

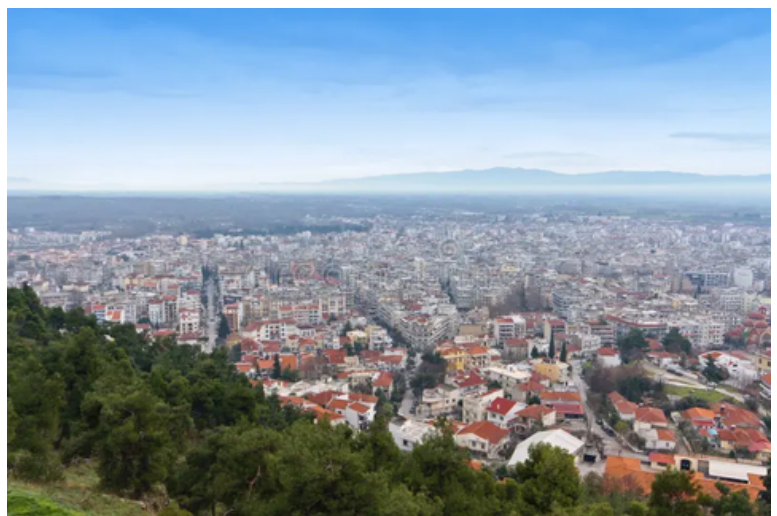
DRIVE NEWSLETTER



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The **SERRES** Roadshow:

1. Agenda
2. Challenges
3. Outcomes
 - What's next?
 - Stay Connected



Welcome to the third Newsletter of **DRIVE - Driving Rural Innovation through startup Villages across Europe** - is a Horizon Europe Coordination and Support Action dedicated to strengthening rural innovation ecosystems. It does so by connecting startups with accelerators, mentors, and funding bodies through dynamic roadshows, hackathons, and training events.

The Serres Roadshow

“Serres Bioeconomy Hackathon 2025”

We're thrilled to bring the second DRIVE Roadshow to the Regional Unit of Serres! From 10 to 12 November, green tech pioneers will gather in Serres to tackle “Serres Bioeconomy Hackathon 2025” to convert regional biomass into high value food, materials and energy.

AGENDA	
DAY 1	
Afternoon	Arrival & Welcome
DAY 2 - Hackathon Kickoff & CO-creation	
9-9.30	Registration and welcome
9.30-10.45	Opening Plenary: Local Address & Introduction to the DRIVE Project
10.45-11	Team Allocation for Parallel Tracks
11-12.30	Parallel Sessions: • Sustainability & SME Business Models • Social Innovation for SMEs • Access to Finance & Circular Economy
12.30-14	Lunch & Networking with Experts
14-18	Hackathon Challenge begins local challenge co-creation, ideation & development

DAY 3 - Hackathon Finale	
9-12.30	Project development, mentoring & prototype building
12.30-14	Lunch
14-15.45	Final Presentations/Pitches
16-17.30	Jury deliberation & winner announcement
18	Closing remarks & Farewell

CHALLENGE STATEMENT

The Regional Unit of Serres, with its strong agricultural foundation, is emerging as a dynamically developing area in the field of bioeconomy. The concept of bioeconomy, which focuses on the sustainable use of biological resources for the production of food, energy, and materials, is particularly well-suited to Serres, due to its agricultural tradition and the growing business landscape.

The global transition to a sustainable future requires bold ideas and innovative solutions across the entire bioeconomy. Your mission is to design an innovative solution that addresses real-world challenges using renewable biological resources across one or more sectors of the bioeconomy. Partnerships with established local businesses are strongly encouraged. These collaborations can take various forms — for example, co-developing and launching a new product tailored to the region's strengths and market needs. recycling/upgrading of biological waste

Sectors You Can Innovate In:

- Agriculture: Develop smart farming technologies, precision agriculture tools, or sustainable crop/livestock solutions that reduce environmental impact and increase yield using renewable inputs.
 - Food and Beverage Industry: Innovate in food processing, reduction of food waste, upcycling of by-products, or the creation of bio-based and compostable packaging alternatives.
 - Bioenergy: Develop new ways to generate biofuels, biogas, or efficient biomass-based heating and power systems. Explore energy decentralization or local renewable fuel networks.
 - Waste Management and Circular Economy: Build systems that convert organic waste into high-value products like compost, energy, bioplastics, or reusable materials – closing the loop on biological resource use.
- 

OUTCOMES

1. Use local bioresources more efficiently.
2. Turn waste into value (e.g., compost, biogas, packaging, or new materials).
3. Apply digital tools (IoT, AI) to improve sustainability.
4. Enable rural bio-based businesses and communities to thrive.
5. Support local food systems, bioenergy production

WHAT'S NEXT?

After Serres, we head to Le Bourget-du-Lac (France,
3–5 Dec 2025).

Stay tuned for details!

Stay Connected

For more information visit the [DRIVE WEBSITE](#)

Follow DRIVE and stay informed on the latest news, open calls, and results:



@drive_project_



Driving Rural Innovation through
startup Villages across Europe



DRIVE



@Drive_project_

PARTNERS

CONSORZIO ITALBIOTEC
KLIYNTEH BULGARIA FONDATSIYA
EUROPEAN CHEMICAL REGIONS NETWORK
CSI CENTER FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION LTD
nEulakes Network of European Rural Lakes
DIMOS EMMANOUEL PAPPA
OBCINA BOHINJ
ANCI LOMBARDIA
AB CORPORATION
F6S NETWORK IRELAND LIMITED
CHAMBERY-GRAND LAC ECONOMIE

