

The Bioeconomy in the new Commission agenda

European Bioeconomy Scientific Forum 2025

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- New Commission priorities.
- R&I for the Bioeconomy.
- EU Startup and Scaleup Strategy.
- The Union of Skills.
- European Life Science Strategy.
- Bioeconomy education and youth.

Commission priorities for 2024-2029

A new plan for Europe's sustainable prosperity and competitiveness

A new era for European Defence and Security

Supporting people, strengthening our societies and our social model

Sustaining our quality of life: food security, water and nature

Protecting our democracy, upholding our values

A global Europe: Leveraging our power and partnerships

Delivering together and preparing our Union for the future



Meet the new Commissioner



- In December 2024, **Ekaterina Zaharieva** was appointed Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation.
- Priorities:
 - Strengthening research ecosystems.
 - Unlocking EU innovation.
 - Boosting EU capacity in key technologies
 - Building an inclusive Research and Innovation Union
 - Delivering an ambitious successor to Horizon Europe
 - Strategy for European Life Sciences
 - EU Biotech Act.
 - **Bioeconomy Strategy.**

R&I for the green and competitive transition/**bioeconomy**



Clean energy

- ▶ **Clean Industrial Deal**
- ▶ Action Plan on Affordable Energy
- ▶ Industrial Decarbonisation Accelerator Act



Climate change and biodiversity

- ▶ **European Oceans Pact**
- ▶ Water Resilience Strategy
- ▶ **Updated Bioeconomy Strategy**
- ▶ **European Biotech Act**
- ▶ **Circular Economy Act**
- ▶ European Climate Adaptation Plan



Urban environment and mobility

- ▶ Strategic dialogue on the future of the European automotive industry and Industrial Action Plan
- ▶ Sustainable Transport Investment Plan
- ▶ European Port Strategy
- ▶ Industrial Maritime Strategy
- ▶ High Speed Rail Plan



Food and health

- ▶ **Vision for Agriculture and Food**
- ▶ **Life Sciences Strategy**



Knowledge and citizens

Significant investment in Bioeconomy, incl.

1. Strengthen and scale-up the bio-based sectors, unlock investments and markets;
 - **Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking** (2014-2020): € 1 billion EU funding + € 2.8 billion private
 - **Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking** (2021-2030): € 1 billion EU funding + > € 1.0 billion private
 - **European Circular Bioeconomy Fund**: first private venture capital impact fund (€ 300 million investment)
2. Deploy local bioeconomies rapidly across Europe;
 - **European Bioeconomy Policy Forum**: platform for MS to exchange & discuss best practice / bioeconomy policies:
 - 11 MS with national bioeconomy strategies + 7 MS with dedicated strategies under development;
 - 28 regions with dedicated bioeconomy strategies
 - **Stakeholder engagement**: Bioeconomy Youth Ambassadors – “Bioeconomy Youth Vision”
 - **International engagement**: International Bioeconomy Forum, Global Bioeconomy Summit, G20 Bioeconomy Initiative
3. Understand the ecological boundaries of the bioeconomy
 - **JRC** – Knowledge Centre on Bioeconomy, Bioeconomy Monitoring System, project on Integrated Bioeconomy Land Use Assessment.
 - **Horizon Europe** Cluster 6 “Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment” (c. € 9 billion 2021-2027)

CBE JU flagship projects



2014-2020

Bio-based Industries
Joint Undertaking:
- € 1 billion funding
- € 2.8 billion private
contribution



2021-2031

CBE Joint
Undertaking:
€2 billion
partnership
– European Union
- Bio-based
Industries
Consortium (BIC)



Flagship
biorefinery

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| PROTEUS 1 | Avaldsnes
Norway | OXILVA 2 | Sarpsborg
Norway |
| SWEETWOODS 3 | Imavere
Estonia | WOODCELL 4 | Imavere
Estonia |
| VIOBOND 5 | Riga
Latvia | Co. Tipperary 6 | Ireland |
| PLENITUDE 7 | Sas van Gent
The Netherlands | CIRCLE 8 | Amsterdam
The Netherlands |
| PEference 9 | Delfzijl
The Netherlands | farmYng 10 | Amlens
France |
| AFTER THE BIOCHEM 11 | Saint-Avoid
France | ReSolute 12 | Saint-Avoid
France |
| SustaiNext 13 | Hervás
Spain | Zaragoza & Sesto San Giovanni 14 | Spain & Italy |
| scale 15 | Baillargues
France | SylPlant 16 | Le Péage-de-Roussillon
France |
| FIRST 2KUN 17 | Porto Torres
Italy | TERRIFIC 18 | Bottrighe
Italy |
| lignoflag 19 | Podari
Romania | | |



Bioeconomy is a hotspot for innovation



A Finnish company that develops sustainable packaging materials as alternatives to plastic, using renewable and recyclable wood-based fibers.



A Bulgarian startup growing Black Soldier Fly to produce protein, oil and fertilizer for the feed and agriculture industries.



A German biotech company using fermentation and fungi to create the next generation of sustainable alternative proteins.



Bioeconomy is a hotspot for innovation



A Norwegian company working on algae derived products. Building multifunctional biorefinery for the sustainable production of bio and pharma ingredients.



A Finnish company offering an ecological alternative to ceramic bathroom products. Manufactures washbasins, toilets, tiles, etc. from an innovative wood composite material that reduces CO2 footprint by 99%

Farm
't Worteleindje

A Dutch dairy farmer (Marije Van Velthoven) diversifying in insect production for bird, fish or reptile feed.



Sustainable biorefining of
kelp



New wood exhibition



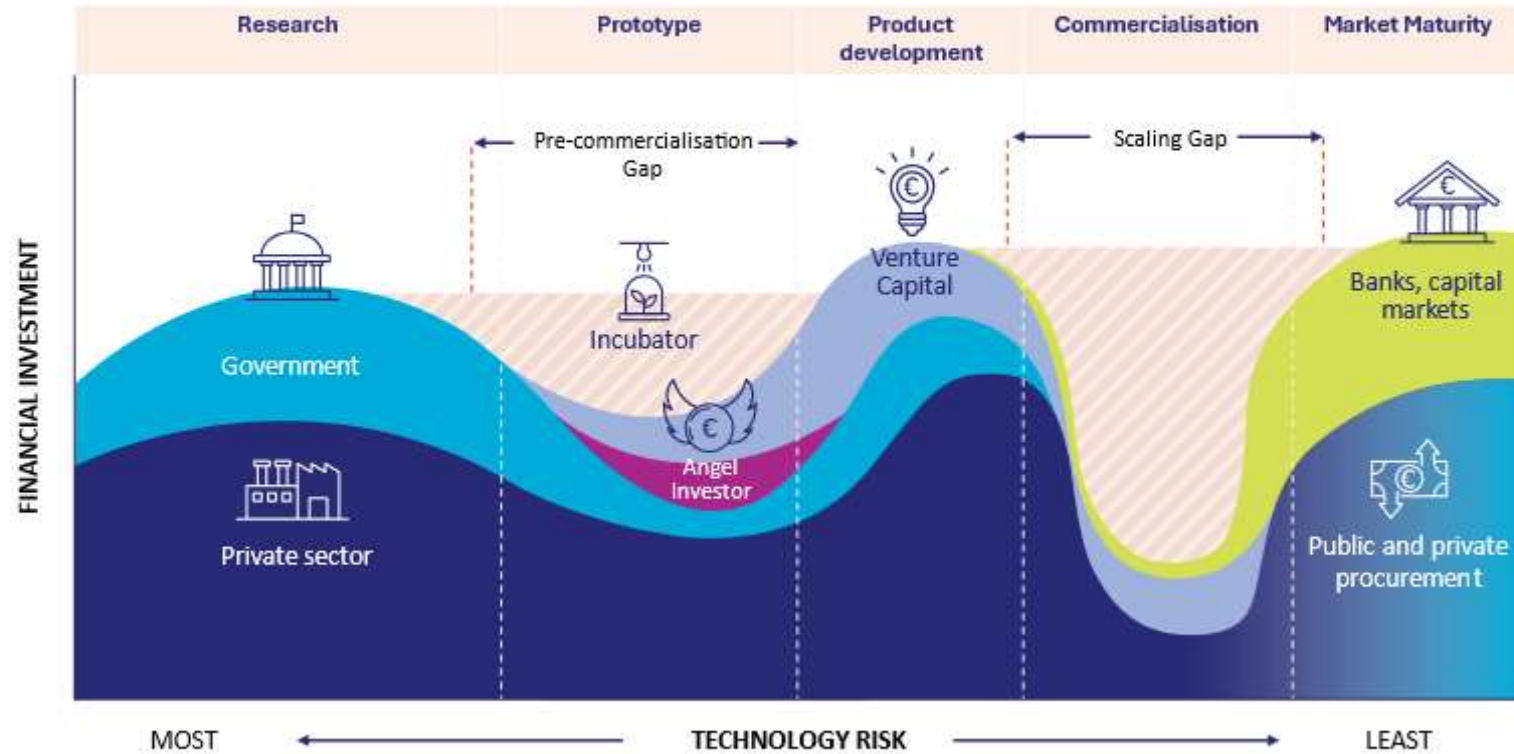
EU Startup and Scaleup Strategy





Key challenges

THE STARTUP DOUBLE VALLEY OF DEATH



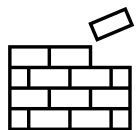
Simplified illustration of the startup double valley of death



Key challenges

- **Regulatory and bureaucratic burdens and fragmentation**
- **Access to finance**
- **Access to markets**
- **Access to talent**
- **Access to infrastructure, networks and services**





Building Blocks of the Strategy

- The Strategy is structured according to different needs that an innovative company may face through its lifecycle:
 - Innovation-friendly regulation
 - Better finance
 - Fast market uptake and expansion
 - Support for the best talent
 - Access to infrastructure, networks and services
- Plus: a section dedicated to measuring progress for reaching the Strategy's aims





Support for the best talent in Europe

Actions:

- Blue Carpet Initiative (2025-2026)
 - Entrepreneurial education and upskilling
 - Blueprint for an academic career development framework
 - Best practices concerning the treatment of Employee Stock Options for startups, incl. legislative measures to harmonise certain aspects of their treatment
 - Recommendation to eliminate tax obstacles for remote cross-border employees for startups and scaleups
 - EU Visa Strategy
 - Pilot of Multipurpose Legal Gateway Offices
 - Roll-out of targeted information activities promoting the EU Blue Card Directive
 - Encourage Member States to put in place fast-track schemes for founder residence and work permits
 - Simplify and reinforce existing EURAXESS services for innovators
- Fair Labour Mobility Package (2026)

**The actions are presented in the same order as in the Strategy*



The Union of Skills



In a Union of Skills



**Everyone in Europe is
empowered to
develop skills**



**Competitive
companies can find
people with the right
skills**



**Skills and
qualifications are
transparent, trusted
and recognised**

Union of Skills



Governance

Towards a dedicated EU 27 Recommendation on human capital: education and skills in the European Semester

A European Skills Intelligence Observatory: providing the necessary data for well-informed policy

It will provide strategic data and foresight regarding skills needs in concrete sectors and regions, and the performance of education and training systems.

A European Skills High Level Board: driving the change

Bringing together key stakeholders to provide comprehensive, cross-sectoral insights and guidance on skills to EU policy makers.





STRATEGY FOR EUROPEAN LIFE SCIENCES

- The strategy will identify key challenges and opportunities to accelerate **life sciences innovation** and drive breakthroughs in the **healthcare, food** and **green sectors**.





Bioeconomy

Youth

Ambassadors

The Voice of Youth



Are you our
**next Bioeconomy
Youth
Ambassador?**

Apply before 17/11/2024
23:59 CET



European bioeconomy policy development

2012



Communication on Bioeconomy



Review of Bioeconomy Strategy

2017



Updated Bioeconomy Strategy

2018

Sustainability

Circularity

System-wide approach



Study focus & specific objectives

Study focus



Higher education

Vocational education & training (VET)

Entrepreneurship training

Specific objectives of the study



1. Provide overview of **current training and education availabilities** at different levels concerned by the study.
2. Provide overview of **current and future (2030+2050) needs** for professional profiles and skills, setting out unmet training and educational needs.
3. Support the relevant **upgrade, adaptation and development of bioeconomy-related training and education** to meet future workforce needs for the deployment of a sustainable and circular bioeconomy by developing and considering relevant elements (e.g. modules, curricula, methods and tools but also by looking at the relevant context and structures).
4. Improve **collaboration** between educational institutions and industry, and improve **transfer of science, technology and innovation knowledge** and skills in the bioeconomy.

The study focuses on 10 Member States (BE, BG, EE, FI, DE, IT, LV, NL, SK and ES)



Study deliverables

1. [Factsheet on Higher education](#)
2. [Factsheet on Vocational education and training](#)
3. [Factsheet on Entrepreneurship education](#)
4. [Policy brief on “Promoting education, training and skills across the bioeconomy”](#)
5. [Final report of the study on “Promoting education, training and skills across the bioeconomy”](#)



R&I funds for Bioeconomy Education



HORIZON-JU-CBE-2025-CSA-01 Develop and deploy new curricula and knowledge exchange practices relevant to bio-based systems

HORIZON-CL6-2025-03-GOVERNANCE-06: Strengthening and connecting bioeconomy networks

Thank you



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