How can Europe accelerate biotech innovation?

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

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

Europe's ability to compete in a rapidly evolving global biotech landscape depends on its willingness to bridge longstanding structural gaps.

Strengths & advantages

What are Europe's strengths?

World-class science

- Europe's universities and research institutes produce exceptional biological insights and platform technologies

Proven innovation hubs

- Clusters across Europe show that when systems align, rapid trials and successful translation are possible

Robust healthcare systems

- Universal healthcare supports patient recruitment and generates high-quality real-world data

THINK TANK

Challenges & weaknesses

What is slowing down innovation?

The translational gap

- Promising research often lacks clear development pathways, regulatory planning and decision-grade data

Scale up capital is limited

- Funding drops sharply before phase I clinical trials, pushing companies to scale outside Europe

Fragmented rules

- Different national regulations and trial set-up timelines prevent Europe from acting as a single innovation market

Key findings

So, what happens next?

Europe should focus on strengthening translational funding, harmonising regulatory and clinical trial pathways, and better connecting its strongest innovation hubs. By scaling what already works and enabling companies to operate across borders, Europe can turn world-class science into market-ready biotech faster.

Read the full Think Tank report

The EIT Health Think Tank report outlines how targeted funding, connected hubs, faster trials and better data access can help Europe scale biotech innovation from research to market.

eit Health

Co-funded by the European Union

THINK TANK