PHA Academy

EMPHATI – WP 8

Interreg
Deutschland – Nederland
(Ko-)finanziert von der Europäischen Union
(Mede) gefinancierd door de Europese Unie
EMPHATI

PHA Academy – Objectives

- Increasing PHA market demand
- Spreading knowledge on the applications for PHA, including benefits and challenges
- Creating a communication and working channel between large companies and SME’s

PHA Academy – Milestones

1. Founding partners for the PHA Academy have been identified
2. Curriculum has been developed
3. First cohort has been enrolled
4. Implementation of the first training/ education cohort

PHA Academy – Activities







PHA Marketing Webinar

- Online webinar with approximately 45 participants (NL & DE)
- Goal: Introduce PHA as a sustainable bioplastic alternative
- Key Focus:
  - Introduction, properties, and applications (Rick Passenier, GO!PHA)
  - Market potential & business challenges (Richard Schrama, Paques Biomaterials)
  - EU policy context (Lara Dammer, Nova Institut)
- Main Outcomes:
  - Strengthened shared understanding of PHA potential and policy context
  - Highlighted market, technical, and policy challenges
  - Set foundation for next PHA Academy activities

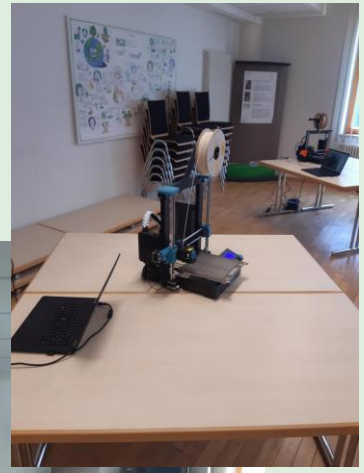
PHA Technical Workshop

- 3N Kompetenzzentrum - approximately 25 participants (NL & DE)
- Goal: Provide technical insights of PHA
- Focus: Technical aspects of PHA – production, properties, applications
  - Masterclass 1: PHA Production (Janneke Krooneman, Hanze)
  - Masterclass 2: PHA Properties & Applications (Corinne van Noordenne, NHL Stenden)
  - Practical Session: Compounding & 3D printing (Raja Venkata Bade, HS Bremen & Pascal Gerlach, 3N)
- Main Outcomes:
  - Enhanced technical competence among participants
  - Demonstrated practical applicability of PHA
  - Strengthened cross-border R&D cooperation
  - Generated input for industry-academia partnerships

PHA Symposium

- Energy Barn, Groningen – approximately 100 participants
- Goal: Reflect, exchange insights, and define future directions
- Key Focus:
  - Keynotes on Sustainability and biocirculat plastics(Pia Skoczinski, Nova Institut & Reinier van den Berg)
  - Thematic Workshops: PHA Production, Circularity & End-of-Life, Market Applications, Regulatory Developments
- Key Outcomes:
  - Identified R&D and policy needs for scaling PHA
  - Recognized need for stronger EU-level policy alignment
  - Built network of stakeholders committed to sustainable materials transition
  - Positive outlook and momentum for follow-up collaboration

Results













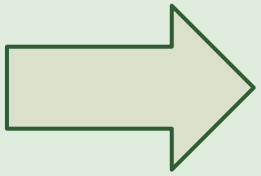
Results

- **Technical Depth:** Need for scientific discussion (e.g. PHA deep dives)
- **Market Orientation:** Scaling barriers, funding, value chains, end user perspective
- **Social Acceptance:** Focus on increasing awareness and knowledge sharing
- **Networking:** High value from cross-border stakeholder connections (NL-DE)
- **Policy & Regulations:** Lobbying & regulatory knowledge sharing is crucial
- **Formats:** More workshops & interactive sessions
- **Continuity:** Desire for regular events (annual symposium + workshops)
- **Broader View**: Synergies in sustainable plastics beyond PHA

Follow Up PHA Academy

- We discovered several initiatives and projects in the region around PHA and bio-circular plastics (EMPHATI, Place to Be, Two4C, plesTic ready, PHA Expertise Centre etc.)

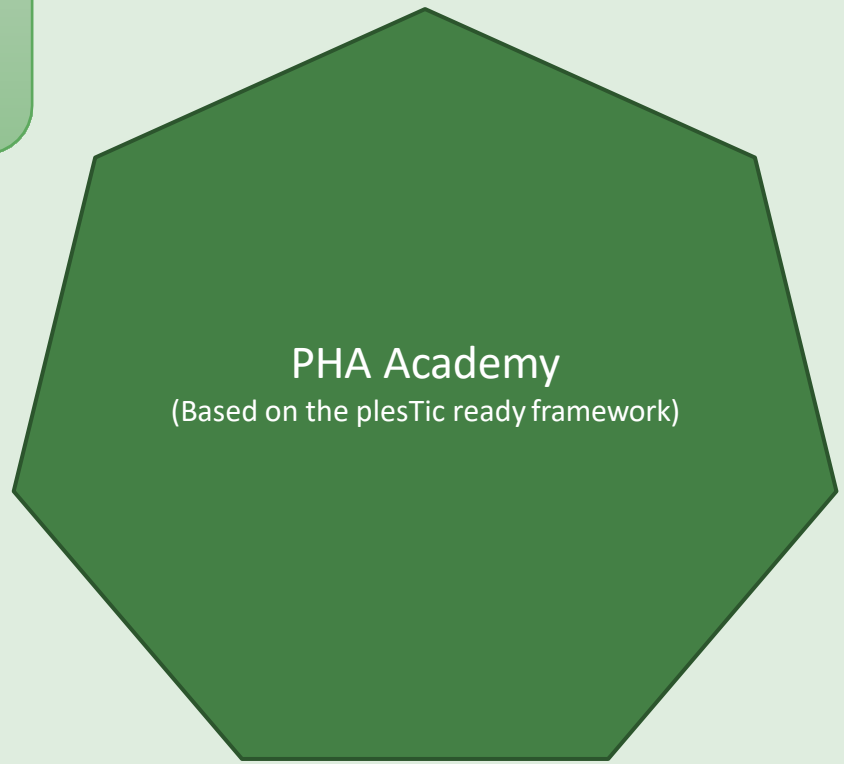
- Ecoras sees an opportunity to create an overarching platform through the PHA Academy that combines these initiatives



The **PHA Academy** serves as a platform that connects all plesTic dimensions and functions as a central hub for knowledge, innovation, and collaboration in bio-circular plastics.

Politics:
Policy oriented lectures/ workshops, create regulatory roadmap, increase regulatory understanding within industry, engage stakeholders in shaping supportive frameworks for bio circular plastics.

Corporate & Community:
Facilitate networking events, symposia, collaborative workshops, stakeholder engagement programs to strengthen partnerships and shared learning opportunities.



Logistics:
Facilitate workshops and case studies on circular logistics and regional material loops, showcasing best practices for CO2 reduction and efficiency (e.g. LCA impact tool).

Innovative Design:
Case studies, share and embed circular design principles into project development (e.g. possible lab workshops)

Economy:
Workshops on market entry, scaling pathways and funding strategies, include end users and big/conventional industry players to start conversations.

Technology:
R&D, pilot projects, and technical workshops, translate technical knowledge into scalable, market ready solutions.

Social Acceptance:
Increase awareness and acceptance of sustainable plastics (newsletter, plastic positivity podcast, workshops in educational institutions)

Follow Up PHA Academy

Building on the success of the **PHA Academy**

- Positive feedback on the PHA Academy within EMPHATI
- Strong interest in continuing the Academy beyond the project

➢ **Ecoras** has developed ❼ **PHA NEXUS** as the follow-up platform

- ✓ Ensures continuity of learning, collaboration, and knowledge exchange
- ✓ Sustains the Academy beyond EMPHATI

PHA NEXUS

Why the transition?

PHA Academy – Focused primarily on:

- Knowledge sharing
- Awareness creation
- Individual events
- Early-stage networking

PHA NEXUS – moves beyond information sharing:

- A central ecosystem platform
- A connector between stakeholders
- A driver for market adoption
- A facilitator of pilots and collaborations
- A bridge between technology, sustainability, and society

PHA NEXUS

Why "NEXUS?

- The word NEXUS means:
  - Connection
  - Hub
  - Central node
  - Linking point

➢ PHA NEXUS positions itself as the central connecting platform within the growing PHA ecosystem in the (Northern) Netherlands and Germany

What is PHA NEXUS?

PHA Nexus is a cross-border platform focused on accelerating the development, adoption and scaling of PHA in the Netherlands and Northwest Germany.

The platform connects:

- Industry, policymakers, universities, designers and innovators, SME's, end-users

PHA Nexus combines:

- Technical innovation, sustainability validation, market development, social acceptance, circular economy implementation

The ambition: Position the Netherlands and Northwest Germany as leading European hotspot for PHA.

PHA NEXUS – The 3 Core Activities

PHA NEXUS combines three complementary activities every year:

1. **Technical Workshops**
   - Hands-on knowledge and processing experience

2. **LCA Workshops**
   - Understanding sustainability and environmental impact

3. **International PHA Symposium**
   - Building awarenss, collaboration and market adoption

Together these activites create a continuous learning and innovation cycle

PHA NEXUS – Kick Off

Launching PHA NEXUS

The official kick-off of PHA NEXUS is planned for Q4 2026

Objectives of the kick-off:

- Introduce the transition from PHA Academy to PHA NEXUS
- Present the 2027 programme and roadmap
- Launch the PHA NEXUS platform
- Connect ecosystem partners
- A small interactive technical workshop

Join Us!

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