

March 2024

Final conference held and a lot learned in the process!

As the project winds down, we sum up the final conference and share outputs from the project.

On March 5th the Blue Green Bio Lab partners held an online final conference. More than 30 participants joined to learn about the results and main take aways in the project. We also discussed the challenges and opportunities for local authorities in initiating bio-industrial symbioses involving aquaculture, agriculture, and industry to ensure the use of local blue/green biomasses with the purpose to produce positive ecosystem services and sustainable products.

Participants came from Sweden, Latvia and Denmark representing various sectors and branches within the field of circular bioeconomy. During breakout sessions we discussed the role of technology, effective ways to engage a diverse group of stakeholders, how to best work within existing regulations, and how to develop trust within competitive businesses.

Project results

In the first part of the conference, we shared our project results, learning and reflections via short interviews with project partners. During the project, we have also produced case story videos:

- [Danish case story](#)
- [Latvian case story](#)
- [Swedish case story](#)

The main deliverable of the project is the [Blue Green Bio Lab Toolkit](#) (link to English version).

The project has also produced a guided presentation of the toolkit in English with sneak peaks at our learning during the project. Link to [guided presentation](#) (link to English version).

Link to the [Danish version of the toolkit](#) and the [Danish guided presentation](#).

Please enjoy!

Breakout sessions

During the breakout sessions at the final conference, participants discussed co-creatively:

- How to facilitate and support the role of technology
- Effective ways to engage a diverse group of stakeholders
- How to best work within existing regulations
- How to develop trust within competitive businesses.

How to facilitate and support the role of technology

Q: The role of technology, e.g., bio refineries, will be central in building and developing bio industrial symbiosis systems. In what ways can we facilitate and support the use of technology to help companies and systems to use green and blue biomasses?

A: Selected responses

- Entrepreneurs need to see examples/pilots (from scientists) to see a new opportunity, to be inspired. Then there must be partial support for entrepreneurs to implement the technology.
- More fundings provided for the research centers that develop the technologies and innovations. Ability and the funding for the producers to establish the technologies in their facilities and factories to work in effective and circular way.
- Developing the connection between governance on a national level together with the regional and municipal perspective including the support and collaboration with universities.

Effective ways to engage a diverse group of stakeholders

Q: Getting a diverse group of stakeholders engaged in the process is important. What are the most effective ways to ensure stakeholder engagement that is open, fair, and fruitful?

A: Selected responses

- Open and transparent process. A neutral facilitator. Early dialogue. Trust and understanding the different driving forces. Be clear about what (and when) information and progress can be shared and what can't (and why if so).
- To have consequent meetings with repeating the same things again and again. The repetition is the key for the knowledge and the actions to be implemented in the real life with the change of the mindset first.

- To define the common ground and create value for the participants.

How to best work within existing regulations

Q: Changing regulations takes time and we need to get started now! How can we best work within existing regulations?

A: Selected responses

- Good lawyers... Environmental permit: One permit for the whole industry park, that could buffer and utilize different flows ensuring that the recipient is not negatively affected.
- Close connection and aims understanding on both sides - businessman/farmer and local community.
- Try to use technologies that fit the circular economy rules, but it highly depends on funding.

How to develop trust within competitive businesses

Q: Businesses need to be competitive. Cooperating with others in a circular value chain has challenges but also opportunities. In what ways can we help develop the trust and cooperation between local businesses to achieve circularity and keep competitive?

A: Selected responses

- It takes time. Changing regulations take time, and building trust takes time... Maybe need to see this as a parallel process? Also, entrepreneurs have to be super careful about who to share info with - they don't have big legal or IP departments to ensure that they don't share too much or things that can endanger their business case.
- Acceptance different time levels with industry, governance, innovation. Not focus on competition between municipalities. Focusing on the common goal.
- We have to build trust and to formulate what the gain is to participate in a symbiosis. 1 to 1 meetings.

Local language versions

Local language versions of the different material (Danish, Latvian and Swedish) can be found at local project partner websites:

- [Blue-Green Bio Lab across the Baltic Sea Region \(energibyenskive.dk\)](http://energibyenskive.dk) (Danish)
- [Blue-Green Bio Lab – et projekt på tværs af østersøregionen \(klimafondensskive.dk\)](http://klimafondensskive.dk) (Danish)
- www.levailysekil.se (Swedish)

- [Blue Green Bio Lab - Lysekils kommun](#) (Swedish)
- [Projekta Blue-Green Bio Lab informatīvie materiāli](#) (zemgale.lv) (Latvian)
- [Blue-Green Bio Lab projekta materiāli](#) (lhei.lv) (Latvian)

Dreaming forward

Checking out of the conference, we asked about your dreams when it comes to using blue and/or green biomasses in bio-industrial symbioses in the future. Here is a short summation of participants responses:

- Wider acceptance of bio-industrial symbiosis idea, with a pilot action.
- A circular oriented regulation focusing on the system - not as today sector or silo based regulation
- A circular business park finished in Lysekil
- I dream of a Carbon-based economy rather than livestock-based economy!
- I hope that the Danish Sea Plan will no longer exclude commercial mussel production in south-east Denmark

We from the project would like to thank everyone for their participation and valuable input to our discussions throughout the project,

The Blue Green Bio Labbers