



Benefiting the bioeconomy through global cooperation

Cooperation between the European Research Area Networks (ERA-NETs) and organisations in global research can benefit the bioeconomy. The PLATFORM project has explored the experiences and (potential) interest and published the findings on global collaborations in its series of recommendation papers.

The results show opportunities for ERA-NETs that address research areas with a clear global dimension (such as agricultural research for development, climate action, land use, and statutory plant health), or where combined expertise can speed up knowledge creation and innovation (such as plant sciences, animal production, or biodiversity). Benefits lay in combining research budgets- so more budget is available and budget effi-

ciency is increased-, access to research infrastructures, and critical mass of researchers.

Global cooperation can increase the outreach and impact of ERA-NET activities through having access to the best available knowledge and avoiding duplication of efforts. The programme managers recommend starting up small pilots in specialised research fields, involving partners from third countries in joint calls that have already bilateral collaboration, and working together preferably from the start on.



A survey among bioeconomy ERA-NET coordinators was conducted in this study. The motivations were investigated as well as the benefits and barriers encountered in working with funding organisations outside the EU and with global partnerships. The overview of relevant global research alliances and intergovernmental organisations, including some with which there is no collaboration yet, was further elaborated by an internet search. The same set-up was used for insight into participation of funding partners from third countries. A call on social media (LinkedIn) and sourcing literature and reports gave complementary information on current practice and global collaboration potential, and on the rationale and experiences.



Read more in the full report 'Global partnerships of bioeconomy ERA-NETs and JPIs'. This paper constitutes Deliverable 4.4 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.