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Commission launches new strategy to make Europe a global leader in life sciences by 2030

Today, the European Commission has launched a new strategy to make Europe the most attractive place in the world for life sciences by 2030.

Life sciences – the study of living systems, from cells to ecosystems – are central to our health, environment and economy. They drive innovation in medicine, food and sustainable production, adding nearly €1.5 trillion in value to the EU economy and supporting 29 million jobs across the Union.

Backed by more than €10 billion annually from the current EU budget, the strategy sets out a coordinated approach across the entire life sciences value chain. It aims to accelerate innovation, facilitate market access, and build public trust in new technologies, ensuring they benefit the people and the planet.

The Strategy proposes the following actions:

1. Optimising the research and innovation ecosystem

The Commission will develop an EU investment plan to facilitate funding for multi-country clinical trials and strengthen European clinical research infrastructures. This Strategy will also promote a One Health approach to research and innovation and mobilise up to €100 million under the Horizon Europe work programmes 2026-27 to develop and deploy microbiome-based solutions. Furthermore, €250 million will be mobilised forcross-sectoral life sciences technologies, supporting the development of new products that drive industrial innovation and sustainability, including new approach methodologies, novel molecules, advanced materials and more efficient biomanufacturing.

2. Enabling rapid market access for life science innovations

To speed up market access for life science innovations, the Commission will propose an EU Biotech Act that will create a more innovation-friendly framework across biotech sectors. The Commission will also launch a matchmaking interface to connect startups, industry and investors, leveraging the European Innovation Council portfolio, and its Trusted Investors Network.

3. Boosting trust, uptake and use of innovation

The Commission will mobilise €300 million to stimulate the procurement of life science innovation in areas such as climate change adaptation, next-generation vaccines and affordable cancer solutions. The Commission will also set up a Life Science Coordination Group to align policies and funding across sectors, and support engagement with key stakeholders, including industry and citizens.

Background

President von der Leyen announced the Strategy in her political guidelines and it is part of the Competitiveness Compass.

Europe has long been a leader in life sciences, backed by a strong knowledge base and scientific excellence, but is now losing ground to other global players in turning research into real-world solutions. Challenges include fragmented innovation ecosystems, underused data and artificial intelligence, and slow market uptake.

The strategy builds on a public consultation and a large body of evidence, including the Commission's Joint Research Centre's two studies: The Life Sciences sectors in the EU: drivers of economic growth and innovation, which highlights 29 million employed individuals and €1.5 trillion in value added, and Trends in patents in Life Sciences: focus on pharmaceuticals and

medical technologies, showing that the EU ranks second globally with 17% of patents filed.

Quote(s)

"Europe has long been a global leader in the life sciences economy. In today's increasingly competitive world, the European Commission is driving new ambition for the sector through three key elements of its competitiveness agenda: simplification, investment, and a stronger single market."
- Stéphane Séjourné, Executive Vice-President for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy

"Our new strategy is a commitment to placing Europe at the forefront of life sciences innovation that delivers cutting-edge therapies quicker to European patients. It sets the scene for the upcoming European Biotech Act, the modernisation of the medical devices regulations and the new Cardiovascular Health Plan. Strengthening research and promoting groundbreaking innovations will not only advance health and well-being: life sciences also creates competitiveness, economic growth and jobs. We are paving the way for a healthier, smarter Europe."
- Olivér Várhelyi, Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare

"Science changes lives, but only if we back the people behind it. With this strategy, Europe is doing just that - funding life sciences from lab to market, supporting startups, accelerating market access, and building trust. We're making sure bold ideas do not stay in the lab, they improve lives, right here in Europe. This will not only improve the lives of our citizens but also make Europe a more attractive and competitive place for life sciences companies to invest, innovate and grow."
- Ekaterina Zaharieva, Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation

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Further information

- European Commission