



Getting ahead: recommendations for ERA-NETs and industry in the bioeconomy

The European PLATFORM initiative has presented recommendations for better exchange and coordination between European Research Area Networks (ERA-NETs) and industry-driven initiatives in the bioeconomy. Improving the existing collaborations and setting up new ones helps to realise the potential of research and innovation to produce ‘more and better quality’ in a sustainable way.

From interviews and questionnaires with European Technology Platforms (ETPs) and Public Private Partnerships, the programme managers in the PLATFORM initiative conclude that ERA-NETs are well known in all industry-driven initiatives questioned. Most are already actively cooperating or trying to set up links with ERA-NETs in their field. There is clear value in networking, as vital interests are shared by all relevant stakeholders.

Based on the inventory and analysis, recommendations to further improve on these networks and collaborations were compiled in a PLATFORM report. A small pick from the various pieces of advice for ERA-NETs, industry initiatives, and the European Commission:

- Explore ways to improve communication: personal contact and enthusiasm for exchange are key to successful collaboration.
- Organise joint activities, such as workshops to define priority areas.
- Create an environment in which collaboration can blossom.

The surveys clearly highlighted the practical results of the collaborations between ERA-NETs and industry-driven initiatives, the most important one being the use of the ETPs’ Strategic Research Agendas in the planning and preparation of joint calls for R&D proposals. Joint events such as conferences, workshops, and





programming sessions were also mentioned repeatedly. Both ERA-NETs and ETPs agreed that close collaboration on such strategic issues holds the largest benefit for both sides.

Read more in the full report 'Interaction of ERA-NETs and industry-driven networks in the bioeconomy'. This paper constitutes Deliverable 4.3 of PLATFORM and is part of the work package Common Vision and Strategy. The main objective of this work package is to define the strategic position and dimension of ERA-NETs within the European Research Area and to provide recommendations for high impact cooperation and collaboration of ERA-NETs with other actors in the knowledge based bioeconomy. All reports can be found on the website:

www.era-platform.eu

About the European Bioeconomy and ERA-NETs

The transition towards a bioeconomy, and the potential of research and innovation to produce 'more and better-quality', contributes to square the circle of ensuring food security, reducing the carbon footprint, recycling natural resources, and new jobs and competitiveness. The European Commission and more and more Member States capitalise on the bioeconomy aiming to secure a competitive food market and to optimise primary production in a global context and in a sustainable way.

More than 30 European Research Area Networks (ERA-NETs) in the bioeconomy sectors have been funded under FP6 and FP7. Through coordination and collaboration between national research programmes, these networks contribute to meeting the challenges Europe faces on the path towards a sustainable bioeconomy, be it in the area of agriculture, forestry or the marine, and on topics ranging from biotechnologies, application of ICT and robotics, organic food and farming, forest-based materials, statutory plant health, rural development, infectious diseases of livestock, or plant sciences.

PLATFORM, the FP7 project 'Platform of Knowledge Based Bioeconomy Relevant ERA-NETs' offers mutual learning and networking opportunities to the ERA-NET actors and has developed into a robust forum for funders and programme managers. PLATFORM facilitates increased coordination and cooperation among the networks, for maximising synergies and rationalisation in the area of the bioeconomy.