

CALL FOR PAPERS

SEEDS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

UNIVERSITY OF FERRARA

2-4 December, 2026



The **Annual SEEDS Conference 2026**, hosted by the **University of Ferrara** in conjunction with the Horizon Europe **BioFairNet project**, will take place on **2–4 December 2026**. The conference will explore how **Circular Economy and Bioeconomy approaches** can contribute to tackling **climate change and the EU's transition**.

We welcome contributions from **senior scholars, PhD students, and early-career researchers**, across all **qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methodologies and disciplines**. The conference contains several moments of participation.

DECEMBER 2:

1PM - 5PM: TWO SIMULTANEOUS PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

- (1) ENGINEERING DESIGN AND AI IN CIRCULAR ECONOMY
- (2) EARLY AND EMERGING RESEARCHERS

6:30PM - 8:30PM: NETWORKING APERITIF

DECEMBER 3-4:

MAIN CONFERENCE

Submission deadline for all
25 JUNE, 2026

Acceptance Confirmation
21 JULY, 2026



Funded by the European Union under grant agreement number 101181568. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Executive Agency (REA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them

THE MAIN CONFERENCE (3-4 DECEMBER, 2026) AND EMERGING SCHOLAR WORKSHOP (2 DECEMBER)

The main contents of the conference will be related to the socioeconomic disciplines on topics of circular economy and the associated bioeconomy transition and how such transition can practically tackle climate change related impacts.

Climate change is a widely recognised challenge in the contemporary world. Despite the role of the Circular economy within the challenge has already been tackled by the literature, its multifaceted nature and potential still leave consistent space for new considerations and research ideas. The increasing efficiency in the use of materials, the substitution of non-renewable materials and energy sources with renewable alternatives, the sharing economy, the symbiosis between different economic actors and increasing the durability of goods are just some of the actions that improve circularity within the economic system and can be expected to reduce green-house gases generation within it. This conference aims to analyse these and other related niches of research to better understand and boost their potential in scholarly and practical terms.

We welcome contributions related to the following themes:

- Renewable energy generation and their impacts on climate change
- Waste management practices, materials waste prevention, reuse, recycling, energy recovery, disposal and their climate related impacts
- The bioeconomy and the substitution of non-renewable materials with renewable ones, and its potential within the climate change discourse
- Promoting efficiency and cooperation within production chains, associated to climate change mitigations
- Promoting sharing and durability of goods, associated to climate change mitigation

The conference is open to any methodological approaches, qualitative, quantitative, and mixed.

WORKSHOP FOR EARLY AND EMERGING SCHOLARS

This workshop welcomes early-career researchers including PhD candidates, postdoctoral fellows, and young academics working on sustainability, environmental economics, and circular economy. The aim is to receive feedback from peers and senior researchers, and foster interdisciplinary dialogue on emerging topics related to the green transition, sustainable innovation, and environmental policy.

**REGISTER HERE TO ATTEND (NON PRESENTING) OR/AND
TO SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT: [HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/MNPBWKSYVZJDJMAA7](https://forms.gle/MNPBWKSYVZJDJMAA7)**



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WORKSHOP ENGINEERING DESIGN AND AI IN CIRCULAR ECONOMY (2 DECEMBER)

This workshop welcomes researchers and experts working at the intersection of engineering design, artificial intelligence, and circular economy. Participants include academics from engineering, computer science, and sustainability fields, as well as practitioners developing technological solutions for resource efficiency and circular production systems.

We welcome contributions related to the following themes:

- Engineering Design for Sustainability and Circular Economy
- Generative Design and Topology Optimization for Resource Efficiency
- Advanced and Green Manufacturing
- Digital Twins and Simulation-Driven Sustainability Assessment
- Bridging Engineering Data with Environmental and Economic Assessment
- AI for Process Optimization and Resource Efficiency

For more information specifically on this workshop, e-mail Dr. Tobias Rosnitschek: Tobias.Rosnitschek@uni-bayreuth.de

**REGISTER HERE TO ATTEND THE WORKSHOP AS (NON PRESENTING)
OR TO SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT: [HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/RHVKYCIKDTVNR6L49](https://forms.gle/RHVKYCIKDTVNR6L49)**



THE NETWORKING APERTIF: DECEMBER 2

Join us for an informal BioFairNet networking aperitif ahead of the SEEDS Conference. This moment is designed to bring together stakeholders across research, industry, policy, and civil society working on circular and bioeconomy themes, but not only!

It is enough to be interested and willing to network with the community involved!

Participants are encouraged to actively share their work: if you have roll-ups, flyers, or other materials showcasing your projects and initiatives aligned with BioFairNet themes, feel free to bring them along and use this opportunity to increase visibility and spark conversations.

Please note that places are limited and registration is recommended. While priority will be given to SEEDS participants, the aperitif is also open to external attendees, including stakeholders from sister projects and related initiatives who are interested in engaging with the BioFairNet community.

**REGISTER HERE TO ATTEND THE NETWORK APERTIF:
[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/ZFYZ9KJCVGUMCDDW8](https://forms.gle/zfyz9kjcvgumcddw8)**



**IF YOU WISH TO BRING MATERIAL ALONG TO SHOWCASE TO THE NETWORK
KINDLY NOTIFY IT IN THE FORM AND ATTENDANCE TO THE APERTIF DOES NOT
CONFIRM ATTENDANCE TO THE CONFERENCE.**

IF YOU WANT TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE, DO FILL OUT THE OTHER FORM TOO!



THE CONFERENCE: LOGISTICS & OTHER INFORMATION



Participation to the conference is FREE of Charge, during the conference coffee breaks and a lunch will be offered to participants who will confirm their presence.

Participants will have to cover their own expenses for travelling, meals out of the conference venue and accommodation.

All the events will be held at the University of Ferrara sited in Ferrara, Italy hosted by the Department of Economics and Management in Via Voltapaletto 11. You can find here the [Google Maps link to use](#).

You can arrive in Ferrara via car, train, and / or plane:

From the airport of BOLOGNA, there is a shuttle (*Marconi Express*) to the BOLOGNA STAZIONE CENTRALE (train station) and then switch trains to Ferrara (30 min or maximum 50 min) OR a direct bus shuttle using *Bus&Fly*.

The **city offers various accommodation options** of various price ranges and it is connected well to Bologna via train for additional options.



More details for those presenting, the workshops, and the aperitif will be shared with those who confirm attendance or/and have expressed interest via call for papers.



UNIVERSITY EFFORTS TO GO GREEN!



The SEEDS Network and the Department of Economics and Management work to make environmental choices.



RECYCLING BINS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT CAMPUS, DO NOT FORGET TO DISPOSE YOUR WASTE PROPERLY

YELLOW: PLASTIC
BLUE: PAPER



BRING YOUR REUSABLE BOTTLE, NEAR THE AULA MAGNA, THE DEPARTMENT OFFERS A WATER FOUNTAIN TO REFILL YOUR BOTTLE ANY TIME YOU WANT



THE CATERING BOSCHETTO, A SOCIAL COOPERTIVE TO PROVIDE US DURING THE CONFERENCE WITH AN ENTIRELY VEGETARIAN MENU WHILE INVESTING IN SOLIDARITY CAUSES

Let's Go



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SUPPORTING ENTITIES



SEEDS FUTURE EVENTS

Second Edition of the SEEDS-BiT-RG Joint Summer School (Unitelma Sapienza | 24-26 September, 2026)

The Summer School on Behavioral Economics for Sustainability Transitions, hosted by Unitelma Sapienza University of Rome, will take place on 24, 25 and 26 September 2026. The school aims to bring together early-career researchers and leading international scholars to explore how behavioral insights can support effective and inclusive sustainability transitions. Sustainability challenges—ranging from climate change and biodiversity loss to sustainable consumption and production—are deeply shaped by human behavior. Behavioral economics offers powerful tools to understand decision-making, design policy interventions, and promote systemic change. Building on this foundation, the 2026 edition of the summer school will place a special emphasis on the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in advancing behavioral research and policy design for sustainability.

For more information visit the website www.sustainability-seeds.org or email sustain@unitelmasapienza.it

DISCOVER SEEDS AND BIOFAIRNET

SEEDS (Sustainability Environmental Economics and Dynamics Studies) is an inter-university research network that brings together scholars and practitioners working on environmental economics, sustainability, and policy analysis. It promotes interdisciplinary research, knowledge exchange, and dialogue on key challenges related to the green transition, climate policy, and sustainable development. Through conferences, workshops, and collaborative initiatives, SEEDS fosters connections between academia, institutions, and stakeholders at national and international levels.



sustainability-seeds.org



UnitelmaSapienza
Università degli Studi di Roma



BioFairNet is a Horizon Europe project that supports fair and inclusive transitions towards the circular economy and bioeconomy in the agricultural and mining sectors. By combining stakeholder engagement, data-driven approaches, and digital solutions, the project aims to develop a collaborative platform that helps actors better access, integrate, and use sustainability data. BioFairNet brings together stakeholders from research, industry, policy, and civil society to co-create tools and strategies that address real needs and enable more effective and equitable sustainability transitions.



biofairnetproject.eu



CENTRO INTERDIPARTIMENTALE DI RICERCA



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI FEDERICO II



UNIVERSITÀ degli Studi di Ferrara

UNIVERSITÉ DE LA RÉUNION



Sustainability Solutions Group

satec_

UNIVERSITÄT BAYREUTH



ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΑΙΘΑΪΟΥ



UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE



UnitelmaSapienza
Università degli Studi di Roma



UNIVERSITÀ DI TRENTO
Dipartimento di Economia e Management



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DIPARTIMENTO
DI ECONOMIA
E MANAGEMENT

NETWORKING APERITIF

WHERE IDEAS MEET IMPACT

December 2, 2026 | 18:30 - 20:30

Via Voltapaletto, 11 | Università di Ferrara

Join us for an informal BioFairNet networking aperitif ahead of the SEEDS Conference.

The event is open to anyone interested in circular economy, bioeconomy, and sustainability. Feel free to bring materials (roll-ups, flyers, projects) to share your work and connect with others.

The aperitif is part of the SEEDS Annual Conference, co-organised within the Horizon BioFairNet project.

*The event is free of charge,
but registration is requested.*





Università
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DIPARTIMENTO
DI ECONOMIA
E MANAGEMENT

NETWORKING APERITIF

IDEAS MEET IMPACT: IL PUNTO D'INCONTRO TRA PENSIERO E AZIONE

Dicembre 2, 2026 | 18:30 - 20:30

Via Voltapaletto, 11 | Università di Ferrara

Unisciti a noi per un aperitivo informale di networking BioFairNet in vista della Conferenza SEEDS.

*L'entrata all'evento è gratuita,
ma la registrazione è richiesta.*

L'evento è aperto a chiunque sia interessato a confrontarsi su economia circolare, bioeconomia e sostenibilità. Porta con te eventuali materiali (roll-up, flyer, progetti) per condividere il tuo lavoro e creare nuove connessioni.

L'aperitivo è parte della Conferenza Annuale SEEDS, co-organizzata nell'ambito del progetto Horizon BioFairNet.

