



# THEMATIC DISCUSSION I: ENGAGEMENT IN THE BIOECONOMY – OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

**Barbara Ribeiro and Kate Millar, University of Nottingham**

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# What we will do in this session

- **Quick summary of stakeholder and public engagement in bioeconomy strategies;** (5 minutes)
- **Group discussion 1:** why we engage, who to engage with and what are the challenges? (15 minutes)
- **Group discussion 2:** what are the policy measures needed to tackle these challenges? (20 minutes)

# Stakeholder and public engagement (SPE) in the bioeconomy

- **SPE** in the EU bioeconomy is about...
  1. Engaging for the development of **national strategies**;
  2. Engaging for the development of **regional strategies/agendas** (e.g. clusters);
  3. Engaging in the development of bioeconomy-related **Research & Development**;
  4. Engaging in the implementation of **projects** or **commercialisation** of products.
- The **'level'** that SPE occurs is relevant and different across EU
- BioSTEP has explored **SPE in national and regional bioeconomy strategies**:
  - WP2 and WP3 (year 1 results – desk-based research).

# SPE in bioeconomy strategies

- Predominance of the **'triple helix' (governments, industry and R&D institutions)** in the development of strategies;
- **National strategies encourage SPE** (especially in the form of consultations) but **opportunities for engagement** seem to be **greater at the regional** level (project level);
- **Public engagement** appears to be especially **focused on information-transmission** (one-way communication from stakeholder to the public to increase awareness);
- **No direct relationship** between SPE and cluster maturity;
- However, attempts at and **opportunities for more participatory approaches** are noticeable.



**Now we need to do some work  
..... please**

# Group Discussion 1

Each person (5 minutes):

- **Why we engage and at what level (e.g. national strategy, project)?**
  - (1 post-it note each)
- **Who to engage with?**
  - (1 post-it note each)
- **What are the challenges?**
  - (1 post-it note each)

Group (10 minutes)

**Discuss the challenges as a group ...and then report back one of the most prominent key challenges**

# Group Discussion 2

## In your groups (10 minutes)

- What might be the **'solutions'** (e.g. policy measures, funding measures, events, etc) needed to tackle any of the four **challenges** identified before?

## Plenum discussion (10 minutes)

- One or Two **Recommendations**?

## Closing Statement (Millar and Ribeiro)

# Thank you for your attention!



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