BioBasedValueCircle is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie European Industrial Doctorate (EID, see https://biobased-valuecircle.eu/vacancies/). It forms an umbrella-project that combines the individual research projects of 12 hired PhD candidates and offers common BioBasedValueCircle training.

**Topic (IPR4) at the University of Graz, Prof. Wolfgang Kroutil, Graz, Austria**
http://biocatalysis.uni-graz.at/  
AND  
the start-up company *b4plastics*, Dr. Stefaan de Wildeman  
https://www.b4plastics.com/en

**Biocatalytic transformation of renewables to polymer building blocks and evaluation of the polymer**

This PhD will focus on (i) investigation of renewable feedstock (e.g. fatty acids, etc.) to be used as substrate for biocatalytic transformation to get to building blocks for polymers; (ii) evaluation of asymmetric biocatalytic reactions; (iii) reaction intensification; (iv) scaling up of biocatalytic reaction; (v) polymerization of monomers ideally followed by characterization.

**Roles and Responsibilities**

The first 18 months of your work will be carried out at the University of Graz (Austria, with Prof. Kroutil) followed by 18 months at b4plastics. The PhD-project is funded for **three years** and would **start by February/March/April 2021**. Your PhD degree will be awarded the University of Graz.

You will also be required to participate in the training and workshop organized by the ITN-EJD. As a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions fellow, you are also expected to contribute your time in the dissemination of your project’s result through public engagement and other scientific platforms.

**The ideal candidate**
The applicant should have completed at least four or five years education with a Master's degree or Diploma from a recognized university in Biochemistry, Chemistry, Biotechnology and should be eligible as graduate student at the University of Graz, Austria.

The applicant should have research experience in the following areas (the more the better): biocatalysis, molecular biology, organic synthesis, microbiology, instrumental analytics (HPLC, GC, NMR, MS…) or related fields.

The applicant should show interest in conducting a research project independently and should enjoy the work in an international, interdisciplinary environment.

At the time of recruitment, the applicant must not have resided (or carried out his/her main activity e.g. work, studies, etc.) in Austria, for more than 12 months in the last 3 years immediately prior to the reference recruitment date.

The applicant should have an excellent command of the English language at a proficient level (spoken and written).

We emphasize equal opportunities. We support the applications of female candidates in areas where they are underrepresented and encourage female candidates to apply for this program. Also, applications from handicapped candidates are very welcome.

Application Procedure

To apply for the position, kindly provide: (i) a letter of motivation including a 1-page statement of your research interests, relevant skills and experience; (ii) a CV including publication list; and (iii) names and contact details of two to three referees willing to write confidential letters of recommendation. All materials should be attached as a single PDF file (max. size 5MB) and send it to Wolfgang.Kroutil@uni-graz.at

Deadline:
The closing date for all applications is 6th January 2021.