EuropaBio
Biotech SME Platform

CALL TO ACTION
TO 2020
Expanding, speeding up, simplifying and adapting access to European and national funding instruments for SMEs.

Coordinating between funding mechanisms at European level and at national level.

Developing and supporting incentives that respond to the specific needs of SMEs (e.g. EMA SME office).

Ensuring legislation is adapted to the realities and needs of SMEs, is predictable and workable.

Enabling access to appropriate expertise in crucial phases of SMEs’ development.

Facilitating access for SMEs to international markets and mobility of personnel.

Biotechnology is geared towards enhancing our quality of life and responding to society’s grand challenges such as an ageing and ever increasing population, healthcare choice and affordability, resource efficiency, food security, climate change, energy requirements and economic growth. Biotechnology has also been a cornerstone of Europe’s competitiveness in terms of research and innovation as well as of industrial growth and number of jobs and companies created.

The biotechnology industry in Europe is made up of over 3000 companies of which 95% are SMEs or micro-companies of 50 or less employees. A large proportion of the research and innovation in the biotech field is carried out by SMEs and micro-companies hence the fundamental importance of supporting not only their creation but also their development. Large industrial, agricultural and life science companies increasingly depend upon the innovations of biotech SMEs.

The risks and cost faced by biotech SMEs are enormous. In the biotech sector, the time lapse between discovery and access to market can be up to 15 years with relatively high risk, as well as high development and trial costs.