

Project coordinator
Dr. Luana Ladu
luana.ladu@tu-berlin.de

Nikola Matović
matovic@tu-berlin.de

Sustainability Transition Assessment Rules for Bio-Based Systems



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Duration :

Sep. 2022 – Aug. 2025

Consortium :



By tracing sustainability impacts along the supply chain, certification schemes and labels are crucial to unlock the potential of bio-based systems in achieving several SDGs.

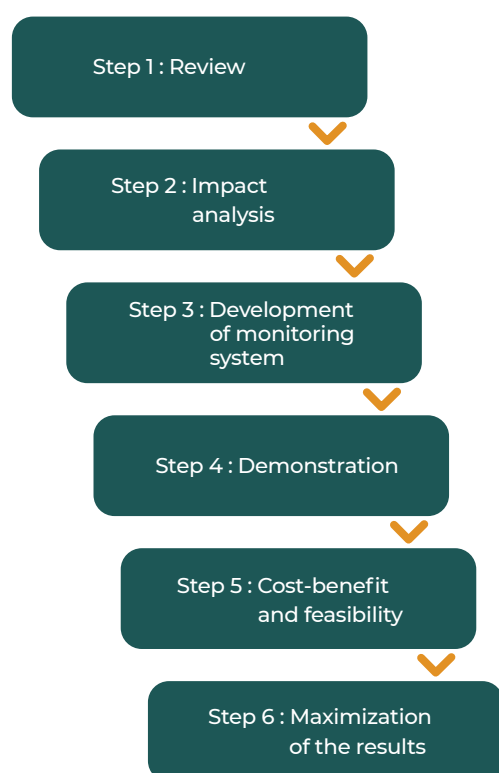
However, the rapid proliferation of certification schemes and labels led to questioning their effectiveness and robustness and to what extent they deliver important outcomes, in line with sustainability policy priorities.

The **STAR4BBS** project develops indicators and a monitoring system for assessing the effectiveness and robustness of existing certification schemes and labels, applicable to biological feedstock and bio-based materials and products.

Project Objectives :

- **Develop** a fit-for-purpose **monitoring system** to address the potential of the certification schemes and labels, and their corresponding standards, to contribute to policy objectives and sustainability goals prioritized in EU relevant policy documents and the SDGs.
- **Investigate trade data and volumes** of biological raw materials and biobased materials and products, distinguishing between certified and non-certified flows, enabling **transparent traceability** in global trade flows.
- **Develop and disseminate findings, evidence and recommendations** to promote the adoption of effective and robust certification schemes and labels by different categories of stakeholders

Overall Methodology :



Structure of the Monitoring System :

Outcome

The collaborative process of developing the monitoring system, and its subsequent application, will add transparency to bio-based value chains and build the foundations to support schemes and labels in aligning and harmonising their systems to support shared sustainability goals. In particular, it will facilitate mutual recognition processes and move towards a more integrated sustainability governance system.

Levels of the monitoring

SYSTEM LEVEL

Indicators that focus on the design and implementation of the schemes and labels (such as the robustness of verification procedures, management of the standard, traceability, level of stakeholder engagement, geographical scope, and market coverage).

CONTENT LEVEL

Indicators that show the relevance of schemes and labels' sustainability principles, criteria and requirements with respect to key sustainability priorities and targets in the EU.
Scope: social, environmental, economic and circularity aspects.

OUTCOMES LEVEL

Indicators that capture data and information on the effectiveness and impact of the certification schemes and labels.

Audience

The monitoring system (and its further elaboration through recommendations, additional guidance and standardization) will provide guidelines for policy makers, researchers, certification bodies and labels owners on definitions, critical requirements, system elements, and indicators to be included in the design and evaluation of effective and robust SCS.