

OSDD Värmland 10–11 September 2024

Before: interview with the host organisation Paper Province

- **What kind of a program have you planned for the OSDD?**

At the OSDD Värmland we will focus on plastics, bio-based materials and packaging. The region of Värmland has a long tradition, as well as a vibrant innovation eco-system around the forest, biobased materials and packaging solutions. We will share good examples and ideas from Värmland and Sweden with our visiting guests and stakeholders, and discuss how we can jointly influence plastic usage in a sustainable direction.

- **How many participants do you expect?**

We expect 50-55 participants to the open seminar on the 10th of September. Around 25 of those are project participants and their stakeholders.

- **Are all partner regions joining?**

All partner regions are joining, including new partners.

- **Are there stakeholders and/or associated policy authorities attending the OSDD?**

There are stakeholders and policy authorities joining the OSDD from Finland, Slovenia, Italia, Spain, Netherlands, Bosnia-Hercegovina as well as Sweden. For example, representatives from Region Värmland, the municipality of Karlstad where the OSDD is held and Grants and innovation office of Karlstad university.

- **What is the one thing you are waiting for the most to present to the partners?**

We are excited to showcase the Värmland region and our expertise in various aspects of the forest bioeconomy, along with the surrounding ecosystem. There will be a mix of researchers, companies, test-labs and a taste of the forest.

- **Is there a challenge or problem in your region you are planning to discuss with the partners?**

We think we are doing well regarding recycling and waste management, in Sweden. But according to Circularity gap report 2024, only 3,4 % of the resources Sweden uses are cycled back into the economy – 96% of materials come from virgin resources. As Sweden has a lot of industries in various areas, including for example plastics and paper, we produce a large amount of products both for domestic use and export. And we need to find more solutions for and be better at recycling, reusing and using waste streams. Another challenge is competence supply in the region. There is a lack of competencies in various areas, and the level of education is also fairly low in the region. This is something that the region, municipalities and the industry clusters, among others, are working with.