

Small-scale bio-based solutions promoting the regional development of bioeconomy

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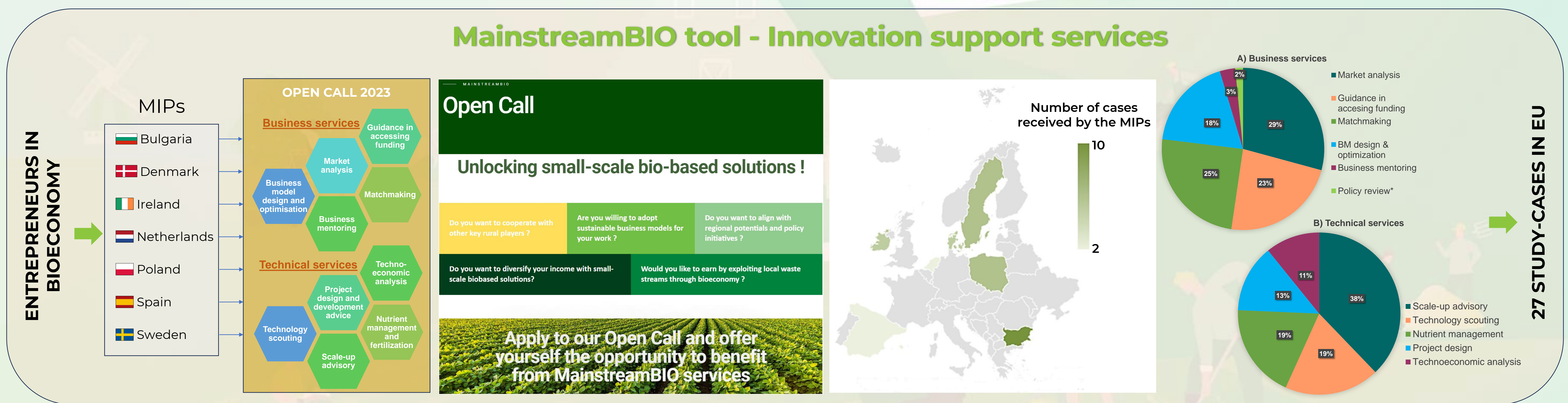
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Introduction:

MainstreamBIO is a HORIZON EUROPE's Coordination and Support Action project funded by the European Union that sets out to contribute towards supporting the deployment of small-scale bio-based solutions into the mainstream across seven focal rural regions of Europe (Netherlands, Poland, Denmark, Sweden, Bulgaria, Spain, Ireland). Despite the potential that small-scale bio-based solutions have to promote bioeconomy regionally, its uptake across Europe is far from straightforward due to missing connections between bio-based products and value chains, insufficient awareness on market opportunities, and lack of financial support. MainstreamBIO aims to support the development of innovative small-scale solutions by bringing together key regional players, boosting their collaboration, exploring opportunities and co-creating solutions to engage and speed up SMEs in the deployment of bioeconomy.

Methodology:

One of the MainstreamBIO tools to accelerate the deployment of small-scale bio-based solutions is the delivery of tailored innovation support services to regional SMEs.



Outcomes:

The main outcomes found for three study cases supported by the MIP in Sweden are summarized below. They all have in common the use of underutilized forestry and agricultural side streams to produce sustainable and marketable bio-based materials, and, thus, represent interesting examples of value creation that has the potential to accelerate bioeconomy growth in Sweden.



Conclusions:

MainstreamBIO has promoted the business acceleration of 27 SMEs working with promising cases that represent great contributions towards bioeconomy growth. The Swedish case studies here presented have demonstrated sustainable routes to valorize forestry and agricultural side streams and introduced new bio-based products to the market, and so represent relevant models for the value creation of the region that could be transferred to other areas rich in the same streams contemplated. MainstreamBIO has supported them in taking one step forward towards commercialization by providing new knowledge to their business and expanding their network. However, most of them lack the proper funding support to finally reach the market. This highlights the importance of EU programs such as MainstreamBIO and emphasizes the need to keep them in order to support the continuous development of great ideas that promote the transition towards a more sustainable society.

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