

Newsletter #1

BIOPRO REGIONS

May 2025 – July 2029



► Newsletter #1 – BIOPRO REGIONS

Welcome to the first 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:

1 May 2025 – 31 July 2029

Total budget:

1,446,536

► Our partners

1 – Ave Intermunicipal Community



2 – Agriculture Chamber of Dordogne



3 – Darlana County



Länsstyrelsen
Dalarnas län

4 – ALMPA



5 – Central Transdanubian Regional
Innovation Agency – CTRIA



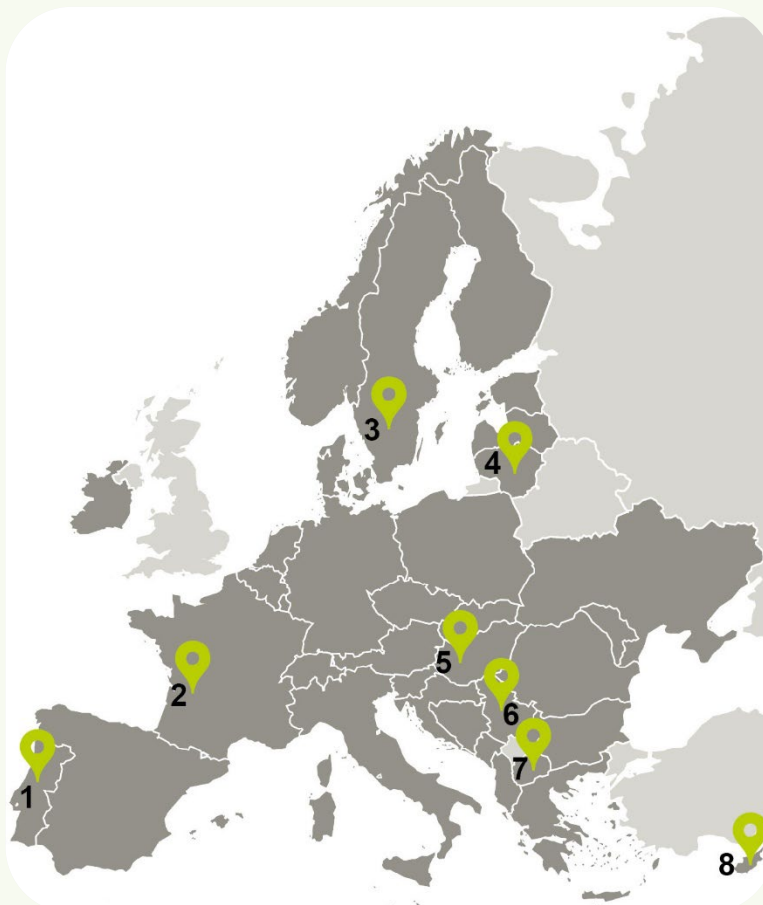
6 – Regional Development Agency
Backa – RDAB



7 – Municipality of Tetovo



8 – Nicosia Development Agency
ANEL



► Exchange of experiences & Project Meetings: Driving Collaboration and Innovation

CIM Do Ave hosts kick-off meeting: a strong start for sustainable food systems

27th–28th May 2025 – Guimarães, Ave Region



BIOPRO REGIONS officially launched with strategic planning sessions, study visits to local initiatives and good practices, and culinary experiences with Michelin-starred chefs.

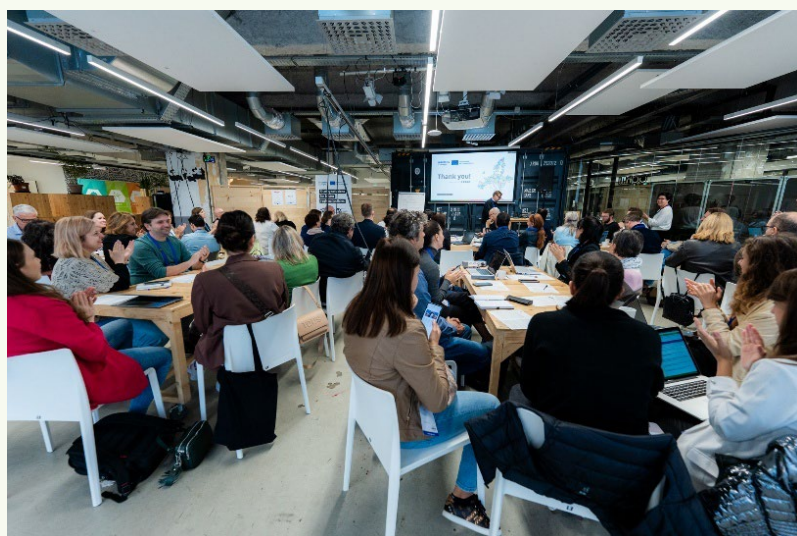
“This is more than the start of a European project — it is a firm commitment to the future of our regions and the planet,” said Marta Coutada, CIM do Ave.



[Read the full article on the Interreg Europe website](#)

Training : BIOPRO REGIONS partners join Interreg Europe sessions

30th September – 2nd October 2025 – Lille, France



Partners from CIM do Ave and the Dordogne Chamber of Agriculture attended the Lead Partner Training Days in Lille. They gained practical insights on financial management, activities implementation, and results, communication to strengthen coordination and visibility.



[Read the full article on the Interreg Europe website](#)

Food innovation in Dalarna: turning side streams into new values

25th – 26th September 2025 – Sweden



At the Dalarna seminar, David Levren from Dalarna Science Park showed how food by-products can become high-value products. Examples included whey transformed into refreshing drinks and ice cream, inspiring new ideas for circular innovation.



[Read more about the seminar and study visit on the BIOPRO REGIONS website.](#)



Good practices – during the E & L Activities

Connecting Education and Sustainability: Visit to Stiernhööks Agricultural School



During the seminar in Dalarna, partners visited Stiernhööks Agricultural School in Rättvik, a leading example of how education can integrate sustainability into everyday practices.

The school not only trains future farmers but also collaborates with municipalities to supply local food for public meal services.

This approach strengthens the link between education, local food systems, and public health, while promoting short supply chains and reducing environmental impact.

> This visit was part of the project's ongoing exchange and learning activities across partner regions.

Tradition meets innovation: Skedvi Crispbread and dairy study visit



Partners explored Skedvi Bröd and Skedvi Dairy, two iconic producers in St Skedvi that combine heritage with modern innovation. The visit showcased traditional crispbread baking methods alongside efforts to obtain Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) status, reinforcing regional identity and quality standards.

Discussions focused on how local businesses can leverage cultural heritage, branding, and circular practices to create added value and attract sustainable tourism.



[Read more about the seminar and study visit on the BIOPRO REGIONS website.](#)

Visit to A'Leiradela



A'Leiradela is more than just an online store offering fresh produce baskets. It's a project born from a passion for sustainable farming and a deep respect for nature. Inspired by the agricultural traditions of the region, provides weekly baskets of

fresh, locally grown fruit and vegetables, cultivated without the use of harmful chemicals. Each basket is carefully prepared to reflect the seasonality of the produce, promoting healthy and conscious eating. Through this project, A'Leiradela aims to reconnect people with the origin of their food, support local farmers, and encourage responsible agricultural practices.



Visit to Hortas do Minho By Plako



Located on a property of over 1 hectare, bordered by a river and various fruit trees, we find Utopia

Space. A pioneering national project in the field of sustainability and environmental protection. In

this space, the main building was constructed using reused materials, such as 2,200 used tires,

75,000 cork stoppers, 11,000 soda cans, cork, car bumpers, among others.

This innovative initiative has allowed to participate in several competitions, such as the Minho Tourism Innovation Awards in

2022, where the producer achieved first place, the Intermarché National Production Awards in 2023, where they were finalists, and the ARIA Awards in 2024, where they were among the six best sustainable projects in Europe. The constant concern for the environment and their commitment to raising awareness among as many people as possible about environmental issues have led them to collaborate with universities and institutions on research projects, as well as to conceive new initiatives. In the same space, we also can find a tech company – Plako – which develops solutions based on internet infrastructure, an organic aromatic plant nursery – AMU.bio –, a coworking space – Green Utopia – and a digital communication agency – DIWA.

► 1st Stakeholder Meetings: Building Local Engagement Across Europe

From protected areas to sustainable plates: Lithuania launches BIOPRO REGIONS project

2nd October – Pagramantis Regional Park Visitor Centre – ALMPA

Lithuania marked a significant milestone by hosting its first stakeholder meeting in the scenic Pagramantis Regional Park. Organised by ALMPA (Administration of Lithuania Minor Protected Areas), the event showcased how protected areas can become catalysts for sustainable food systems, linking biodiversity conservation with local economic development.



Participants explored the Protected Areas Product Label, an initiative designed to promote local products and ecological farming practices. This label not only supports farmers but also strengthens consumer trust in sustainable production.

The meeting concluded with a field visit to “Žaliasis ūkis” (Green Farm), where attendees discovered innovative approaches to short food supply chains and enjoyed a farm-to-table lunch prepared with local ingredients. Discussions focused on practical steps to reduce environmental impact and create stronger connections between producers and consumers.

ANEL takes the lead in circular food systems: first stakeholder meeting

23 October – Nicosia – ANEL



Cyprus brought together municipalities and the Directorate General of Environment for a dynamic exchange on circular practices and local bio-product markets. Organised by ANEL (Nicosia Development Agency), the meeting emphasized the role of

local governance in accelerating sustainable food systems and reducing waste.

Stakeholders shared international best practices and identified opportunities for regional action plans and pilot initiatives, ensuring Cyprus actively contributes to the European Green Deal. This collaborative approach will pave the way for innovative solutions that strengthen short supply chains and promote local bioeconomy.

<https://anel.com.cy/biopros-regions-1st-stakeholders-meeting/>

Status of activities carried out , co-planning for the future and mapping local producers: Ave region shapes a greener future

27th October – Portugal – CIM do Ave

Comunidade Intermunicipal do Ave (Portugal) held a working meeting with the Stakeholders of the BIOPRO Regions Project on September 27th to present the activities developed so far and proceed with the strategic planning of activities for the next semester.

In this meeting participated AHRESP-Associação de Hotelaria, Restauração e Similares de Portugal,





CAP-Confederação dos Agricultores de Portugal, CVR -Centro para a Valorização de Resíduos, Laboratório da Paisagem de Guimarães, MoreColab-Agenda Mobilizadora para a Inovação EmpresarialVIAFOOD; PORTUGALFOODS-Associação Integralar, PROBASTO-Associação de Desenvolvimento Rural de Basto, SOLDOAVE-Associação para o Desenvolvimento Integrado do Vale do Ave.

CIM do Ave jointly with the stakeholders developed the planinnig for the activities to be carried out in future, Good practices were identified and discussed with the stakeholders. Also synergies between regional projects and initiatives were reinforced, with a view to optimizing results and promoting Circular Economy, Farm to Fork Strategy, Short Supply Chains, and Local Products. The meeting focused on mapping local producers and short supply chains. This methodology, developed through an academic internship, aims to create a georeferenced database that connects producers with consumers and boosts visibility for sustainable businesses.

The initiative will help local authorities design targeted policies, support small-scale farmers, and strengthen regional food networks. By improving transparency and accessibility, this mapping tool is a key step toward building a resilient and circular agri-food system.



[Read the full article on the Interreg Europe website](#)

CTRIA paves the way for green agri-food solutions

30th October – Central Transdanubia – CTRIA

CTRIA (Central Transdanubian Regional Innovation Agency) gathered six organizations representing farmers' markets, logistics innovators, and rural development associations to tackle challenges in short supply chains.

The meeting laid the foundation for an international seminar and study visit in April 2026, which will showcase green and digital innovations for the agri-food sector. This forward-looking approach reflects Hungary's commitment to

the twin transition—combining sustainability with digitalization—to create smarter, more efficient food systems.



Learn more about the next steps → [Read the full article on the Interreg Europe website](#)

RDAB mobilizes local actors for sustainable development

31st October – Novi Sad



RDAB (Regional Development Agency Bačka) convened municipalities and regional development agencies to exchange ideas and identify opportunities for policy improvement.

The meeting focused on good practices gathered during recent study visits and set the stage for future workshops and collaborative actions. By fostering dialogue and cooperation, Serbia is building a strong foundation for sustainable local development, ensuring that regional policies align with the principles of circular economy and resource efficiency.

► Peer-to-Peer: Sharing Expertise Across Europe

CIM do Ave Joins European Peer Review on Food Loss Prevention

15th–16th July 2025 – Tarragona, Spain



CIM do Ave, Lead Partner of BIOPRO REGIONS, participated in an Interreg Europe peer review organised by the Policy Learning Platform to support the Tarragona Provincial Council in tackling food loss in agri-food production—a major economic and environmental challenge in Catalonia.

Drawing on BIOPRO REGIONS' experience, CIM do Ave contributed to discussions and helped shape practical recommendations to reduce food loss, promote short supply chains, and integrate circular economy principles into local policies.

🔗 [For more insights and highlights from the peer review, check out the dedicated LinkedIn post](#)



► Visibility & Outreach: Engaging Communities

On 30th August 2025, ALMPA promoted BIOPRO REGIONS at the Menkine Festival in Seaside Regional Park, Lithuania. With 1,000 participants, the event featured a roll-up banner and project materials, raising awareness about sustainable food systems and marking Interreg's 35th anniversary. By joining a popular cultural celebration, ALMPA successfully boosted visibility and local engagement.

► What's next?

The next partner seminar will take place in Hungary on 15–16 April 2026, hosted by CTRIA. Stay tuned for updates and outcomes from this event!

By the end of Semester 2 (April 2026), we'll showcase 10 inspiring Good Practices on the BIOPRO Regions website, covering:

- Green Europe
- Circular Economy
- Farm to Fork Strategy
- Short Supply Chains
- Local and Regional Products

BIOPRO Video under preparation: Soon you will have the opportunity to learn about the project through this video.

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