

# Czech Republic

Empowering the Central and Eastern European Countries to Develop Bioeconomy Strategies and Action Plans

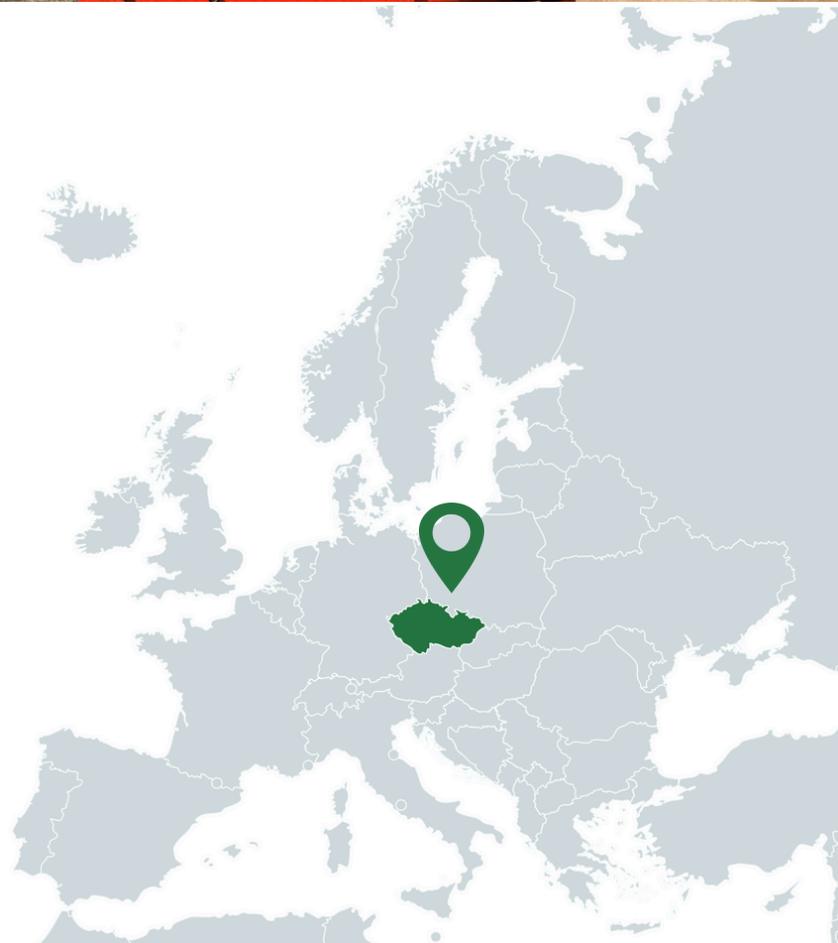


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Established in September 2023 and led by the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (CZU), the **Czech National Bioeconomy Hub (NBH)** has quickly positioned itself as a unique platform for dialogue and collaboration. From the outset, the Hub faced the dual task of introducing the bioeconomy concept to stakeholders and demonstrating its practical relevance for existing bioeconomy activities.

By bringing together diverse stakeholders from research, business, regional authorities and ministries, it has helped transform the bioeconomy from an unfamiliar concept into a shared national agenda. Through regular meetings and workshops, the Hub has created a space for stakeholders to exchange ideas, identify opportunities and discuss the practical challenges of developing the bioeconomy in the Czech context.



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## Challenges

The Czech Hub's journey has come with several challenges. Sustaining active in-person participation, especially from ministries with limited time and shifting responsibilities, required significant effort.

Maintaining stakeholder engagement with different levels of bioeconomy awareness was also a challenge. Coordinating diverse sectors with varying priorities and technical focus has been equally demanding.

**Strengthen the private sector's participation is a key next step.** This requires a clear business cases for each stakeholder and greater awareness of the value of bioeconomy.

Some stakeholders were relatively new to the topic and needed capacity building about what bioeconomy means and what principles it encompasses. Language barriers occasionally hindered active participation in international, English-speaking events or the use of knowledge-transfer materials.



## Key successes

One of the Czech Hub's main achievements is its success in fostering discussion and networking among stakeholders who previously lacked a forum to share and align their perspectives on bioeconomy.

### Key successes include:



**Progressive workshops:** The Hub designed its three core workshops to evolve from foundational awareness-raising (clarifying definitions and providing examples) to concrete outputs like a roadmap and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).



**Diverse representation:** Bringing together academia, companies (including large businesses outside the forestry sector), regional governments and associations allowed unexpected connections and new project ideas.



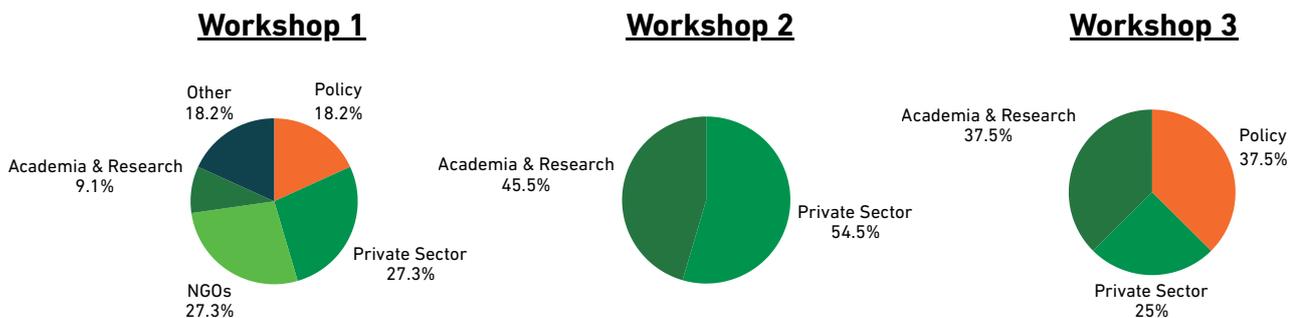
**Tangible best practices:** The Hub facilitated several detailed discussions on key national topics such as the sustainable use of biomass, the country's main renewable energy resource as well as hemp utilisation. These discussions also indicated a need for new scientific studies.



## Bottom-up stakeholder engagement

The Czech Hub has shown how consistent, bottom-up engagement can turn awareness into collaboration. **Face-to-face meetings are key** although flexibility is often required, e.g., in form of hybrid meetings to allow all stakeholders to join. Early workshops focused on clarifying bioeconomy concepts and linking them to existing activities, while later discussions explored biomass use, research needs and policy coordination across ministries. By 2025, the focus shifted toward developing a national bioeconomy roadmap and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to guide future cooperation.

The dedicated meetings had helped stakeholders see bioeconomy as a solution to some of their future challenges, opening access to new fundings and connecting regional efforts to national priorities. Furthermore, the bottom-up approach has attracted the attention of policymakers as ministries were looking for feedback. Associations had supported in the outreach, while practical examples and peer learning proved effective in keeping engagement high.



**Feedback received through a hub survey was highly positive:** Respondents (almost 90%) felt they had enough opportunities to express their expectations and goals. They also reported improved communication with greater confidence in discussing bioeconomy (90%), and increased knowledge of related challenges and solutions (60%), with many expressing interest to continue their involvement with the Hub (90%). Additionally, participant lists show that the three workshops achieved a relatively balanced gender representation.



To build on this progress, **the Hub developed an MoU to formalise stakeholder collaboration** and link with the national Bioeconomy Platform, helping strengthen research, education and dialogue on the future of the Czech bioeconomy. The MoU is brief and flexible, and balances concrete commitments with the need to avoid deterring stakeholders, who were wary of signing overly specific obligations.



**The Hub has successfully organised an MoU signing on November 4, 2025.** Future steps include adding checkpoints to monitor progress under the MoU and using it as a tool to deepen collaboration over the next three to five years.



## Sustainability and the Role of CEE2ACT

The Czech Hub, coordinated by the CZU, will continue under its current leadership with the possibility of transitioning the Hub to the national Bioeconomy Platform in the future. Keeping the hub anchored in a research institution ensures strong links to knowledge, networks and policy dialogue - one reason that academia and research actors remain the key drivers of this agenda.

The CEE2ACT has played a crucial role in supporting the Hub's development. Stakeholders particularly value the tools, guidance, and peer exchanges, including practical advice on designing the MoU with flexibility and navigating national challenges. **Learning from other hubs and countries has been especially inspiring**, helping to demonstrate how Czech Republic's bioeconomy can connect to wider European contexts.



## Lessons Learned and a Way Forward

The Czech Hub highlights the **importance of a continuous awareness-raising**, especially for stakeholders that are new to bioeconomy, while also bringing in new participants. Engaging diverse sectors can foster valuable discussions, sparks new ideas, and opens the door to collaborations and innovations. Combining national and local perspectives helps highlight where practical actions and research are most needed, with biomass and hemp as prime examples.

Looking ahead, the **Hub aims to maintain its bottom-up engagement**, strengthen collaboration through the MoU, and grow as a trusted national platform supporting the country's transition to a sustainable, circular bioeconomy.



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