

BenchValue - Benchmarking the sustainability performances of value chains

CONTEXT

Europe aspires to create a thriving bioeconomy. For this, new product value chains are needed. However, an increased uptake of bio-based products requires that they are economic and more sustainable than competitive products. This needs to be assessed scientifically with internationally accepted and comprehensive sustainability assessments, covering aspects relevant to decision makers.

A promising tool for cross-sector value chain comparison of economic, environmental and social impacts is the Tool for Sustainability Impact Assessment (ToSIA). This project expands ToSIA with indicators for benchmarking of wood material value chains against mineral and other non-renewable value chains.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

The BenchValue project aims at developing a versatile benchmarking method to:

- 1) compare renewable wood-based and non-renewable value chains
- 2) quantify the sustainability impacts and climate change mitigation potential of substituting non-renewable with wood-based materials to support decision makers in policy and market environment. The construction sector was chosen to test the BenchValue method, as timber can be a viable and long-term alternative for storing renewable carbon in buildings and substituting greenhouse gas emissions from more energy intensive materials. BenchValue has case studies in Ireland, France, Lithuania, and Austria.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- WP1 COORDINATION: Project coordination and communication of project results
- WP2 ANALYSIS: Gap analysis of current ToSIA software and methods, as basis for the development in WP3. This analysis includes a literature study as well as stakeholder interaction
- WP3 METHOD: Development of a benchmarking method with ToSIA
- WP4 CASES STUDIES: Proof of concept demonstrated at 4 country-specific typical case studies, with strong stakeholder involvement throughout the project. It includes capacity building through international practical knowledge exchange
- WP5 SYNTHESIS: Recommendations how to improve assessment methods and definition of baselines and scenarios to quantify current and possible future contribution of wood construction (potential) to the bioeconomy. These recommendations are based on the case studies and country-specific results.



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