

Alpine Policy Forum. Transnational dialogue on the circular biobased economy in the Alpine Space

The Alpine Policy Forum (online event) on the **16th of February 2021** offers an **open policy dialogue** to exchange experiences and find common positions for the Alpine macroregion¹ with regards to the **circular biobased economy** as well as to the **digitalization of SMEs**, which play a major role in the optimization of **value chains** based on natural fibers. The Alpine Policy Forum should result in the development of a **master plan** for a **common policy strategy** for the Alpine Space.

The event covers the following **aspects**:

- International dialogue to scale up the bioeconomy efforts into the cross-regional dimension while also respecting regional priorities in terms of biobased industries
- Approaches and tools to activate broken biobased value chains under unforeseen circumstances, such as pandemics
- Digitalization of SMEs as one of the solutions to boost development of biobased industries. How can policy makers support and promote the digital transformation of SMEs in this sector?

Target groups of the Alpine Policy Forum:

- Policy makers (local, regional, and national level) dealing with the biobased sectors of agriculture, wood, chemistry, food/pharma packaging, as well as with the digitalization of SMEs
- Cluster agencies and business associations of biobased industries
- Business support organizations
- Industry and commerce chambers that support companies in the biobased industries as well as in the digitalization processes
- Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs) and other providers of knowledge on digitalization tools and services available also for SMEs

The event is organized in the frame of two EU-funded projects that share common goals on the way to the circular biobased economy in the Alpine Space - [AlpLinkBioEco](#) and [Smart SMEs](#).

The main goal of the project AlpLinkBioEco (Linking BioBased Industry Value Chains Across the Alpine Region) is setting up a methodology to connect diverse actors along value chains from raw material producers to end users. This leads to new cross-regional biobased value chains in four sectors – agriculture, wood, chemicals, and food/pharma packaging.

¹ The macroregion here implies the regions/countries involved in the projects AlpLinkBioEco and Smart SMEs: Autonomous Province of Bolzano (South Tyrol), Autonomous Province of Trento (Trentino), Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Espace Mittelland (Switzerland), Lombardy, Lower and Upper Austria, and Slovenia

The project Smart SMEs aims to improve the deployment of digital solutions in small and medium-sized enterprises and thus to increase the competitiveness of SMEs in the Alpine regions that are related to natural fiber-based value chains like agriculture, forestry and wood. Examples of such solutions can be found at <https://smartsmes.um.si/>.

The event is also supported by the partners of the project [ARDIA-Net](#), whose ultimate goal is to lower the barriers for cross-regional cooperation in the fields of circular biobased economy and health care industries through joint calls for the research and innovation community in the Alpine regions.

The Alpine Policy Forum will be moderated by the experts of the state agency [BIOPRO Baden-Württemberg](#), [ANTEJA ECG](#) and [Lucia Seel International Consulting](#).

The event is in English and free of charge. Due to the organizational reasons, registration is obligatory. Please **register** via boyarintseva@bio-pro.de by the **31st of January 2021**. You are very welcome to forward this invitation to potentially interested parties.

We would be very glad to learn from your expertise towards the establishment of a common policy strategy for the circular biobased industry in the Alpine Space!

Preliminary agenda

Time	Activity	Responsible/speaker
9:45	Registration on the web-conference platform	All participants
10:00	Opening, welcome address, agenda	BIOPRO/Anteja
10:05	Session 1 <i>Developing regional/national bioeconomy strategies. Policy supporting framework in the Alpine regions</i>	Moderator: Lucia Seel
10:10	Keynote Overview on the Alpine macroregional approach	Prof. Ralf Kindervater, BIOPRO
10:20	National / Regional Bioeconomy Strategies, 7 Alpine regions, 7 min per region, max. 3 slides	
	Austria / Lower and Upper Austria	Policy maker, tbd
	Italy / Lombardy / Trentino / South Tyrol	Policy maker, tbd
	Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes	Policy maker, tbd
	Baden-Württemberg	Policy maker, tbd
	Bavaria	Policy maker, tbd
	S3 Strategy in Slovenia	Policy maker, tbd
	Policy initiatives in bioeconomy in Switzerland	Policy maker, tbd
11:10	Wrap up on the national/regional strategies	Prof. Ralf Kindervater, BIOPRO
11:15	Coffee break	
11:25	Panel discussion with policy makers Transnational dialogue with prioritization of dedicated actions:	Moderator: Lucia Seel Participants: Policy makers

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of joint thematic bioeconomy fields (crossing points) and potentials for macroregional cooperation in the Alpine space • Dedicated actions at the macroregional/transnational level, e.g. cooperation initiatives • Q&A from audience (chat function) 	Chat: BIOPRO/Anteja
12:25	Lunch break / Networking	
13:30	Wrap up of Session 1 / Intro to Session 2	Lucia Seel
13:35	Session 2 <i>Approaches and tools to activate broken biobased value chains in unforeseen circumstances, such as pandemics. Digitalization as one of the solutions for SMEs</i>	Moderator: Lucia Seel Intro: Mateja Dermastia, Anteja ECG
13:45	Keynotes , 7 min each Value Chain Generator (AlpLinkBioEco)	AlpLinkBioEco
	Good practices and existing tools (Smart SMEs)	Smart SMEs
	Policy recommendations on knowledge transfer re. Digitalization of SMEs (Action Plan, Smart SMEs)	Smart SMEs
14:10	Thematic discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value Chain Generator • COVID-19 and its influence on biobased value chains • Good practices and existing tools for SMEs • Action plan for digitalization of SMEs • Q&A from audience 	Moderator: Lucia Seel Participants: tbd
15:00	Quick live survey	Lucia Seel
15:05	Wrap up	Lucia Seel
15:10	Group photo and closing	BIOPRO/Anteja