



# The role of the bioeconomy in the European policies

T2BIO Capacity building activity on “How to raise awareness  
and communicate the Bioeconomy” on 6 April, 2022

*Laura Vārpiņa, Policy Officer DG RTD B2  
European Commission*

# The EU's understanding of the bioeconomy












## EU BIOECONOMY

European Commission's Knowledge Centre for Bioeconomy

EMPLOYMENT  
(MILLION JOBS)  
**17.5**

VALUE ADDED  
(BILLION EUR)  
**614**

EMPLOYMENT  
(MILLION JOBS)    VALUE ADDED  
(BILLION EUR)    VALUE ADDED  
(SHARE TOT)

	AGRICULTURE	9.3	189	31%
	FORESTRY	0.5	25	4%
	FISHING AND AQUACULTURE	0.2	7	1%
	FOOD, BEVERAGES AND OTHER AGRO-MANUFACTURING	4.4	215	35%
	BIO-BASED TEXTILES	0.7	21	3%
	WOOD PRODUCTS AND FURNITURE	1.4	47	8%
	PAPER	0.6	42	7%
	BIO-BASED CHEMICALS AND PHARMACEUTICALS, PLASTICS AND RUBBER	0.4	60	10%
	LIQUID BIOFUELS	0.02	3	1%
	BIOELECTRICITY	0.02	4	1%

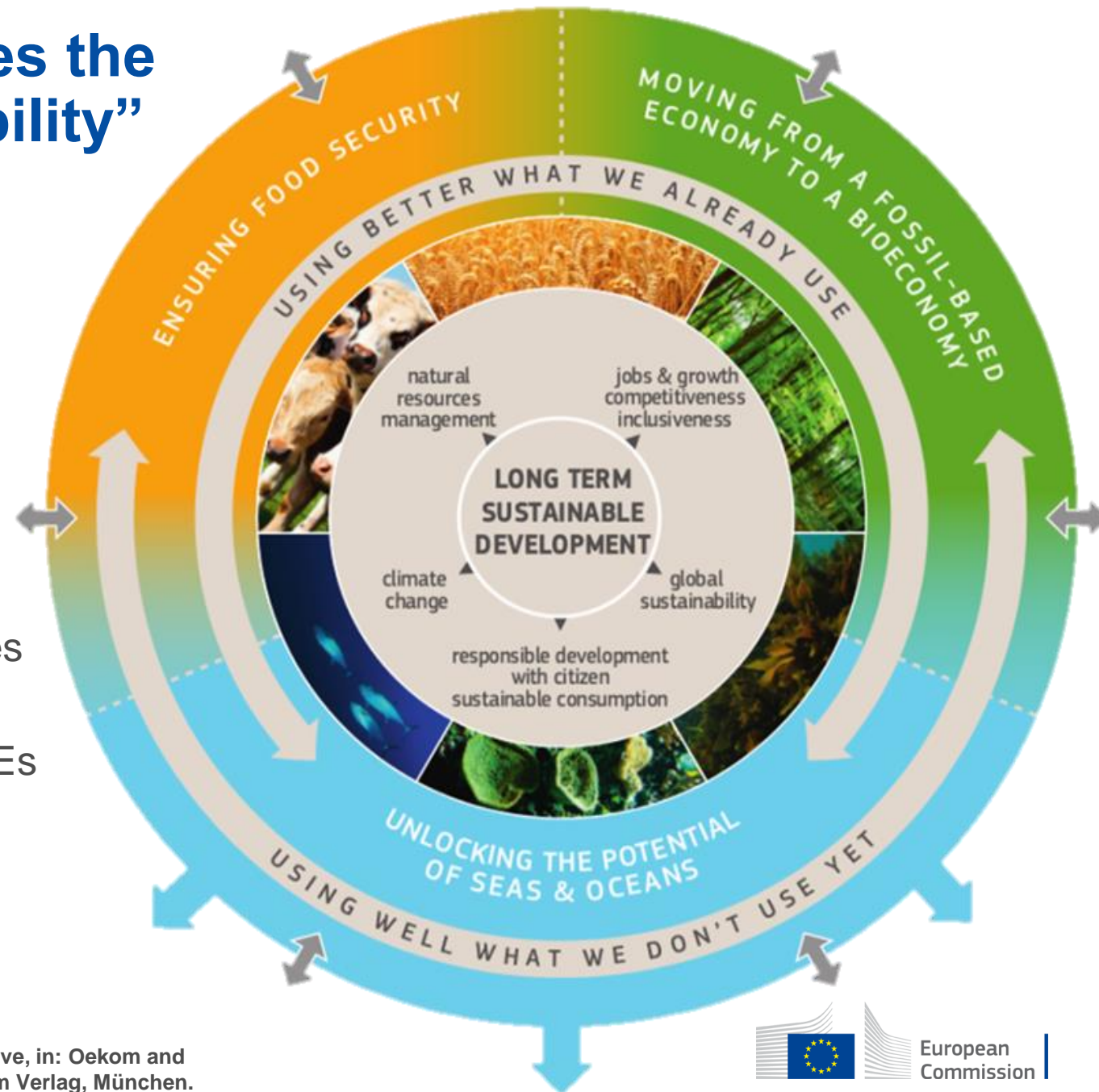
## A key sector of the EU's economy

- ~8.9% of the EU's workforce
- ~75% employed in agriculture, food and drink industry
- 4.7% of GDP
- High job creation potential, in rural, coastal and urban areas, through the growing participation of primary producers and deployment of bio-based solutions

# “The bioeconomy operationalizes the innovative aspects of sustainability” - Vogt, 2020

## Bioeconomy as enabling policy:

- Holistically address the economic, social and environmental aspects of the transition
- Build a climate-neutral future
- Protect biodiversity and ecosystems
- Reduce dependence on non-renewable resources
- Modernise and strengthen the EU industrial base
- Create new green business opportunities for SMEs
- Enhance resource efficiency and circularity



# European bioeconomy policy development

# European bioeconomy policy development

2012



Communication on Bioeconomy

2017



Review of Bioeconomy Strategy

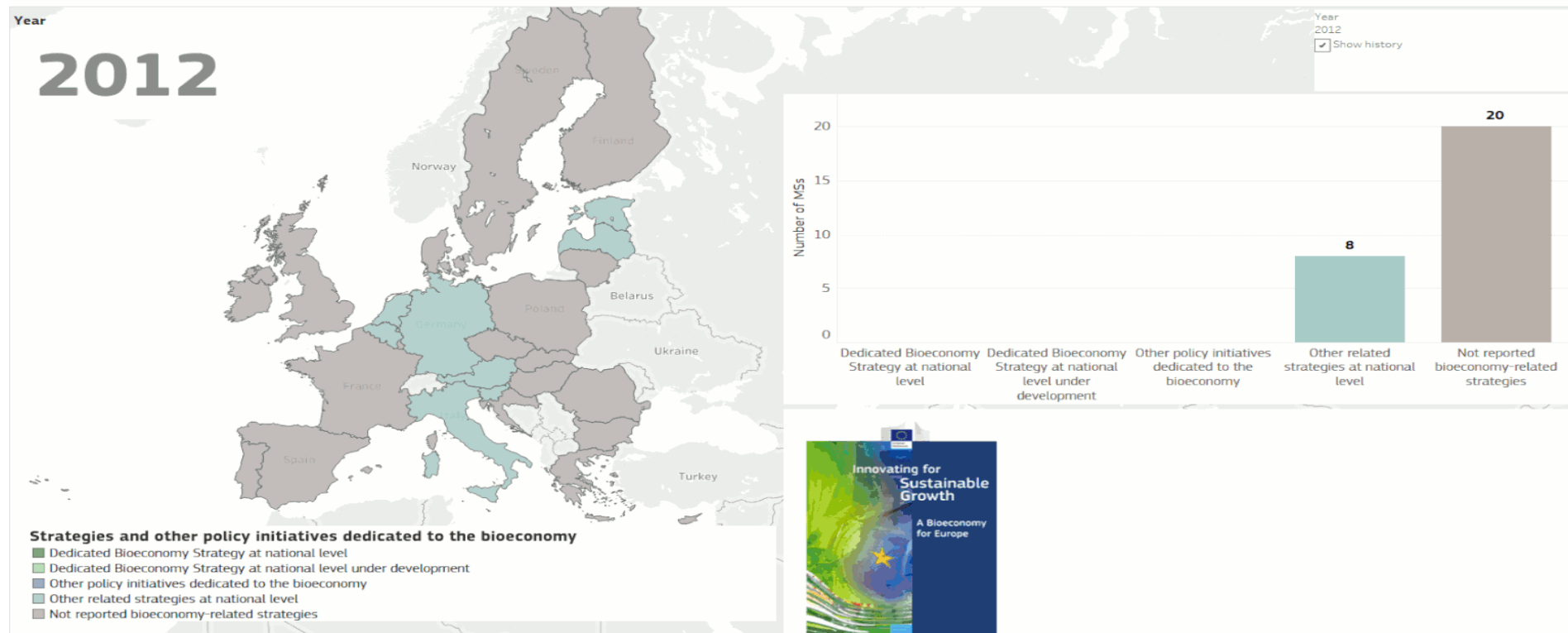
2018



Updated Bioeconomy Strategy

# National bioeconomy strategies across Europe

Evolution of the strategies and other policy initiatives dedicated to the bioeconomy



STATUS as of November 2019 (JRC 2019)



# The updated 2018 EU Bioeconomy Strategy and Action Plan

- **SUSTAINABILITY and CIRCULARITY** at its core
- **SYSTEM-wide** approach
- Policies across sectors, addressing trade-offs, co-benefits
- More than research & innovation
- Delivering for the citizens, in particular in rural areas
- A set of 14 well-defined actions including a monitoring system with clear indicators





# The bioeconomy within the European Green Deal



”

*“The European Green Deal is  
Europe’s Man on the Moon  
Moment”* December 2020

*“The fossil fuel economy has  
reached its limits!”* July 2021

#EUGreenDeal



European  
Commission





“ *With its potential to connect and implement transformative policies holistically, the bioeconomy will contribute to all dimensions and objectives of the European Green Deal. Research and innovation will enable Europe to lead the green and digital transition.* ”

**Mariya Gabriel**, EU Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth

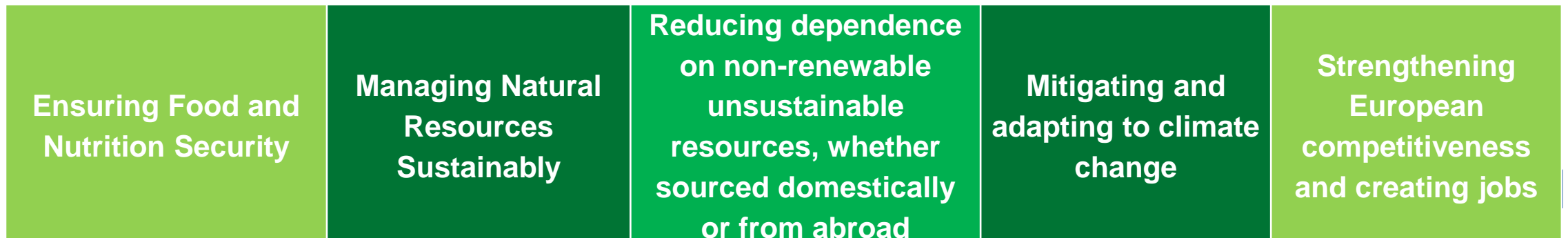
Research and  
Innovation

### Bioeconomy - a blueprint for green growth which:

- Holistically addresses the economic, social and environmental aspects
- Contributes to a climate-neutral future
- Promotes resource efficiency and circularity
- Reduces dependence on non-renewable resources
- Safeguards biodiversity and ecosystems
- Provides opportunities for fair and just transition
- Green business opportunities for SMEs

# Assessment of EU Green Deal initiatives in relation to bioeconomy sustainability objectives

- Biodiversity Strategy, Farm to Fork Strategy, Renovation Wave, Sustainable Carbon Cycles focus on the bioeconomy strategy objectives
- Circular Economy, Industry Strategy, European Climate Law, Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability, Adaptation Strategy, Sustainable Financing, Renewable Energy, Forest Strategy support the bioeconomy strategy objectives
- Zero Pollution Action Plan, LULUCF – specific attention is required to maintain overall coherence



# Bioeconomy Progress Report

# Background

“  
To ensure the effective delivery of the proposed policy goals, **the Commission will report regularly on the progress of the Action Plan** and is committed to adapting or discontinuing activities that do not contribute to the objectives of the Strategy in a satisfactory manner.  
”

2018 EU Bioeconomy Strategy

“  
INVITES the Commission to analyse the state of the operational policy, economic and social environment. RECOGNISES the need to assess the progress of the updated European Bioeconomy Strategy as one essential enabler for achieving a climate neutral economy and sustainable growth; **CALLS upon the incoming Commission to deliver a progress report and if appropriate with update of the action plan and/or the Strategy at the latest by 2022.**  
”

Council Conclusions on  
2018 BioE Strategy



# Objectives of the Bioeconomy Progress Report

- 1. Reporting on the progress of the implementation of the 2018 EU Bioeconomy Strategy, as well as the general progress of the bioeconomy in Europe.**
- 2. Framing the bioeconomy within the new policy context, e.g. the European Green Deal.**





# Bioeconomy Conference

- High-level **Bioeconomy Conference** in Brussels to present the Progress Report
- **October 2022**

# Thank you



© European Union 2020

