Three questions to MEO Carbon Solutions

Interview with Monica Pandey, BioReCer Work Package 4 Leader

How do certification schemes ensure compliance with new EU's sustainability goals and regulations related to biological resources?

The criteria and requirements from EU regulations are integrated into the core requirements of certification schemes. These standards are continuously reviewed and updated to align with the EU sustainability goals. This alignment is achieved through benchmarking against EU regulations and gathering input from multistakeholder dialogues and expert consultations. Certification schemes translate EU requirements into clear verification guidance, providing companies with the necessary evidence and documentation to navigate compliance effectively. This structured approach not only supports companies in adhering to regulatory standards but also fosters a commitment to sustainability throughout their operations.

How do current certification schemes cover secondary biological feedstocks?

Current certification schemes that address secondary biological feedstocks prioritise materials that align with the waste hierarchy and promote circularity. They ensure that the source of feedstocks does not come from primary production. Sustainability criteria are assessed by evaluating the environmental impact and carbon footprint, while also considering social and economic impacts to ensure that the use of secondary feedstocks does not negatively affect local communities or economies. To maintain accountability, these schemes require robust documentation to ensure traceability of feedstock sources. However, it's important to note that very few schemes focus specifically on secondary feedstocks, and the requirements can vary significantly depending on the final product derived from these materials.

How does the Environmental and Sustainability Framework developed by the BioReCer project complement certification schemes and companies?

Although certification schemes share common sustainability goals, they are independent and voluntary. The requirements and certification processes vary across schemes and the supply chain. Such variability can create challenges for companies aiming to achieve compliance, and emerging sectors such as bioplastics and pharmaceuticals frequently encounter difficulties in sourcing sustainable secondary feedstocks and ensuring sustainability along the supply chain. Thus, the Environmental and Sustainability Framework developed by the BioReCer project aims to provide

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Research Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

Funded by the European Union

holistic requirements integral to ensuring the sustainability of secondary biological feedstock along the supply chain. By adopting this framework, certification schemes can harmonise in their standards, enhancing their credibility and effectiveness in promoting circularity along the supply chain. Furthermore, companies can benefit from harmonised standards, making it easier to navigate compliance across different certification schemes.