

## Press Release

### BioEnergyTrain Project, Advancing Cooperative Education of Bioeconomy in Europe

Graz, 14/09/2017 - The BioEnergyTrain (BET) Consortium was promoting today at the Graz University of Technology (TU Graz), two new and exclusive European Master Programmes in Biorefinery Engineering (BRE), and Bioresource Value Chain Management (BVM). The programmes will start respectively at the TU Graz, in Austria, and at the University of Twente (UTwente), in the Netherlands, in October. The buying-in event, chaired by Harald Kainz, Rector of TU Graz, brings together regional partners as well as national and international companies, and higher education institutions to **jointly develop new cooperative education models** with the aim to improve the training of post-graduate students in the field of bioeconomy. *'The EC funding for BET helped to establish a stronger partnership between industry and academia. It will allow future graduates to acquire the skills necessary to create innovation in the bioenergy sector and pursue a greener and more inclusive circular economy in Europe,'* commented the eseia Director Brigitte Hasewend.

As a result of the breakout sessions, participants considered valuable to adopt alternative education formats, such as student camps and pilot plant lab courses, as part of the learning experience of perspective BRE and BVM students. Unlike traditional training, these formats will allow students to develop industry-specific technical skills. Maria Ortner, GreenTech Cluster Styria GmbH, and Josef Furlinger, General Manager of Regionales Innovations Centrum (RIC), contributed to the discussion as key speakers. *'We have created an educational offer that is unique in Europe'*, concluded Wolfgang Bauer, TU Graz, who presented new business and job opportunities together with Maarten Arentsen, University of Twente.

Perspective students interested in the BRE master at TU Graz can register and upload the application documents between [15 October and 15 December 2017](#) for the academic year 2018/2019. The deadline for students interested in enrolling in the BVM master at UTwente are requested to submit the required documents [before 1 December 2017](#).

#### About the BioEnergyTrain (BET) project

<http://bioenergytrain.eu/>The BioEnergyTrain project aims at addressing the lack of qualified personnel by filling the gaps in emerging innovation needs and providing an appropriately skilled workforce to implement the European Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan. The project is coordinated by the European Sustainable Energy Innovation Alliance (eseia). It includes fifteen partners from six European countries: TU Graz, UTwente, LNEG, Wood K Plus, ELES, Energie Agentur Steiermark, GREEN ENERGY Biomass Cluster, Bergische Abfallwirtschaftsverband (BAV), Regionales Innovations Centrum (RIC), Green Tech Cluster, Hamburg University of Technology (TUHH), EIT InnoEnergy, University of Ljubljana, and Transilvania University of Braşov.

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