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# Developing a Territorial Transition Model Based on a Cooperative Bioeconomy for Hemp

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## Abstract

**The European Hemp Pole bets on cooperation as the driving force behind the growth of the hemp-based bioeconomy.** To achieve the goal of developing a plant with multiple potential uses that can benefit the territories that choose to cultivate it, the implementation of structured, strategic initiatives-tailored to the strengths and weaknesses of those territories-is essential. Without such initiatives, no real transition is possible. These structuring projects and strategies cannot succeed without considering the hemp plant's full ecological and economic potential-recognizing its value as a whole. This multi-stakeholder approach of hemp necessarily requires ecosystem-based cooperation involving multiple stakeholders and markets.

However, today, value creation is primarily framed in terms of bioeconomy, not cooperation. The concept of **cooperative bioeconomy** acknowledges that value arises not only through the transformation of biomass into new applications, but also through a new way of organizing economic actors. This involves effective cooperation within a multi-stakeholder, multi-market ecosystem-from upstream agriculture to all downstream valorization chains-based on three shared principles: open-ended cooperation, fair value distribution, and an ecosystem-based approach that includes territories, markets, value chains, and actor typologies.

This new approach aims to foster the long-term, stable development of a socio-economic ecosystem within a given territory.

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