

Challenges and Opportunities in Cross-Sectoral Collaboration (CSC) in Bioeconomy

These results have been identified in ShapingBio analysis with the stakeholder groups of inetsors and companies and will be verified with policy makers and other stakeholder groups.

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 evidencebased 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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Challenge

Collaborative R&D projects are often highly scientific and may not consistently produce practical results that contribute to innovation scalability

Challenge

Often, single segments of value chain involved in CSC (e.g., between industry partners only or between primary producers only)

Recommendation

- Funding agencies to prioritize research-industry collaboration in funding calls to encourage project partners to involve industry stakeholders in the early stages of project planning.
- Identify and communicate case studies that showcase cross-sector opportunities to drive commercialization.

Recommendation

Regulatory bodies and industry association to facilitate the establishment of intermediaries, like cooperatives, that connects stakeholders across the entire value chain

Challenge

The services provided by collaborative platforms are not adequately aligned with the needs of their members.

Challenge

Higher risks associated with CSC projects create uncertainty regarding funding continuity.

Recommendation

- Collaborative platforms to conduct regular assessments to identify and address the evolving needs of members and be up to date with market trends and developments.
- Organize regional, national and international study visits to expose members to current best practices to support active engagement and knowledge exchange.

Recommendation

- Public and private funding agencies to support consistent funding for CSC initiatives through dedicated programs designed to support innovative collaboration projects.
- Industry associations can act as facilitators, connecting projects with suitable business partners and sources of funding to mitigate risks and support funding continuity.