

Slovak BioEconomy Valley 2026

BioEconomy Forum V4+

Conference motto: "Bioeconomy connects countries"

Date: 5 – 6 November 2026

Venue: Galicia Nueva Castle Hotel, Halič near Lučenec, Slovak Republic

Working languages: Slovak and English · simultaneous interpreting SK ⇄ EN on both days

Organisers: Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica and the BioPark Slovakia association

Under the auspices of: the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic

In cooperation with: the Banská Bystrica Self-Governing Region and the town of Lučenec

Preliminary programme — working version as of 29 July 2026. The time schedule of the blocks is binding; panel line-ups and speakers' names are being added on an ongoing basis. The organisers reserve the right to make changes.

About the third edition

The third edition builds on two successful previous editions and takes the conference into a supra-regional V4+ dimension. By "+" we mean primarily Romania, whose participation has been confirmed, and further European partners with whom negotiations are under way (Portugal, Denmark, Norway).

The main line of the conference is the unification of the rules for biomethane production within the V4+ and the dissemination of the National Action Plan for the Support of Biomethane Production in the Slovak Republic, while retaining space for broader bioeconomy topics.

Conference objectives

1. To disseminate the Slovak National Action Plan for Biomethane and to seek a common approach to harmonising the rules for supporting biomethane production within the V4+.
2. To present investment and project opportunities in the bioeconomy that can be implemented in the south of the Banská Bystrica Region.
3. To connect international project consortia, local and regional governments, the state, investors and research.
4. To give space to innovation through the competitive Innovation Arena and the Innovation Zone.

Day 1 — Thursday 5 November 2026

The National Plan, the V4 and the broader bioeconomy agenda

Time	Programme item	Format
13:00 – 14:00	Registration and check-in · setting up the Innovation Zone	—
14:00 – 14:30	Official opening of the conference Representatives of Matej Bel University, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, the Ministry of Economy and the Banská Bystrica Region	<i>opening</i>
14:30 – 15:50	BLOCK 1 (SK) · National Action Plan for Biomethane in the Slovak Republic Keynote lecture and presentation panel · handover of the plan to the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic	<i>lecture + panel</i>
15:50 – 16:20	Coffee break · Innovation Zone	—
16:20 – 17:40	BLOCK 2 (EN) · Biomethane support in the V4 — a common approach Presentation panel of representatives of the V4+ countries	<i>panel</i>
17:40 – 18:00	Coffee break	—
18:00 – 19:00	BLOCK 3 (EN) · A bioeconomy that connects countries Networks, education, know-how transfer and support activities	<i>panel</i>
19:00 – 19:15	Summary of the first day Vladimír Hladlovský, Rector of Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica · addition of further signatories, including international ones, to the Halič Memorandum	<i>closing of the day</i>
19:15 – 22:00	Dinner with a cultural programme and networking 20:30 – 20:50 · concert by the world-renowned soprano Adriana Kučerová with piano accompaniment 21:00 – 22:00 · performance by the young violin virtuoso Marcel Anthony Alman, a pupil of Dalibor Karvay	<i>social programme and networking</i>

BLOCK 1 (SK) · National Action Plan for Biomethane in the Slovak Republic

Vladimír Mužila, Chair of the Working Group for the preparation of the National Action Plan for the Support of Biomethane Production, will present the current status and the rationale of the plan. This will be followed by a presentation panel with members of the Working Group on implementation and the next steps. The block includes the official handover of the plan to the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic.

BLOCK 2 (EN) · Biomethane support in the V4 — a common approach

A presentation panel of representatives of the V4 countries (Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary) and of partners in the V4+ format: a comparison of national support schemes and instruments and the search for a common approach to harmonising the rules — guarantees of origin, auctions and support schemes, quotas, and conditions for cross-border trade.

BLOCK 3 (EN) · A bioeconomy that connects countries

A presentation panel of international partners on a broader topic: support activities, cluster networking, education and know-how transfer, and the circular economy. Space for partners to present more general bioeconomy topics, not only biomethane.

Day 2 — Friday 6 November 2026

Innovation in the bioeconomy

Time	Programme item	Format
7:00 – 9:00	Breakfast and check-out · Innovation Zone open	—
9:00 – 9:20	Innovation Zone LIVE — flash presentations by exhibitors	<i>flash</i>
9:20 – 9:30	Opening of the Innovation Arena Rules, voting and presentation of the award	<i>introduction</i>
9:30 – 11:00	INNOVATION ARENA — contestants' pitches and expert jury voting	<i>pitch / interactive</i>
11:00 – 11:20	Coffee break · last tour of the Innovation Zone and closing of the vote	—
11:20 – 12:00	Announcement of the BioEconomy Valley Laureate for Innovation Conclusions and closing of the conference	<i>ceremony</i>
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	—

Innovation Zone LIVE

Short flash presentations by exhibitors on stage, each of about three minutes, with an invitation to their stands — no long presentations, just “why it is worth coming to see us”.

Innovation Arena

The centrepiece of the second day. Approximately five to seven pitches (7-minute presentation + 3 minutes for questions) on innovative business ideas from the bioeconomy — processing of biodegradable waste, lignocellulose and marginal land, biorefineries, digestate and fertilisers, the social economy in biomass collection, biomethane in transport, human resources development and more.

Innovation Zone

- Stands and posters in the hotel corridors, open on both days of the conference.
- The zone is open to everyone: international consortia (Horizon), domestic projects (Slovakia Programme, APVV, the Recovery Plan), university and student teams, start-ups and biogas plant operators.
- Every contestant in the Innovation Arena also has their own stand in the Innovation Zone.
- **BioMatch:** informal, targeted meetings of exhibitors with local governments and stakeholders from the south of the Banská Bystrica Region during the breaks and dinner.

The “BioEconomy Valley Laureate for Innovation” Award

A competitive and community element of the conference, launched as its first edition to build a tradition.

- **Evaluation:** by a vote of the expert jury during the Innovation Arena.
- **Symbolism:** a trophy and a certificate, and a “wall of winners” recording every edition.
- **Support package for the winner:** facilitation of the preparation of a project proposal by BioPark Slovakia, guaranteed space at the next edition, media coverage, connection to investors and a prize in kind from the conference partners.

Contact and registration

Registration, sign-up for the Innovation Arena and Zone and current information: www.bioeconomyvalley.sk

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