



biodiversa+

European Biodiversity Partnership

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

20 September 2022



Speakers

- Céline Billiere, Biodiversa+ Call Secretariat, ANR (France)
- Claire Blery, Biodiversa+ CEO, FRB (France)
- Sophie Germann, Biodiversa+ Call Secretariat, ANR (France)
- Frédéric Lemaître, Biodiversa+ Science-policy-society interface manager, FRB (France)
- Magnus Tannerfeldt, Biodiversa+ vice-Chair, FORMAS (Sweden)

Programme of the webinar

3:05-3:10	Introduction <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What is Biodiversa+?2. Functioning of a Joint Call
3:10-4:25	3 thematic sessions followed by Q&A session <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 3:10-3:30 Topic and scientific content of the call2. 3:30-3:55 Types of projects funded & expectations towards applicants3. 3:55-4:25 Call process & eligibility rules
4:25-4:30	Conclusion

Webinar instructions

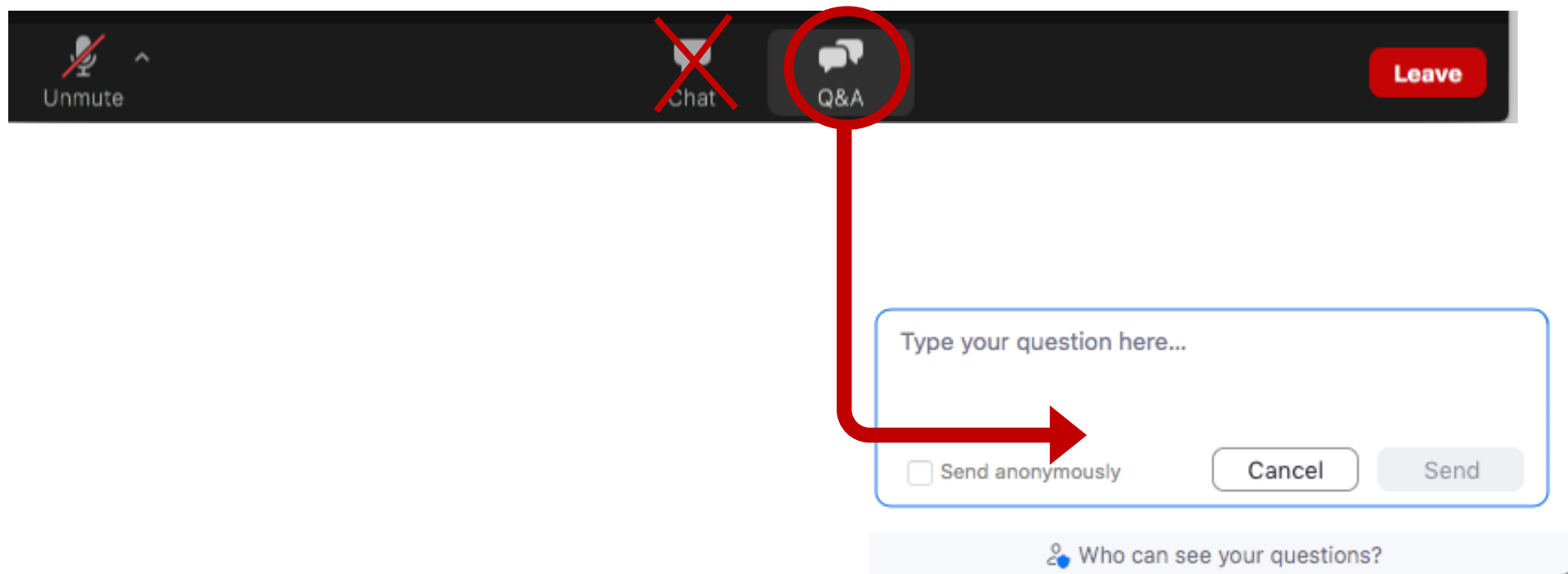
1 The webinar is **recorded** and will be **available in replay**

2 **Audio available to the presenters only**

Several Q&A session to answer your questions
To ask your questions, USE “Q&A” FUNCTION

3 **NB /** Please ask questions related to the on-going thematic session only
For questions related to the rules of your Funding Organisations, please directly contact the relevant contact points.
If very specific, some questions may be answered individually by email after the Webinar

Webinar instructions

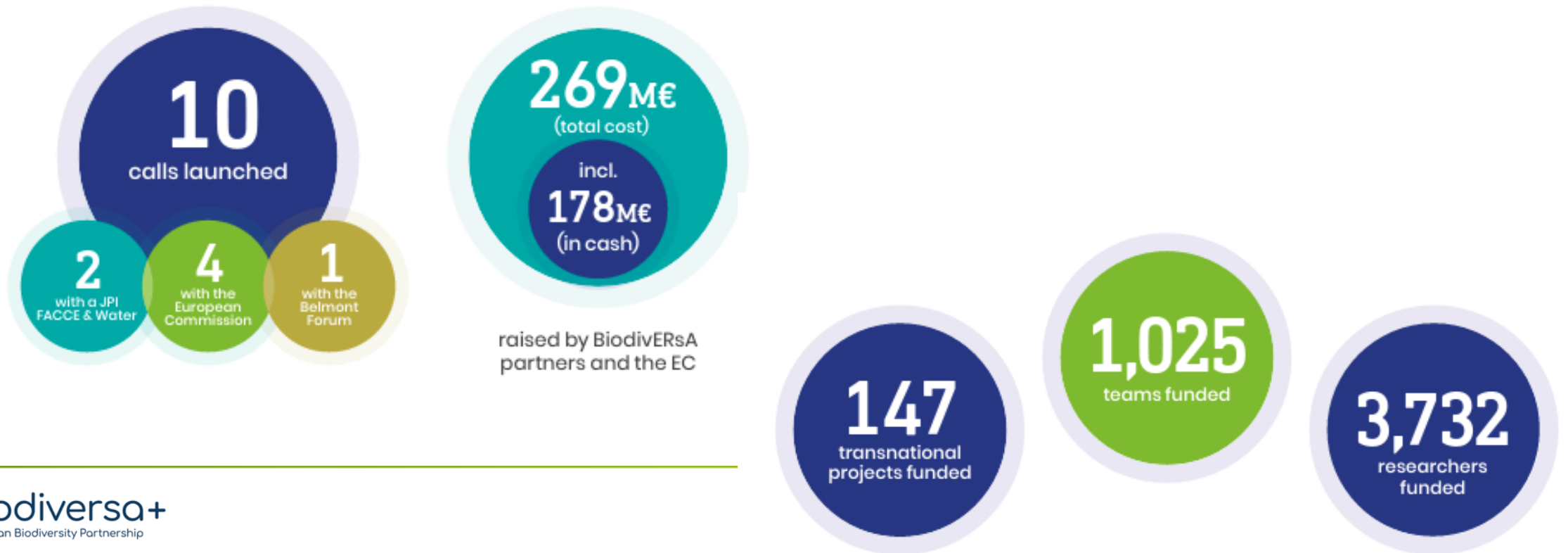


Introduction - What is Biodiversa+

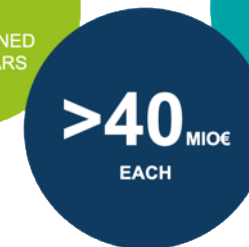
By Claire Blery, Biodiversa+ CEO, FRB (France)

The European biodiversity Partnership

- Officially launched on 1 October 2021
- **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)**



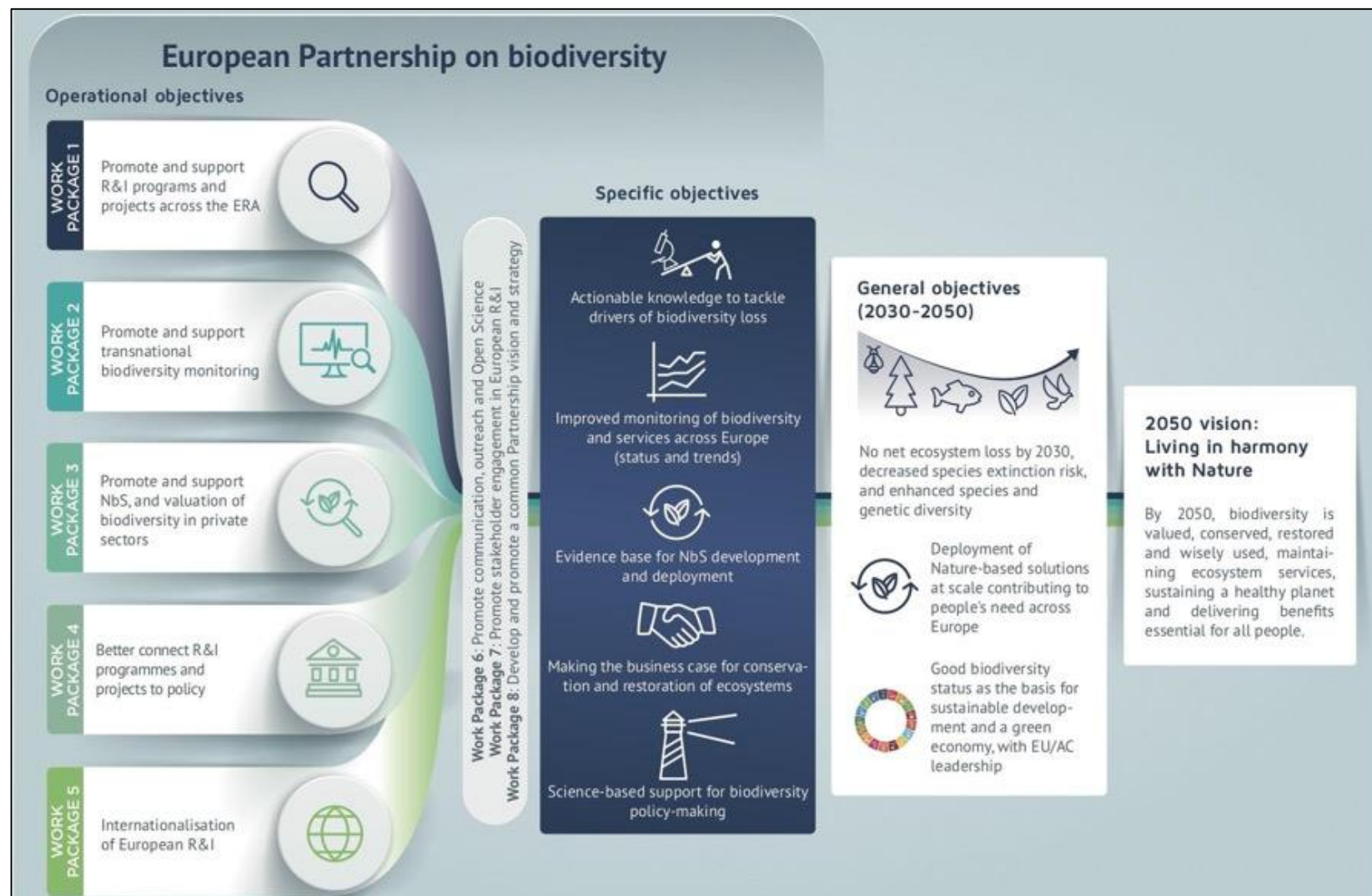
An extended membership & portfolio of activities



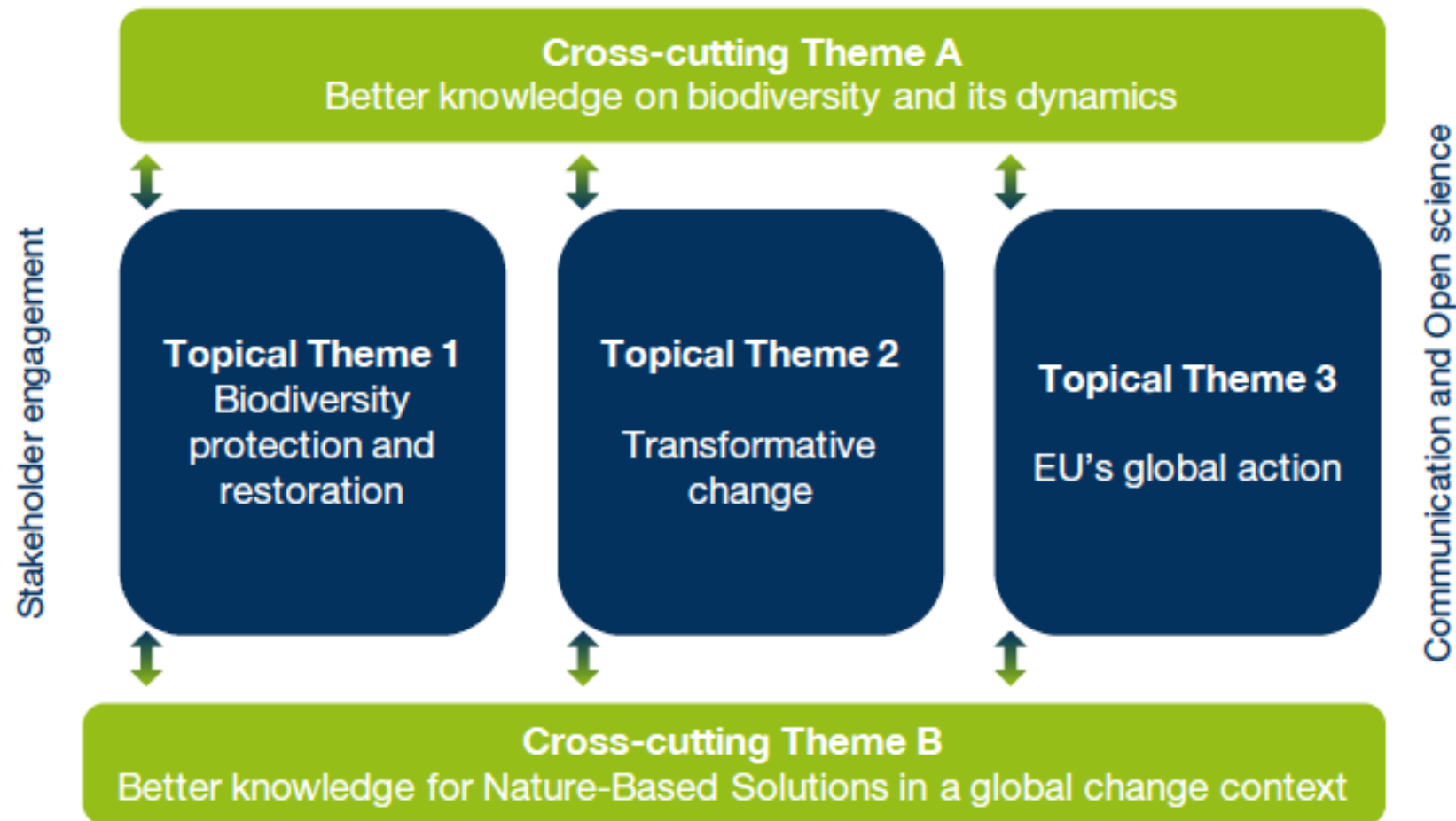
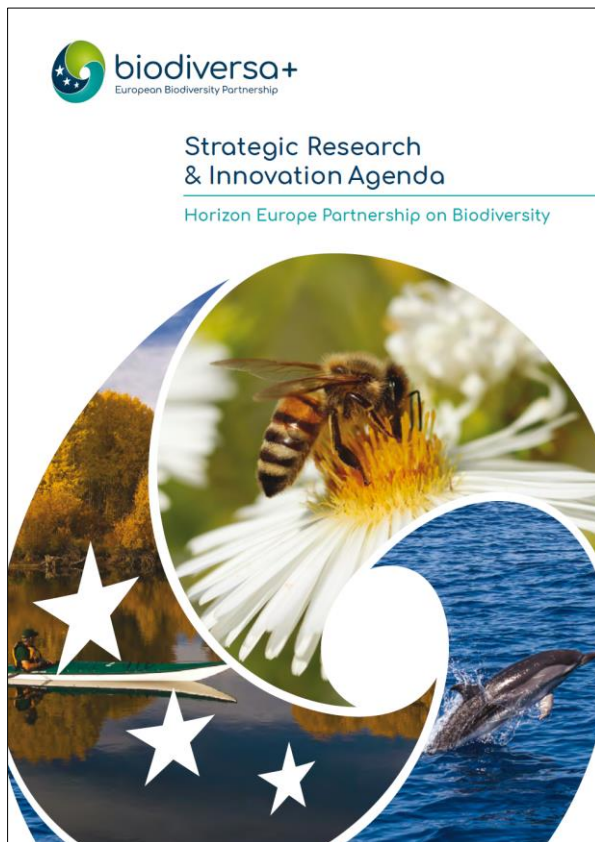
Aligned with the new policy context

EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030:

“... making the bridge between science, policy & practice...”



Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda



Introduction - How does a joint call work?

By Claire Blery, Biodiversa+ CEO, FRB (France)

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

Session 1 - Topic and scientific content of the call

By Magnus Tannerfeldt, Biodiversa+ vice-Chair, FORMAS (Sweden)

“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:

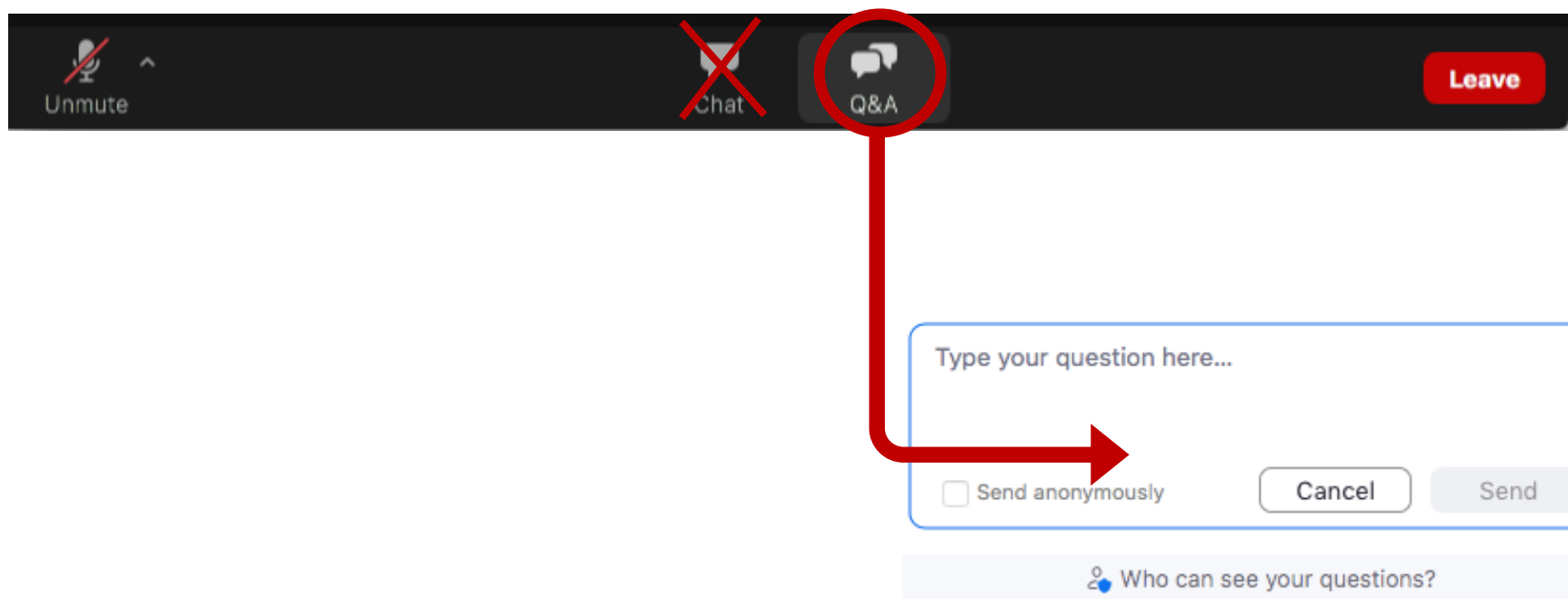
- ✓ Proposals should **fill gaps in terms of coverage of taxa, ecosystem types, regions, and sampling frequency** and, where relevant, consider concrete linkages to operational monitoring networks, research infrastructures, and other existing efforts at national, European, and global level.
- ✓ Biodiversa+ strongly supports **open science**. Projects should generate **FAIR** 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.

Call themes

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,

Q&A Session



Session 2 - Types of projects funded & expectations towards applicants

By Claire Blery, Biodiversa+ CEO, FRB (France)

& Frédéric Lemaître, Biodiversa+ Science-policy-society interface manager, FRB (France)

Types of projects funded

➤ 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)

good opportunity to be part of bigger transnational research projects and to join forces with other teams



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

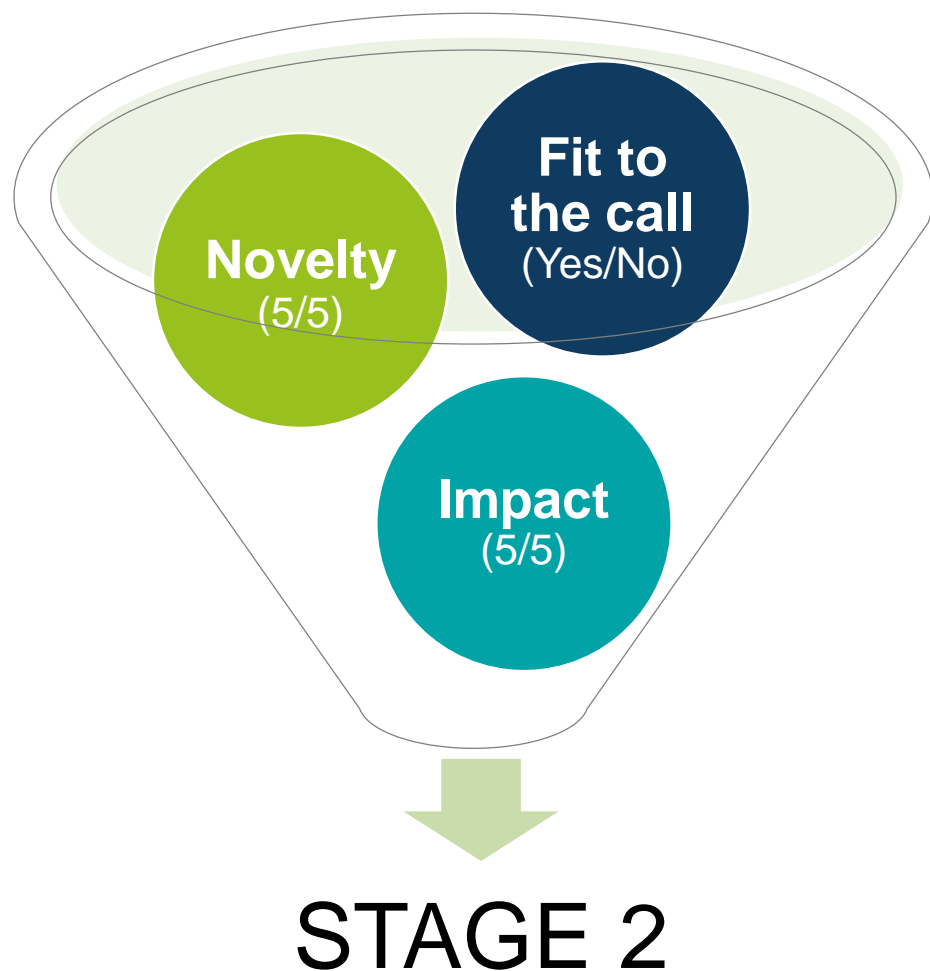
What is meant by transnational added value ?

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.

Types of projects funded



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

Impact sub-criteria in step 1:

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

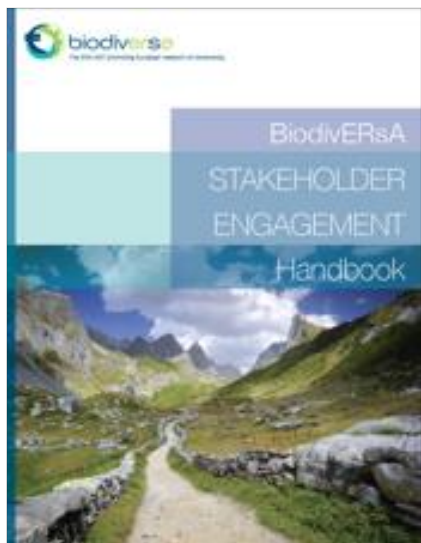
- > Added value contribution for tackling societal and/or policy challenges?
- > Credible approach/ambition towards stakeholder and/or end-user engagement to achieve the expected impact

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

Useful guidance documents for applicants

By Frédéric Lemaître, Biodiversa+ Science-policy-society interface manager, FRB (France)

The stakeholder engagement handbook



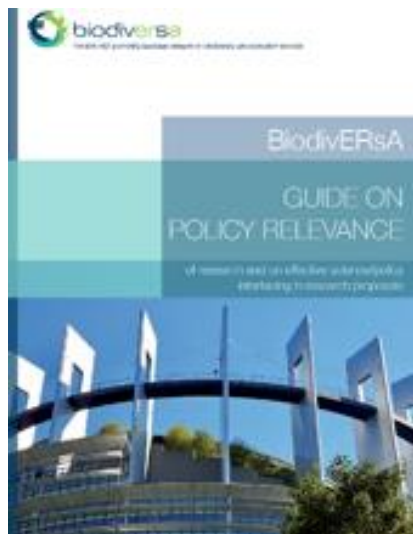
It will help you identify relevant stakeholders to engage with in order to enhance the impact of your work.

The Handbook draws upon exiting literature and presents case studies that provide clear, simple guidance, which considers **‘why’, ‘who’, ‘when’ and ‘how’ to engage.**

Contents:

- PART 1: INTRODUCTION
- PART 2: WHY ENGAGE WITH STAKEHOLDERS
- PART 3: HOW TO IDENTIFY STAKEHOLDERS
- PART 4: WHEN TO ENGAGE WITH STAKEHOLDERS
- PART 5: METHODS FOR ENGAGEMENT
- PART 6: PLANNING THE DETAIL OF THE ENGAGEMENT
- PART 7: MANAGING STAKEHOLDER CONFLICT
- PART 8: MONITORING AND EVALUATING THE ENGAGEMENT

The guide on policy relevance of research



It will help you to:

- Better understand what is **policy relevance of research**
- Be aware of what are the **criteria for evaluating policy relevance of research** in Biodiversa+ calls
- Be able to more efficiently **identify the most relevant policies and policy-making bodies** for a given research project

Part I

THE BASIS

Understand BiodivERsA's approach to promoting and evaluating policy relevance and science/policy interfacing in research proposals

Part II

KEYS AND RESOURCES

Quality and demonstrate the policy relevance of your research proposal

Check your S.I.E.V., don't deceive!

S.
State

State clearly and demonstrate the policy relevance of your research proposal

I.
Identify

Identify which policy stakeholders you engage and/or target in your research proposal

E.
Engage

Engage with policy stakeholders and promote science/policy interfacing within your research proposal

V.
Value

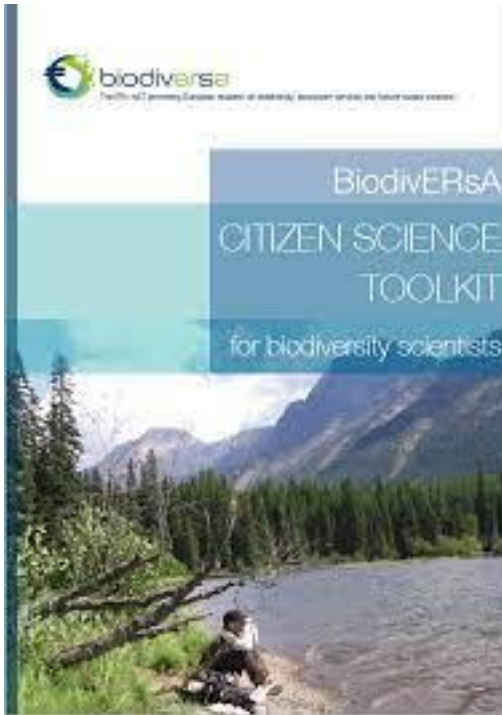
Value the European and international policy implications of your transnational research proposal

Part III

DOS AND DON'TS

Case-studies for scientists to increase the policy relevance and effectiveness of science/policy interfacing in their research projects

The Citizen Science Toolkit



With this Toolkit you will :

- Get a better overview and understanding of what Citizen Science is;
- Figure out all the benefits of adopting Citizen science approaches;
- Have access to a list of the most relevant publications and most useful tools for Citizen Science;
- Discover many examples of Citizen Science projects and testimonies from researchers;
- Find out how to overcome the most common perceived challenges.

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



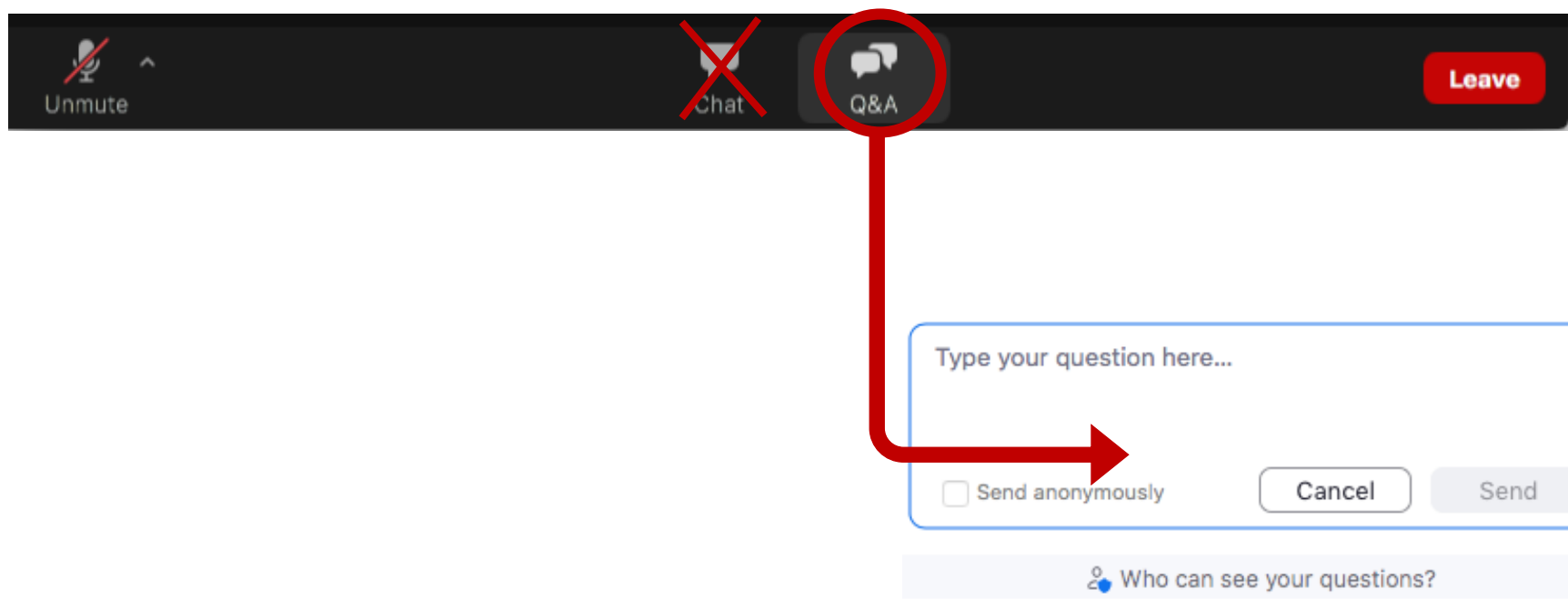
Biodiversa+ encourages open sharing of research data and digital outputs to stimulate new approaches to the collection, reuse, analysis, validation and management of data and information, thus increasing the transparency of the research process and robustness of the results.

- Applicants are thus requested to submit
 - Preliminary data management information in their pre-proposals
 - A first Data Management Plan in their full proposals

To help you, consult our guidance document & learn more about

- Main principles and policies for data management
- Existing tools and resources
- & Get advice on the writing of your data management plans

Q&A Session



Session 3 - Call process & eligibility rules

*By Céline Billiere, Biodiversa+ Call Secretariat, ANR (France)
& Sophie Germann, Biodiversa+ Call Secretariat, ANR (France)*

Call process

STEP 1: Mandatory submission of pre-proposals through the online platform (EPSS, Electronic Proposal Submission System)

/! Applicants cannot enter the procedure at a later stage **/!**

- Eligibility check
- First evaluation by an independent evaluation committee according to the following assessment criteria:
 - i. Fit to the scope of the call*
 - ii. Novelty of the research*
 - iii. Impact*

STEP 2: Applicants invited to step 2 have to **submit a full proposal via the EPSS**

- Eligibility check
- Evaluation by external reviewers and an independent evaluation committee according to the following assessment criteria:
 - i. Excellence*
 - ii. Quality and efficiency of the implementation*
 - iii. Impact*

/! Pre- and full proposals must meet all the formal criteria: submitted electronically, respect page limits and number/type of attachments allowed **/!**

Links and hyperlinks are not allowed

A pre-proposal or a full proposal can be declared as ineligible, if formatting conditions are not followed

General Call schedule

**!! Do not wait
the last
minute to
submit !!**

16 June 2022:	Pre-announcement of the call
8 September 2022:	Official launch of the call
20 September 2022	General webinar of the Call
9 November 2022, 15:00 CET (local time in Brussels):	Deadline for submitting pre-proposal
December 2022:	First eligibility check completed by the Call Secretariat and Funding organisation Contact Points (FCPs)
Mid-February 2023	Results of the first Evaluation Committee (EvC) meeting ➤ Selected applicants are invited to submit full proposals
5 April 2023, 15:00 CEST (local time in Brussels):	Deadline for submitting full proposals
May 2023:	Second quick eligibility check completed by the Call Secretariat and FCPs
June or July 2023:	Second EvC meeting > Ranked list of proposals established by the EvC
Late September 2023:	Recommendation for funding projects by the Call Steering Committee (CSC) ➤ Results communicated to applicants
1 December 2023:	Earliest possible start of funded projects
1 April 2024:	Latest possible start of funded projects

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](#)

General eligibility criteria (1/4)

Consortium composition:

- Scientific teams will be invited to form transnational research consortia with eligible research Partners from **minimum 3 different countries participating in the call** and requesting support from at least three different Funding Organisations.
 - In addition, part of the eligible Partners, **at least two must come from different EU Member States (MS) or Associated Countries (AC)*** participating in the call.

A consortium including research Partners from Portugal, Brazil and Norway

Eligible

- ✓ 2 different EU MS and AC (Portugal and Norway) & Partners from 3 different participating countries

A consortium including research Partners from Poland, Taiwan and Brazil

Not eligible

- ✗ 3 different partners but only 1 EU MS (Poland); Taiwan and Brazil are neither EU MS nor EU AC
-

- CONSULT THE UPDATED LIST OF ASSOCIATED COUNTRIES (in Horizon Europe) here:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

General eligibility criteria (2/4)

Project duration: 3 years

→ Projects are expected to act as **transnational project** and not as a mosaic of national projects; to this end, as far as possible Partners should participate in the project for its entire duration. However, as needed, position of some team members can be requested for only part of the project's duration, as long as at least one member of each Partner remains involved for the whole project duration.

Other general eligibility rules:

- The **project coordinator** is **eligible** and employed by an eligible organisation according to the terms and conditions of the participating Funding Organisation from which he/she applies for support;
- **The project coordinator (person in charge) can only participate as coordinator in one proposal** of this call. Apart from the position of coordinator, applicants can participate in several proposals (as long as this is in line with their funding organisation's eligibility rules);
- Proposals must be written in **English**;
- **The scope or scale of the proposed research should exceed a single country.**

General eligibility criteria ^(3/4)

Changes allowed between pre- & full proposals

!! The information given in the pre-proposals is binding !!

- **No changes regarding the proposals' content** will be allowed between the pre- and full proposals. However, it is still possible to make minor changes to improve your proposal if the objectives remain unchanged (you will have to declare these changes in your full proposal).

➤ **As regards administrative information:**

Changes in budget

- **Minor change of budget** can be allowed by the relevant **Funding Organisation**. The Funding Organisation can decide according to its own rules whether it needs a justification for it. There is no need to inform the Call Secretariat.

**!! Please indicate
the acronym of
your proposal in
your email !!**

General eligibility criteria (4/4)

Changes allowed between pre- & full proposals

Changes in consortium composition

- **No changes of coordinator** (person in charge) will be allowed, except in case of force majeure.
- **Max. 2 changes of Partners** is allowed, if requested by the Partners and approved by the concerned Funding Organisations.
 - The eligibility of the new Partners must be confirmed at least one week before the full proposal submission deadline.
 - Changes must be asked first to the concerned funding organisations (with the Call Secretariat in copy), who needs to check the eligibility and agree with the change before it could be integrated into the EPSS platform.
- **!!** In case of a removal of a Partner, consortia have to make sure that their consortium still includes the minimum number of requested Partners. If this is not the case, the project will be declared ineligible and won't be evaluated **!!**
- **The change(s) should not change the substance of the proposal.** Applicants will have to indicate in their full proposal the changes made as compared to the pre-proposals (for information for the EvC and the Call Secretariat)

WHAT IS CONSIDERED AS A CHANGE?

- **Addition, removal or replacement of a Partner** (incl. subcontracted and self-financed partners)
- Please note that the maximum number of changes applies to "Partner"; it does not apply to "team member".

This won't be considered as a change:

- If a researcher in charge (person) remains the same but changes the institutions (within the same country), provided the institution fulfils eligibility criteria of the same funding organisation.
- Similarly, if the institution remains the same but the researcher in charge (person) changes, provided the researcher in charge fulfils eligibility criteria of the same funding organisation.
- If the change is explicitly requested by a Funding Organisation after the eligibility decision at step 1

Funding organisations' financial rules and eligibility criteria

Each National / regional Funding Organisation funds its own national / regional research Partner



!! Applicants are strongly advised to approach their respective Funding organisation Contact Point to make sure they respect all the eligibility criteria and rules (e.g. eligible budget items etc.)**!!**

If one Partner is not eligible, the whole proposal will be considered ineligible and will not be evaluated, unless the eligibility issue(s) can be fixed without changing the substance of the proposal.

➤ Consult the updated Funding Organisations' rules and Funding Organisations' Contact Points here: <https://www.biodiversa.org/2088/download>

Looking for a Partner for a Project you would like to submit? OR Looking for a Project to join?



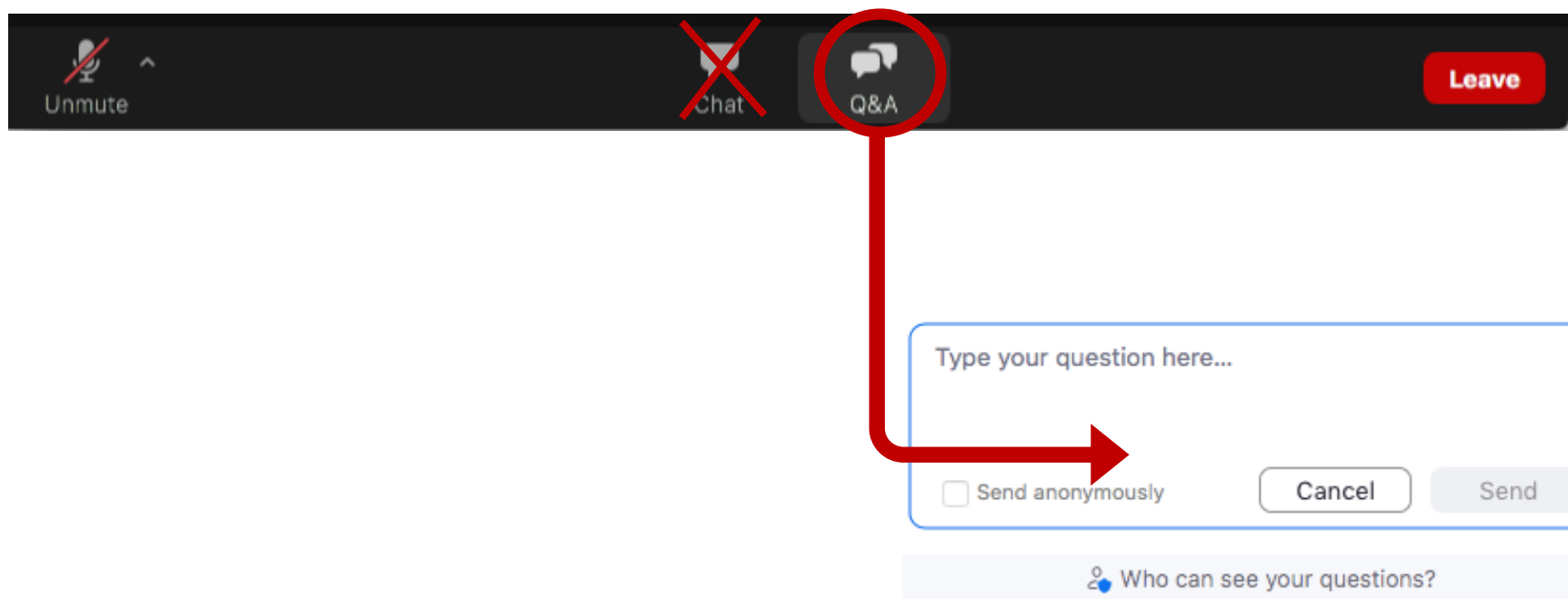
Use the **Partner Search Tool**

You simply have to fill in a Partner / Project Search form on the online platform (**in English**)

LINK: <https://proposals.etag.ee/biodiversa/2022/partner-search>

- Your form will be visible on the platform and you may be contacted by other applicants
- Have a look at the forms submitted through a **user-friendly search function**: search for partners or projects to join on the platform according to different criteria: country, discipline, keywords

Q&A Session



Conclusion

*By Céline Billiere, ANR (France), Biodiversa+ Call Secretariat
& Sophie Germann, Biodiversa+ Call Secretariat, ANR (France)*

General information

**!! Please
carefully read all
documents !!**

Lots of resources available online

➤ Consult the **CALL DOCUMENTS** containing the following information:

<https://www.biodiversa.org/2064/download>

- Announcement of Opportunity (Call text)
- Pre-proposal application form (for information; to be accessed via EPSS platform)
- Full Proposal application form (for information; to be accessed via EPSS platform in Step 2)
- Checklist for applicants
- Data policy
- Assessment criteria
- Conflict of Interest, confidentiality and non-disclosure policy.

➤ Consult the updated list of **Funding Organisations**: <https://www.biodiversa.org/2088/download>

➤ Check regularly our **FAQ**: <https://www.biodiversa.org/2077>

- 1 Check the **themes and scope** of the call
- 2 Build your **consortium**
- 3 Check the **eligibility criteria**
- 4 Check the **national regulations for ALL members of the consortium**
- 5 Clarify procedures with **National Contact Points and Call Secretariat**

Watch the webinar in replay on the Biodiversa+ website:
<https://www.biodiversa.org/2017>
- 6 **Elaborate your proposal** according to the Call documentation, the instruction provided in the proposal templates and in the guidelines for applicants
- 7 **Submit on the EPSS by 9 November 2022 15:00 CET**



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European Biodiversity Partnership

EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP



Co-funded by
the European Union

Thank you!

- Find out more about the call: <https://www.biodiversa.org/2017>
The link to the online platform (EPSS) will also be available here

Contacts:

- **Call Secretariat (ANR)** // Céline Billiere & Clara Superbie
biodiversa.cs@agencerecherche.fr
- **National/Regional Contact Points** will be indicated in the rules of the funding organisations : <https://www.biodiversa.org/2088/download>
- **Technical helpdesk for the online platform (EPSS):**
epss.biodiversa@g.etag.ee



www.biodiversa.org



contact@biodiversa.org



BiodiversaPlus

