

## **Patterns of Biosphere Exhibition Launch & Discussion on SDGs, Bioeconomy and Climate Change**

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*Riga, April 27, NCM Latvia office, Berga bazars (Marijas street 13/3)*

**13.30-14.00** Coffee and Registration

**14.00-14.30** Plenary session: introduction of the participants

**14.30-15.00** “The Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Agreement. How to stay within the planetary limits? (with reference to the Patterns of Biosphere Exhibition)” – Frans Lenglet (SE)

**15.00-15.20** “The limits to growth: do we ‘read it’ in SDGs?”, Dr. Timothy Bedford, Oulun Lyseo lukio (FI)

**15.20-15.40** “Bioeconomy and its limits: a critical approach”, Elgars Felcis, Researcher, SUSPLACE project, University of Latvia/Wageningen University (LV)

**15.40-16.00** “Education perspectives: ESD and prerequisites for strong sustainability” Ilze Dalbina, UNESCO LNC (LV)

**16.00-17.00** World Café

**17.00-17.30** Results discussion

**17.30-18.00** Coffee and snacks

Bioeconomy and biotechnology are associated with about half of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Therefore, bioeconomy is too important to be left to biotechnology entrepreneurs and a handful of policy makers and politicians. It is a matter of concern for all of us.

This half-day event wishes to foster a debate about the social and economic value of the bioeconomy. It invites the audience to explore the hidden and not-so hidden implications of mainstream bioeconomy initiatives and technologies, approaches and policies as well as their positive and negative consequences. Usually, the bioeconomy is considered as good and sustainable, because it is ‘natural’ or ‘renewable’. But not everything that is based on ‘nature’ or that is ‘renewable’ is necessarily sustainable.

Many bioeconomy initiatives tend to disregard their immediate and longer-term social, cultural, economic and environmental consequences and costs. They do have an effect, for example, on the health of the soil, the forests and other natural resources. They impact on the quantity and quality of food production. They influence the way in which land, sea and air – the world’s commons – are used, and therefore the climate. And they affect the way democracy works.

For critically addressing bioeconomy and its issues, a single event like this is not enough. Schools and universities are excellent places for large numbers of especially young people students to learn about it. Like climate change, bioeconomy and its repercussions could be part of a curriculum that allow students to understand sustainability and to behave in a sustainable manner.

The application of biotechnology needs to be done critically, conscious of its social, economic and political implications. Therefore, this event invites to discuss the following questions:

- For whom do bioeconomic initiatives function, and why?
- Who benefits from the bioeconomy and who does not? And why?
- What are bioeconomy's positive and negative consequences or effects, and why?
- Do these consequences matter, and for whom?
- What can or should be done to mitigate bioeconomy's negative effects and to promote its positive effects?
- How should the decision making around bioeconomy initiatives be organized?
- What place should bioeconomy have in the curriculum of our schools and universities?

Of course, there are many other questions that can be discussed. You are encouraged to bring your own questions and concerns that you wish to discuss with then other participants and the key note speakers.

The event's target audience: a total of 60 persons, including bioeconomy entrepreneurs and their partners; bioeconomy strategists; politicians; decision makers and policy makers at national, regional and municipal level dealing with biotechnology and climate change matters; biotechnology scientists and researchers; education officials and teachers; and representatives of environmental and sustainability related non-governmental organisations.

Event language: English

Please, register to the event here until 13<sup>th</sup> April (before Easter!): <http://ej.uz/on58>

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

