Biodiversa+ Call: “Improved transnational monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem change for science and society”

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Some slides courtesy the Biodiversa + team

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1. What is Biodiversa+?
2. Functioning of a Joint Call
3. Topic and scientific content of the call
4. Types of projects funded & expectations towards applicants
5. Call process & eligibility rules

CONSULT THE INFORMATION OF THE CALL HERE: https://www.biodiversa.org/2017
1. What is Biodiversa+?

*European Partnerships are a tool used to delegate part of the implementation of the Framework Program, by providing a framework for **PROGRAMME LEVEL** collaboration between the Union and public or private partners.*

- Contribute to the achievement of EU political priorities
- Align sectoral priorities at the European level
- Overcome fragmentation in the R&I landscape and limit duplication of effort
- Achieve a critical mass of investments (important in HE)
- Create European networks (self-sufficient in the long term)
The European biodiversity Partnership

• Officially launched on 1 October 2021 (lifespan 2021-2028)
• Co-funded partnership
• Supporting excellent research on biodiversity with an impact for policy and society
• Jointly developed by BiodivERsA and the European Commission (DG Research & Innovation and DG Environment) – building on the BiodivERsA experience (2008-2021)

- 10 calls launched
- 269 M€ (total cost) incl. 178 M€ (in cash)
- 147 transnational projects funded
- 1,025 teams funded
- 3,732 researchers funded

raised by BiodivERsA partners and the EC
An extended membership

37 Countries
74 Partners
23 EU
17 from non EU countries

Funding agency/foundation: 36
Ministry of environment: 19
Environment protection agency: 8
Ministry of research: 9
Other ministries: 2
Biodiversa objectives and vision are aligned with the new EU policy context

EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030:

“… making the bridge between science, policy & practice…”
An extended portfolio of activities
Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda

Cross-cutting Theme A
Better knowledge on biodiversity and its dynamics

- Topical Theme 1: Biodiversity protection and restoration
- Topical Theme 2: Transformative change
- Topical Theme 3: EU’s global action

Cross-cutting Theme B
Better knowledge for Nature-Based Solutions in a global change context

Stakeholder engagement

Communication and Open science

Promotion of R&I programs and projects across the ERA to tackle specific issues of major importance (WP1)

Two joint calls for research proposals launched (out of 6):

- 1 October 2021 | BiodivProtect
  Supporting the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems across land and sea

- 8 September 2022 | BiodivMon
  Improved transnational monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem change for science and society

Next calls should focus on NbS and on transformative change

ANR and NCN: Call Secretariat
2. How does a joint co-funded call work?

Funding Organisation #1
Funding Organisation #2
Funding Organisation #3
...
Funding Organisation #N

Co-funding from the European Commission (EC)

One joint Call
With one single joint (international) evaluation

- One ranking list
- Funding of the best top projects

NO NATIONAL PRE- OR POST- SELECTION
Participating countries and funding organisations

46 funding organisations from 33 countries

Total funding for the Call: over 40M€

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Brazil, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania (participation to be confirmed), Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tunisia, Turkey

➤ CONSULT THE UPDATED LIST OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES & FUNDING ORGANISATIONS involved in this call here: BiodivERsA: Participating funding organisations
3. TOPIC & SCIENTIFIC CONTENT

“Improved transnational monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem change for science and society”

PREAMBLE

One of the main objectives of Biodiversa+ is to promote and support transnational biodiversity monitoring, by building a transnational (pan-European) network of harmonised monitoring schemes on common priorities for Biodiversa+ members. Biodiversa+ will contribute to improving the coverage, representativeness, and harmonisation of monitoring schemes, on collecting new data, on reinforcing national/regional monitoring schemes and on capacity building.
3. TOPIC & SCIENTIFIC CONTENT
“Improved transnational monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem change for science and society”

CONTEXT

• Literature reviews on biodiversity changes and recent assessments have revealed that information on biodiversity trends is biased towards some taxonomic groups and environments, and that important dimensions of biodiversity, e.g., genetic and functional diversity, remain to be properly studied (IPBES 2018, FAO 2020).

• A recent European Environment Agency (EEA) report identifies a series of knowledge gaps that include the need for a better characterization of the distribution and status of many habitats and species, and more generally the assessment of ecosystem condition and health (EEA 2020).
“Improved transnational monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem change for science and society”

Priorities of the Call:

✓ Opportunity to **advance knowledge on biodiversity through transnational monitoring**, building on previous and existing efforts across Europe and beyond

✓ Projects should have an overall focus on improving knowledge on **species distribution and abundance**.

✓ Moreover, projects should contribute to:
  • **refining and enhancing and upscaling existing methods, and/or developing, testing, applying and evaluating new methods** to characterize, understand, and model biodiversity status, dynamics, and trends at relevant spatial and temporal scales;
  • **developing tools for better implementation and harmonisation of monitoring schemes** across countries and regions;
  • **showing the power of (new and existing) monitoring information** to inform transformative policies and management.
“Improved transnational monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem change for science and society”

Priorities of the Call:

✓ Proposals should fill gaps in terms of coverage of taxa, ecosystem types, regions, and sampling frequency and, where relevant, consider concrete linkages to operational monitoring networks, research infrastructures, and other existing efforts at national, European, and global level.

✓ Biodiversa+ strongly supports open science. Projects should generate FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) data and knowledge products.

✓ All environments, i.e. terrestrial, freshwater and marine; but go beyond single study sites.

✓ Also covers research in the Outermost Regions (ORs) and Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) of the EU.
Proposals should address one or more of the 3 following themes:

• **THEME 1** – Innovation and harmonisation of *methods and tools* for collection and management of biodiversity monitoring data
  
  *Development and implementation of new or improved approaches and technologies for monitoring biodiversity,*
  
  *Optimizing the coverage and representativeness of biodiversity monitoring schemes,*
  
  *Harmonising existing operationalized protocols, methods and approaches,* ….

• **THEME 2** – Addressing knowledge gaps on biodiversity *status, dynamics, and trends* to safeguard biodiversity and to reverse biodiversity loss
  
  *Filling knowledge gaps on status of a broad range of taxa, with particular emphasis on indicator species and groups,*
  
  *Enhancing methodology and data integration to provide comparable indicators of policy and management relevance,* ….

• **THEME 3** – Making use of *available* biodiversity monitoring data
  
  *Development and testing of analytical tools and methods that improve the capacity of existing data to expand our knowledge of biodiversity status, dynamics, and trends across Europe, and be in line with the FAIR data principles,* ….

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**CONSULT THE CALL TEXT in the CALL DOCUMENTS FOR MORE INFO:**

https://www.biodiversa.org/2064/download
Types of projects funded & expectations towards applicants

- **Average size of collaborative research projects**
  - Medium size projects
  - 1.2 – 1.5M€ (on average)
  - 7 Partners from different countries (on average; minimum is 3)

Success rate around 15% is realistic
Ambition to fund around 30 projects per call
Types of projects funded

Overall, projects are expected to:

- Be scientifically excellent
- Be multi-disciplinary, where relevant
- Demonstrate a transnational added value
- Engage stakeholders
- Demonstrate political / societal relevance

/// Expectations at the level of the whole project, and not at the level of each research Partner ///

/// Make sure to have the right expertise in the project as a whole ///

Specific assessment criteria to evaluate these types of projects funded
What is meant by transnational added value?

There should be clear evidence of added value either directly within the countries involved in the research, or indirect value accrued as a result of, e.g. learning from models applied to countries outside of the countries involved.

Transnational added value may include:

• relevance to international policy statements or processes, legislative frameworks or management plans;
• clear added value to national research projects across the world by linking expertise and efforts across national teams and across studied areas and research models;
• bringing about comparisons at the local level between researchers and stakeholders who are not used to work together;
• standardisation of methods;
• general increase of common knowledge in biodiversity relative to the themes of the call;
• etc.
Impact sub-criteria in step 1:

a) Expected contribution of the proposed research to society and/or policy:

- Added value contribution for tackling societal and/or policy challenges?
- Credible approach/ambition towards stakeholder and/or end-user engagement to achieve the expected impact

b) Transnational added value: also from the perspective of society and/or policy

Proposals will be judged on both scientific excellence and impact on policy and management issues.

- clear research questions with tractable and testable hypotheses
- clearly explain expected societal and policy impact as well as planned stakeholder engagement
Useful guidance documents for applicants

The stakeholder engagement handbook

LINK: https://www.biodiversa.org/702

The guide on policy relevance of research

LINK: https://www.biodiversa.org/1543
The Citizen Science Toolkit

**LINK:** [https://www.biodiversa.org/1814/download](https://www.biodiversa.org/1814/download)

Guidance document on data management, open data, and the production of Data Management Plans

**LINK:** [https://www.biodiversa.org/1677/download](https://www.biodiversa.org/1677/download)