



SCALE UP
community-driven
bioeconomy development

WS6 Training Programme Protocol

Governance of regional bio-based systems

Session #2: Building Sustainable Future: Innovative Governance Tools for the Circular Bioeconomy

01 October 2024

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On October 1, 2024, the online training titled "**Building Sustainable Future: Innovative Governance Tools for the Circular Bioeconomy**" brought together experts to discuss effective strategies and tools for advancing regional bioeconomy initiatives. The session began with a warm welcome and an introduction to the SCALE-UP project, setting the stage for a series of insightful presentations.

Nadja Schlichenmaier from **Steinbeis Europa Zentrum** kicked off the presentations by introducing the **ROBIN Toolbox**, which is designed to support regions in developing governance models for a circular bioeconomy. She emphasized the toolbox's role in inspiring bioeconomy governance practices, providing practical tools such as a Policy Monitoring System and an Environmental Protection Planning Tool. The ROBIN Toolbox aims to help regions adapt their governance models to effectively scale up bio-based value chains while networking with peers for knowledge sharing.

Following this, **Nikola Derebanov** from **Viridi** presented a compelling **case study on biowaste management in Macedonia**. He outlined the methodology employed, which included primary and secondary research, data gathering from various databases, and processing using a GIS platform. Derebanov highlighted key findings, noting that most companies surveyed were micro, small, or medium-sized and lacked awareness of the negative environmental impacts of their bio-waste. He reported that over 1.9 million tons of bio-waste are generated from animal farms alone, with many companies not generating any revenue from their waste. Future activities will focus on mapping additional sources of biowaste and raising awareness about environmental legislation.

Next, **Astrid Stalmans** from **VITO** introduced the **MooV tool**, part of the **BIOTRANSFORM project**, which addresses logistical challenges in transitioning to a circular bioeconomy. Stalmans explained how MooV optimizes supply chains by analyzing alternative strategies and simulating potential changes. The tool aims to support decision-making by providing insights into economic, environmental, and social impacts.

Jannis Lambert from **CCRI-CSO** concluded the presentations with an overview of the Circular Cities & Regions Initiative (CCRI) and its **self-assessment tool** designed to measure progress in implementing circular strategies at the city and regional levels. He noted that this tool is currently in its testing phase but aims for public release early next year.

The open discussion that followed provided an opportunity for participants to engage with the speakers on various topics. Key questions included how to promote these tools to stakeholders and policymakers effectively, as well as how to address challenges in data collection and transparency. Participants emphasized the importance of involving decision-makers early in the process to influence regional strategies effectively.

Conclusions

In conclusion, several key ideas emerged from the session:

1. **Integrated Governance Models:** The ROBIN Toolbox exemplifies comprehensive frameworks that consider multiple stakeholders and sectors in bioeconomy management, ensuring effective responses to complex challenges.
2. **Data-Driven Decision Making:** The emphasis on measuring progress through tools like the Policy Monitoring System highlights the need for evidence-based decisions that drive continuous improvement in circular economy initiatives.
3. **Resource Optimization:** The MooV tool's focus on optimizing supply chains illustrates the critical role of logistics in enhancing sustainability within circular bioeconomy systems.

These concepts collectively provide a robust framework for regions navigating the complexities of bioeconomy governance, aligning local efforts with broader sustainability objectives. The webinar underscored that by leveraging innovative tools and collaborative approaches, regions can transition more effectively towards sustainable circular bioeconomies, contributing to a resilient future

Participants:

If you wish to get in touch with one of the participants from this session, please contact someone in the SCALE-EP consortium.

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