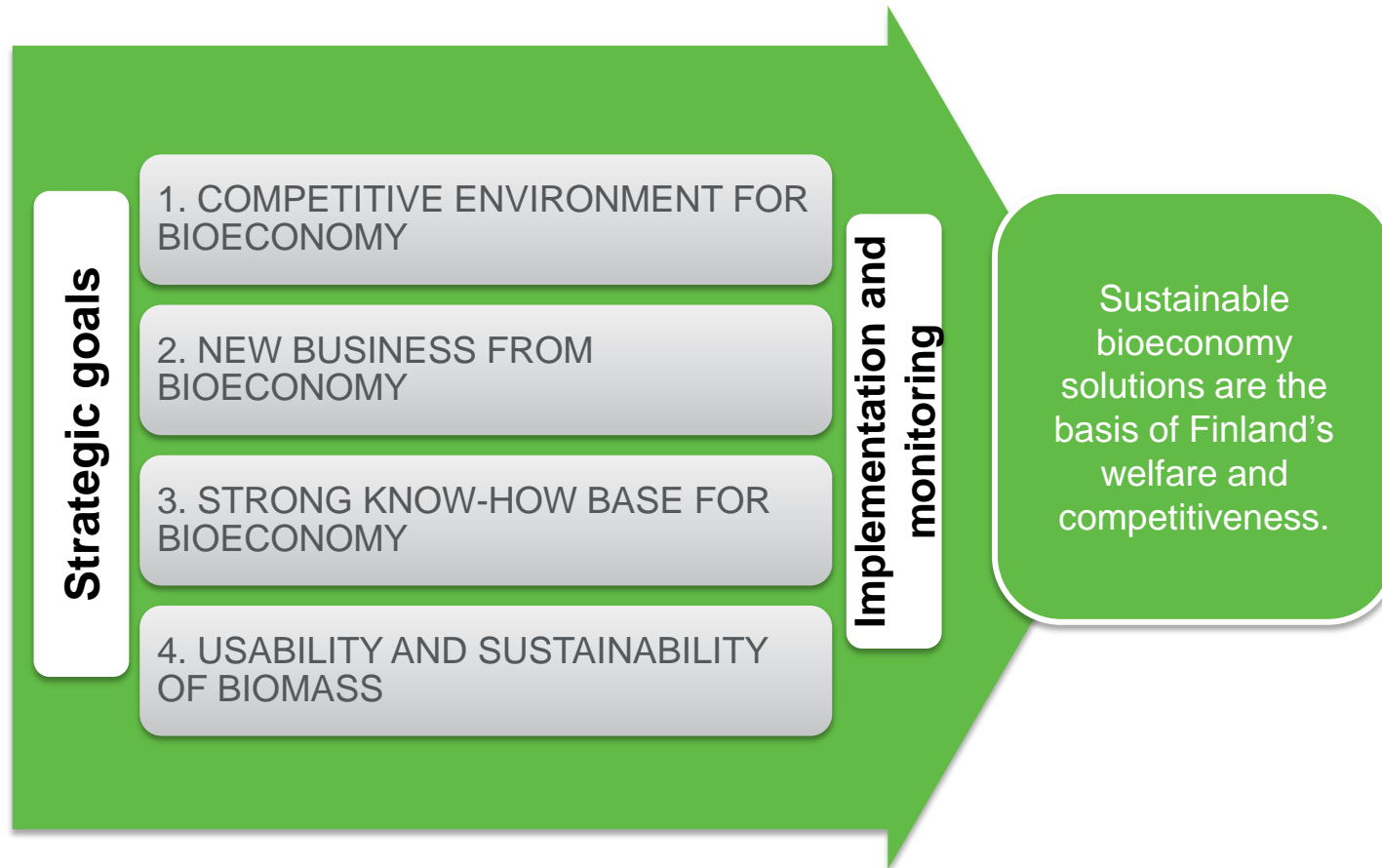


# BioSTEP FORUM

## Effektive stakeholder and public participation in the development of a bioeconomy strategy

- 29.3.2017
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- Bio-based Business and Industry, Recycling economy solutions
- <http://www.luke.fi/>

# Finland's bioeconomy strategy



# Bioeconomy Strategy process in Finland

- The strategy planning process started already in 2012, it was ready in 2013 and was published in 2014
- The Bioeconomy Strategy was drafted in a project set up by the Ministry of Employment and the Economy.
- Several participants in this project:
  - the Prime Minister's Office
  - all the Ministries (the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, the Ministry of Finance),
  - the administrative branches under these Ministries
  - VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland
  - the Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra
- Other stakeholders (e.g business, research, NGOs) and individual citizens were also invited to express their views, largely through open events, as well as via a bioeconomy website



bioeconomy+



# How was the participation arranged?

- **Governmental stakeholders participation**
  - An Executive Group and a Working Group were set and tasked with developing a strategy,
  - These two groups were responsible for writing the strategy document and taking the final decision on the content
- **Business, research, sub-national authorities and NGOs participation**
  - Workshops (5) 500-600 participants invited
  - Regional Bioeconomy forums (3)
  - Industry hearings
  - Interaction with regional and local authorities.
  - Direct consultations on the draft strategy with some organizational stakeholders
  - Stakeholder discussions
- **Citizens**
  - Communication support group was established
  - Information through websites ([www.biotalous.fi](http://www.biotalous.fi), [www.otakantaa.fi](http://www.otakantaa.fi)) , social media, workshops were open also to individual citizens

# Remarks of the strategy development process

- 1) Open, interactive process, covering wide range of participants
- 2) Broad concept of bioeconomy enable engagement of different sectors (not just biomasses, also well being services)
- 3) Consensus of the importance of bioeconomy strategy
- 4) Understanding how different sectors were related to the strategy (circular economy thinking as a tool for this)

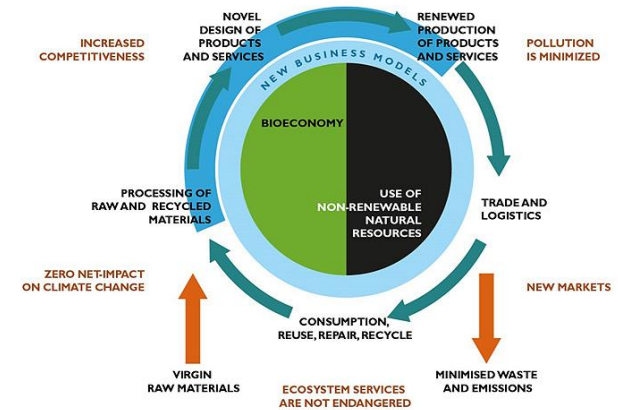


- 5) Relevant means for strategy implementation were available already in 2014 (for example funding was well prepared)
- 6) Bioeconomy Panel as a platform for stakeholder dialogue
- 8) Ongoing process in terms of public discussion (for example researchers have raised several issues in public discussion)



# Challenges

- How to consult all the relevant stakeholders?
- How to take into consideration, in a balanced way, all different opinions (e.g. business actors, environmental actors)?
- How to promote active influence of individual citizens, not just disseminating information?
- Limited interest of citizens: Grass root level understanding of bioeconomy requires concrete examples of what bioeconomy is in every day context



Thank you!





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