



Publishable summary

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1 Project context and the main objectives

BIO TRIANGLE is a three year support action and the overall strategy of the work plan is to reinforce international S&T cooperation between Europe and four industrialized Third Countries which together form an imaginary TRIANGLE around the globe. It aims at streamlining bio-research in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States through multilateral cooperation activities with Europe.

The specific **objectives of the project** are:

- 1) To ensure a prominent groundwork for foresight and priority setting in the area of KBBE (Knowledge based on Bio Economy)
- 2) To strengthen the multilateral dialogue and the exchange of information
- 3) To facilitate exchange programmes in order to foster communication and sharing expertise amongst researchers.

Bilateral and multilateral S&T cooperation of Europe with Third Countries stands high on the agenda of the European Commission. Indeed, one of the pillars for the creation of the Knowledge Based Bio-Economy (KBBE) is formed by the numerous initiatives with Third Countries – that have signed bilateral S&T agreements with the EU – that have been launched over the past two decades.

The project performs its activities giving support to the EU with the implementation of two initiatives (EU-US task force and KBBE forum) in order to foster the scientific and technological cooperation in the Knowledge-Based Bio Economy (KBBE).

These two important initiatives, particularly relevant when it comes to the development of new and emerging (bio)technologies by industrialized countries, are **the EU-US Task Force** on biotechnology and **the International KBBE Forum**.

The EU-US Task Force initiative was established in June 1990 by the European Commission and the White House Office of Science and Technology. The EU US Task Force on Biotechnology research aims to promote information exchange and coordination in biotechnology research between programmes funded by the European Commission and the US Federal Government funding agencies. The EU-US Task Force has acted as an effective forum for discussion, for coordination and for developing new ideas. It also serves as an important think-tank and it focuses on the future of biotechnology and challenges of the scientific communities on both sides of the Atlantic to expand their thinking beyond specific scientific disciplines. The dialogue has been further broadened by including social scientists in all activities. To achieve such a challenging goal requires effective transatlantic communication and collaboration.

The International KBBE Forum is a multi-partner cooperation initiative between the EC, Australia, Canada and New Zealand. The role of co-chairs is to agree on future research priorities and depending on the needs, discuss visibility, financing issues, etc. Executive secretaries from the four parties are responsible for organizing joint activities and coordinating the daily work. All four

parties participate in the organisation of the work and the implementation of joint activities. It promotes cooperation in the bio-economy through policy dialogue and scientific cooperation between the partners. The Forum members exchange information on policy, strategies and implementation (what has worked and what has not) and on programmes that are ongoing and planned by each partner in the bio-economy sectors.

The Forum also acts as a think-tank for identifying future trends and challenges in the Bio Economy.

Based on policy and scientific discussions, it identifies common challenges and priority areas for joint activities aiming to develop a bio-economy at international level. The activities of the Forum raise awareness of funding opportunities, promote the sharing of knowledge, and boost collaboration in the spirit of the Science and Technology Agreements.

The four current Working Groups (on sustainable agriculture, biotechnologies, food and health and fisheries and aquaculture) are at the heart of the Forum's activities and are responsible for identifying topics of mutual interest and organizing workshops and other activities that engage scientific experts from Australia, Canada and New Zealand and European research communities to discuss challenges and opportunities in their respective focus areas. Overall, scientific cooperation could cover any sector of the bio-based economy and address the issues of common interest, and which are cutting edge and forward looking.

2 Work performed since the beginning of the project and main results achieved

BIO TRIANGLE supports the European Commission in the implementation and organization of the activities foreseen in the frame of the **EU-US Task Force** and the **International KBBE Forum**.

The activities vary from the organization of the plenary meetings attended by the Task Force officials, to all the organizational aspects related to the workshops, short courses and working visit of the working groups of the two initiatives.

The working groups are formed by scientists and address particular topics identified by the two initiatives.

By today the Task Force is working through the following Working groups:

- Animal health
- Marine Genomics
- Obesity
- Environmental biotechnology
- Plant Biotechnology
- Synthetic Biology
- Biobased products and Bioenergy

The four current Working Groups at the heart of the Forum's activities are:

- Working group on Industrial bioproducts
- Working group on Aquaculture and Fisheries
- Working group on Food and Health
- Working group on Sustainable Agriculture

In the first reporting period the project has supported the organisation of the following activities:

EU-US task force

- 1 task force meeting
- 3 webinars
- 4 workshops
- 2 short courses

International KBBE forum

- 2 webinars
- 4 workshops

In the second reporting period the project has supported the organisation of the following activities:

EU-US task force

- Preparation of methodology for impact assessment of WGs
- Draft Impact assessment on Biotechnology WG
- Preparation of Questionnaires addressed to EC WG leaders and selected project coordinators
- Carrying out the reimbursement for participants of the Joint EU-US Theoretical and Practical Training Course on Marine Bioinformatics in Newark, Delaware, USA
- Organisational support for a short course addressing young researchers in the field of Environmental Biotechnology in Milan, Italy

International KBBE forum

- Organisation of webinar for KBBE Working Group Bio-Based Industrial Products
- Preparation of Questionnaires addressed to researchers in order to prepare the Impact Assessment
- Preparation of Questionnaires addressed to project coordinators in order to prepare Impact Assessment
- Sending out and collecting the answers for the questionnaires on both (workshop and project) level in order to prepare Impact Assessment
- Preparation and implementation of 2 workshops
- Producing KBBE Events Plans
- Coordinating the reimbursement of researchers involved in the workshops

The expected final results and their potential impact and use

The expected impacts of BIO TRIANGLE are mainly oriented on a strengthened cooperation amongst all the countries involved in the EU US Task Force and in the International KBBE Forum, both at the policy-making and the researcher level. The impacts are also oriented on a greater awareness amongst researchers of the possibilities, benefits and best practices of bilateral and multilateral S&T cooperation; and an increased exchange of knowledge and skills that support the further development of Bio Economy. According to the Technical Annex an Impact assessment was not foreseen. However the BIO TRIANGEL Project has delivered a draft Impact Assessment on EU-US Task Force outlining challenges faced by Working Groups and a new strategic vision towards Horizon 2020.

3 Project website

<http://biotriangle.apre.it/>

BioTriangle
fostering bioeconomy research

Home The Project EU-US Task Force International KBBE Forum Partner contacts

Bio Triangle Project

fostering bioeconomy research

Useful links

International Cooperation projects funded by the FP7 covering the geographical area of BIO TRIANGLE

[BILAT](#)

[ACCESS4EU](#)

[INCO-NET](#)

BIO TRIANGLE is a 3 year project funded by the EC under the FP7, started on 9th of December 2011, which aims at streamlining bio-research in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States through multilateral cooperation activities with Europe.

Activity

- Priority setting workshops and policy dialogue fora
- A multilateral roundtable to coordinate related initiatives, such as INCONETs and BILAT projects
- Twinning activities between projects in the EU and and Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States, including an online information exchange platform
- Working visits of high-level researchers & summer schools for early-stage researchers, to and from the EU and Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States

Partners

APRE
A U S T R I A
P R O M O T I N G
R E S E A R C H
E U R O P E

KAPE
CRES

FFG
FORSCHUNG WIRKT

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The Regional Government

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