

What does Europe need to compete in global biotech?

Insights from an EIT Health Think Tank Working Group on the Biotech Act

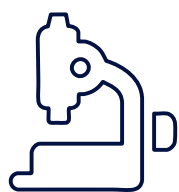
In December 2025, EIT Health convened biotech founders, investors and policy leaders to examine why Europe struggles to turn world-class research into market-ready health solutions.

Europe has the scientific strength, healthcare systems and industrial base to lead in biotechnology. But competitiveness depends on more than discovery. Competitiveness requires predictability, scale and investment.



Strengths & advantages

What are Europe's strengths?



High-quality science and trials

- ▶ Europe is globally respected for rigorous clinical research, strong safety standards and scientific excellence



Trusted public healthcare systems

- ▶ Universal healthcare supports equitable access, patient recruitment and real-world evidence generation



Potential of a single market

- ▶ Joining together a market of nearly 450 million people would give Europe unmatched potential

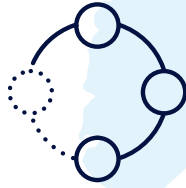
Challenges & weaknesses

What is undermining competitiveness?



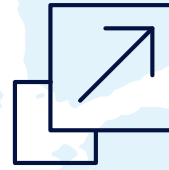
Disjointed regulatory processes

- Complex and resource-intensive approval processes increase timelines and delay clinical development



Fragmented routes to market

- Divergent HTA and procurement systems limits Europe's ability to function as a primary launch market



Gaps in scale-up finance

- Europe performs well at seed stage but lacks deep pool of capital for proof-of-concept, scale-up and mid-cap companies



Key findings

To compete globally, Europe must improve alignment across regulatory, market access and reimbursement pathways to make the single market function in practice, and build deeper pools of scale-up finance. Treating biotech as a strategic investment, rather than a cost, will be critical to attracting capital and keeping innovation in Europe.



Read the full Think Tank report

The EIT Health Think Tank report outlines how the Biotech Act can strengthen Europe's competitiveness and help biotech companies start, scale and succeed in Europe.