



MAINSTREAM BIO

MAINSTREAMING SMALL-SCALE BIO-BASED SOLUTIONS ACROSS RURAL EUROPE

REVOLUTIONIZING EUROPE'S RURAL REGIONS: CIRCULAR BIOECONOMY OPPORTUNITIES

WEBINAR 3, **Round 2:** *Youth in the Bioeconomy- Impact and importance of involvement the youth in the bioeconomy sector*

Wednesday January 29th, 2025, 11.00 CET



Funded by
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Time	Topic	Speaker
11:00	Introduction to the webinar 3	Dragica Grozdanic Bioeconomy Researcher Munster Technological University
11:05	Youth Empowerment in Sustainable Food Systems: Lessons from the Edible Landscape Project	Caithriona McCarthy Lecturer Edible Landscape Project
11:15	Building Bioeconomy Resilience for Youth Through IKC3 Training	Fiona Scott Hayward Senior Researcher IKC3/ Munster Technological University
11:25	BIOVOICES: Amplifying Youth Voices for a Sustainable Bioeconomy	Susanna Albertini Project Manager BIOVOICES Project
11:40	Driving Composting, carbon Innovation and Sustainability in Croatia	Vedran Saric Project Manager Croatian Composting Plant Association
11:50	Panel Discussion and Interactive Q&A Session	All
12:10	Webinar Closure	Dragica Grozdanic Bioeconomy Researcher Munster Technological University

Registration options:

Option1: Registration Link:

Click [here](#) to register for the webinar.

Option 2: Scan QR Code:

Scan the QR code below to register for the webinar:



Information

What the webinar is about?

This webinar will highlight the vital role of youth in advancing the bioeconomy, focusing on how their involvement in sectors such as agriculture, energy, biotechnology and environmental sustainability drives innovation, creates job opportunities and fosters a more sustainable future. It will emphasize the fresh perspectives, digital skills and entrepreneurial spirit that youth bring, while addressing the need for education, training and policy support to maximize their impact.

Youth Empowerment in Sustainable Food Systems: Lessons from the Edible Landscape Project

This session will explore how the Edible Landscape Project engages youth in creating sustainable food systems. It will highlight initiatives that empower young people to participate in biodiversity conservation, local food production, and environmental stewardship while fostering community resilience and awareness of sustainable practices.

Building Bioeconomy Resilience for Youth Through IKC3 Training

This presentation will focus on how IKC3 training programs equip youth with the skills and knowledge necessary for thriving in a bio-based economy. Topics include building resilience, enhancing employability, and fostering innovation among young participants in bioeconomy-related fields.

BIOVOICES: Amplifying Youth Voices for a Sustainable Bioeconomy

This session will discuss the BIOVOICES initiative, which seeks to amplify the voices of young people in shaping a sustainable bioeconomy. It will present strategies for engaging youth in dialogue with policymakers, industry leaders, and researchers, showcasing success stories where youth-led ideas have driven change and innovation.

Driving Composting and carbon Innovation and Sustainability in Croatia

This presentation will examine Croatia's innovative approaches to composting and carbon management and sustainability, including projects and technologies that support composting and carbon farming, soil revitalization, and renewable energy integration. It will also highlight how these initiatives engage youth and communities in driving sustainable practices and creating a low-carbon future.



Speakers

Dragica Grozdanic is a bioeconomy researcher in the Circular Bioeconomy Research Group at Shannon Applied Biotechnology Centre, Munster Technological University in Kerry. She is working on regional bioeconomy development and policy for Robin and Mainstream Bio project, both EU funded by Horizon Europe. She was an Irish ambassador for the EU Horizon Project Coopid and a partner in two other EU Horizon Projects, Smart protein led by UCC and Valpro Path led by Teagasc. Her special interest is in sustainable agricultural practices and alternative plant protein production in the EU.

Caithriona McCarthy is a lecturer in Sustainable Horticulture and Entrepreneurship at Mayo College of Further Education with developing community-based sustainability projects and also a key contributor to the Edible Landscape Project in Ireland, an initiative focused on creating sustainable, community-led food systems. With a background in environmental education and community engagement, she works to promote biodiversity and food security by integrating edible landscapes into rural and urban planning. Her efforts support local communities in achieving environmental sustainability and resilience.

Fiona Scott Hayward is a Senior Researcher in Circular Economy, Education, Innovation and Ecosystem Development at Munster Technological University. Working across two research teams – CIRCBIO and CERT (Circular Economy for Regenerative Tourism), Fiona takes a cross-disciplinary approach to research with circular economy at the core. As part of the CIRCBIO team, Fiona is working on the BIObec project, a Horizon 2020 EU project to create bio-based education centres across Europe with a view to bridging the gap between education, innovation and industry. MTU and our Irish partners IBF are tasked with creating the plans for the pilot Irish “BBEC”. As part of the CERT team at MTU, Fiona is working on the EU co-founded CE4RT (Circular Economy For Regenerative Tourism) project which directly supports tourism SMEs across the 5 partner countries (Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Poland and The Netherlands) in their transition to circular economy and regenerative tourism. The programme provides a training course in circular economy, sustainability and regenerative tourism and funding for them to progress their sustainability journey through coaching and certification. Fiona’s educational background is in Chemical Engineering (UCD) with an MSc in Renewable Energy Systems Technology (Loughborough University) and she has a wealth of experience in project management.

Susanna Albertini is a Project Manager and communication expert specializing in the bioeconomy sector. She serves as the Managing Director at FVA New Media Research, where she leads initiatives that promote bioeconomy awareness and stakeholder engagement. Susanna has coordinated several European projects, including the BIOVOICES project, which focuses on mobilizing various stakeholders to accelerate the bio-based sector. She is also instrumental in the European Bioeconomy Network (EuBioNet), a proactive alliance of EU-funded projects aimed at promoting bioeconomy communication and support.

Vedran Saric is a Project Manager and energy crops expert, currently serving as the Co-Founder of the Croatian Composting Plant Association (CCPA) in Croatia. With a strong background in agronomy and sustainable farming practices, he leads initiatives aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity and promoting eco-friendly methods. Vedran's expertise spans project management, carbon farming, composting, soil revitalization, organic waste management, and rural development. He is committed to implementing innovative agricultural technologies to support local farmers and

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communities, focusing on sustainable solutions that improve soil health and boost agricultural resilience.



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The project

MainstreamBIO is a Horizon Europe EU funded project, which sets out to get small-scale bio-based solutions into mainstream practice across rural Europe, providing a broader range of rural actors with the opportunity to engage in and speed up the development of the bioeconomy. Recognizing the paramount importance of bioeconomy for addressing key global environmental and societal challenges, MainstreamBIO develops regional Multi-actor Innovation Platforms in 7 EU countries (PL, DK, SE, BG, ES, IE & NL). The project aims to enhance cooperation among key rural players towards co-creating sustainable business model pathways in line with regional potentials and policy initiatives. MainstreamBIO supports 35 multiactor partnerships to overcome barriers and get bio-based innovations to market with hands-on innovation support, accelerating the development of over 70 marketable bio-based products and services. Furthermore, the project develops and employs a digital toolkit to better match bio-based technologies, social innovations and good nutrient recycling practices with available biomass and market trends as well as to enhance understanding of the bioeconomy with a suite of educational resources building on existing research results and tools. To achieve these targets, MainstreamBIO involves 10 partners across Europe, coming from various fields. Thus, all partners combine their knowledge and experience to promote the growth of bioeconomy in a sustainable and inclusive manner.

Coordinator: **Q-PLAN INTERNATIONAL ADVISORS PC (Q-PLAN)**

Partner		Short Name
	Q-PLAN INTERNATIONAL ADVISORS PC	Q-PLAN
	MUNSTER TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY	MTU
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