

3w5: Where the EU bioeconomy stand: insights from the biomonitor project

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WUR/ESG

With the updated Bioeconomy Strategy in 2018, the EU aims at unlocking the potential of the bioeconomy to contribute to the global challenges. In particular, the strategy links to the building of a carbon-neutral future in line with the Climate objectives of the Paris Agreement and the recent European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive, and climate-neutral economy (2050 long-term strategy). Whether we are headed in that direction remains to be determined empirically. To achieve that, accurate data and methods for qualitative assessment are necessary. This is what our session will focus on. We will present the work of an ongoing H2020 project: BioMonitor—Measuring the Bioeconomy. Hans Verkerk (EFI) will present the results of a comprehensive review of existing models that can be used (to a varying extent) to analyze the EU bioeconomy. He will stress the pros and cons of the models, including their future desired improvements and extensions. A novel contribution of the BioMonitor project is the development of a new model, BioMat, that focuses on material flows of bio-based products. Myrna van Leeuwen (WEcR), its key architect, will present the model's details and its use areas. A part of her presentation will be devoted to the specific data needs of this class of models and how these can be obtained (or how the current data gaps are being bridged). Because the models need to be validated against the realities of the bioeconomies in the EU Member States, Claudio Soregaroli (UCSC) will synthesize the results of half a dozen case studies we carried out in the project to see how they square with the results of various scenario analyses of our empirical models. Our final speaker, Robert M'Barek (JRC), will round off the previous presentations by setting our results into a broader policy context (e.g., the EU New Green Deal) and by pointing out the future questions policymakers will likely be interested in. After the presentations, two international experts on the bioeconomy will provide comments to stimulate the discussion afterward.