Medium and long-term opportunities and risks of the biotechnological production of bulk chemicals from renewable resources

From 2003-04-01 to 2005-07-31

Project details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total cost:</th>
<th>Topic(s):</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EUR 892 492</td>
<td>1.1.3.-5. - RTD Activities of a Generic Nature: materials and their technologies for production and transformation and new and improved materials and production technologies in the steel field</td>
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<tr>
<th>EU contribution:</th>
<th>Funding scheme:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EUR 451 890</td>
<td>ACM - Preparatory, accompanying and support measures</td>
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<th>Coordinated in:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
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Objective

To date, most attention related to biotechnology has been paid to GM food, pharmaceuticals and human genomics. Unperceived by most, biotechnology is about to open new perspectives for the manufacture of chemical bulk materials and chemical intermediates. Potential benefits are the availability of new superior materials, the use of domestic renewable raw materials (stable and secure), ecological benefits (renewable feedstocks and energy efficient processes) and the evolution of a new technology area offering growth and employment opportunities in various sectors. On the other hand there are also important risks, among them the reduction of biodiversity, health impacts for humans and the general public perception which can devaluate earlier investments. In ten work packages, the proposed project deals with all major aspects of the biotechnological production of bulk chemicals and chemical intermediates from renewable raw materials in the medium and long term (until 2050). The ultimate goal is to provide an overall evaluation of the opportunities and risks. The results of the project are expected to be highly relevant for strategy development both in companies and in policy. Early communication of the results may also contribute to a rational public discussion and it may spur private-public partnerships.

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