

Dear readers,

welcome to the second BalticBiomass4Value project Newsletter. BalticBiomass4Value is a project implemented under the INTERREG Baltic Sea Region framework, co-financed by the ERDF, Russian National Fund and Norwegian Funding.

This newsletter presents the project's progress, activities, and events as well as bioeconomy related events. Additionally, every newsletter introduces 3 of the 17 project partners.

We hope you will enjoy reading it!

On behalf of the BalticBiomass4Value Project,

Diego Piedra Garcia



#### GERMANY Save the date: Baltic Bioeconomy Days in Rostock, Germany (10 – 12 March 2020)

BalticBiomass4Value will hold its Opening Conference and a workshop as parts of the Baltic Bioeconomy Days in Rostock.

Participants of the conference will gain a comprehensive first hand insight into the scientific, political and business sectors positions regarding the European Bioeconomy, in particular, within the Baltic Sea Region. Your opinion is important to us! Therefore, you will have the opportunity to actively contribute to our project during our workshop/ conference/ excursion during the Baltic Bioeconomy Days, in order to pave the way forward to a sustainable future.

More information and latest agenda here: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/BalticBioeconomyDays>

#### LITHUANIA Save the Date: International business networking event in Kaunas

On 2<sup>nd</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020, the Lithuanian Biotechnology Association kindly invites business representatives to attend an international networking event “Biomass Resources and Their Innovative Deployment: Exchange of Knowledge and Contacts, Funding Opportunities”, which will be held together with the 25<sup>th</sup> international agricultural exhibition “Ką pasėsi... 2020” in Kaunas, Lithuania.

For more information, please visit: <https://balticbiomass4value.eu/save-the-date-international-business-networking-event-in-kaunas/>

#### BALTIC SEA REGION Workshops for business enterprises

BalticBiomass4Value project has recently been looking for good practice business models of sustainable bioenergy and biobased production in the Baltic Sea region for small and medium-scale businesses. The selected business models will form the basis for good practice guidelines for public administrations on promotion of circular bioeconomy. Initial results gave an insight into different aspects and several groups of business models were identified. The selection of business models will be introduced and discussed with business ventures during the upcoming workshops.

Workshops will be held:

Country	Organisation	Location	Date	Additional information	Contact
LITHUANIA	Forest Owners Association of Lithuania	TBC	TBC		mindaugas.silininkas (at)euromediana.com
LATVIA	Vidzeme Planning Region	Cēsis	27 February 2020	Event will be held together with the Vidzeme Innovation week conference	kristaps.rocans(at)vidzeme.lv
ESTONIA	Estonian Chamber of Agriculture and Commerce	Kõo Agro OÜ, Kõo küla	11 February 2020		riina(at)epkk.ee
GERMANY	Agency for Renewable Resources	Rostock University: Agrar- und Umweltwissenschaftliche Fakultät, Rostock	10-12 March 2020	Event will be held together with the Baltic Bioeconomy Days	D.PiedraGarcia(at)fnr.de

<b>POLAND</b>	University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn	TBC	TBC	mariusz.stolarski(at)uwm.edu.pl
<b>SWEDEN</b>	Halmstad University	The Centre for Energy and Environment - EMC (Energi- och Miljöcentrum) in Varberg	22 April 2020	henrik.barth(at)hh.se
<b>NORWAY</b>	Norwegian University of Life Sciences	TBC	TBC	erik.tromborg(at)nmbu.no
<b>RUSSIA</b>	Municipal enterprise of the city of Pskov "Gorvodokanal"	"Old estate" Hotel, Pskov	24 April 2020	alyabev_aa(at)vdkpskov.ru

#### BALTIC SEA REGION From coal to biomass??? Bioenergy in Poland

Interview with Professor Mariusz Jerzy Stolarski, professor at the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Poland. Currently, Mariusz works under the Faculty of Environmental Management and Agriculture and Centre for Bioeconomy and Renewable Energies.

*Q: What role does bioenergy play in Poland and the Baltic Sea Region's energy system? What are the main Trends?*

*A:* It should be considered that bioenergy plays the most important role among all types of renewable energy sources (RES). In 2017, bioenergy in Poland accounted for 82% of all RES, and in other BSR countries such as Sweden and Estonia, the percentage of bioenergy in the total RES utilised ranges from 55 to 96% respectively. The percentage of utilised bioenergy in RES over the last years has been slightly decreasing due to the development of other RES, especially when considering innovations in wind and solar energy. However, bioenergy utilisation will still play the biggest role in the BSR countries.

Read the interview with Prof. Mariusz Jerzy Stolarski here: <https://balticbiomass4value.eu/bioenergy-in-poland/>

#### BALTIC SEA REGION Bioenergy market outlook

Prof. Dr. scient. Erik Trømborg from the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU) wrote a report on the analysis of the consumption, prices and energy production from the various biomass sources in the Baltic Sea Region from 2007 to 2016. It was concluded that the use of biomass for energy production has increased by approximately 40% in the last decade and solid biofuels now constitute 2/3 of used biomass. Biogas use has increased by more than 200% and currently accounts for around 15% of total bioenergy consumption in the region. Based on the analyzed data professor Trømborg has modelled several alternative scenarios on expected changes in biomass use for energy production. The results of the analysis show that an increase in carbon prices (e.g. introduction of CO2 tax, etc.) is expected to lead to a significant increase in the use of biomass for energy production. Use of natural gas for district heating would decrease in this scenario, and wind power would see the highest growth potential – especially in the Baltic States. Growth is also expected regarding the energy generated from municipal waste, while energy production from coal will most likely disappear.

Download the full report here: <https://balticbiomass4value.eu/interview-with-dr-tromborg-about-his-analysis-of-renewable-energy-regarding-biomass-use-and-share/>

#### LITHUANIA Bioenergy in Lithuania: Status quo and the future

Interview with Dovile Zdanaviciene, Head of the policy group of the Climate Change management team, in the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Lithuania.

*Q: "What changes do you foresee in Lithuania when considering the bioenergy sector? Which bioenergy products will be the most viable? Why?"*

*A:* "We see problems regarding reaching the target for renewables in the transport sector in the future. At this time, we are very low in target goals for renewable fuels for transport. As an example, biomethane in transport needs an improved infrastructure (gas stations, suitable engines, etc.) and political regulations as well as incentive programmes. Due to these issues, we as the Ministry of Energy together with other ministries are drafting a new law for the parliament, in order to establish the framework boosting these new technologies."

Read the interview here: <https://balticbiomass4value.eu/bioenergyinlithuania/>

#### BALTIC SEA REGION Stakeholder discussion on sustainable bioeconomy development (video)

Representatives of the Ministries of Agriculture and Energy of the Republic of Lithuania, the Danish Symbiosis Center, the AUGA group and the Lithuanian Biotechnology Association together with other participants discussed opportunities to develop a sustainable bioeconomy. Three key factors of success were highlighted:

1. Raising public awareness about environmental benefits of sustainable bioeconomy solutions, establishing and implementing social contracts between producers and consumers
2. Developing cooperation between different sectors and organisations to form required set of competences and ensure circularity in production processes
3. Attracting new entrepreneurs to innovate and revitalise traditional bioeconomy sectors

Watch the video of the discussion here [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PbigbigAytM&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PbigbigAytM&feature=emb_title)

#### POLAND LITHUANIA LATVIA ESTONIA Socio-economic insights into the bioeconomy

The BIOEAST project published a report on socio-economic insights into the bioeconomy of the BIOEAST countries. The bioeconomy employs 7.4 million people in the BIOEAST countries, over 40% of the total bioeconomy employment in the EU. The BIOEAST countries have comparably high employment multipliers and an over-proportional concentration of jobs in the bioeconomy compared to the EU average. Agriculture is the main sector, making up 65% of the jobs.

You can download the full report here: [https://ec.europa.eu/knowledge4policy/publication/socio-economic-insights-bioeconomy-bioeast-countries\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/knowledge4policy/publication/socio-economic-insights-bioeconomy-bioeast-countries_en)

#### SWEDEN Do forest biorefineries fit with working principles of a circular bioeconomy? A case of Finnish and Swedish initiatives

The authors Armi Temmes and Philip Peck of the article mentioned in the title put it this way: "The study finds that expectations of increased value added of the products and increased sustainability through closing the material loops are rarely met. That is, very few characteristics compliant with visions for the circular bioeconomy were found." The article was published in the special issue journal "Forest-based circular bioeconomy: matching sustainability challenges and new business opportunities" (2020, Elsevier) together with 15 other contributions. 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>

Get the complete journal on <https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/forest-policy-and-economics/vol/110/suppl/C>

#### BALTIC BIOECONOMY CALENDAR

Date	Name	City	Link
18 - 19 February 2020	Tagung „Torfminderung“	Germany - Berlin	<a href="http://www.fnr.de/fileadmin/Projekte/2019/Veranstaltungen/Torfmindierung_Terminankuendigung.pdf">http://www.fnr.de/fileadmin/Projekte/2019/Veranstaltungen/Torfmindierung_Terminankuendigung.pdf</a>
20 – 21 February 2020	BIOEAST as a driving force in the context of the European Green Deal	Belgium - Brussels	<a href="https://bioeast.eu/events/bioeast-as-a-driving-force-in-the-context-of-the-european-green-deal/">https://bioeast.eu/events/bioeast-as-a-driving-force-in-the-context-of-the-european-green-deal/</a>

26 – 27 Februar y 2020	Lignofuels 2020	Finnland - Helsinki	<a href="https://www.wplgroup.com/aci/event/lignocellulosic-fuel-conference-europe/">https://www.wplgroup.com/aci/event/lignocellulosic-fuel-conference-europe/</a>
4 <sup>th</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	Biomass PowerON	Sweden - Stockhol m	<a href="https://fortesmedia.com/biomass-poweron-2020,4,en,2,1,1.html">https://fortesmedia.com/biomass-poweron-2020,4,en,2,1,1.html</a>
10 - 12 March 2020	Baltic Bioeconomy Days	Germany - Rostock	<a href="https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/BalticBioeconomyDays">https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/BalticBioeconomyDays</a>
2 <sup>nd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Ką pasėsi... 2020	Lithuania - Kaunas	<a href="https://www.kapasesi.info/home">https://www.kapasesi.info/home</a>
23 April 2020	Sustainable Bioeconomy Development 2020: From Thinking Globally to Acting Locally	Lithuania - Kaunas	<a href="https://zua.vdu.lt/en/international-scientific-conference-sustainable-bioeconomy-development-2020-from-thinking-globally-to-acting-locally/">https://zua.vdu.lt/en/international-scientific-conference-sustainable-bioeconomy-development-2020-from-thinking-globally-to-acting-locally/</a>
28 April 2020	Forum biobasierte Kunststoffe – Kurz- und Langzeitanwendunge n	Germany - Berlin	<a href="https://veranstaltungen.fnr.de/biobasierte-kunststoffe-2020/save-the-date/">https://veranstaltungen.fnr.de/biobasierte-kunststoffe-2020/save-the-date/</a>
6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	Biosystems Engineering 2020	Estonia - Tartu	<a href="https://bse.emu.ee/">https://bse.emu.ee/</a>
17 -18 June 2020	Bioeconomy Conference	Germany - Halle (Saale)	<a href="https://www.bioeconomy-conference.de/en/home/">https://www.bioeconomy-conference.de/en/home/</a>

#### Short description of three project partners

##### Fachagentur Nachhaltende Rohstoffe e.V. (FNR)



In Germany, FNR is the central coordinating institution for research, development and demonstration projects in the field of renewable biological resources. It manages R&D Funding programme for Renewable Resources on behalf of the federal government.

FNR's main responsibility in BalticBiomass4Value is to tailor the communication of the project results towards the specific target groups through web-based tools. Additionally, the agency will be able to contribute to the overall success of the project through its extensive expertise in the fields of bioenergy and production of bio-based products.

##### Norwegian University of Life Sciences

The Norwegian University of Life Sciences, NMBU was established in 1859 and is a public university with 5000 students and bachelor, master and PhD programs in life sciences including agriculture, veterinary medicine, natural resources management, ecology, land use, forestry and renewable energy. NMBU is a hub of expertise within life sciences, environmental sciences and in the arena of sustainable development. The main contribution from NMBU in BB4V will be in identifying and assessing market opportunities, biomass potential, technologies and business models for circular bioeconomy.



##### Lithuanian Biotechnology Association (LBTA)



Lithuanian Biotechnology Association (LBTA) unites the main biotechnology companies, institutions and universities, as well as personal members. LBTA's main objectives are to promote fundamental and applied research of biotechnology at Lithuanian education institutions and to promote development of biotechnological products.

LBTA's roles in BalticBiomass4Value project consist of developing analysis methodology and identification of good practice solutions. Additionally, LBTA will organize outreach activities event for business enterprises interested in the development of circular bioeconomy projects, and will participate in consultations for potential pilot business projects.

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Fachagentur Nachhaltende Rohstoffe e.V. (FNR) – Agency for Renewable Resources

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Agency for Renewable Resources (FNR) - Managing Director: Dr.-Ing. Andreas Schütte - Board: Dr. Eva Ursula Müller - Chair of the Executive Board of the Advisory Committee: Wolfgang Vogel. Registered at Amtsgericht  
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Duration: January 2019 – June 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