



Summary, BSR Bioeconomy Council and PA Bioeconomy Meeting May 2019

Day 1: Trends and developments of the bioeconomy in the BSR

Torfi Jóhannesson introduced the current and upcoming activities of the BSR Bioeconomy Council and PA Bioeconomy.

Elin Bergmann from WWF Sweden presented WWF's Initiative "Baltic Stewards Initiative" with the aim of contributing to a healthy Baltic Sea with a well-functioning ecosystem. The project focuses on marine protected areas, eutrophication, sustainable fishing and plastic pollution. WWF aligned with key actors to find solutions that can create a Sustainable Food Chain, such as circular food production. WWF produces reports with tangible solutions that stakeholders can act upon. For instance, they provide farmers with 5 main action points to: minimize the use of fertilizer; implement nutrient accounting; recycle nutrients from farm waste; circular solutions for closing the loop; and implement nutrient leakage measures. Additionally, they have established a water stewardship with H&M to help find out how they can source water in a sustainable way and use less water in all parts of the value chain. Common for all WWF solutions is that they have circular economy and digitalization as their place of pride.

Roman Acht and Katrin Kepp from Baltic Leadership Program Youth and Bioeconomy (BLP), presented their op-eds and the BLP-program. The objective of the BLP is to strengthen a transregional network, get insight to bioeconomy, new approaches and train the participants within the bioeconomy. BLP started with a module on understanding the bioeconomy, sustainability and circular economy, followed by a webinar on challenges and opportunities. The second module was on ideas and concerns, to ideas and solutions using the tools gained from the program. The participants additionally wrote op-ed articles, published in the [Sustainable growth the Nordic Way](#) web magazine. One of the articles focused on consumers and single use plastic. The authors share their thoughts on how the bioeconomy can contribute to a more sustainable future, e.g. how bioeconomy solutions can contribute to reducing plastic litter.

Mads Wolff introduced the recently initiated process of mapping important bioeconomy trends in the BSR and North-West Russia Commissioned by PA Bioeconomy. The process will consist of four phased analytical approach with focus on stakeholder and communication activities. The presentation was followed by a workshop where the participants was engaged to help identify key trends of the bioeconomy in the BSR. The outcome will feed into the process of conducting the trend analysis.

Day 2: PA Bioeconomy and revision of EUSBSR Action Plan

Day two of the BSR Bioeconomy Council was kicked off by Esben Lanthén from Nordic Sustainability, who summarized and reflected upon the discussion the previous day on the work with identifying and analyzing bioeconomy trends in the BSR region.

In addition to the input that was given on 9 May, the participants highlighted the following points as important when considering BSR bioeconomy trends:

- The emerging/developing bioeconomy and to what extent it benefits and/or challenges rural development.
- The role of urbanization as well as eventual "counter-trends" in connection with people moving out of the cities and so called "life style migrants", and slow life and connectedness to nature.
- The question of the growth paradigm and how it related to conventional economic growth.



- Ownership to natural resources.
- The “silver economy”, the concept of “older” is changing and many successful entrepreneurs are also people with a lot of work experience.

Camilla Widmark from EFI presented the new Forest Bioeconomy Network, and the Barents Forest Forum 2019 that will take place in Umeå as part of Sweden’s chairmanship in the Barents Forest Sector Network.

Anders Vestergaard Jensen presented the project [Nordic Wood in Construction](#). The publication features 25 Nordic cases of how wood can be used in innovative ways, and it aims at providing inspiration for e.g. architects, designers and city planners.

Bettina Rafaelsen from COWI introduced the work of revising the Action Plan and how it relates to the existing targets and indicators as defined in the existing action plan. She highlighted that important points in the revision are how the PA reflect current challenges in the BSR (also in relation to the SDGs), achievements that have been reached, key future actions, timing/prioritisation, how to measure (indicators), governance structures, funding and implementation/processes.

Peter Frank presented the progress of the ScanBalt project and learnings from the health sectors that can be transferred to the bioeconomy

Beate Cuypers from the University of Greifswald presented the progress of Bioeconomy in the South Baltic Area (BioBIGG), a project that aims to mobilise the innovation potential along agro-industrial value-chains, focusing on new biomass and by-products.