



<https://capbio4.bg/en/>

CAPBIO4BG project

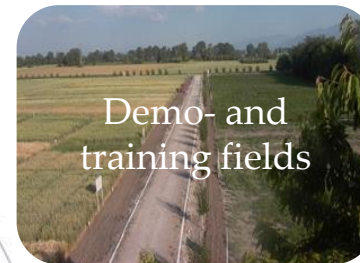
“Strengthening the research & innovation capacity in the area of Bioeconomy for the Plovdiv region”

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Favourable conditions to develop Bioeconomy Living Labs and a Regional Knowledge Hub

75-years leader in providing higher education at BSc, MSc and PhD level in agri-food sub-sectors of agronomy, plant protection, livestock husbandry, horticulture, agroecology and agricultural economy in Bulgaria.



How was the consortium of the project created? What were the necessary preconditions to start the project?



- ❑ Researchers connected by the Dutch Embassy in Sofia, WUR and AUP
- ❑ Current state-of-development of R&I in AUP introduced
- ❑ H2020 Twinning programme opportunity identified
- ❑ Theme of common (future) interest identified (i.e. Bioeconomy)
- ❑ Good contacts in network of EU Bioeconomy Universities
- ❑ Strong involvement of key players in proposal development (by all core partners)



- ❑ Mutual interest to align current AUP Bioeconomy **education programmes** with those of the EU advanced universities
- ❑ Mutual interest to widen collaboration in **R&I programmes between** AUP Bioeconomy and those of the EU advanced universities
- ❑ **Needs** for building capacity on Bioeconomy research at AUP identified



- ❑ Bioeconomy-advanced sectors in Plovdiv region identified and visited
- ❑ Needs of regional and national Bioeconomy stakeholders inventorised
- ❑ Liaison with other projects i.e. CELEBio (BBI-JU) realised
- ❑ Opportunities for pilot Bioeconomy Living Lab in Plovdiv region identified

Capacity Building Framework (CBF) for research & innovation

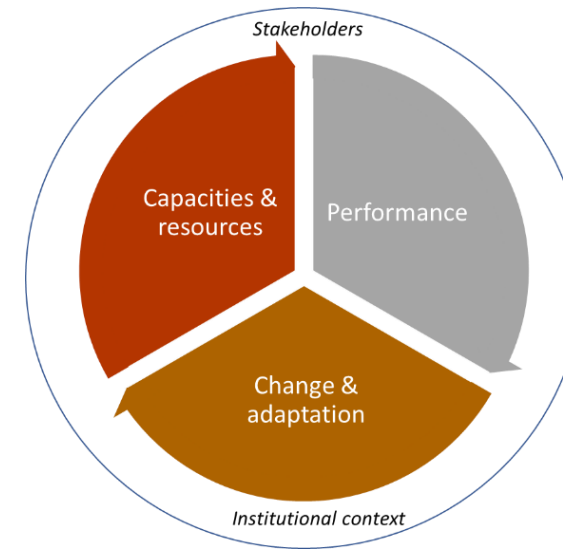
CAPBIO4BG Objectives and Approach

To strengthen the AUP R&I programmes and capacity to develop and implement R&I projects in Bioeconomy value chains at regional, national and international scale

H2020 Twinning project: closing innovation gap in Europe

National Programme "European Scientific Networks" of Ministry of Education and Science of Bulgaria

Core task



Scaling up the regional and national **Bioeconomy**

Establish a critical mass of AUP researchers capable of designing and managing interdisciplinary **R&I programmes** in **Bioeconomy**

Increase the AUP researchers' skills in **Bioeconomy R&D project** participation and execution

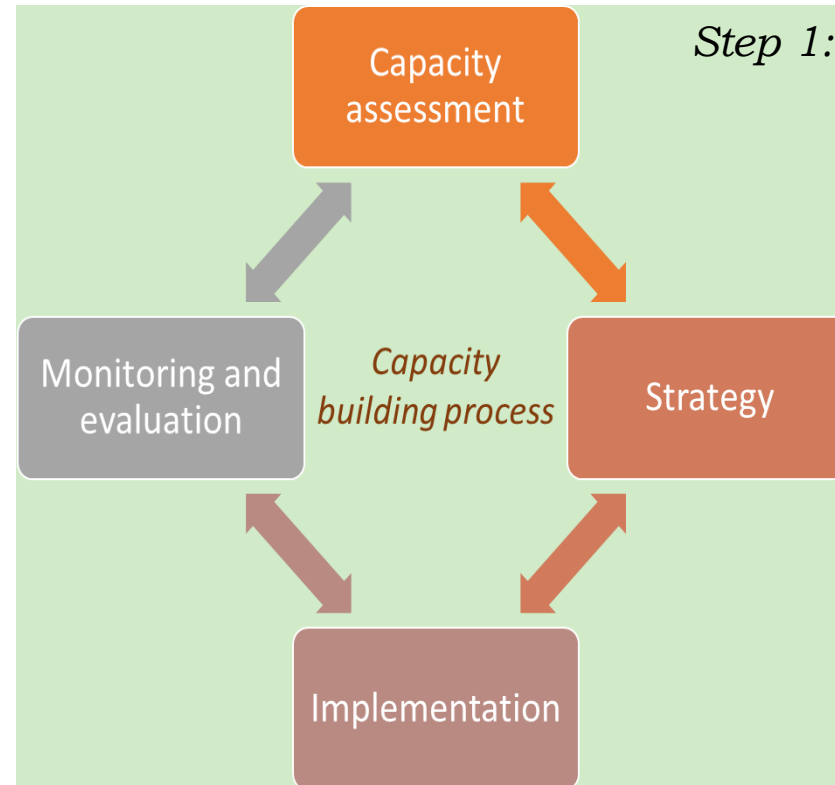
Establish new AUP's partnerships with regional **Bioeconomy stakeholders**

Enhance the research profile, recognition and attractiveness of the AUP, peer review publications (h-factor) etc.

Establish inter-disciplinary **knowledge data-base** and know-how channels and networks on **Bioeconomy**

Capacity Building process for Bioeconomy Research & Innovation at AUP

Step 4: Monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the capacity building process



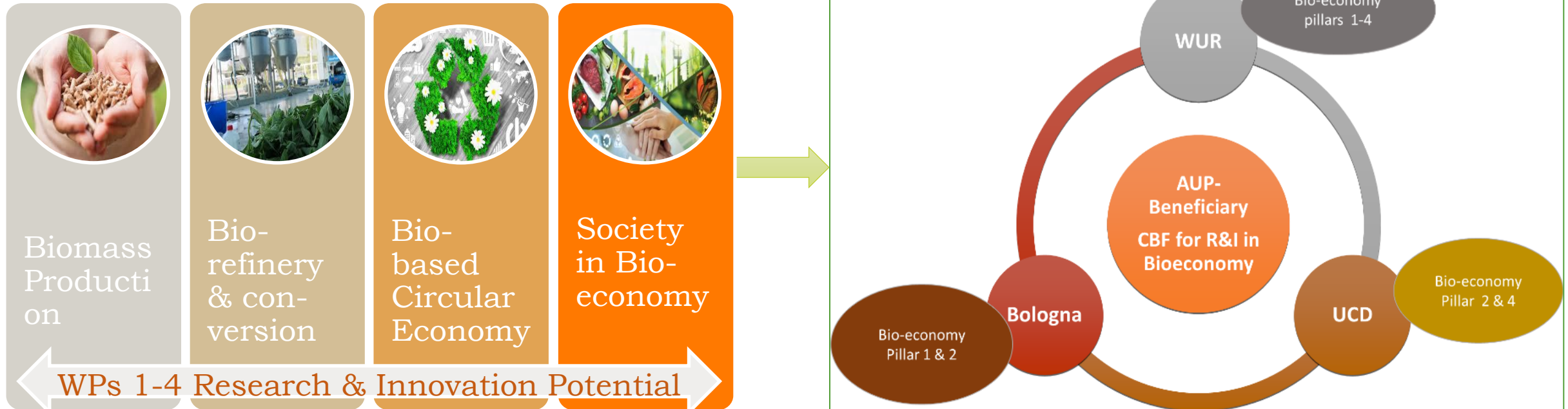
Step 1: Capacity assessment: needs and knowledge gap analysis

Step 2: Development of a strategy and a program for capacity building on Bioeconomy research at the AUP

Step 3: Implementation of Strategy – key roles of the AUP research teams individual, organizational and institutional

Role of partners WUR, UCD and UNIBO in the knowledge transfer on Bioeconomy in CAPBIO4BG

- The Bioeconomy CBF and a new R&I programme at the AUP developed by combining know-how from three advanced EU Universities
- The CBF for boosting the R&I potential of AUP based on key pillars:



How do you experience the cooperation in the project so far? What are the learnt lessons?

Project Management

Tuning of national procedures with the EU (e.g. Horizon Europe) procedures
New approaches in pandemic situations
Financial procedures agreed well in advance

Collaboration of partners

Pro-active involvement of all partners is needed
Faster response to the request of the receiving partner (AUP)

Know-how exchange/transfer

More efficient Needs Assessment and Knowledge Gaps studies i.e. for more efficient response to Bioeconomy development
Clear division of know-how transfer for R&I and for Education programmes

Involvement of receiving University (i.e. AUP)

More efficient involvement of the Core Focus Group of (future) Bioeconomy researchers
Project is more than exchange of information, but also involves setting up together a change process

What are, in your opinion, crucial factors determining the success or failure of a project like this?

Preparatory phase:

- ❑ Engagement of partners and key experts/researchers by on-site (country) visits, focus group discussions, etc.
- ❑ Engagement and involvement of project (target) stakeholders
- ❑ Adapt approaches/ instruments to local conditions (AUP, Bioeconomy)

Execution phase:

- ❑ Ensure active involvement of all partners in all project tasks (WPs)
- ❑ Use efficient learning instruments for know-how transfer
- ❑ Ensure active participation of selected (core) researchers

Other:

- ❑ Adjust to and align with the national R&I policies and actions/initiatives
- ❑ Engage relevant policy-makers in project implementation (national, regional)
- ❑ Use existing and relevant expertise from previous (or parallel) projects in the topic area
- ❑ Ensure efficient project communication (incl. at the EU-level)



Thank you for your attention...!

