

# 5B POLYMERS

*November 6, 2025*

## From Agri-Food Residues to Sustainable Plastics

*The POLYMERS-5B Journey*



Funded by  
the European Union



"The project 101157840 — Polymers-5B — HORIZON-JU-CBE-2023 is funded by the European Union and supported by the Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking and its members."



Prof. Luís Joaquim Pina da Fonseca





Project partners →

→ Project lead: IST-ID (PT)

6 RTOs and 1 HES

4 SMEs

2 Large Companies



BOBO CHOSÉS

eureka!

ISO CTAG automotive technologies

IBER-OLEFF

Centimfe Technological Center for the Mouldmaking, Special Tooling and Plastic Industries

ISTID iBB Institute for Bioengineering and Biosciences

idener.ai

LATVIAN STATE INSTITUTE OF WOOD CHEMISTRY

ChiralVision innovative biocatalysis

MAX-PLANCK-INSTITUT FÜR POLYMERFORSCHUNG

FACULTY OF TECHNOLOGY HOVI SAO

Bonlex Europe

NSB project

PARTNERS

Funded by the European Union

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Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking

ECOSYSTEX Member Project

Bio-based Industries Consortium



## Key features of the POLYMERS-5B project



Developing **novel alternative of bio-based polymers synthesised from bio-renewable monomers.**



Consortium of 13 partners led by IST-ID with the Institute for Bioengineering and Biosciences – iBB.



Use **of food side streams and wood processing residues as a feedstock.**



Biocatalysis and Green Chemistry according to **SSbD** and combined with **AI** and **Machine Learning tools.**



The bio-based polymers deliver solutions **for textile, automotive, furniture, and polymeric resin markets.**



Unlocking a wider range of **bio-based products that meet market demands.**



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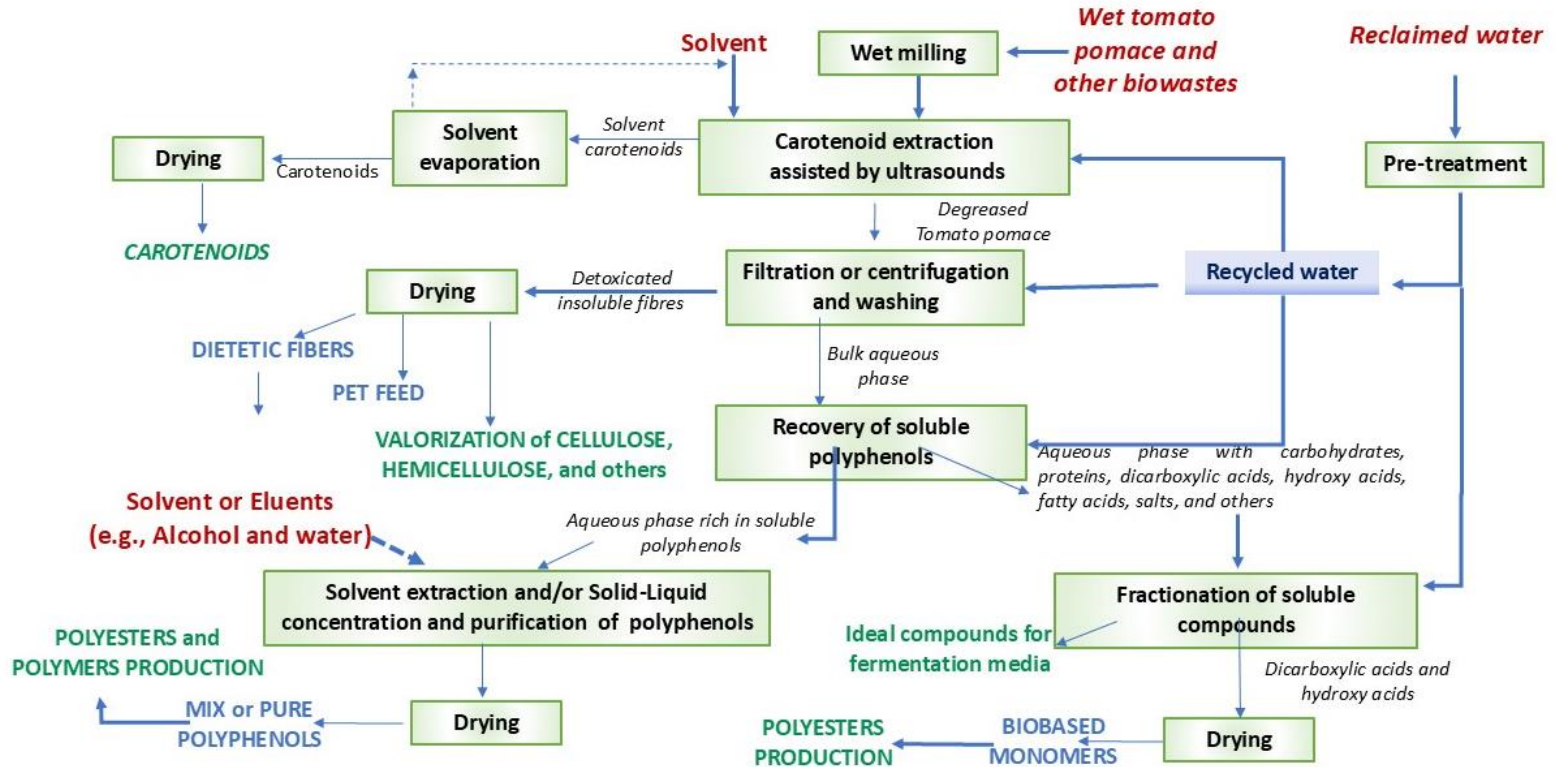


Circular  
Bio-based  
Europe  
Joint Undertaking

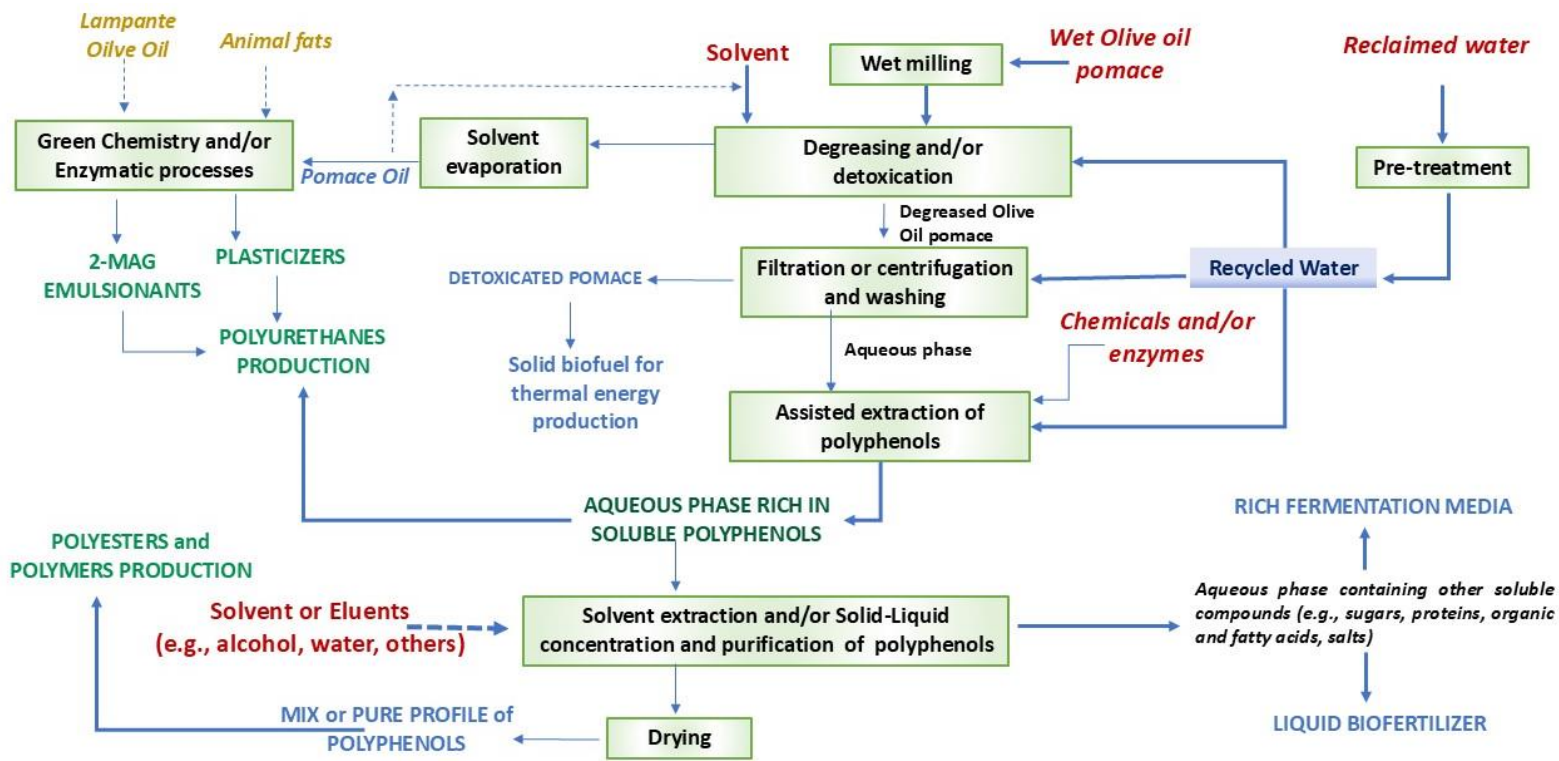


About the project

# Extraction of functional and bioactive compounds from subproducts of TOMATO processing and their valorisation into high-value products



# Extraction of functional and bioactive compounds from subproducts of OLIVE OIL processing (pomace and stones) and their valorisation into high-value products



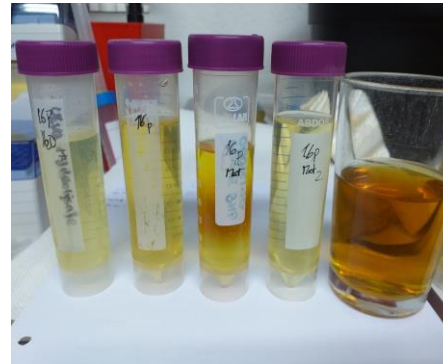
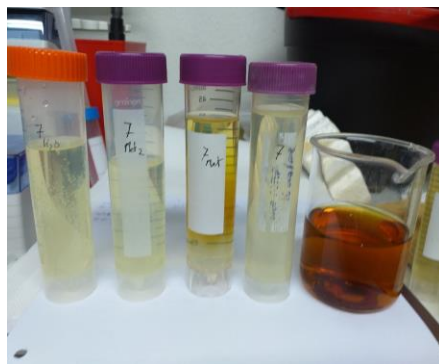
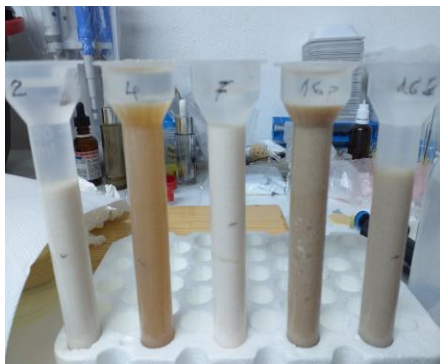
## Subtask 2.2.1: Extraction of functional chemical compounds and characterization from skin and seeds of tomato and olive oil biowastes

*Leader: IST-ID, IDENER [M1 – M30]*



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High purity of carotenoids (e.g.: lycopene)

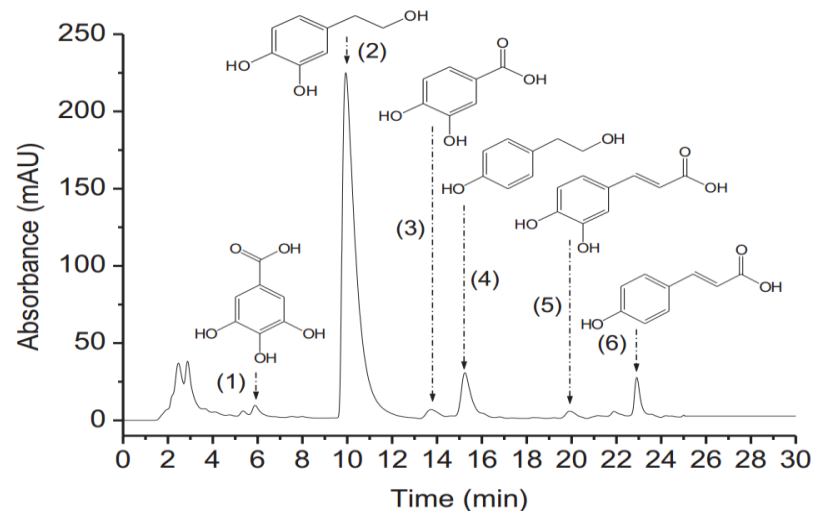
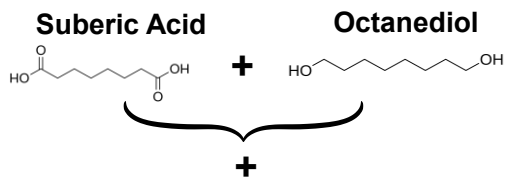


Figure. Chromatographic profile of polyphenols extract:  
 (1) Gallic acid, (2) Hydroxytyrosol, (3) 3,4-Dihydroxybenzoic Acid,  
 (4) Tyrosol, (5) Caffeic Acid and (6) pcoumaric Acid.

Polyphenol compounds profile extracted from Olive pomace

# Task 4.1 Synthesis of building blocks and bio-based polymers

## Polyesteramide Synthesis – Incorporation of $\alpha$ -aminoacids



### Glutamate

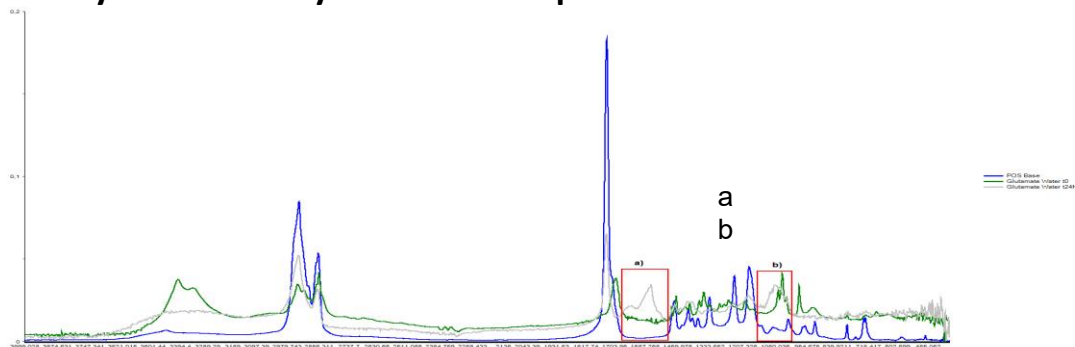
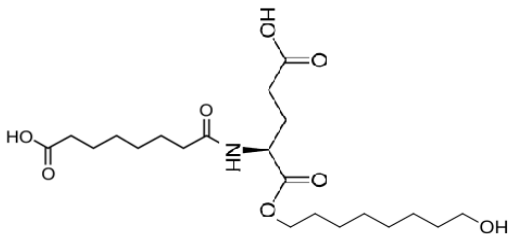
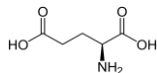


Figure - FTIR spectra of glutamate-based polyesteramide reactions showing potential amide bond formation regions (a, b)

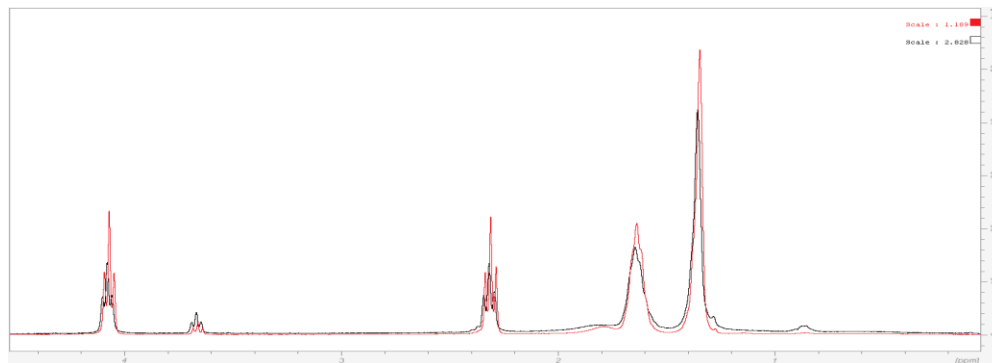


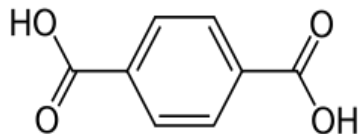
Figure - 1H NMR spectra overlay of glutamate-based polyesteramide reaction with standard POS showing structural characterization

# Task 4.1 Synthesis of building blocks and bio-based polymers

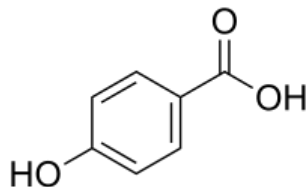
Synthesis of semi-aromatic polyesters via Biocatalysis in water,  
mini-emulsions, solvent-free

Running work

**Terephthalic Acid (TA)**



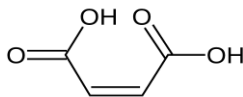
**4-hydroxybenzoic Acid (4HBA)**



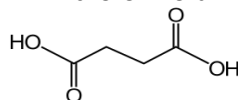
**Hydroquinone (HQ)**



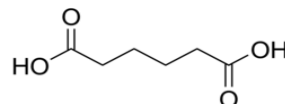
**Dicarboxylic Acids**



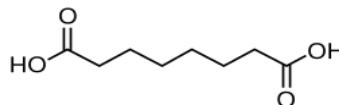
**Maleic Acid**



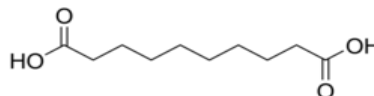
**Succinic Acid**



**Adipic Acid**

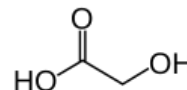


**Suberic Acid**



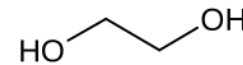
**Sebacic Acid**

**Hydroxy Acids**

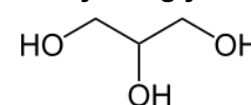


**Glycolic Acid**

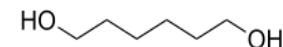
**Diols / Polyols**



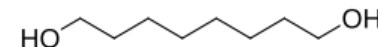
**Ethylene glycol**



**Glycerol**



**1,6-hexanediol**

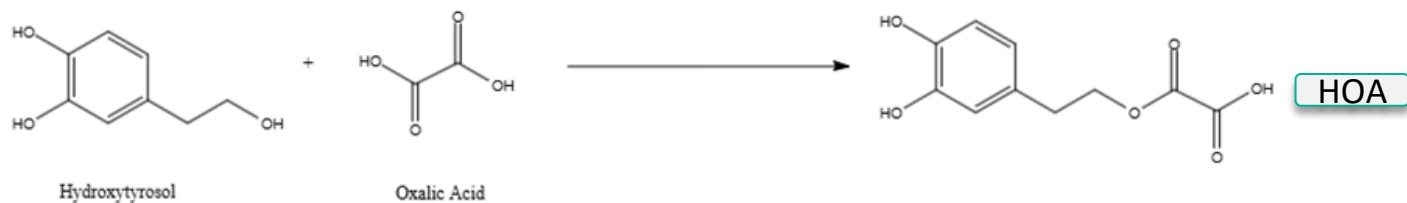
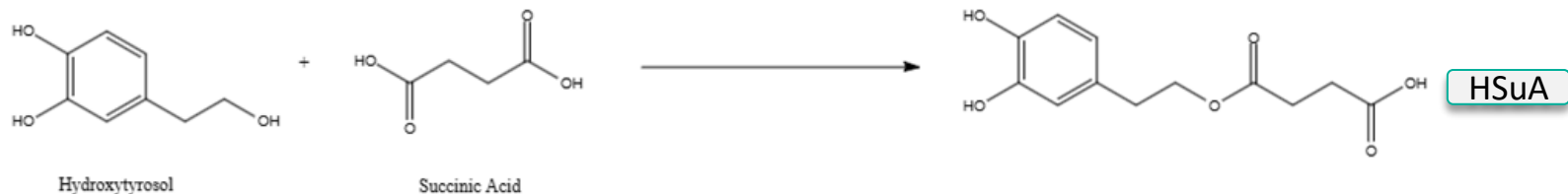
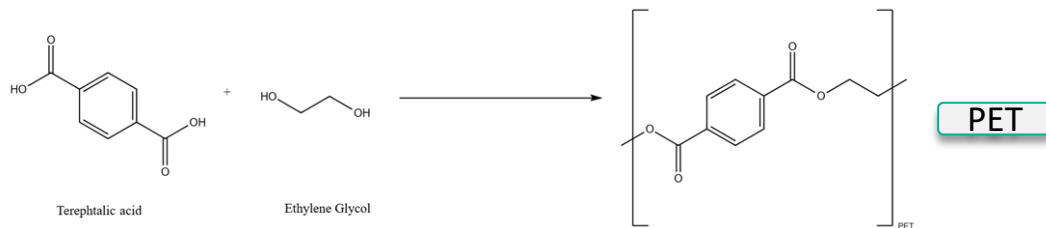


**1,8-octanediol**

# AI and Digital Tools

Modeling and simulation of polymer and polymeric prototypes

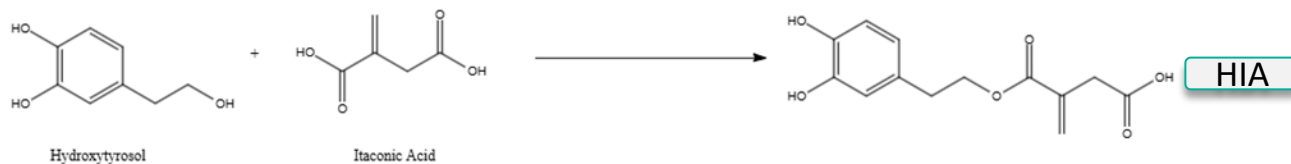
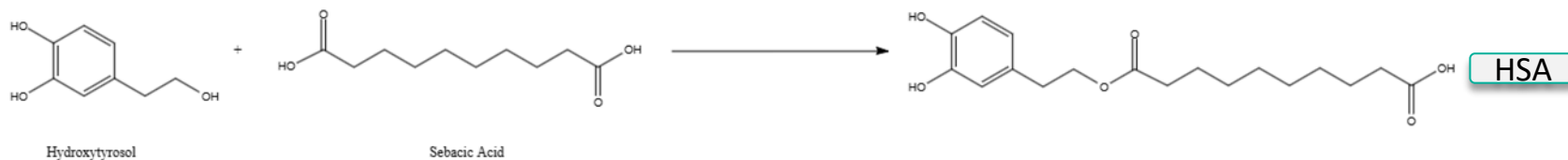
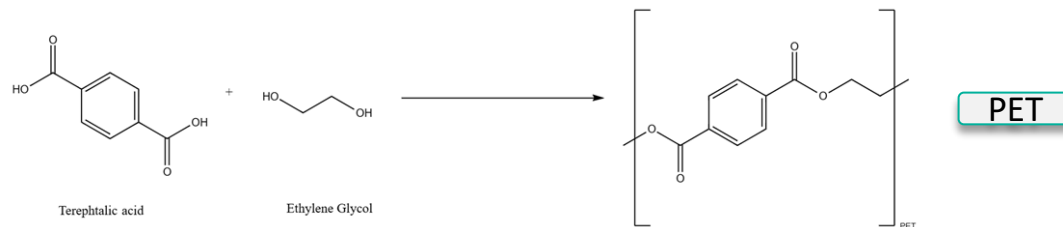
## Molecular Dynamic Simulation - Polymers



# AI and Digital Tools

Modeling and simulation of polymer and polymeric prototypes

## Molecular Dynamic Simulation - Polymers

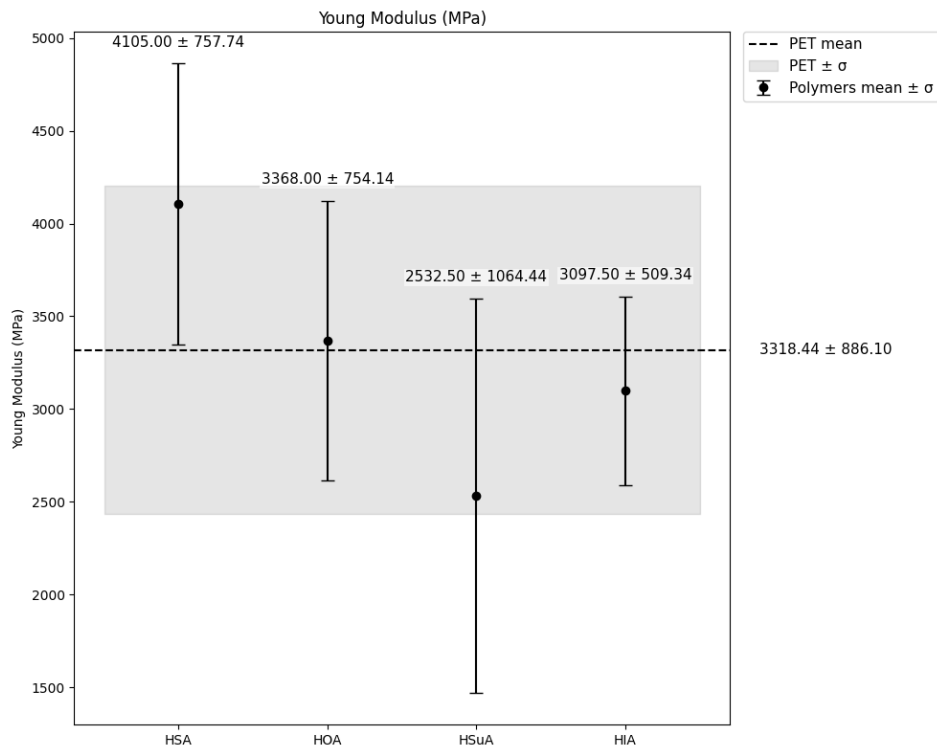


# AI and Digital Tools

Modeling and simulation of polymer and polymeric prototypes

## Molecular Dynamic Simulation - Results

Young Modulus(MPa)

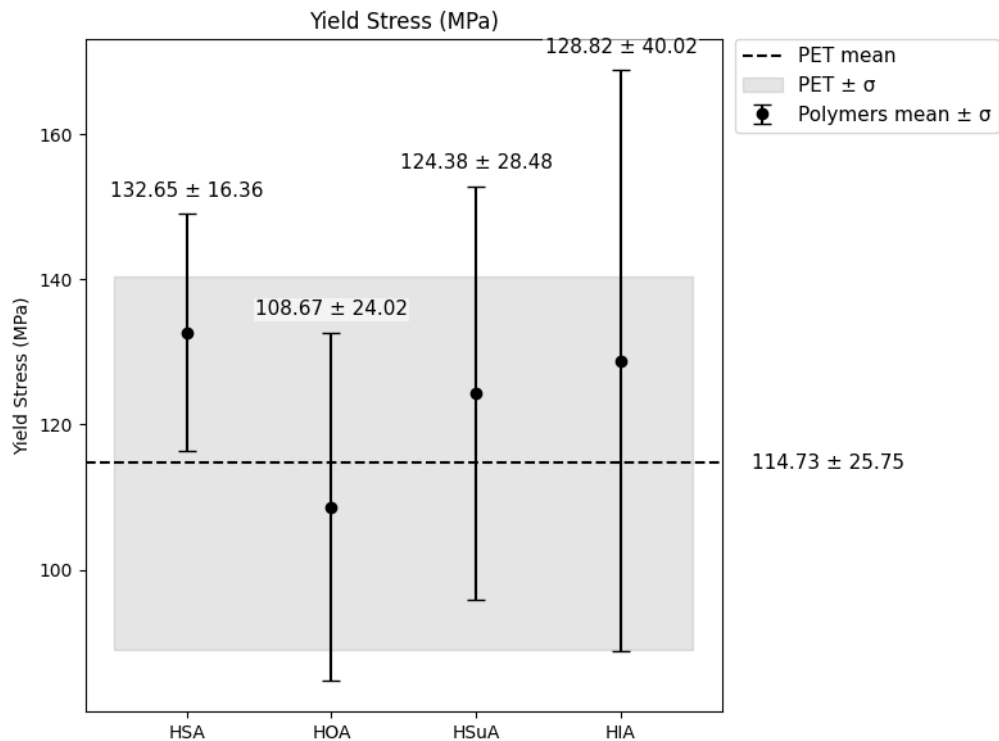


# AI and Digital Tools

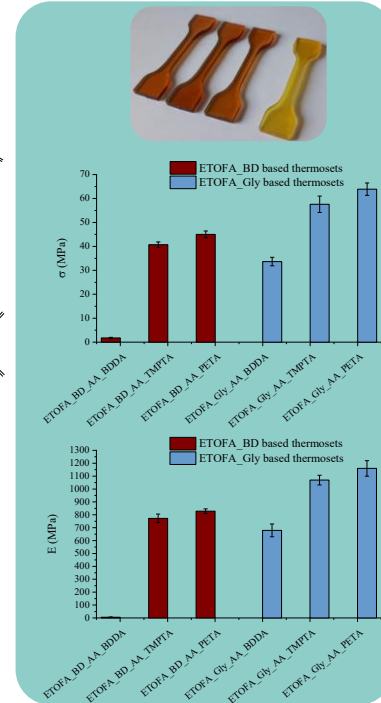
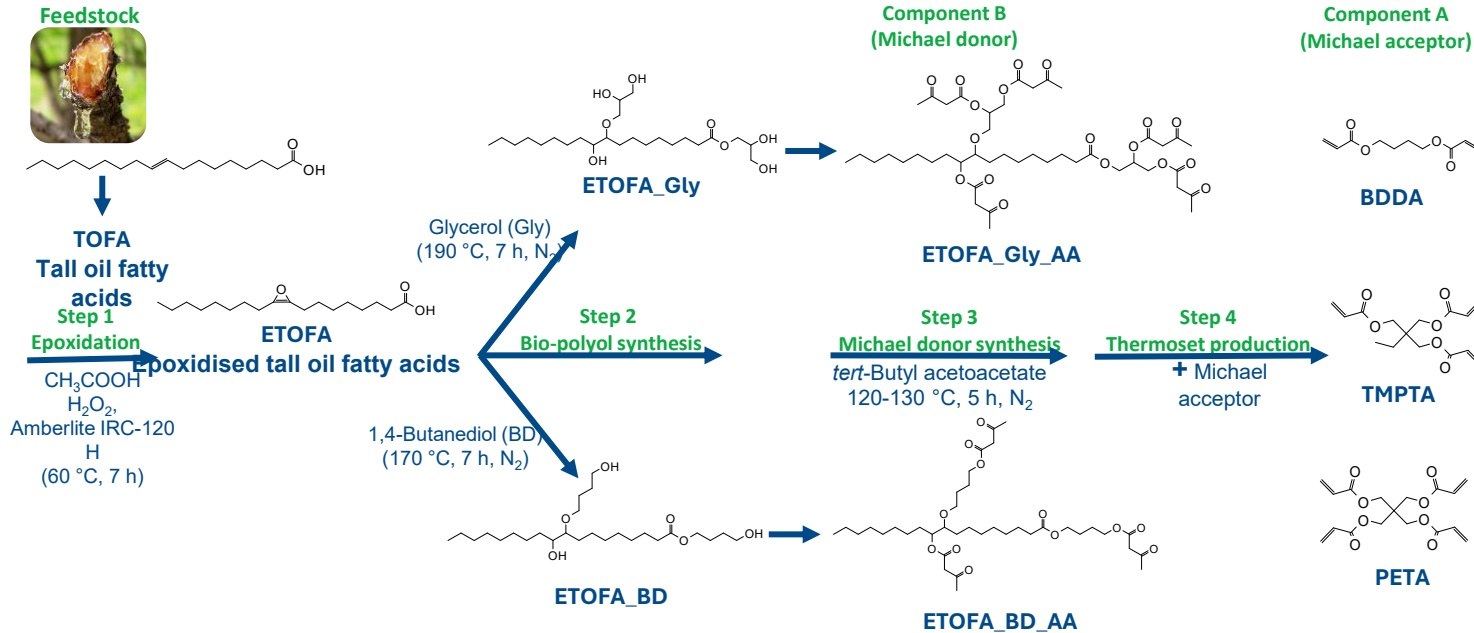
Modeling and simulation of polymer and polymeric prototypes

## Molecular Dynamic Simulation - Results

Yield Stress (MPa)



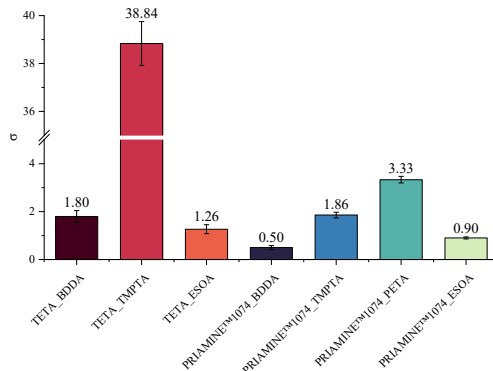
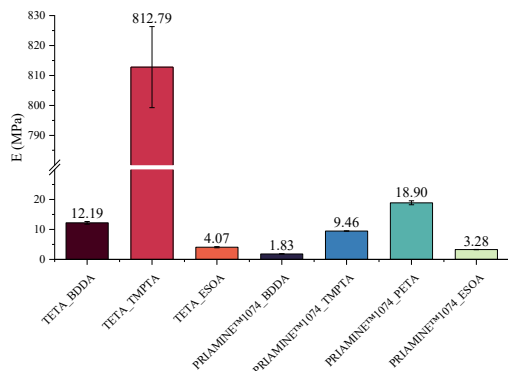
# Thermoset development from the wood processing side stream



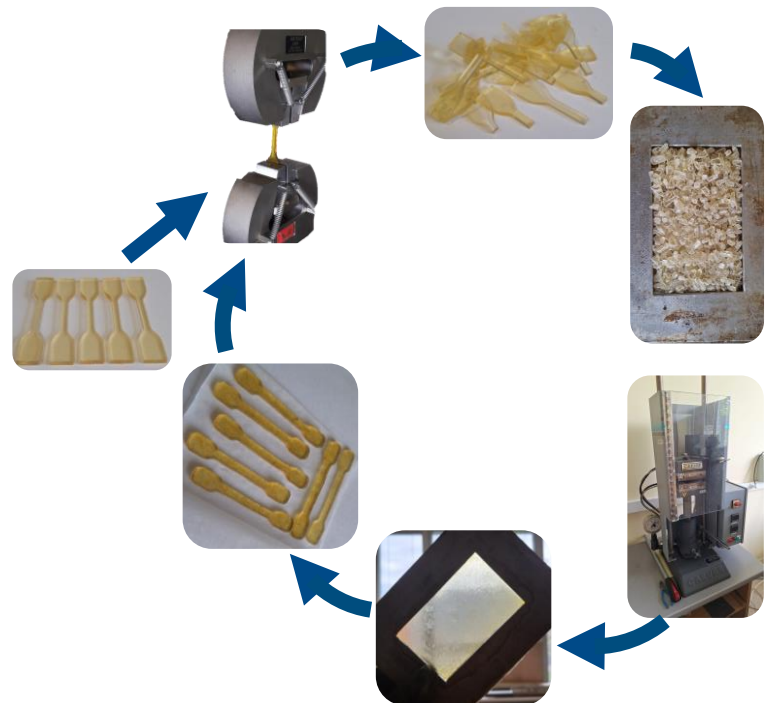
# Recyclabe bio-based thermoset resin development

## Bio-based carbon content for thermoset resins

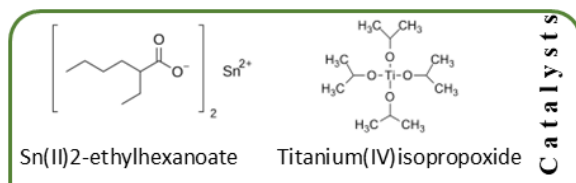
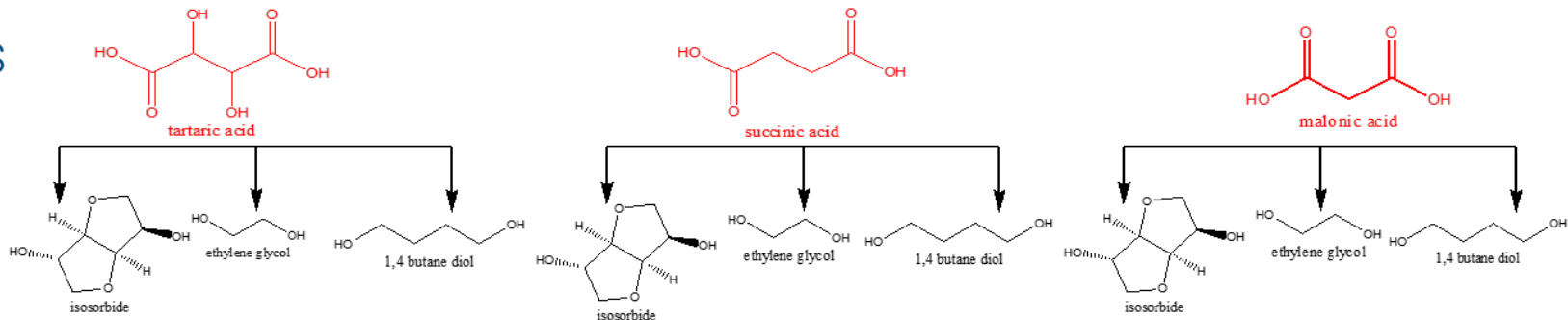
Amine	Acrylate				Variations of bio-based components in formulations
	ESOA	BDDA	TMPTA	PETA	
Priamine™1074	-	64.3%	64.3%	67.9%	Priamine™1074 is 100% (According to ASTM D6866 and EN 16640)
	90.3%				Amine+ ESOA, assuming it contains 3 non-bio acryl groups
	100%				Amine + ESOA synthesized with bio-acrylic acid



Increase in mechanical properties with an increase in crosslinking density



# Combination of 3 acids, 3 diols and 2 catalysts








The amount of added catalyst was 1 wt%.

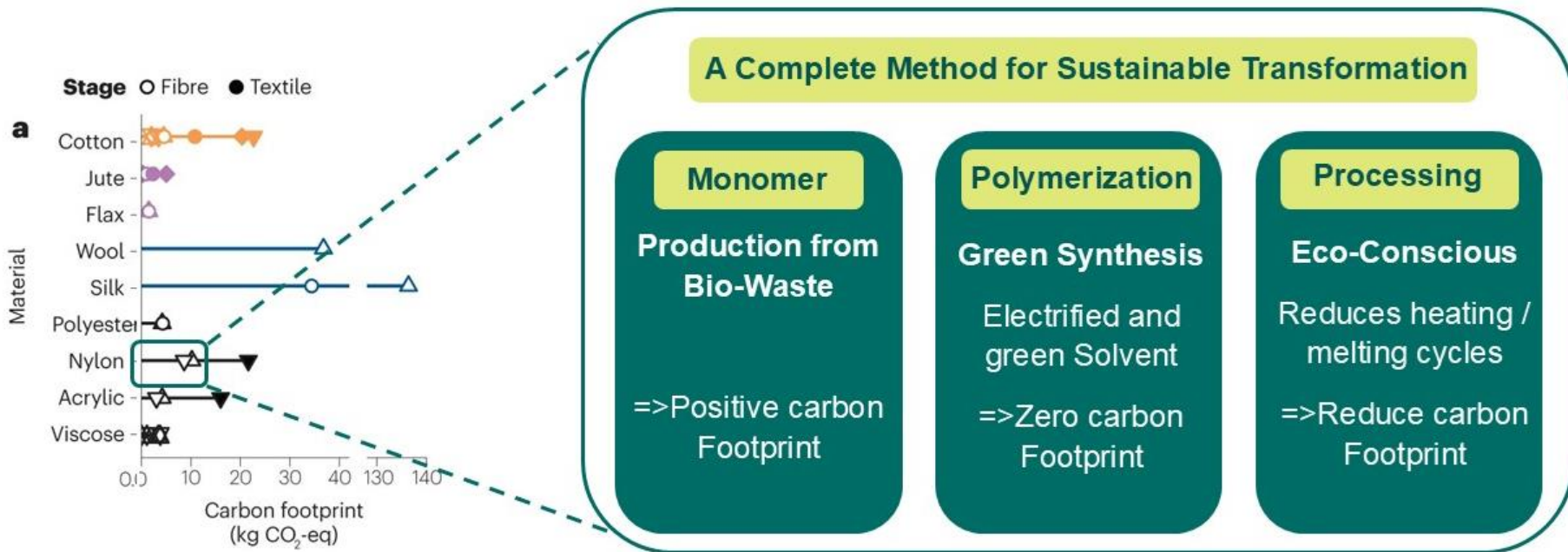
The molar ratio between monomers was 1:1 mol/mol  
 Reaction time for polyesters based on tartaric acid was **3min**; on the base of succinic acid **15min**; and on the base of malonic acid **20min**.

**RESULT - 56 successful samples of polyesters!**

### Advantages of microwave-assisted synthesis

-  **Time-efficient** – reactions complete within 5 to 30 minutes, significantly faster than conventional methods.
-  **Eco-friendly & waste-free** – minimal or no waste (solvent free), aligning with green chemistry principles.
-  **Economical** – Reduces costs related to energy consumption, solvents and reaction time.
-  **Improved yields and purity** – Results in higher yields and fewer by-products.
-  **Energy-saving** – requires less energy due to shorter reaction times and direct heating.

# Reduce Environmental Impact of Polyamide



Z. Zhang, et al., *Nat Rev Earth Environ*, 2023, 4, 703–715

# Microwave-assisted Green Polymerization & Processing

## Polymerization

- Homogenous & rapid  
< 1min
- Directly from nylon salt (6,6)

## Processing

- Low temp. blending
- Fiber production
- Thin film production
- Analysis (GPC)

Nylon salt  
+ Ionic Liquid



Dissolved  
Polyamide



3D-Printing

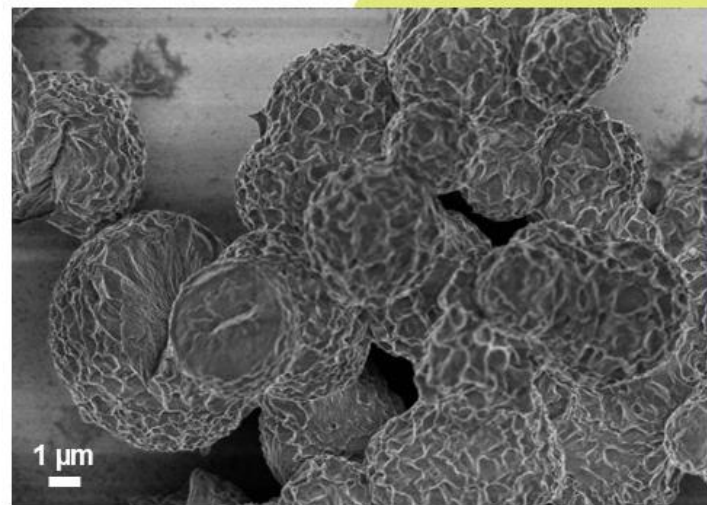
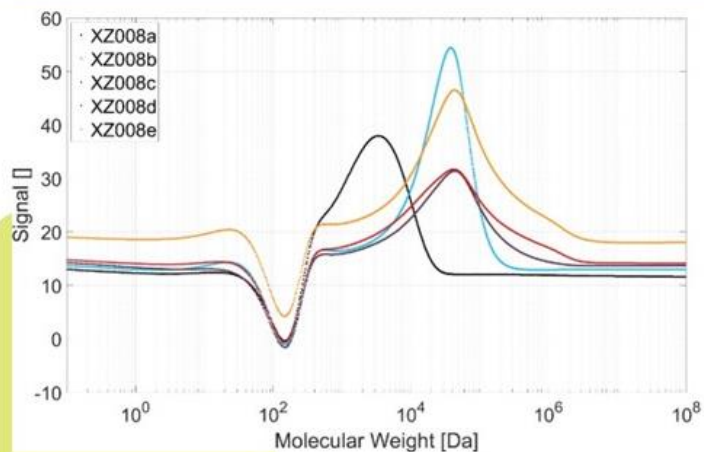
Powder / Spherulites

Miniemulsion / Latex

Recover and reuse ionic liquid

# Optimize Synthesis & Processing Parameters

- Increase the higher molecular weight fraction
- Reduce particle size distribution
- Ensure steady fiber production





# 5B POLYMERS

Thank you for your attention

Luis Fonseca | [luis.fonseca@tecnico.ulisboa.pt](mailto:luis.fonseca@tecnico.ulisboa.pt)



<https://polymers-5b.eu/>



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