The BIOREGIO (Regional Circular Economy Models and Best Available Technologies for Biological Streams) project second interregional meeting was held on 28 and 29 November 2017 in the Spanish region of Castilla – La Mancha.

The main aim of this project meeting in Spain was continuing and deepening the active cooperation between the partners and stakeholders. On this occasion, the meeting was focused on biorefinery and high-value products. The interesting programme included workshops, expert presentations, thematic seminars and site visits in the field of circular bioeconomy. The partners and stakeholders met in the Spanish cities Puertollano and Toledo to learn about good practices of the Castilla – La Mancha region.

The first day focused on presentations of policies that intensively enforce the circular economy and bioeconomy in each region, a mini workshop on using social media, presentations of good practices in the Castilla–La Mancha region, and thematic seminars with guest speakers.

The representatives of each of the six regions (from Finland, Spain, Greece, Slovakia, Romania and France) presented the current state of policy development. In case of the Slovak partner, the policy is the Economic and Social Development Plan of the Nitra Self-Governing Region (NSGR). NSGR is the main stakeholder in the project; similarly, the regions are the main stakeholders in other partner countries. The objective of the work of universities and stakeholders in BIOREGIO is to develop an action plan for bioenergy development in the home region.

Later, the Spanish region provided seven presentations of good practices in the Castilla – La Mancha region (Biomasa Peninsular, Universidad de Alcalá, Enemansa, Ence, Gesreman, Champinter and CLAMBER Plant biorefinery). Two parallel workshops were organised, i.e.
a mini Twitter workshop (to boost the visibility of BIOREGIO in social media) and a steering group meeting (discussion about the policy development and action plan). During the thematic seminar, two guest speakers introduced the results of research and development conducted in the region in the field of bioeconomy, biorefinery and biogas production. At the end of the first intensive day, the BIOREGIO group had the opportunity to visit the CLAMBER Plant biorefinery in Puertollano.

During the second day, the group visited two sites of good practices of circular bioeconomy and effective waste management – Castellano Manchegas de Limpieza in Madridejos and Ecoparque de Toledo in Toledo.

The following workshops related to administration and communication issues were conducted at the regional Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Development in Toledo. During the last session of the event, Dr. Manuel Lainez, the Director of National Institute for Agricultural and Food Research and Technology (INIA) and agri-food research in Spain presented the Spanish Bioeconomy Strategy.

BIOREGIO has started in January 2017 and it will last for five years (until December 2021). Three faculties of the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra participate in the implementation of this project, i.e. the Faculty of European Studies and Regional Development, the Faculty of Economics and Management, and the Faculty of Engineering. The project is solved within the Interreg Europe programme that provided to BIOREGIO an amount of EUR 1.30 million (ERDF).