

Dear readers,

welcome to *the third 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.

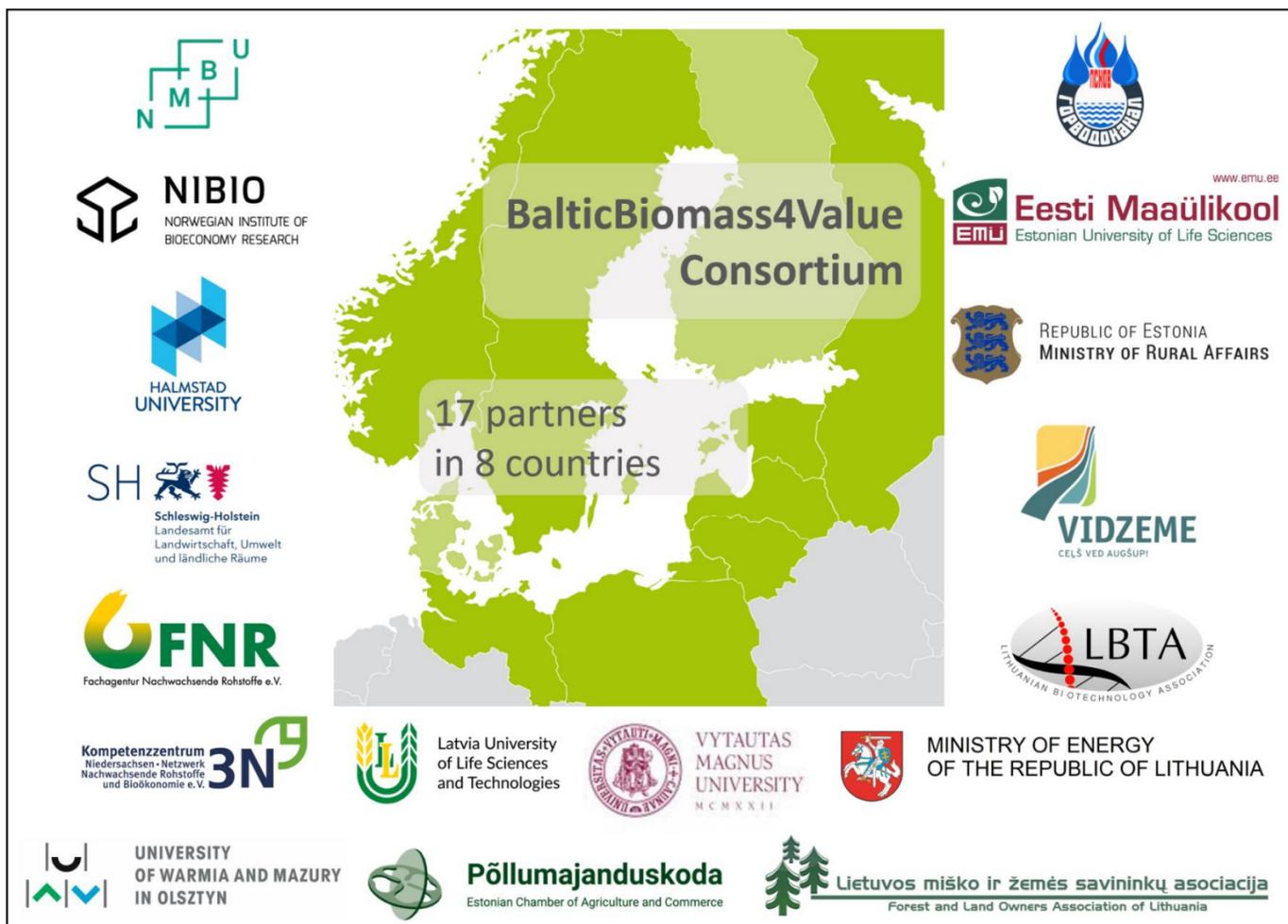
This newsletter presents the project's activities and achievements, as well as bioeconomy-related events. Additionally, every newsletter introduces three of the 17 project partners.

We hope you will enjoy reading it!

On behalf of the BalticBiomass4Value project,

Lena Huck

(Communication Manager, Agency for Renewable Resources - FNR)



BalticBiomass4Value Project Prolongation

The BalticBiomass4Value project has been prolonged for the period of six months. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, planned events had to be rescheduled and the process of data collection and analyses were delayed. In order to ensure everyone's safety, for the time being events will be held in a mixed format (online and physical) depending on the infection rates and national health and safety guidelines. The project will run until 31 December 2021.

BalticBiomass4Value project report published

A report on the mapping of biomass value chains for improved sustainable energy use in the Baltic Sea Region countries was published by the BalticBiomass4Value project. The authors argue that bioenergy plays an important role in achieving the EU's renewable energy targets. However, biomass for energy must be produced, processed and used in a sustainable and efficient way in order to optimise greenhouse gas savings and maintain ecosystem services, all without causing deforestation, degradation of habitats or loss of biodiversity. It is acknowledged that there are significant opportunities for developing the use of agricultural residues and by-products, as well as waste. To address these opportunities in the BSR, the project finalised and published "Report on mapping of biomass value chains for improved sustainable energy use in the BSR" which among other things presents bioenergy production potential from such biomass sources as straws, perennial energy crops, manure, slurry or fish processing waste. Notably, the main findings of this report are published in scientific journal with high impact factor "Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews".

Link: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rser.2020.110238>

International Conference and Business Networking Event held on 17 September 2020

On 17 September 2020, an international conference was organised by the Lithuanian Biotechnology Association as a part of the BalticBiomass4Value project. Additional to the conference, three business networking events were offered by our German, Norwegian and Lithuanian partners.

International Conference

The international conference *Bio-based Industries Fast Forward* was held in a semi-virtual format at Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas. 146 participants from the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) and beyond took part in the conference. Opening remarks were held by Tomas Andrejauskas, President of the Lithuanian Biotechnology Association, and Henriette Vivestad, Managing Director of the Norwegian Bioenergy Association. Following the opening remarks, Astrid Schomaker, Director for Global Sustainable Development in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Environment, outlined the European Green Deal and stressed the commitment of the EU towards creating a bioeconomy, which is sustainable economically, socially and environmentally. The speakers that followed discussed various aspects of the bioeconomy and its development potential in the BSR.

After the plenary session, participants were invited to join one of the transnational business to business sessions. Topics included:

- innovative uses of various biomass resources for the production of high-value sustainable bio-based products,
- innovative uses of agricultural and aquatic biomass for the production of sustainable bioenergy and other bio-based products,
- innovative uses of forest biomass and municipal waste for the production of sustainable bioenergy and other bio-based products.

These sessions were opened with case studies of the Italian leading consortium in biotechnology *Corsorzio Italbiotec*, the German biogas sector and the Norwegian biorefinery company *Borregaard AS*. Various best practice examples in the BSR were provided during these sessions.

Parallel Lithuanian session: Relevant support instruments for Lithuanian businesses

The parallel Lithuanian session discussed relevant support instruments for Lithuanian businesses. The workshop was primarily a networking event and allowed businesses to exchange experience and express any issues that they face. Business enterprises were interested in learning about best practice examples in the BSR and discussed the limiting factors of strengthening the bioeconomy in Lithuania.

Parallel Norwegian session: Wrap up and ideas to follow up

The parallel Norwegian session discussed the potential of a bio-based economy. In the first section of the workshop, the possibilities in the BSR were outlined, including the EU and national policies on strengthening the bioeconomy. Afterwards, the business enterprises gave short pitches about their sector (forestry, fisheries, farming) and ways to solve possible challenges of a bio-based economy were discussed. Lastly, the participants discussed lessons learned from EU policies and whether there are alternative ways of strengthening the bioeconomy in Norway.

Parallel German session: Local heating networks with biomass and biogas as a fuel

The parallel German session discussed local heating networks with biomass and biogas as a fuel. Overall, all representatives of the small and medium-sized enterprises were optimistic that the biogas and local heating network sector will be expanded in the coming years, thereby allowing sustainable energy production for transportation and the home. Nevertheless, it was frequently mentioned that a greater willingness is needed from politicians and vehicle manufacturers to strengthen the biogas sector. Regarding local heating networks, it was stated that the acceptance of the local population determined whether the project would be implemented. Moreover, there is a general lack of knowledge about the benefits of using biomass for heating. Most consumers falsely assume that a local heating network is very expensive, which is not the case.

More information: <https://balticbiomass4value.eu/virtual-international-conference-and-business-networking-event/>

Stakeholder engagement event in Pskov - Municipal Enterprise of the Pskov City "Gorvodokanal"

On 10 July 2020, our Russian partner, the Municipal Enterprise of the Pskov City "Gorvodokanal", held a stakeholder engagement event on the topic of biomass use. The potential in the Pskov region for utilisation of biomass was discussed and examples of good practices from the different partners of the BalticBiomass4Value project were given. Local public authorities and business enterprises participated in the semi-virtual format workshop. Participants discussed the absence of bioeconomy development strategy in the Pskov region and were curious about the different Interreg projects.

Seminar on dairy products - Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies

Our Latvian partner, the Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies (LLU), organised a stakeholder engagement event on 16 September 2020, which was the first seminar of a four-part series showcasing the activities of the BalticBiomass4Value project. The first seminar targeted representatives of the dairy producers and processors. The main topic of discussion was the use of by-products for the production of high-value-added products in the dairy sector. Participants stated that there is a lack of government support for projects aimed at the recycling of bio-based resources.

Seminar on meat and egg production - Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies

Following the seminar on dairy production and processing, LLU organized a seminar on meat and egg production on 30 September 2020. The seminar focused on how the supply chains can be restructured and the resilience in times of crisis can be strengthened in Latvia. The lack of government support for projects aimed at the recycling of bio-based resources was raised as a concern for the industry.

Stakeholder engagement event in Telšiai - Lithuanian Biotechnology Association

On 15 October 2020, the Lithuanian Biotechnology Association (LBTA) visited the city of Telšiai. During the meeting, perspectives and examples of the bioeconomy and life sciences industry development were presented and active discussion about further cooperation and the development of Telšiai bio-based industry was held. LBTA got acquainted with the administration of Telšiai District Municipality and Mayor Kęstutis Gusarovas, Telšiai County Business Incubator, Šiauliai Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Crafts and its Telšiai Branch, as well as with local business and community representatives.

Upcoming BalticBiomass4Value Events

Country	Organisation	Location	Date	Additional information	Contact
Latvia	Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies	Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies	28.10.2020	Seminar on fruit and vegetable farming	Arnis Lenerts: arnis.lenerts@llu.lv
Lithuania	Lithuanian Biotechnology Association	Tauragė Marijampolė Alytus Panevėžys Šiauliai Utena	05.11.2020 12.11.2020 13.11.2020 17.11.2020 26.11.2020 (TBD)	Tour across Lithuanian regions: Bioeconomy and life sciences industry development possibilities in the regions of Lithuania	Agnė Vaitkevičienė: agne.vaitkeviciene@lbta.lt
Latvia	Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies	Virtual meeting	17.12.2020	Online Bioeconomy Conference on the European Green Course for the Development of the Bioeconomy	Arnis Lenerts: arnis.lenerts@llu.lv
Sweden	Halmstad University	TBD	TBD	Business to Business Workshop	Henrik Barth: henrik.barth@hh.se

Trainings on circular bioeconomy development and its support systems for regional and local public authorities are expected to take place late 2020 / early 2021. More information coming soon.

EXTERNAL BIOECONOMY NEWS

UPM Biochemicals facility in Leuna (Germany)

On 7 October 2020, UPM celebrated the official start of the construction of the state-of-the-art biochemicals facility in Leuna, Germany. 550 million Euros have been invested in the new facility that will produce a range of 100% wood-based biochemicals that enable a switch from fossil-based products to sustainable alternatives in a number of end-uses such as plastics, textiles, cosmetics and industrial applications. The biorefinery is expected to start up at the end of 2022. Leuna is a renowned chemical site with more than 100 years of history, the state government of Saxony-Anhalt is committed to supporting the creation of new sustainable industries, hence supported UPM in the process.

Link: <https://www.upm.com/about-us/for-media/releases/2020/10/the-construction-of-upms-innovative-biochemicals-facility-starts-in-germany/>

Ten trends for the sustainable bioeconomy in the Nordic Arctic and Baltic Sea Region

The Nordic Council of Ministers published a report on the ten trends for the sustainable bioeconomy in the Nordic Arctic and Baltic Sea Region. The report highlights key trends in 14 countries that decision-makers should be aware of in their work on the bioeconomy. Five trends focus on the bioeconomy specifically, whilst the other five trends are macro trends illustrating societal and technological trends. The five trends for the sustainable bioeconomy are identified to be material loops in industry, local branding, seaweed and algae, and alternative protein sources. The five-macro trends are digitalisation, green investments, urbanisation, Green New Deals, and electrification. Various different conditions that support the bioeconomy are analysed, including the expected impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Link: <https://www.norden.org/en/publication/ten-trends-sustainable-bioeconomy-nordic-arctic-and-baltic-sea-region>

EUROPEAN BIOECONOMY CALENDAR

Date	Name	Location	Link
28 October 2020 4 November 2020 11 November 2020	POWER4BIO Webinar Series	Online	https://power4bio.eu/training-webinar-food-and-feed
9 November 2020	Online workshop 3: How to ensure that using biomass maintains and protects biodiversity	Online	https://etipbioenergy.eu/registration-open-for-online-biomass-workshop-series-2020-21-redii-implementation-and-beyond
11 November 2020	Bioeconomy Communication and Stakeholders' Engagement in Times of COVID-19	Online	https://eubionet.eu/eubionet-yearly-partners-workshop-bioeconomy-communication-and-stakeholders-engagement-in-times-of-covid-19/
16-20 November 2020	Global Bioeconomy Summit	Online (Germany)	https://gbs2020.net/
30 November 2020	Online workshop 4: Carbon, forests and climate impacts of woody biomass	Online	https://etipbioenergy.eu/registration-open-for-online-biomass-workshop-series-2020-21-redii-implementation-and-beyond

Short description of three project partners

Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO)

NIBIO is the central bioeconomy institution in Norway, aiming towards food security and safety, sustainable resource management, innovation and value creation through research and knowledge production within food, forestry and other bio-based industries. NIBIO is an independent research institute under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.



The main responsibility in BalticBiomass4Value is to lead the analysis on market outlook and future viability of different bioenergy products and value chains in the BSR energy system. In addition, NIBIO will provide expertise and data on the development of business models and throughout the project, as outlined in the project proposal.

3N Lower Saxony Network for Renewable Resources and Bioeconomy

The centre of excellence (3N) has the focus on supporting and furthering the development and use of marketable products, production processes and services in the field of bioenergy and vegetable raw materials. The key activities are arranged along the value creation chain of the resulting products, from cultivation through processing up to marketing. 3N is the central point of contact for information about renewable resources and bioenergy in Lower Saxony. In brief, the main fields of actions: support for cooperation between research and business organizations, contact place and agency for specialist partners, consultation on and training of 'Special-Know-How', conferences and workshops.



University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn (UWM)

The UWM is composed of 17 faculties with over 20,000 students, beyond the well-equipped scientific-staff; the university owns four experimental farms.

The UWM is collaborating actively with further research centres as e.g. Centre for Bioeconomy and Renewable Energies. The spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship of the UWM staff is also manifested by a high number of applied and gained patents, implementation and utility models. The UWM holds the title of the Leader in Implementation of Regional Innovation Strategies, awarded by the Ministry of Regional Development in Poland.

UWM's main responsibility in the BalticBiomass4Value project is to map biomass value chains for the improvement of sustainable energy use in the BSR. Additionally, the university will be able to contribute to the overall results of the project through its extensive expertise in the different biomass fields as feedstock production, its logistics and use for both bioenergy generation and bio-based products production.



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