

D7.3 ADVISORY BOARD ENGAGEMENT

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

D	Deliverable
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
GA	Grant Agreement
T	Task
WP	Work package
WS	Workshop

SUMMARY

The establishment and engagement of the Advisory Board (AB) is a central element of the BioFibreLoop project, which aims to develop circular, biobased technical textiles with innovative, non-toxic functionalisation. The AB is designed to provide independent, interdisciplinary, and practice-oriented guidance throughout the project's lifecycle. This deliverable outlines the criteria and procedures for selecting AB members, presents the current composition of the board, and describes the engagement strategy and communication formats, which have been selected to ensure effective collaboration.

The selection of AB members was guided by three main criteria:

1. expertise across the entire value chain (including material development, functionalisation, textile production, sustainability, digitalisation, end-user perspectives, and circular economy)
2. gender balance
3. geographic diversity within Europe.
4. strong sustainability profile of participating organisations

The process began with an open call for nominations among all project partners, resulting in a longlist of around 80 candidates. The management board (DITF and SIG) then applied the selection criteria to create a balanced shortlist, which was shared with the consortium for feedback and approval. Final candidates were determined by the management board and invited to join the AB. They were required to sign a non-disclosure agreement (NDA), ensuring an open dialogue without confidentiality issues. Currently, the AB consists of eight members from seven organisations, representing five European countries and covering nearly the entire value chain relevant to the project. The board is gender-balanced (from a binary perspective). All AB members were asked to be publicly listed on the project website and featured in communications, increasing transparency and credibility. Some answers are still pending and will be discussed in the next board meeting.

Engagement with the AB is structured through regular meetings (twice a year) and bilateral discussions as needed. Each AB meeting will focus on a key topic, those topics are defined in consultation with all partners, ensuring that each meeting addresses relevant areas of expertise at appropriate stages of the project. Five focus topics have been identified and distributed across the project timeline, including biobased materials, functionalisation, textile production, recycling and sustainability, and market uptake. The AB members are also informed via newsletters, LinkedIn updates, the project website, surveys, and workshops.

All AB meetings are documented in minutes and stored on the project's SharePoint for accessibility for partners. Feedback from the AB is systematically integrated into a stakeholder monitoring tool, where it is prioritised and assigned to relevant work packages. This monitoring sheet is regularly updated to track the incorporation of AB input and to summarise past interactions.

Sustainable engagement is a key principle, aiming for resource-efficient, transparent, and long-term collaboration. The project seeks to maintain meaningful involvement of AB members beyond the project duration, ensuring continuity and advocacy for its goals. Engaging organisations with a strong sustainability profile strengthens the project's credibility and potential for impact.

1. Introduction

The establishment and active engagement of the AB is a key element of the BioFibreLoop project, designed to ensure independent, interdisciplinary, and practice-oriented guidance throughout the project's lifecycle. This deliverable outlines the composition, selection process, and engagement strategy for the AB as part of Work Package 7, Task 7.4.

The AB brings together experts from across the value chain, including material development and functionalisation, textile production, sustainability, digitalisation, end-user perspectives, and circular economy. By applying clear criteria for expertise, gender parity, and geographic diversity, the project ensures that a broad range of perspectives and competencies are incorporated into its activities.

This document describes the criteria and procedures for selecting AB members, presents the current composition of the advisory board (AB), and describes the communication and interaction formats used to promote effective engagement. It also explains how feedback from the AB is systematically integrated and highlights measures to ensure transparent, sustainable collaboration.

2. Composition of the advisory board

Selection criteria

The composition of the AB was guided by three key criteria to ensure diversity, relevance, and impact:

- **Expertise:** The AB should cover as many players as possible from the entire value chain so that as many areas as possible are represented. The focus should be on material development and functionalisation, textile production, sustainability & digitalisation, end consumers, recycling & circular economy.
- **Gender balance:** The AB should be as gender-balanced as possible to ensure equality and a broader perspective.
- **Geographic distribution:** The AB should include members from different European countries to reflect diverse regional perspectives and sectoral contexts.

The AB was assembled according to these criteria to ensure that the AB could provide high-quality, interdisciplinary, and independent advice throughout the project.

Selection process

The selection process began with an open call within the consortium: all partners were invited to propose potential AB members based on their networks and expertise. This collaborative effort resulted in a longlist of ~ 80 candidates. The list was then reviewed by the management board (DITF and SIG) applying the selection criteria to ensure a balanced composition in terms of expertise, geography, and gender resulted in the selection of ten promising candidates. The list of ten candidates was then shared with the entire consortium to allow for feedback or concerns and to ensure transparent, democratic consensus. After approval by the entire consortium, representatives of the selected organisation were officially invited to participate in the AB and asked to sign an NDA. With the invitation, AB candidates were informed about expectations and workload, for some members this was discussed more detailed in bilateral meeting. In some cases, for reasons of confidentiality, active cooperation with certain potential candidates on the AB was not pursued. However, it was mutually

agreed to continue to involve these organisations as consultants or advocates, sharing non-confidential information. If that was the case and cooperation with a potential candidate was terminated, new candidates from the longlist moved up and their membership in the AB was again confirmed by the entire consortium.

To enhance the visibility and recognition of the AB, all members are asked to be publicly listed on the project website and featured in LinkedIn communications. This will increase transparency and credibility for the project, while also highlighting the expertise and commitment of the AB members to external stakeholders.

Member overview

The AB currently consists of eight members representing seven organisations reflecting nearly the entire BioFibreLoop value chain. At the current stage, the AB is gender balanced (from a binary perspective) when taking only one representative per organisation into account. In addition, the seven AB organisations are from five different European countries and are therefore well distributed.

Table 1: List of Advisory board members and their expertise

ORGANISATION	COUNTRY	EXPERTISE
BLOOM	France	Material development & functionalisation
FAVINI SRL	Italy	Material development & functionalisation
IVGT	Germany	Textile production
BRÜCKNER Trockentechnik GmbH & Co. KG	Germany	Textile production
Textile ETP	Belgium	Digitalisation & Sustainability
European Outdoor Group	Switzerland/ UK	End users
B4plastics	Belgium	Material development & functionalisation/ Recycling & circular economy
Still pending:		
Radici Partecipazioni SpA	Italy	Textile production/ Supplier / Recycling & circular economy
Rejected due to non-compliance with the NDA:		
Pangaia	UK	Material development & functionalisation/

		End-user
Tex is more	Belgium	Material development & functionalisation/ Sustainability / End-user
ReHubs	Belgium	Recycling & circular economy
Helly Hansen	Norway	End-user, sustainability, recycling & circular economy

3. Advisory board engagement approaches

Communication and interaction

Communication with AB members primarily takes place within AB meetings, organisational matters are handled by email, information is shared via LinkedIn, newsletters, and the website (blog articles, news, etc.), and cooperation will take place in the context of surveys and workshops.

Table 2: Activities with the AB and frequencies

ACTIVITY & FREQUENCY		INVOLVED AB MEMBERS
AB meetings	6 Meetings (2/a) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st Meeting 	All (if possible) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BLOOM, FAVINI, IVGT, BRÜCKNER, ETP, EOG
Bilateral meetings	On demand	All
Newsletter	12 newsletters	All
Co-creation Workshop	2 Workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st in September 2025 in the frame of ECOSYSTEMEX conference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ETP
Surveys	Not yet determined	All
Non targeted communication	Frequently via LinkedIn and the BioFibreLoop website (News and Blog Articles)	All

AB meetings

The AB will meet twice a year. In order to make effective use of the expertise of all members and integrate it into the project, it was decided that each meeting will focus on specific topics so that all areas of expertise within the AB are addressed with sufficient discussion time.

To define the focus topics for the upcoming AB meetings, all partners were invited to suggest subjects they would like to discuss with the AB. These suggestions were then categorised based on the required field of expertise, the relevant AB members and appropriate timing within the project duration (see Table 3). This process resulted in the identification of five focus topics, which were distributed across the schedule of AB meetings to ensure timely and relevant discussion throughout the project duration (see Table 4).

Table 3: List of potential focus topics

	Topic	Field Of Expertise	Relevant Partners	Relevant A Members	Timing of meeting (project stage)
1	Bio-based materials for textile manufacturing	Material development & functionalisation / Textile production	NTT, DITF, KNOPF, FreyZein, NIL	BLOOM, FAVINI / BRÜCKNER, IVGT	Mid-Stage
	Electronic sensors in bio-based materials	Material development & functionalisation	IMEC	BLOOM, FAVINI,	Mid-stage
2	Laser-enabled decarbonisation and circular production in net-zero technologies	Material development & functionalisation	ANOV	BLOOM	Early- to Mid-stage
	Industrial embossing technologies	Material development & functionalisation	BEES, BAT, KNOPF, NIL, FreyZein	FAVINI, BLOOM	Early- to Mid-stage
3	Molecular weight of PLA due the temperature of lignin application (possible solutions etc.)	Material development & functionalisation	NIL, DITF	BLOOM, FAVINI, B4Plastics	Mid-stage
	Characteristics of materials with lignin with connection to real usage	Material development & functionalisation	NIL, DITF	BLOOM, FAVINI	Mid-stage

		End users		EOG	
	Product fits	End users	FreyZein	EOG, Textile ETP	Mid-stage
	End-of-Life management (recyclability).	Recycling & circular economy / End users	NTT, VTT, NFA, DITF	B4Plastics/EOG	Mid-stage
4	SSbD integration	Digitalisation & Sustainability	NFA	Textile ETP	Early to mid-stage
	Life Cycle Assessment and sustainability evaluation	Digitalisation & Sustainability	NFA	Textile ETP	Mid-stage
5	How would a new value chain for recycling for bio-based textiles look like	Recycling & circular economy / Textile production	IMEC, all	B4Plastics/BRÜCKNER, IVGT	Late-stage
	Stakeholder acceptance and market uptake	End users	NFA, SIG, all	EOG	Later-stage

Table 4: Advisory board meetings including dates and foreseen topics

MEETING	DATE	TOPIC
1 st AB meeting	9 th July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General project overview • Structure of cooperation (meeting formats, communication channels) • Administrative procedures (NDAs, permission for public mention of AB members)
2 nd AB meeting	1 st December 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material development & functionalisation: laser-enabled decarbonisation and circular production in net-zero technologies
3 rd AB meeting	April 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industrial embossing technologies
4 th AB meeting	November 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textile production
5 th AB meeting	April 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling & Sustainability
6 th AB meeting	November 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market uptake and new value chains

4. Documentation, integration and monitoring

In order to benefit most from the interactions with the AB, the meetings will be documented in meeting minutes and saved on the project's SharePoint to ensure accessibility for all partners. In addition, the feedback and input of the AB will be integrated in the stakeholder monitoring table described in D6.3. The feedback will be analysed and categorised by priority (low – high) and assigned to the relevant WP to facilitate its targeted integration into the project. Over time, the monitoring sheet will be updated regularly to track incorporation of AB feedback. In addition, the monitoring sheet serves as a tool to summarise past interactions and activities with the AB.

5. Sustainable practice

Sustainable practice in the context of AB engagement means designing collaboration in a way that uses resources responsibly, avoids negative impacts on the environment and society, and contributes to long-term positive outcomes. This includes maintaining meaningful involvement of AB members beyond the project duration, ensuring continuity and advocacy for the project's goals. The European Outdoor Group is a promising example, as its members have shown interest in sustainable business models and could become early adopters or multipliers. Engaging organisations with a strong sustainability profile strengthens the credibility and relevance of the project. In addition, sustainable engagement involves transparent and traceable documentation of all interactions, allowing feedback to be integrated into project decisions and ensuring that the process remains adaptable and accountable over time.

6. Conclusion and outlook

The establishment and active involvement of the AB have already proven to be a relevant element of the BioFibreLoop project. By bringing together diverse expertise from across the value chain, the AB can provide valuable guidance on technical and strategic aspects. The transparent selection process and structured formats for cooperation will promote familiar and inclusive collaboration between the project consortium and the members of the AB.

The ongoing involvement of the AB will remain a cornerstone of project management in the future. Regular meetings, targeted workshops and continuous feedback loops will ensure that the project can respond to new challenges and opportunities. The integration of the AB's contributions into the project and decision-making processes will further strengthen the project's results and support the achievement of its objectives.

Beyond the project duration, the relationships and structures established by the AB will contribute to the long-term sustainability and dissemination of the BioFibreLoop results. By maintaining close relationships with key stakeholders, the project aims to achieve a sustainable impact in the field of recyclable, bio-based technical textiles