How can Europe 'future-proof' its biotech sector?

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

In December 2025, EIT Health brought together biotech founders, investors and research leaders to explore how Europe can future-proof its biotech ecosystem.

The discussion focused on what it will take to turn scientific strength into lasting impact: *building the right skills, governance and conditions for scale.*

Strengths & advantages

What are Europe's strengths?

Strong public funding backbone

- Robust national/ EU funding for early-stage research compliments excellent research universities

World-leading scientific institutions

- Europe has deep scientific expertise and methodological rigour

European collaboration

- Strong clusters each has unique strengths *(biomanufacturing, cell & gene therapy, early-stage biotech)*

THINK TANK

Challenges & weaknesses

What is slowing down innovation?

Innovation skills and talent

- A need for more experienced “serial” biotech entrepreneurs is combined with a shortage of entrepreneurial & translational skills
- Limited risk-taking culture
- Academic training not always aligned with industry needs

University translation challenges

- Weak incentives for commercialisation
- Complex intellectual property ownership
- Salary competition talent drain to industry

Health data barriers

- Limited access for data reuse in research
- Fragmented national rules promote inconsistent access
- European Health Data Space not yet implemented

Key findings

So, what happens next?

Europe should invest in biotech skills and leadership, modernise data governance by implementing the European Health Data Space and build on existing strengths by connecting biotech clusters. A more coordinated European approach promoting cross-border alignment for skills, infrastructure and policy, will be key to future-proofing the biotech ecosystem.

Read the full Think Tank report

Explore the full Think Tank findings on how skills, governance and resilience can maximise biotech’s impact.

eit Health

Co-funded by the European Union

THINK TANK