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Newsletter #1



We are pleased to introduce the first edition of the Be-UP project newsletter.

Bringing together a strong European consortium, Be-UP aims to accelerate the industrial uptake of biodegradable polymers for packaging applications. At a time when sustainability, regulatory pressure and circular economy

objectives are reshaping the plastics industry, Be-UP is positioned to deliver concrete, scalable solutions.

Through this newsletter, we will regularly share our progress, key insights and opportunities to engage with the project.

About Be-UP

Be-UP (Boosting the Industrial Uptake of Biodegradable polymers for packaging applications) is a Horizon Europe project coordinated by ITENE, gathering industrial partners, research centres, universities and innovation clusters across Europe. The project addresses a key challenge: enabling biodegradable polymers to transition from promising materials to reliable and scalable industrial solutions.

To achieve this, Be-UP covers the full value chain through complementary work packages:

- Development of new biopolyesters
- Processing and validation of packaging prototypes
- Biodeterioration testing in multiple environments
- Modeling and AI-based simulation tools
- Sustainability, safety and circularity assessments
- Exploitation, standardisation and policy recommendations

This integrated approach ensures that innovations are not only technically advanced, but also viable from an industrial, economic and environmental perspective.

Project Highlights

Since its official launch, Be-UP has made significant progress in structuring its activities and initiating technical work.

The project started with a successful kick-off meeting, allowing all partners to align on objectives, methodologies and expected impacts.

All work packages are now fully operational:

- Material development activities have started under WP1, focusing on new biopolyesters
- Early formulation and processing strategies are being defined in WP2 for packaging applications
- Preparation of biodegradation testing protocols is ongoing in WP3, covering multiple environments (compost, soil, freshwater, marine and anaerobic conditions)
- Initial developments of modeling tools and the End-of-Life digital platform have been launched in WP4

In parallel, key communication tools have been deployed:

- Launch of the project website
- Creation of the LinkedIn page with regular posts to engage stakeholders
- Launch of the Be-UP YouTube channel, including a short animated video presenting the project
- First actions towards collaboration with sister projects and clustering activities at European level

These first steps lay the foundation for a strong and coordinated project implementation.

Focus on Innovation

Be-UP stands out through its systemic and integrated approach. Rather than focusing solely on materials, the project combines:

- Advanced polymer design and processing
- Real-condition biodegradation testing across multiple environments
- AI-based modeling to predict material behaviour and end-of-life scenarios
- A Safe-and-Sustainable-by-Design (SSbD) framework
- Techno-economic and life cycle assessments

This holistic methodology ensures that solutions developed within Be-UP are not only innovative, but also aligned with industrial constraints and regulatory expectations. By bridging the gap between research and industrial deployment, Be-UP aims to accelerate the adoption of biodegradable packaging solutions at scale. Be-UP brings together a diverse and complementary European consortium covering the entire value chain. Coordinated by ITENE, the project includes industrial partners, research organisations, universities and networks such as European Bioplastics, as well as Polymeris, leading communication, dissemination and stakeholder engagement activities. This diversity ensures strong connections between scientific development, industrial application and market uptake.

Upcoming Activities

In the coming months, Be-UP will focus on:

- Advancing material development and prototype validation
- Launching the first biodegradation experimental campaigns
- Developing modeling tools and the End-of-Life platform
- Organising technical webinars and stakeholder engagement activities
- Strengthening collaboration with sister projects and European initiatives

Further updates will be shared in the next editions.



Get Involved

Be-UP is designed as an open and collaborative initiative. We invite stakeholders from industry, research, public institutions and innovation ecosystems to engage with the project. Opportunities include participation in webinars and events, collaboration on R&D and pilot activities and contribution to discussions on sustainability, standards and circular economy. Do not hesitate to reach out to explore potential synergies.



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