



SCALE^{UP}

community-driven
bioeconomy development

WS7 Session #1:
Balancing socio-economic and environmental objectives:
Indicators, tools and practical insights

Minutes of the training session
31 October 2021



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On 31 October 2024, Work Stream 7 “Strategies to address social, ecological and economic trade-offs in regional bioeconomy development” of the SCALE-UP training programme kicked off with a training session entitled “Balancing socio-economic and environmental objectives: Indicators, tools and practical insights”. The session was attended by 43 bioeconomy stakeholders from SCALE-UP’s focal regions and beyond.

Holger Gerdes and Zoritza Kiresiewa (Ecologic Institute) welcomed the participants and provided an overview the Work Stream and of the first training session.

The first guest speaker was **Aaron Best** (Ecologic Institute), who gave a presentation entitled “Key results of the MonBio project: Improving monitoring of environmental aspects of the bioeconomy”. In his presentation, Aaron Best provided an overview of the MonBio project, discussed existing monitoring systems, highlighted main project results, and outlined recommended actions and research.

Subsequently, **Gerardo Anzaldua** (Ecologic Institute) gave a presentation entitled “Assessing the ecological boundaries at regional level – SCALE-UP’s Sustainability Screening”. Gerardo Anzaldua acknowledged that regions are the most appropriate territorial level to implement bioeconomy strategies but stated that there is a need for improving our capacity to assess the environmental impacts of bioeconomy development. Further, he provided insights into the SCALE-UP Sustainability Screening methodology and highlighted practical lessons learned from its implementation in project’s six focal regions. On Gerardo Anzaldua’s question to the participants if the bioeconomy is intrinsically sustainable, the responses showed that the majority of participants in the survey indicated that they do not perceive it as such.

Afterwards, **Johannes Rupp** (Institute for Ecological Economy Research) gave a presentation entitled “Regional & decentralized biobased value chains: Insights on opportunities & trade-offs from a German perspective”. Johannes Rupp provided definitions of key concepts such as rural bioeconomy, decentralization and regionalization and highlighted examples of relevant value chains, areas and sectors from the Brandenburg region in Germany. He concluded by stating that further political attention as well as action by individual actors is required to promote a decentralized and regional bioeconomy, and that more focus should be put on cooperative operation and business models.

After the coffee break, Holger Gerdes and Zoritza Kiresiewa opened the plenary discussion, which focused on trade-offs and synergies in regional bioeconomy development. Short inputs were provided by **Susanne Mader** (Food Cluster – Business Upper Austria), **Marina Barquero León** (Technological Corporation of Andalusia) and **Nina Bailet** (Association of Chambers of Agriculture in the Atlantic Arc), highlighting three examples from Austria, Spain and France where trade-offs in bioeconomy development have successfully been tackled by regional actors. It was highlighted the implementation of appropriate strategies might require working across administrative boundaries, as was shown by the examples of managing groundwater/freshwater resources in Andalusia and in the Brittany region of France.

At the end of the session, the question of whether the bioeconomy is intrinsically sustainable was brought up again. It was held that “we need to find out” – which requires relevant indicators, data and resources among regional stakeholders.