

YOUNG OBSERVER PROGRAMME (EUROPEAN COMMISSION)

A great opportunity to get familiar with the steps and key parameters for a bioeconomy project to get funded

I recently had the opportunity to participate in the first year Young Observer (YO) programme from the European Commission. It has been a wonderful experience which I am thankful for. I would like to share in hopes of inspiring others.

The process started in summer, when thanks to Juan Diego, a BIOCEB senior from my track, I got to know about this new YO programme. I applied with the help of a recommendation letter from St  phanie, our main master coordinator, and a few months later I received a positive answer.

In September a kick-off meeting was organized for all participants to explain more about the planning and goals of the YO programme. After that, a self-paced online training on the European Commission, Horizon missions and specially on the evaluation of proposals steps was provided. We also received help and hands-on training on how to navigate through the online platform used for the evaluation. This was very useful in order to get the most out of the evaluation week, where I had the opportunity to observe first-hand the work of the evaluators and mediators during different sessions, always under the most structured and robust confidentiality and impartiality.

Overall, a very interesting initiative to get a better understanding of what key criteria points are decisive for a proposal to be selected, as well as what soft skills foster a smooth evaluation process. Participants can gain competency-based and transversal knowledge, useful for any professional career development, from academia, corporation or regulatory affairs fields.

For more information on the programme: <https://lnkd.in/df5-Y6Ki>

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