

LIFE BIOBEST

GUIDING THE MAINSTREAMING OF BEST BIO-WASTE RECYCLING
PRACTICES IN EUROPE

D7.3: Exploitation and sustainability strategy

WP7: Sustainability, replication and exploitation of project results

T7.4: Development of the Exploitation and Sustainability Strategy

JUNE 2025

Public Report



Co-funded by
the European Union

LIFE21-PRE-ES-LIFE BIOBEST – 101086420

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Document citation: Nohales, G. & Stinavage, M. (2025) *LIFE BIOBEST
Exploitation and Sustainability Strategy*.

In-text citation: (Nohales & Stinavage, 2025)



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1 Document attributes

This report has been carried out under a contract awarded by the European Commission, contract number: LIFE21-PRE-ES-LIFE BIOBEST – 101086420. The content of this publication is the sole responsibility of the LIFE BIOBEST project.

1.1 Document Management Control Sheet

Table 1. Document Management Control Sheet

PROJECT NAME:	LIFE BIOBEST
Full Project Title:	Guiding the mainstreaming of best bio-waste recycling practices in Europe
Start Date of Project:	1 st January 2023
Duration:	30 months
Type of Document:	Report
Title:	D7.3 Exploitation and sustainability strategy
Dissemination Level:	Deliverable – Public
Work Package & WP Leader:	WP7 Sustainability, replication and exploitation of project results (ENT)
Task & Task Leader:	T.7.4 Development of the Exploitation and Sustainability Strategy – ENT
Related Deliverables:	D7.2 Transferability and replicability strategy
Related Milestones:	MS18 Exploitation and Sustainability assessed
Lead Authors:	ENT – Mike Stinavage & Gemma Nohales
Other Authors Involved:	All partners
Peer Reviewers:	CIC – Eva María López & Alberto Confalonieri
Due Submission Date:	M30
File Version Date:	20 June 2025

Approval Date:	18 June 2025
Participant Portal Upload Date:	20 June 2025
Status:	Submitted
File Name:	250620_LIFE BIOBEST_WP7_D7.3_ExploitationStrategy_submitted
File Location:	P-22-04 PLP BIOBEST > BIOBEST Shared documents > WP7>T7.4>D7.3 (internal copy) Participant Portal (submitted copy)

1.2 Document Revision History

Table 2. Document Revision History

Version Number	Date	Version	Short Description of the Changes	Editor
0.1	14/08/24	1 st Draft	Document created as 1 st version	ENT – Mike Stinavage
0.2	28/10/24	2 nd Draft	Document created as 2 nd version with the 1 st questionnaire	ENT – Mike Stinavage, Gemma Nohales
0.3	10/03/25	3 rd Draft	Document created as 2 nd version with the 2 nd questionnaire	ENT – Mike Stinavage, Gemma Nohales
0.4	26/05/25	4 th Draft	Peer reviewers' contributions in track changes	CIC – Alberto Confalonieri, Eva Lopez
0.5	18/06/25	Definitive/ Approved	Final linguistic and format revision Definitive and approved version to be submitted	ENT – Mike Stinavage, Gemma Nohales
0.6	20/06/25	Submitted	Submitted to Participant Portal in PDF	ENT – Gemma Nohales

1.3 Document Overview

In conjunction with the January 2024 EU separate collection mandate, the LIFE BIOBEST project investigates various facets of bio-waste management ranging from separate collection, implementation of recycling strategies, processing systems and related management options in order to create high-quality compost and digestate products. LIFE BIOBEST outputs provide a comprehensive outlook on the bio-waste value chain as well as existing Best Practices from a number of EU countries where management instruments are successfully applied.

Though the LIFE BIOBEST project concludes, its impact and resources will continue to be valuable. Tasks related to the sustainability, replication and exploitation for LIFE BIOBEST are expected in the final trimester of the project. Whereas the **LIFE BIOBEST D7.2 Transferability and Replicability Strategy** focuses on the dissemination, fortification and usage of LIFE BIOBEST outputs during the final phase of the project, the **LIFE BIOBEST D7.3 Exploitation and Sustainability Strategy** defines the afterlife of LIFE BIOBEST upon its completion in terms of exploitable results and exploitation route. The two deliverables are complementary and should be considered together. These reports include actions to promote and achieve the adoption of proposed solutions, strategies and usage of the tools created in the framework of the project.

LIFE BIOBEST D7.3 Exploitation and Sustainability Strategy is organized by outputs publicly available on the LIFE BIOBEST website. In section 4, each LIFE BIOBEST output is defined as an exploitable result in terms of target groups, purpose and barriers. Additionally, the outputs are defined in terms of exploitation route: extended use, methods to increase exploitability, and avenues of exploitation. Section 7 describes overarching exploitation steps and strategies that apply to the LIFE BIOBEST consortium.

1.4 Table of Acronyms

Table 3. Table of Acronyms

Acronym	Term
KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
M	Month of the project lifespan
MS	Member State
EU	European Union
Ho.Re.Ca.	Hotels, Restaurants, and Canteens

1.5 LIFE BIOBEST Project Summary

EU obligations on the selective collection of bio-waste came into force at the end of 2023, increasing the availability of source-separated bio-waste for composting and anaerobic digestion. To ensure the development of bio-waste management best practices and the production of quality compost and digestate for soil applications, while minimising any negative effect and closing effectively the loop, a comprehensive analysis is required regarding bio-waste management strategies, instruments and management schemes and their results given that large disparities exist among experiences in the EU.

The LIFE BIOBEST project aims to identify and validate the current Best Practices (BP) and management instruments along the bio-waste management chain (from generation to treatment) that allow the production of quality compost and digestate and establish a series of reference Key Performance Indicators (KPI), based on the analysis of existing databases and experiences. In a policy brief about barriers and through interconnected co-creation meetings with relevant expert stakeholders of the sector, solutions have been provided to overcome the identified technical, regulatory, economic and environmental barriers to widely adopt the proposed BPs.

Four guidelines and a comprehensive EU-wide guide have been created, together with two decision-support tree guides for local and regional authorities to adapt bio-waste management models to their specific context, offering feasible BP and management instruments to promote efficient collection and subsequent recycling of bio-waste into quality compost and digestate.

By means of an analysis of the input materials, treatment practices, resulting compost and digestate quality, a proposal for premium European standards for biological waste entering composting and anaerobic digestion have been developed with the ultimate goal of promoting the certification of these materials and treatments, guaranteeing optimal management processes and a safe, beneficial return to the soil.

The outcomes of LIFE BIOBEST will promote a significant improvement of the collection and treatment systems, and consequently of the quantity and purity of the input material, reducing process rejects and favouring the conversion of bio-waste into high-quality compost and digestate.

The LIFE BIOBEST consortium is led by [Fundació ENT](#) (ENT) in partnership with [Consorzio Italiano Compostatori](#) (CIC), [ACR+](#) (Association of Cities and Regions for sustainable Resource management), [European Compost Network](#) (ECN) and [Zero Waste Europe](#) (ZWE). It is a 2.5-years LIFE Preparatory Project funded by the European Commission.

Project Total Eligible Costs: € 1,664,600.07, Funding Rate: 90%,
Maximum Grant Amount: € 1,498,140.05.

2 Introduction

Whether municipalities are in the initial stages of bio-waste implementation design or an advanced state of management, LIFE BIOBEST outputs provide a point of reference for policy and decision-makers, local authorities, waste haulers, recycling entities, and technical practitioners. These outputs are necessary contributions that help prepare EU localities for a new standard of bio-waste management.

Considering the first and second European Commission Early Warning Reports alongside the 2025 mandate for bio-waste separate collection, only 9 of 27 Member States (MS) are on track to meet 2025 recycling targets. The adoption of inadequate collection and implementation strategies (low capture and quality and low service coverage) is worrisome, especially among regions and MS with less experience.

Advances must be made in quantity and quality of bio-waste separate collection. It is urgent to close the bio-waste cycle by producing high quality organic fertilisers or soil improvers. To tackle this challenge, combined efforts and support between those territories with more advanced responses and those in a more initial stage is required.

Over the past 30 months, this has been the objective of the LIFE BIOBEST project: contribute to the sustainable and efficient management of the whole bio-waste value chain with an unequivocal approach for sharing and transferring knowledge to collectively evolve in the green transition. This work is crucial to promote the collection of large quantities of high-quality bio-waste in order to produce quality outputs such as compost, digestate, and biogas.

In conjunction with the January 2024 EU separate collection mandate, the LIFE BIOBEST project investigates various facets of bio-waste management ranging from separate collection, implementation of recycling strategies, processing systems and related management options in order to create high-quality compost and digestate products. LIFE BIOBEST outputs provide a comprehensive outlook on bio-waste management as well as existing Best Practices from a number of EU countries where management instruments are successfully applied.

Though the LIFE BIOBEST project concludes, its impact and resources will continue to be valuable. Tasks related to the sustainability, replication and exploitation for LIFE BIOBEST were implemented in the final trimester of the project. Whereas the [LIFE BIOBEST D7.2 Transferability and Replicability Strategy](#) focuses on the dissemination, fortification and usage of LIFE BIOBEST outputs during the final phase of the project, the [LIFE BIOBEST D7.3 Exploitation and Sustainability Strategy](#) defines the afterlife of LIFE BIOBEST upon its completion in terms of exploitable results and exploitation route. These reports, complementary in nature, include actions to promote and achieve the adoption of proposed solutions, strategies and usage of the tools created in the framework of the project.

3 Methodology

In **LIFE BIOBEST D7.3 Exploitation and Sustainability Strategy**, each LIFE BIOBEST output is defined as an exploitable result in terms of target groups, purpose and barriers. Additionally, the outputs are defined in terms of exploitation route: extended use, methods to increase exploitability, and avenues of exploitation. Section 7 describes overarching exploitation steps and strategies that apply to the LIFE BIOBEST Consortium. The outputs can be found on the [LIFE BIOBEST website](#) under the section “publications”.

In short, the methodology for the exploitation strategy:

1. Identification and characterization of LIFE BIOBEST exploitable deliverables.
2. Identification and selection of appropriate exploitation routes.
3. Description of necessary activities for achieving exploitation.

4 Exploitable results: LIFE BIOBEST Public Outputs

LIFE BIOBEST provides a wide range of quality outputs to guide public authorities and other sectorial entities to implement bio-waste management in a proper and sustainable way. Eleven primary outputs have been selected to be exploited in the afterlife of the project. The tables in each section define the exploitation feedback received by LIFE BIOBEST consortium partners along with the identified exploitation barriers and routes.

Among the project outputs not included are those directed at technical audiences and that elaborate upon the project’s internal mechanics and processes as well as the ones categorized as sensitive.

4.1 D2.1 Improved and homogenized datasets

Originating from an investigation into the current status of data collection and reporting in the European Union, **LIFE BIOBEST D2.1 Improved and homogenized datasets** contains data on basic information and boundary conditions for bio-waste collection and treatment for nearly all 27 EU Member States, as well as a detailed dataset exploring the collection per capita of food waste and garden waste at the municipal level for Italy, Denmark, and Catalonia.

Main users identified include:

- Research community
- EU Policymakers
- Regional and National Authorities
- Entities supporting the implementation of bio-waste policy

4.1.1 Defining the deliverable

Table 4. Exploitation feedback from LIFE BIOBEST consortium partners on D2.1

D2.1	ENT	CIC	ACR+	ECN	ZWE
In the framework of your organisation's daily work, how can you integrate this output?	It can be used as a reference point for further quantitative research.	Meetings with the Italian Ministry of Environment to explain the KPI that should be assessed to have a better picture of the sustainability of the whole system.	It could be useful to do benchmarking to identify key contextual criteria or effective instruments, which is a common ACR+ activity, or to identify data on specific case studies.	Presentation in working groups, webinars, meetings of members as well as uploading documents on our own website.	Unsure. Data are always useful, but they need to be updated and very accurate to be exploitable. It could be used as a useful benchmarking tool and to help guide cities with their own data collection.
What measures can we take to complement, extend or elaborate on the output to increase its exploitability?	Compile more datasets	Meetings with the Italian Ministry of Environment to explain the KPI that should be assessed to have a better picture of the sustainability of the whole system.	Updating and expanding such database might be challenging without additional resources. Providing guidance on how this can be replicated could be interesting (where data can be retrieved, work to control the validity and errors, potential inconsistencies to be aware of).	Identify suitable channels of exploitation, offer workshops for national authorities (e.g. TAIEEX) to inform them about best available practices.	Develop on the key messages of the report – namely: what needs concretely to be done within MS and across the EU to get homogenised and accurate data.

D2.1	ENT	CIC	ACR+	ECN	ZWE
Are there upcoming exploitation opportunities and events that you would like to share?	With the completion of this task, we created D2.2 Statistical analysis and a related article.	At EU level within lobbying activities to promote widespread adoption of biowaste recycling.	No		This is a key supporting document of the Guidance for the EU that could help us develop some recommendations especially in the context of in-person meeting with policy makers.

4.1.2 Exploitation barriers and routes

Table 5. Exploitation barriers and routes feedback from LIFE BIOBEST consortium partners on D2.1

Defining D2.1	Responses from LIFE BIOBEST consortium
Barriers to exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic/research relevant only a short time • Challenging to interpret and utilize for non-experts
Avenues for exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific publications • Policymaking • Subsequent EU projects • Consulting • Working Groups & Meetings

4.2 D2.3 Assessment matrix

LIFE BIOBEST D2.3 Assessment Matrix of Best Practices evaluates contextual factors that affect bio-waste management. The assessment matrix consolidates various contextual factors, providing in-depth descriptions of each. The factors are then placed alongside recommendations and six theoretical scenarios, which stakeholders can use to compare to their own context.

Main users identified include:

- Municipal and Regional Authorities
- Private collection managers
- Research community
- Entities supporting the implementation of bio-waste policy

4.2.1 Defining the deliverable

Table 6. Exploitation feedback from LIFE BIOBEST consortium partners on D2.3

D2.3	ENT	CIC	ACR+	ECN	ZWE
In the framework of your organisation's daily work, how can you integrate this output?	Together with Decision support trees and web tool, use the tools in meetings with lower level authorities to facilitate their assessment of contextual factors and barriers.	Extract some key aspects of the document to be further developed in an event/publication.	Allow to identify key elements to address when targeting specific context.	Integrate the results as factsheets on our own website and elaborate further on the topic in workshops. Support members with consultation related to the examples included in the document.	Integrate it in our events, webinars, for local authorities and members.
What measures can we take to complement, extend or elaborate on the output to increase its exploitability?	Present in more events and to other EU projects. Gather more insight about the tools' utility as well as the entities that have used the tool.		<p>Refine specific recommendations in a more detailed manner, e.g. based on documented good practices.</p> <p>Update the guidelines to highlight recommendations more adapted to specific contexts.</p>	Identify suitable channels of exploitation, offer workshops for national authorities (e.g. TAIEX) to inform them about best available practices.	Case studies showcasing before-and-after scenarios, along with capacity-building workshops for local authorities, will help illustrate the impact of contextual barriers on biowaste collection and support informed decision-making.

D2.3	ENT	CIC	ACR+	ECN	ZWE
Are there upcoming exploitation opportunities and events that you would like to share?	Compost week, Green week and international/Spanish conferences				No

4.2.2 Exploitation barriers and routes

Table 7. Exploitation barriers and routes feedback from LIFE BIOBEST consortium partners on D2.3

Defining D2.3	Responses from LIFE BIOBEST consortium
Barriers to exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potentially difficult to navigate • Inaccessible to audience • Language (EN) in the case of municipal authorities
Avenues for exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsequent EU projects • Consulting • Events • Working groups & meetings

4.3 D3.1 Guideline on separate collection

The [**LIFE BIOBEST D3.1 Guideline on separate collection**](#) offers a comprehensive overview of various bio-waste collection schemes, assessing their pros and cons. It includes a set of Best Practices focusing on collection from households and other producers in diverse contexts.

For accessibility and expedited reading, LIFE BIOBEST published [**LIFE BIOBEST WP3 Guidelines summary**](#), which was translated to various European languages.

Main users identified include:

- EU policymakers
- National, Regional and Municipal Authorities
- Entities supporting the implementation of bio-waste policy
- Private collection managers

4.3.1 Defining the deliverable

Table 8. Exploitation feedback from LIFE BIOBEST consortium partners on D3.1

D3.1	ENT	CIC	ACR+	ECN	ZWE
In the framework of your organisation's daily work, how can you integrate this output?	Provide to regional and municipal authorities during consultations. Provide to other EU projects.	Extract some key aspects of the document to be further developed in an event/publication.	Technical support to our members, publications on good practices, etc.	Presentation in working groups, webinars, meetings of members as well as uploading documents on our own website.	Embed it in our model of support to municipalities as a clear example of best practices to follow e.g. during workshops, as well as having it as a useful supporting document as part of the ZW Cities Certification.
What measures can we take to complement, extend or elaborate on the output to increase its exploitability?	Use as instrumental guideline in the T4.4 ongoing strategies consultations with municipalities. Study solutions high population density areas.	Transform it to a concise, attractive and downloadable PPT to be more visual and make the reader want to read the document.		Identify suitable channels of exploitation, offer workshops for national authorities (e.g. TAIEX) to inform them about best available practices.	The key learnings of the guidelines could be better transmitted to local/regional authorities in the framework of in-person or online capacity-building events.
Are there upcoming exploitation opportunities and events to share?	Conferences on bio-waste management	In general we should try to organise some specific meeting with officers from the DG Environment.		World Soil Day, International Compost Awareness Week	We could developed as well a self-paced training on bio-waste on our trainer-central platform, targeting municipalities, where we could use the content of the guidelines.

4.3.2 Exploitation barriers and routes

Table 9. Exploitation barriers and routes feedback from LIFE BIOBEST consortium partners on D3.1

Defining D3.1	Responses from LIFE BIOBEST consortium
Barriers to exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language (EN) in the case of municipal authorities • There needs to be a national strategy for management before the collection /treatment concept can be implemented • Inaccessible to audience
Avenues for exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policymaking • Events • Publications • Working Groups & Meetings • Subsequent EU projects • Consulting

4.4 D3.2 Guideline on governance and economic instruments

The [**LIFE BIOBEST D3.2 Guideline on governance and economic incentives**](#) discusses essential governance tools and economic instruments to enhance bio-waste management schemes. This guideline presents practical examples of these instruments in action and includes an analysis of the economic viability of best practices from separate collection to treatment.

For accessibility and expedited reading, LIFE BIOBEST published [**LIFE BIOBEST WP3 Guidelines summary**](#), which was translated to various European languages.

Main users identified include:

- National, Regional, and Municipal Authorities
- EU Policymakers
- Entities supporting the implementation of bio-waste policy
- Private collection managers

4.4.1 Defining the deliverable

Table 10. Exploitation feedback from LIFE BIOBEST consortium partners on D3.2

D3.2	ENT	CIC	ACR+	ECN	ZWE
In the framework of your organisation's daily work, how can you integrate this output?	Provide to regional and municipal authorities during consultations. Provide to other EU projects.	Extract some key aspects of the document to be further developed in meetings with the Italian Ministry/Regions.	Support to our regional/national members for policy making.	Presentation in working groups, webinars, meetings of members as well as uploading documents on our own website.	Supports our EU policy work and in the support we give to ZWE members in their national / local advocacy.
What measures can we take to complement, extend or elaborate on the output to increase its exploitability?	Presentations in webinars and creation of infographics to promote the use of economic tools.	Transform it to a concise, attractive and downloadable PPT to be more visual and make the reader want to read the document.	Providing more examples, disseminating them by focusing on more specific aspects, etc.	Identify suitable channels of exploitation, offer workshops for national authorities (e.g. TAIEX) to inform them about best available practices.	The key learnings of the guidelines could be better transmitted to local/regional authorities in the framework of in-person or online capacity-building events.

D3.2	ENT	CIC	ACR+	ECN	ZWE
Are there upcoming exploitation opportunities and events that you would like to share?	The discussion of economic incentives will be presented in many webinars and events. For the purposes of D5.4 Comprehensive guidance, an infographic derived from this deliverable was created.	In general we should try to organise some specific meeting with officers from the DG Environment.	Probably, but nothing defined now		We could developed as well a self-paced training on bio-waste on our trainer-central platform, targeting municipalities, where we could use the content of the guidelines.

4.4.2 Exploitation barriers and routes

Table 11. Exploitation barriers and routes feedback from LIFE BIOBEST consortium partners on D3.2

Defining D3.2	Responses from LIFE BIOBEST consortium
Barriers to exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inaccessible to audience • Previous knowledge about economic instruments
Avenues for exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policymaking • Support to ACR+ members • Events • Consulting • Working Groups & Meetings

4.5 D3.3 Guideline on quality compost and digestate

The [**LIFE BIOBEST D3.3 Guideline on quality compost and digestate**](#) breaks down the treatment technologies and resources that support the production of compost and digestate. The guideline provides insights about the processing options, analysis of product characteristics, quality assurance systems as well as related EU legislation and the ECN quality assurance scheme.

For accessibility and expedited reading, LIFE BIOBEST published [**LIFE BIOBEST WP3 Guidelines summary**](#), which was translated to various European languages.

Main users identified include:

- National, regional and municipal authorities
- EU Policymakers
- Entities supporting the implementation of bio-waste policy
- Public entities managing bio-waste units
- Private collection managers

4.5.1 Defining the deliverable

Table 12. Exploitation feedback from LIFE BIOBEST consortium partners on D3.3

D3.3	ENT	CIC	ACR+	ECN	ZWE
In the framework of your organisation's daily work, how can you integrate this output?	Provide to regional and municipal authorities during consultations. Provide to other EU projects.	Use it as a reference document when dealing with quality problems in the recycling plants (CIC members) during the frequent controls in the framework of the QAS. Doc of reference within ECN and ISWA tasks groups led by CIC.	Support to our members with an operational role on biowaste management.	Presentation in working groups, webinars, meetings of members as well as uploading documents on our own website.	Both useful in terms of our EU advocacy and also the support we provide to cities & waste companies, helping them design effective local systems. We can use it our communications and during capacity development sessions e.g. workshops.
What measures can we take to complement, extend or elaborate on the output to increase its exploitability?	Draft policy recommendations to present to the DG Environment. Add more factsheets about facilities.	Transform it to a concise, attractive and downloadable PPT to be more visual and make the reader want to read the document.	Not sure	Identify suitable channels of exploitation, offer workshops for national authorities (e.g. TAIEX) to inform them about best available practices.	The key learnings of the guidelines could be better transmitted to local/regional authorities in the framework of in-person or online capacity-building events.

D3.3	ENT	CIC	ACR+	ECN	ZWE
Are there upcoming exploitation opportunities and events that you would like to share?	Collaborations with other EU funded projects	In general we should try to organise some specific meeting with officers from the DG Environment.		World Soil Day, International Compost Awareness Week	We could developed as well a self-paced training on bio-waste on our trainer-central platform, targeting municipalities, where we could use the content of the guidelines.

4.5.2 Exploitation barriers and routes

Table 13. Exploitation barriers and routes feedback from LIFE BIOBEST consortium partners on D3.3

Defining D3.3	Responses from LIFE BIOBEST consortium
Barriers to exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language (EN) in the case of private entities (the recycling plant) • There needs to be a national strategy for management before the collection /treatment concept can be implemented • Without policy and targets that specify quality, stakeholders may not prioritise quality outputs, thereby looking past this output • Inaccessible to audience
Avenues for exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Groups & Meetings • Policy making • Consulting • Subsequent EU projects • Events

4.6 D3.4 Factsheets

The [**LIFE BIOBEST D3.4 Factsheets on the analysis of best practices in communication and engagement from various countries**](#) on the analysis of communication and engagement practices delve into effective public communication and education strategies. This guideline analyses successful experiences from various countries, highlighting the impact

For accessibility and expedited reading, LIFE BIOBEST published [**LIFE BIOBEST WP3 Guidelines summary**](#), which was translated to various European languages.

Main users identified include:

- National, regional and municipal authorities
- EU Policymakers
- Entities supporting the implementation of bio-waste policy
- Private collection managers
- Private entities in the area of campaigns and communications

4.6.1 Defining the deliverable

Table 14. Exploitation feedback from LIFE BIOBEST consortium partners on D3.4

D3.4	ENT	CIC	ACR+	ECN	ZWE
In the framework of your organisation's daily work, how can you integrate this output?	Provide to regional and municipal authorities during consultations. Provide to other EU projects.	Use it as a reference document when dealing with quality problems in the recycling plants (CIC members) to emphasise to the plant and the municipality the necessity to foster the sensitization activities.		Presentation in working groups, webinars, meetings of members as well as uploading documents on our own website.	Embed it in our model of support to municipalities as a clear example of best practices to follow e.g. during workshops, as well as having it as a useful supporting document as part of the ZW Cities Certification.
What measures can we take to complement, extend or elaborate on the output to increase its exploitability?	Add more factsheets	Transform it to a concise, attractive and downloadable PPT to be more visual and make the reader want to read the document.	More examples. Specific dissemination activities.	Identify suitable channels of exploitation, offer workshops for national authorities (e.g. TAIEX) to inform them about best available practices.	The key learnings of the guidelines could be better transmitted to local/regional authorities in the framework of in-person or online capacity-building events.

D3.4	ENT	CIC	ACR+	ECN	ZWE
Are there upcoming exploitation opportunities and events that you would like to share?	Compost week or Green week events	In general we should try to organise some specific meeting with officers from the DG Environment.	Probably, but nothing defined now	World Soil Day, International Compost Awareness Week	We could developed as well a self-paced training on bio-waste on our trainer-central platform, targeting municipalities, where we could use the content of the guidelines.

4.6.2 Exploitation barriers and routes

Table 15. Exploitation barriers and routes feedback from LIFE BIOBEST consortium partners on D3.4

Defining D3.4	Responses from LIFE BIOBEST consortium
Barriers to exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language (EN) in the case of municipal authorities • Inaccessible to audience
Avenues for exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to ACR+ members • Working Groups & Meetings • Events • Subsequent EU projects

4.7 D5.1 Decision support trees

[LIFE BIOBEST D5.1 Decision support trees](#) functions as a tool for municipalities and regional authorities to evaluate their specific difficulties and context. Following a preliminary self-assessment, the decision support trees disaggregate barriers that inhibit bio-waste implementation, pairing them with resources and recommendations from LIFE BIOBEST outputs.

Designed to be considered alongside **[LIFE BIOBEST D2.3 Assessment Matrix of Best Practices](#)**, the two resources provide distinct visualisations of the same information. Together, they evaluate contextual factors in order to provide local and regional authorities tools for understanding the needs and adaptations related to bio-waste management.

Annex: Decision Support Tree Tool integrates the self-assessment checklists, including a scoring feature, and decision support trees into excel format with interactive navigation. Based on the responses, the excel form directs the user from the assessment to the barriers and, finally, to LIFE BIOBEST recommendations.

For EU-level recommendations, please see **[LIFE BIOBEST D5.4 Comprehensive guidance for the EU](#)**.

Main users identified include:

- Municipal and Regional Authorities
- Entities supporting the implementation of bio-waste policy
- Private collection managers

4.7.1 Defining the deliverable

Table 16. Exploitation feedback from LIFE BIOBEST consortium partners on D5.1

D5.1	ENT	CIC	ACR+	ECN	ZWE
In the framework of your organisation's daily work, how can you integrate this output?	Together with assessment matrix and web tool, use the tools in meetings with lower level authorities to facilitate their assessment of contextual factors and barriers.	Difficult to integrate since we do not provide this type of advisory service to local authorities.	This might be an interesting tool for ACR+ to provide support to its members, using it as a way to better identify relevant resources to address general barriers	Have the tool uploaded on website. Give guidance for its use.	Integrate it in our events, webinars, for local authorities and members.
What measures can we take to complement, extend or elaborate on the output to increase its exploitability?	Present in more events and to other EU projects. Gather more insight about the tools' utility as well as the entities that have used the tool.		It might be an interesting way for national and regional authority to monitor the implementation of the sorting obligation and find adequate resources for the identified barriers. Not sure what mechanisms could take advantage of this though.	Translation	Help local authorities to use self-assessment checklist via capacity-building workshops. Present the self-assessment checklist to our members supporting local authorities with their bio-waste management system.

D5.1	ENT	CIC	ACR+	ECN	ZWE
Are there upcoming exploitation opportunities and events that you would like to share?	Compost week, Green week and other international and Spanish conferences. Other ongoing project about bio-waste Interreg EU MED CirBioWaste project	Other ongoing project about bio-waste like Interreg EU MED CirBioWaste project			

4.7.2 Exploitation barriers and routes

Table 17. Exploitation barriers and routes feedback from LIFE BIOBEST consortium partners on D5.1

Defining D5.1	Responses from LIFE BIOBEST consortium
Barriers to exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inaccessible to audience • The assessment proposed by the document should be guided by a technician to have a successful impact • Language (EN) in the case of municipal authorities
Avenues for exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working groups & meetings • Events • Consulting • Subsequent EU projects

4.8 D5.2 Policy brief on regulatory barriers

Ahead of the EU bio-waste separate collection mandate in January 2024, D5.2 identifies the gaps in the regulatory framework and systemic barriers obstructing efficient bio-waste management with high capture rates of high-quality material.

For [LIFE BIOBEST D5.2 Policy brief including regulatory barriers](#), LIFE BIOBEST interviewed 15+ expert stakeholders from across the EU to discuss the difficulties of meeting the landfill and recycling targets as well as the mandate for separate collection of bio-waste. This report investigates the status of transposition and management results of the EU legal framework and proposes recommendations and calls to action.

For accessibility and expedited reading, LIFE BIOBEST published [LIFE BIOBEST D5.2 Executive summary](#).

Main users identified include:

- EU Policymakers
- National, regional and municipal authorities
- Entities supporting the implementation of bio-waste policy

4.8.1 Defining the deliverable

Table 18. Exploitation feedback from LIFE BIOBEST consortium partners on D5.2

D5.2	ENT	CIC	ACR+	ECN	ZWE
In the framework of your organisation's daily work, how can you integrate this output?	Integrate barriers and recommendations into subsequent outputs. Introduce in events and meetings.	At EU level within lobbying activities to promote widespread adoption of biowaste recycling.	Be aware of topics to be addressed for our members, recommendation for regional waste strategies.	Presentation in working groups, webinars, meetings of members as well as uploading documents on our own website.	The detailed recommendations per level of governance its quite useful.
What measures can we take to complement, extend or elaborate on the output to increase its exploitability?	Consultation with the DG Environment to discuss policy making.			Identify suitable channels of exploitation, offer workshops for national authorities (e.g. TAIEX) to inform them about best available practices.	The recommendations would benefit from being more aggregated and tailored to specific target audiences. Additionally, disseminating them in alternative formats, such as workshops for local authorities or EU policymakers, could enhance their accessibility and impact.
Are there upcoming exploitation opportunities and events to share?	Present findings in conferences	In general we should try to organise some specific meeting with officers from the DG Environment.		World Soil Day, International Compost Awareness Week	This is a key supporting document of the Guidance for the EU that could help us develop some recommendations especially in the context of in-person meeting with policy makers.

4.8.2 Exploitation barriers and routes

Table 19. Exploitation barriers and routes feedback from LIFE BIOBEST consortium partners on D5.2

Defining D5.2	Responses from LIFE BIOBEST consortium
Barriers to exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inaccessible to audience • Target audience unclear
Avenues for exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policymaking • Subsequent EU projects • Events • Consulting

4.9 D5.3 Proposal for quality standards

The quality of bio-waste impacts the production of compost and digestate. [LIFE BIOBEST D5.3 Proposal for quality standards for bio-waste entering biological recycling facilities](#) aims to establish unified quality standards for bio-waste entering the recycling process in the European Union Member States in alignment with the Waste Framework Directive.

The document draws conclusions from the various approaches currently adopted by EU MS, including methodologies for the analysis of bio-waste composition as well as the definition of control or limit values for impurities. Furthermore, consultation with experts in bio-waste management helped shape the recommendations.

Main users identified include:

- Municipal, Regional and National Authorities
- Research community
- Entities supporting the implementation of bio-waste policy
- Private entities regarding treatment

4.9.1 Defining the deliverable

Table 20. Exploitation feedback from LIFE BIOBEST consortium partners on D5.3

D5.3	ENT	CIC	ACR+	ECN	ZWE
In the framework of your organisation's daily work, how can you integrate this output?	Recommend the document to relevant authorities and entities as a point of reference and standardization.	We do not foresee any use in daily work since we have our own UNI/PdR.	<p>Concrete elements and good practices on quality controls</p> <p>To be promoted to local and regional authorities and public utility companies among ACR+ members for their own activities.</p>	Elaborate future work on the topic in task groups. We must further elaborate on the topic and include a methodology that starts with the revision of the bio-waste quality at the source (households, Ho.Re.Ca.).	Integrate it in our events, webinars, discussions with the EU, publications, etc.
What measures can we take to complement, extend or elaborate on the output to increase its exploitability?	Identify events and consultations where the document would be useful. Add annexes based on working group feedback and case studies.	CIC could evaluate how to improve the current UNI/PdR.	More promotion toward key target audiences (EU and national policy makers for instance).	Identify suitable channels of exploitation, offer workshops for national authorities (e.g. TAIEX) to inform them about best available practices.	Capacity building sessions with plant managers / meeting with MS / practical case studies showcasing the feasibility of the application of a control value with concrete data (economics, quality of the output).

D5.3	ENT	CIC	ACR+	ECN	ZWE
Are there upcoming exploitation opportunities and events that you would like to share?	Compost week, Green week, and other conferences in Spain	CIC Technical Committee	Potential events	ECN Task Group meeting	Coordinate and send feedback to the bio-economy consultation.

4.9.2 Exploitation barriers and routes

Table 21. Exploitation barriers and routes feedback from LIFE BIOBEST consortium partners on D5.3

Defining D5.3	Responses from LIFE BIOBEST consortium
Barriers to exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In countries where a methodology is already followed, the approach might not be necessary Further steps needed regarding the consensus and methodology Inaccessible to audience
Avenues for exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consulting Subsequent EU projects Working groups & meetings Events

4.10 D5.4 Comprehensive guidance for the EU

LIFE BIOBEST D5.4 Comprehensive guidance for the EU presents key policy recommendations to strengthen the EU legal framework for bio-waste management. Drawing from extensive research and stakeholder consultation, this document outlines three interconnected areas for improvement: boosting effective models for separate collection and recycling, promoting reliable markets for compost and digestate, and enhancing monitoring and enforcement of bio-waste regulations.

The guidance provides concrete policy measures to help close the gap between current practices and potential capture rates, addressing the fact that only 26% of kitchen waste is currently collected separately in the EU. It proposes specific legally binding targets, economic instruments, and monitoring requirements to support the EU's transition toward more efficient bio-waste management and healthier soils.

Validated by 21 stakeholders representing 13 entities from across Europe, this document serves as a roadmap for EU policymakers working to improve bio-waste management. A summary video presenting the key recommendations is available with subtitles in 11 EU languages. A [video](#) was subsequently created to promote the recommendations.

Main users identified include:

- EU Policymakers
- National, Regional and Municipal Authorities
- Entities supporting the implementation of bio-waste policy

4.10.1 Defining the deliverable

Table 22. Exploitation feedback from LIFE BIOBEST consortium partners on D5.4

D5.4	ENT	CIC	ACR+	ECN	ZWE
In the framework of your organisation's daily work, how can you integrate this output?	Introduce policy recommendations in meetings with upper-level authorities. Use the recommendations as conclusive goals during presentations and events.	In EU or international events	<p>Use for upcoming position papers and consultation from the EU.</p> <p>Promotion of several policy instruments to ACR+ members able to implement them.</p>	Preparation of short fact sheets to discuss with members. Presentation in working groups, webinars, meetings of members as well as uploading documents on our own website.	Integrate it in our events, webinars, discussions with the EU, publications, etc.
What measures can we take to complement, extend or elaborate on the output to increase its exploitability?	<p>Present in more meetings with upper-level authorities.</p> <p>Present to more EU projects and bio-waste experts.</p>			Identify suitable channels of exploitation, offer workshops for national authorities (e.g. TAIEX) to inform them about best available practices	Highlighting the work of local authorities already implementing bio-waste related targets and their effects on quantity/quality.

D5.4	ENT	CIC	ACR+	ECN	ZWE
Are there upcoming exploitation opportunities and events that you would like to share?	Compost week, Green week, international and Spanish conferences.	Ecomondo FAIR in Italy, Messico & China (CIC is ECOMONDO Ambassador); U.S. COMPOSTINGCOUNCIL CONFERENCE		Compost Awareness Week and international conferences	We push for bio-waste targets within the framework of the CEA discussions/negotiations. And they have been already incorporated in our policy recommendations for the CEA: https://zerowasteeurope.eu/library/circular-economy-act-policy-recommendations/

4.10.2 Exploitation barriers and routes

Table 23. Exploitation barriers and routes feedback from LIFE BIOBEST consortium partners on D5.4

Defining D5.4	Responses from LIFE BIOBEST consortium
Barriers to exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy recommendations too ambitious for some contexts • Potential to face disagreements, especially those sections with demand very specific targets (e.g. biowaste in residual waste) • Recommendations are not prioritized in the current EU mandate
Avenues for exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy-making • Working groups & meetings • Events • Subsequent EU projects • Consulting

4.11 D7.1 LIFE BIOBEST decision support web tool (DSWT)

D7.1 Decision Support Web Tool (DSWT) assesses the performance of bio-waste management options in a specific area by using a set of indicators to evaluate three pillars of sustainability (environment, economy and social aspects).

The DSWT considers the impacts associated with all stages of the bio-waste management system, (i.e. bio-waste generation, source separation, collection from generation sources to the first waste facility, pre-treatment, treatment, final disposal, biobased products use as well as transportation between the different waste facilities). It accounts for the impacts related to emissions and resources consumed (e.g. electricity, fuel, machinery) within the bio-waste management system as well as the avoided productions of the goods (material and energy) substituted by the outputs generated from the bio-waste management system (i.e. bio-based products and energy), such as mineral fertilisers. The DSWT also considers the management of the micro- and macro-impurities that are thrown away together with the source separated bio-waste due to sorting errors.

The tool calculates and displays two types of results for each scenario: 1) The Mass Flow of the Scenario, which refers to the amounts of bio-waste, nutrients and macro-impurities that flow between the different bio-waste management stages. 2) The Assessment Results of the Scenario, which shows the values of the assessment criteria for the specific area to study and scenario, including: i) Climate Change, ii) Economic Cost, iii) Local Labour, iv) Space Requirement, v) Sorting Time, vi) Energy (thermal and electric) Recovery Indexes and vii) Transportation Intensity Indexes.

DSWT is meant to provide a first assessment of the scenarios modelled based on the data available in the DSWT and data introduced by the user. The target users of the tool are authorities, consulting firms and waste operators that can use the tool to simulate different bio-waste management scenarios and compare them. The results of its assessment can help identify the critical points of the current (or planned) bio-waste management system.

The DSWT is an upgraded version of the H2020 DECISIVE DSWT. Since LIFE BIOBEST leader, ENT, was the main developer of the H2020 DECISIVE DST, the know-how accumulated during the development of the former tool was easily and efficiently used to build an updated version.

The tool is accessible here: <https://dst-lifebiobest.ent.cat/user/login>. A PowerPoint reporting the simulation results of the three case studies (Manlleu, Parma and Zagreb) was prepared as the final outcome. Schemes and data gathered for Munster and Bratislava were also integrated in the final presentation as an annex (even though not finalized at that time). For each case study, the file excel used to gather data, assumptions and sources are available, as well as the file excel generated by the DSWT including data behind the results of simulations.

Main users identified include:

- Municipal and Regional Authorities
- Entities supporting the implementation of bio-waste policy
- Private collection managers
- Research community

4.11.1 Defining the deliverable

Table 24. Exploitation feedback from LIFE BIOBEST consortium partners on D7.1

D7.1	ALL
In the framework of your organisation's daily work, how can you integrate this output?	Promote the use of the tool to local entities and consultancies giving support
What measures can we take to complement, extend or elaborate on the output to increase its exploitability?	Add more simulations and background processes
Are there upcoming exploitation opportunities and events that you would like to share?	Use in other EU projects

4.11.2 Exploitation barriers and routes

Table 25. Exploitation barriers and routes feedback from LIFE BIOBEST consortium partners on D7.1

Defining D7.1	Responses from LIFE BIOBEST consortium
Barriers to exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inaccessible to audience • The tool should be guided by a technician to have a successful application and results' interpretation • Language (EN) in the case of municipal authorities
Avenues for exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research • Consulting • Subsequent EU projects

5 Other outputs

Over the course of the project, the LIFE BIOBEST consortium hosted various events and webinars. The following links contain the event recordings and/or presentations, which are additional outputs:

- [A capacity building workshop in Barcelona, Spain](#)
- [An event with the city of Lyon, France](#)
- [A webinar about bio-waste collection in high-density areas](#)
- [A second webinar on bio-waste treatment](#)
- [A second capacity building event in Pruszcz Gdanski, Poland](#)
- [A third capacity building event,](#)
- [Events with the cities of Sao Joao da Madiera and Silves, Portugal](#)
- [A collaborative LIFE BIOBEST webinar with the European Circular Economy Stakeholders' Platform; ECESP webinar section](#)
- [A webinar on bio-waste quality](#)
- [The project's final event in Brussels, Belgium.](#)

The LIFE BIOBEST consortium also participated in +35 external events reaching +2,000 stakeholders. Below is a selection of the collaborations with other EU projects:

- [HORIZON Bin2Bean](#)
- [HORIZON FER-PLAY](#)
- [Interreg Citisystems](#)
- [Interreg North Sea CLOSECYCLE](#)
- [LIFE Zero Waste Cities in Ukraine.](#)

At strategic intervals, the following blogposts were created to promote project activities:

- [Insights from the first LIFE BIOBEST capacity building workshop](#)
- [Bio-waste separate collection takes off](#)
- [Project exchanges with the EC in Brussels.](#)

6 Afterlife input from LIFE BIOBEST Advisory Board

During the final Advisory Board meeting on 5 June 2025 in Brussels, the members provided feedback about potential afterlife activities. Below is a summary of inputs to be incorporated in the afterlife strategy:

- Capitalize on the knowledge, deliverables, and recommendations of the LIFE BIOBEST project through platforms and entities such as:
 - ZENODO platform (an open repository for EU-funded research outputs from Horizon Europe, Euratom, and earlier framework programmes) or similar platforms.
 - EU Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform.
 - EU Committee of the Regions.
 - Other associations and NGOs focused on the topic.
- Maintain the relationship with DG ENV to share knowledge and disseminate outputs.
- Participate in upcoming EU consultations on new and updated legal frameworks, providing LIFE BIOBEST recommendations.
- Apply for other projects to continue and build upon the contents of LIFE BIOBEST or other related topics requiring further research.
- Translate project materials and deliverables as a key strategy to reach a broader audience and more countries.
- Continue support and training activities:
 - Provide support services to public waste management authorities as a key activity with significant impact.
 - Apply for other projects that include learning platforms and toolkits.
 - Identify and add more best practices to those compiled within LIFE BIOBEST.
 - Seek synergies with the TAIX mechanism.
 - Replicate schemes and methodologies used in other projects, such as HOOP Bio-waste Clubs.
- Key topics to focus on:
 - Behavioural change and social strategies applied to waste management, especially targeting young people.
 - Effectively closing the loop and certifying the output products of biological treatment, including promoting a specific label for very high-quality compost.



- Decentralised treatments and home composting as low-cost, low-tech solutions suitable for specific dispersed areas and large producers.
- Awareness campaigns tailored to different stakeholders and training actions, especially for local entities.
- Include waste prevention as an essential part of the value chain.

7 Next steps of exploitation and sustainability strategy

The **LIFE BIOBEST D7.3 Exploitation and Sustainability Strategy** sets forth a series of actions to promote the transformation of LIFE BIOBEST outputs into impactful and lasting outcomes for society and waste sector. Meaningful exploitation paves the way to additional policy recommendations, the improvement of bio-waste management and the promotion of measurable impacts on the economy and the environment.

The **LIFE BIOBEST D7.3 Exploitation and Sustainability Strategy** ensures that LIFE BIOBEST maintains targeted audiences informed. All partners will ensure the activities described in this section by:

- Providing the necessary resources to include these after-project activities as part of their usual actions.
- Locating opportunities for further collaboration with public entities (EU, national/regional) and/or private foundations.
- Applying for future EU project calls related to bio-waste and bioeconomy.
- Continue the relationship and channels of collaboration among project partners.
- Continue the relationship with CINEA and EC-DGs to promote the outputs of the project, exchange knowledge and information and generate synergies.
- Follow-up the implementation and results of the afterlife activities of the project with specific meetings.

As identified in section 4 the LIFE BIOBEST consortium partners will, as umbrella actions, ensure sustainability of the communication and dissemination activities detailed within this strategy, as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Graphic summary of the LIFE BIOBEST afterlife activities



In March 2025, LIFE BIOBEST initiated discussions with the EC Directorate General of the Environment, which served as a first step towards applying project outputs and strategizing the future of bio-waste management in the EU. In the final month of the project, communications with the EC Directorate General of the Environment continued, further catalysing the afterlife of the outputs and policy recommendations. LIFE BIOBEST consortium partners will continue to promote the dissemination of the outputs via EC channels.

The translation of project outputs is a core action. In the final stages of the project, key documents have been summarized and translated into European languages to promote their local usage. This includes:

- [LIFE BIOBEST D5.2 Executive summary](#),
- [LIFE BIOBEST WP3 Guidelines summary](#) and
- [LIFE BIOBEST D5.4 Comprehensive guidance for the EU](#).

Also included below are the topics to be addressed in greater detail and additional avenues for research identified by the consortium or project stakeholders within **LIFE BIOBEST D4.4 Reviewed policy recommendations**:

1. Technical and operational improvements:
 - Biodegradable and compostable collection aids to collect bio-waste, especially kitchen waste, and their related influence on quality and quantity.
 - The behaviour of biodegradable and compostable collection aids during processing – Do they harm processing or can they be beneficial?
 - Best available technologies for the biological recycling of bio-waste, resulting in the production of compost, digestate or both.
2. Behavioural change and social strategies:
 - Communication strategies in waste management using the concept of result-oriented approach, including nudging approaches.
 - More evidence on solutions and strategies to improve waste separation in multi-apartment buildings.
3. Economic instruments and market development:
 - Analysis of the EU funding instruments applied to bio-waste management.
 - Detailed analysis on the economic impact of bio-waste collection, and how to reach high performances without increasing the cost borne by inhabitants.
 - Targeted strategies for the marketing of compost and digestate to end-users, demand-based formulation, promotion and marketing of the products and increase of trust in the product by the end-users.

- Focus on different properties of compost and digestate in connection to soil health and soil improvement and substitution of peat and/or synthetic fertilisers, overview of potential regulatory drivers to promote either one (the EU Taxonomy of Sustainable Finance starts considering this).
4. Policy, standardisation and monitoring:
- Standardisation of waste compositional analysis including residual waste and bio-waste and development of unified methodology and specification of the legal place of assessment (e.g. responsibility of municipality (waste generator) vs treatment plant operator (waste operator)) as well as their impact on e.g. waste fees.
 - Standardisation work on biodegradable and compostable collection aids to collect bio-waste, especially kitchen waste.
 - Focus of the influence of input quality control at the location of waste generation as a tool to prevent physical impurities in separately collected bio-waste.
5. Decentralised and community-based treatment solutions:
- Focus on decentralised approach, e.g. how to streamline the adoption of home composting and community composting, and how to adopt small-scale treatment solutions (such as small-scale anaerobic digestion) in more remote areas.
 - Examples of efficient management and monitoring procedures for home-composting, including control of KPI.

Complementarily, the [**LIFE BIOBEST D7.2 Transferability and Replicability Strategy**](#) monitors and mobilises partners to perform joint activities and events related to its implementation during the project's lifespan. For further information on final dissemination results and goals as well as final Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) associated with communications, please see [**LIFE BIOBEST D6.4 Communication and dissemination final report**](#).

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LIFE BIOBEST is a project co-funded by the European Union

LIFE21-PRE-ES-LIFE BIOBEST – 101086420

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