

Abstract for a presentation of the outcomes of the project STAR4BBI (Standards and Regulations for the Bio-based Industry) at the 12th International Conference on Bio-based Materials

This presentation will introduce the results gained within the STAR4BBI EU funded project with focusing on the regulatory and standardisation barriers of bio-based economy, as well as a forecast analysis of future technologies and innovations and related expected barriers. Suggestions to overcome these barriers will be presented.

Current situation related to market entry barriers

The presentation will start with reporting on the market entry barriers due to regulation and standardisation that companies that are active in the bio-based economy experience. The analysis is based on extensive interviews with seven companies. The companies that were interviewed were selected on the basis of a good spread of their respective positions in the value chain and over different feedstock. Next to the companies, other relevant stakeholders were approached for clarifying background or issues, especially when different views and standpoints were encountered during the interviews. The analysis of the hurdles that were mentioned will be presented.

Foresight analysis on future industry technological trends

Further, results from an ex-ante analysis aimed at capturing the view of experts on anticipating future industry technological developments, industry trends and innovations in selected value chains of the bio-based industries will be presented. CRISPR related technologies, lignin valorisation techniques and furan-based chemistry to produce FDCA resulted as the three most promising technologies/innovations. They were defined by the experts as potential drivers of change for the future of the European bioeconomy. Interviews with experts, a two rounds Delphi-exercise and different focus group exercises were adopted for conducting the analysis on potential updates of the regulatory framework to support current and expected future challenges of bio-based industry.

STAR4BBI project proposals and solutions for improved regulations and standards

Based on the analysis of hurdles around standards and regulations, and together with stakeholders, proposals for a harmonized and improved regulatory framework as well as potential solutions for overcoming the barriers in standards, were developed. These will be further explained during the presentation at the conference.