

AGREEMENT

concerning

**extension of activities of the “Polish Consortium of Bioregions”
with new fields and creation of cooperation platform named:
“Bioregions of Central and Eastern Europe”**

signed in Łódź on 6 October 2016 between

**the Voivodeships: Dolnośląskie, Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Lubelskie, Łódzkie, Małopolskie,
Mazowieckie, Pomorskie and Wielkopolskie,**

hereinafter jointly referred to as **Members**.

PREAMBLE

Bioeconomy is based on renewable biological land and sea resources such as plants, animals and micro-organisms as well as biological waste and rubbish. It is centred on sustainable production of high-quality food, animal feed, materials, chemicals, fuels and energy. In view of unique features and advantages such as neutrality for climate, renewability, circularity (closed cycles) and multifunctionality, bioeconomy may be a solution for many global challenges as well as may support active and healthy life. Bioeconomy has potential to strengthen social and economic development, creates jobs on rural areas and increases competitiveness of industry.

Bioeconomy becomes a real force in regions of Central and Eastern Europe. Many of them have considered bioeconomy as an element of regional smart specialisation within RIS3. Regions have large, although not fully fulfilled, potential as well as common problems and challenges in this area. At the same time regions should play an active role in opening and developing the potential of bioeconomy, developing research and technological capacity, implementing value bio-chains as well as trainings, education and promotion of sustainable bioeconomy idea.

Regions of Central and Eastern Europe are responsible for implementation of considerable resources from structural funds. There is a large need to integrate efforts and create a synergy between regions and business sphere, scientific, financial institutions and society. They should define strategies and action plans together as well as create instruments for investments, inter alia in the bioeconomy sector.

Acting based on the Letters of Intent concluded:

on 10 May 2011 between the Łódzkie Region, Dolnośląskie Voivodeship, Małopolskie Region, Pomorskie Voivodeship, Wielkopolskie Voivodeship and

on 9 November 2011 - additionally Mazowieckie Voivodeship,

concerning creation of the “Polish Consortium of Bioregions”,

Members of this Agreement, wishing to develop, in a coordinated manner, bioeconomy with the use of the latest technologies and experiences of other regions, decide to extend the Consortium’s activities with new fields creating a cooperation platform and give the name **“Bioregions of Central and Eastern Europe”**, hereinafter referred to as, in short, **“Platform of Bioregions”**.

§ 1.

The objective of the Platform of Bioregions is:

- 1) to build a network of relationships and integrate stakeholders of bioeconomy in Central and Eastern Europe, including enterprises, scientific institutions, financial institutions, public administration and society;
- 2) to define common strategies, action plans, initiatives, projects as well as to develop instruments for supporting and developing investments in the bioeconomy sector;
- 3) to create a synergy between instruments available at the European, national and regional levels;
- 4) to ensure a transfer of the best practices, share knowledge, common learning, trainings and education in cooperation with more advanced regions;
- 5) to promote the sustainable bioeconomy idea;
- 6) to initiate common regional and inter-regional projects of strategic importance for development of the bioeconomy sector.

§ 2.

Within the Platform of Bioregions the following common activities will be carried out:

- 1) creation of potential maps - common evaluation of bioeconomy potential (agriculture, food industry, forestry, biomass, waste, wasteland, textiles, chemistry, available technologies and industrial activities) as well as analysis of existing value chains;
- 2) preparation of regional plans for development of bioeconomy or incorporation of these issues into the existing strategic documents/region development programmes (sharing knowledge, creation of synergy);
- 3) organisation of workshops, conferences, regional meetings of stakeholders to popularise knowledge within the scope of bioeconomy, including organisation of the European Bioeconomy Congress as the common strategic project.

§ 3.

1. The Platform of Bioregions functions based on this Agreement.
2. The Platform of Bioregions functions in the territory of the Republic of Poland. In justified cases, particular actions taken by the Platform of Bioregions may be carried out outside the territory of the Republic of Poland.

§ 4.

The Platform of Bioregions will initiate and support mutual cooperation within the following scope:

- 1) creation of networks for cooperation with stakeholders (including: enterprises, scientific institutions, financial institutions, society) at the regional and macro-regional levels as well as initiation of common initiatives and projects;
- 2) integration and development of research potential;
- 3) building a synergy between structural funds and other instruments (Platform S3, 2020 Horizon Framework Programme, Bio-Based Industries Joint Undertaking [BBI JU], Agricultural European Innovation Partnership [EIP AGRI], Knowledge and Innovation Communities "Food4Future" [KIC Food4Future]);
- 4) initiation of inter-regional partnership agreements oriented towards transfer of knowledge and common learning;
- 5) formulation of strategic development directions and support of bioeconomy as well as their implementation.

§ 5.

1. The Platform of Bioregions does not form a separate legal entity and does not have legal personality. The Platform does not have statutory bodies, budget or formalised management body. The secretary's office of the Platform of Bioregions will be managed by the Marshal's Office of the Lodzkie Region in Łódź.
2. A change of the institution managing the secretary's office of the Platform of Bioregions and amendment to any provisions of this Agreement require a consent of all hitherto prevailing Members in the form of an annexe.

§ 6.

The Agreement has a framework character and does not give rise to any financial consequences for its Members. Each concrete project requires separate arrangements. Creation of the Platform of Bioregions does not affect the property, legal or structural integrity of its Members.

§ 7.

1. The Platform of Bioregions is open to admission of new regions or regional organisations.
2. A list of current Members of the Platform of Bioregions constitutes an appendix to this Agreement.
3. The appendix referred to in section 2 forms an integral part of this Agreement.
4. A new Member is admitted after obtaining a written consent of all hitherto prevailing Members in the form of an annexe amending the appendix referred to in section 2.
5. If any Member leaves the Platform of Bioregions, other Members undertake to adopt the annexe to this Agreement considering such an amendment in the appendix referred to in section 2.
6. Members of this Agreement contact each other through the secretary's office of the Platform of Bioregions which is responsible for providing information.

§ 8.

1. The Platform of Bioregions does not have a steady leader.
2. Members may authorise one of the Members to represent them towards third parties within a particular scope, giving the status of leader to it.
3. A written consent of most Members is required for validity of the activities referred to in section 2.
4. The scope of the foregoing representation does not include contracting any liabilities, but only includes representation of common interests within the scope of the authorisation referred to in section 2.

§ 9.

This Agreement was drawn up in 8 identical copies, one copy for each Party.

§ 10.

This Agreement shall come into force upon being signed. It is hereby concluded for an indefinite period of time. A Member may leave the Platform of Bioregions at any time of its operation subject to a written form.

Signatures of the Agreement's Members:

Cezary Przybylski
Marshal of the Dolnośląskie Voivodeship

Piotr Całbecki
Marshal of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship

Grzegorz Kapusta
Deputy Marshal of the Lubelskie Region

Witold Stępień
Marshal of the Łódzkie Region

Grzegorz Lipiec
Member of the Management Board of the Małopolskie Region

Adam Struzik
Marshal of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship

Ryszard Świlski
Member of the Management Board of the Pomorskie Voivodeship

Leszek Wojtasiak
Member of the Management Board of the Wielkopolskie Voivodeship

LIST OF VOIVODESHIPS - SIGNATORIES TO THE AGREEMENT
concerning extension of activities of the “Polish Consortium of Bioregions”
with new fields and creation of cooperation platform named:
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signed in Łódź on 6 October 2016

1. **Dolnośląskie Voivodeship** with its registered office in Wrocław, Wybrzeże Słowackiego 12/14, 50-411 Wrocław;
2. **Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship** with its registered office in Toruń, Plac Teatralny 2, 87-100 Toruń;
3. **Lubelskie Region** with its registered office in Lublin, ul. Artura Grottgera 4, 20-029 Lublin;
4. **Łódzkie Region** with its registered office in Łódź, al. Piłsudskiego 8, 90-051 Łódź;
5. **Małopolskie Region** with its registered office in Kraków, ul. Basztowa 22, 31-156 Kraków;
6. **Mazowieckie Voivodeship** with its registered office in Warszawa, ul. Jagiellońska 26, 03-719 Warszawa’
7. **Pomorskie Voivodeship** with its registered office in Gdańsk, ul. Okopowa 21/27 22, 80-810 Gdańsk;
8. **Wielkopolskie Voivodeship** with its registered office in Poznań, al. Niepodległości 34, 61-714 Poznań.