

## BIOBEC, A PROJECT TO PROMOTE EDUCATION IN THE BIO-BASED INDUSTRY, KICKS OFF

- **SUSTAINABLE INNOVATIONS, CTA, AND THE AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA ARE THE SPANISH PARTNERS OF BIOBEC, A PROJECT WHERE 19 EUROPEAN ORGANISATIONS WILL COLLABORATE TO PROMOTE EDUCATION IN THE BIO-BASED INDUSTRY.**
- **BIOBEC IS FUNDED BY THE BIO-BASED INDUSTRIES JOINT UNDERTAKING (BBI JU) UNDER THE EUROPEAN UNION'S HORIZON 2020 RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PROGRAMME AND IT HAS A BUDGET OF €1.5 MILLION.**

*Madrid, September 14, 2021* – BIObec, a new project seeking to promote education in the bio-based industry and funded by the Bio-Based Industries Joint Undertaking (BBI JU) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme, officially kicked off with the celebration of an online meeting today, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

SUSTAINABLE INNOVATIONS, CTA (Technological Corporation of Andalusia), and the Autonomous University of Barcelona are the three Spanish partners of a consortium formed by 19 entities from 12 European countries that have received a total budget of €1.5 million in funding. For 30 months, they will work together to build bridges between the bio-based industry and the education system by interlinking universities, innovation labs, and Research and Development centres with industrial stakeholders and regions.

BIObec proposes a framework that merges the traditional idea of an education centre, with that of a knowledge hub. The project will establish multi-level Bio-Based Education Centres (BBECs) to act as knowledge hubs bridging the gaps between academic institutions, students, innovation entities and policymakers. Likewise, the BBECs are expected to be flexible enough to answer the current and future needs of the industry and surrounding ecosystem at local, regional and national levels.

### **Collaborating to bridge the educational gap in Bioeconomy**

The main responsibilities of SUSTAINABLE INNOVATIONS in this project are to define and implement the communication strategy (corporate branding development, website, social media strategy, etc.), to coordinate the dissemination of BIObec, to elaborate e-learning and training materials, and to contribute to analyse the economic feasibility of the BBECs, including a detailed screening of potential funding sources and models.

“We are delighted to continue our work to bridge the gap between the educational offer and the needs of the bio-based industry”, said Jesús Serrano, Deputy General Manager at SUSTAINABLE INNOVATIONS. “It is a pleasure to keep on improving the education, understanding and skills for the emerging European bioeconomy with partners such as CTA and the Autonomous University of Barcelona, with whom we already collaborated in the implementation of UrBIOfuture, a previous EU-funded project that set the basis for BIObec.”

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From its side, the Autonomous University of Barcelona will contribute to underpin the project's theoretical framework and lead the analysis of the European and regional needs, opportunities, and expectations for the BBECs.

And last, but not least, CTA will lead the replication of the BIObec concept and the BBECs, designing a roadmap for the roll-out of the BIObec project outputs, and a methodology transfer for the establishment of BBECs across external regions.

## Unlocking the bioeconomy's full potential

The need to reduce carbon emissions and the growing importance of the bioeconomy encompass great potential to foster local development and offer a new perspective on traditional productions, as well as to create new businesses, jobs, and opportunities. However, education needs to play a key role to meet the bio-based industry needs regarding a well-prepared workforce, and to unlock its full potential,

BIObec aims to maximise the opportunities offered by the bioeconomy and contribute to the creation of an educational innovation ecosystem, leveraging the work previously done by other EU projects, connecting all the different stakeholders, and increasing cooperation between the bio-based industry and the education system to avoid skills and competences gaps.

## About BIObec

BIObec is coordinated by the University of Bologna and formed by a multi-disciplinary consortium of 19 partners from 12 different countries:

- 11 educational institutions: the Universities of Bologna, Hohenheim, Eastern Finland, Autonomous of Barcelona, Wageningen, Trakia, Munster Technological, Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna, and the National Institute Of Technology For Life, Food And Environmental Sciences – AgroParisTech, IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, and the Educational Research Institute (IBE);
- A national research body: Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche;
- Three industrial clusters from the bio-based industry: CTA, Food and Bio Cluster Denmark, and Irish Bioeconomy Foundation;
- Two SMEs: FVA and Sustainable Innovations;
- A non-profit foundation for Education and Social Dialogue: Pro Civis;
- And a private research institute: Research Institute for Fodder Crops, Ltd. Troubsko

The project has received nearly 1,5 million euros in funding from the Bio-Based Industries Joint Undertaking (BBI JU) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. For their part, the Spanish partners have received 326,000 euros.

## About SUSTAINABLE INNOVATIONS

SUSTAINABLE INNOVATIONS is a Spanish consultancy company that provides innovative services to a wide range of sectors throughout Europe: bio-based industry, renewable energy, or advanced materials, among others. The capabilities that SUSTAINABLE INNOVATIONS offers are structured around three main pillars that serve as a bridge between the conception of innovative ideas and the market: Innovation Management, SMEs and start-

ups services, and Capacity Building. Our main asset is the highly qualified team of engineers, environmentalists, communication experts, and business strategists who work with us.

[www.sustainableinnovations.eu](http://www.sustainableinnovations.eu)

### **About CTA**

CTA (Technological Corporation of Andalusia) is a private foundation with more than 15 years of experience and made up of more than 165 companies, that is dedicated to promoting R&D, innovation, and technology transfer. It contributes to improve the competitiveness of companies, professionals and organisations, facilitates their access to R&D activities and promotes technological innovation and continuous improvement processes.

[www.corporaciontecnologica.com](http://www.corporaciontecnologica.com)

### **About the Autonomous University of Barcelona**

The Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) is a generalist campus-based University, hosting 43,000 students. The UAB, which plays a leading role in scientific research, will participate in this project through its Center for Research and Studies for Organizational Development, an academic institution linked to the analysis and development of organizations in general, and those linked to training and education at all levels, and areas in particular.

<https://edo.uab.cat/en>