



INDUSTRIAL BIOTECHNOLOGY IN HUNGARY

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INTRODUCTION

Hungary has a competitive position and high development potential in healthcare biotechnology as the Hungarian pharmaceutical industry has a long standing scientific and manufacturing tradition with strong domestic industrial base and global market presence. On the contrary, industrial biotechnology is lacking an established domestic industrial base in Hungary, which could endorse it. The Hungarian industrial biotechnology is being established on a “green-field” and is mostly based on technology transfer from abroad as domestic R&D is very limited. In the process of development of a bio-based economy in Hungary, the recent selection of biotechnology by the Development Programme as a sector that can contribute to the competitiveness of the economy is seen as a positive point.

I. RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Modern industrial biotechnology is a relatively new discipline, with major areas of knowledge still to be explored. Public support to research as well as the establishment of pilot and demonstration facilities to scale-up individual processes will therefore help in the development of a European bio-based economy.

A. Public research funding

There is no public research funding programme for industrial biotechnology in Hungary.

The General R&D support is granted by the National Office for Research and Technology² and the National Development Agency³.

B. Pilot and demonstration plants

No information.

i. pilot plants

a) Open to all

Title	
General, products, feedstocks	
Services	
Financing	
Contact	

b) Partly restricted

c) Restricted

ii. demonstration plants

Title	
General, products, feedstocks	
Services	
Financing	
Contact	

a) Open to all

b) Partly restricted

c) Restricted

² <http://www.nkth.gov.hu/english>

³ <http://www.nfu.hu/?lang=en>

II. POLICY

Public authorities can promote the quick take-up of industrial biotechnology innovations by implementing a number of “instruments” or policy initiatives. This can be the improvement of the regulatory framework; the integration of specification for bio-based products in public procurement; the establishment of standardisation, labelling and certification schemes to overcome perceived uncertainty about product properties and weak market transparency; the development of financial instruments and supports to increase investments into research, technology development and innovation as well as the elaboration of communication and information campaign to communicate the benefits of bio-based products to users.

A. Policies and regulations

There is no dedicated policy or strategy for industrial biotechnology in Hungary.

The Hungarian Government is currently developing a new long term Development strategy with sector specific strategies. The strategy selects high priority, knowledge-intensive sectors with high growth and value added capacity that can contribute to the competitiveness of the economy. Biotechnology has been defined a specific sector in this new policy. The sector specific priorities are reflected in the 2008-2010 action plan of the current (2008) Government.

B. Public procurement

There is no specific public procurement for bio-based products.

C. Standardisation, labelling and certification

There is no standardisation, labelling or certification system for bio-based products in Hungary.

D. Access to finance

No information.

E. Communication

Biotechnology enterprises are represented at national level by the Hungarian Biotechnology Association⁴ and the Barabas Zoltan Federation of Biotechnology⁵.

⁴ <http://www.hungarianbiotech.org>

⁵ <http://zoldbiotech.uw.hu/>

III. OTHER