



# ERA Chair projects SynBioTEC and GasFermTEC

Mart Loog

Institute of Technology

Estonian Centre for Biosustainability

University of Tartu, Estonia

A satellite map of Estonia is the background. A purple gradient bar runs horizontally across the top, and a solid purple bar runs across the bottom. The text 'UT Maarjamõisa Campus' is in white on the top bar. 'Estonia' is written in large white letters in the center of the map. 'Tartu' is written in smaller white letters below 'Estonia'. The word 'Estonia' appears again in white on the bottom purple bar.

UT Maarjamõisa Campus

Estonia

Tartu

Estonia





UT Maarjamõisa Campus

Tartu

Tartu, Estonia



# UT Maarjamõisa Campus



58°22'04.8"N 26°41'15.1"E  
Tartu, Estonia



# Institute of Technology (2006)

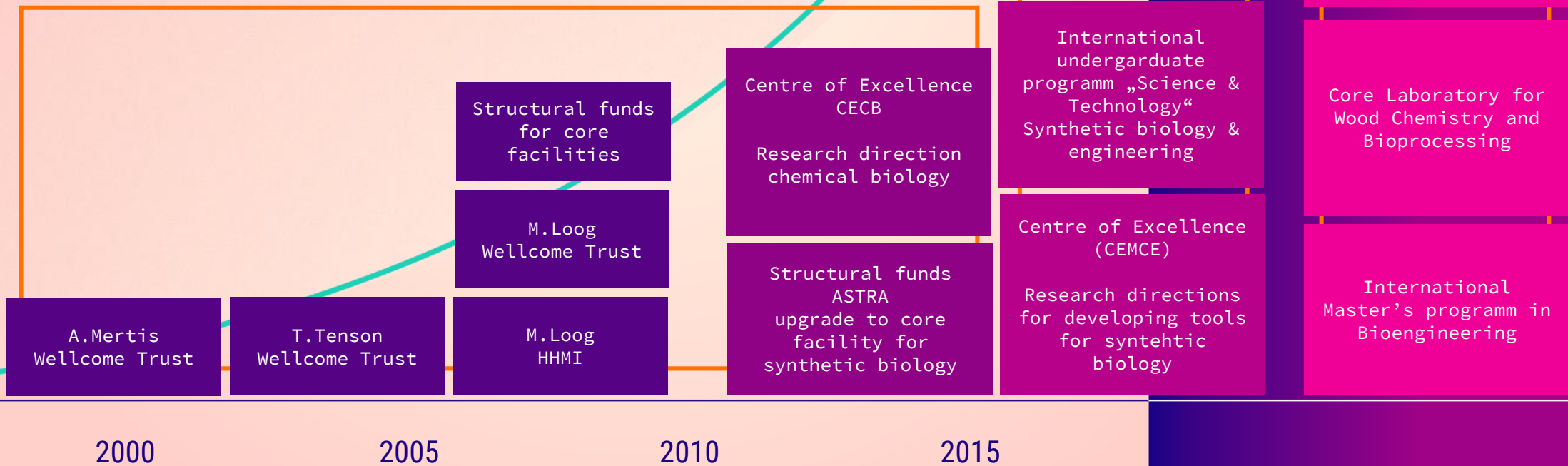


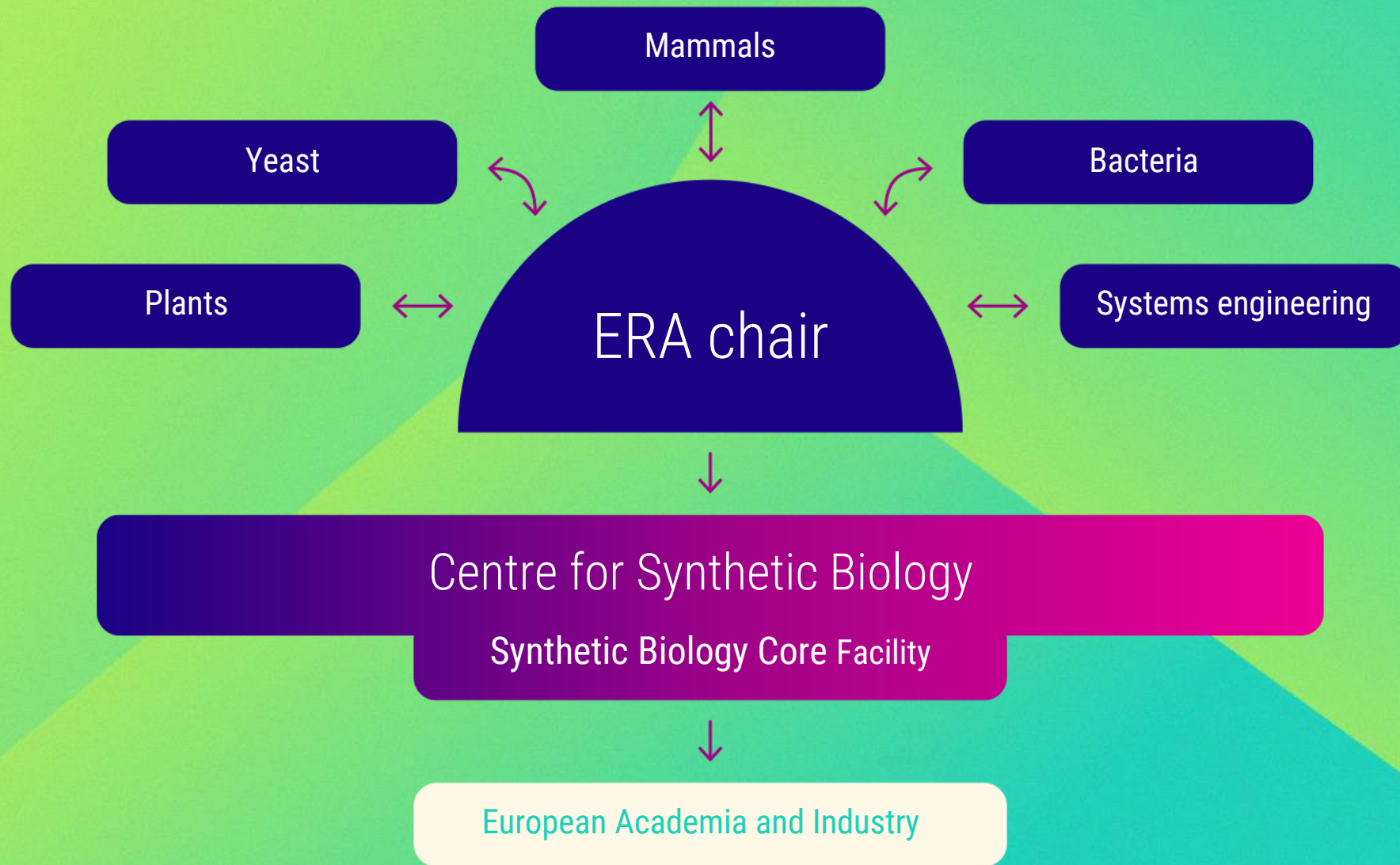


# Building Research and Innovation excellence

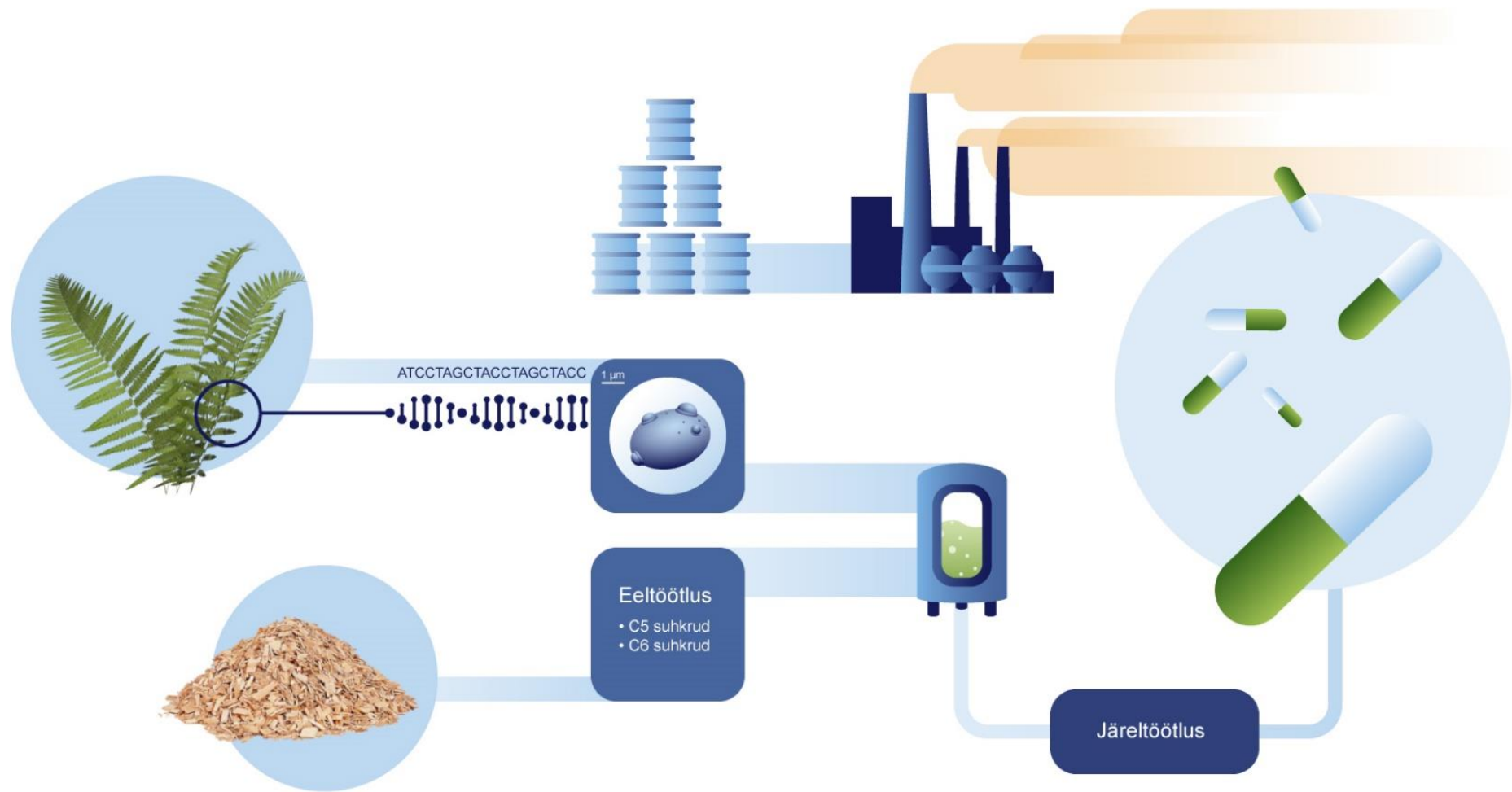
funding from competitive international programs

Competitive interdisciplinary research institute established





# Traditional Chemical Industry



# Cell Factories and Bioprocessing





## Petri-Jaan Lahtvee

### ERA Chair in Synthetic Biology

Petri-Jaan Lahtvee is leading the ERA Chair in Synthetic Biology research group at University of Tartu. His group is focused on designing cell factories for production of bio-based chemicals and they are using multi-omic analysis for determination of genotype-phenotype associations.



# ERA Chair in Synthetic Biology research group

- 12+ people
  - PI/Group Leader
  - 3 postdocs
  - 2 Research engineers
  - 1 PhD student
  - 3 visiting PhD students
  - 3 undergraduates
  - 2 visiting undergraduates
- 3 complementary fields
  - Metabolic engineering (synthetic biology)
  - Fermentation Technologies
  - Bioinformatics/Systems biology
- Interdisciplinary institutional, local and international collaborations

2017



2018

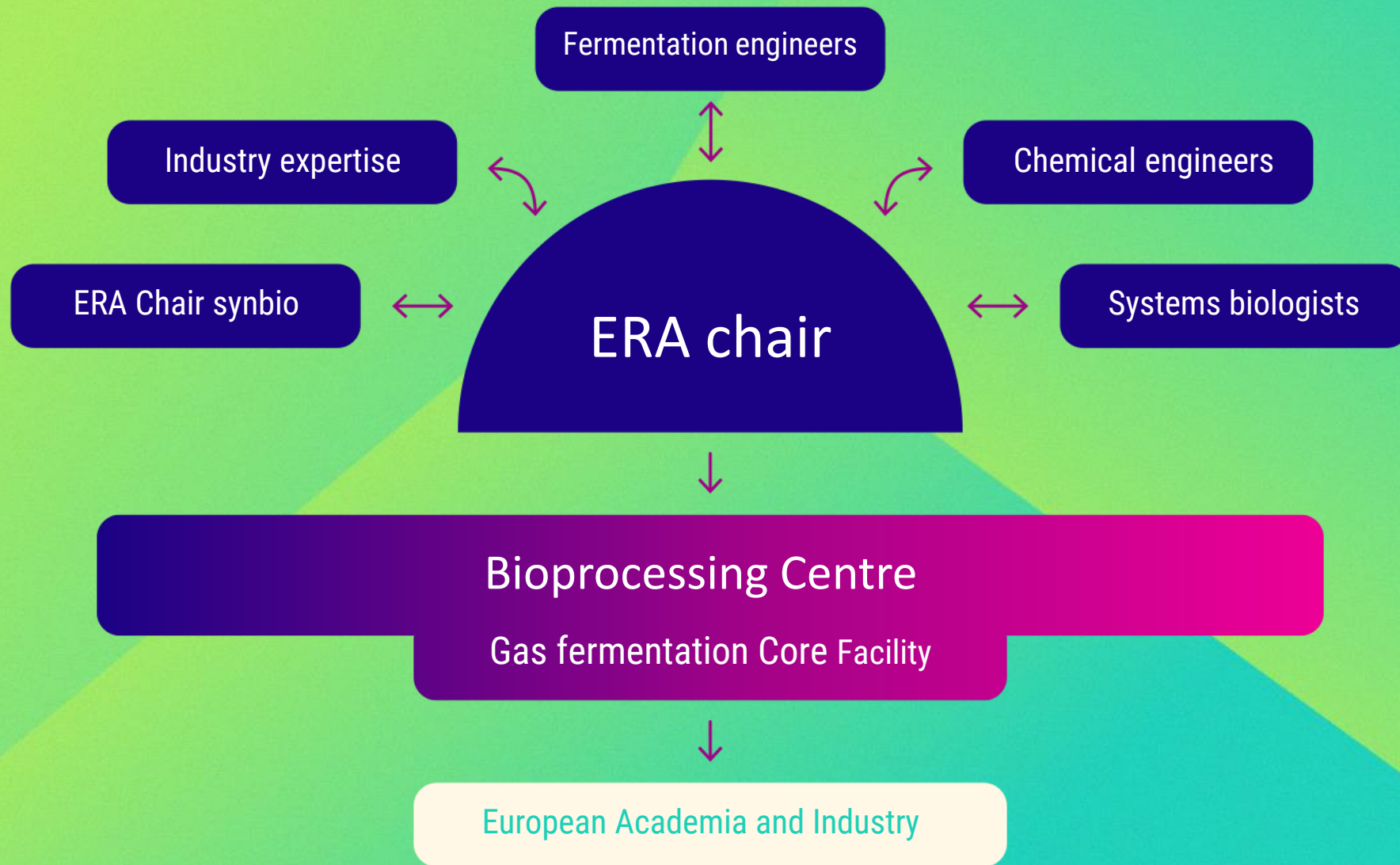


2019



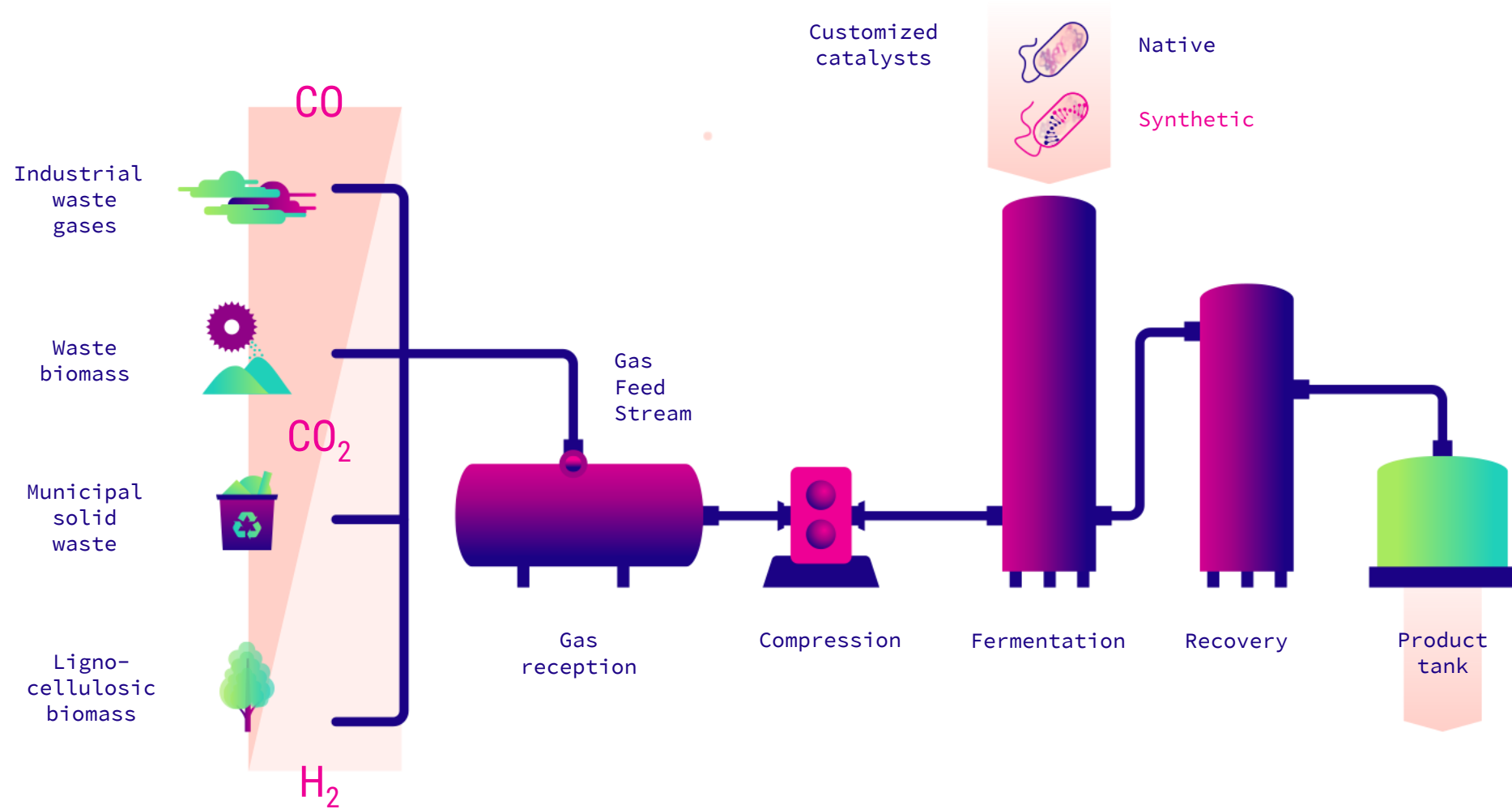
2020







# Gas-fermentation





[SEARCH](#)

 Kaspar Valgepea, PhD

Group Leader/Senior Research Fellow

## NEWS

- Research article published from the ERA Chair and collaborators in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)
- Research article published from the ERA Chair and collaborators in Frontiers in Bioengineering and Biotechnology
- Start-up of the state-of-the-art gas fermentation facility at GasFermTEC
- Preprint from the ERA Chair and



# Gas fermentation platform at ECB





Core Laboratory for Wood Chemistry and  
Biotechnology

[www.woodbiotech.com](http://www.woodbiotech.com)

Local substrate



Value added chemicals





# Lessons learned

- Structural changes – creation of new centres for new global challenges
- Recruitment of the ERA Chair – who is the best candidate?
- Sustainability – negotiate with the university to design a motivating long-term career plan and ambitious goal
- Public engagement and outreach (CSA means much more than just research)



**Institute of  
Physics**

**Tartu Observatory**

**Institute of  
Computer Science**

**Institute of  
Technology**

**Institute of  
Molecular and  
Cell Biology**

**Institute of Ecology  
and Earth Sciences**

**Institute of  
Chemistry**



**Institute of  
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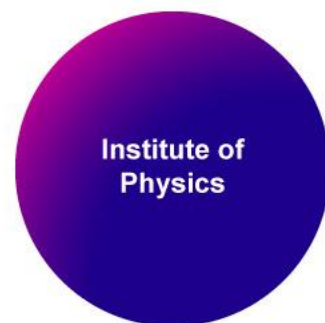
## **ERA Chair SynBioTEC**

To establish the multidisciplinary Centre of Synthetic Biology, bring about the necessary structural changes at TUIT, to foster excellent research for development of industrially relevant designer cells, focusing on synthetic biology of cell factories and to develop innovative curricula in synthetic biology.

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Physics



Tartu Observatory



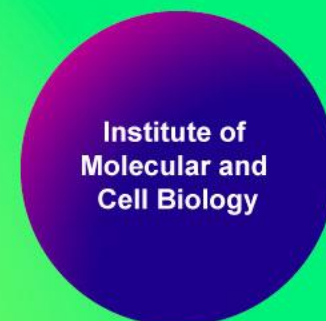
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Research direction specializing in gas fermentation technologies, structural changes at Estonian Centre for Biosustainability (ECB) to implement a new model of partnership between academia and industry, a training centre on biosustainability; ECB Pilot Plant.



Institute of  
Chemistry



## ERA Chair MATTER

MATTER will combine competence of research groups in University of Tartu in the fields of multiscale computer simulations, nanomanipulation, nanotechnology applications and molecular biology, and use of nanomaterials in extreme environments with the aim of creating Centre of MATerials in Extreme EnviRonments.

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Establish Centre of Photonics and Computational Imaging (CPCI). The new centre will bring together the university's expertise in photonics and related fields, and will also include a newly formed research group led by a top-level computational imaging researcher.

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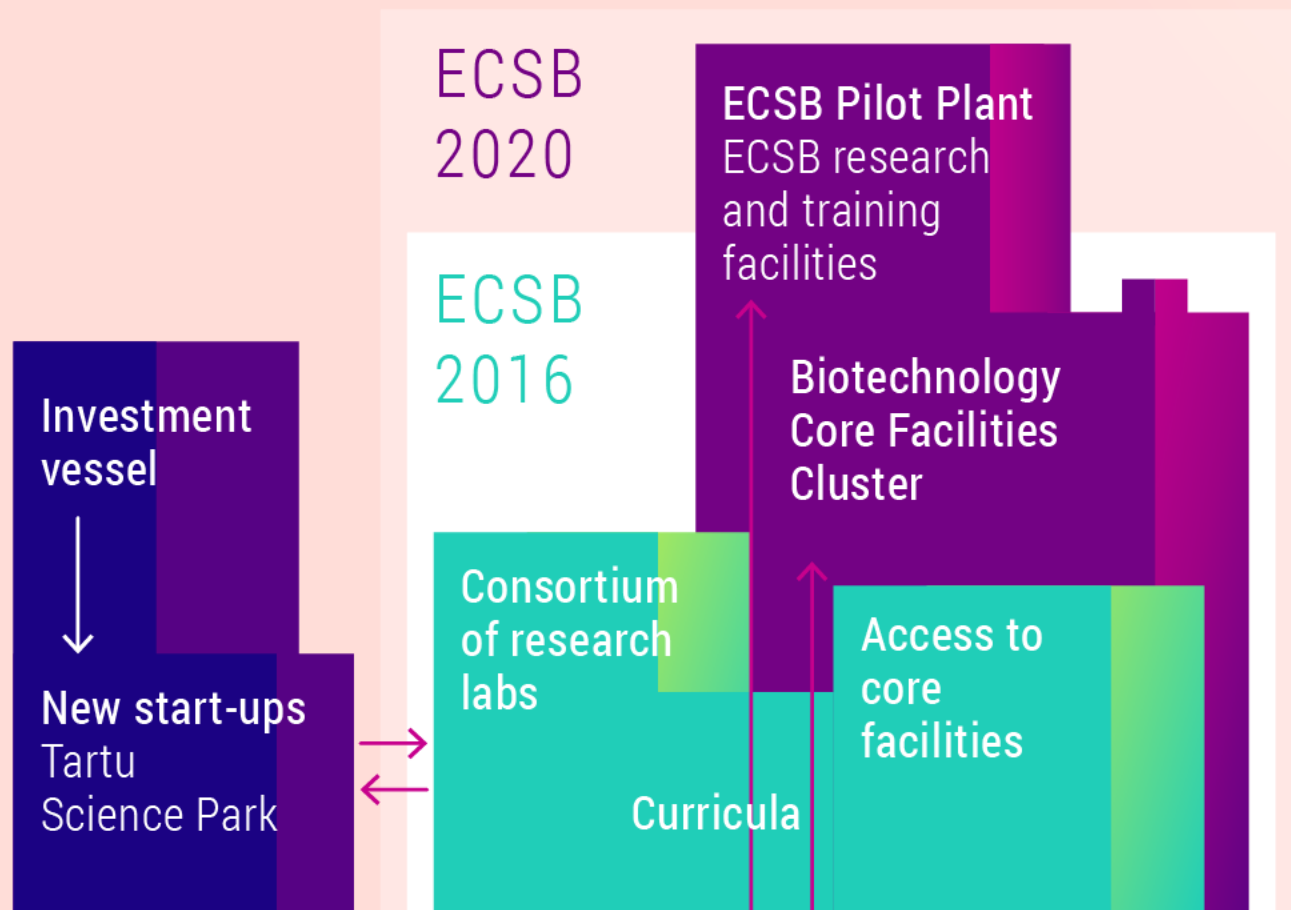
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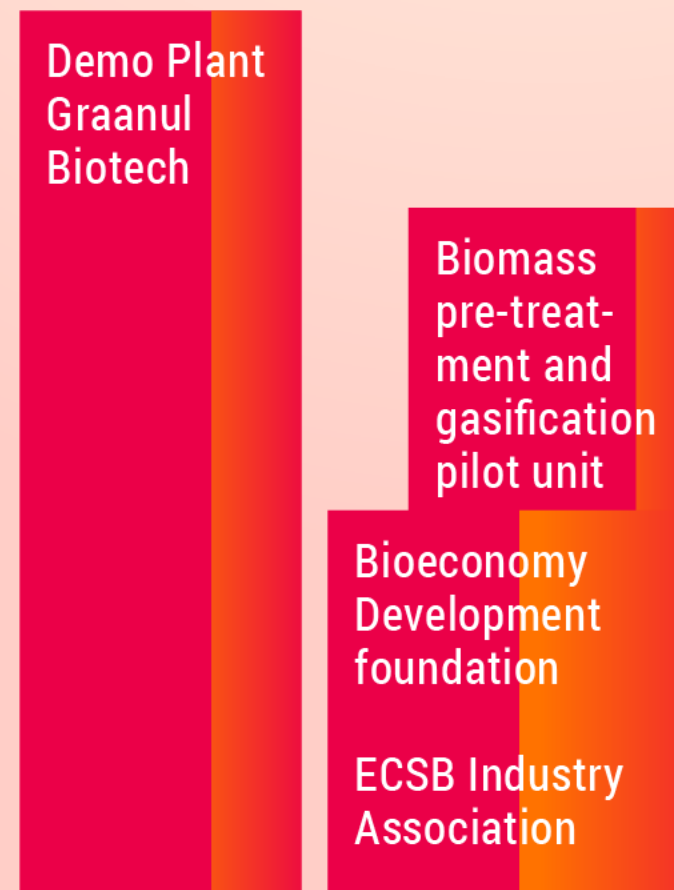
Institute of  
Chemistry

Estonian Centre  
for Biosustainability

## CeESTial campus

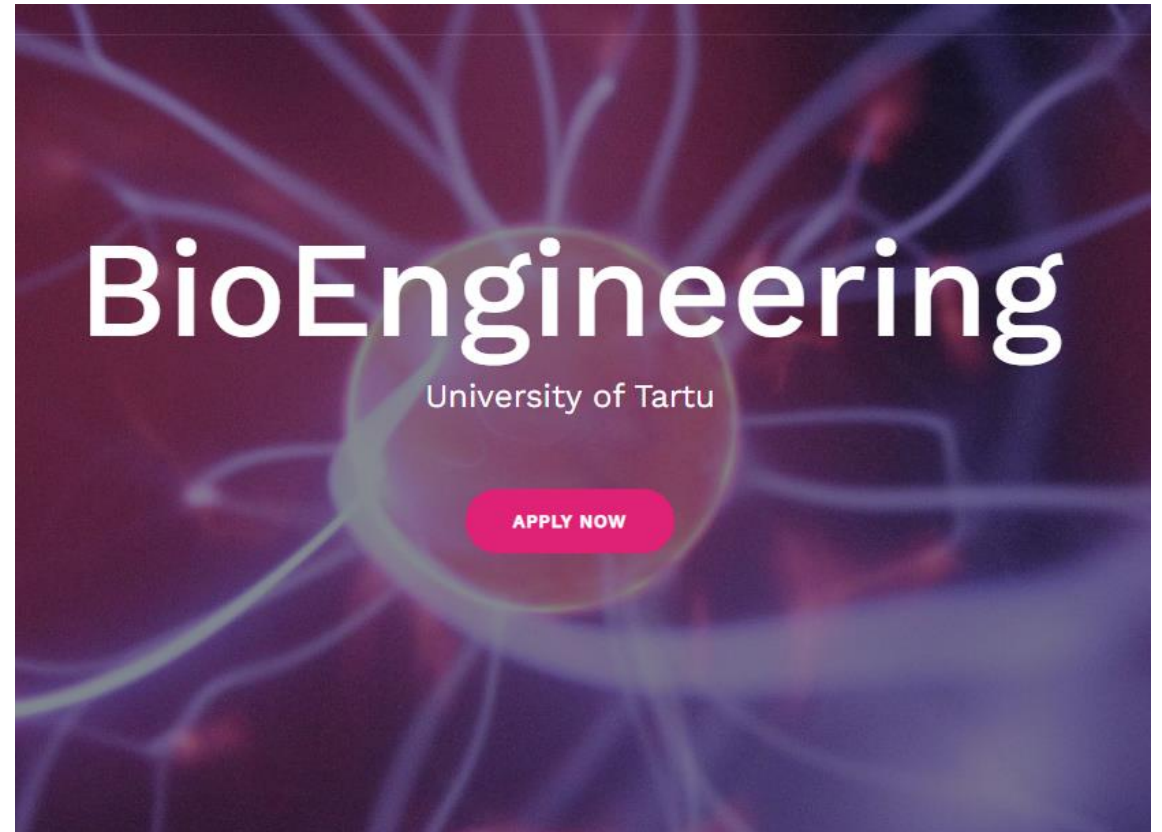
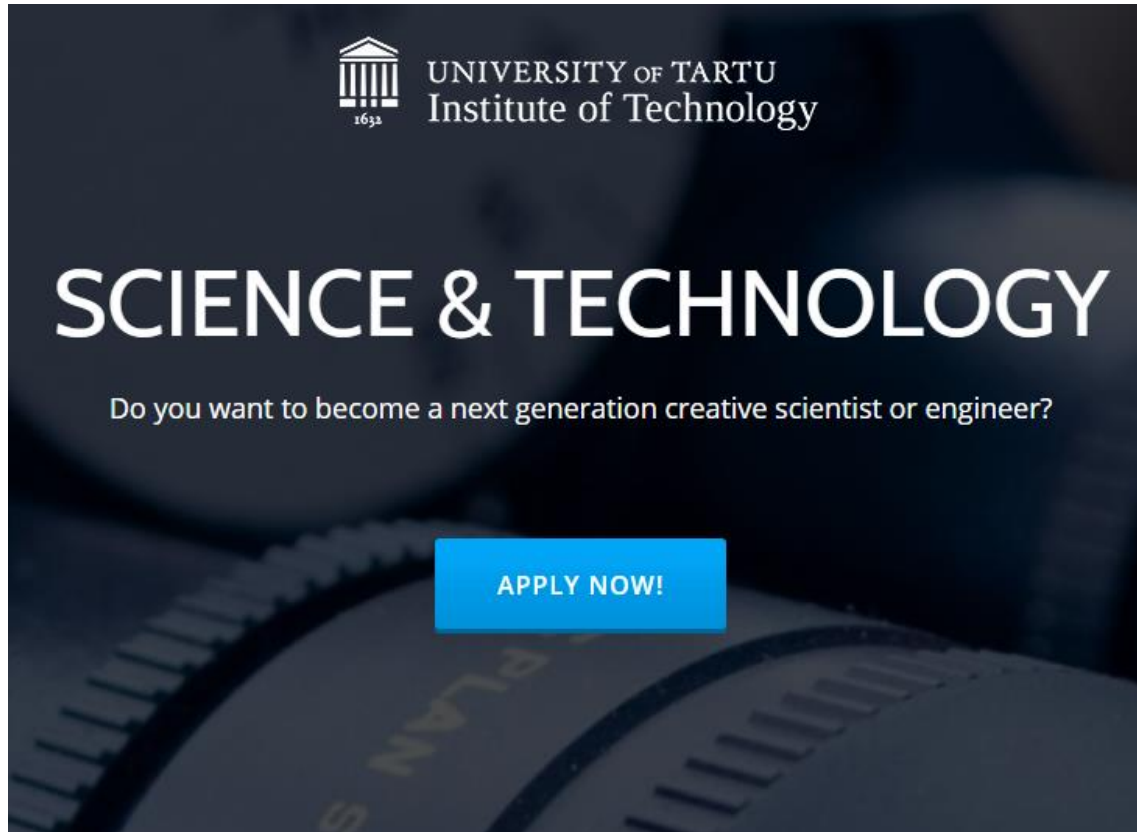


## CeESTial ecosystem





# New curricula





A photograph of a laboratory setting with metal shelving units filled with numerous clear plastic jars, each with a white lid. Two students, a man and a woman, are in the foreground. The man is holding one of the jars, showing its contents to the woman. They are both looking at the jar with interest. The background shows more shelves filled with similar jars, suggesting a large-scale experiment or storage of samples.

International, innovative curricula  
combining molecular biology and engineering

Following the  
examples of the  
leading universities

200+ undergraduate  
students + masters  
and Ph.D programs from  
35 different countries

International education centre  
for biosustainable technologies,  
combining synthetic biology  
and engineering

iGEM



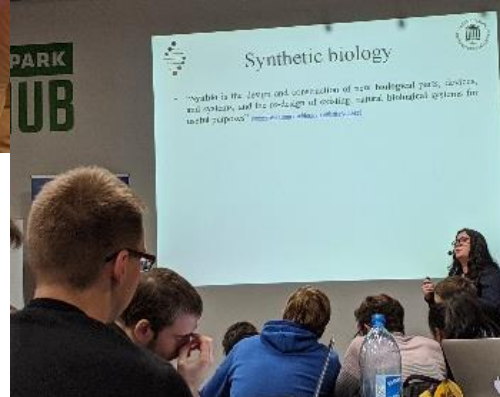
# Public engagement



**Илона Фаустова**  
научный сотрудник Тартуского университета

14.12.2021

<Name



**RIIK**  
Sõnumaa oli heideid  
erakondadele annetaja

Kõige heideid annetaja Eesti erakondadele oli muu etteoleja ja Eesti sõnumaa president Jüri Sõnumaa. Ta püüdis erakondadele anda juba 2017. aastal 100 miljonit eurot. Sõnumaa püüdis erakondadele anda juba 2017. aastal 100 miljonit eurot. Sõnumaa püüdis erakondadele anda juba 2017. aastal 100 miljonit eurot.

**FOTOLOUIS**

**PROTEST:** Toimides koostööd  
organisatsioonidega Tallinnas

**TOIMIST ASIAST**

**GAASISTADA SAAB KÕIKE, MIS ON ORGAANILINE**

**Prügi toorainena kasutatav biotööstus võib päästa Eesti 100 miljoni euro suurusest trahvist**

Kui Eesti jätkab suure põlvkonnaga põletamist, ei suuda me tõenäoliselt 2025. aastaks olemasolevat 55 protsenti vajadust reeglitega võtta ja selle eest võib Euroopa Komisjon meile valusalt trahvi. Mõnedel andmetel võib trahvi suurus olla kuni 100 miljonit eurot. Trahvi suurus sõltub veel tootmisand Euroopa riiki. Eriti eestlastel võib trahvi olla alati olemas. Trahvi suurus sõltub veel tootmisand Euroopa riiki. Eriti eestlastel võib trahvi olla alati olemas.

**UUDISED. OHTULEHT.EE**

**GAASISTADA SAAB KÕIKE, MIS ON ORGAANILINE**



**VANEMTEADUR:**  
"Kui ajendaks on piisavalt, peaks olema teaduslik mõtteviis, mitte mitte"





22/10/2020

Tartu TUIT igem team got the gold medal for developing industrial yeast cell which can be used also in wood industry



22/10/2020

Bioengineering Master's program at University of Tartu will provide the possibility to study wood chemistry and bioprocessing



03/09/2019

University of Tartu and Graanul Invest to launch innovative doctoral project on chemical and biotechnological wood valorisation





**Synthetic Biology**  
based on standard parts

**iGEM Estonia Team**

**Silver Medal - 2018**

**Gold Medal - 2019**

**Gold Medal - 2020**