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BIOECONOMY EDUCATION: **A BIOEAST PERSPECTIVE**

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BIOECONOMY EDUCATION AS A DRIVING FORCE TO ENHANCE BIOECONOMY IN THE BIOEAST MACRO-REGION

This is an international conference organised during the Czech EU Presidency by the BIOEAST Initiative.

CONFERENCE CONCEPT NOTE

In the light of geopolitical and global challenges, war in Ukraine, food, energy the self-sustainability, resilience and recovery are emerging challenges that the EU faces. A responsible smart transition process is needed that leads Europe to a knowledge-based society that is strongly oriented towards circularity and sustainability.

The development of different bio-based sectors, new value chains and employment of innovative solutions to support the transition considering the new EU strategies are of crucial importance. The bioeconomy expected to be a motor for sustainability, presented as a solution to several ecological and social challenges, although the importance of moving towards the sustainable bioeconomy is generally recognised, a transition progress differs among EU macro regions, primarily in the BIOEAST macro-region the transition process is very slow and there is a risk the gap between the Western, Southern, Northern EU and the Central and Eastern will further increase. **The Foresight Report highlighted the structure problems in the BIOEAST macro-region, the lack of human resources in higher education and research is one of the main bottlenecks to accomplishing the goals of the European Green Deal.**

Bioeconomy Education has been a key issue on the European Strategy for Bioeconomy from the very beginning. Unlike the network of Bioeconomy University established in the Western, Southern and Northern part of Europe, there is no such network in the BIOEAST macro region. **The Central and Eastern Europe BIOEAST Initiative fully acknowledges the importance of the coordinated approach and tackle the issue of bioeconomy education in the BIOEAST macro-region,** the Thematic Working Group Bioeconomy Education was established in 2020 to meet the specific macro regional education needs of the BIOEAST macro-region, it is coordinated by the Czech national bioeconomy BIOEAST HUB CR.

To efficiently support the expansion of the sustainable circular bioeconomy, to involve and inspire stakeholders to get engaged in bioeconomy education the BIOEAST macro-region and to launch the BIOEAST Network of Central and Eastern European Universities the BIOEAST Initiative is organising a conference in cooperation with the Czech Ministry of Education. The conference is planned on the 8th of December 2022 will be structure in the following three sections:

- 1 Why we need education in bioeconomy?
- 2 Launch of the BIOEAST Network of Central and Eastern European Universities
- 3 Panel Discussion – Evaluation of the current situation and future challenges

