

Special EFB/Environmental Biotechnology Section workshop

W-1. Reinforcing bio-economy in Mediterranean countries

Session Chairs: **Fabio Fava, University of Bologna, Italy**
Giulia Gregori, Novamont, Italy

Anticipating fossil resource scarcity, Europe is increasing support to bio-based economy and has nowadays partly achieved a pioneering status in this sector. Dynamic industrial key players and supportive national policies together are actually the main drivers of establishing a successful European bio-economy. Compared to North European countries, which have implemented success cases of bio-refinery, Mediterranean region stands to benefit from different, but abundant and valuable resources (e.g. agro-industrial waste) to develop second generation biorefineries. EBC has a long tradition in hosting speakers on the prevention of environmental pollution (e.g., olive oil mill wastewater treatment) and limitation of CO₂ gas emission. The Environmental Biotechnology Section of EFB has the ambition to thoroughly debate at EBC-VI whether biotechnological treatment of untapped biomass, i.e., local biowaste can be a further beneficial way to promote integrative bio-based industry in the Mediterranean region fulfilling both the needs for adequate waste treatment and generation of economically viable bio-based products.

Keynote Speaker: **Giulia Gregori, Novamont, Italy**