



EUCLUSTERS TALKS ★

Life Sciences and Biotech in Europe: Policies, Clusters, and the Road Ahead

5 November 2025

08:30-09:45 CET

Online

Agenda

1. News from the European Cluster Collaboration Platform

Nina Hoppmann, Team Member European Cluster Collaboration Platform

2. Choose Europe for life sciences: A strategy to position the EU as the world's most attractive place for life sciences by 2030

Ferenc Marofka, Policy Officer, DG GROW, European Commission

3. Panel debate

Ann Van Gysel, CEO, Biovia

Iris Öhrn, Investment Advisor – Life Science /Healthcare, Business Region Göteborg

Kazimierz Murzyn, Managing Director, Klaster LifeScience Kraków

Ralf Huss, Managing Director, BioM Biotech Cluster Development

4. Funding opportunities

Nina Hoppmann, Team Member European Cluster Collaboration Platform

Housekeeping rules

Zivile Kropaite, presenter

- We will use **slido** to launch a poll. Please scan the QR code to answer.
- Please use the **Zoom Q&A function to ask questions**, and the **chat function** to comment or share links.
- If you want to speak: Please **raise your hand** and we will give you the floor.
- Please note that the session is being **recorded** and that the recording will be **published** on the European Cluster Collaboration Platform.

NEWS FROM THE EUROPEAN CLUSTER COLLABORATION PLATFORM



<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/033a5c46-ddd7-300c-fe7e-514b429f22fe>

Commission unveils 2026 work programme

The European Commission has unveiled its [2026 work programme](#), which outlines a series of actions to help build **a more sovereign and independent Europe**.

The work programme, entitled 'Europe's independence moment', addresses current and future challenges arising from threats to our security and democracy, to conflicts and geopolitical tensions, to risks to our economy and industry, and accelerating climate change.

Commission work programme - key figures

> **38**

New policy objectives

> **25 out of 47**

legislative initiatives have a significant simplification dimension

> **20**

Evaluations to stress-test the stock of EU legislation, to identify potential to simplify, to reduce costs and to consolidate rules.

> **25**

Proposals for withdrawal

> **1**

Proposals to repeal

> **111**

Pending proposals

Sixteen new Euroclusters selected to strengthen industrial resilience across Europe

With a total budget of 42 million EUR, the [initiatives](#) bring **together clusters, SMEs and research organisations** from across Europe to strengthen value chains, accelerate the decarbonisation of industry and the digital transition, and improve businesses competitiveness.

More than **30 million EUR of this amount will be channeled directly to SMEs** through open calls organised by the consortia. This support will fund projects that:

- foster innovation and the uptake of advanced technologies,
- build capacity in strategic sectors, and
- drive Europe's transformation towards a sustainable, digital and resilient economy.

Additional activities, including training, internationalisation and knowledge exchange will complement this main objective, helping small businesses expand their innovation potential and connect with new partners across borders.



ECCP Investment Survey, give us your feedback!

As part of the Summary Report 2025, the ECCP team is collecting **information on major investments** attracted by European clusters. The aim is to showcase the impact of cluster organisations in fostering investment activity and regional development.

For this, we need your input! Which investments has your cluster organisation helped to attract over the last years? The short survey should take no more than 5–10 minutes of your time. Thank you for your contributing to the ECCP Summary Report 2025!

Complete the survey [here](#)

Name of your cluster organisation:

Your EU Member State:

Your region:

Sector(s) covered by your cluster organisation:

Since January 2022, has your cluster attracted any significant private investment in your ecosystem (e.g., in member companies, infrastructure, R&D projects, production facilities, etc.)?

Yes
 No

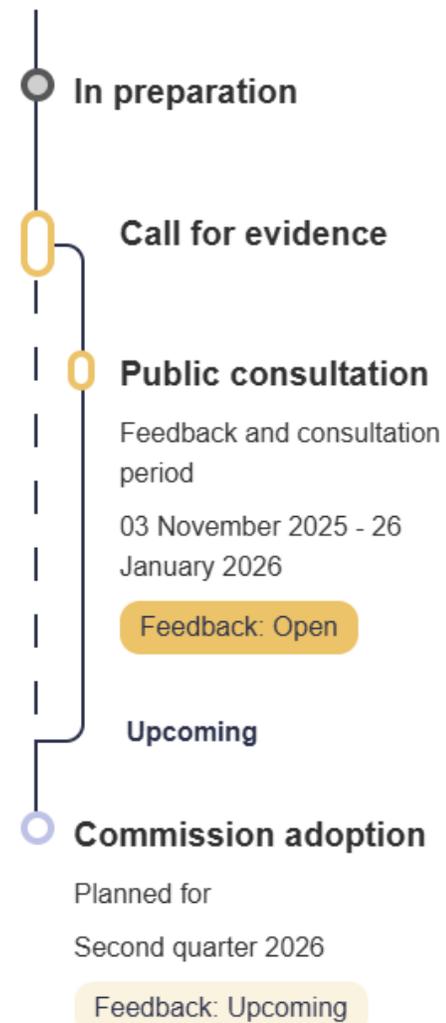
EU consultation on public procurement

You are invited to give feedback for the revision of the public procurement directives. This revision will:

- enable **preference to be given to European products** in public procurement, helping to ensure EU added value and secure the supply of vital technologies, products and services
- also **modernise and simplify procurement rules**, while making public procurement a tool for strategic investment.

Complete the survey [here](#).

This call for evidence is open for feedback until **26 January 2026**.



Call for evidence and public consultation for the Advanced Materials Act

The Commission is looking for your insights on how to **excel in advanced materials** in the EU by helping shape the future Advanced Materials Act, a key technology for today's and tomorrow's innovations.

By establishing a strategic framework for advanced materials, the Act will **speed up production processes** and the journey from discovery to market. It will also promote a sustainable and circular economy and boost EU competitiveness.

Advanced materials are capable of significantly improving the properties of components used in products, from wearable electronic devices to electric vehicles.

Your voice matters and can drive meaningful change for this technology!

 'Have Your Say' by **12 January 2026** in the [portal](#)

Call for papers: Research Conference on the EU Single Market

DG GROW (Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs) of the European Commission launched its [Call for papers for the 2026 Research Conference on the EU Single Market](#), an event which will be held **in Brussels on 19 March 2026**.

Submissions are thus open to the *4th edition* of this conference, which aims to foster **rigorous, multi-disciplinary economic research** on the Single Market, and offers a unique platform for dialogue between researchers and EU policy-makers in this area.

This edition will focus on the **interplay between the Single Market and industrial policy**. Main topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

1. The interplay between industrial policy and the Single Market
2. Designing industrial policy in a fast-evolving global context
3. National and regional industrial policies within the EU framework
4. Deepening integration within the Single Market

 **Interested in presenting?** Submit your paper to: GROW-SM-CONFERENCE@ec.europa.eu

 **Deadline: 17 November 2025 at 12h00**

SME Assembly 2025 in Copenhagen, Denmark

The SME Assembly is the most significant event for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Europe. The conference takes place **once a year** as part of the European SME week. Together with the network of SME envoys, the assembly creates the governance structure of the small business act.

The Assembly will feature high-level panels and interviews, expert round tables, interactive workshops, informative masterclasses and numerous networking opportunities. These will help stimulate Europe's enterprises and equip them with the right tools for the transition towards **sustainability and digitalisation**.

SMEs and clusters from across Europe can tune into the event online: [register to attend online](#).



Webinar “A Stronger EU Chemicals Industry: Presentation of the Action Plan”

In the context of the Transition Pathway Stakeholders Support Platform, DG GROW is organizing a webinar on the new Chemical Industry Action Plan. The webinar will take place on **7th November from 10h-11h**.

The session will outline the plan’s **main measures** to strengthen the sector’s competitiveness, sustainability, and resilience, including actions to support innovation, investment in clean technologies, and a more robust internal market for chemicals.

Interested participants can register through the [registration link](#) to attend this focused presentation and learn more about the next steps for implementation across the European chemical ecosystem.



The EU’s chemical industry underpins the manufacturing of nearly all goods across most economic sectors.

The EU chemical sector



EUR 655 billion in turnover in 2023



Contributes to more than **96%** of manufactured goods



1.2 million direct jobs



19 million jobs across other supply chains

The European chemical industry is facing significant pressures on its competitiveness, such as high energy costs or high investment needs to achieve net-zero, estimated at up to EUR 14 billion.



Upcoming ECCCP Events

2025



Pamplona, Spain

Clusters meet Regions & ECCP Matchmaking | **12-13 November**



Regensburg, Germany

Clusters meet Regions & ECCP Matchmaking | **26-27 November**



Copenhagen, Denmark

Clusters meet Regions | **3-4 December**

A Strategy for European Life Sciences

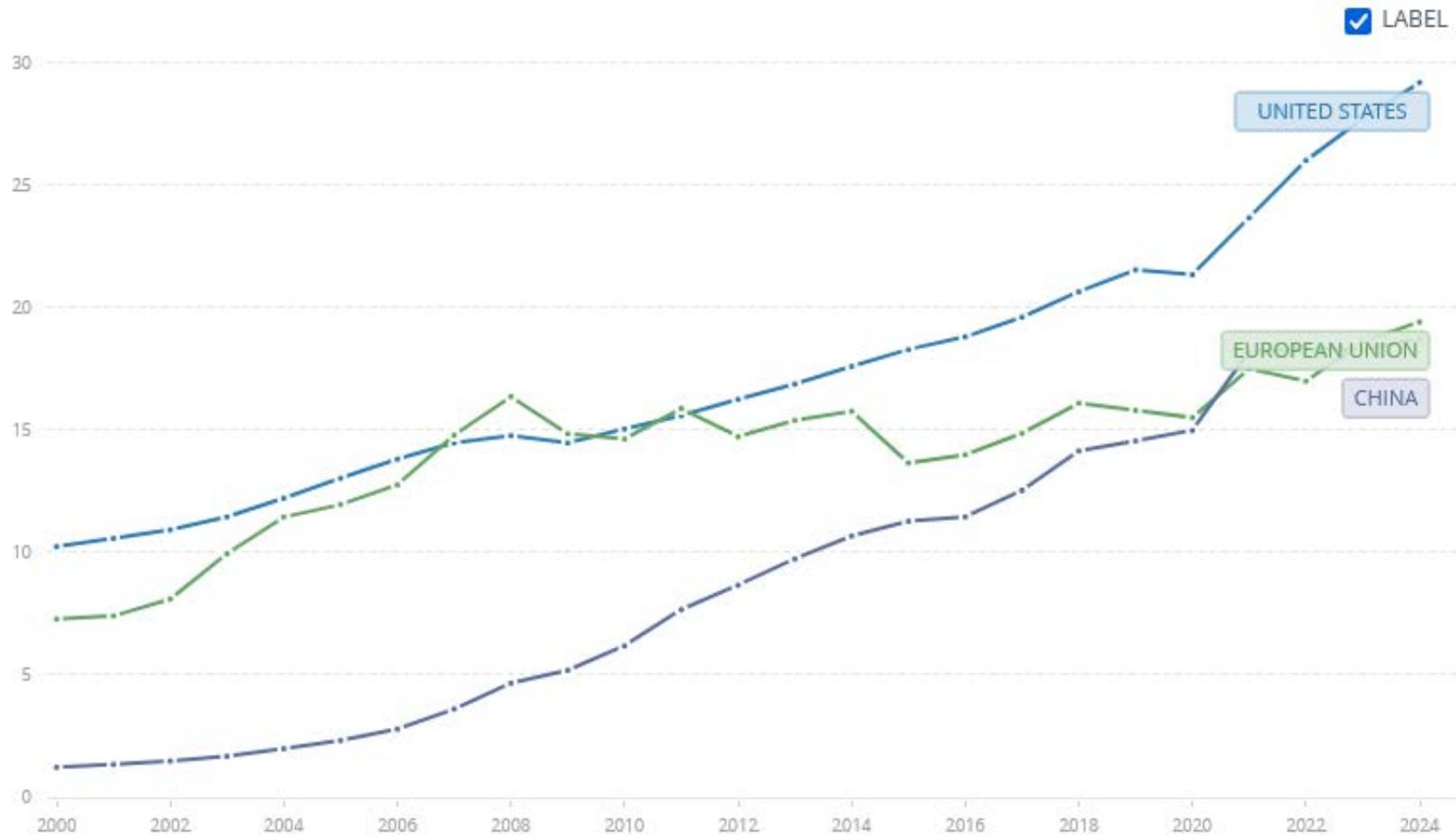
Ferenc Marofka DG GROW/F3

05 November 2025

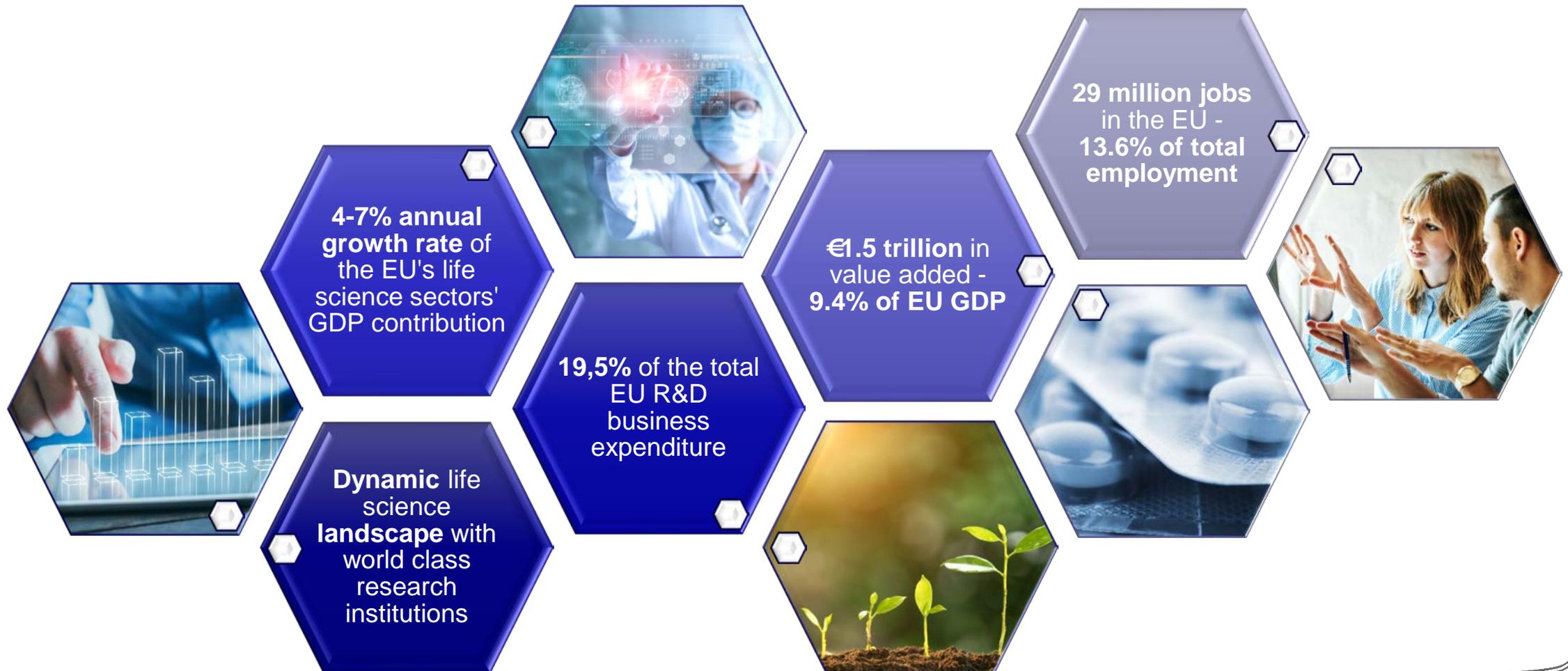
Political context



GDP (current US\$) - US, EU, China



Life Sciences for a competitive Europe



Life Sciences: Delivering core knowledge for next-generation technologies and products

| Health | Food | Agriculture & Fisheries | Bio-based | Environment |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| Medicines, Diagnostics, Medical Devices | Personalised Nutrition, Food Ingredients, Food biotech | Animal and aqua feed, Plant Breeding, Biopesticides | Bioplastics, Biomaterials, Bio-based Chemicals, <u>Bioenergy</u> | Bioremediation, Carbon Capture, Ecosystem Restoration |
|  |  |  |  |  |

An ecosystem of complementary initiatives

Competitiveness Compass (Jan, 2025)

Savings and Investments Union (Mar, 2025)

Critical Medicines Act (Mar, 2025)

Omnibus Simplification Packages (2025)

The EU Startup and Scaleup Strategy (May, 2025)

European Life Sciences Strategy (Jul, 2025)

European Innovation Act (2026)

EU Biotech Act I and II (2025-2026)

Targeted revision of MDR & IVDR (2025)

Bioeconomy strategy (2025)

Reform of the EU Pharmaceutical Legislation

European Health Data Space (EHDS)



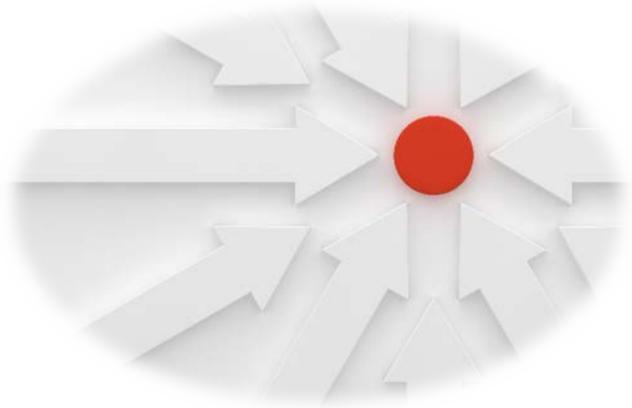
Choose Europe for Life Sciences

European Life Sciences Strategy (COM(2025) 525, adopted 2 July 2025)



- **Commission Communication** – not a legislative proposal.
- **Non-legislative, directly implementable actions**
- **And new legislative initiatives to follow**





Our aim is to ... **Position the EU as the world's most attractive place for life sciences** by...

Optimising the R&I ecosystem for a globally competitive life science sector

Boosting the trust, uptake and use of life science innovation



2030

Ensuring smooth and rapid market access for life science innovations



Flagship Actions

Reinforcing European R&I

- Clinical Research Investment Plan (2026)
- Network of ATMP Centres of Excellence (2026)

Promoting a holistic approach to the life sciences

- One Health approaches in research and innovation (from 2026)
- One Health Microbiome Initiative (2026)
- Climate Change and Health R&I Agenda (from 2026)

Unlocking the power of data and AI for breakthrough innovation

- European Life Sciences R&I Data Assembly (2026)



Flagship Actions

Strengthening skills and careers for competitive European life sciences

- Life Sciences career development through Choose Europe (from 2025)

Promoting innovation-responsive regulation

- EU Biotech Act (at the latest 2026)
- Regulatory simplification for medical devices and in vitro diagnostics (from 2025)

Unlocking public and private investment

- Life Sciences Investors & Corporates Interface (2026)

Governance and stakeholder engagement

- Life Science Coordination Group (2025)



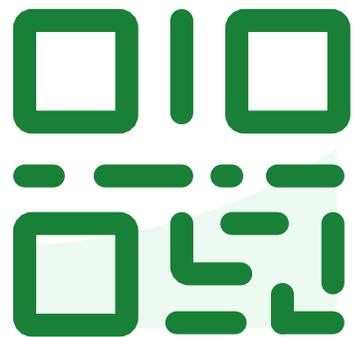
Budget



Annual support of over **EUR 10 billion** from EU funding programmes* in **the current Multiannual Financial Framework** will support the implementation of this Strategy

*Horizon Europe, EU4Health, Digital Europe, LIFE, Innovation Fund, Erasmus+





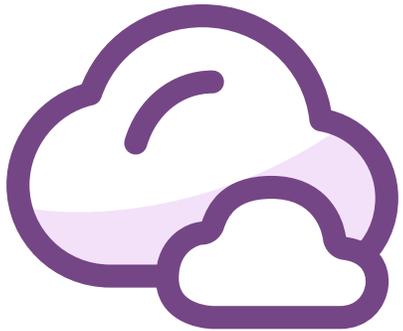
**Join at slido.com
#LifeSciences**



How directly are you or your organisation involved in the life sciences or biotechnology sector?



Which of these areas do you think will have the greatest impact on Europe's competitiveness in life sciences?



Which aspects should be prioritised in future EU regulations to foster innovation while ensuring safety and public trust?

Panel debate

Ann Van Gysel, CEO, Biovia

Iris Öhrn, Investment Advisor – Life Science /Healthcare, Business Region Göteborg

Kazimierz Murzyn, Managing Director, Klaster LifeScience Kraków

Ralf Huss, Managing Director, BioM Biotech Cluster Development

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Call for proposals for health data for biotech innovation leveraging the European Health Data Space

- The general objective of this action is to accelerate the **development and deployment of AI and digital solutions in the biotech sector** driven by **health data**, ensuring its secure and responsible use through the EHDS and leveraging AI Factories to augment these efforts.
 - Create a multistakeholder platform
 - Identify and prioritise the most promising digital / AI applications for the biotechnology sector
 - Analyse the challenges and barriers to the development and deployment of digital / AI solutions in the biotechnology sector
 - Develop concrete recommendations to support the coordinated development of the EHDS for digital / AI solutions in the biotechnology sector
- Topic ID: EU4H-2026-SANTE-PJ-08
- Deadline: 6 January 2026
- Published on [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

Expanding Investment Ecosystems

- The action supports co-designed programmes of activities, of at least two years, **proposed by business acceleration service providers and/or investor networks and clubs, and/or innovation hubs** located in less developed innovation ecosystems ('emerging' and 'moderate') and more developed ones ('strong innovators' and innovation leaders'), to facilitate the **entry of foreign funders** from 'strong innovators' and innovation leaders' regions to less developed innovation ecosystems.
- Project activities can include:
 - Greater market orientation/introduction programmes for foreign investors; market orientation/introduction programmes of developed markets for local startups and funds
 - roadshow to leading innovation hubs to showcase the potential of the local ecosystem
 - organisation of European international business forums, conferences and events
 - a repository of best practices of market entry facilitation
- Topic ID: HORIZON-EIE-2026-01-CONNECT-02
- Deadline: 20 January 2026
- Published on [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

Scaling up deep tech ecosystems

- The call seeks to **strengthen inclusive, interconnected, and efficient innovation ecosystems** across the EU by linking diverse actors, regions, and resources. It **promotes collaboration** between innovation leaders and less advanced territories to boost competitiveness, sustainability, and cohesion, while supporting the green, digital, and social transitions.
- The call underpins a **sustainable and inclusive European innovation model**, enabling companies to thrive with access to new markets, talent, and resources, while addressing **Europe’s “burning challenges”**:
 - Reducing reliance on fossil fuels
 - Increasing global food security
 - Mastering digital transformation (incl. cybersecurity)
 - Improving healthcare
 - Achieving circularity
- Topic ID: HORIZON-EIE-2026-01-CONNECT-03
- Deadline: 20 January 2026
- Published on [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

Support for Ukrainian tech SMEs and start-ups

- The initiative aims to accelerate the development of transformative technologies and integrate Ukrainian innovators **more deeply into European markets**.
- The European Innovation Council addresses the innovation gap by focusing on **high-impact deep-tech innovations** in sectors such as artificial intelligence, robotics, biotechnology, cybersecurity and other priority areas for Ukraine.
- Eligible companies can apply for **grants of up to €500 000** to develop their technologies to move to market deployment (from Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 4 to TRL 6–7).
- **Around 40 projects** are expected to receive funding. There will be a special emphasis on women-led enterprises to promote inclusivity in Ukraine's tech landscape.
- Topic ID: HORIZON-EIC-2025-UKRAINIANTECH-01
- Deadline: 26 November 2026
- Published on [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

Register for the next Talk

26 November

Joint Cluster Initiative: Presenting the new Euroclusters I

Continue the discussion



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THANK YOU

