







International Forum on Industrial Biotechnology and Bioeconomy

📅 25 - 26 September 2025 📍 Cavallerizza Reale, Turin

Venue and Accommodation details suggestions

IFIB goes to Turin. The upcoming edition of the International Forum on Industrial Biotechnology and Bioeconomy will be held in the city of the Mole Antonelliana on September 25 (8:45 AM – 6:30 PM CET) and September 26 (8:30 AM – 2:30 PM CET).

Suggested hotel

Hotel Starhotels Majestic

To book a room, please write to: reservations.majestic.to@starhotels.it indicating the name of the event.

[Know more](#)

[Hotel dei Pittori](#)
[Hotel Roma e Rocca Cavour](#)
[Hotel Diplomatic](#)



Project portfolio for SMEs – how to benefit?

- Consortium-building & partner search,
- Letters of Support (LoS), and
- SME enablement / engagement

GREET CE contributed to 21 project synergies (9 approved, 4 under evaluation, 7 not approved, 2 under preparation)

I3 proposals / I3-oriented pipelines

- **1Biotech4EU** (I3-2025-INV1) – 2 SMEs (SI + SK) + BEC
- **BioValor** (I3 Strand 2a – concept redevelopment)
- **I3-4-BLUE-GROWTH** (reference I3 pipeline) – FV/Delphy used it as a benchmark / learning channel for I3-style investment case preparation and open-call engagement.
- **STEP-aligned Circular Value Chains** (working title): a capacity-building action aligned with I3 Strand, focused on strengthening regions/clusters/intermediaries to participate in interregional value chains and become **investment-ready**

Challenge: Transition from public to private funding

Decorative green lines in the bottom left corner, consisting of several overlapping curved and straight lines in various shades of green.

Project portfolio for SMEs – how to benefit?



I3 Instrument Call for Partners: Join B4C-Led I3 Project on Biotech Scale-Up Across Europe



Financial Support To Third Parties Call is now open!

Funding opportunities for SMEs and startups innovating in biofertilizers and circular bioeconomy for sustainable agriculture



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2nd Open Call

Submission phase
01.08.25 - 30.09.25, 17:00 CET

2nd Open Call Related Info Available Now!

[Click Here](#)



Opening Date: September 1, 2025

Application Deadline: November 14, 2025, 17:00 CET

Who Can Apply: SMEs and startups in eligible European regions

Lessons learnt (related to SMEs)

- Missing (transfer of) relevant **business models** to be adopted by SMEs
- EU funding driven vs **business driven** (2 worlds – because of administration, mainly at national/regional level) = focus on business driven (no funding needed, they cover the costs themselves but we (project) has to adjust to their needs)
- Various stage of development (lack of funding, time, capacity, knowledge, ...) start-up vs mature company - **flexibility** needed
- Building **trust** vs administration (surveys for research and or data collection, participation lists, pictures, videos, GDPR, ...)
- Search for **funding opportunities** for SMEs – even small support (travel, participation, ...)

Crucial role of clusters: placed in „field“ to know innovative SMEs, close to policy makers, and research organisations to connect / network

Policy-related actions

- **Policy Toolbox** (18 policy measures)
- **S3-based Roadmaps** (HR, RO, SI, SK)
- **Innovation policy communication, events and dissemination**

Key messages:

- Funding in terms of volume is sufficient – national/regional policy development and implementation and efficient use of funding is a challenge
- Even in countries with less developed (innovation) policies are many innovative SMEs
- It is difficult to reach critical mass (with innovative SMEs) to influence policies

Policy “Toolbox” to Scale Impact

- 1) Funding - transition & adoption de-risking:** innovation/digital vouchers + small grants/loans/leasing for precision/RF equipment and services
- 2) Infrastructure - Demo farms / Living Labs, Digital connectivity & MRV enablers** (IoT/UAV/decision-support) to generate traceable performance data.
- 3) Capacity building** – Brokerage and advisory strengthening: e.g. train-the-trainer
- 4) Cooperation & networking - EIP-style operational groups / multi-actor consortia:** structured collaboration among farms, SMEs, advisors, and research for on-farm innovation.
 - **Cluster-led deal-flow & matchmaking:** brokerage to convert leads into pilots and **I3-ready** investment packages.
- 5) Regulatory & standards frameworks** - Bio-input standards & certification pathways

Policy engagement approach

Map (key institutions: ministries, agencies, RIS3/S3 bodies)

→ **Prioritise** (“anchor” topics: bioeconomy governance/hubs, hydrogen implementation, etc.)

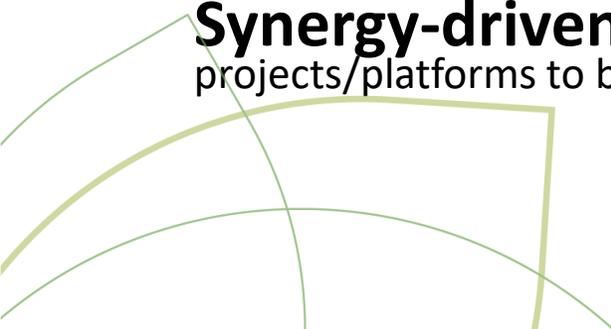
→ **Engage** (used the right formats: bilateral meetings + committees + policy-facing events)

→ **Co-create** (???)

→ **Follow-up**

Make it actionable: framed around a clear “ask” (validate a roadmap, unlock an instrument/call, mobilise SMEs/intermediaries), documented in minutes, and followed by concrete next steps.

Synergy-driven & trust-based: leverage existing organisational relationships and complementary projects/platforms to bring GREET CE messages into policy arenas efficiently

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What we did in practice (examples):

- **BEC (Slovakia): National Bioeconomy Hub + MoU with MoA** — co-creation workshops and bilateral meetings to move **from roadmap to action planning**, while showcasing SME solutions and funding pathways (incl. CBE JU).
- **EIHP (Croatia): Hydrogen value chain implementation** — policy dialogue with the Ministry of Economy and the Croatian Hydrocarbons Agency (CHA) to **validate the Hydrogen Roadmap** and follow up on enabling instruments (**refuelling infrastructure call**).
- **GEA (Romania): Regional planning + national strategy momentum** — engagement through regional innovation/planning bodies and high-level events to strengthen visibility and **policy momentum for a national bioeconomy strategy**.
- **KSSENA (Slovenia):** Through policy seminars, a ministerial-level meeting and municipal networks, promotion of **clearer and more flexible regulation for energy communities/self-consumption** and advocated **two-phase public calls** (project preparation + implementation) to help municipalities deliver bankable community energy and renewable district-heating investments.



Let's discuss it!

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