

EU Project ShapingBio Offers Recommendations for a Competitive EU Bioeconomy

New policy brief urges the European Commission to harmonise coordination, strengthen financing, and improve market conditions to unlock the full potential of bio-based innovation.

Brussels, August 26th, 2025 - The EU-funded **ShapingBio** project has released a comprehensive policy brief outlining key recommendations to support the European Commission in creating an optimal framework for a sustainable and competitive European bioeconomy. The recommendations feed into the upcoming **New EU Bioeconomy Strategy**, expected to play a crucial role in advancing Europe's transition towards a circular, climate-neutral economy.

The policy brief emphasizes the following urgent needs and provides practical recommendations on how to address them:

- **Stronger strategic coherence across Member States and regions** to unlock the EU's full bioeconomy potential, by improving horizontal and vertical coordination and intensifying quintuple helix stakeholder dialogues
- **Improved access to financing across the innovation chain**, helping companies scale from "lab to fab," with funding conditions better aligned to innovators' needs, funding instruments for activities on higher TRLs¹, and the expansion of public-private partnerships
- **Harmonised market conditions and demand-side policies** to accelerate the deployment of all segments of bio-based products.

A thriving bioeconomy is central to tackling climate change, biodiversity loss, resource scarcity, and other major societal challenges. With its cross-sectoral scope, the bioeconomy provides sustainable alternatives to fossil-based systems and fosters innovation in areas such as food, materials, energy, and industrial processes.

The recommendations are based on extensive engagement with nearly 2,000 key bioeconomy stakeholders – including policymakers, industry leaders, researchers, and civil society representatives – through surveys, interviews, and 45 events held between 2022 and 2025.

Sven Wydra, coordinator of the ShapingBio project, underlines the importance of collective action: *"Europe has strong assets in the bioeconomy – from diverse biomass resources to leading research and innovation. But fragmented strategies and uneven innovation capacities hold us back. To stay globally competitive and deliver on sustainability goals, we need coherent policies that promote stronger collaboration across all Member States, better financing, and the securing of Europe's leadership in sustainable biomanufacturing. Our recommendations aim to ensure that Europe not only develops bio-based solutions, but also creates the right conditions for them to thrive."*

The policy brief is only one of Shaping Bio's publications, highlighting concrete steps for the European Commission, Member States, and other stakeholders to translate strategic goals into actionable measures. Comprehensive in-depth analyses, accompanied by more detailed recommendations, have been developed to take stock of the current state of the bioeconomy in all EU Member States, on policy and governance, applied R&D and technology transfer, cross-sectoral collaboration and financing. The full reports and recommendations are available at

<https://www.shapingbio.eu/resources/>.

¹ Technology Readiness Level

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The ShapingBio project's insights have been well received by the European Commission policy officers who are preparing the New EU Bioeconomy Strategy. With bio-based innovation at the heart of Europe's Clean Industrial Deal and Circular Economy Action Plan, implementing these recommendations could strengthen Europe's resilience, competitiveness, and sustainability in the decades ahead.

For more information:

- Download the ShapingBio policy brief:
<https://www.shapingbio.eu/media/u4sjr431/shapingbio-policy-brief.pdf>
- Visit the ShapingBio project website: www.shapingbio.eu

About ShapingBio

ShapingBio is an EU-funded project with the overall aim to support and accelerate bioeconomy innovation and the deployment of new knowledge in the EU and its member states.

ShapingBio aims to provide evidence based and concrete information and recommendations for better policy alignment and stakeholder actions to realise the cross-sectoral potential of the bioeconomy and to reduce the fragmentation across biobased sectors and the food system, as well as in policies across regions, domains and governance levels.



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On June 25th, 2025, the ShapingBio consortium organised the "ShapingBio Summit: Empowering Europe – Leading the Deployment in the Bioeconomy" in Brussels, which served as a platform for dialogue between EU institutions, companies, research centers, and other ecosystem stakeholders to collectively assess the way forward at a critical juncture for Europe's future. (Photo credit: Laila Dam, Food & Bio Cluster Denmark)

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