



## Performance of joint calls and other impact indicators of bioeconomy ERA-NETs

Cost-benefit indicators are considered valuable for orientation and decision making at all levels, since they report achievements and allow future planning. In a study the PLATFORM project has measured up the activities of bioeconomy related European Research Area Networks (ERA-NETs) of FP6 and FP7 with regards to the associated efforts and outcomes of call implementation and implicit networking activities.

The benefits are clear. Between 2004 and 2013, covering the period of FP6 and FP7, 153 ERA-NETs and 23 ERA-NET Plus actions were created. The networks have organised some 325 joint calls with a total of estimated € 2.4 billion public funding.



These impressive figures stand for the global picture, but of course there are differential call balances and individual developments within and across single ERA-NETs within this ten year period.

But what were the costs? A PLATFORM study reveals that it is always important to consider the scope and research field of an individual network, but some general conclusions apply:

- The bioeconomy ERA-NETs managed to mobilise on average € 12 million for a call, but the funding varies notably: from a small pilot of just € 1 million, up to large calls with volumes between € 30 and 40 million.
- On average, the implementation of a call required a joint effort of approximately 50 person months.
- Additional costs necessary to generate a project can be benchmarked with € 33 k per project.
- National funding contributions leverage the EU funding of ERA-NETs by a factor 5 to 40, with an implicit positive trend towards higher values as long as the networks remain active.
- Cost-benefit indicators are considered valuable for orientation and decision making at all levels, since they report achievements and allow future planning.



The outcome of this study is interesting for all ERA-NET stakeholders and also other entities that perform joint calls, because it provides figures on the costs and outcomes of implemented joint calls. It can serve for orientation on transfer costs associated with the implementation of joint calls and provide benchmarks for the cost planning of transnational funding instruments. It will equally well inform policy makers engaged in the bioeconomy and build a basis for decision making.

Read more in the full report 'Cost benefit analysis of KBBE ERA-NETs'. This paper constitutes Deliverable 3.2 of PLATFORM and is part of the work package Mutual Learning. The main objective of this work package is to create an open learning environment that facilitates sharing good practice and experience between bioeconomy ERA-NET actors, as well as relevant JPIs and SCAR Working Groups. The results address important items for the success of the activities of ERA-NETs individually and their compiled impact on the bioeconomy. All reports can be found on the website:

[www.era-platform.eu](http://www.era-platform.eu)

#### About the European Bioeconomy and ERA-NETs

The transition towards a bioeconomy, and the potential of research and innovation to produce 'more and better-quality', contributes to square the circle of ensuring food security, reducing the carbon footprint, recycling natural resources, and new jobs and competitiveness. The European Commission and more and more Member States capitalise on the bioeconomy aiming to secure a competitive food market and to optimise primary production in a global context and in a sustainable way.

More than 30 European Research Area Networks (ERA-NETs) in the bioeconomy sectors have been funded under FP6 and FP7. Through coordination and collaboration between national research programmes, these networks contribute to meeting the challenges Europe faces on the path towards a sustainable bioeconomy, be it in the area of agriculture, forestry or the marine, and on topics ranging from biotechnologies, application of ICT and robotics, organic food and farming, forest-based materials, statutory plant health, rural development, infectious diseases of livestock, or plant sciences.

**PLATFORM**, the FP7 project 'Platform of Knowledge Based Bioeconomy Relevant ERA-NETs' offers mutual learning and networking opportunities to the ERA-NET actors and has developed into a robust forum for funders and programme managers. PLATFORM facilitates increased coordination and cooperation among the networks, for maximising synergies and rationalisation in the area of the bioeconomy.