

Small and Medium Enterprises in Bioenergy: Boosting Rural Employment and Sustainable Biomass Mobilisation



Final Conference

Date: 7 June 2018, 9:00 - 16:00

Venue:



Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 227, 1040 Brussels (Schuman), Belgium

Hosted by:



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www.securechain.eu





Conference objective

The solid biomass to energy sector is dominated by small and medium enterprises. What is and can be their role in fostering innovation and growth in rural areas in view of the emerging bioeconomy? The main objectives of the event are to:

- **Showcase the potential of SMEs** for stimulating innovation and employment in sustainable bioenergy in rural regions;
- Discuss lessons learnt from various **support and mentoring approaches for SMEs**: innovation vouchers, clusters, networks, and outreach programmes;
- Highlight the benefits and challenges of **national and international programmes** for fostering market uptake and collaboration in bioenergy chains.

The conference will bring together professionals and stakeholders in bioenergy, notably SME managers, experts, advisors, financiers and decision-makers.

The conference is hosted by the SecureChain consortium to offer a platform for various experts representing H2020 projects and regions in the bioenergy sector.

It is a registered event of the 18th **European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW)** and is held at a nice venue close the European Commission (Schuman).



Further information & Registration

Participation is free of charge and open to all. However, registration is required, through the conference webpage at www.securechain.eu/conference

In case of questions please contact one of the conference organisers:



BTG Biomass Technology Group BV, The Netherlands
email: vos@btgworld.com / phone: +31 53 486 11 91



CTFC Forest Sciences Centre of Catalonia, Spain
email: carla.bellera@ctfc.es / phone: +34 973 48 1752 326



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Conference programme

Moderator: Claire Doole, [Doole Communications](#), Switzerland

Time Topic, Presentation, Speaker

09:00 Registration

9:30 Opening

(0:20)

- Words of welcome

MEP Ramon Tremosa i Balcells, Member of the [European Parliament](#)
Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

Patrick Reumerman, [BTG Biomass Technology Group](#), The Netherlands

- European bioenergy research and innovation policies and the Energy Union Dr Maria Georgiadou, Senior Policy Officer, [European Commission, DG Research & Innovation](#)

9:50 Mentoring innovation in SMEs to foster bioenergy market uptake

(0:20)

- Lessons learnt from the SecureChain innovation voucher contest

Uwe Kies, [InnovaWood](#), Belgium / BTG, The Netherlands

10:10 Small but smart: How companies can seize bioenergy market opportunities to innovate

(0:50)

Testimonials from local bioenergy projects (3 statements, each 10 min)

- Decarbonisation of local communities through bioenergy in Småland
Göran Gustavsson, [Energy Agency of South East Sweden](#), Växjö, Sweden

- Biomass district heating and cooling networks : experiences in Catalonia
Oriol Gavalda, [Aiguasol](#), Spain

- Biomass recovery from waste – the AVEA company case

Pascal Beese-Vasbender, [Bergischer Abfallwirtschaftsverband \(BAV\)](#), Germany

- Questions & Answers (ca. 20 min)





Time *Topic, Presentation, Speaker*

11:00 Coffee break

11:30 **Financing Market Uptake in Bioenergy: Risk Assessment**

(0:20) Pol Arranz & Frederic Horta, [UPC Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya](#), Spain

11:50 **LCA-based Sustainability Assessment of Bioenergy Chains**

(0:20) Gudrun Obersteiner, [BOKU-ABF](#), Vienna, Austria

12:10 **Bioenergy Market Uptake in SMEs: Initial Conclusions & Discussion**

(0:35) Patrick Reumerman, BTG Biomass Technology Group, The Netherlands

- Questions and Answers (ca. 25 min)

12:45 Lunch break

14:00 **Panel 1: Market Uptake Regional Perspectives & Approaches**

(0:40) Lessons learnt from other bioenergy projects (ca. 10-15 min each).

- Biomass mobilisation for the emerging bioeconomy. BIO4ECO project
Adriano Raddi, [CTFC Forest Science Centre of Catalonia](#), Spain
- Up_Running: Success cases for mobilization of wood from agricultural prunings. Manolis Karampinis, [CERTH Centre for Research and Technology Hellas](#), Greece
- Biomass from marginal land and Bioenergy Villages: FORBIO and BioVill
Dominik Rutz, [WIP Renewable Energies](#), Germany

14:40 **Panel 2: Widening Market Uptake of Bioenergy**

(1:10) Views from stakeholders (panel including the three previous speakers)

Anna Martin, [AEBIOM European Biomass Association](#), Belgium

Åke Carlson, Mayor of Uppvidinge, Småland Sweden

15:50 **Closing Statement**

(0:10) Patrick Reumerman, Biomass Technology Group (BTG), The Netherlands

16:00 End of conference & Informal Get Together Cocktail (Catalan Cava)



Future-proof local bioenergy chains - Project summary

SecureChain.eu promotes market uptake of bioenergy by supporting SMEs in six European model regions through a dedicated innovation mentoring approach, targeting the entire bioenergy chain. Key activities and outcomes include:

- *Innovation Vouchers*. In an open contest, SMEs submitted various own ideas for improvement. The best 20 SME pilot projects were selected and received specific technical and financial advice from the project.
- *Learning Labs* and various trainings raised capabilities of SME pilot project owners and ensured wider stakeholder engagement in the regions.
- *Life Cycle Assessments* (LCAs) evaluated the sustainability impacts of 13 pilots. *Certification* trainings and pre-checks led already to 5 successful certifications.
- *Financial risk assessment and advisory services* to SMEs have led to increased production and new investments into facilities and equipment.

The project shows positive impacts on all assessed SMART criteria. The final event will showcase these results and provide also a platform for the following partner projects:



Sustainable regional bioenergy policies: a game changer - www.interregeurope.eu/bio4eco



Biomass from landscape conservation and maintenance work for renewable energy production - <https://greengain.eu>



Take-off for sustainable supply of woody biomass from agrarian pruning and plantation removal - www.up-running.eu



Fostering sustainable feedstock production for advanced biofuels on underutilized land in Europe - www.forbio-project.eu



Bioenergy Villages. Increasing the market uptake of sustainable bioenergy - www.biovill.eu



Speakers and panelists



Claire Doole is an internationally sought after moderator, with a track record in moderating lively panel discussions at the highest level. She is a former BBC journalist and international spokeswoman who is passionate about helping people communicate with confidence.



Maria Georgiadou is Senior Policy Officer in 'Renewable Energy Sources' in the [European Commission Directorate-General for Research and Innovation](#). She heads the strategic orientation and development of research and innovation programmes and policies in the fields of Renewable fuels and Bioenergy. She worked in R&D at universities and institutes in USA, Greece, France and Belgium, and for Ernst & Young.



Ramon Tremosa i Balcells is a Member of the [European Parliament Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs](#). He is an independent MEP for the Partit Demòcrata. He was a Senior lecturer in the Department of Economic Theory, University of Barcelona. He has published several books on the political case of Catalonia.



Patrick Reumerman is senior consultant at [BTG Biomass Technology Group](#). He is specialist for biomass and waste conversion technologies and an expert on feasibility studies, technology selections, due diligence studies and market analyses on various bio-energy applications. He coordinates a number of national and EU bioenergy R&D projects, including SecureChain.




Uwe Kies is an experienced EU project manager and advisor specialised in forestry, wood industries and bioenergy. He is Secretary General of [InnovaWood - European Network for Research, Innovation, Education and Training in the Forest-based Sector](#). He coordinates various European initiatives and R&D actions, e.g. the SecureChain project.



Göran Gustavsson is project manager and bioenergy expert at [Energy Agency of Southeast Sweden AB](#). He coordinates the regional network 'Bioenergy Group of Växjö' where value chain members cooperate to create new business in bioenergy. He presents the results of pilots in Southeast Sweden.





AIGUASOL  **Oriol Gavalda i Torrelles** is senior industry consultant and head of R&D at [AIGUASOL](#), Spain. His key competences include Sustainable urban planning, Building physics applied to passive designs, Building physics research activities. He has worked as field engineer in several execution and consultancy projects in energy efficiency, mainly in tertiary and industrial sectors. He presents an innovative district heating network pilot project in Olot, Girona.



Pascal Beese-Vasbender is project manager at the [Bergische Waste Management Association \(BAV\)](#), Germany, which established the project cluster :metabolon focusing on innovative environmental technologies and sustainable resource management. He holds the view that nature keeps solutions ready for the current social challenges, but that we must take a closer look into natural processes to discover them. He presents the AVEA pilot project in NRW, Germany.



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Pol Arranz-Piera is a researcher at [Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya \(UPC\)](#), specialising on biomass to energy supply

chain analysis. He has experience in renewable energy engineering (biomass systems, PV systems, hybrid systems, microgrids) including technical and financial design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. He is an experienced consultant in international cooperation.



Frederic Horta is associate lecturer and researcher at Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC). He is specialist in microeconomics, fund raising, business development and technology transfer in international projects. He lectures fundamentals of economics and entrepreneurship at UPC. He presents SecureChain's financial risk analysis and mentoring approach for SMEs.



Gudrun Obersteiner is senior scientist at and managing director of the [Institute of Waste Management at BOKU](#) University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences in Vienna. She is an internationally recognized expert in waste management and environmental management, waste collection systems, waste prevention, recycling technologies and methods for decision-making in waste management.





Adriano Raddi is the head of bioeconomy and governance programme at [CTFC Forest Science and Technology Center of Catalonia](#). His expertise is in of decision-making processes and the economy applied to the forestry sector. He also works on forest products value chains and on a holistic and strategic vision. He presents the [BIO4ECO](#) project.



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HELLAS

Manolis Karampinis is a research associate at [Centre for Research and Technology Hellas \(CERTH\)](#) working on solid biofuels mobilization

and utilization. He is representing the H2020 market update projects [BIOmasud Plus](#) and [uP_running](#), leading the establishment of an Observatory for agricultural pruning and plantation removal biomass.



Dominik Rutz a specialist in bioenergy and Head of the Bioenergy & Bioeconomy Unit at [WIP Renewable Energies](#), Germany. His main field of experience includes the technical and non-technical analysis of bioenergy and its supporting policies. Engaged in a variety of energy-related European projects, he presents lessons learnt from the bioenergy projects [FORBIO](#) and [BioVill](#).



EUROPEAN BIOMASS ASSOCIATION

Anna Martin works in the Policy Team of the [AEBIOM European Biomass Association](#) where she is in charge of Sustainability, Bioeconomy and Cascading of woody biomass. She has worked on environmental and climate policy at the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union.



Åke Carlson is chairman (mayor) of Uppvidinge, a municipality in the [County of Kronoberg](#), a heavily forested region in Southern Sweden. He is a fervent advocate to strengthen the role of private forest owners and their contribution to sustainable, local communities and the green economy.

