

## Foreword



IProPBio – Integrated Process and Product Design for Sustainable Biorefineries, is a project funded within the Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Staff Exchange programme, usually referred as “RISE”.

The RISE programme has the main objective of cross-border and cross-sector collaboration through the exchange of staff among the participating entities. Our Consortium, composed by seven universities located in EU countries, one European small enterprise, one research center, three non-European Universities located in Mexico, United States, and Brazil, was gathered following the knowledge complementarity as lighthouse principle.

This principle appears to be the key of our success in targeting solutions to complex topics like the design of sustainable biorefineries, and implementation of innovative approaches to the valorization of biomass within the circular economy approach. The breakthrough results obtained will allow introducing cutting-edge management solutions and will encourage sustainability and competitiveness of EU in the long term.

Today, after almost two years of activities, we welcome you to the first IProPBio Workshop: Valuable products from residual biomasses. Towards a greener society (ProGreS): Biomass selection, characterization and valorization.

My deepest gratitude goes to all the partners that devoted time, resources and their passion in the achievement of the project objectives. The contributions in this Special Issue of the Bulgarian Chemical Communications present just some of the results realized opening our Institutions to our colleagues to create new views, to establish new collaborations, to face new challenges, to find new friends. Particular thanks are also due to Prof. Dragomir Yankov, whose efforts and perseverance made this Special Issue possible.

I would also dedicate separate thanks to partners from the third countries - Brazil, Mexico, and the States. Your devotion and exceptional hospitality are greatly appreciated.

As a Consortium, we are delighted to be hosted by one of the IProPBio lead beneficiaries - The Institute of Chemical Engineering, Bulgarian Academy of Science (BAS). BAS is the largest scientific organization in Bulgaria and this year it celebrates its 150th Jubilee.

During the First Workshop we will also have the chance to celebrate another jubilee, Sir William A. Wakeham, FEng. Sir William will turn half of the years of the Bulgarian Academy of Science and we all wish him many happy returns and years devoted to other inspiring works. His participation in the IProPBio Workshop is much appreciated as a priceless contribution and an opportunity for us all to benefit from his outstanding experience.

Finally, in my capacity as the IProPBio Coordinator I would like to assure you that it has been not only a pleasure but also a great honour to have the opportunity to get in touch with different cultures and so many brilliant minds.

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