PROJECTS2POLICY

Shortening the gap between research projects and EU policies on bio-based and biodegradable plastics

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Concept Project2Policy

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In the last years, the European Commission is funding multiple projects and initiatives to investigate under which conditions bio-based and biodegradable plastics can contribute to reduce pollution in our ecosystems. The outcomes and findings from those projects are used to proactively feed the European policies. This diversity, but yet synergy, to contribute to the EU policies, especially EU plastic strategy, allows to identify important conclusions in order to upgrade new EU project calls, as well as contribution from the projects to the EU policies. However, it has been identified that the information flow between the EC and the projects has not been optimised, and that sometimes it is difficult for the policy makers to extract relevant conclusions. In order to facilitate this information flow and shorten gap between projects and policies, H2020 projects GLAUKOS and BIO-PLASTICS EUROPE (in collaboration with EuBioNet and EBRN networks), joined their forces in order to facilitate this information flow by developing Project2Policy concept. The objective of the concept is to involve the most relevant projects related to bio-based plastics, in order to unlock the potential of bio-based and biodegradable plastic, in light of providing joint conclusions from all relevant projects to policy recommendations. The first step in this journey was the workshop entitled "Unlock the potential of bio-based and biodegradable plastics: challenges to be addressed" where 89 participants from 34 different countries (of which 21 European) joined representing 49 different projects. The second step was to synthesise the recommendations and to discuss them directly with the EU policy makers. This approached has been welcomed by both projects and EU policy officers and has been considered as a successful and efficient way towards policy development.

Projects2Policy CONCEPT

This format (Projects2Policy) can be replicated in different domain to shorten the gap between projects and policies, by facilitating the exploitation of Actionable Knowledge for policies, generated by EU funded projects.