



**10th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy of Baltic Sea Region
12-13th of June, 2019
Gdańsk, Poland**

SUMMARY REPORT

Seminar: *Blue and green bioeconomy in the BSR from a youth perspective*

Time: Thursday, 13 June 2019, 10:45 - 12:15

Based on the work carried out in PA Bioeconomy and the PA Innovation flagship SUBMARINER Network, this interactive event presented insight into the topics of youth and the bioeconomy in the BSR and brought over 60 participants together to discuss the bioeconomy trends, tools and the youth perspective on how to develop a sustainable bioeconomy.

Torfi Johannesson from [PA Bioeconomy](#) and Esa Kokkonen from [PA Innovation](#) opened the seminar by focusing on how the seminar would feature examples of direct youth involvement, contribution to policy development, and identification of major future trends in blue and green bioeconomy in the region.

This was followed by a presentation from Mads Wolf from [Nordic Sustainability](#) where he presented preliminary finding from an upcoming trend analysis on bioeconomy in the BSR and North West Russia commissioned by PA Bioeconomy and the Nordic Council of Ministers. The presentation was followed by roundtable discussion about trends for the bioeconomy and how youth affect these trends.

To represent the youth perspective directly, the seminar then offered five Nordic Council of Ministers Bioeconomy Youth Ambassadors the chance to each present a call to action. The presentations were based on a series of op-eds in the online magazine [Sustainable Growth the Nordic Way](#) where participants of the Swedish Institute's Baltic Leadership Programme on Youth and Bioeconomy laid out their thoughts on how we develop a sustainable bioeconomy in the BSR. By engaging youth representatives as experts within the field of bioeconomy, the seminar went beyond youth engagement as a token exercise and instead allowed for a serious discussion with respect for the perspectives that the youth has to offer.

Angela Schultz-Zehden, managing director of the [SUBMARINER Network](#) made a presentation of the Network with emphasis on what actions are currently taken within blue bioeconomy to inspire youth play an active role in the blue bioeconomy, e.g. through entering a blue professional field, training for becoming future practitioners, investors, entrepreneurs or future leaders.



With the aim to develop new ideas for action by sharing experiences, SUBMARINER organised ten round table discussions. Table hosts were hosted by SUBMARINER members and were experts in topics of blue biotechnology, fish and shrimp aquaculture, fisheries, mussels, macroalgae, and blue economy. Participants tables randomly. Hosts first presented some tools already implemented and are able to attract youth, and then fostered discussion elaborating on good practices, but also mechanisms and structures still missing in education, training and business tools and consequential what actions points can be extracted by SUBMARINER for future.

Moderator: Esben Lanthén, Nordic Sustainability and Efthalia Arvaniti, SUBMARINER Network

Speakers:

- Opening statements: Torfi Johannesson, PA Bioeconomy & Esa Kokkonen, PA Innovation
- Key trends: Mads Wolf, Nordic Sustainability, BSR Bioeconomy Trend Analysis
- Youth speakers: Santa Niedola, Martin Rümmelein, Jussi Nissi, and Agnè Dapkuvienė, all participants of the Baltic Leadership Programme on Youth and Bioeconomy
- The blue bioeconomy: Angela Schultz-Zehden, SUBMARINER Network, SUBMARINER Network

Organizers: Nordic Council of Ministers/PA Bioeconomy, SUBMARINER Network for Blue Growth EEIG