



Bioeconomy Factsheet - Belgium

This factsheet gives an overview of the Belgian bioeconomy innovation technology system. It includes the key government interventions, research initiatives, networks and finance instruments, in Belgium.

Bioeconomy Governance

Belgium is divided into three regions, Wallonia, Flanders, and Brussels, with different languages and Governments, and little policy integration. Bioeconomy governing bodies are present in Flanders and Walloon:



Flanders

- The Flemish Interdepartmental Working Group (**IWG**) for Bioeconomy, coordinate between relevant departments



Wallonie

Walloon

- Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Environment
- Department of Spatial Planning, Housing, Heritage, and Energy
- Department of Economy, Employment, and Research
- Walloon Agency for Export and Foreign Investment (**AWEX**)

Bioeconomy Strategies

While Belgium as a whole has not produced a National Bioeconomy Strategy, the Flanders region has developed one:



- In 2013, the Flemish IWG for the Bioeconomy produced the strategy **Bioeconomy in Flanders**, setting out the Flemish Government's vision and strategy with an integrated cross-policy approach for a sustainable and competitive bioeconomy in 2030.
- The Bioeconomy strategy is in line with the **Flanders in Action** (VIA) project that has the intention to develop Flanders into an economically innovative, sustainable and socially warm society by 2020.
- Also in 2013, the Department of Economy, Science and Innovation (**EWI**) published Sustainable use of and creation of value from renewable raw materials for biobased industrial production such as biomaterials and green chemicals in Flanders.
- The bio-economy was also identified in the **Flemish Materials Programme** (VIA project) as contributive to cope with societal challenges facing Flanders.
- Other Flemish Governmental bioeconomy initiatives include the **New Industry Policy**, a **biomass inventory**, **Innovation steering groups** and **Action Plan Biomass Residues**.



Bioeconomy Factsheet - Belgium

Climate Change Policy



The **Flemish climate plan 2013-2020**, published by the Flemish Environment, Nature and Energy Department, contains plans for mitigation and adaptation. Mitigation areas include mobility, buildings, waste, agriculture and non ETS industry.

Bioenergy and Biofuels

The Flemish Energy Agency is working on a **Renewable Energy Action Plan 2020**, and a long term vision (2050). The plan will be developed by consulting stakeholders will have coherence with the bioeconomy strategy and cascading principles of biomass use.

Finance

TINA - Transformation, Innovation and Acceleration of Flanders industrial fabric - is a market-driven investment fund in the hands of PMV and the Flemish Government.



Impulse.brussels supports innovative entrepreneurs and businesses for regional economic development.



Research & Technology Funding

Flanders



- **IWT** fund R&D Projects for SMEs and ROs (including **TETRA projects**) and large businesses, SME-Innovation Projects and Feasibility Studies

- **FWO** funds fundamental research



- Flanders Innovation Hub for Sustainable Chemistry (**FISCH**) projects

- **I-Cleantech Flanders** MIP Research and Innovation programme

Wallonia

Greenwin fund R&D projects for SMEs, with regional Government funds, prioritising environmental sustainability, sustainable products and materials, sustainable integration and roll-out for materials, and the treatment and recovery of waste.



Technology Commercialisation Centres




- Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant, Port of Ghent, Flanders
- Eco-Techno-Pôle de Wallonie (ETP-W), within the CRM Group holds pilot facilities, a characterisation lab and a small operating team.



Bioeconomy Factsheet - Belgium

Networks


Associations

- **Valbiom** (Valorisation de la biomasse asbl) 
- **Belgian Biotechnology Industry Organisation**

Networks

- International Industrial Biotechnology Network (**IIBN**) - a partnership in IB between the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and Flemish Government

Flanders

- **CINBIOS** –Industrial Biotech Cluster
- **GBEV** - Ghent Bioeconomy Valley
- **FISCH** – Flanders Innovation Hub for Sustainable Chemistry 
- **Flanders Plastic Vision** (a division of FISCH)

Brussels: Innovative Brussels: a regional portal bringing together all the various players in research and innovation

Wallonia

- **TWEED** - Technology of Wallonia Energy, Environment and sustainable Development
- **GreenWin** innovation and environmental technology accelerator



Le Coq Vert a Wallonian PPP project, between Greenwin, AWEX, Valbiom, and Essenscia Wallonia amongst others, for the development of a competitive bio-economy. The biobased chemistry sector is a main target, and valorization of non-food biomass streams and second generation biorefineries.

Bio Base NWE

The Bio Base NWE network represents leading biobased economy experts, advising entrepreneurs from across Europe on how to develop new ideas into marketable products, from the first feasibility study or market analysis up to funding and investment scenarios.

BioBase NWE Project:

<http://www.biobasenwe.org/en/home/>



Bio Base NWE
Innovation and training for the biobased economy



This factsheet was produced by Bio Base NWE partners

More Bioeconomy Factsheets can be found here:

www.nfcc.co.uk/publications/ enquiries@nfcc.co.uk

