

BioSTEP Forum: Creating Networks for the Transition to a Bio-based and Circular Economy

Timing: Wednesday, 29 March 2017 (10.00 – 18.00)

Venue: [Mundo-b](#), Rue d'Edimbourg 26, 1050 Brussels (Ixelles), Belgium

The EU Bioeconomy Strategy is currently undergoing a review, which will be completed by mid-2017 and underpin the future orientation of the strategy. At the same time, policy-makers are discussing the links between the bioeconomy and the circular economy and whether both concepts should be combined in a single strategy.

The **objectives** of the BioSTEP Forum are:

- To present and discuss the results of the stakeholder engagement activities in BioSTEP and its value to the current policy discussions on the bioeconomy and the circular economy.
- To discuss how strategies can be developed in a participatory way, ensuring that the change of economic value chains, necessary for the transition to a bio-based and circular economy, is understood and supported by all stakeholders.
- To provide an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss barriers and opportunities related to the participatory development of bioeconomy and circular economy strategies.

The outcomes of the BioSTEP Forum will feed into the finalisation of a [policy paper](#) which will be published after the conference. The policy paper will provide policy-makers with recommendations for effective stakeholder and public engagement in a bio-based and circular economy.

Agenda:

09.30 - 10.00	Reception / Coffee
10.00 - 10.15	Welcome & Conference introduction – <i>Holger Gerdes and Zoritzza Kiresiewa, Ecologic Institute</i>
10.15 - 10.30	The ongoing review of the EU Bioeconomy Strategy – <i>Lino Paula, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission</i>
10.30 - 11.00	The challenge of building new networks within the bio-based and circular economy – <i>Lucas Porsch, Ecologic Institute, Coordinator of the H2020 project CIRCULAR IMPACTS</i> – <i>Sara Davies, European Policies Research Centre (EPRC)</i>
11.00 - 11.30	Coffee Break
11.30 - 12.00	Effective stakeholder and public engagement: Insights from practitioners – <i>Anu Reinikainen, Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)</i> – <i>Dietmar Lemmens, Bergen op Zoom Municipality / Biobased Delta</i>

12.00 - 12.30	<p>The BioSTEP policy paper: Key recommendations for effective participation & network creation – <i>brief presentations by members of the BioSTEP team</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation 1: <i>Support small and medium-sized enterprises in the creation of new networks</i> • Recommendation 2: <i>Facilitate involvement of civil society (actors) in bioeconomy and circular economy debates</i> • Recommendation 3: <i>Increase public awareness and acceptance of the bio-based and circular economy</i> • Recommendation 4: <i>Provide opportunities for participation in the planning, implementation and evaluation phases of bioeconomy and circular economy strategies</i> • Recommendation 5: <i>Design and implement effective instruments for stakeholder and public engagement</i>
12.30 - 13.30	Lunch
13.30 - 15.30	<p>World Café: Discussion and validation of BioSTEP's policy recommendations – <i>facilitated by Kate Millar, Centre for Applied Bioethics, University of Nottingham</i></p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do stakeholders agree on the identified challenges? Are there additional challenges that should be taken up in the policy paper? - Do stakeholders agree on the suggested solutions? Are there alternative solutions that should be taken up in the policy paper? - How could these challenges and solutions be addressed in the EU Bioeconomy Strategy and the Circular Economy Action Plan? <p><i>Working group rapporteurs: Members of the EU Bioeconomy Stakeholders Panel</i></p>
15.30 - 16.00	Coffee Break
16.00 - 16.45	Reporting back from the World Café sessions – <i>Facilitator & Rapporteurs of the working groups</i>
16.45 - 17.00	<p>Reflections on the outcomes of the conference</p> <p>– <i>Joanna Dupont-Inglis, EuropaBio, Chair of the EU Bioeconomy Stakeholders Panel</i></p> <p>– <i>Lino Paula, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission</i></p> <p>– <i>Holger Gerdes and Zoritz Kiresiewa, Ecologic Institute</i></p>
17.00 - 18.00	Conference Reception

18.30 – Conference Dinner at [Restaurant Il Nobile](#), Place Fernand Cocq 24, 1050 Brussels (Ixelles)
(at participants' own expense)

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