



SCALE UP
community-driven
bioeconomy development

WS6 Training Programme Protocol

**Governance of regional bio-based systems:
Session #1: Empowering Rural Communities - the
importance of developing Governance Models on
Circular Bioeconomy**

12 September 2024

Session #1: Empowering Rural Communities: the importance of developing Governance Models on Circular Bioeconomy.

Session number 1 on "Empowering Rural Communities: The Importance of Developing Governance Models on Circular Bioeconomy" took place on September 12, 2024, from 9:00 am to 11:20 am CET. The session focused on promoting the development of circular bioeconomy practices in rural areas through effective governance models.

The session began with a welcome and introduction to the SCALE-UP project, highlighting its aim to enhance the circular bioeconomy in rural communities. Holger Schmidt from the SCALE-UP consortium set the stage by emphasizing the project's objectives and the significance of collaborative efforts in driving sustainable change.

Magnus Matisons and Barbro Kalla from BioFuel Region presented on "BIOMODELS4REGION: Establishing Innovative Governance Models in the Bio-Based Economy." They underscored the importance of stakeholder mapping and the development of regional statistics to recognize the bioeconomy as a distinct sector. Their presentation highlighted how strategic collaborations and improved perceptions can foster engagement and progress in the bioeconomy.

Following this, Mar Cátedra from the Regional Government of Andalusia discussed the "Andalusian Strategy for the Circular Bioeconomy." She emphasized the necessity of tailoring strategies to local contexts, considering Andalusia's unique agricultural resources and socioeconomic structure. Mar highlighted the continuous engagement with stakeholders as crucial for adapting policies to evolving needs.

Igor Kos from the Regional Development Agency of Podravje Region (VPI) shared insights on the "Podravje Regional Strategy for Transition to Circular Bioeconomy: The Slovenian Case Supported by the CCRI." He introduced Podravje as a pilot region in the Circular Cities and Regions Initiative (CCRI) and discussed ongoing projects funded by Horizon Europe. Igor highlighted the role of policy hubs in testing and refining policies before formal implementation.

Samuele Ambrosetti from the Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC) presented a governance model at the private level promoting industry sector partnership. He stressed the importance of skills development to maintain the sector's relevance and competitiveness. Samuele advocated for a bottom-up approach and discussed challenges such as fragmented legislation and the perception of bioeconomy ventures as high-risk investments.

After a short coffee break, participants engaged in an open discussion moderated by representatives from WIP Renewable Energies and CTA. The discussion focused on identifying key elements of effective governance models, empowering local stakeholders, and designing policy instruments to support bio-based solutions in rural areas. Participants shared experiences and strategies, emphasizing the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration, policy harmonization, and addressing barriers such as legislative fragmentation and investment risks.

The session concluded with a feedback segment where participants, including Eva Fridman, shared reflections and insights. Eva highlighted challenges faced in Sweden regarding hydropower, funding insecurities, administrative burdens for private forest owners, and the dependence on hydrogen technology. Despite these obstacles, she expressed optimism inspired by the initiatives presented during the session and emphasized the importance of continued efforts toward defossilization.

Upcoming sessions were announced, including further training on empowering rural communities through governance models in the circular bioeconomy. Participants were encouraged to complete an online survey to provide feedback, ensuring the continuous improvement of the training program.

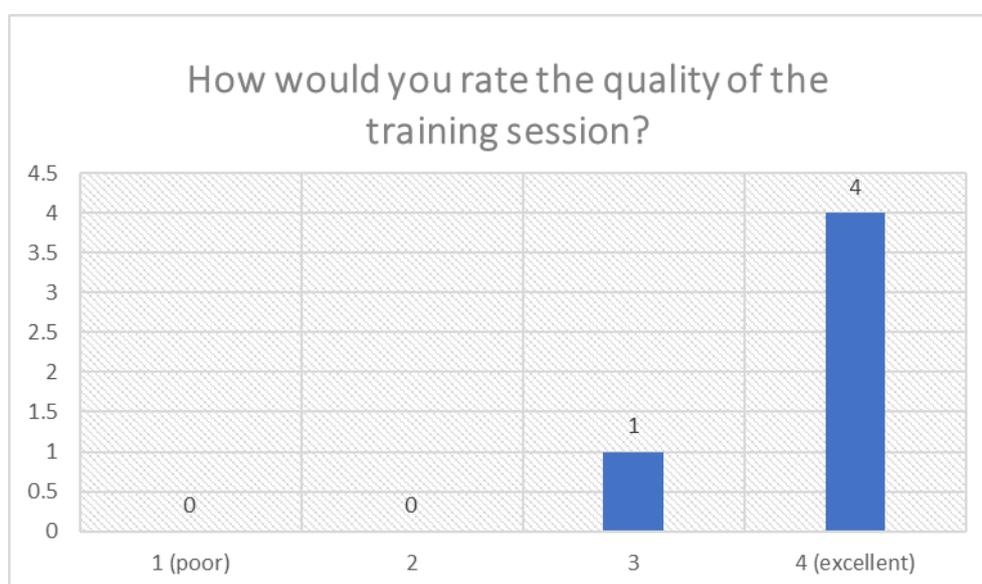
Overall, the session successfully highlighted the transformative potential of effective governance models in promoting the circular bioeconomy in rural communities. It provided valuable knowledge, fostered collaborative discussions among participants, and emphasized the importance of synergy, relevance, and continuous stakeholder engagement in driving sustainable change.

Participant feedback

At the end of the training session, the participants were asked to fill in a short survey to evaluate the training session. In the end, 5 participants responded to the survey, of which 1 from Poland, 1 from France, and 1 from Spain. Additionally, 2 international participants from Slovenia and the Netherlands answered the English survey. This gave the following results:

1.1 Quality

The participants were asked to rate the quality of the training session on a scale from 1 (poor) to 4 (excellent). 4 out of 5 participants answered this question with a 4, meaning they found the training session to be of excellent quality. Additionally, 1 participant answered this question with a score of 3.

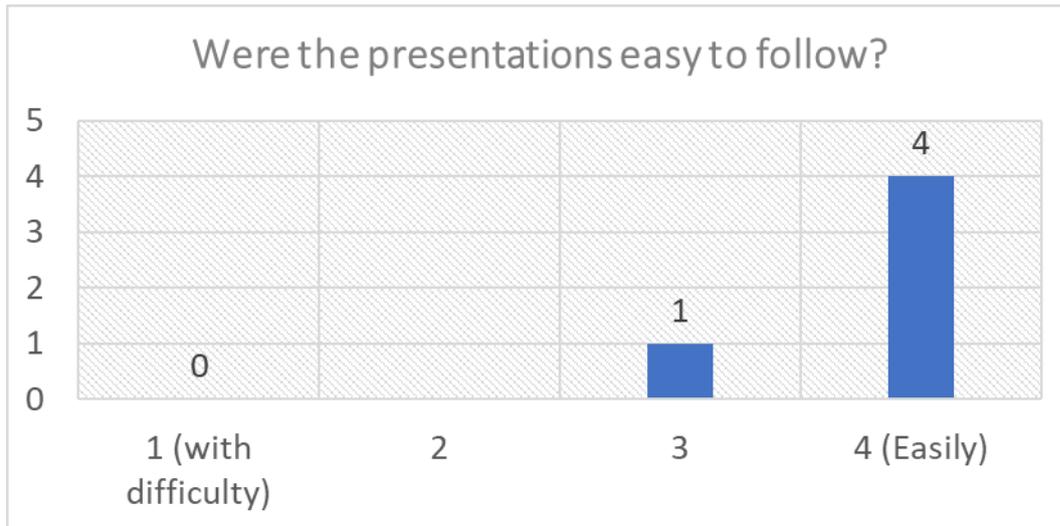


The participants were then asked what went well during the session. The participants answered that they liked the selection of topics, that there were interesting presentations, the contents of the presentations were useful, and that there was good organization. Additionally, one of the participants mentioned they liked the presentations of the regional policies towards bio-based production.

Next, the participants were asked what could have gone better. Here, the participants mentioned issues with the translation and answered that there could be more interaction. Additionally, one participant mentioned that they hoped for more information on private companies' contribution and cooperation arrangements between private and public.

1.2 Understandability

The participants were also asked whether the presentations were easy to follow. They were asked to rate this on a scale from 1 (with difficulty) to 4 (easily). Again, out of the 5 responses, 4 were a score of 4 (easily), and 1 person gave it a score of 3.

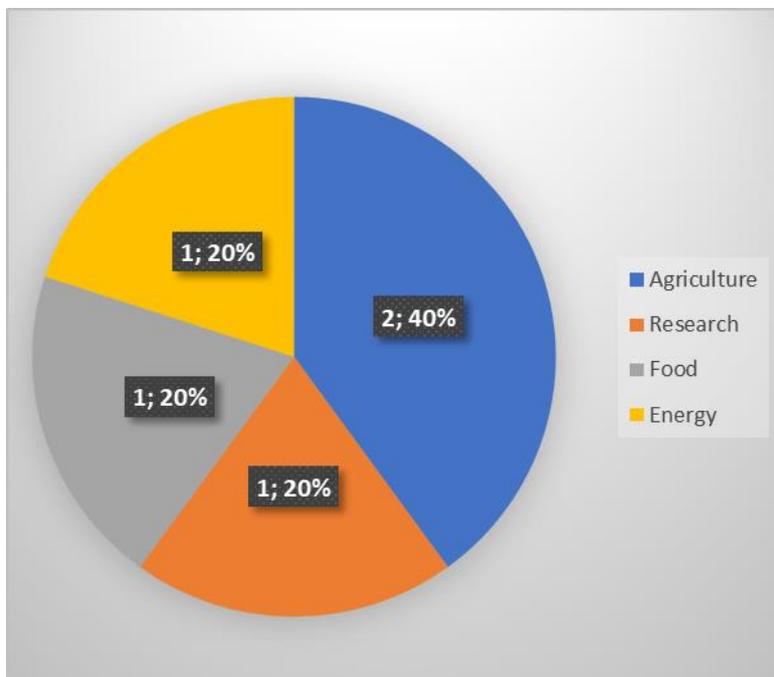


The participants were also asked what topics they found most interesting. Here they mentioned organizing the cooperation, the presentation from BIC (as it closer to their current concerns), the different approach from each region and the regional policies.

There was another comment saying that the participant liked that the presentations were very different and interesting.

1.3 Field of occupation

The survey concluded with an optional question regarding the participant's field of occupation. The participants indicated to be working in agriculture, research, food and energy.



Participants:

If you wish to get in touch with one of the participants from this session, please contact someone in the SCALE-EP consortium.

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