



An innovative vision of Bioeconomy problems in class: The BLOOM Project

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The BLOOM (Boosting European Citizens' Knowledge and Awareness of Bio-Economy Research and Innovation) project aims to bring together partners from across Europe to debate, communicate and engage with the public in the potential of the bioeconomy. This is an economy based on biomass which promises to foster a circular economy and to enhance climate change mitigation, while reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

BLOOM is a coordination and support project, funded by the Horizon 2020 framework of the European Union. The project is running from 2017 to 2020 and aims to bring together partners from across Europe to debate, communicate and engage the public in the potential of the bioeconomy. This is an economy that is based on biomass promises to foster a circular economy and to enhance climate change mitigation, while reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

The BLOOM Project has four main objectives: 1. Raise awareness, 2. Reduce the fragmentation of awareness strategies and build up and strengthen a bioeconomy community, 3. Gain a common understanding, 4. Foster (social) learning and education.

BLOOM makes knowledge and research about the bioeconomy available for educational purposes. It provides applications for different levels of educational school programmes, vocational training, and others. BLOOM supports learning processes between the regional knowledge and innovation centres and the citizens, advancing capacities and competences.

Across Europe, five regional hubs have been established to foster public engagement in the bioeconomy and to create a space for information exchanges and debates. The hubs focus on various subjects that are important to the regions. They enlarge their regional networks with Civil Society Organisations and engage young European citizens, science communication networks, non-governmental organisations, media and – crucially – the general public, through a series of co-creation workshops and outreach activities. Schools in different European countries are involved and the bioeconomy integrated into school systems in Europe.

20 pilot teachers, two per country, representing schools from Greece, Austria, Spain, Sweden, Poland, Italy, Belgium, Portugal, Israel and Croatia, have been selected by the project's consortium to produce new teaching resources about the bioeconomy, test those resources in their schools/classrooms and provide feedback on their implementation. These pilot teachers teach physics, biology, mathematics, engineering, technology and chemistry in their respective schools encourage, train and support other teachers and schools in using resources of the BLOOM project and disseminating its work, resources and opportunities related to the bioeconomy in their regions. They support and contribute to the development of a MOOC dedicated to the bioeconomy and its applications in teaching, at primary and secondary education levels.

The BLOOM repository is a searchable tool with information about the bioeconomy and educational content, currently available on the Internet. It includes all the materials generated by the project, such as educational and outreach materials, videos, virtual experiments, posts, virtual live events, dissemination activities, and more.