



BE-Rural Mid-Term Conference

“Exploring the bioeconomy as a central pillar of regional recovery plans during and after COVID-19”

Timing: Tuesday, 8 September 2020, 14:00 – 17:15 CEST

Venue: Online Meeting – Registration: <https://forms.ecologic.eu/be-rural-conference>

Aim of the conference: To explore the extent to which the implementation of a bioeconomy concept can leverage the reactivation of regional economies.

Moderator: Gerardo Anzaldúa, Ecologic Institute

Preliminary agenda:

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| 14.00 – 14.05 | Welcome – Holger Gerdes & Zoritz Kiresiewa, Ecologic Institute <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aim and scope of the conference |
| 14.05 – 14.15 | The Bioeconomy in rural areas: an introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Laura Jalasjoki – European Network for Rural Development (ENRD) |
| 14.15 – 14.45 | How are rural economies faring in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ian Archer – Industrial Biotechnology Innovation Centre (IBioIC): <i>“Current developments in Scotland”</i>• Jens Persson – Swedish Board of Agriculture & SUBMARINER Network for Blue Growth EEIG: <i>“Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Swedish blue bioeconomy”</i>• Q&A Session |
| 14.45 – 15.20 | Discussions in small groups (3-4 virtual break-out rooms) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How is the current crisis an opportunity to trigger systemic change towards co-creation, inclusiveness, and sustainability? |
| 15.20 – 15.40 | Brief reflections from the break-out groups |
| 15.40 – 15.55 | Coffee Break |
| 15.55 – 16.25 | What role can the bioeconomy concept play in the green recovery of Europe? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ana Cuadrado Galvan – Bio-Based Industries Joint Undertaking (BBI JU): <i>“New challenges and opportunities faced by primary producers”</i>• Joachim Venus – Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Engineering and Bioeconomy (ATB): <i>“Process engineering challenges of producing bio-based products”</i>• Q&A Session |
| 16.25 – 16.55 | Open discussion with the panelists <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Locking in the recovery: how resilient is our current notion of the EU bioeconomy, and can it help us navigate future crises? |
| 16.55 – 17.05 | Wrap-up – Holger Gerdes & Zoritz Kiresiewa, Ecologic Institute |
| 17.05 – 17.15 | Closure of the conference |

