



The recently concluded **European Workshop on Biotechnology: Biobased Materials** proved to be a vibrant hub of innovation and collaboration. Organised by the **EFB Biobased Materials Division**, this successful event took place from 2 to 5 February 2026 at the **HES-SO Valais** in the city of Sion, Switzerland.

The event brought together a dedicated group of participants for an immersive programme that perfectly balanced specialist presentations with **hands-on laboratory sessions**. This dual approach created an ideal environment for exploring the latest recent breakthroughs in the field of biobased materials.

Advancing the Circular Bioeconomy

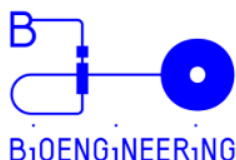
Throughout the workshop, attendees explored critical themes that are shaping the future of the industry, including:

- **Cutting-edge advances** in biopolymers and bioplastics
- **Sustainable processing** techniques
- The integration of materials into the principles of the **circular bioeconomy**.

Thanks to a unique combination of expert-led lectures and practical activities, participants were able to work directly with **current methodologies** and exchange ideas with renowned researchers and instructors.

This interactive format not only shared knowledge but also encouraged constructive dialogue and fostered new collaborations within the community. The success of this edition has generated great anticipation for future workshops.

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Scientific Programme

Monday, 2.2.2026 (Minisymposium)

8:30 Registration

Introduction into biobased materials

9:00 **Introduction to HES-SO** Sergio Schmid

9:10 **EFB Workshop Biobased Materials: a few basic explanations** Manfred Zinn

9:30 **The wonderful world of biopolymers** Manfred Zinn

10:00 *Coffee break*

10:30 **Rational ecodesign and synthesis of functionalized biobased oligoesters and materials** Lucia Gardossi

11:15 **Enzymatic degradation of plastics** Georg Gübitz

12:00 *Lunch break*

Introduction into bioprocesses

13:00 **High-throughput fed-batch cultures: advancing bioprocess efficiency and innovation** Frédéric Forini

13:30 **Scale-up of bioprocess from shake flask to bioreactor: What needs to be considered?** Matthias Bally

14:00 **Real-time monitoring and model predictive control for fed-batch fermentations** Basil Imoberdorf

14:30 *Coffee break*

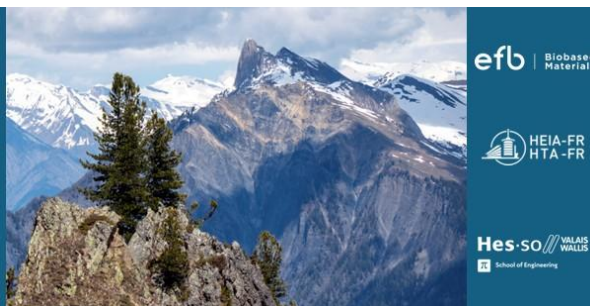
15:00 **PAT Raman: simultaneous detection of extracellular substrate and intracellular product** Matthias Rüdert

15:30 **Presentations by participants (5 min each)**

16:30 **The do's and don'ts to start a company in biomaterials (Start-up 3lit)** Sara Nasiri Sovari

2nd European Workshop on Biotechnology Biobased Materials

2 – 5 February 2026 Sion, Switzerland



efb | Biobased Materials

HEIA-FR
HTA-FR

Hes-so | VALAIS
WALLIS
School of Engineering

17:00 *Apéro and networking*

Tuesday, 3.2.2026 (Laboratory)

Tailor-made biomaterials

8:30	Program of the day				Manfred Zinn
	Screening	Bioreactors	PHA biosynthesis	Biodegradation	
	Simon Biel	Matthias Bally	Julien Pott	Georg Gübitz	
8:40	Group 1	Group 4	Group 3	Group 2	
9:25	Group 2	Group 1	Group 4	Group 3	
10:10	Coffee break				
10:40	Group 3	Group 2	Group 1	Group 4	
11:25	Group 4	Group 3	Group 2	Group 1	
12:10	Lunch				
	Rheology of Biopolymers		Tailormade PHA		
	Philippe Renaud		Véronique Amstutz, Manfred Zinn		
13:10	Group 1 & 2		Group 3 & 4		
13:55	Group 3 & 4		Group 1 & 2		
14:40	Coffee break				
15:15	Challenges and solutions in processing of composites containing biosourced fibres and matrices				Véronique Michaud
16:00	How sustainable are biotechnologies?				Tim Börner
16:45	Workshop case studies				
17:15	Valorization of Lignin (Bloom start-up)				Philip Scholten
18:30	Workshop Raclette and wine degustation				Christophe Jacquod



Wednesday 4.2.26 (Minisymposium and Laboratory)

Processing of biopolymers

9:00	Program of the day			Manfred Zinn
9:15	Bioplastics – overview, classification and trends			Daniel Schwendemann
10:00	3D printing			Daniel Werren
10:30	<i>Coffee break</i>			
11:00	Designed bioinks for reproducible <i>in-vitro</i> biology (Start-up Amela Biosciences)			Sandra Núñez
11:30	Analysis of growth studies			Simon Briel
12:15	<i>Lunch break</i>			
13:15	Biodegradation of polymers			Georg Gübitz
14:00	Analysis and control of enzymatic degradation for the surface modification of biopolymers			Nils Hanik
14:45	Insights into bacterial cellulose: from properties to application trends	Group 1	Group 2	Auxi Prieto
15:30	<i>Coffee break</i>			
16:00	Microalgae	Group 2	Group 1	Julien Pott
16:45	Endotoxin quantification using a rare sugar acid as endotoxin marker (Start-up NOTRIX)			Anika Hoffmann
17:15	Workshop case studies			



Thursday, 5.2.2026 (Minisymposium)

Life cycle assessment and case studies

8:30	Program of the day	Manfred Zinn
8:40	Biobased and biodegradable Elastomers for abrasion critical applications (Kuori start-up)	Arthur Groh
9:10	Sustainability assessments to guide research and technology development	Claudia Som
9:50	<i>Coffee break</i>	
10:20	Keratin: An undervalorized Biopolymer	Roger Martí
10:50	Final discussion	Auxi Prieto, Roger Martí, Manfred Zinn
12:00	End of the Workshop	