SPEAKERS BIOGRAPHIES

Panellists:

Natalia Brzezina, Policy Officer, Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development, Unit B2, Research and Innovation, European Commission

As Policy Officer at the European Commission, Natalia Brzezina is working on research and innovation activities at the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development (Unit B2). Before joining the European Commission in 2018, Natalia was a researcher in the Division of Bioeconomics at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven within the EU-funded project TRANSMANGO.

In the framework of her research, she developed innovative systems thinking tools to better understand complex challenges facing the European food system and thereby support design and implementation of relevant EU policies. In addition to her academic background, Natalia gathered professional experience in the agro-food industry, in particular in the plant breeding and beverage sectors. She holds MSc in Agriculture and Commodity Sciences from Warsaw University of Life Sciences (Poland) and MSc in Food Chain Systems from Cranfield University (UK).

Darragh Gaffney, Research and Development Manager, Monaghan Biosciences

Darragh Gaffney is Research and Development Manager at Monaghan Biosciences, a dedicated research division opened in 2014 by Monaghan Mushrooms – one of the world's largest mushroom production companies – to exploit the power of enzymes to extract high value products from biomass. Since the creation of Monaghan Biosciences, Darragh has been developing and implementing the research and development strategy of the company for industrial enzyme development.

In addition, he is leading the activities related to commercial application, transforming research into economic opportunities for the mushroom industry. Darragh holds a PhD on enzyme activity and immobilisation from the University of Limerick, Ireland.

Wim Haentjens, Policy Officer, Directorate General for Research and Innovation, Unit F3, Agri-Food Chains, European Commission

Wim Haentjens is Policy Officer at the European Commission in the Directorate General for Research and Innovation. Since joining the European Commission in 2015, he has dedicated his work to Agri-food chains (Unit F3), and in particular to the Bioeconomy Strategy and the Food 2030 Programme.

Wim previously worked for the Flemish Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, where he took part in the negotiation and implementation of the latest reform of the European Common Agricultural Policy. Prior to this, he held various positions in the private sector, predominantly in the food industry. Wim holds an engineering degree with a major in chemistry from Ghent University and an MBA in International Management from Vlerick Leuven Ghent Management School in Belgium.

Pilar Llorente, Project Officer, Bio-Based Industries Joint Undertaking

Pilar Llorente is Project Officer at the Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking (BBI JU) where she is monitoring the contribution of all BBI JU projects to the achievement of key performance indicators, such as environmental and socio-economic impacts. In that framework, she has been BIOrescue's Project Officer following the BIOrescue project since September 2017.

Before joining the BBI JU in 2015, Pilar worked at the European Commission Directorate General for Research and Innovation, at an engineering company and as a consultant for Research and Demonstration Innovation projects. She holds a Master of Science in Physics from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid in Spain, and a Master in EU Policies and Economics.

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BBI JU

Bio-based Industries Consortium

Horizon 2020 European Union Funding for Research & Innovation

Moderator:

Vicky Mosteyrin Perdiguero, Managing Director, Greenovate! Europe

Vicky Mosteyrin Perdiguero is Managing Director of Greenovate! Europe. She is overseeing the organisation's involvement in European research and innovation projects and carrying out early intelligence activities to identify new business opportunities in different fields, including circular economy, rural development, biofuels and bio-based products, and renewable energy. Vicky has 20 years' experience in EU affairs, having previously worked both for the EU institutions and the private sector in Brussels.

Vicky holds a degree in Law and Economics from the University of Deusto, and an MA in International Private Law from the Instituto de Empresa, Madrid, together with the Boston Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

Speakers:

Muluken Adamseged, Postdoctoral Researcher, Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Engineering and Bioeconomy (ATB)

Muluken Adamseged has been a post-doctoral researcher at the Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Engineering and Bioeconomy in Potsdam, Germany, since 2018. He is working on the European project RUBIZMO (Replicable Business Models for modern Rural economies), analysing favourable conditions for innovative business ideas to thrive across European rural areas. Previous to this he coordinated the EU funded project ValueSeC, which ran from 2013 to 2017.

Muluken holds a PhD from the Humboldt University of Berlin – Faculty of Life Science, where he wrote his dissertation on "Climate Change Adaptation, Institutions and Livelihood Dynamics of Rural Households". Muluken also has a Master of Science in Rural Development from Ghent University, Belgium.

Inés del Campo, Senior Research and Development Engineer and Project Manager, National Renewable Energy Centre of Spain (CENER), Biomass Department

Inés del Campo has over 18 years' experience in the conversion of biomass into bio-based products, and has been working in the biomass department of the National Renewable Energy Centre of Spain (CENER) since 2002. She is coordinator of the BIOrescue initiative, a project financed under the Bio-Based Industries Joint Undertaking. In addition, she is active in several other European projects testing and upscaling new biorefinery processes for different types of biomass and waste streams.

Inés holds a degree in chemical engineering from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid in Spain.

Laura Jalasjoki, Policy Analyst, European Network for Rural Development

Laura Jalasjoki joined the European Network for Rural Development (ENRD) as a Policy Analyst in 2018. She is coordinating the ENRD's thematic work to foster the development of a sustainable bioeconomy in rural areas. In addition, she analyses the opportunities to support new bio-based value chains within the European Union Rural Development policy instruments.

Prior to joining the ENRD, Laura worked for the International Fund for Agricultural Development, as well as AgriCord, the international network of agri-agencies, where she was managing strategic partnerships to foster sustainable rural development. Laura Jalasjoki holds a Master of Social Sciences and International Relations from the University of Tampere, Finland.

Bénédicte Julliard, Project Manager, Greenovate ! Europe

Bénédicte Julliard is a Project Manager at Greenovate! Europe, with experience in managing communication campaigns on circular economy, rural development and Smart City related topics. Since joining Greenovate! Europe in 2016, she has been managing Dissemination and Exploitation activities for the BIOrescue project, making the link with bio-based industry stakeholders to communicate project results to researchers, businesses, policy makers and citizens.

Bénédicte is also managing the communication and dissemination campaign of the RUBIZMO initiative, a European project started in 2018 to foster the replication of innovative and sustainable business models in rural areas. Bénédicte holds a Master's degree in European Affairs from Sciences Po Lille, France.

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