Roel Westerhof holds a degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Twente. From 2004 he is mainly working on thermo-chemical conversion of biomass. His topics are: fast pyrolysis, torrefaction, char coal production, upgrading of pyrolysis oil by hydrotreatment and esterification. He has worked 1 year in Canada on fluid cooking of heavy oils and has worked for 1.5 year in Australia on continuous hydrotreatment of pyrolysis oil. His interests are in the field of reactor engineering and separation technologies (e.g. distillation, extraction, etc.). Another, general, interest is on the role of energy in our society in terms of politics, environmental and economics.