

## **POLYMAT Strategic Plan 2026-2029: Summary**

### Our Vision and Mission

POLYMAT is the Basque Center for Macromolecular Design and Engineering, dedicated to use-inspired fundamental research on the synthesis, assembly, and processing of polymers.

Our ultimate mission is to address key 21st-century technological challenges in critical areas such as energy, healthcare, water, food, and sustainability.

Recognized with the prestigious María de Maeztu Unit of Excellence accreditation, POLYMAT aspires to consolidate its position among the top three leading institutions in Polymer Science in Europe.

### Key Research Pillars

Our research is structured around six core areas: Polymerization Engineering & Simulation, Polymer Physics and Advanced Manufacturing, Molecular and Supramolecular Materials, Polymers & Energy, Polymers & Health, and Polymers & Sustainability.

Over the next four years, we will continue to advance our successful research lines while integrating emerging, cutting-edge topics.

These new areas include the application of artificial intelligence in polymer development, functional polymers for additive manufacturing, polymers for the hydrogen economy, bioelectronics, and polymers for agriculture.

### State-of-the-Art Infrastructure and Growth

Since our founding, our team has grown steadily to over 200 researchers and professionals.

To support our ambitious scientific goals, POLYMAT is expanding its research facilities.

In 2026, we will open two additional floors in the new Ikerbasque Building at the Ibaeta Campus in San Sebastián.

This expansion will provide modern laboratory spaces, new offices, and advanced research equipment to accommodate both current teams and future talent.

### Commitment to Talent and Education

We are committed to becoming an international reference in polymer science training.

A cornerstone of our educational strategy is the industrially supported International Double Master in Polymer Science, launched in collaboration with the University of Bordeaux and the University of the Basque Country.

Furthermore, we maintain highly attractive predoctoral and postdoctoral training programs, offering international mobility, industrial internships, and robust mentorship initiatives to nurture the next generation of leading scientists.

### Innovation, Society, and Equality

**Technology Transfer:** We actively promote the transfer of knowledge to the productive sector, particularly industries, through collaborative contracts, intellectual property protection, and the creation of start-ups.

**Equality and Well-being:** POLYMAT is deeply committed to diversity and inclusion, guided by an official Gender Equality Plan valid until 2029. This includes work-life balance measures, transparent recruitment, and the active promotion of women in science.

**Public Outreach:** We continuously engage with society to disseminate scientific knowledge. Through various outreach initiatives, we aim to inspire the younger generation and showcase the critical role of polymer science in everyday life and future technologies.