

MML Events -Report Template

1. Description of your BIOVOICES MML

BIOVOICES representative (name and organization)	Janely Pae, Civitta Eesti As
Event venue	Nordic Hotel Forum, Conference centre, Viru square 3, 10111 Tallinn
Date	06.11.2019
Event organized in partnership with	The Estonian Ministry of Environment, Environmental Agency, and Biobridges.
Key organizational contact	
Website	https://www.conference-expert.eu/et/ring2019
Work package	WP6
Task number	T6.2

Title (original language / English)	Biomajandusest läbi väärtusahela perspektiivi ja huvigruppide kaasamise võimaluste/From the bioeconomy through a value chain perspective and opportunities for stakeholder engagement.
Sector/s	Various
Stakeholders attending	Policy makers, research, civil society, businesses
Total number of participants, out of which	24
Business	10
Policy Makers	7
Civil society	5
Research	2
Countries addressed/involved	Estonia
Challenges Addressed	E1: ENHANCE LOCAL BIOECONOMY ACTION PLANS



2. Rationale or Purpose of your MML: you could paste here the promotional material you used to attract attendees to your MML with additional information as required

Workshop title: From the bioeconomy through a value chain perspective and opportunities for stakeholder engagement.

The workshop was co-organized with the Estonian Ministry of Environment and Environmental Agency. The workshop was part of one of the biggest bioeconomy related conferences in Estonia - The Circular Economy Conference - Smart Storms! The conference introduced the circular economy principles, objectives and supporting activities to entrepreneurs. This included demonstrating through various inspirational examples and practical solutions why it is worthwhile to move towards practicing business models in a circular economy. The conference brought together different actors, such as entrepreneurs, experts, the public sector, to share knowledge about the circular economy. The conference was divided into two parts: 5th of November the Conference day, **6th of November**, various workshops, including Biobridges (3,5 h) 9.30 to 13.00 (Biovoices dissemination); **Biovoices workshop (3,5 h) from 14.00 to 17.30.**

The workshop started with a small introduction of the Biovoices project and Biobridges project (the latter was introduced for dissemination purposes), which was followed by introduction to the topic focusing on the opportunities and bottlenecks of the European and Estonian bio-economy, opportunities, and best practices of local economies to contribute to development of bioeconomy (through more local feedstock, local transport, local advice etc.) and local value chains, which can be developed. First it was analysed, what are the challenges, and opportunities, who are the counterparts and how to “get them talking” – forming value chains, followed by recommendations. A speaker, Mayri Tiido, a CEO of a NGO Circular Economy Estonia and start-up Recyclist, mentored the participants and provided practical ideas.



3. Outcomes Per Challenge - Knowledge & Insights expressed/gathered at the MML

Please use a separate box for each of the Challenges addressed: identify the 'Phases' of Development that were considered and the sectors represented. Record the viewpoints expressed by each of the four stakeholder groups represented and any consensus points.

Challenge 1 addressed	E1/E2: ENHANCE LOCAL BIOECONOMY ACTION PLANS/BOOST LOCAL DEPLOYMENT
Phase/s considered	
Sector/s represented	Agriculture, chemistry, food, biowaste,
Business	<p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -bio businesses and most of all, businesses, who turn to bio need investment in technology; attracting investors to biotechnology is currently extremely hard. -risk financing is conservative -lack of workforce for the rapidly developing bioeconomy. -in terms of bioeconomy we're lagging behind in completion, but before all stakeholder groups start realizing that, much can't be done. - There is no information on the bioeconomy and no cross-cutting and holistic picture. -it is almost impossible to change the production process in a large company to bio, as there is a specific technology, specialist with specific skills, standards, quality control, and most of all customers, that are in place. To turn to bio, all of these aspects have to change, which is extremely hard and unlikely. -practically no or little competence how self-sustaining business models work. -lack of collaboration, don't know who to contact, to develop bio business/business line. - Insufficient national support system to encourage bioeconomy. - unstable bio-feedstock - the climate challenge, a natural resource from nature is not available throughout the year. -There is a lack of communication between the different manufacturers: there is no overview of the residues/leftovers that could be used as feedstock. <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -currently feedstock is sold with a very low price overseas, it is not valorized to high-end products. Estonian clean nature is a great opportunity to use the pure feedstock, and valorize it. - There should be waste management by law, facilitating (accelerating) licensing of food waste – underused feedstock. - Creation of private house-based biogas systems. -oil shale ash is one of the very potent feedstocks. <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -the government should be involved in developing a re-training plan of people to already start training professionals with the appropriate education for the future bioeconomy. -proper bio education, students' stipends, retraining, increasing the awareness,

	<p>articles, concrete measures of state and EU support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -focusing on how to turn food waste and scrap into resources in financial terms, bringing in the money aspect.
<p>Civil Society</p>	<p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -biobased products are not the prime products people are using, as long as the “pain-point” has not been achieved, i.e. people don’t see problems in Estonia, thus, they don’t see point for bioeconomy, the seriousness of the situation hasn’t been “advertised” enough. -waste is easily discarded, it is the social norm. It is not seen as feedstock until governmental bodies change the action plans and rise the awareness to change the attitude. -green washing, hard to know, what are the really “green” and environmentally sustainable products. -People do not see or value waste as a raw material. -bio products are still much more expensive. -lack of knowledge of the purity and the real ecological footprint of one bioproduct. <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -household food-collection systems, to utilize biowaste. -reed is a very potent biomass, that regenerates very quickly. <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -the state should show the lead and it should be widely accepted to use waste as feedstock. Moreover, waste as the primary feedstock, to ensure the least environmental impact. - Raising awareness of bio-garbage in cities (garbage sorting) and what gets wrong with sorting and what is the result.
<p>Policy Makers</p>	<p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -in general, the policy is divided into two parts in terms of bioeconomy, one part values and tries to take action, other part is mostly ignoring, and don’t see it as an opportunity neither takes action. -bioeconomy is not well-developed in Estonia, and before policy can take action, supportive research and analysis must be conducted, however, there is a great lack of specialists in that regard – it is hard to find experts to answer the questions, how and to which directions bioeconomy should be developed, what are the relevant resources, etc. -undervalued local feedstock is sold overseas, and not used to develop local bioeconomy, due to ack of overview, technologies, resources, opportunities, market developments, lack of capital -Lack of knowledge of bio-resources and distorted pricing of feedstock. - Short-sighted solutions (quick benefit oriented, especially among businesses) - Among most of the stakeholders, including policy, the economic growth is the only dimension of success, thus environmental impact/development/ sustainability/etc. is not first in the agenda. - Hard to assess the environmental impact of “bio” solutions, can be environmentally “exhausting”

	<p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -a community of experts in bioeconomy should be formed to advise the direction of bioeconomy. - bioeconomy should be managed through different agencies and development plans, as well include institutes of all levels.
<p>Research</p>	<p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The low image of the “bio” faculty -if the big picture is not seen, the sustainability of bio feedstock, there will be a major decline in the quality of resources in a very short time, as nature and feedstock generally recovers extremely slowly. It is thus very important to focus on circular economy, as much as possible. -There are legislative barriers to bioinnovation - Lack of cooperation between organizations, people in the field <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -creation of competence centers that can focus on reusing the waste as feedstock. <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Researchers and specialists should be involved in politics to generate wider knowledge not only among policy makers community, but to develop plans how policy can make plans to educate wider public. -When dealing with local feedstock it is of utmost of importance to analyze the whole picture, and to analyze, how utilizing the feedstock/biomass affects the surrounding ecosystem, and based on that develop a sustainability plan not only for the feedstock collection but also for the ecosystem preservation. - Increasing people's Awareness About Bioremediation (Risk-Free Business)
<p>Any consensus points? Points/advice/perspectives agreed by all stakeholders to enable progression in driving the bio-based sector forward</p>	<p>Which BBP business cases and its related feedstock are relevant to implement locally?</p> <p>Bioeconomy should be also thought in terms of circular economy, as first and foremost, i.e. waste should be one of the main feedstocks to be used, especially biowaste. For example, Nutriloop is implementing a biowaste collection system to produce different products from the foodwaste. In Estonia, also oil shale ash should be used as feedstock. Reed is also one of very quickly recovering feedstock.</p> <p>Which best and worst practices of Bioeconomy local action plans for implementation of business cases exists?</p> <p>Currently, the oil shale ash is considered as hazardous waste, and thus it can't be used as feedstock. However, there is tons of the waste from the mining, and could be used for different products.</p> <p>How to develop regional cooperation among Quadruple Helix actors to improve business cases?</p> <p>A neutral body of experts, also competence centers, should be formed, consisting of bioeconomy experts, that could provide consultation to the policy makers, and as well as to the businesses, who could also facilitate collaboration between the stakeholders.</p>

	<p>How to create a local action plan to assess opportunities, challenges and threads?</p> <p>Currently, a lack of specialists is strongly inhibiting the development of bioeconomy that is led by policy makers, as there are few experts, who can conduct research, analysis, etc. that would show the challenges, opportunities, and provide recommendations for the development of bioeconomy action plan. Form a community of experts in bioeconomy from different levels of policy makers and engaging various stakeholder groups.</p> <p>How to improve/maintain sustainability of the local territory through providing BB feedstock for new markets (soil, water etc.)?</p> <p>A wide picture of the opportunities should be developed, but the sustainability aspects when using local biomass should be analyzed before - how utilizing the feedstock/biomass affects the surrounding ecosystem, and based on that develop a sustainability plan not only for the feedstock collection but also for the ecosystem preservation.</p>
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Add additional Challenge Tables if required.

4. BIOVOICES partner's own perspectives & comments

Additional to those recorded above. Free text area – please include your additional comments

<p>On the meeting overall? E.g. willingness of participants to contribute</p> <p>The participants were very active. Most of them also worked together in the morning in other workshop, thus the communication between the participants was very natural.</p> <p>On the challenges discussed? E.g. points that 'chime' with you/your organisation</p> <p>Bioeconomy is seen as sustainable economy; however, bio feedstock also recovers very slowly, thus it is very important to focus on circular economy first and foremost within the bioeconomy.</p> <p>Any consensus points? E.g. a point that BIOVOICES can drive forward such as common vocabulary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -currently feedstock is sold with a very low price overseas, it is not valorized to high-end products. Estonian clean nature is a great opportunity to use the pure feedstock, and valorize it. -lack of specialists has been said to be one of the challenges in bioeconomy, the government should be involved in developing an according education system and even a re-training plan of people, to already start training professionals and specialists for the rapidly developing bioeconomy. -the awareness of BBP is low among the civil society, and the ones that value BBP are starting to lose trust in BBP with the result of green washing. Thus, a set of legislations should be in place to prevent green washing. -the state should show the lead and it should be widely accepted to use waste as feedstock. Moreover,
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waste should be used as the primary feedstock, to ensure minimum environmental impact.
- currently, there are short-sighted solutions (quick benefit oriented, especially among businesses)

Any lessons learnt for shaping/managing future MMLs? E.g. invite more people in expectation of 'no shows'

The number of no-shows amongst those registered was big, but expected. The registration was set to 50 by the ministry, and this number was achieved, the places were full. However, the number of people that showed up was still significantly less, as the registration already started months before the actual conference and workshop. Thus, for the future workshops, it is recommended to send a confirmation of participation e-mail, before the event, if the registrations start early.

5. Qualitative Interviews (QIs) - to improve quality of outcome data submitted

Add additional Interview forms to match the number of interviews conducted.

N/A



6.Evaluation of the Meeting – feedback from participants

Use the data provided in participants Feedback Forms completed at or after the event to analyze and record e.g. numbers attending, providing feedback, value and usefulness of meeting, what are participants planning to do next, what will BIOVOICES do next etc.

Oral evaluation was obtained from two participants. Both of them agreed that the workshop was useful and that they liked the workshop's format and that they were provided with good ideas. One participant pointed out that despite the fact that most participants are more or less involved in the bioeconomy, very little was known about what biomass we have in Estonia and where it can be used. Both pointed out that they gathered useful contacts during the workshop and one of them wants to cooperate in the future with Biovoices project.

7. Impact Report - what are the top-level points to be taken from your MML to be considered for inclusion in the BIOVOICES good practice guides for driving the bio-based sector forward?

The good practice guides (policy briefs) (D6.3) will be organized according to each of the four stakeholder groups of the quadruple helix – note that the points may be the same/similar for each group. Please endeavor to contribute at least three points from your experience of this MML.

1. Need for preventive measures of green washing, so the small consumer group of BBP would not lose its faith in the latter.
2. National support system is needed for the legislative purposes, for the financial support of starting bio businesses, as well as support in the education of the number of specialists.
3. A body of bioeconomy experts is needed for the businesses as well for the policy makers, in order to accelerate the development of bioeconomy in Estonia.
4. A wide picture of the opportunities should be developed, but the sustainability aspects when using local biomass should be analyzed before - how utilizing the feedstock/biomass affects the surrounding ecosystem, and based on that develop a sustainability plan not only for the feedstock collection but also for the ecosystem preservation.



8. Attendance Form – please scan and insert your signed attendance form here

n/a

9. Publishable overview of results

n/a

