

UrBIOfuture



Boosting future careers, education and research activities in the European bio-based industry

<https://www.urbiofuture.eu/>

Summary

The European Union has already made substantial progress in adopting a bio-based economy. However, it cannot afford to stand still; it must continue to advance. To do so requires continued analysis of the specific needs of this industry sector. The UrBIOfuture project has been designed to address this, by boosting education, research and careers in the bio-based industries in order to keep Europe at the forefront of the sector.

Type of Action:
Coordination and Support
Action

Value Chain: Across VCs

Start date: 01 May 2019

End date: 30 April 2020

BBI JU contribution: €
946,568

The project will map industry needs and the skills gap and facilitate interaction between the education sector, academia and industry. Based on its insights and engagement, UrBIOfuture will create a series of promotional events, including train-the-trainer and train-the-student workshops. This will help Europe sustain its leading position in the bio-based sector by ensuring that there are adequate numbers of well-trained and enthusiastic people entering the industry.

Objectives

As well as its benefit to the bio-based industry as a whole, UrBIOfuture project will deliver a number of important societal benefits. It will:

- Identify opportunities and gaps for careers in the bio-based industry, education and research.
- Provide people with the skills to help Europe build and sustain its pre-eminence in the bio-based sector.
- Reach out to and engage students at an early stage, to promote careers in an important emerging industry sector.
- Use the vision of Europe's existing expertise in the sector to highlight the skills that will be needed in the coming generations.

Expected impacts

The UrBIOfuture project's activities should deliver a number of valuable impacts. It will:

- Enhance the overall professionalism of those within the bio-based industry.
- Provide the sector with a detailed overview of completed and ongoing programmes addressing curricula addressing bio-based activities. This will identify skills gaps and help provide the resources to bridge them.
- Assist the sector in defining potential career paths for those choosing to enter the bio-based industry sector. This will help produce bio-agricultural professionals, bioeconomy leaders and innovators and agricultural technologists capable of teaching others.
- Align education and research with industry expectations, offering the skills employers need and the opportunities entrants seek. This will help the industry and increase employment in the sector.

Project coordination

- Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain)
- Consiglio Nazionale Delle Ricerche (Italy)
- Teknologian tutkimuskeskus VTT Oy (Finland)
- AGRO Business Park AS (Denmark)
- Fundación Corporación Tecnológica de Andalucía (Spain)
- Vlaamse Instelling Voor Technologisch Onderzoek NV (Belgium)
- Stichting Ihe Delft Institute for Water Education (Netherlands)
- Sustainable Innovations Europe SL (Spain)
- Fundacja Uniwersytetu Im Adama Mickiewicza W Poznaniu (Poland)

Organisation name: Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain)