## Dr. Stefan Spirk – Short Bio

Dr. Stefan Spirk is an Associate Professor at the Institute of Paper, Pulp and Fiber Technology at Graz University of Technology. He studied Chemistry at University of Graz and obtained his master's degree in 2006 and his PhD in 2009. Afterwards, he did postdoctoral stays in Bielefeld, Germany (gas electron diffraction) and Maribor, Slovenia, where he started to work on functional polysaccharide materials. In 2013, he was offered an Assistant Professor position at Graz University of Technology and 2018 he was promoted to the Associate level. Stefan Spirk was awarded several Marie Curie Fellowships (2009, 2011, 2013) by the European Commission and has been involved in several large projects on national (FFG, AWS; CD-laboratory) and European level (FETopen/EIC pathfinder).

Dr. Spirk's research interests deal with biobased materials with a focus on lignocellulose and how these can be implemented in advanced technologies with a strong focus on energy storage systems.

He is also a cofounder and current CEO of the startup Ecolyte, which aims at commercializing biobased sustainable large scale batteries.