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BALTICBIOMASS4VALUE

4th Newsletter of the BalticBiomass4Value Project

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PROJECT NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

WELCOME TO THE 4TH BALTICBIOMASS4 VALUE NEWSLETTER

Dear Readers,

welcome to the fourth 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, three of the 17 project partners are introduced in every issue.

We hope you will enjoy reading it!

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Business Consultations-Matchmaking Meetings

The BalticBiomass4Value project will bring together enterprises that match in their development needs and offers via virtual meetings. Enterprises engaged in bio-based activities (both private and public), as well as knowledge and technology providers will be selected to separate consultation meetings on the basis of filled out questionnaires, in which they should provide information about their enterprise, its products and/or services, specific interests and development needs.

Consultation meetings will be arranged to encourage enterprises of different profiles (e.g., agricultural producers and renewable energy technology companies) located in the Baltic Sea area to work together in improving particular biomass value chains. Knowledge exchange coordinated by the BalticBiomass4Value project will provide bio-based industry representatives with an insight into available opportunities to make their business more sustainable, while involved knowledge and technology providers will get a chance to learn more about the needs of bio-based businesses and how these could be better addressed.

For more information visit: https://balticbiomass4value.eu/project-events/

20-21 May 2021
Online

Sustainable Bioeconomy Development Conference

The 2nd International Scientific Conference *Sustainable Bioeconomy Development 2021: Adaptation to Climate Change* will be held virtually on **20-21 May 2021**. The event is organised by the Faculty of Bioeconomy Development of Vytautas Magnus University Agriculture Academy and the Faculty of Economics and Social Development of Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies. BalticBiomass4Value Consortium members will participate in the conference and present the results of the report on good practice business models.

For more information and to register visit: https://sbd.vdu.lt/panel-discussion/

Registration is open until 16 May 2021.

21-23 September 2021
Kaunas

10th International Scientific Conference 'Rural Development 2021: Challenges for Sustainable Bioeconomy and Climate Change'

Vytautas Magnus University Academy of Agriculture will host the 10th International Scientific Conference from **21-23 September 2021.**

Registration is open until 15 August 2021.

For more information visit: https://www.ruraldevelopment.lt/

BALTICBIOMASS4VALUE PROJECT NEWS

Report on good practice business models in the Baltic Sea Region published

The University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Polish partner of the BalticBiomass4Value project, published a report which maps biomass value chains for improved sustainable energy use in the Baltic Sea Region countries. The research focuses on the 9 Baltic Sea Region (BSR) countries: Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden, and Norway.

The general objective of this study was to map biomass resources and most commonly used bioenergy technologies in the BSR countries and to exchange information on best practices and technologies between countries, not only on bioenergy uses but also on additional value chains based on biological resources.

More specific aims were:

- to assess biomass potential and biomass logistics from different sources (agriculture, food and feed industry, forestry, wood industry, municipal waste and sewage sludge, fishery),
- to assess biomass conversion technologies, including thermo-chemical, physico-chemical and biological conversion used in BSR countries,
- to provide information about technological solutions (including pilot plants under implementation experience) from different BSR countries and comparable/neighbouring regions,
- to identify different technological solutions, technology readiness level and the best bioenergy practices in bioenergy in BSR countries.

You find the full report here: https://balticbiomass4value.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/BB4V_A_2.3_REPORT_15.01.2021_FOR_WEB.pdf

Photo credit Akil Mazumder (Canva)

Science and business professionals present the development of bioeconomy and life sciences in Lithuanian regions

The Lithuanian Biotechnology Association (LBTA), a project partner of the BalticBiomass4Value project, organised a series of events on the development of the bioeconomy and life sciences in Lithuania.

On 15 October, LBTA started an event tour of Lithuanian regions "Bioeconomy and Life Sciences Development Opportunities in Lithuanian Regions". Researchers and biotechnology industry representatives invited regional municipalities and local businesses to discuss regional involvement in the development of innovative technologies.

The LBTA goal was to meet with representatives of Telsiai, Siauliai, Panevezys, Taurage, Marijampole, Alytus and Utena to discuss the possibilities of regions to become more involved in the development of the circular bioeconomy, to assess the potential for the development of innovative technologies. By promoting cooperation between science and business in the regions, the development of bioeconomy and life sciences, regions could become involved in international projects, develop high value-added production, increase the number of employees and, of course, reduce regional socio-economic exclusion.

The LBTA visited Telsiai on 15 October 2020. Telsiai warmly welcomed us and we had an active discussion about further cooperation and active involvement in the development of the bioeconomy. We were delighted to meet Telsiai City Municipality Mayor Kestutis Gusarovas, Telsiai District Business incubator, Siauliai Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Crafts and local business representatives.

On 5 November 2020, LBTA organised a virtual event in Taurage, during which representatives of Taurage municipality and industry discussed opportunities for the development of the bioeconomy in the region with our Vice Presidents. The Taurage District Entrepreneurs Association introduced companies that produce biobased products and shared their experience.

A virtual meeting with Marijampole took place on 12 November 2020. LBTA presented opportunities for the development of the bioeconomy in the region and together with representatives of Marijampolė Municipality and Enterprise Lithuania initiative "Spiecius" discussed further steps of cooperation.

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On 13 November 2020, LBTA organised a meeting with the College of Alytus. During the meeting, opportunities for bioeconomy development in Alytus region were presented, the establishment of the Alytus STEAM Training Centre was discussed and further ideas of cooperation between LBTA and Alytus College was put forward.

On 17 November 2020, LBTA, together with the Ministry of Agriculture, organised a seminar on "Opportunities for the Development of Bioeconomy and Life Sciences in Panevezys Region". During the event, Dalia Miniataite, the chief adviser of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania, presented the Lithuanian bioeconomy and potential of biomass resources. Representatives of LBTA presented the prospects for the development of the bioeconomy and biotechnological solutions. During the active discussion, issues related to the development of the bioeconomy, cooperation of municipalities, business and scientific institutions with a view to empowering the potential in Panevėžys area were raised.

For more information visit: http://lbta.lt/en/science-and-business-professionals-will-present-the-development-of-bioeconomy-and-life-sciences-in-lithuanian-regions/

Photo credit MabelAmber (Canva)

European Green Course for Bioeconomy Development Conference

The Latvian University of Life Sciences and Technologie, a project partner of the BalticBiomass4Value project, organised the the online conference "European Green Course for Bioeconomy Development" December 17, 2020. Researchers from the Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies, representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, foreign experts in the field of bioeconomy from Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland and Croatia took part in the conference.

Link: https://www.llu.lv/en/article/2020-12-04/llu-invites-to-participate-in-the-international-bioeconomy-conference

Balanced Agriculture 2021 Conference

The Latvian University of Life Sciences and Technologies Faculty of Agriculture, Latvian Agronomic Association and Latvian Academy of Agricultural and Forest Sciences organized scientific and practical conference "Balanced Agriculture 2021" on 25-26 February 2021.

Photo credit Kaboompics.com (Canva)

BB4V Survey on Mapping the Interests of Agricultural and Food Producers in Estonia

The Estonian University of Life Sciences, the Estonian Chamber of Agriculture and Commerce and the Ministry of Rural Affairs are conducting a survey aimed at mapping the interests of farmers in processing of bio-based resources.

For more information visit (in Estonian): https://kysitlus.emu.ee/index.php/655685

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Interreg celebrates 30th Anniversary

In 2020, Interreg celebrated 30 years of Interreg cooperation. European Territorial Cooperation is at the heart of the European spirit because it encourages regions and countries to tackle challenges they can solve only by working together.

You can visit the Programme website to see a summary of Interreg Baltic Sea Region contributions to celebrating 30 years of Interreg cooperation.

Link: https://www.interreg-baltic.eu/interreg30.html

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BIOECONOMY NEWS

New project SustainIT addresses the digitalization related challenges for bio-based value chains

Estonian University of Life Sciences and Halmstad University have partnered with Estonian Dairy Cluster, University of Oulu and Technical University of Munich to tackle the barriers for ICT adoption in dairy and beef value chains. The three-year project SustainIT aims to identify technological, economic, social and institutional barriers of widespread adoption of animal health and welfare related ICT, and develop conceptual solutions and business models for valorisation of digital data.

SustainIT will address the availability, technologies and data exchange of animal health and welfare data. Research on the data use at enterprises will help to find solutions for ICT integrations to enterprise management. Partners will address the potential of ICT related new business models in the value chain and the consumer and societal demands related to data access. The project will study the role of public sector in pooling of data and in developing the frameworks and supportive innovation ecosystem.

The project SustainIT receives co-financing from the ERA-NET Cofund ICT-AGRI-FOOD of European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement No 862665) and from national funding agencies in each country.

Sustainable food waste management addresses both the reduction of food losses and valorisation of the waste

Estonian University of Life Sciences' project "Food Loss in Estonian Agriculture and Fisheries" has over several years measured the extent of food loss in primary production. The results from 2020 demonstrated considerable variation in the food loss by the type of the production. The share of food loss was between 0.3% to 46.1% of production volume with the losses lower in aquaculture and animal husbandry and higher in horticulture. In 2020, food losses in milk production, wheat, strawberry and potato production and fishing amounted to 116,671 tonnes in Estonia. Potato production and fisheries demonstrated good prospects for valorisation of food loss by recycling food waste into new bio-based products.

The project was financed from the program "Agricultural Applied Research and Development for 2015- 2021".

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Estonian start-up Woola develops wool based alternative for plastic bubble wrap

Established in 2019, Woola is an environmentally friendly packaging material producer that tackles both the reduction of plastic packaging and the waste of wool in Estonia. In 2020, the start-up won the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) 2020 Powerup! competition's grand final and place in the EIT InnoEnergy's investment program. The start-up has also been successful in raising investments. Woola produces packaging material from sheep wool residues. Packaging called bubble wool and wool envelope is made from leftover sheep wool to reduce Styrofoam and plastic waste, particularly for packaging in online shopping.

Woola website: https://www.woola.io/

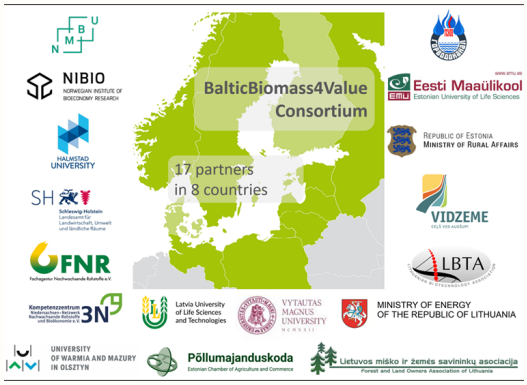
Estonian brewery A. Le Coq builds one of the most unique biogas and wastewater treatment plants in Estonia

Tartu-based Estonia's largest brewery A. Le Coq laid the cornerstone for 3.5 million euro biogas and wastewater treatment plant, which is one of the most unique in Estonia, enabling the plant to produce biogas from wastewater and reduce the pollution load of wastewater sent to urban sewers by up to 80 percent. Together with the plant, a new segregated sewerage system will be built on the site, which means that production wash water, domestic water and storm water will be directed to separate pipelines. The biogas plant to be built will separate solid organic matter from the wastewater generated in production and convert it into biogas, which will cover 10–15 percent of the entire plant's heat energy needs. In addition to biogas production, the plant will significantly treat the plant's wastewater. 80 percent cleaner water will be directed to the city sewer, which is easier to clean and put back into circulation in the Tartu water supply system.

The planned biogas plant will be completed by autumn 2021 and will be fully operational by the end of the year. The project was co-financed in the amount of 1.1 million euros by the European Regional Development Fund, and coordinated by the Environmental Investment Center.

A. Le Coq website: https://www.alecoq.ee/en/

Photo credit Elevate (Canva)



BALTICBIOMASS4VALUE PROJECT PARTNERS

Meet the Consortium

Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Lithuania

The Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Lithuania is a government department of the Republic of Lithuania. Its mission is to implement Lithuanian government policy energy security ,nuclear energy, electricity and heat, energy efficiency, electricity, renewable energy production and supply for Lithuania's economy. One of the strategic LIthuanian energy policy goals - to provide reliable, renewable and environmentally friendly energy to the residents of the country for the most favourable price. The ministry of energy, having great success in shifting heating sector from fossil fuel to biomass, contributes to the preparation of good practice business models and cross-border learning and promotion of implementation guidelines.

For more information visit: https://enmin.lrv.lt/en/

Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies

Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies (hereinafter LLU) is the state founded university, specializing in the sustainable use of natural resources aimed at the enhancement of quality of life for society. The vision of the university is to become one of the leading universities of science and technologies in the Baltic Sea region. Long-term objectives are excellence in research, high quality studies, and effective university management system. In order to achieve the aims of the university, the research, education and management improvement programmes have been developed. Research for bioeconomy and circular economy is at the focus of LLU. A Multidisciplinary approach is applied at the each stage of the bioeconomy and circular economy and research direction, providing results, which altogether lead towards novel, interdisciplinary developed solutions. This knowledges is applied to BalticBiomass4Value project as a base to achieved best research results.

For more information visit: https://www.llu.lv/en

Halmstad University

Halmstad University prepares people for the future by creating values, driving innovation and developing society. The University is characterised as forward-thinking and cross-border. The research at Halmstad University is internationally renowned and is pursued in interdisciplinary innovation and research environments. The University takes an active part in the development of society through extensive and recognised collaboration with both the private and public sector. The research within the BalticBiomass4Value project is conducted at the Center for Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Learning research (CIEL), which is part of the School of Business, Engineering and Science. This opens up for inter-disciplinary exchange, since the Rydberg Laboratory for Applied Sciences (RLAS), including e.g. research in engineering and environmental sciences, is also a part of this school. Halmstad University has extensive experience from conducting research in the field of sustainable business model innovation within the agricultural and green business sector.

For more information visit: https://www.hh.se/english.html

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Duration: January 2019 – December 2021. Total budget: EUR 2.79 million European Regional Development Fund: EUR 1.86 million ENI/Russian National Fund: EUR 0.09 million Norwegian Funding: EUR 0.19 million