

21.05.2024

## SUSTEPS has achieved its first milestone by establishing five International Working Groups (IWGs)

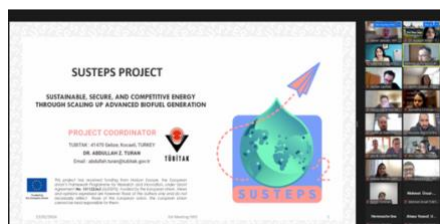
In October 2023, a consortium of eight European and three international partners started [SUSTEPS project](#) and this cooperation will continue over the next 48 months. The project aims to enhance the sustainable production of biofuels by addressing challenges and leveraging opportunities in the entire value chain, focusing on the concept of efficient production of biofuel from non-food microalgae by utilizing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from high-pollutant sources and nutrients from wastewater.

SUSTEPS emphasizes international collaboration, seeking global contributions and promoting efficient knowledge exchange to reduce production costs, promote large-scale yields and develop a more sustainable biofuel industrial scheme. These actions have facilitated international cooperation by engaging experts from all around the world, while establishing active links with related projects and initiatives. [SUSTEPS project](#) is creating strong and lasting networks in the field of sustainable algae-based biofuels.

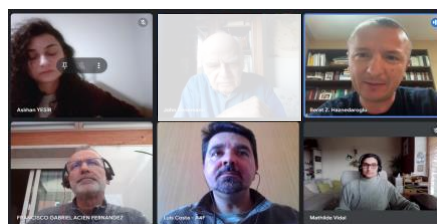
Led by ERINN, each IWG was organised to be dedicated to a specific aspect of algae-based biofuels and was chaired by experts from leading institutions. These IWGs included important aspects related to socio-economic and environmental considerations, microalgae cultivation, conversion to crude biofuel, biocrude upgrading, green hydrogen production and aqueous phase recycling & valorisation.

Thus, we are pleased to announce that the first milestone of SUSTEPS was successfully achieved. Five IWGs meetings took place, with the participation of more than 20 experts worldwide.

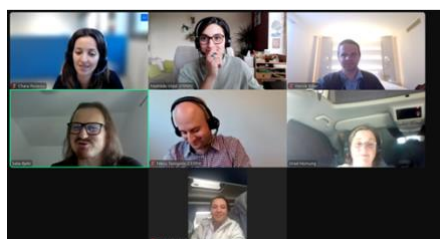
### IWG-WP3: Sustainability



### IWG-WP4: Microalgae cultivation



### IWG-WP5: Microalgae conversion to crude bio-fuel



### IWG-WP6: Biocrude upgrading & green hydrogen production



### IWG - WP7: Aqueous phase recycling and valorisation



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## **Dynamic Conversations and Valuable Insights**

During the first IWG meetings, experts and chairs engaged in dynamic and insightful conversations. These discussions led to valuable reflections and key performance indicators (KPIs) for each of the expected outcomes of SUSTEPS. Both IWG chairs and experts expressed satisfaction with the process, emphasising the importance of collaboration and knowledge exchange.

## **Continued Collaboration**

Additional IWG meetings are planned, with the five groups meeting online every six months throughout the four-year project duration. These recurring meetings will serve to gather updates, provide timely feedback, and foster ongoing cooperation. The final meeting will be held in person and include all IWGs, showcasing the significance of these collaborative efforts and solidifying the international networks built over the years. The working groups will provide feedback and advice to the project partners during the meetings. The feedback will be discussed at a General Assembly level to decide whether any corrective actions/adaptations to the working plan are required.

## **Creating Long-Lasting Global Networks**

During the IWG sessions, chairs introduced the SUSTEPS project to thematic experts from their respective work packages. The IWGs serve as powerful catalysts for creating connections and synergies. Each international expert brings their unique network and expertise, contributing to the collective strength and globalisation of the project. Notably, Dr. Rainer Janssen, an IWG expert, exemplifies this collaborative spirit. As Managing Director of Projects at WIP Renewable Energies in Munich, Germany, Dr. Janssen is also involved in sister projects ICARUS and BIOTHEROS, both funded by the EC under the same call topic as SUSTEPS. This is a powerful example of how the IWGs foster synergies and connections across related initiatives, contributing to a robust global network in sustainable algae-based biofuels.



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