

NEWSLETTER #2

June 2026

BIOPRO REGIONS

May 2025 - July 2029



NEWSLETTER #2 - BIOPRO REGIONS

Welcome to the second edition of the BIOPRO REGIONS newsletter!

BIOPRO REGIONS is a European cooperation project under the Interreg Europe programme, aiming to strengthen local and regional policies that support sustainable production and consumption across the agri-food value chain. Through interregional exchange and collaboration, the project contributes to the European Green Deal and the Farm to Fork Strategy by promoting innovation, circularity, and resource efficiency in bioeconomy-related sectors.

PROJECT DURATION



1st May 2025 - 31st July 2029

TOTAL BUDGET



1,446,536



Our partners

1 - AVE INTERMUNICIPAL COMMUNITY



Comunidade Intermunicipal do Ave

2 - DORDOGNE CHAMBER OF AGRICULTURE



3 - DARLANA COUNTRY



Länsstyrelsen Dalarnas län

4 - ADMINISTRATION OF LITHUANIA MINOR PROTECTED AREAS - ALMPA



5 - CENTRAL TRANSDANUBIAN REGIONAL INNOVATION AGENCY - CTRIA



6 - REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY BACKA - RDAB

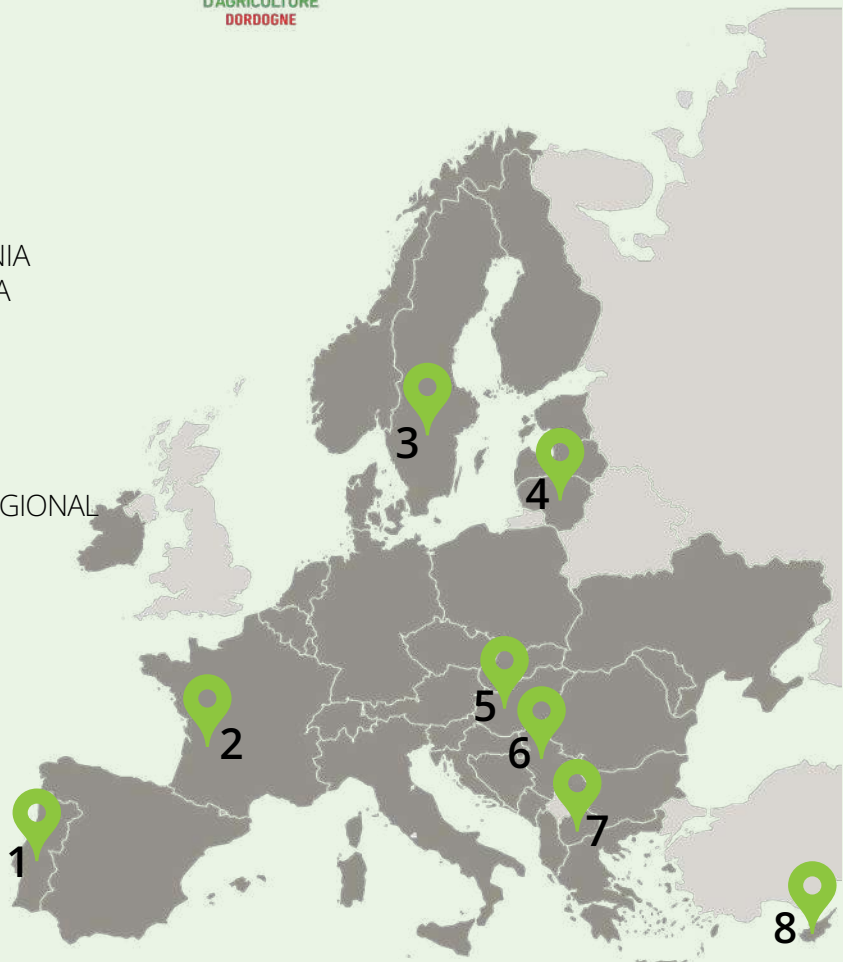


THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY BACKA

7 - MUNICIPALITY OF TETOVO



8 - NICOSIA DEVELOPMENT AGENCY - ANEL



► Exchange of experiences & Project meetings: driving collaboration and innovation

CIM do Ave as Lead Partner of BIOPRO Regions participated in the Interreg Europe Exchange of Experiences Day

15 April 2026, Bella Center, Copenhagen, Denmark

Ave Intermunicipal Community participated in the Interreg Europe Exchange of Experiences Day held on 15 April 2026 at the Bella Center in Copenhagen, represented by José Martins, Head of the Innovation and Territorial Resources Valorisation Unit, on behalf of the BIOPRO Regions project.

The event brought together project representatives from across Europe to discuss good practices in project implementation, interregional learning processes, and stakeholder engagement. CIM do Ave participated in sessions focused on the organisation of interregional learning, the analysis of good practices, and project management, gaining valuable



knowledge to strengthen the implementation of BIOPRO Regions.

The event also provided important networking opportunities with European partners, fostering collaboration and the exchange of

experiences related to sustainable innovation and bioeconomy development.

More information: [Exchange of experience for our projects](#)

BIOPRO Regions: European partners gathered in Hungary for the second interregional workshop

15–16 April 2026, Székesfehérvár, Hungary

European partners of the BIOPRO Regions project gathered on 15–16 April 2026 in Székesfehérvár, Hungary, for the second interregional workshop, hosted by the Central Transdanubian Regional Innovation Agency. Over two days, the event combined coordination

sessions, exchanges of good practices, and field visits focusing on the transition towards more sustainable and locally rooted food systems. Partners discussed policy approaches supporting organic farming, short food supply chains, and the development of bioeconomy

strategies across European regions.

The programme also included study visits to local initiatives, such as an organic farm, an artisan dairy, and an agro-logistics platform, illustrating concrete solutions based on local cooperation and innovation.



This workshop marked an important step in strengthening interregional cooperation and enhancing partners' capacity to improve their policy instruments in support of sustainable agri-food systems.

Read the full article on the BIOPRO Regions website: <https://www.interregeurope.eu/biopro-regions/news-and-events/news/biopro-regions-partners-meet-in-hungary-workshop>

BIOPRO Regions Meeting of Protected Areas Representatives

7 November 2025

Within the framework of the Interreg Europe BIOPRO Regions project, a meeting of Protected Areas representatives was held on 7 November 2025, gathering 35 participants from five Protected Areas organisations, representing different professional contexts. The meeting opened with a welcome session and introductory remarks. Egidijus Jurkus, representing the Administration of Lithuania Minor Protected Areas, pre-

sented the organisation's role as a partner in the BIOPRO Regions project. His presentation outlined the project's overall concept, target areas and key measures aimed at supporting sustainable economic development linked to Protected Areas. This was followed by a presentation from Vaida Sirutienė, who introduced the Protected Areas Product Label as one of the main tools used within the BIOPRO Regions project to achieve

its objectives. The presentation highlighted the role of the label in supporting the recognition and promotion of products originating from Protected Areas. Participants then engaged in a joint discussion focusing on the implementation of the Protected Areas Product Label. Exchanges addressed its main strengths and weaknesses, challenges faced by Protected Area administrations, possible improvements to existing procedures, and feedback received from label holders. The meeting concluded with a field visit to "Žaliasis Ūkis" (The Green Farm). Farm owner Jokūbas Račkauskas presented the farm's activities and production processes. Participants also shared a lunch prepared with products from the farm, providing a practical illustration of local production linked to Protected Areas.



► Good practices: during the E&L activities

Within the framework of the BIOPRO Regions Exchange and Learning activities, a wide range of good practices has been identified, collected and shared by project partners across Europe.

These practices reflect the diversity of regional approaches implemented within the project to promote products from organic farms, valorise short food supply chains and strengthen sustainable local value chains. They highlight recurring themes such as product labelling and territorial branding, governance and cooperation models, stakeholder engagement, support for local producers and entrepreneurship, access to local and regional markets, as well as innovation and environmentally sustainable solutions, including circular economy approaches.

Together, they illustrate how different European regions address common challenges related to sustainable food systems, local development and the valorisation of proximity products, while adapting solutions to their specific territorial contexts.

The 19 validated good practices identified so far within BIOPRO Regions are:

- Traceability and authenticity platform: using blockchain to verify traditional Cypriot products
- Local agro-processing
- Local brands in Tetovo
- FoodConnect platform – Save Food. Waste Less
- Szupermenza Buffet-style school catering model
- Bakonyi Helyi Márka – Territorial Quality Trademark for Local Products and Services
- Bakony Expo – Local Food and Community Fair in Western Hungary
- Swedish Wool Initiative
- Protected Areas Product label
- Food from Dalarna
- Village to home
- Short Food Supply Chains (SFSC): the road to sustainable self-governance and local economies
- Climate smart soil for zero carbon farms – C-FARMS
- Regional Brand Bačka: a unified label supporting sustainable production
- Promoting balanced and sustainable food, the Mediterranean diet, and fighting food

waste in the Ave Region

- MPP Markets Network (“Marchés des Producteurs de Pays”)
- From seed to plate – School activities in Dordogne
- Roadmap for the decarbonisation of the agri-food sector
- 360°Come Project: driving sustainable food habits through education and behavioural change

All validated good practices contributed by BIOPRO Regions partners are documented and made publicly available on the project page of the Interreg Europe website, ensuring transparency, knowledge transfer and accessibility for other regions and stakeholders.

Further dissemination and thematic highlighting of selected good practices will continue through BIOPRO Regions communication activities.

Discover all BIOPRO Regions good practices:

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/biopro-regions/good-practices>



► Stakeholder Meetings: building local engagement across Europe

Second stakeholder meeting held in TETOVO

26 November 2025

The second BIOPRO Regions stakeholder meeting was held on 26 November 2025 at the Local Economic Development (LED) premises, hosted by the South East European University (SEEU) in Tetovo. The meeting brought together project staff, representatives of local and regional development bodies, agricultural authorities and local stakeholders, including agricultural entrepreneurs.

An overview of the BIOPRO Regions project was presented, highlighting its objectives to strengthen regional cooperation and support the development of sustainable bio-based value chains, with a strong focus on sustainable agriculture, support for local producers and knowledge exchange. Discussions focused on stakeholder roles and collaboration, underlining the importance of clear responsibilities, coordinated actions and open



communication between institutions, producers and development agencies. Participants also stressed the need to align regional activities with national agricultural policies and to provide continuous advisory and technical support to local producers. The meeting concluded with

agreement on key next steps, including strengthening stakeholder engagement, identifying priority pilot activities and improving communication channels, confirming the collective commitment to advancing the objectives of the BIOPRO Regions project at local level.

ANEL holds second stakeholders meeting

19 February 2026

The second stakeholders meeting of the BIOPRO Regions project, organised by project partner ANEL, brought together key stakeholders to exchange on the project's objectives and its implementa-

tion at territorial level. The meeting focused on strengthening cooperation between institutions and local actors, discussing the role of protected areas products, and identifying challenges and

opportunities for supporting sustainable local development within the BIOPRO Regions framework.



Read the full article on the BIOPRO Regions website:
<https://www.interregeurope.eu/biopro-regions/news-and-events/news/anel-holds-second-stakeholders-meeting-for-biopro-regions>

Stakeholders explore BIOPRO good practices in Lithuania

20 March 2026

As part of the BIOPRO Regions activities, a stakeholder meeting was recently organised in Lithuania, bringing together public authorities, agencies and local actors to exchange on sustainable food systems and regional policy development. During the event, several good practices identified across Europe were presented and discussed, with a strong focus on solutions to reduce the carbon footprint of agriculture and strengthen sustainable local value chains. The meeting also provided a valuable opportunity to explore how these practices can be adapted

to the Lithuanian context and integrated into regional strategies.

This emphasised the importance of stakeholder involvement and interregional learning in fostering more sustainable and resilient agri-food systems.



Read the full article on the BIOPRO Regions website:
<https://www.interregeurope.eu/biopro-regions/news-and-events/news/stakeholders-explore-biopro-good-practices-in-lithuania>

Third stakeholder meeting in Tetovo: Seminar and Workshop on Sustainable Agri-Food Systems

30 March 2026

The third BIOPRO Regions stakeholder meeting was held on 30 March 2026 at Europe House in Tetovo, bringing together a wide range of local

and regional actors from the agri-food sector. Organised as a seminar and workshop, the meeting focused on key European policy frameworks, inclu-

ding the Farm to Fork Strategy, the circular economy and the role of short supply chains in supporting sustainable local development.

Discussions highlighted the importance of stakeholder engagement, the twin green and digital transition, and the need to adapt good practices to local contexts. The meeting concluded with agreement on

continued cooperation and follow-up actions to support sustainable agri-food systems at regional level.

Read the full article on the BIOPRO Regions website: <https://www.interregeurope.eu/biopro-regions/news-and-events/news/third-stakeholder-meeting-in-tetovo-on-sustainable-agri-food>



CIM do Ave: progress and next steps in the Ave Region

29 April 2026

On 29 April 2026, CIM do Ave held its second stakeholder meeting, bringing together key stakeholders to review progress and prepare the next phase of the BIOPRO Regions project. The meeting provided an opportunity to present the main achievements of the past semester and to define upcoming priorities, while reinforcing collaboration between regional actors. Discussions highlighted the importance of strengthening synergies around bioeconomy, circular economy, and short supply chains, in close connection with the NORTE 2030 policy framework. The meeting

also confirmed the partners' commitment to advancing policy learning and cooperation in the months ahead.

Read the full article on the

BIOPRO Regions website: <https://www.interregeurope.eu/biopro-regions/news-and-events/news/biopro-stakeholder-meeting-advances-actions-in-ave>

SLIDE 24

Atividades Desenvolvidas no Semestre 2

(novembro 2025 – abril 2026)

- "Exchange of experience day" (15 abril) e Conferência Anual "Europe, let's cooperate!" (16 e 17 abril) do Interreg Europe, Copenhaga
- ✓ Discutir com todos os parceiros líderes a implementação dos seus projetos, bem como as necessidades e expectativas para o futuro do programa:
 - Boas práticas na implementação de projetos
 - Processos de aprendizagem interregional, troca de boas práticas e mobilização de stakeholders
 - O futuro do Interreg Europe

► Visibility & Outreach: engaging communities

BIOPRO Regions values highlighted at the «Made in France» exhibition

5-7 December 2025

From 5 to 7 December 2025, the Dordogne Chamber of Agriculture co-organised in Marsac-sur-l'Isle (Dordogne) the first edition of the "Made in France" exhibition, a major event dedicated to promoting local know-how. For this occasion, a special "Gastronomy and Agriculture" area was designed to showcase the excellence of local products and the dynamism of the region's agricultural sectors.

Nearly thirty farmers and artisan-producers, all involved in the Bienvenue à la Ferme (BAF) and Marchés des Producteurs de Pays (MPP) networks, were able to present and sell their products. Their participation provided a concrete illustration of the diversity, quality and traceability of regional production, complementing the work of the artisans and traders exhibiting across the wider fair.

The Chamber of Agriculture hosted an institutional stand focused on promoting the BAF and MPP brands. Visitors had the opportunity to learn about the core values upheld by these labels: proximity, controlled quality, transparency and authenticity.

The event also served as a strategic opportunity to highlight the BIOPRO REGIONS project, particularly through the promotion of:

- the structuring of short local marketing channels,
- the move towards higher-quality production,
- the support provided to farmers transitioning towards more resilient and sustainable economic models.

For a first edition, the exhibition achieved notable success, attracting nearly 3,000 visitors. Feedback from producers and farmers was especially positive, both in terms of the quality of interactions and the commercial and partnership prospects that emerged. This success confirms the public's strong interest in local products and the importance of collective marketing initiatives driven by the Chamber of Agriculture, in line with the objectives of the INTERREG EUROPE – BIOPRO REGIONS programme.



BIOPRO Regions featured in Primitiva Magazine

15 November 2025

The BIOPRO Regions project was featured in Primitiva Magazine to increase visibility and raise awareness about sustainable and local bio-based food systems. The article introduces the project's objectives and highlights its role in promoting interregional cooperation and the exchange of good practices. The target audience includes policymakers, stakeholders in the agri-food sector, and readers interested in sustainability. The expected outcome is to strengthen the visibility of the project and encourage engagement with sustainable agri-food initiatives.



Read the full article on the BIOPRO Regions website:
[BIOPRO Regions](#) | [BIOPRO Regions Featured in PRIMITIVA Magazine](#) | [Interreg Europe](#)

Promotion of Local Products of Ave Region at FITUR 2026 and BTL 2026

FITUR 2026, 21-25 January 2026, Madrid, Spain

Better Tourism Lisbon (BTL), 25 February - 1 March 2026, Lisbon, Portugal



The Comunidade Intermunicipal do Ave participated in FITUR 2026 and BTL 2026 to promote the gastronomy, local products and cultural identity of the Ave region. At FITUR 2026, traditional products from this region were presented to tourism professionals and the general public, including wines from different sub-regions, cured meats, cheeses, traditional sweets, honey, liqueurs and jams.

At BTL, the promotion focused

on gastronomic experiences through showcooking and tastings of regional dishes such as **Galinha Mourisca** (Vila Nova Famalicão Municipality) and **Vitela Assada à Moda de Fafe**, as well as local wines and traditional sweets like **Bolinhol de Vizela**, produced by

local producers and economic agents.

These local products from the Ave region promoted at FITUR and BTL are part of the agri-food value chain enhanced by the BIOPRO Regions project.

The activity targeted tourism professionals, policymakers and visitors interested in regional gastronomy and sustainable local products, contributing to greater visibility of the Ave region and support for local producers.

Links:

[Minho Inn \(FITUR\): Minho leva a sua essência à FITUR26 em Madrid.](#)

[Minho Inn \(BTL\): "Somos todos Minho" é a mensagem de um território unido e forte](#)

► What's next ?

The next project seminar will take place in Serbia and will bring together all project partners and participants. This event will be a key opportunity to strengthen cooperation and exchange experiences.

The final project presentation video will also be launched and widely disseminated.

Continued identification and dissemination of Good Practices related to:

- Green Europe
- Circular Economy
- Farm to Fork Strategy
- Short Supply Chains
- Local and Regional Products
- Promote bilateral exchanges with GP owners to gather further details and clarify specific aspects of implementation

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