

INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVES AND EUROPABIO'S PROPOSED PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS IN INDUSTRIAL BIOTECH

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Europe must seek to improve its capacity to innovate through bringing the results of research to market when compared with its worldwide competitors such as China, the US, India and Brazil. Although part of the problem is lower spending of GDP on research and development a bigger issue is that the EU takes too long to transform research and innovation results into marketable products and historically has lacked the support mechanisms to bridge the EU 'innovation valley of death'.

However, with the European Commission's proposal for a new European Strategic Framework for Research and Innovation, Horizon 2020, the EU has taken a decisive step towards improving its competitiveness. The proposed approach is the right one: to focus on developing demonstration biorefineries and to develop access to risk finance and partnerships for the development of sustainable bio-based products, processes and services. These moves will help Europeans to take advantage of the social, economic and environmental benefits of the bioeconomy.

EuropaBio is therefore calling on the EU Member States to support Horizon 2020 by endorsing research and innovation in industrial biotechnology, and the bioeconomy including through the Public Private Partnerships (PPP) BRIDGE (Biobased and Renewable Industries for Growth and Development in Europe) and through safeguarding the budget allocated to both the Bioeconomy and to Industrial Biotechnology as a Key Enabling Technology.