BIOBASEDCERT

Robust and Effective Sustainability Certification for Bio-based Systems

BIOBASEDCERT Monitoring Tool: Overview, Application and Web-based Implementaiton

3-CO Final Conference

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Cluster of 3 Horizon Europe projects (2022-2025) :

Objective: To assess the effectiveness and robustness of sustainability certification schemes and labels, applicable to bio-based systems

Let's advance the bio-based economy together

SUST CERT 4 BIOBASED
SUSTAINABILITY CERTIFICATION FOR BIOBASED SYSTEMS
sustcert4biobased.eu

Star4bbs
star4bbs.eu

HARMONITOR
harmonitor.eu

Background

Several international and EU sustainability standards have been developed and are applied for biological feedstock and biobased products through voluntary certification schemes and labels. They serve as powerful instruments to assess the sustainability of bio-based products.

Due to the rapid proliferation of sustainability certification schemes and labels (CSLs) and their varying effectiveness levels, the reliability of these systems has been questioned.

✓ This is where the BIOBASEDCERT Cluster comes into play!

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BIOBASEDCERT Monitoring Tool (BMT)

→ Assesses the **robustness**, **comprehensiveness** and **effectiveness of existing CSLs** applicable to bio-based products.

Audience

EU policymakers

- Increase transparency on the performance of CSLs.
- Provide understanding of how existing CSLs contribute to EU sustainability priorities.
- Leverage the BMT to support regulatory implementation.

Sustainability certification schemes and labels (CSLs) owners

- Identify and address gaps to drive improvements.
- Promote harmonization of sustainability criteria and governance.

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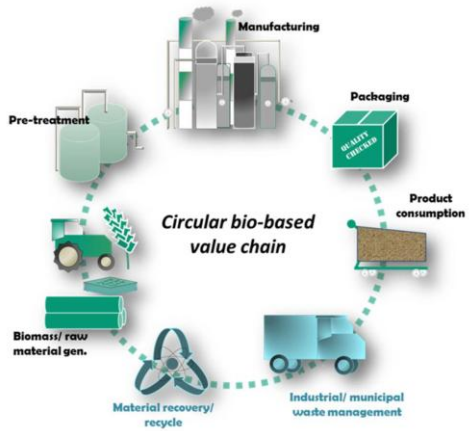
Scope of the BMT

Target: CSLs intended for industrial biobased value-chains and to biobased materials and products

Depth: Considering the entire value chain, capturing all aspects of a product's life cycle



Geographical scope: considering CSLs applicable to bio-based products produced & traded within the EU.

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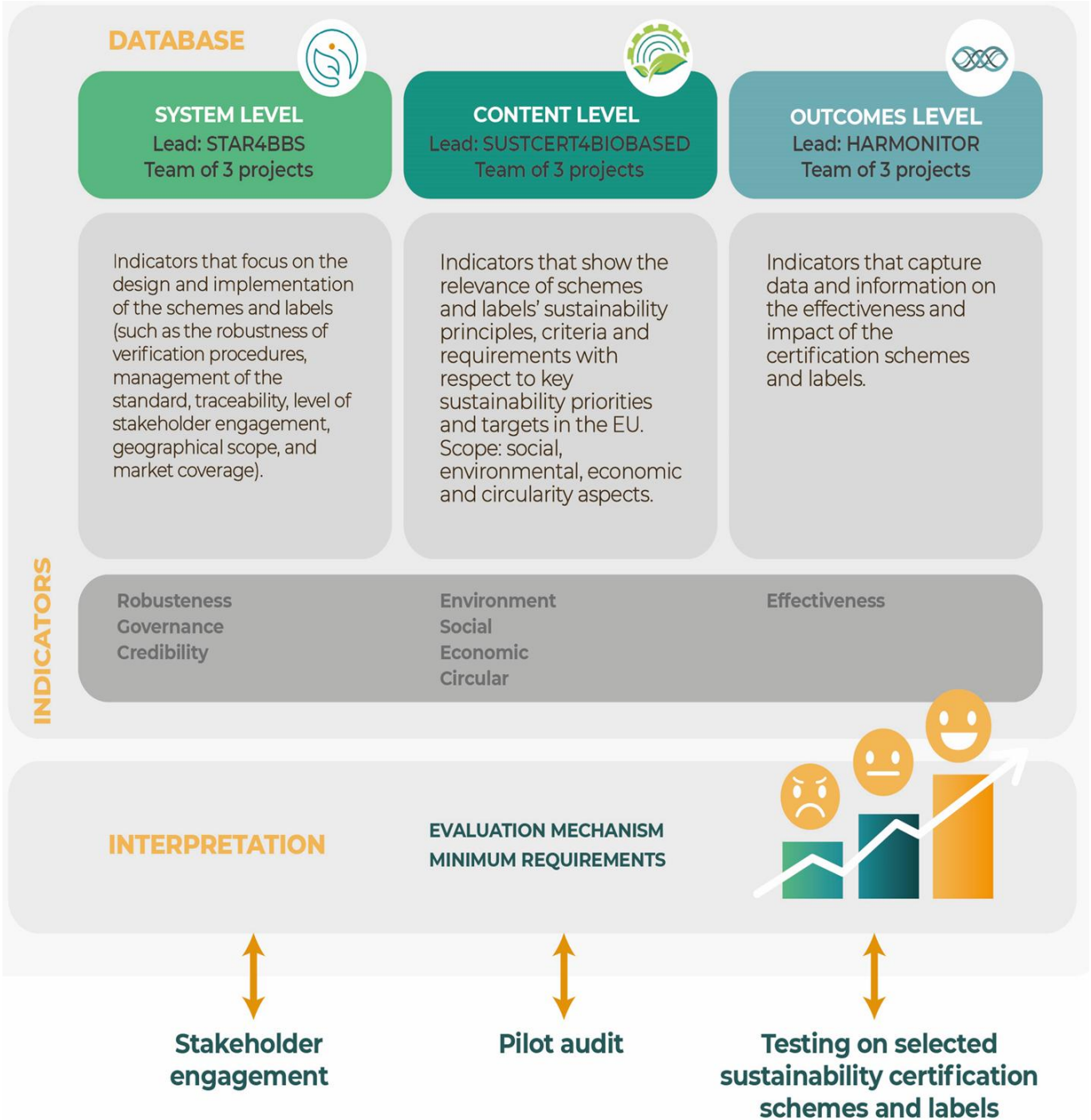
BMT Structure



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Overview of the system level principles

Category	Principle
Standard setting	Standards content
	Standard-setting process
	Standards consultation
Assurance	Assurance system
	Conformity assessment
	Conformity assessment bodies
	Auditing
	Oversight mechanism
Traceability and claims	Chain of Custody traceability system
	Claims and products labelling policy
	Consequences of misuse of claims
	Minimum percentage claims
Governance and Scheme management	Scheme scope and objectives
	Governance structure
	Stakeholder participation
	Due diligence
	Complaints and dispute resolution mechanism

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Overview of the content level principles

Minimum backstop - Compliance to laws and regulations

Environment	Social	Circularity	Economic
Environmental management	Labour and human rights	Circular resource use	Economic and financial viability
Climate change management	Healthy and safe working conditions	Circular design & material cycling	Fair business practice
Sustainable land use management	Wellbeing of the local community	Responsible waste management	Risk management
Protection of biodiversity	Wellbeing of consumers		
Chemical use management			
Soil management			
Air quality			
Water quality and conservation			
Energy use & efficiency			

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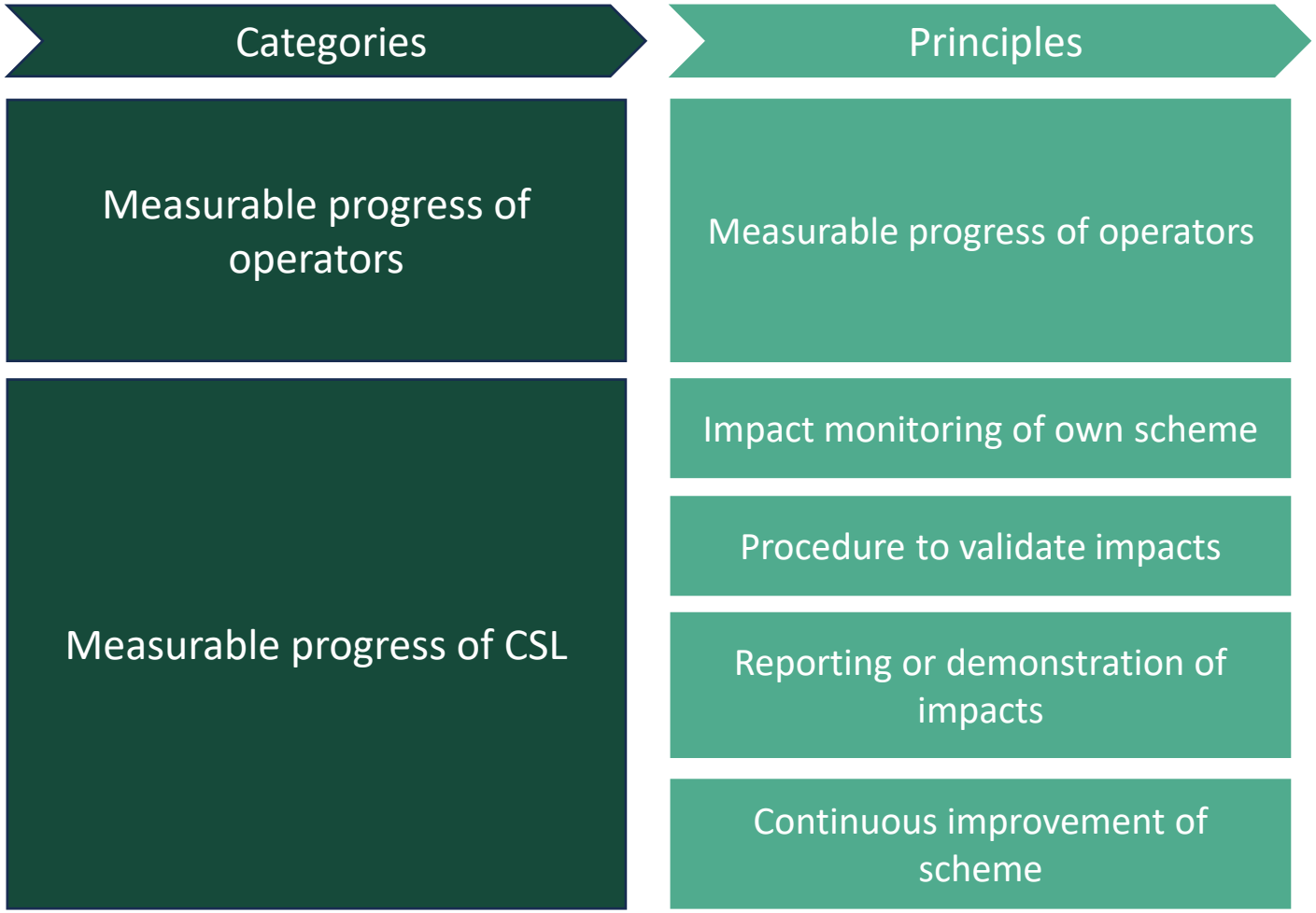
Overview of the outcome level principles



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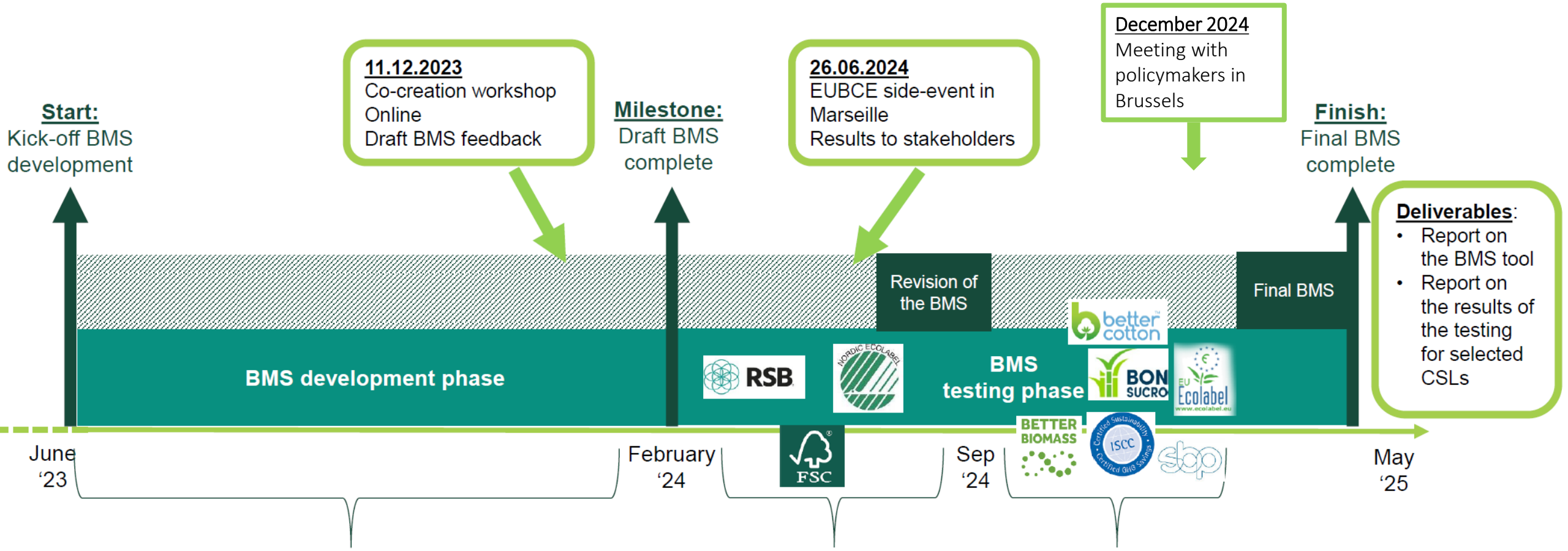
Piloting the BMT



- Thorough review and analysis of relevant documents
- Compilation of requirements
- Close collaboration with experts from different disciplines
- Feedback from stakeholders

- Two iterative testing rounds on 9 CSLs:
  - 1st testing round (February – June '24)
  - 2nd testing round (September '24 - January '25)

→ Each followed by a revision round of the BMS

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Components of the assessment

- **Pre-Screening Assessment** – Identify evidence, scope and coverage
- **Assess compliance** of CSLs documents with BMT criteria (documents review)
- **Conduct Interviews** – Gather insights through outcome-level interviews.
- **Engage with CSLs** – Hold kick-off meetings, Q&A sessions, and closing discussions.
- **Provide BMT Feedback** – Offer input for continuous improvement.

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Room for improvement of the BMT

- An **Excel-based** tool with three separate spreadsheets, each representing a different level.
- **Manual data entry & calculations** → Time-consuming and prone to errors.
- **Limited user accessibility** → Excel-based tools might be difficult for some users.
- **Need for independent experts** to conduct the assessment (projects are ending).

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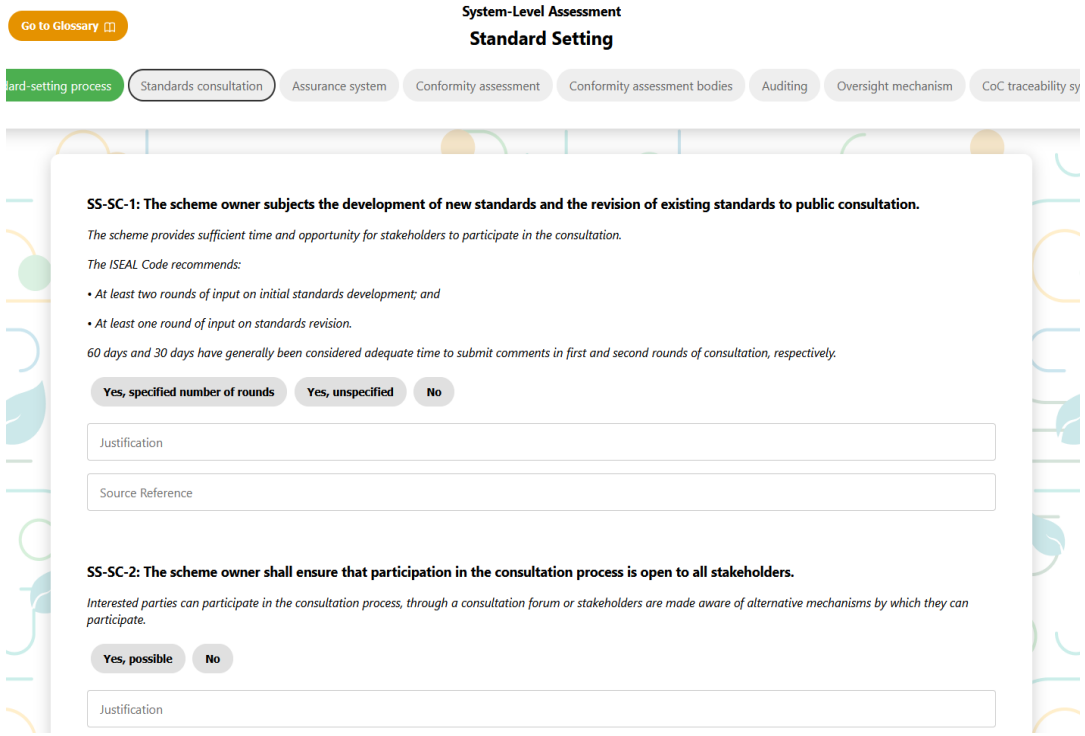
Solution: Web-based tool

- User-friendly, online template of Excel-based BMT.
- Enhances accessibility, data visualisation and dynamic reporting.
- Improved automatic scoring and processing.
- Option to download the assessment.
- Link: https://star4bbs.eu/web-tool/
- Guide on how to use the tool.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0oFy22sw6oM

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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