

# Newsletter

Issue 2 | September 2026



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## Food Waste into Sustainable Fibers



### TOPIC 01

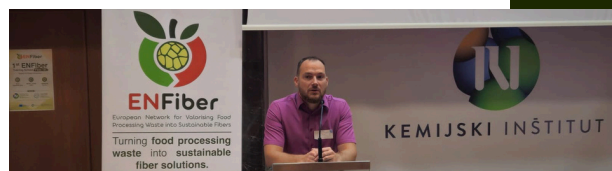
#### Fiber 101

### TOPIC 02

#### Joint Webinar Series

This issue highlights two recent ENFiber activities: our **first Training School, Fiber101**, held in Ljubljana, and the latest sessions in our **joint webinar series with APRISE and ProxIMed**.

From hands-on fiber science to wider discussions around sustainable food systems and protein innovation, both activities created opportunities for learning and scientific exchange across our community.



## Fiber101: From Fundamentals to Applications

On 10–11 September 2026, ENFiber held its first Training School, Fiber101: Basics of Fibers Workshop, in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Hosted by the National Institute of Chemistry and the Pulp and Paper Institute, the two-day programme brought together theoretical learning, practical sessions and scientific exchange across a broad range of fiber-related topics.

The programme began with the fundamentals of fiber science, covering lignin, cellulose, hemicellulose, polysaccharides, fiber separation and dietary fibers. Participants then explored these concepts in practice through sessions on separation techniques, viscoelasticity and spectrometry at the Pulp and Paper Institute.



The second day shifted towards advanced materials and applications, including fiber upgrading, keratin, hydrophilic and hydrophobic materials, hydrogels, biomedical applications and textile dyes. Practical sessions on hydrogel preparation and skeletal density analysis further connected scientific concepts with experimental approaches.

Throughout the Training School, two mini poster sessions gave participants space to present and discuss their own research, while an academic publishing workshop addressed research communication and scientific publishing. The programme concluded with the poster awards and official closing of Fiber101.

A special congratulations to the winners of the Best Poster Session Awards: Alberto Saitta (1st place), Lara Denić (2nd place) and Kamil Urgun (3rd place).

**Want to explore Fiber101 in more detail? The Book of Abstracts and presentation materials are available on the [ENFiber website](#).**



## Exploring Protein Innovation from Different Perspectives

Scientific innovation does not happen in isolation. New food technologies are shaped not only by research and technical development, but also by circularity, public debate, policy and the wider food system.

These different perspectives were at the centre of the latest sessions in the **joint webinar series organised by APRISE, ENFiber and ProxIMed.**

On **10 August 2026**, Prof. Christos Athanassiou from the University of Thessaly delivered “**Insects for Food, Feed and Beyond – Circular Economy in Practice.**”

The webinar explored insect farming for food and feed alongside applications in fertilisers, plant protection and circular production systems, drawing on examples from the **CIPROMED Project** and the **Insect Farming Initiative at Kansas State University**.

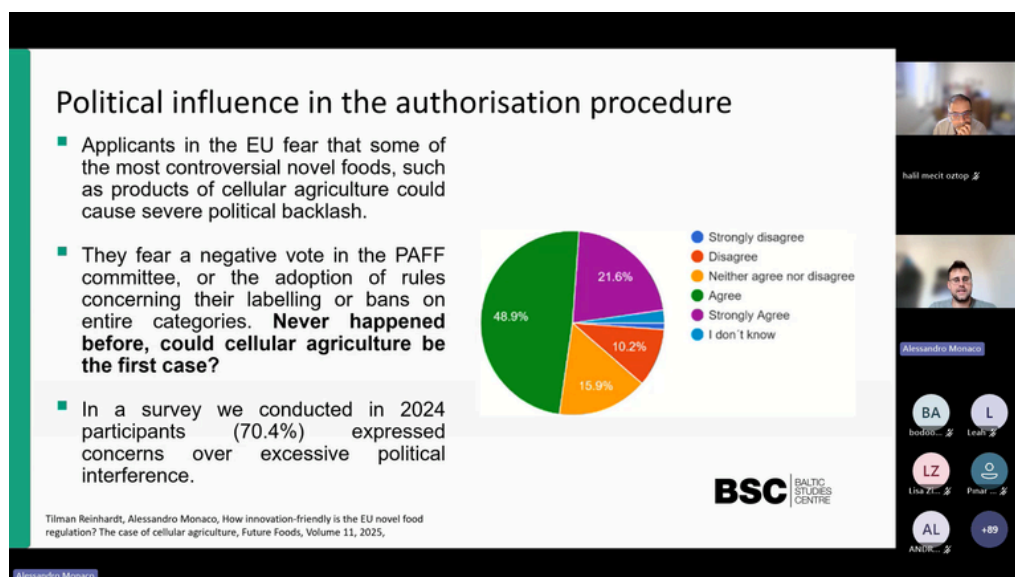


The series continued on **1 September 2026** with Alessandro Monaco from the Baltic Studies Centre and **“Crossing Socio-Political Barriers in Protein Innovation.”**

The session moved beyond technological development to examine how alternative proteins are discussed in EU political and public debate, how established actors in the food system shape these discussions, and how societal discourse and policymaking can influence innovation.

Together, the two webinars approached food-system innovation from complementary angles, connecting **scientific and technological developments with the broader systems in which innovation takes place.**

Watch our webinars on [ENFiber’s YouTube](#).



## Share Your Research with the ENFiber Community

We want to make the research and activities of the ENFiber community more visible across our communication channels.

If you have a publication, project, research output or other relevant result you would like to share, submit it through the [ENFiber dissemination form](#) for possible promotion.

## Contribute to the Next Issue

We are now looking for **ENFiber members to contribute short articles, research updates, project news, opportunities and event highlights** to the next newsletter.

To propose a contribution, contact us our Science Communication Coordinator at [nice@metu.edu.tr](mailto:nice@metu.edu.tr)

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