BE-Rural Mid-Term Conference

“Exploring the bioeconomy as a central pillar of regional recovery plans during and after COVID-19”

**Timing:** Tuesday, 8 September 2020, 14:00 – 17:15 CEST  
**Venue:** Online Meeting – Registration: [https://forms.ecologic.eu/be-rural-conference](https://forms.ecologic.eu/be-rural-conference)

**Aim of the conference:** To explore the extent to which the implementation of a bioeconomy concept can leverage the reactivation of regional economies.

**Moderator:** Gerardo Anzaldua, Ecologic Institute

**Preliminary agenda:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14.00 – 14.05</td>
<td>Welcome – Holger Gerdes &amp; Zoritza Kiresiewa, Ecologic Institute</td>
<td>• Aim and scope of the conference</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.05 – 14.15</td>
<td>The Bioeconomy in rural areas: an introduction</td>
<td>• Laura Jalasjoki – European Network for Rural Development (ENRD)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.45 – 15.20</td>
<td>Discussions in small groups (3-4 virtual break-out rooms)</td>
<td>• How is the current crisis an opportunity to trigger systemic change towards co-creation, inclusiveness, and sustainability?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.20 – 15.40</td>
<td>Brief reflections from the break-out groups</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.40 – 15.55</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 15.55 – 16.25 | What role can the bioeconomy concept play in the green recovery of Europe? | • Ana Cuadrado Galvan – Bio-Based Industries Joint Undertaking (BBI JU): “New challenges and opportunities faced by primary producers”  
• Joachim Venus – Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Engineering and Bioeconomy (ATB): “Process engineering challenges of producing bio-based products” |
| 16.25 – 16.55 | Open discussion with the panelists | • Q&A Session  
• Locking in the recovery: how resilient is our current notion of the EU bioeconomy, and can it help us navigate future crises? |
| 16.55 – 17.05 | Wrap-up – Holger Gerdes & Zoritza Kiresiewa, Ecologic Institute | | |
| 17.05 – 17.15 | Closure of the conference | | |