



Bioeconomy Changemakers Festival

Youth as drivers of the next EU bioeconomy

Brussels and satellite locations, March 2024

***Call for expressions of interest to become a satellite event at
the Bioeconomy Changemakers Festival 2024***

Date: 17-07-2023

Research and
Innovation

Do you think youth¹ should be empowered to drive the change towards a sustainable bioeconomy? Are you organising an event linking youth with bioeconomy innovation around the time of our Bioeconomy Changemakers Festival, or would you like to organise such an event? Then this call is for you, and we invite you to express your interest to become a satellite event of the “Bioeconomy Changemakers Festival” in March 2024!

What is the general concept of the festival?

The ‘Bioeconomy Changemakers Festival’ is an event organised by the European Commission, in collaboration with the [EU Bioeconomy Youth Ambassadors](#). It aims to engage youth as drivers of the transformative change required in view of the multiple challenges the EU is facing today, and to unlock the potential of the bioeconomy.

The festival will improve the connection between youth and bioeconomy innovation ecosystems and empower youth to act as catalysts towards the circular and sustainable use of biological resources.

The main target audience of the festival is youth engaged in or curious about the bioeconomy and ready to take part in the transformative change.

The festival will take place between 11 and 17/03/2024 in various locations across the EU. A high-level main event organised by the European Commission will take place in Brussels on 14 and 15 March 2024. A limited number of other events ('satellites') will be organized by interested companies and institutions in different locations all over the EU to enable youth to take part in the festival.

Who can express their interest?

You can apply if:

- You are a university, a school, a research institute, a company, an EU-funded project (e.g. Horizon Europe, Life), a national/regional/local authority, an association, an alliances, etc.
- You are organising or will organise an event on the bioeconomy or on a bioeconomy-related field (food systems, agriculture, ecosystems services, forestry, biobased industry, blue bioeconomy...) that engages youth.
- Your event complies with the eligibility criteria described below.
- You submit a concept note (max 2 pages) explaining specific focus, and justification of choices of activities and location. The concept note shall also lay out that the event meets the eligibility criteria below.

¹ Citizens between 18 and 35 years old, as a guideline in the frame of this festival

How do you express your interest?

Please complete the [form for expression of interest](#) and attach your event note by **10/09/2023 15:00 CET**.

In the concept note, you shall include and explain:

- The specific focus, expected outcomes and target audience of the event, the choice of the location, why they are relevant and how they link to the general concept of the festival.
- Your plan to comply with the eligibility criteria.
- A declaration indicating that the event will be financed out of own (or other secured) funds, the event will be inclusive and gender balanced, and will not be organised out of commercial interest.

The European Commission will evaluate the submissions and will announce between 3 and 8 selected submissions by the end of September 2023, depending on the quality of submissions. Geographical, sectoral and activities balance will be ensured throughout the selection process.

What is in it for you?

- Satellite events will get the branding of the bioeconomy changemakers festival (visual identity) and can use the following title: “Bioeconomy changemakers festival – Your city (e.g. Brussels) edition”.
- Satellite events will be included in the communication plan for whole festival.
- Satellite events will have the possibility to interact online with the main event.
- Your event will get recognition on their contribution to the Bioeconomy changemakers festival.

What are the eligibility criteria?

Date(s) of the event

The event shall take place in the week of 11-17/03/2024. On 14 and 15 March 2024, an interactive link with the main event in Brussels will be established, if requested. If so, the technical conditions must be available at the venue.

Budget

- The event needs to be covered with own budget or with budget that can be secured by own means.
- The event shall be free of charge for participants.
- The online or in-person event shall be easily accessible for and affordable to youth (e.g. hostels, train connections).

Concept of the satellite event

The event shall target the young generation and align to the objectives of the Bioeconomy Changemakers Festival:

- **Raising awareness** about the bioeconomy and what it can achieve.
- **Showcasing opportunities** available to accelerate bioeconomy innovation and upscaling and **presenting success stories**.
- **Engaging** more people in the bioeconomy and encouraging networking.
- **Providing input** to the next steps of the EU Bioeconomy policy.

Type and focus of activities of the event

Eligible activities are (details below):

- **Policy discussions** that involve youth.
- **Educational activities and career opportunities**.
- **Explaining the bioeconomy and raising awareness including through art and entertainment**.

A specific sectoral focus (e.g. forestry, ecosystem services, blue bioeconomy etc.) is possible.

Contribution to the ‘Youth Assembly of Action’

On 15/3/2024, the European Commission and the Bioeconomy Youth Ambassadors will organise a ‘Youth Assembly of Action’ with the expected outcome of a ‘Youth Declaration’. This declaration shall e.g. identify barriers and challenges for the bioeconomy, specific concerns of youth, suggest actions or policy measures for future national or EU Bioeconomy Strategies, etc.

This contribution needs to be well prepared previous of the Youth Assembly of Action as explained below.

While this activity is not mandatory, at least five satellite events are expected to contribute to the Youth Assembly of Action.

Further details will be shared with selected satellites event in September 2023.

Coordination

Each respondent to the call for expression of interest shall appoint one responsible correspondent who submits the expression of interest and – if the submission is successful – will be responsible for the organisation of the satellite event. The correspondent will also participate in regular (e.g. monthly) meetings with the European Commission.

Deliverables

After the event the organisers shall deliver a report of the event describing what was done, who was reached and what was achieved.

Geographical scope

The satellite events should be set-up and organised by an entity which is based in the European Union or Associated Countries to Horizon Europe.

Please contact RTD BIOECONOMY RTD-BIOECONOMY@ec.europa.eu for any question or clarification with regard to the Bioeconomy Changemakers Festival or this Call for expressions of interest to become a satellite event at the Bioeconomy Changemakers Festival.

Exemplary activities falling into ‘eligible’ categories

Category 1: Policy discussions that involve youth

The activities shall bring new insights on the EU Bioeconomy.

The respondents deciding to organise activities in this category are required to organise at least one youth action assembly preparatory atelier, before or during the festival. This atelier will bring together youth to discuss the EU Bioeconomy and brainstorm on the next steps needed for the bioeconomy. The atelier representatives (organisers or youth members taking part) will then connect with the youth action assembly *in Brussels on 15.03.2024* to provide their contribution (e.g. Eurovision style). In that case, the respondents shall foresee IT systems enabling live connections between satellites during the youth action assembly.

Examples of other activities:

- conference linking with the themes explored in the policy discussions
- Q&A sessions between youth and policymakers
- foresight scenarios dialogues
- etc.

Category 2: Educational activities and Career opportunities

The activities shall increase the knowledge of youth on the bioeconomy and enable to empower youth on their career paths as changemakers and innovators and show them the opportunities that are open to them.

Examples of activities:

- masterclass (e.g. on funding opportunities)
- workshops
- hackathons

- field trip (e.g. on farms) to showcase the bioeconomy in all areas of our economy
- living labs to give an interactive taste of the various elements of the bioeconomy
- matchmaking between youth and recruiting companies/start-ups
- job interviews simulations
- career talks
- etc.

Category 3: Explaining the bioeconomy and raising awareness including through art and entertainment

The activities in this category will bring a level of informality that is essential for youth to nurture solutions and actions in the frame of genuine and empathic conversations, thus removing the barriers between cultures, profiles, generations, etc.

Examples of activities:

- parade
- art corner
- artistic installations
- music performance or music contest
- stage performance such as: open mic, biobased fashion show, biobased light show (e.g. bioluminescence based)
- cooking performances
- film projections
- theatre plays
- live sketches
- artistic interviews
- fair of sustainable and healthy foods or sustainable circular biobased products
- bioeconomy meme competition
- bioeconomy comics competition
- bioeconomy quiz
- serious games
- etc.