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NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1 - MARCH 2026



**BORN Project Coordinator
Maria Laura Di Lorenzo
(Consiglio Nazionale delle
Ricerche)**

On behalf of the whole BORN consortium, I am happy to welcome you to this first project newsletter.

BORN (BiOdegradable theRmal-resistaNt food packaging) is a research project led by Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR), Italy, that has received funding under the Horizon Europe – EIC Pathfinder Challenges program. BORN was one of 6 awarded projects under Challenge 3 “Nature inspired alternatives for food packaging and films for agriculture”. BORN will develop a circular, SSbD, biobased polymer formulation that is biodegradable, compostable, thermal resistant, suitable for food contact and low cost. It will be produced by improving crystallization rate of nature-inspired polymer poly(lactic acid), with the same approach tested also for other biobased polymers, like PHB, PHBV, or PEF. BORN will be used in food packaging, agriculture, reusable consumer goods, packaging for pharmaceuticals.

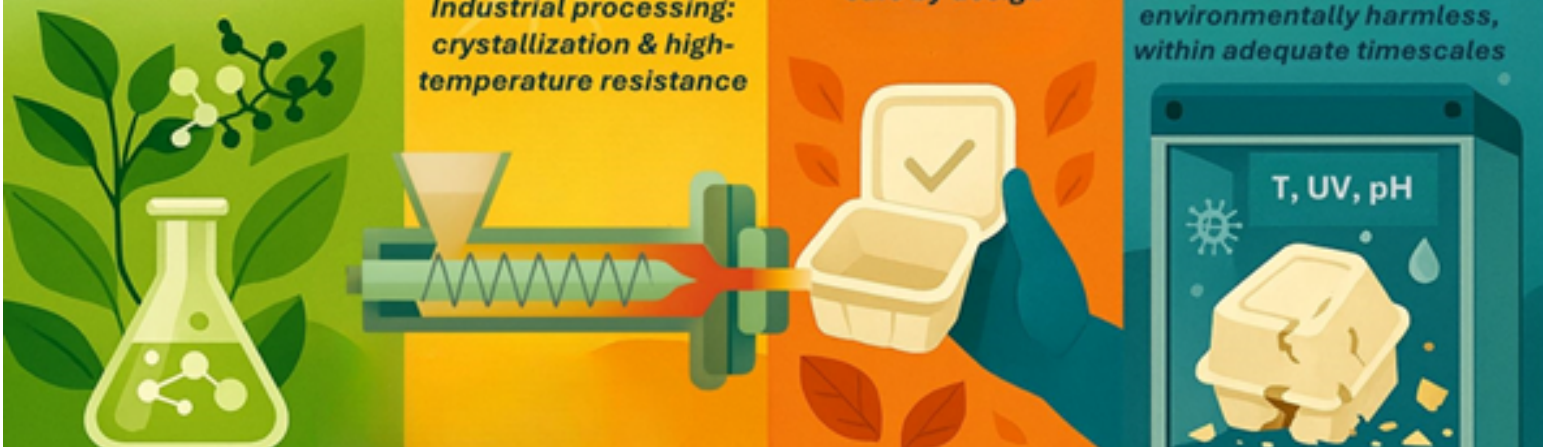
The project was BORN on Oct 1, 2025, and we are happy to share with you the key events of his first 6 months life in this newsletter.

*Tailored chain design of
bio-based PLA:
inspired by nature*

*Industrial processing:
crystallization & high-
temperature resistance*

*Performance & food-
contact validation:
safe by design*

*Biodegradation:
environmentally harmless,
within adequate timescales*





BORN CONSORTIUM

BORN consortium consists of partners from 5 EU countries (Italy, Germany, Sweden, Spain and Poland) and 1 Associated country (Switzerland). It brings together 2 Large Public Research Institutions (CNR, FHG), 3 Universities (UNINA, PUT, KTH) and 3 SMEs (QUANTIS, IEXC, TECNO). BORN partners assemble to gather strong complementary and interdisciplinary expertise, covering the fields of Polymer science, Materials engineering, Natural Sciences, Food sciences and Social sciences.



EIC PROJECT PORTFOLIO

HORIZON-EIC-2024-PATHFINDERCHALLENGES-01-03 call, Nature-inspired Alternatives for Food Packaging and Films for Agriculture supports ambitious interdisciplinary research that will lead to the development and production of sustainable nature inspired alternatives for food packaging and agricultural production. These materials must have a reduced environmental impact, through design and production, while delivering the functional characteristics of plastics. The 6 Projects selected for funding under the Challenge will work together to develop specific portfolio objectives and activities, incorporated in the strategic plans for each EIC Challenge.

EVENTS

**OCT 27
2025**

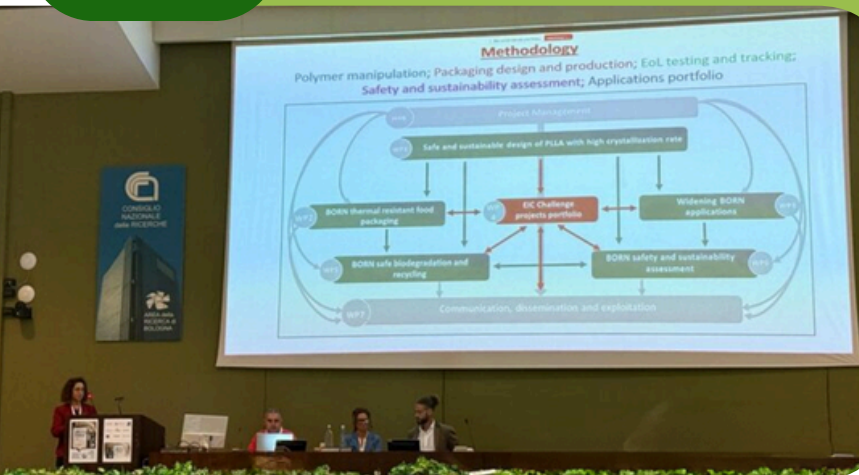
BORN Kick-off Meeting



BORN project started its journey towards development of a BiObased thermal resistant food packaging. Kick-off Meeting of BORN project took place at CNR Conference Room in Pozzuoli (NA), Italy, on October 27. The meeting was organized by CNR-IPCB. The kick-off meeting comprised scientific presentations of the research groups involved in the project, an overview of project management and coordination issues, followed by detailed discussion of workpackage activities. The atmosphere was both professional and inspiring, with participants sharing ideas and setting the stage for an exciting journey ahead.

**OCT 21-23
2025**

CNR-DSCTM 2025 Conference



BORN Project Coordinator, Maria Laura Di Lorenzo (CNR-IPCB) presented BORN project at CNR-DSCTMT 2025 Conference in Bologna, Italy, highlighting its focus on development of a biobased thermal resistant food packaging.

**NOV 17-18
2025**

EIC Pathfinder Portfolio Kick-off Meeting



HORIZON-EIC-2024-

PATHFINDERCHALLENGES-01-03

The 6 Projects selected for funding under the Challenge “Nature-inspired Alternatives for Food Packaging and Films for Agriculture” will work together to develop specific portfolio objectives and activities, incorporated in the strategic plans for each EIC Challenge. Kick-off meeting of EIC Pathfinder Portfolio was held in Bruxelles, Belgium, On Nov 17-18, 2026

ADVISORY BOARD

Established on
October 27th 2025



Prof. Jukka Seppälä
Aalto University
Finland



Dr. Marta Herrera,
University of Zaragoza
Spain



Prof. Cosimo Carfagna
CRdC Tecnologie Scrl
Italy

UPCOMING EVENTS

CONFERENCES



POLYMERS 2026
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
8-10 APRIL 2026
LISBON, PORTUGAL

M.L. Di Lorenzo (CNR) will present BORN project as keynote lecture: *Manipulation of crystallization kinetics of poly(L-lactic acid) as a tool to develop novel applications*

<https://setcor.org/conferences/polymers-2026>



THE POLYMER PROCESSING SOCIETY
41st INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
31 JUNE 2026
PAESTUM, ITALY

M.L. Di Lorenzo (CNR) will present BORN project: Enhancement of crystallization kinetics of poly(L-lactic acid) by reactive processing

<https://www.pps-41.org/>



MILAN POLYMERS DAYS
INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
MIPOL2026
1-3 JULY 2026
MILAN, ITALY.

M.L. Di Lorenzo (CNR) will present BORN project as keynote lecture: Tailored crystallization kinetics: a tool to engineer properties of poly(L-lactic acid)

<https://www.milanpolymerdays.org/congress>



10th EuChemS
CHEMISTRY CONGRESS
12-16 JULY 2026
ANTWERP, BELGIUM

Stefan Hahn (FHG) will present BORN project: Applying the SSbD concept in the development of biobased biodegradable polymers.

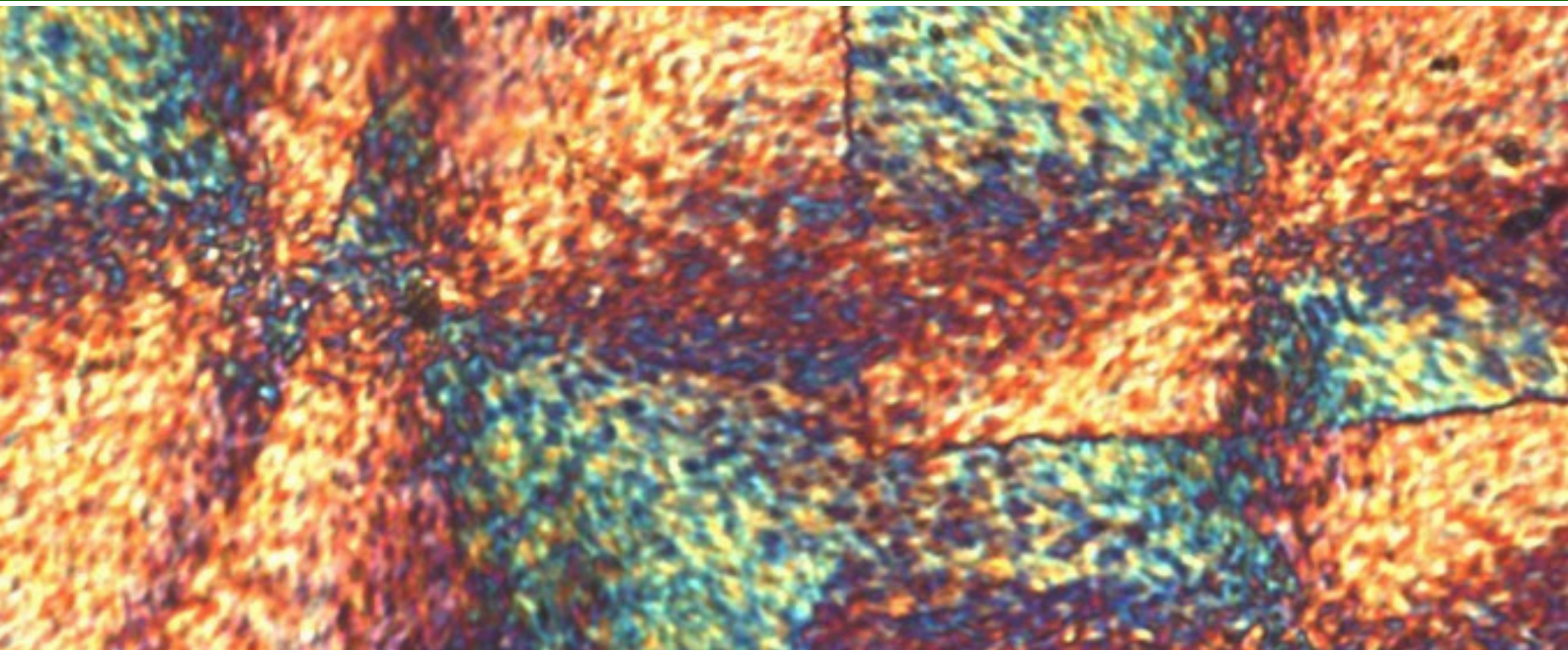
<https://euchems2026.eu/>

SEMINARS



POZNAN UNIVERSITY
OF TECHNOLOGY
POZNAN, POLAND
21 APRIL 2026
13:30 - 15:00.

Seminar for PhD Students at Institute of Materials Technology, Division of Plastic Processing: Horizon EIC-Pathfinder BORN Project: Tailoring polymer crystallization to develop a biobased thermal resistant food packaging



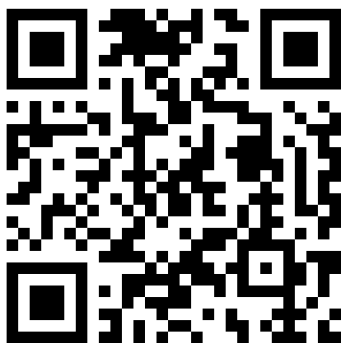
PROJECT STATUS



Deliverables submitted according to the planned schedule, public deliverables are available for download at www.born-project.eu

All planned **Milestones** have been successfully achieved
Additives to be tested for safety and sustainability have been selected, early LCA ready

Development of fast-crystallizing poly(lactic acid) is ongoing, first patent is in progress



BORN - EIC Pathfinder



*A sustainable material's journey:
born to be heat resistant*

info@born-project.eu

BiObased theRmal resistaNt food packagIng (BORN), EIC Pathfinder - GA 101223095 Oct 1, 2025 - Sept 30, 2028

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