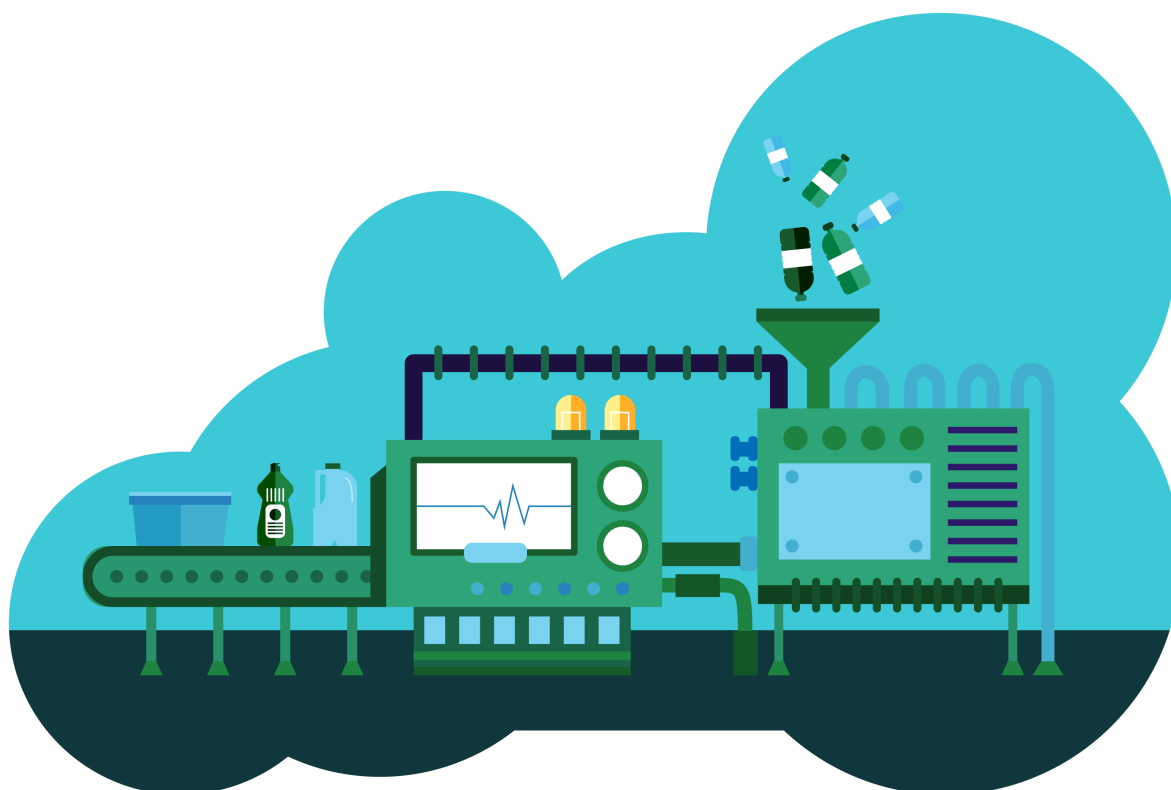




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The production of bioplastics currently represents only a small fraction of total plastic consumption, circa 1%. As public and political concern grows over the pollution caused by uncollected and untreated plastics, and as technologies allow for the use of renewable, plant-based, and waste-based feedstocks to create plastics, **the global production of bioplastics has the potential to increase**. A critical issue to be solved for an increased market uptake of bioplastics relates to their end-of-life. Often, bioplastics are landfilled or incinerated when disposed of, which is not desirable under circular economy principles.

In countries like Italy and Ireland, where bioplastics are co-collected and co-composted with food waste, the issue is partially answered by organic recycling. However, such organic waste treatment facilities are not commonly found in many other EU nations, and bioplastics are often co-collected with plastics or with mixed waste. **As the amounts are still**

small, they cannot usually justify investments in specialized sorting facilities or separate depolymerization plants.

So, how do we find viable end-of-life scenarios for bioplastics through mechanical and chemical recycling technologies?

To address these concerns, the PROSPER project aims to cover the entire value chain of bio-based plastics sorting and recycling. It will attempt to demonstrate a system to achieve a Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of 7 by establishing **pilot programs in partner countries to sort and chemically and mechanically recycle bioplastics**. Additionally, the project will assess the costs and contributions necessary under Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes from the bioplastics industry to ensure proper financing for sustainable waste management of bioplastics.

PROSPER is a collaborative research and innovation project financed by the Horizon-Circular Bio-Based Europe Joint Undertaking under Grant Agreement 101157907, led by the University of Ghent, Belgium. There are 17 partners from across the EU, and the project budget is around €10 million, of which 75% is covered by grant funding.



For more visit our

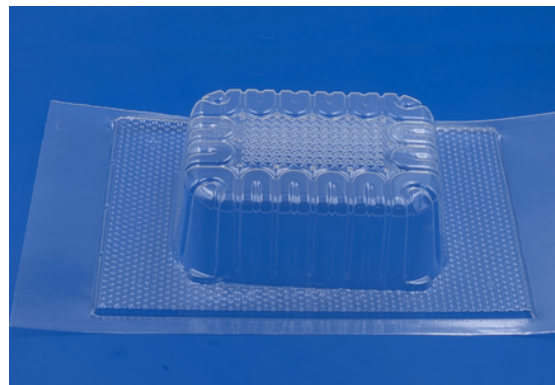
Website

The first year

The project began in September 2024 and ends in August 2028. You can find [here](#) the interview with the Coordinator, Professor Steven de Meester, who outlines the achievements of the first year.

The first year has seen:

- **Three consortium meetings**, in Ghent, Madrid and Vic (Catalonia).
- The **first phases of waste characterisation and sorting** undertaken with partners in Spain (FCCMA), France (SUEZ), Italy (A2A) and Netherlands (NTCP). The first results were published in a [press release](#).
- The first **analyses of costs related to sorting** and the relevance of these to EPR contributions using samples from Biotec, Futerro and Novamont.
- Setting up of the **programme for chemical recycling tests** at Novamont and Futerro and mechanical recycling tests at Wageningen (WUR).
- The **first product made from recycled PLA** by WUR researchers.



- A continuous **communication and dissemination campaign** on internet, LinkedIn and with press release. Researchers from PROSPER partners have spoken in several in-person events over the last year illustrating the project. Two blogs have been published and video interviews with all the partners are online.

- A **first scientific paper** sent for peer review prior to publishing, from UGent illustrating the findings on costs/benefits of bioplastic sorting.
- The establishment of an authoritative **Advisory Board** and online meetings with them twice.
- Seven **policy documents** have been issued to partners and an annual policy paper sent for approval to the CBE JU.

Interviews



A conversation with Steven De Meester from UGent about the first year of PROSPER

[Go to](#)



A conversation with Roberto Ferrigno from EBB about the policy context for bioplastic recycling

[Go to](#)



A conversation with Dianella Garro from CT BETA about the impacts of Prosper's value chains

[Go to](#)



A conversation with Wang Li from UGent about the analysis of PLA sorting

[Go to](#)



A conversation with Serhat Arca from NTCP about bioplastics sorting

[Go to](#)



A conversation with Philippe Coszach from Futerro about PLA recycling

[Go to](#)

Other interviews with PROSPER's partners are available on our [YouTube Channel](#).

News from our blog



The role of sorting in the circularity of bio-based plastics

By Serhat Arca, NTCP

[Read more](#)



Opportunities for cleaner and healthier living in a world with plastics

By Karin Molenveld, Wageningen University & Research

[Read more](#)

Other news are available on our [blog](#).

EU Circular Economy Consultation

The PROSPER consortium has responded to the EU Circular Economy Consultation with the following paper. Set to be adopted in 2026, it aims to create a Single Market for secondary raw materials. It seeks to increase the supply of high-quality recycled materials and stimulate demand for these materials within the EU.

[Download the paper](#)

Upcoming events

Webinar

Bioplastic recycling

Policy context, Economy & Technologies

On November 27th 2025, the consortium will hold a webinar open to the general public, industry, policy makers, and other stakeholders, to discuss results and findings from the first year and to hear from participants their views as to the desirability of recycling bioplastics. This is co-organised with two similar CBE JU projects, [MoeBios](#) and [ReBioCycle](#), to ensure a full panorama of activities over this last year is presented.

November 27, 2025
14:00 - 16:00

[Register on Eventbrite](#)

In March 2026 the consortium will next meet at the NTCP sorting facility in the Netherlands and the Advisory Board is invited to attend too.

Conclusions

The project is running to timetable and all deliverables so far have been completed. There are no known impediments at this time to the continuation of the project. Generally, the partners are pleased with the results to date.

Key to the success of recycling bioplastics is not just the notable technical difficulties but also the economics. Therefore, the analyses which will be developed in year two will dive more deeply into costs, benefits, EPR contributions, plastic taxes, and externalities, trying to understand when recycled bioplastics have financial value in the European marketplace. You can find the European PRO/EPR organisations fee structure for plastics and bioplastics [here](#) which evidences the huge variety of fees applied. For example, the highest is in Belgium for bioplastics ([€4,419/ton](#)) and are indeed higher than the cost of the raw materials

themselves, in some cases. In Italy, which has a consolidated collection, sorting, and organic recycling processes for bioplastics, the [EPR fee](#) is 149,34 €/ton in 2025 rising to €246 in 2026.

So the project will look at how such systems can be changed to allow innovative materials to enter the marketplace.



The project is supported by the Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking and its members under Grant Agreement n° 101157907. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or CBE JU. Neither the European Union nor the CBE JU can be held responsible.

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