4th meeting of the Baltic Sea Region Bioeconomy Council

Date and time: 12th of October 2017 10.00-16.00
Location: Nordic House, Ved Stranden 18, 1061 Copenhagen K

Overall theme: Discussion of the achievements and next steps for the EUBSR PA Bioeconomy

Agenda:
10:00-10:10 Welcome and presentation of the day by Torfi Jóhannesson/ Nordic Council of Ministers

10:10-11:00 Overview - results
Presentation by Thomas Winther summarizing 3 years of actions
Thomas Winther summarized the different events on bioeconomy and the actions accomplished by PA Bioeconomy.

Presentation by PA Bioeconomy project partners
Leena Anttila from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland presented their work and flagships on agricultural bioeconomy and nutrient recycling.

Darius Liutikas from The Ministry of Agriculture of Lithuania presented their activities on PA Bioeconomy. Their main aim is to create a transformative dialogue on rural development. He emphasized the main challenges on financial resources and increasing awareness.

Hans-Olof Stålgren from The Swedish Board of Agriculture presented activities on bioeconomy in Fishery and Aquaculture with the main task within networks, such as the Submariner network and thereby the ability to increase transnational cooperation within the PA Bioeconomy.

11:00-12:00 Challenges and opportunities
R&D and Innovation: SDG Impact Assessment process – presentation by Maria Svane/Chalmers University
Maria Svane presented the SDG assessment tool developed by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network in Northern Europe. The mission is to facilitate the work on the SDG’s. Maria mentioned different solutions such as Nofir – plastic solutions and Waves 4 power.

Bio-based business: Industrial Symbiosis and regional business meetings– presentation by Torfi Jóhannesson/NCM.
The work on bioeconomy with the private sector was presented, focused on the forest sector, circular economy and industrial symbiosis.

Followed by group discussions:
1. Key challenges and opportunities to engage more with respectively innovation / research partners and the business community.
2. Lessons learned from implemented activities and the implementations for future efforts.

13:30-14:30 Challenges and opportunities
Civil society and Outreach: ‘Democracy Festivals’ – presentation by Madis Tilga & Maija Kāle/NCM and ‘Showcasing Everyday Products’ – presentation by Dr. Beate El-Chichakli/German Bioökonomirät

Madis Tilga from NCM’s office in Tallinn presented how bioeconomy was staged at the peoples meeting, Aravamus festival. At the Festival they attracted both media and relevant ministries. Madis suggested to have a dialogue about the practical every day aspects of bioeconomy, but to avoid the more abstract notions of the concept.

Maija Kala from NCM’s Riga office spoke about the peoples meeting, LAMPA-festival, where the focus was on leadership participation. Furthermore, she underlined, during the festival it was emphasized a strong appeal on new economic mind-sets.

Beate El-Chichakli from the secretariat of the German Bioeconomy Council presented their activities. One activity who achieved huge media coverage was an apartment equipped with bioeconomic/circular solutions showcasing sustainable solutions for everyday use. This showcased how “hands on” bioeconomy could be in terms of consumption, recycling, nutrition and construction.

Bioeconomy Policies: Sustainability Guidelines – presentation by Sustainia

Emil Damgaard Grann presented the proposal for five principles on sustainable development for Nordic and Baltic bioeconomy. The aim is to address the SDGs after the Paris Agreement and be able to find a common ground and inspire other regions. The idea is to use these principles as a communication tool and let them feed into the new strategy. For more information see the policy brief.

Group discussions:

1. Key challenges and opportunities to engage more with civil society and for increasing the bioeconomy contribution to the SDGs.
2. Lessons learned from implemented activities and the implementations for future efforts.
3. What should be done more in the areas – business, research and innovation, policies and SDG’s and Civil Society?