

Boosting new careers in the bio-based sector

- *The UrBIOfuture project held a workshop to define specific actions to promote education and careers in the bio-based sector.*
- *The exercise counted with the participation of 30 experts from various entities linked to the European bioeconomy.*

Madrid, Spain, October 22, 2019. – The UrBIOfuture project held a co-creation workshop in its aim of bridging the gap between education and job opportunities in the bio-based sector, on October 17. The session was held at the headquarters of CTA (Technological Corporation of Andalusia) in Seville, Spain, and it served to define specific actions for the promotion of education and careers in the European bioeconomy.

In total, 30 experts from entities linked to the European bio-based industry proposed and evaluated best practices to attract high school, VET and university students, unemployed and professionals to this bio-based economy sector. The outcome of the exercise will be evaluated and implemented in a series of activities and events organized throughout Europe.

According to the most recent estimates of the European Commission (EC), the European Bioeconomy employs over 18 million people and generates 2.3 billion euros of turnover. The bio-based sector is in full growth and it requires a high number of experts with a new profile that involves several academic disciplines and business skills. However, one of the challenges for its development is the educational gap between the professional profiles demanded by the sector and the existing educational offer.

UrBIOfuture aims to bridge this gap by identifying education needs and career opportunities in the European bio-based sector, involving stakeholders, and setting the path for the industry to attract qualified talent.

The UrBIOfuture project is formed by a consortium made up of four research and technology organizations (CNR, VTT, VITO and IHE Delft); three clusters (ABP, CTA and PSTP) and a Spanish SME (SIE). The initiative is led by the UAB and it has received funding from the Bio Based Industries Joint Undertaking (JU) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 837811.

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