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SEEMLA final event and joint ADVANCEFUEL SEEMLA workshop, 20-21 November 2018 in Brussels

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The SEEMLA's final conference began with a presentation from Maria Georgiadou, (DG Research and Innovation, and European Commission), who gave an overview about current and future R&D policy support regarding advanced biofuels and bioenergy. She positively acknowledged the cooperative effort of all the participating projects, and encouraged the project representatives to continue this form of collaboration, which helps in harmonising results as well as developing obvious synergies.



Source: FNR /Kristin Sternberg

Afterwards, SEEMLA's coordinator and chair of the event, Diego Piedra-Garcia (FNR), introduced the project. The SEEMLA project team presented their main results by showing the project pilot cases in Germany, Greece and Ukraine, by describing their specific approaches regarding the use of marginal lands for biomass production. They highlighted opportunities and potentials, as well as the challenges involved in the use of marginal lands – particularly with a view to ecological and socio-economic impacts. Additionally, the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) and the SEEMLA GIS tool were presented, initiating a productive discussion between stakeholders.



Source: REVOLVE

These presentations were a smooth transition to the following ADVANCEFUEL workshop, which began in the afternoon of the 20th and continued into the following day. The workshop was led by the ADVANCEFUEL partners Philipp Grundmann, Sonja Germer, and Katharina Sailer from Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Engineering and Bioeconomy (ATB).



Source: ATB

ADVANCEFUEL's coordinator, Kristin Sternberg (FNR), welcomed the participants to the workshop and gave a short introduction to the project. She highlighted the fact that this particular section of the workshop included eight European project partners working together in order to achieve results on shared issues.

The representatives from the contributing other projects (MAGIC, GRACE, FORBIO, BECOOL, uP-running, and LIBBIO) each briefly presented their projects and specific case studies. After the presentations, three interactive sessions were carried out on the following topics:

1. Cost reduction versus impact on the environment
2. Success stories and failures regarding lignocellulosic biomass value chains
3. Feedstock for advanced biofuels: market opportunities and constraints

The topics were discussed in smaller groups involving specific analyses (in terms of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT)) of the selected scenarios. The results were subsequently presented to and then discussed with the entire group. The ADVANCEFUEL team will use the workshop's outcomes to better determine the barriers involved in biomass production, as well as for describing promising strategies for successful feedstock provisioning in producing advanced biofuels. The workshop results will be an important contribution to the related ADVANCEFUEL reports, tools, and models.



Source: ATB

This unique workshop was a collaborative effort of eight relevant topic-related European projects with numerous external stakeholders. The participants gave positive feedback and were very satisfied with this mutual exchange of experiences.

