

EBU Global Collaboration Framework

Framework rationale

The transition to a sustainable and circular bioeconomy requires collaboration beyond Europe, as **bioeconomy challenges and value chains are global** in scope. Partnerships with global and non-EU actors can support the development of **joint bioeconomy solutions and policy dialogue** to address shared global challenges, while strengthening European bioeconomy expertise and competitiveness. For EBU, global collaboration offers an opportunity to strengthen its **educational and research capacity** by engaging with complementary scientific, environmental, socio-economic and policy contexts outside Europe.

Benefits for EBU from the Global Collaboration Framework:

- Stay aligned with global bioeconomy trends, discourses and policies
- Increase global visibility and advocacy impact
- Link European bioeconomy excellence to diverse global contexts
- Enrich education and research capacity
- Strengthen existing partnerships and develop new ones
- Access potential new funding sources

Vision

The EBU's global collaboration framework **links European excellence with global bioeconomy contexts**: natural ecosystems, biomass resources and their management, knowledge hubs, entrepreneurial and innovation capacities, and governance approaches. The framework considers EBU to be a globally connected European knowledge alliance that advances sustainable, circular, and just bioeconomy transitions through strategic partnerships beyond Europe. These new EBU global connections will

support bioeconomy-driven **collaborative solutions to shared global challenges**, including climate change, dependence on fossil resources and energy, biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation, and poverty and livelihood vulnerability.

EBU's global collaboration framework develops targeted, reciprocal and high-value partnerships with global and non-European partners. It **strengthens the education and research capacity of EBU and its non-EU partners** to contribute to sustainable bioeconomy transitions through collaboration in research, education, innovation, entrepreneurship, capacity building, advocacy and policy dialogue.

The framework includes **mobilising funding opportunities** to strengthen existing global partnerships and support the development of new ones. It also develops global bioeconomy policy dialogue and strengthens EBU's advocacy impact. EBU's global collaboration framework supports globally relevant and locally adaptable knowledge, including co-creating curricula with international partners.

Policy frameworks

EBU's global collaboration aligns with the **EU Bioeconomy Strategy**, the **EU Global Gateway Strategy**, and the **EU Competitiveness Compass** by connecting global and international partnerships in bioeconomy education, research and innovation with sustainable investment, resilient biomass supply chains, and the EU's broader objectives of sustainable competitiveness, resilience and economic security.

EBU's collaboration with global and non-EU institutions aligns with the **G20 High-Level Principles on Bioeconomy**, particularly the responsible use of science, technology, innovation, and traditional knowledge; advancing sustainable consumption and production; eradicating hunger and poverty; ensuring global food security; and promoting inclusiveness and equity.

Connection to the EBU overall strategy

The EBU's global collaboration framework contributes to the EBU's overall strategy, which positions the EBU's **global intellectual leadership** as its "strongest asset for meeting the expectations and legitimate claims of future generations". The framework supports the EBU's role as "a European think tank, which acts on behalf of and can be **accessed by all relevant stakeholders both in Europe and globally**". Through global collaboration, the EBU can share experience and enhance its global visibility as "an internationally unique and competitive model for a theme-based, system- and future-oriented university".

Objectives and Priorities

Key objectives for EBU's global collaboration include:

- Strengthen EBU's global visibility and policy impact
- Develop joint research, education, and capacity-building activities
- Expand access to funding for EBU and its non-EU partners

EBU's global collaboration may also help improve access to data and knowledge and strengthen the internationalisation of EBU universities.

As part of its global collaboration framework, EBU focuses on collaboration with university networks outside the EU; global, international, and regional bioeconomy networks and platforms; and bioeconomy hubs and innovation centres. EBU may also develop targeted partnerships with non-EU universities that have strong bioeconomy portfolios and serve as representatives of bioeconomy expertise in their respective regions.

Global collaboration and regional competitiveness

EBU's global collaboration will be developed in a context where **nations, regions and continents are seeking to strengthen the competitiveness** of their own bioeconomy sectors. In line with the European competitiveness agenda and EU Bioeconomy Strategy (2025), EBU views global collaboration as an enabler of European competitiveness in the bioeconomy. **European bioeconomy competitiveness cannot be strengthened by looking only inward**, given the high and largely untapped potential of the bioeconomy in other regions of the world. While Europe remains the EBU's primary focus, global collaboration can help expand the EBU's impact, scale European bioeconomy solutions in other regions, and reinforce Europe's bioeconomy innovation capacity, leadership, and competitiveness.

As a European alliance with global ties, EBU will leverage global partnerships to strengthen Europe's knowledge base, innovation capacity and strategic visibility, while contributing to reciprocal and just bioeconomy transitions beyond Europe. Its global collaboration will be grounded in the principles of **collaborative competitiveness** and **coopetition**. Through these principles, strategic collaborators pursue regional bioeconomy competitiveness while jointly developing the knowledge, competencies, policy frameworks, sustainability principles and solutions required for a global transition to a circular and sustainable bioeconomy.