

Bioenergy and renewable fuels projects for the revamping of the SET Plan. Event summary

The ETIP Bioenergy event “Bioenergy and renewable fuels projects for the revamping of the SET Plan” organized at EUBCE 2023 provided a forum for a joint and wide-perspective discussion on the clean energy research and innovation developments in Europe, as outlined by the Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan, and on the role played by bioenergy and renewable fuels technologies.

The aim of this joint event, held on the 6th of June 2023 at the [31st European Biomass Conference and Exhibition](#) in Bologna (Italy), was to **enhance the potential for synergistic initiatives** in line with the targets of implementation of SET Plan *Action 8 - Renewable Fuels and Bioenergy*. Chaired by the European Technology and Innovation Platform for Bioenergy (ETIP Bioenergy), it hosted SET Plan representatives, policy experts, and ten EU research projects working on emerging technologies in the field contributing to the SET Plan *Action 8*.

The morning session illustrated the policy framework, the emerging trends in research and industry in the field, together with needs and opportunities identified for the scale-up of innovative technologies in line with the SET Plan implementation.

The first presentation was held by Franco Cotana, Co-chair of the Implementation Working Group 8 (IWG8) who illustrated the SET Plan genesis, structure and functioning with relation to the EU R&I policy environment, with a focus on the **SET Plan revamping process and the evolution Action 8 scope**.

Patrik Klintbom, Chair of ETIP Bioenergy, gave a preview of the newly updated **Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda** (SRIA) of ETIP Bioenergy, that will be released soon. The SRIA articulates research and innovation roadmaps and priorities in the field of bioenergy for the next years, and also aims to provide a reliable source of information and opinion on the development of biofuels for transport in the EU.

Maria Georgiadou, Senior Expert at European Commission DG RTD, delivered some **key messages on research and innovation trends** in relation to main developments in EU energy and climate policies – notably the Revision of Renewable Energy Directive II and the REPowerEU Plan – clarifying some relevant aspects for the bioenergy and renewable fuels sector. She highlighted new opportunities for research and industry in the field, with a focus on the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2024 for Cluster 5 (Climate, Energy and Mobility) and on recently launched initiatives, such as the Biomethane Industrial Partnership (BIP).

The issue of mobilizing resources and enabling policies for the scale-up and deployment of emerging bioenergy technologies was addressed by [SET4BIO](#), a H2020 project specifically aimed to support and accelerate the implementation of the SET Plan Action 8. As successfully approaching its conclusion, the SET4BIO project partners presented the final project results from a 3-year research in the field: drawn from a comprehensive analysis of research results, five **key policy recommendations** were illustrated by Elina Mäki (VTT), while Judit Sandquist (SINTEF) and Paola Mazzucchelli (CIRCE) outlined a roadmap of **funding and financing opportunities** for R&I projects in the bioenergy and renewable fuels field.

The afternoon hosted **three thematic sessions** each one focusing on a specific cluster of technology solutions and applications:

- 1) *Electrochemical conversions from biobased compounds.*
Projects involved: [EBIO](#), [Liberate](#), [PERFORM](#), [ABC Salt](#);
- 2) *Syngas technologies, value chains, and market potential.*
Projects involved: [FlexSNG](#), [BIOMETHAVERSE](#), [BioSFerA](#), [Carbon Neutral LNG](#);
- 3) *Clean advanced biofuels production from contaminated land.*
Projects involved: [GOLD](#), [CERESiS](#), [Phy2Climate](#).

After these three thematic sessions, a **panel discussion** was conducted by Dina Bacovsky (BEST, Germany), under the title 'Common ground and contribution of EU projects to the revamping of the SET Plan Action 8', with a representative from each of the thematic sessions during the day, as well as two external representatives: George Vourliotakis (Exergia, Greece), Roman Tschentscher (SINTEF, Norway), Ilkka Hiltunen (VTT, Finland), Thomas Schleker, (European Commission, DG RTD), and (Luc Pelkmans, IEA Bioenergy).

During the panel discussion the following questions were discussed amongst the panellists:

- What is needed to transfer results from HEU projects into demonstration, scaling up and deployment of the technologies? (from a researcher's perspective);
- How does EC RTD support such a transfer? Best international examples how to stimulate technology development and deployment;
- Which strategy would support viable technologies in the market in the longer term?
- We can develop technologies through targeted R&D, learn how to operate facilities through demonstrations, and optimize technologies in the scale-up process. Still there are non-technical barriers. Which non-technical barriers have you identified, and how can they be overcome?
- How can we make use of the immense knowledge built through HEU/H2020/FP7 projects? How can projects/research teams/companies benefit from each other, thus stimulating innovation?

The event saw around 80 participants in the whole day. As for speakers, the audience consisted of different groups of stakeholders in the bioenergy sector: researchers, policy makers, representatives of industry and companies. Thanks to such a comprehensive format, this initiative was sincerely appreciated as a long-sought opportunity for dialogue into the European bioenergy community, and for stimulating synergies among different actions towards the objectives of the SET Plan Action 8.

Co-organisers



In-person, online
Bologna, Italy

