

# PROMOFER

Issue #4 - JUNE 2020



## newsletter



## Editorial

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the latest edition of the PROMOFER newsletter. In this issue, we highlight the project's participation in key circular bioeconomy and biomass events across Europe, as well as two important PROMOFER gatherings recently held in Heraklion: the 24 Months Meeting and the Workshop on the utilisation of olive pruning residues and residual biomass, co-organised with the PRIMARY and TEAPOTS projects.

We also share recent EU policy and market developments shaping the future of sustainable bio-based materials and bioplastics, together with upcoming international events focused on the circular bioeconomy.

We'd also like to hear your views. PROMOFER's Awareness Survey invites stakeholders and citizens to share feedback on biobased products and circular bioeconomy solutions, helping improve future outreach.

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# Project Highlights

## PROMOFER-PRIMARY-TEAPOTS projects' co-organised Workshop

**On 12 June 2026, the European research projects PROMOFER, PRIMARY, and TEAPOTS co-organised the workshop "Applications for the Utilisation of Olive Pruning Residues and Residual Biomass within the Circular Bioeconomy Framework" in Heraklion, Crete.**

The event brought together stakeholders from across the bioeconomy sector to exchange knowledge and discuss innovative solutions for the sustainable management and valorisation of agricultural residues, with a particular focus on olive pruning biomass. Participants highlighted the importance of stronger cooperation among research projects, local communities, and the agricultural sector to support the transition towards a more circular bioeconomy.

PROMOFER was presented by Dr. Vasilis Filippou (CERTH/HELLABIOM) and Mrs Maroulla Schiza (ETAM S.A.), who introduced the project's objectives, the role of HELLABIOM and Green Biomass Points, and activities related to communication, stakeholder engagement, and market uptake. The [PRIMARY project](#) was presented by Aristotelis Tsekouras (MINOA Energy Community), focusing on value chains and energy applications for olive pruning residues. Dr. Michalis Kougioumtzis (CERTH) presented the [TEAPOTS project](#) and its innovative approaches for converting biomass into renewable energy and biochar.

The workshop concluded with an interactive discussion on challenges and opportunities for biomass valorisation, highlighting the need for stronger stakeholder engagement, improved collection systems, supportive policies, and continued investment in innovative technologies. The event demonstrated the strong potential for collaboration in advancing sustainable rural development and the circular bioeconomy.





# Project Highlights

## PROMOFER Consortium marks 2 years of progress at strategic meeting in Heraklion

On 11 June 2026, the PROMOFER consortium met in Heraklion, Crete, for its General Assembly, hosted by ETAM S.A. The meeting marked two years of successful collaboration, bringing together partners from seven European countries to review progress and plan the next phase of the project.

Partners presented recent achievements in the valorisation of agricultural residues and food industry by-products, as well as advances in innovative biotechnological processes for producing high-value bio-based products. Discussions also explored the deployment potential of PROMOFER solutions across Europe and their contribution to the circular bioeconomy.

The meeting concluded with the planning of upcoming technical, research, and demonstration activities, reaffirming the consortium's commitment to delivering impactful and sustainable bioeconomy solutions.



## PROMOFER showcased at Circular Economy Workshop held in Crete, GREECE

ETAM S.A. participated in the Information Day and the **3-day Regional Circular Economy Workshop** held in Heraklion, Crete (20–22 April 2026) under the LIFE-IP CEI-Greece project, co-organised by the Green Fund, the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy, the Region of Crete, and the Cretan Waste Management Association (ESDAK).

On the second day, dedicated to “Circular Economy in the Agri-Food Sector in Crete,” ETAM S.A. was represented by Dr. Chryssa Pagkalou, General Director, who presented the PROMOFER project. The presentation highlighted PROMOFER's role in advancing circular economy solutions through the valorisation of agri-food residues into high value-added bioplastics.

Special emphasis was placed on the collaboration with HELLABIOM and the development of Green Biomass Points (GBPs). The participation supported the dissemination of project results to stakeholders from the agri-food sector, industry, and local authorities, strengthening dialogue on circular bioeconomy solutions in Crete.





# Project Highlights

## PROMOFER participation at BIOMASS DAY 2026 in Athens, GREECE

ETAM S.A., project Dissemination and Communication Coordinator, participated in **BIOMASS DAY 2026**, held on 28 February 2026 during VERDE.TEC at MEC Paiania in Greece. The event, organised by PROMOFER partner HELLABIOM, brought together representatives from the public sector, local authorities, academia, and the bioenergy industry to discuss biomass innovation and policy developments. The programme featured institutional panels, European project presentations, and discussions on sustainable energy and biomass governance. During the event, Dr Chryssa Pagkalou, General Director of ETAM S.A., presented PROMOFER, highlighting the valorisation of residual biomass into bioplastic materials.



Special emphasis was placed on the collaboration between ETAM S.A. and HELLABIOM, particularly the development of Green Biomass Points and digital tools. The participation strengthened PROMOFER's visibility and impact, fostering engagement with policymakers, researchers, and industry stakeholders across the European bioeconomy ecosystem.

## PROMOFER presented at PLASREC 2025 in Valencia, SPAIN

The PROMOFER project was presented at PLASREC 2025 – the **3rd International Seminar on Plastics Recycling**, held on 10–11 December 2025 in Valencia and organised by AIMPLAS. The event brought together industry professionals, researchers, technology centres, and public authorities to discuss challenges and opportunities in plastics recycling within the European circular economy framework.



PROMOFER was disseminated through a digital poster outlining its objectives and relevance to emerging recycling technologies, regulatory developments, and circular economy strategies. With 85 attendees, the seminar provided a focused European platform to engage experts in mechanical, chemical, and advanced recycling, as well as stakeholders in policy and waste management.

The programme covered topics such as AI-driven waste management, sorting innovations, and cutting-edge recycling technologies. Participation helped strengthen the project's visibility and supported future collaboration opportunities within the European plastics recycling and circular bioeconomy community.



# The PROMOFER Awareness Survey

*We'd love to hear your thoughts!*

**PROMOFER invites stakeholders, researchers, industry representatives, policymakers, and citizens to participate in its first Awareness Survey, launched in May 2026.**

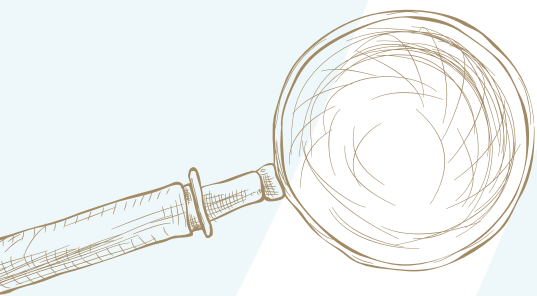
The survey aims to explore public awareness and perceptions of biobased products derived from agricultural and food-industry waste, as well as expectations and concerns related to circular biorefineries and sustainable biobased solutions. By sharing your views, you will help the PROMOFER project better understand communication needs and strengthen future outreach activities. The survey also gathers insights on trusted information sources, preferred communication formats, and interest in future PROMOFER events and updates.

The questionnaire takes approximately three minutes to complete and is available online through Google Forms.



**YOUR VOICE MATTERS**  
Help Shape the Future of Circular Bioproducts

[access here](#) >>



# What we are reading

## EU Bioeconomy at Crossroads: Turning Biomass Challenges into Sustainable Innovation

A recent European Commission Joint Research Centre report highlights both the progress and the challenges facing the EU bioeconomy. While advances have been made in reducing fossil dependency, improving energy efficiency, and strengthening food security, growing demand for biomass is expected to outpace supply by 2040. The report also underlines concerns around biodiversity loss and declining forest carbon sinks. At the same time, bio-based materials and plastics still represent only a small share of the market. Projects such as PROMOFER aim to address these challenges by converting waste biomass into innovative, sustainable bioplastics for applications including packaging, agriculture, and textiles.

Access the report [here...](#)



## EIB Clarifies Paris Alignment Rules, Unlocking Bioeconomy Investment Potential

The European Investment Bank (EIB) has updated its Paris Alignment Framework for low-carbon investments, providing key clarification for the bioeconomy sector. Food and feed crops can now be used as feedstocks for bio-based materials and chemicals, as long as strict sustainability criteria are met and food security is not affected. The revised framework shifts focus from excluding specific materials to ensuring responsible sourcing and production practices. It strengthens confidence in climate-aligned industrial development and signals strong support for Europe's bio-based innovation ecosystem. The update also enables new investment opportunities in sustainable materials and circular economy solutions that contribute to decarbonisation goals.

Access the edition [here...](#)





# Upcoming events



## International Symposium on Biopolymers (ISBP 2026)

6–9 September 2026 

Dublin, IRELAND 

Organised by University College Dublin in collaboration with BIORbic, the International Symposium on Biopolymers (ISBP 2026) is a leading global event focused on biopolymers, bioplastics, and the circular bioeconomy.

The symposium brings together researchers, industry leaders, and policymakers to explore the full biopolymer value chain, from biomass feedstocks and microbial production to recycling, biodegradation, and commercialisation. ISBP 2026 places particular emphasis on scaling sustainable bioplastics such as PHA and PLA. The programme covers polymer synthesis, recycling technologies, circular design, waste valorisation, and market deployment, while industry sessions address regulation, commercial applications, and reducing dependence on fossil-based plastics.

[MORE INFO...](#)

## 11th IUPAC International Conference on Green Chemistry

 8–12 September 2026

 Lisbon, PORTUGAL

The Conference is a major event dedicated to advancing green chemistry and sustainable development and it is organised by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry in collaboration with the Portuguese Chemical Society, NOVA School of Science and Technology, and the University of Lisbon.



It will provide a global platform to exchange knowledge and promote solutions aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Key thematic areas include green synthesis and catalysis, green chemical engineering, CO<sub>2</sub> utilisation, green energy systems, bioeconomy (including terrestrial and marine resources), AI in green chemistry, and chemical education. Through plenary lectures, oral presentations, and poster sessions, Green IUPAC 2026 aims to foster interdisciplinary collaboration and accelerate innovation in sustainable, low-carbon, and circular chemical system



[MORE INFO...](#)



# Upcoming events



## Renewable Materials Conference 2026

22–24 September 2026   
 Siegburg, GERMANY 

The Renewable Materials Conference 2026, held in Siegburg, Germany (22–24 September 2026), is one of the leading global events dedicated to the transition toward a fossil-free circular carbon economy.

Organised by nova-Institute, the conference brings together industry leaders, researchers, policymakers, and investors to explore biomass, CO<sub>2</sub> utilisation, and recycling solutions. The programme spans the full value chain, covering biorefineries, renewable chemicals, fossil-free plastics, packaging, textiles, and consumer products. Featuring presentations, panel discussions, workshops, and exhibitions, the event focuses on defossilisation, renewable carbon markets, enabling policies, and business models that support the transition to a circular and bio-based economy.

[MORE INFO...](#)

## International Forum on Industrial Biotechnology and Bioeconomy

 1–2 October 2026  
 Rome, ITALY

The International Forum on Industrial Biotechnology and Bioeconomy (IFIB) 2026 will take place in Rome on 1–2 October 2026, bringing together key international stakeholders from the industrial biotechnology and bioeconomy sectors.



The event focuses on innovations using renewable biological resources and promotes collaboration between industry, academia, startups, investors, and research organisations. It explores developments in biorefineries, sustainable chemicals, advanced biomaterials, and circular bioeconomy strategies, with strong emphasis on commercialisation and sustainable value chains across Europe. In addition to conference sessions, the forum offers dedicated B2B matchmaking opportunities, supporting partnerships and investment in bio-based innovation and industrial biotechnology for a sustainable circular economy.

[MORE INFO...](#)



PROMOFER

# The Consortium



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