

“Three Pillars of Circular Bioeconomy: Talent, R&D, and Technologies”
Day 1 12.02.2024 at Öpik Conference Centre

Conference “Sustainable feedstocks and technologies for circular bioeconomy”

Room Kosmos

09:30 – 10:00 | Morning coffee/tea and snacks

10:00 – 10:05 | **Opening address**

Session: Bioprocessing and biomanufacturing using biomass feedstocks

10:05 – 10:30 | **Timo Kikas**; Professor of Biosystems Engineering; Estonian University of Life Sciences
“Sustainable valorization of lignin into biofuels and value-added products”

10:30 – 10:55 | **Pekka Simell**; Senior Advisor; VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland
“Biomass gasification process R&D for power, heat, and chemicals”

10:55 – 11:20 | **Siim Salmar**; Associate Professor in Organic Chemistry; University of Tartu
“Lignocellulose as a sustainable platform for the production of novel materials”

11:20 – 11:45 | **Petri-Jaan Lahtvee**; Co-founder and Co-CEO, ÄIO; Associate Professor, TALTECH
“Developing locally applicable biotechnology value chains”

11:45 – 12:15 | Coffee/tea break

Session: Biomanufacturing from CO₂

12:15 – 12:40 | **Michael Lienemann**; Senior Scientist; VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland
“Resource-efficient production of food ingredients and chemical feedstocks by biotechnological CO₂ valorisation”

12:40 – 13:05 | **Birgit Lewandowski**; Director Development; Electrochaea, Germany
“Sustainable energy transition: how biological methanation contributes to the circular bioeconomy”

13:05 – 13:30 | **Liina Joller-Vahter**; Co-founder, Power Algae; Guest Researcher, University of Tartu
“CO₂ in the microalgae value chain”

13:30 – 14:15 | Lunch

Session: Foods, materials, and beyond

14:15 – 14:35 | **Mart Toots**; Development Manager; Estonian Innovation Agency
“How to urge companies to take more R&D risks and innovate? Lessons and successes from the Estonian Applied Research Program”

14:35 – 15:00 | **Rajeev Bhat**; Professor; Estonian University of Life Sciences
“Sustainable pathways for agri-food wastes & by-products valorisation in the context of circular bioeconomy: Contributions of ERA-Chair in VALORTECH”

15:00 – 15:25 | **Ene Viiard**; Innovation Director; AS TFTA
“Paving the way to future foods in TFTA”

15:25 – 15:55 | Coffee/tea break and snacks

15:55 – 16:20 | **Priit Jõers**; Chief Scientific Officer; BiotaTec
“Leaching it softly – sourcing metals with microorganisms”

16:20 – 16:45 | **Arvi Jõers**; Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer; Gearbox Biosciences
“Eliminating antibiotics from protein production”

16:45 – 17:10 | **Mari-Ann Meigo Fonseca**; Co-founder and Chief Operating Officer; Gelatex
“Turning potato or beans into tiny fibers to enable meat production from cells”

17:10 – 17:15 | Final words



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe research and innovation programmes under grant agreements N°810755 and 101060066



“Three Pillars of Circular Bioeconomy: Talent, R&D, and Technologies” Day 2 13.02.2024 at Öpik Conference Centre

Seminar “Educating, training, and recruiting talents for circular bioeconomy” Room Supernoova

- 09:30 – 10:00 | Morning coffee/tea and snacks
- 10:00 – 10:10 | **Opening address by Mart Loog**; Professor, University of Tartu
- 10:10 – 10:35 | **Ilona Faustova & Priit Jõers**; Associate Professor, University of Tartu (IF); Chief Scientific Officer, BiotaTec (PJ)
“Educating through curricula, iGEM, and industrial doctorates”
- 10:35 – 11:00 | **Indrek Tulp**; Head of Applied Research Center & Board member; Metrosert
“Talent needs for the Estonian Applied Research Center”
- 11:00 – 11:25 | **Pontus Sjöström**; Senior Specialist; VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland
“VTT’s talent attraction strategy and best practices”
- 11:25 – 11:50 | **Johanna Roostalu**; Director, Innovation; BioInnovation Institute, Denmark
“Supporting first time founders in their life science start-up journey”
- 11:50 – 12:20 | Coffee/tea break

Workshops “Commercialise and advance your R&D for circular bioeconomy” Rooms Supernoova & Galaktika+Universum

- 12:20 – 13:20 | **Workshop 1** – “Road to DeepTech commercialisation, reverse engineered”
by Startup Estonia, Estonian Innovation Agency & Rainis Venta in room Supernoova
Join us in the journey towards a DeepTech venture through reverse engineering the process, starting from the final goal. We seek answers to questions such as what is your exit strategy as a DeepTech founder or as a researcher, and have you considered your fundability. As guidance, we will use real life cases and the 24-step Disciplined Entrepreneurship framework developed at MIT to build innovation-based ventures.
OR
- Workshop 2** – “ESG reporting and sustainability management”
by Impactly in room Galaktika+Universum
The workshop will introduce the concepts and strategies for sustainability management in enterprises and software for ESG reporting developed by Impactly. Bring your laptop/tablet to determine, for example, ESG risk categories for your enterprise and obtain guidelines for their mitigation.
- 13:20 – 14:00 | Lunch
- 14:00 – 15:00 | **Workshop 3** – “Innovation management tools”
by Marko Rillo in room Supernoova
The workshop will present tools to create innovation strategies for your organisation. Hands-on work on your laptop/tablet will help you to analyse trends and create scenarios and innovative ideas.
OR
- Workshop 4** – “Novel Foods and Food Contact Materials in the European Union: applications for safety assessment and support to applicants”
by European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), Estonian Agriculture and Food Board & EFSA Focal Point in Estonia in room Galaktika+Universum
We will introduce EU regulations, guidance on the application process for regulated products, and EFSA support to applicants on the example of Novel Foods and Food Contact Materials. It also discusses questions regarding EFSA applications sent beforehand by participants.
- 15:00 – 15:30 | Coffee/tea and snacks