

## Celebrating Two Years of SUSTRACK: Shaping Tomorrow's Sustainable Future!

Rome, 31/10/2024 - The [SUSTRACK project](#), funded by the European Commission as a Coordination and Support Action (CSA) and led by [UnitelmaSapienza University of Rome](#), has marked significant progress in advancing its research for Europe's transition to a circular bio-based economy (CBBE).

Gülşah Yilan, the SUSTRACK project manager from UnitelmaSapienza University of Rome, shares insights into the project's journey so far: *“In the early phase, we identified crucial barriers to a circular bio-based economy, grouping them into six key clusters: cultural, economic, environmental, governance, structural, and technical. After gathering extensive feedback from stakeholders, we prioritized these challenges, using multi-criteria decision-making methods to uncover interdependencies that are critical for smoother policy design”*. One of SUSTRACK's flagship tools is the **SUSTRACK Monitoring Tool**—an accessible, user-friendly online platform designed to facilitate understanding of Europe's CBBE transition. *“Our goal with the monitoring tool is to make complex bioeconomy data and knowledge accessible to everyone, not just to experts”* Yilan explains. *“This platform enables users to explore a variety of bioeconomy indicators across European countries, offering a clear picture of progress in key areas.”*

As part of the project's sectoral focus, SUSTRACK identified **ten case studies across four high-impact sectors: chemical, textile, plastics, and construction**. To get a clearer grasp of the challenges and good practices these sectors are facing, each case study compared bio-based value chains to their fossil-based counterparts, with detailed stakeholder mapping and assessments across market, policy, and sustainability dimensions.

Another important tool exploited in SUSTRACK is the **Green Economy Model (GEM)**, which is a systems-based decision-making tool that forecasts the socio-economic and environmental impacts of policies up to 2050. *“The GEM enabled us to explore ‘what-if’ scenarios for bio-based transitions, offering a valuable perspective on how bio-based policies add value over traditional models and showcasing evidence-based insights to inform sustainable policy design across sectors and countries”* Yilan adds.

The success of SUSTRACK's [INSPIRE and DESIGN conferences](#) was instrumental in achieving and consolidating the project's results. *“Without these conferences, we would not have been able to engage in the critical discussions with stakeholders that were necessary to validate and refine our findings,”* says Piergiuseppe Morone, professor and researcher at the UnitelmaSapienza University of Rome and SUSTRACK project coordinator. He adds: *“These events fostered invaluable multi-stakeholder dialogues, helping us align our approach with the needs of researchers, industry, policymakers, and civil society. Looking ahead, SUSTRACK will continue to build on these findings, focusing on the identification of actionable policy solutions that address transition barriers effectively. Finally, the project will identify policy priorities among existing ones and suggest new policy recommendations for a sustainable CBBE transition”*.

For more information on SUSTRACK's results, activities, and future events, visit the [project's website](#), have a look at the [second SUSTRACK newsletter](#) and follow the dedicated social media profiles ([Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#))!