



BIOBASEDCERT

Robust and Effective Sustainability Certification for Bio-based Systems

Introducing the Cluster and the BMS

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- ❖ Introduction to the BIOBASEDCERT Cluster and its activities
- ❖ BIOBASEDCERT Monitoring System (BMS) for assessing the robustness and effectiveness of sustainability Certification Schemes and Labels (CSLs)
- ❖ Policy priorities and recommendations
- ❖ Upcoming events

Background



Several international and EU sustainability standards have been developed and are applied for biological feedstock and biobased products through voluntary certification schemes and labels. They serve as powerful instruments to assess the sustainability of bio-based products.



However, their rapid proliferation led to questioning their effectiveness and robustness.

To ensure that the transition to circular biobased systems occurs sustainably, it is essential to evaluate the performance of these tools.

✓ This is where the BIOBASEDCERT Cluster comes into play!



BIOBASEDCERT

Cluster of 3 Horizon Europe projects (2022-2025) :

Objective: To assess the effectiveness and robustness of international and EU sustainability certification schemes and labels, applicable to bio-based systems

Let's advance the
bio-based economy
together



BIOBASEDCERT



sustcert4biobased.eu



star4bbs.eu



HARMONITOR



harmonitor.eu

HORIZON-CL6-2021-ZEROPOLLUTION-01-07: International and EU sustainability certification schemes for bio-based systems

SUSTCERT4BIOBASED consortium



Stichting Wageningen Research (WR) – NL

WR is part of Wageningen University & Research in the Netherlands which carries out application-oriented and field-based research in the domain of 'healthy food and living environment' for governments and the business community at large.



Fundacion Circe Centro de Investigacion de Recursos y Consumos Energeticos (CIRCE) – ES

CIRCE is a multidisciplinary technology transfer centre that specialises in innovation and sustainable development solutions.



White Research SRL (WHITE) – BE

WHITE is a boutique research and consulting company that specialises in research services and business consulting, communications, and stakeholder engagement as well as in EU studies and EU funding services.



Environmental Coalition On Standards (ECOS)- BE

ECOS is an international NGO with a network of members and experts advocating for environmentally friendly technical standards, policies, and laws.



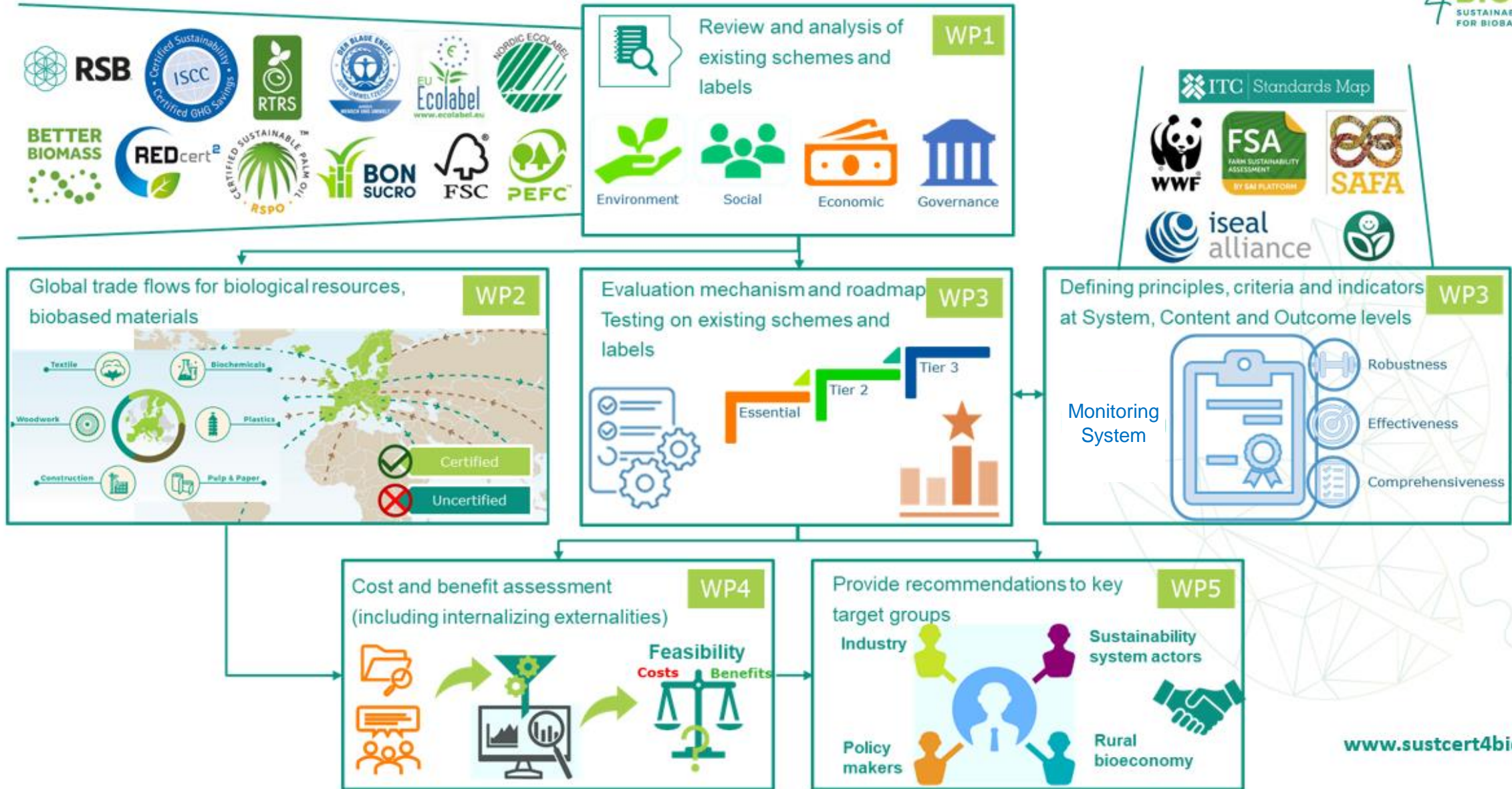
Control Union Certifications Germany GmbH (CU)- DE

Control Union Certifications has focused its efforts on developing services around the sustainability of the industry's supply chains which feed into the food, feed, forestry, biomass, bioenergy, social compliance, and textiles markets.

Join our Network of Interest!



SUSTCERT4BIOBASED Concept





STAR4BBS in a nutshell

Sustainability **T**ransition **A**ssessment **R**ules for **B**io-Based **S**ystems

1st of September 2022 – 31st of August 2025

Aim: Maximize the potential of Sustainability Certification Schemes (SCS) and labels to support a successful transition to a sustainable bio-based economy by assessing their effectiveness, robustness, and credibility.





ANALYSIS OF EXISTING CSIs



EVALUATION OF GLOBAL TRADE FLOWS



DETERMINATION OF THE IMPACT OF CSIs



IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT AND FEASIBLE INDICATORS



DEVELOPMENT OF A MONITORING SYSTEM



APPLICATION OF THE MONITORING SYSTEM



ANALYSIS OF COSTS & BENEFITS OF ADOPTING CSIs



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF ROBUST CSIs



Funded by the European Union

HARMONITOR consortium

Worldwide-leading research centres in bioeconomy



DBFZ German Biomass
Research Center GmbH

www.dbfz.de



Universiteit Utrecht

Utrecht University

www.uu.nl

Radboud University



Radboud University

www.ru.nl



SQ Consult B.V.

www.sqconsult.com



BTG - Biomass
Technology Group

www.btgworld.com

Competent certification organisations



Preferred by Nature

www.preferredbynature.org



RINA

www.rina.org



agroVet

www.bio-garantie.at/agrovet



Gras - Global risk
assessment services

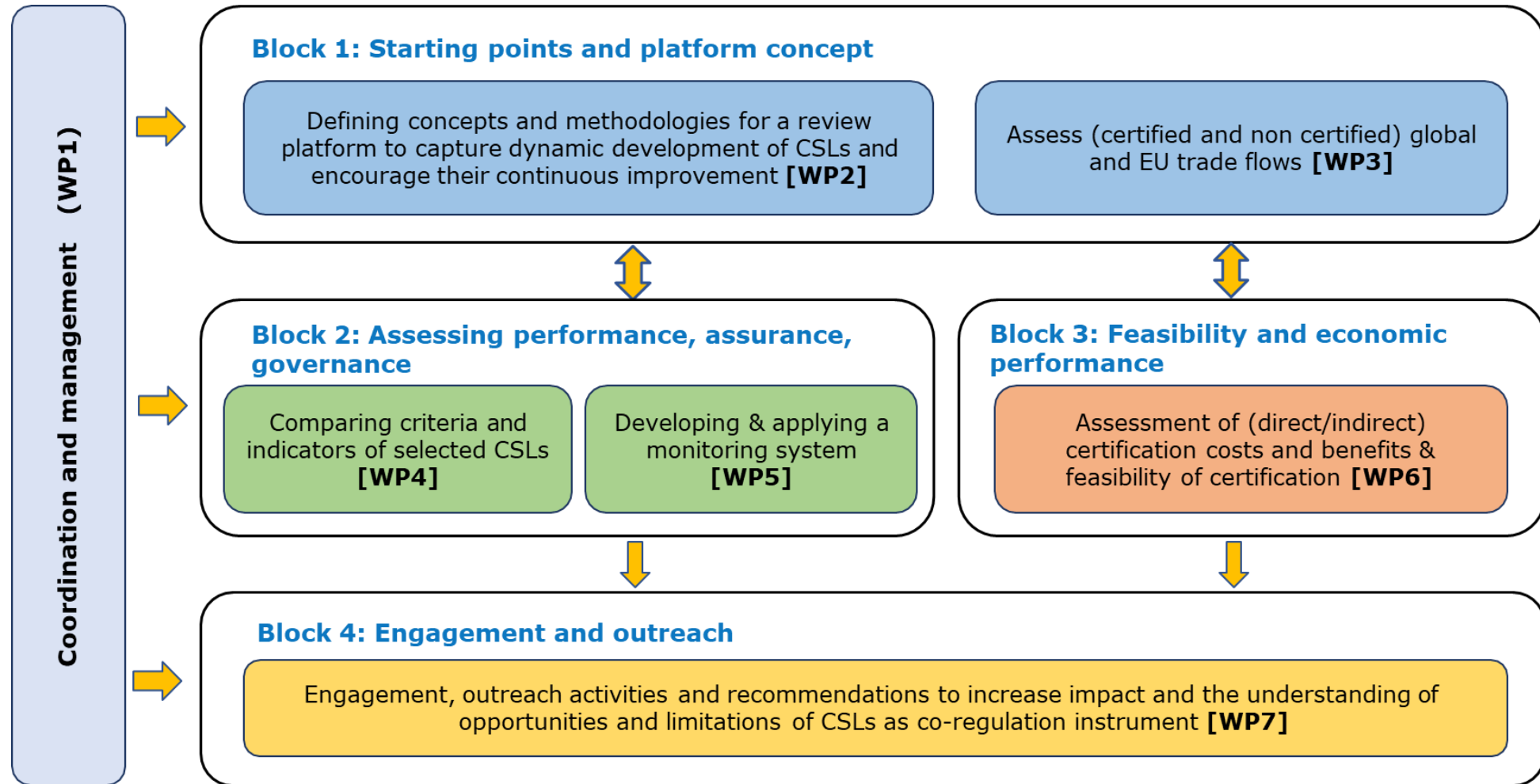
www.gras-system.org

Experienced consultancies policy, market, technology

Leader developer of sustainability tools



HARMONITOR approach

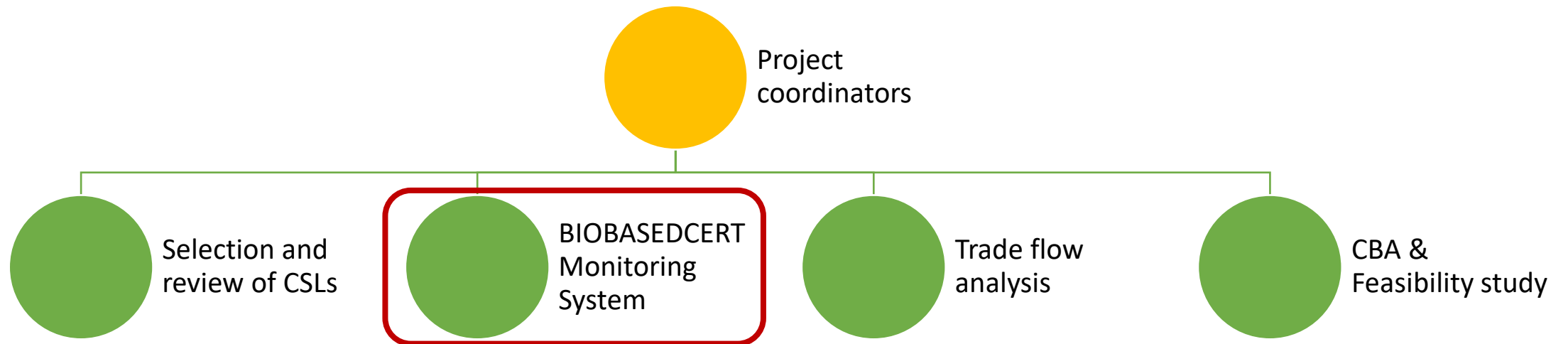


Objectives of the cluster

- Gain a precise picture of existing **sustainability certification schemes and labels (CSLs) for industrial bio-based systems**;
- Gather data on **global trade flows** of biological resources and bio-based materials and products, differentiating between **certified** and **uncertified** flows;
- Develop and test a **monitoring system** to assess the **effectiveness and robustness** of existing CSLs;
- Assess **costs and benefits** from the adoption of CSLs in industrial bio-based value chains and perform a feasibility study on selected CSLs;
- Develop and disseminate findings and **recommendations** to promote the adoption of effective and robust sustainability CSLs to a range of **stakeholders**.

Strategic Areas and Structure of Collaboration

- ❖ Joint Advisory Board
- ❖ Joint Dissemination and Communication Activities
- ❖ Strategic Areas for Collaboration



Rationale behind the joint development of the BMS

- ❖ To reduce confusion, divergence and mistrust among stakeholders. To streamline stakeholder consultations and reduce fatigue;
- ❖ To develop a more comprehensive and detailed tool, covering a wide range of bio-based sectors and products;
- ❖ To increase the chances of continued use of the BMS after the end of three projects, avoid competition;
- ❖ Possibility to build on each other's knowledge and experience, subjecting the BMS to a higher level of scrutiny and maximizing effective use of resources.

Audience and Purpose of BMS

EU policymakers

- Increase transparency regarding the performance of existing CSLs for biobased systems, including an evaluation of their effectiveness and robustness.
- Provide understanding of how existing CSLs contribute to EU sustainability priorities
- Can use the BMS as an implementation mechanism to fulfil regulations

Sustainability certification schemes and labels (CSLs) owners

- Support and incentivize to improve their systems by identifying gaps and potential weaknesses in their content and system characteristics
- Facilitate their potential harmonization in terms of shared sustainability and governance criteria

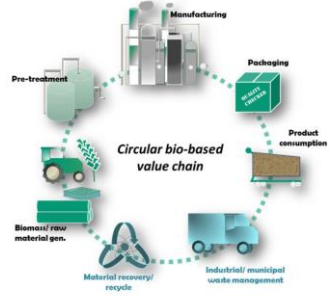
Scope of the BMS



Target: CSLs intended for industrial biobased value-chains and to biobased materials and products

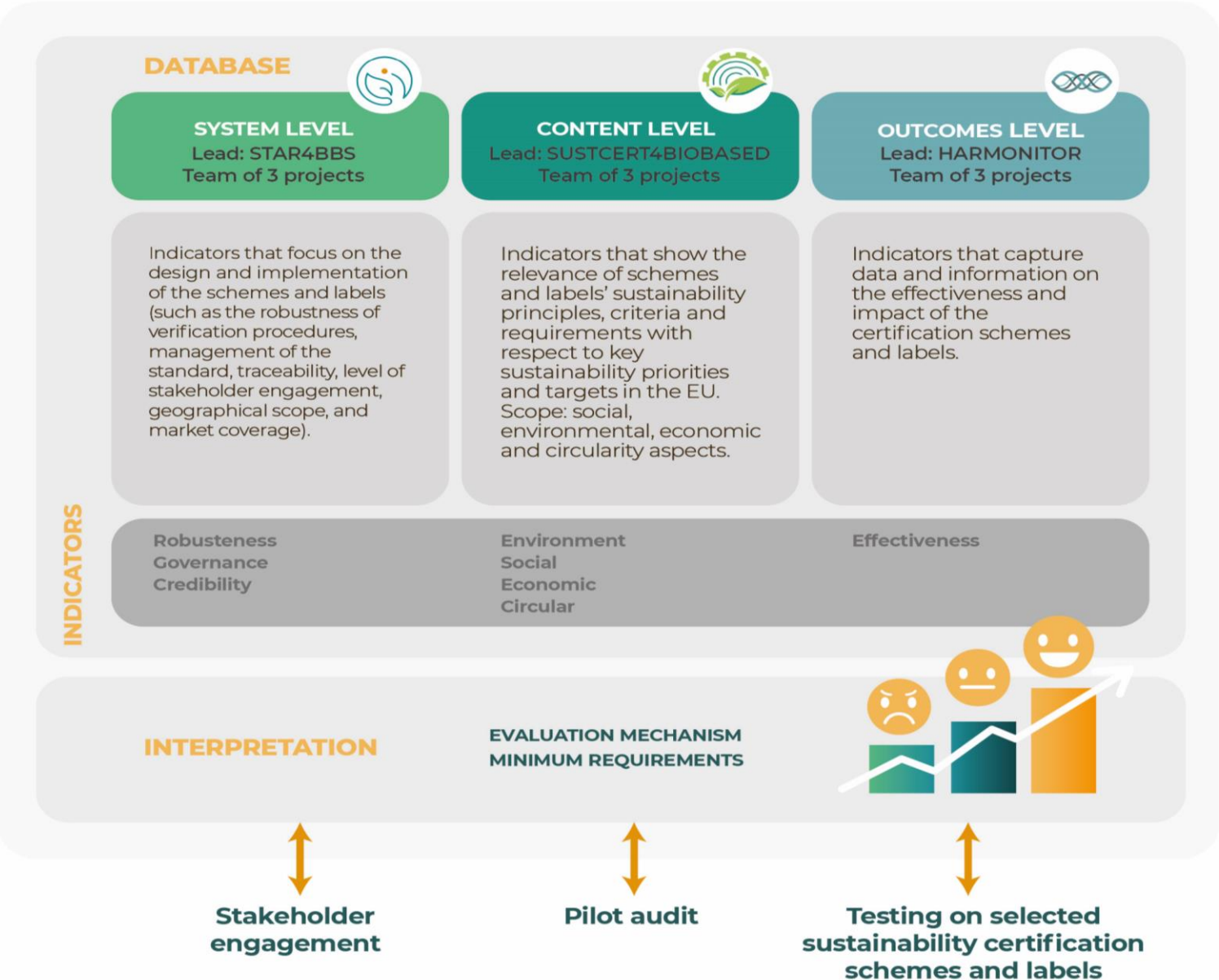


Depth: Considering the entire value chain, capturing all aspects of a product's life cycle



Geographical range: Applicability to products produced & traded within the EU. Other geographical regions involved in the production and product handling will be considered.

BIOBASEDCERT Monitoring System (BMS)



BMS - System Level



System level: Governance and operational requirements.

Category	Principle
Governance and Scheme management	Scheme objectives and impacts
	Governance structure
	Stakeholder participation
	Complaints and dispute resolution mechanism
	Monitoring and evaluation
Standard setting	Standards content and structure
	Standard-setting process
	Standards consultation
Assurance	Assurance system
	Conformity assessment
	Conformity assessment bodies
	Auditing
	Oversight mechanism
Traceability and claims	CoC traceability system
	Claims and products labelling policy
	Consequences of misuse of claims
	Minimum percentage claims

BMS - Content Level



Content level: Environmental, circularity, social and economic requirements.

Environment	Circularity	Social	Economic
Air quality	Circular transition	Compliance with labour rights	Economic and financial viability
Chemical use management	Circular inflows	Improved working conditions	Fair business practice
Climate change management	Circular design & material cycling	Wellbeing of the local community	Risk management
Energy use & efficiency	Responsible waste management	Wellbeing of consumers	Sustainability management
Protection of biodiversity			
Soil management			
Sustainable land use management			
Water quality and conservation			

BMS - Outcome Level



Outcome level: Indicators aim to capture the impact of CSLs.

Key area	Principle
Environmental	Climate change management
Social	Working conditions and labour rights
	Wellbeing of local communities & human rights
	Property and usage rights

Timeline

Task	Timelines
Development of draft criteria (system, content, outcome) and evaluation structure	March 2023 – January 2024
First draft of the BMS	January 2024
I Testing of the BMS (FSC, RSB, Nordic Swan)+ Improvement of the BMS with feedback	February 2024 – July 2024
II Testing of the BMS + Improvement of the BMS with feedback	August 2024 – February 2025
Stakeholder Consultations and further application of the BMS	March 2025 – May 2025
Final version of the BMS	May 2025

Policy priorities

Many EU policies establish sustainability goals and requirements for bio-based value chains

However...

- There are **still gaps** in policy targets
- Targets are rather **general** and not specific
- Majority of them are **not legally binding**
- Thus, **limited influence** of current policies on bio-based industry

Policy recommendations

- ❖ Set **specific sustainability targets** for bio-based materials and EU bioeconomy policies.
- ❖ Clarify (expected) **future legislative requirements** and provide implementation guidelines.
- ❖ Create **awareness among manufacturers** about sustainability ambitions, expected use phase and expected end of life management.
- ❖ Ensure **consistency in sustainability requirements** across different biological resources and sectors.
- ❖ Establish criteria for **minimum sustainable bio-based content**.

Policy recommendations - Role of CSLs

- ❖ **CSLs** can be used as **co-regulation instruments** to fill in some policy gaps and improve sustainability of biobased value chains.
 - Important to increase **robustness and effectiveness** of CSLs.
 - Support **collaboration among certification schemes** for alignment with EU laws.

Upcoming events

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Day 3 • 13 June 2024 •

SUSTCERT4BIOBASED: Myrna van Leeuwen (WECR)
HARMONITOR: Jurjen Spekreijse (BTG)
STAR4BBS: Olaf Porc (nova-Institute)

Workshop on the global trade flows of bio-based value chains and the role of certification

Date: 13 June, 11:00 (CET)
Day 3 of the Renewable Materials Conference
Workshop Room 1



PARALLEL EVENTS

Monitoring sustainability certification schemes and labels of bio-based products

 Wednesday 26 June 2024 | 15:00-18:20 | Room: Morgiou

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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