



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 via Zoom

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 Anzaldúa, Ecologic Institute

Conference agenda:

13.45 – 14.00	Opportunity for participants to test audio and video settings
14.00 – 14.10	Welcome & Conference introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holger Gerdes & Zoritz Kiresiewa – Ecologic Institute
14.10 – 14.20	The bioeconomy in rural areas: an introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura Jalasjoki – European Network for Rural Development (ENRD)
14.20 – 14.50	How are rural economies faring in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ian Archer – Industrial Biotechnology Innovation Centre (IBiIC): <i>“Building new bio-based supply chains in Scotland”</i> • Jens Persson – Swedish Board of Agriculture & SUBMARINER Network for Blue Growth EEIG: <i>“Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Swedish blue bioeconomy”</i> <p>➤ Q&A Session</p>
14.50 – 15.25	Discussions in small groups (3 virtual break-out rooms) <p>➤ How is the current crisis an opportunity to trigger systemic change towards co-creation, inclusiveness, and sustainability?</p>
15.25 – 15.45	Brief reflections from the break-out groups
15.45 – 16.00	Coffee Break
16.00 – 16.30	What role can the bioeconomy concept play in the green recovery of Europe? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ana Cuadrado Galvan – Bio-Based Industries Joint Undertaking (BBI JU): <i>“Bio-based value chains: Challenges and opportunities for the farming sector and rural areas”</i> • Joachim Venus – Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Engineering and Bioeconomy (ATB): <i>“Process engineering challenges of producing bio-based products”</i> <p>➤ Q&A Session</p>
16.30 – 17.00	Open discussion with the panelists <p>➤ Locking in the recovery: how resilient is our current notion of the EU bioeconomy, and can it help us navigate future crises?</p>
17.00 – 17.10	Wrap-up – Holger Gerdes & Zoritz Kiresiewa – Ecologic Institute
17.10 – 17.15	Closure of the conference



This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation Programme under Grant Agreement No 818478.