



A COMMON STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE OF THE NORDIC BIOECONOMY

The Nordic Bioeconomy Panel

The Nordic Bioeconomy Panel is a formal policy and strategy forum initiated as part of the Nordbio programme with the main purpose to create the first common Nordic strategy for the Bioeconomy.

THE OBJECTIVE

The Ministers for Co-operation (MR-SAM) has assigned the Nordic Bioeconomy Panel with a mandate outlining the objectives of the panel:

“The aim of the panel to contribute to a sustainable transformation towards the bioeconomy in the Nordic countries and to stimulate innovation, to explore and expose the potential of the Nordic Region to take a global lead in the field of sustainable production and utilization of bio-resources with the purpose of enhancing Nordic competitiveness and sustainability. This shall be done through a joint Nordic strategy for the bioeconomy, by including new, interdisciplinary knowledge and by providing input to the Nordic countries and relevant Nordic and international forums regarding innovative thinking and solutions to the challenges they face in relation to the bioeconomy and green transition.”

The mandate is to be realized through a project plan based on four pillars:

- A best cases catalogue
- A New Nordic Bioeconomy Strategy
- Networking
- Outreach

A BEST CASES CATALOGUE

The aim of the best cases catalogue is to showcase Nordic innovations that increase competitiveness and creates jobs in a resource efficient and sustainable way and in this way the selection is supposed to become a guidepost for the directions in which the strategy aims to push the development.

To ensure a transparent and critical selection process the secretariat cooperates with the well-recognized think tank Monday Morning/Sustainia. Together with Monday Morning/Sustainia the panel has developed a template for 'Best Nordic Bioeconomy Cases' which will enable benchmarking of the cases as well as a much stronger showcasing. The catalogue will be launched in January 2017.

A NEW NORDIC BIOECONOMY STRATEGY

A cross sectorial and systematic approach, with a basis in circular economy, are the hallmarks of the Nordic Council of Ministers' initiatives within bioeconomy and the New Nordic Bioeconomy Strategy shall contribute to a sustainable transformation towards the bioeconomy in all the Nordic countries. A Nordic Strategy is a complementary supplement to national and European Bioeconomy strategies as it can foster cross-sectoral cooperation on both the national and local level within the Nordic countries as well as creating a platform for government, business and civil society to engage in the development together.

The strategy will be based upon the experiences from the existing Nordic national bioeconomy strategies, projects and best practices with the aim to build a platform to accelerate the ongoing developments and to explore future potentials. This means that the strategy will not only look at how to accelerate the existing best practices, but also focus on how to enable 'next future' practices to stimulate innovation.

NETWORKING

To ensure a transparent and inclusive process as well as to include a dialogue on national Nordic and European priorities, the panel will invite speakers to attend the panel meetings. This includes speakers from Nordic institutions, neighboring countries, European and Baltic Bioeconomy forums, and local and regional actors. In addition, the panel members as well as the secretariat will attend relevant conferences and meetings to extend the networks relevant for the Nordic Bioeconomy.

The secretariat and the panel will also host a grant stakeholder workshop in January 2017 to provide insights and inputs to the strategy.

OUTREACH

The secretariat has a strong focus on communication including relevant target groups and important channels of communication, e.g. social media, as well as both internal and external activities. This means that relevant international conferences where communication about the panel and the coming Nordic strategy is considered valuable will supplement the outreach efforts linked to the panel's own activities, e.g. meetings and workshops. The secretariat will compose an outreach strategy for the launch of the strategy in 2017, with several activities with the panel members to ensure awareness and publicity in all the Nordic countries thereby pushing for potentially greater impact regarding national implementations of the strategy.

TIMELINE

March 2016: 1st meeting

October 2016: 2nd meeting

January 2017: Stakeholder conference and launch of the best cases catalogue

February/March 2017: 3rd meeting

May 2017: 4th meeting

June 2017: Strategy presentation Ministers for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Agriculture, Food and Forestry

October 2017: Approval of strategy Ministers for Co-operation

THE PANEL MEMBERS

Setting up the panel reflects the importance that the Nordic Council of Ministers attaches to a forum that focuses on holistic thinking about promoting the bioeconomy. The panel consists of representatives of official agencies, research bodies, private companies and civil society. Collectively, they provide insight into socioeconomics, natural science, business, regional policy and the environment.

COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES:

Hörður G. Kristinsson (Iceland - chair), Sölve Högman (Åland), Lene Lange (Denmark), Henrik Leth/Lisbeth Due Schoenemann-Paul (Greenland), Ólavur Gregersen (Faroes), Liisa Saarenmaa (Finland), Casper Linnestad (Norway), Stefan Källman (Sweden).

OTHER REPRESENTATIVES:

Johan Elvnert (European Bioeconomy Panel/European Forest-based Sector Technology Platform), Niels Gøtke (European Bioeconomy Panel/Danish Agency for Sciences, Technology and Innovation), Kjell Ivarsson (Kjell Ivarsson/Federation of Swedish Farmers), Sirpa Kurppa Gøtke (European Bioeconomy Panel/ LUKE Natural Resources Institute), Per Hansson (NKJ), Jonas Rönnerberg (SNS), Helge Paulsen (AG-Fisk), Lise Lykke Steffensen (Nordgen), Jukka Teräs (Nordregio), Hans Jørgen Koch (Nordic Energy Research), Elisabeth Smith (Nordic Innovation), Gunnel Gustafsson (NordForsk), Halldór Runólfsson (Chair Nordbio), Danfríður Skarphéðinsdóttir (Chair, NordBio steering committee).

For more information please visit:

norden.org/en/theme/nordic-bioeconomy/nordic-bioeconomy-panel



norden

Nordic Council of Ministers



NordBio