

BALTICBIOMASS4VALUE

5th Newsletter of the BalticBiomass4Value Project



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PROJECT NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Dear Readers,

WELCOME TO THE 5TH BALTICBIOMASS4 VALUE NEWSLETTER

welcome to the fifth BalticBiomass4Value Project Newsletter. BalticBiomass4Value is a project implemented under the framework of the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme, financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) and Norwegian national funding.

This newsletter presents the project's activities and achievements, as well as bioeconomy-related events. Additionally, the final three of the 17 project partners are introduced in this issue.

We hope you will enjoy reading it!

On behalf of the BalticBiomass4Value project,
Lena Huck
(Communication Manager, Agency for Renewable Resources - FNR)

UPCOMING BALTICBIOMASS4VALUE EVENTS



8 October
2021

BalticBiomass4value launches interactive online portal

8 October 2021

The interactive online portal will go online on the BalticBiomass4Value website (www.balticbiomass4value.eu) on 8 October 2021. The interactive online portal will be available in English, German, Swedish, Norwegian, Polish, Latvian, Estonian, Lithuanian and Russian.

You can find more information about the interactive online portal on [page 5](#).



13-14 October
2021

Business Consultations and Matchmaking Meetings: Estonia

13-14 October 2021, Estonia

The Estonian business consultations and matchmaking event of the BalticBiomass4Value project is hosted by the Estonian Chamber of Agriculture and Commerce will take place during the the Estonian Agricultural Annual Exhibition (EPA2021).

For more information visit: [Link](#)



20-21 October
2021

Transnational Hybrid Conference-Unlocking the Potential of Bio-based Value Chains in the Baltic Sea Region

20-21 October 2021, Poland

A two-day transnational conference of the BalticBiomass4Value project is hosted by the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn. Participation is free of charge but registration is required. Attendants can either participate physically or virtually.

Registration: [Link](#)

To stay updated visit: [Link](#)



9-10 November
2021

Experience Exchange and Networking Event: Perspectives and Challenges of Local Authorities and Municipal Waste Management Enterprises for Bio-based Waste Management

9-10 November 2021, Online

A two-day experience exchange and networking event of the BalticBiomass4Value project is hosted by 3N Lower Saxony Network for Renewable Resources and Bioeconomy (Germany), Vidzeme Planning Region (Latvia) and Halmstad University (Sweden). The event is aimed at local authorities and municipal enterprises who have an interest in bio-based waste management.

To stay updated visit: [Link](#)



TRANSNATIONAL HYBRID CONFERENCE

Unlocking the Potential of Bio-based Value
Chains in the Baltic Sea Region

**20-21 OCTOBER
2021**

Host: University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn

Physical location: ul. Słoneczna 54, 10-710
Olsztyn, Poland

Virtual location: Zoom

The event is free of charge, however registration
is required.

Registration link:

<https://forms.gle/B4DkQLQSZ97rrkge6>



UNIVERSITY
OF WARMIA AND MAZURY
IN OLSZTYN

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS



13-14 October
2021

Annual Exhibition of Estonian Agriculture – EPA2021

13-14 October 2021, Tartu, Estonia

The Annual Exhibition of Estonian Agriculture (EPA2021) is a B2B exhibition organised by the Estonian Chamber of Agriculture and Commerce, a project partner of the BalticBiomass4Value project. The themes range from agriculture, digital technologies and finance.

For more information visit: [Link](#)



17 November
2021

5th Norwegian Circular Economy Conference and Matchmaking

17 November 2021, Norway

Join Norwegian and international companies, researchers, stakeholders and policymakers at this conference and B2B matchmaking event, to share the latest knowledge and create new opportunities in the transition to a circular economy.

For more information visit: [Link](#)

Presenting the BalticBiomass4Value interactive online portal

BalticBiomass4Value is proud to announce the release of a new interactive online portal on 8 October 2021. Are you curious to find out what the interactive online portal is all about? We have summarised the most points below.

What is the interactive online portal?

In essence the interactive online portal is a database providing collected and processed data relevant for public authorities and business enterprises in the Baltic Sea Region. Information that was produced during the project (good practice examples, statistical indicators and special calculators) is made available in an accessible way.

Aim of the interactive online portal:

- Improve knowledge and technology transfer services in eight countries (Germany, Poland, Sweden, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Russia and Norway).
- Dissemination of project outputs

What elements will be part of the interactive online portal?

- Catalogue of good practice business models
- Database of statistical indicators, including several calculators for biological waste potential and bioenergy demand modelling
- Business planning tool
- Catalogue of measures to promote the circular bioeconomy at the local and regional level

When and where will the interactive online tool be available?

The interactive online platform will go online on the BalticBiomass4Value website (www.balticbiomass4value.eu) and will be available in English, German, Swedish, Norwegian, Polish, Latvian, Estonian, Lithuanian and Russian.

BalticBiomass4Value business consultations and matchmaking meetings

In order to unlock the potential of bio-based value chains in the Baltic Sea Region, matchmaking events with local businesses and state/municipal owned enterprises have been taking place in the partner countries. The thematic areas of the matchmaking events range from heat and fuel from woody biomass to the utilisation of municipal waste and sewage sludge. Enterprises are matched according to their needs and offered a virtual meeting in which knowledge can be exchanged. The events are organised and moderated by the BalticBiomass4Value project.

The matchmaking meetings are currently ongoing in Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden and Norway.

To find out more information about the matchmaking events visit: [Link](#)

Matchmaking meeting in Poland

On 16 June 2021 the Polish project partner, the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, organised their matchmaking event. 44 participants took part in the online meeting. During the first part of the workshop the general assumptions of the BalticBiomass4Value project were presented. Then, general assumptions about territorial cooperation in the areas of the Baltic Sea region and Central Europe for 2021-2027 were presented. In addition, national and EU legal aspects in the field of bioeconomy were presented. A discussion was then conducted on legal aspects in the field of bioeconomy and future possibilities of cooperation in this area.

In the second part of the workshop, business models related to bioenergy in the Baltic Sea Region were presented. In addition, analysis of the use of local biomass sources for heating public buildings as well as analysis and modelling of the spread of pollutants from heating installations were presented. Finally, a discussion panel was held, which indicated the possibilities of using the bioeconomy in the local public sector.

More information about the Polish matchmaking event: [Link](#)



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Roadshow of industrial symbiosis and bio-based business models

On 26 May 2021, the Interreg Baltic Sea Region funded projects BIS – Baltic Industrial Symbiosis and BalticBiomass4Value held a virtual roadshow of industrial symbiosis and bio-based business models. The event was held in collaboration with the Nordic Council of Ministers Offices in the Baltic States.

The event was opened by Jukka Teräs, who is an industrial engineering and management expert from Norrum Oy (Finland). Jukka Teräs presented his insights on the development of industrial symbiosis and the importance of transnational cooperation in this area.

During the first part of the event, representative of the Trøndelag County Council Per Erik Sørås (Norway) introduced tools prepared within the BIS project to support actors in developing industrial symbiosis. Afterwards a representative of the Paper Province Magnus Persson (Sweden) shared his experience in organising living labs. Presentations were given by Lisbeth Randers on activities of Kalundborg Symbiosis (Denmark) and Beata Szatkowska, as well as by Jan Hupka from Gdansk University of Technology (Poland) on the topic of biodegradable plastics and marine pollution management.

The second part of the event was dedicated to good practice bio-based business models, which were introduced and presented by Halmstad University expert Henrik Barth (Sweden). The models were developed within the BalticBiomass4Value project to help businesses and entrepreneurs engaged in the bio-based economy to evaluate their activities against good practices and improve them accordingly. The good practice bio-based business models were illustrated by two examples: the German case of nutrients recovery from digestate presented by Sascha Hermus from the 3N Lower Saxony Network for Renewable Resources and Bioeconomy and the Latvian case of potato starch producer Aloja Starkelsen, presented by Jānis Garančs.



Potato starch from Aloja Starkelsen, one of the businesses which presented at the roadshow.

Photo rights: Aloja Starkelsen

Two-day transnational event held in Russia from 8-9 July 2021

The Municipal Enterprise of the City of Pskov “Gorvodokanal”, a partner of the BalticBiomass4Value project, held a two-day transnational event on 8 and 9 July 2021.

Representatives of regional public authorities and local municipalities participated in the hybrid-format two-day transnational event hosted by the Municipal Enterprise of the City of Pskov “Gorvodokanal”, Northwestern Russia. The aim of the event was to facilitate experience exchange and networking, and to spread prepared guidelines for circular bioeconomy development support at the local level. On the first day, K. Bolotin, Director of the Municipal Enterprise of the City of Pskov “Gorvodokanal”, gave the opening remarks, highlighting the importance of transnational cooperation and climate change mitigation.

Virginija Kargyte (Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania), the BalticBiomass4Value Project Coordinator, gave an overview to the BalticBiomass4Value project and announced the upcoming release of the interactive online platform on the BalticBiomass4Value website. The interactive online portal is a database providing collected and processed data relevant for public authorities and business enterprises in the Baltic Sea Region. Arnis Lenerts from the Latvian University of Life Science and Technologies, a project partner in BalticBiomass4Value, presented the findings of a report on mapping of the biomass value chains in the Baltic Sea Region and a report on good practice business models, and gave an extensive overview of the concept of the circular bioeconomy. He provided examples of the state of the bioeconomy in the Baltic Sea Region and discussed the unique case of Russia, which has a large amount of fossil-based resources. Hence, it is difficult to convince people to push for the creation of a circular bioeconomy, despite its potential and long-term benefits. Following, Andrey Alyabev, responsible BalticBiomass4Value partner at the Municipal Enterprise of the City of Pskov “Gorvodokanal”, provided European examples of the use of biomass of various origins for energy extraction and discussed the use of biomass in the Pskov region. In the afternoon, two important company representatives from the Pskov region, JSC “Neva-Energy” and LLC “Plemproductor Nazia” gave pitches about their business enterprises.

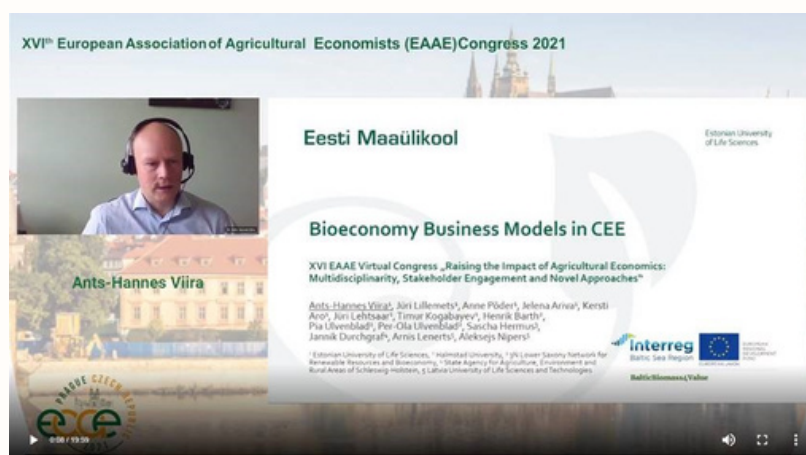
On the second day of the transnational event, the physically present participants of the event visited the Vodokanal water and waste treatment facility.

BalticBiomass4Value business models presented

On 23 July, Ants-Hannes Viira from the Estonian University of Life Sciences (EMÜ), a project partner of the BalticBiomass4Value project, participated in the organised session „Status and Challenges for Sustainable Circular Bioeconomy in Central and Eastern Europe“ of the EAAE (European Association of Agricultural Economists) Congress, and presented the work done on the good example business models. Viira stressed that many of the business models developed in the project contain processing of different types of biomass and production of multiple products. Also, often these business models assume new partners, e.g. knowledge organisation, and new customers and sales channels. Thus, the bioeconomy business models require significant entrepreneurial capacities.

In the seminar, Luka Juvancic from University of Ljubljana (Slovenia) emphasised that for successful transition to bioeconomy, participation in the international value chains and networks is crucial for Eastern European bioeconomy actors. Biljana Kulišić from Energy Institute Hrvoje Požar (Croatia) pointed out that there is an absence of bioeconomy related clusters in the Central and Eastern European countries, while there are a number of „individual champions“ in the novel bio-based industries in these countries. Piotr Jurga from the Institute of Soil Sciences and Plant Cultivation (Poland) emphasised the role of feed-in tariffs in case of bioenergy.

In the discussion section, Davide Viaggi from the University of Bologna (Italy) brought out the lack of adequate data on bioeconomy, and also the need for agricultural economists to work more on bioeconomy related aspects. He underlined that business models' related issues are crucial but these should be presented and discussed in the language that is understood by the entrepreneurs. Also, the development of entrepreneurial skills, and entrepreneurial education were mentioned as one of the key factors for adoption of the bioeconomy business models. Barna Kovacs from the BIOEAST Initiative highlighted that biomass production and bioeconomy need to respect the sustainability boundaries.



Screenshot of Business Model presentation, Photo rights: Ants-Hannes Viira

Survey on mapping the interests of farmers in Estonia

A survey was conducted as part of the BalticBiomass4Value project, in which the interests of Estonian farmers in the utilisation of bio-based resources were investigated and mapped. The Estonian Chamber of Agriculture and Commerce together with the Estonian University of Life Sciences and the Ministry of Rural Affairs carried out the survey.

The survey was open from February to March 2021. In total 271 producers answered the survey. With regard to type of producers, the majority of the respondents were farmers of whom 102 (~37%) are engaged in crop production and 90 (~33%) in livestock farming. Others included producers from food industry and forestry as well as service providers. Most participants are operating small size companies with 0-10 employees.

As a result of the study, in these companies the main bio-based resource produced as by-product is manure (~32%), followed by straw (~20%) and biomass from grasslands (~19%). The companies also indicated their high interest in utilisation and adding value of these bio-based resource types. 17% of respondents answered that they currently do not utilise bio-based resources generated in production. According to the survey, today the manure is mainly used as an organic fertiliser and in some cases as a raw material for biogas production. Straw is used for animal bedding and occasionally farmers crush the straw and incorporate it into the soil as an amendment. Biomass from grasslands is mostly used for animal feed.

In addition, there were many different topics of interest when it comes to processing of bio-based resources. In case of companies, the most relevant questions are related to the subsidies (~25%) and investment financing opportunities (~22%). There was also a great interest regarding development of new products and services as well as in finding new business ideas for processing of bio-based resources. In addition, 70 producers (~25%) expressed their interest in exchanging knowledge and experience with companies operating in the same field in other EU countries.



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Sustainable business models in the Swedish agricultural sector

Researchers from Halmstad University, a project partner of BalticBiomass4Value, published a research paper in the Journal of Cleaner Production. The paper "Unpacking Sustainable Business Models in the Swedish Agricultural Sector- The Challenges of Technological, Social and Organisational Innovation" aims to increase our understanding of how sustainable business models have developed in the agricultural sector in Sweden. Eight archetypes of sustainable business models, clustered in three groups, with a focus on the technological, social, and organisational innovation components at agri-food companies are mapped in the paper.

Reference: Henrik Barth, Pia Ulvenblad, Per-Ola Ulvenblad and Maya Hoveskog (2021) Unpacking Sustainable Business Models in the Swedish Agricultural Sector- The Challenges of Technological, Social and Organisational Innovation in Journal of Cleaner Production, 2021, Page 127004



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BALTICBIOMASS4VALUE PROJECT PARTNERS

Meet the Consortium

Estonian University of Life Sciences (EMÜ)

In Estonia, EMÜ is an academic institution that sets its focus on research, teaching and knowledge transfer on bioeconomy. The EMÜ is a centre of research and development in such fields as agriculture, forestry, animal science, veterinary science, rural life and economy, food science and environmentally friendly technologies. In the project, EMÜ coordinates with the development of business models, which will include analysis of bioeconomy business cases, development of good practice business models and related tool for the business analysis. The Institute of Economics and Social Sciences (IESS) of EMÜ especially has a long-term experience in carrying out interdisciplinary research on agricultural economics and policy, agricultural marketing, financing, co-operation and rural entrepreneurship. Therefore EMÜ/IESS also contributes to other project activities.

Municipal Enterprise of the City of Pskov "Gorvodokanal"

The Municipal Enterprise of the city of Pskov "Gorvodokanal" is one of the largest utility companies in the Pskov Region, where significant amounts of biomass are generated during wastewater treatment that can be used for energy production. Within the project, the enterprise will develop a feasibility study on the use of biomass generated during wastewater treatment. In addition, information about bio- and energy-saving technologies and the project in general will be disseminated to the project target groups in seminars, on the enterprise's website and in the local media.

Estonian Chamber of Agriculture and Commerce (ECAC)

The Estonian Chamber of Agriculture and Commerce (ECAC) represents, supports and protects the interests of rural business operators both nationally and internationally. ECAC unites agricultural producers and their unions, processors of agricultural products and their unions and companies providing services to the agricultural sector. ECAC's activities are aimed at ensuring balanced development within the agricultural sector. Furthermore, ECAC works at improving the quality and reputation of Estonian food, agricultural and forestry products both on the domestic and foreign markets, and the development of cooperation between farmers, agricultural processors, forestry and rural operators. The ECAC also promotes of rural education. In the project ECAC role is to promote project results and the engagement of the local agricultural producers.

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