Speakers

- Hilde EGGERMONT, Belspo, Biodiversa+ Chair & Coordinator

- Claire BLERY, FRB, Biodiversa+ CEO

- Cécile MANDON, FRB, Biodiversa+ Operational Team Officer

- Sophie GERMANN, ANR, Biodiversa+ Call Secretariat

- Juliette Bettus, ANR, Biodiversa+ Call Secretariat

Programme of the webinar

11:00-11:10	**Introduction** 1. Quick presentation of Biodiversa+ 2. Functioning of a Joint Call
11:10-12:20	**3 thematic sessions** followed by Q&A session 1. (11:10 – 11:30) Topic and scientific content of the call 2. (11:30 – 11:50) Types of projects funded & expectations towards applicants 3. (11:50 – 12:20) Call process & eligibility rules
12:20-12:30	**Conclusion**

Webinar instructions

1   **For your information: the webinar is recorded and will be available in replay**

2   **Audio available to the presenters only**

3

**Several Q&A session to answer your questions.
To ask your questions, USE "Q&A" FUNCTION**

*NB: please ask questions related to the on-going thematic session
NB: questions related to Funding Organisations' Regulations will be forwarded to the corresponding NCPs. Some questions may be answered individually by email after the Webinar, due to its specificity.*

Webinar instructions

Introduction

What is Biodiversa+ ?

Biodiversa+ building on the BiodivERsA experience (2008-2021)

10 Calls launched

2 With a JPI (FACCE & WATER)

3 With the European Commission

1 With the Belmont Forum & EC

237 M€ (total costs)

Incl. **150** M€ (in cash)

raised by BiodivERsA Partners and the EC

Over 2008-2020:

125 projects funded

863 teams funded

3097 scientists

biodiversa+
European Biodiversity Partnership
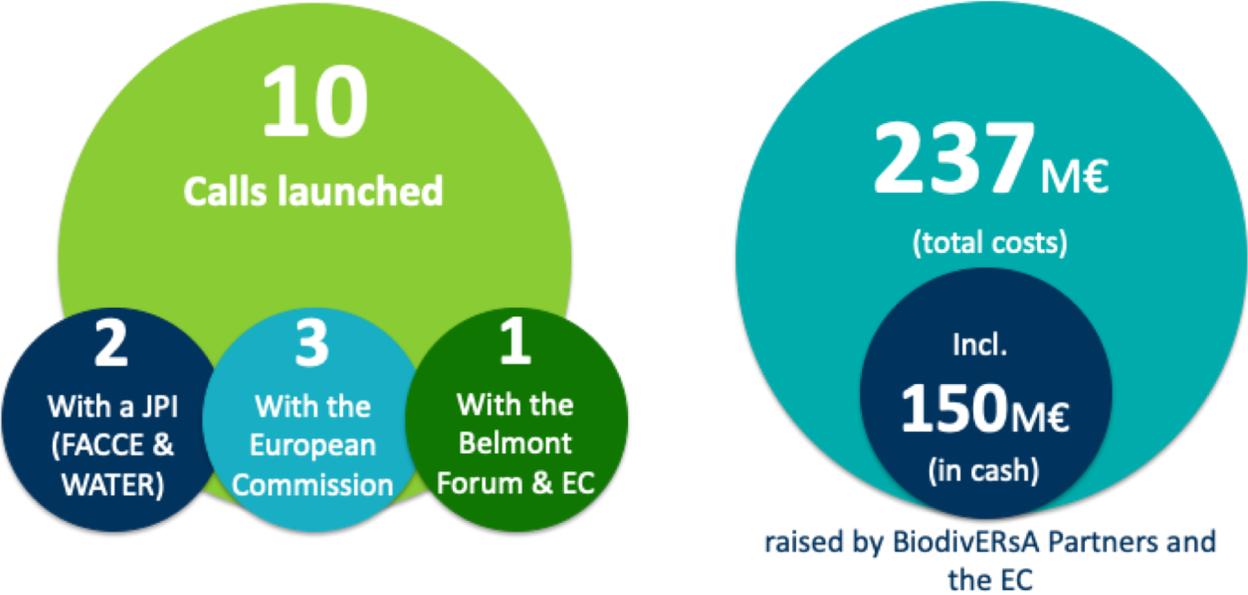
A new approach, increased ambition!

Nb of Partners per type

- Other ministries: 2
- Ministry of research: 9
- Environment Protection Agency: 8
- Ministry of environment: 19
- funding agency/foundation: 36
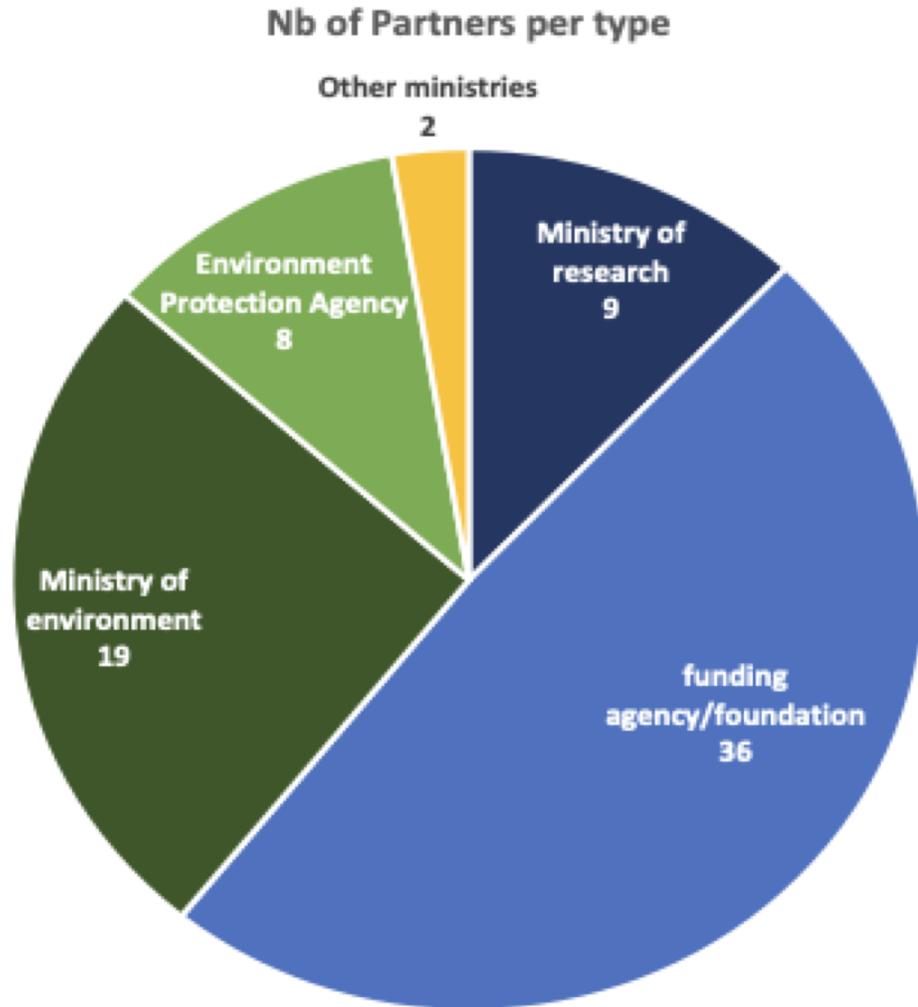
Membership – geographical reach & composition
- Ministries of Environment & EPA
- Ministries of Research; Funding Agencies; Foundations
⇒ 75 members from 37 countries

Portfolio of activities

Budget
- Global budget >800 Mio€ (combining in-cash and in-kind resources from Partners; 165 Mio€ co-funding by EC)
- Of this, 64% for research funding; 32% for biodiversity monitoring; 4% other activities

Collaborations
- Existing & newly emerging initiatives, tools, mechanisms
- Complementarity Horizon Europe/Missions/ other Partnerships

Lifespan: 2021 – 2028

Part of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030, to make the bridge between science, policy & practice

biodiversa+
European Biodiversity Partnership

Biodiversa+: objectives & vision

To be released mid-november 2021
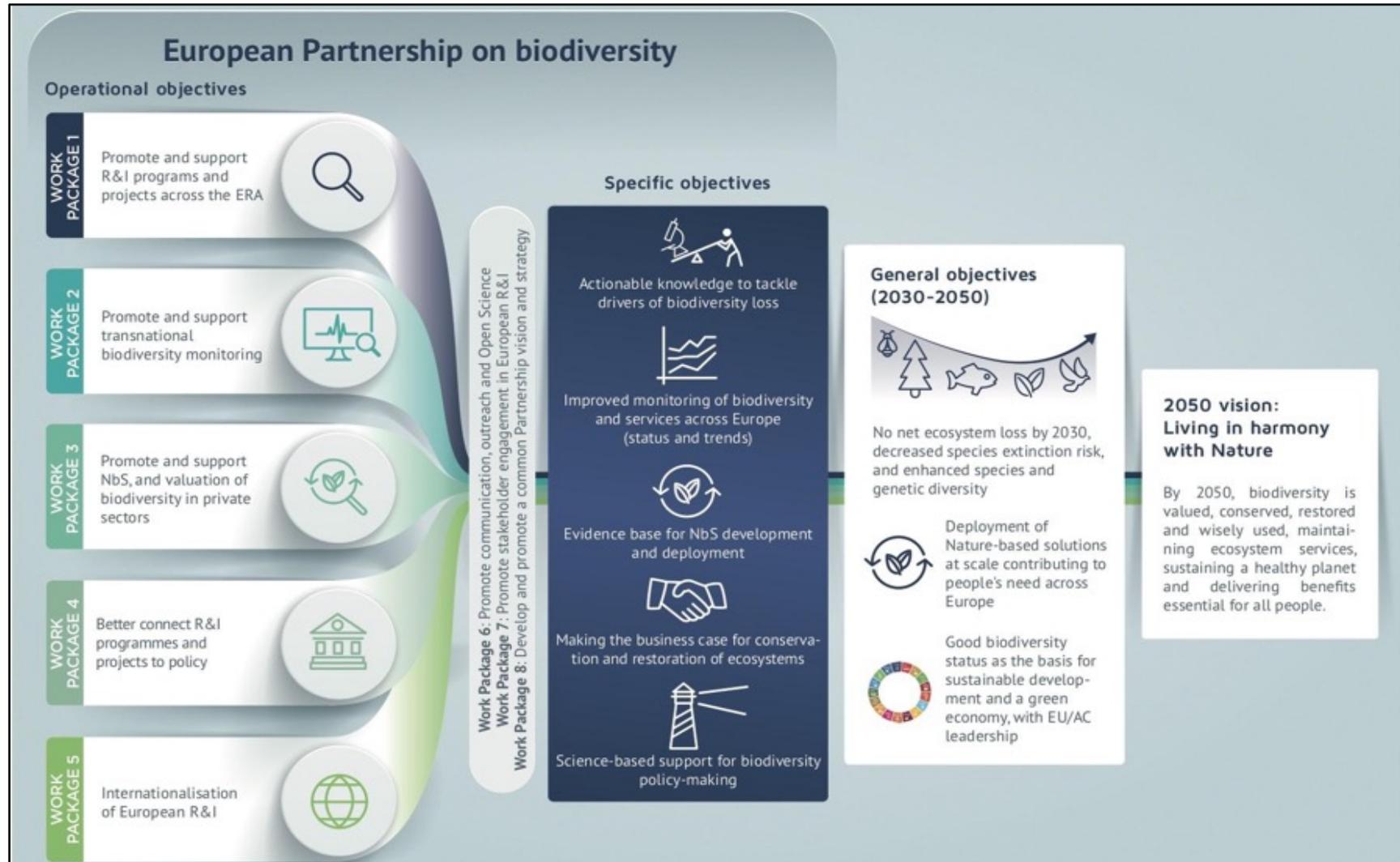
Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda
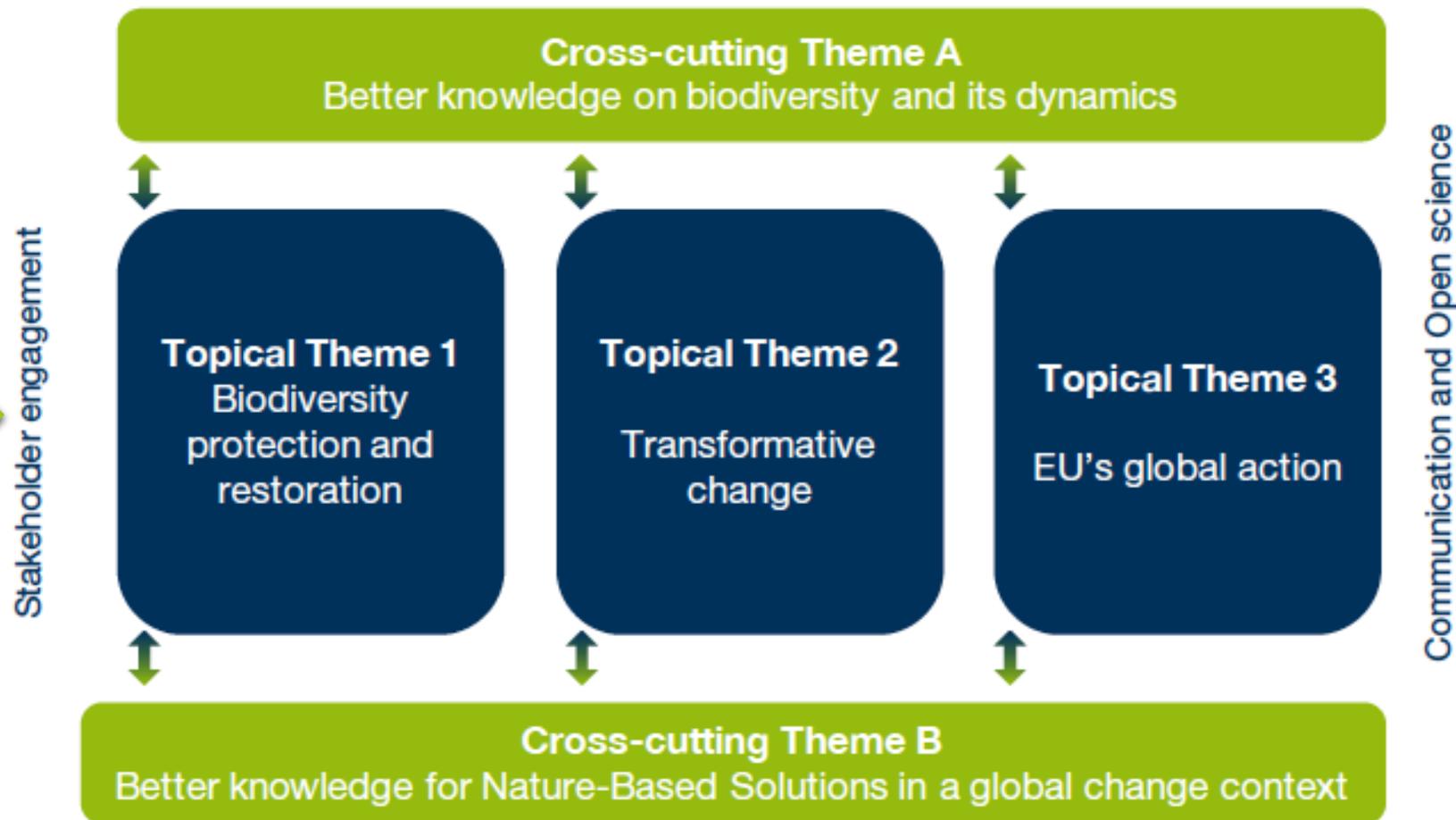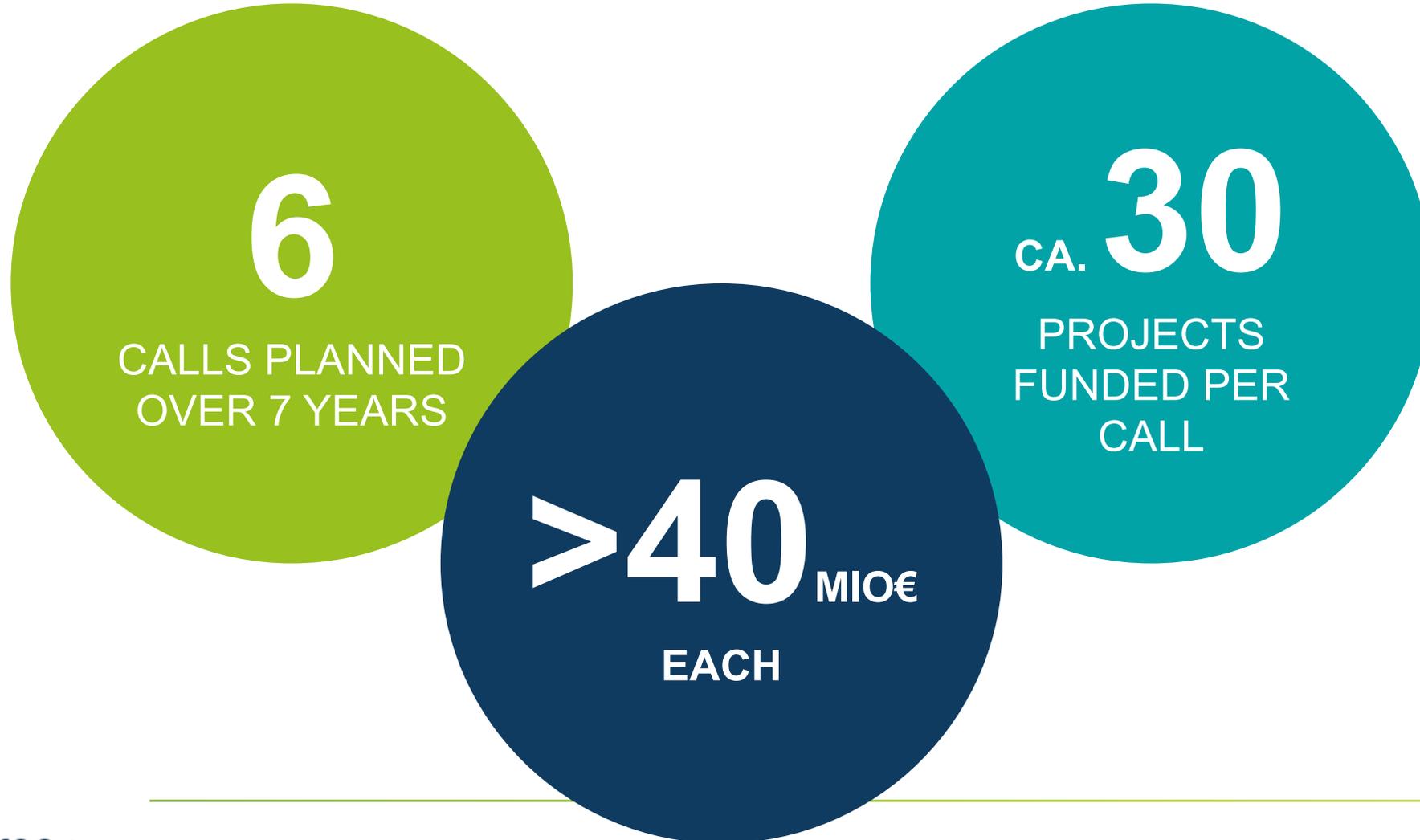
Introduction

How does a joint call work?

# 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)*

*Pending signature of the
Grant Agreement with 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

biodiversa+
European Biodiversity Partnership

"Supporting biodiversity and ecosystem protection across land and sea"

CONTEXT

- Despite ambitious targets, Europe's biodiversity continues to be eroded and many agreed policy targets had not been achieved by the end of 2020

- Similarly, assessments of species and habitats protected under the Habitats Directive for the period 2006-2012 revealed that 60% of species and 77% of habitats remain in unfavourable status

- Land and sea use change and direct exploitation in particular, can be managed through effective area-based conservation, with connected systems of protected and conserved areas (OECM)

Truly coherent Trans-European Nature Network

30% protected
10% strictly protected

biodiversa+
European Biodiversity Partnership

"Supporting biodiversity and ecosystem protection across land and sea"

Priorities of the Call:

- Advance knowledge and inform more effective and integrative biodiversity management by enhancing the scientific underpinnings of biodiversity and ecosystem protection.

- Measures regarding protected areas (including nationally designated protected areas), integrated area-based conservation measures reconciling conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services, as well as measures contributing to effectively protecting species **in the wild**
  (not restoration; not ex situ conservation)

- **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

biodiversa+
European Biodiversity Partnership

"Supporting biodiversity and ecosystem protection across land and sea"

Proposals should address one or more of the 3 following themes:

- **THEME 1** – Knowledge for identifying priority conservation areas, establishing effective and resilient ecological networks, enhancing species-based protection and preserving genetic diversity
    Areas important for biodiversity; Ecological connectivity; Ecological networks; Ecological representation; Broadening the range of area-based conservation tools; enlarging toolbox for species-based protection; …

- **THEME 2** – Multiple benefits and costs of biodiversity and ecosystem protection: synergies and trade-offs
    Positive and negative impacts; Costs and benefits from different conservation strategies; Integrated protected area management/ landscape & seascape approaches; tools and approaches to mitigate trade-offs (move to win win); economic & social-economic metrics

- **THEME 3** – Effective management and equitable governance to deliver bold conservation outcomes
    Sound governance and effective/adaptive management; inclusive and adaptive; motives for protection & influence of power constellations; right-based approaches…

biodiversa+
European Biodiversity Partnership

➤ CONSULT THE **CALL DOCUMENT** FOR MORE INFO:
download (biodiversa.org)

Q&A Session

biodiversa+
European Biodiversity Partnership

Call presentation

———

Session 2 – Types of projects funded

Types of projects funded

➢ **Average size of collaborative research projects**

- **Medium size projects**
- **1.2 – 1.5M€** (on average)
- **5 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
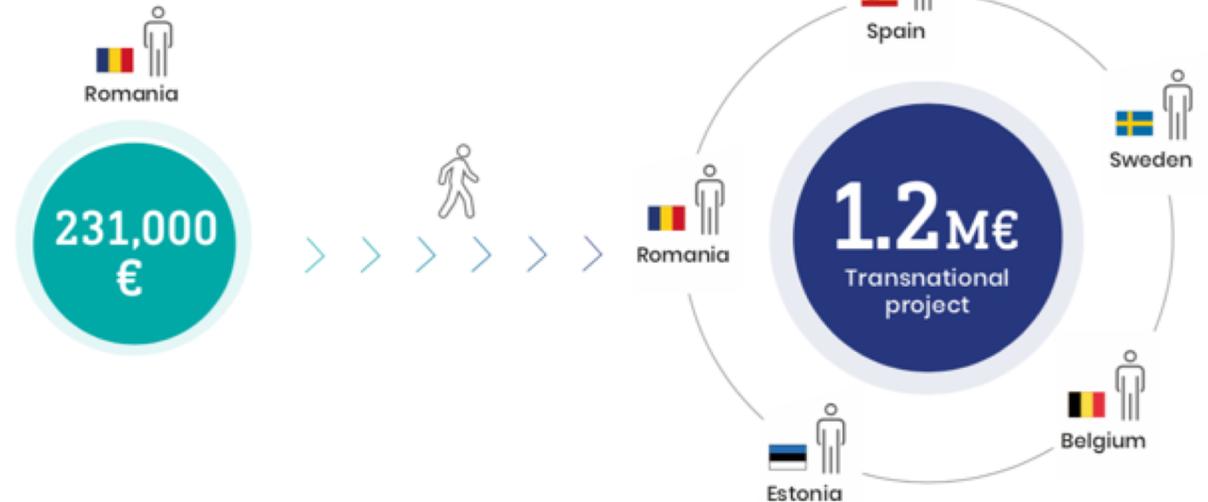
Types of projects funded

Overall, projects are expected to:

➢ Be **scientifically excellent**

➢ Be **multi-disciplinary**, where relevant

➢ Demonstrate a **transnational added value**

➢ **Engage stakeholders**

> Consult the BiodivERsA Stakeholder Engagement Handbook:
>
> http://www.biodiversa.org/stakeholderengagement

➢ **Demonstrate political / societal relevance**

> Consult the BiodivERsA Guide on policy relevance of research projects
> http://www.biodiversa.org/1543

/!\ 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 evaluation criteria to evaluated these

Types of projects funded

➢ **Evaluation criteria:**

STEP 1: pre-proposal stage

- **Fit to the scope of the call**
- **Novelty of the research**
- **Expected societal and/or policy impact**

STEP 2: full-proposal stage

- **Excellence**
- **Quality and efficiency of the implementation**
- **Impact** (incl. societal / policy relevance and approaches to stakeholder engagement)

LOOK AT SUBCRITERIA TO KNOW WHAT WILL BE EVALUATED

➢ CONSULT THE **ASSESSMENT CRITERIA** in the **CALL DOCUMENTS** FOR MORE INFO:
To be downloaded here: https://www.biodiversa.org/1772

biodiversa+
European Biodiversity Partnership

Types of projects funded – assessment criteria

- **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.

Useful guidance documents for applicants

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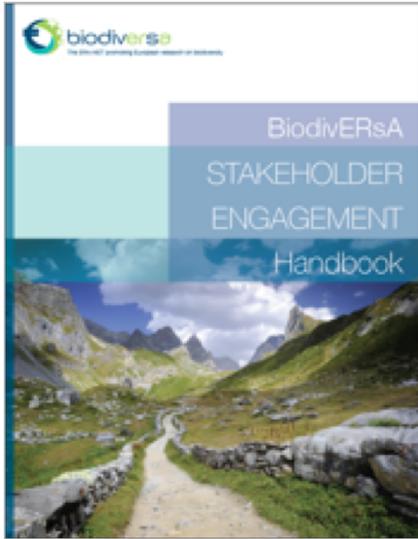
It will help you identify relevant stakeholders to engage with in order to enhance the impact of your work.

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

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

The policy guide
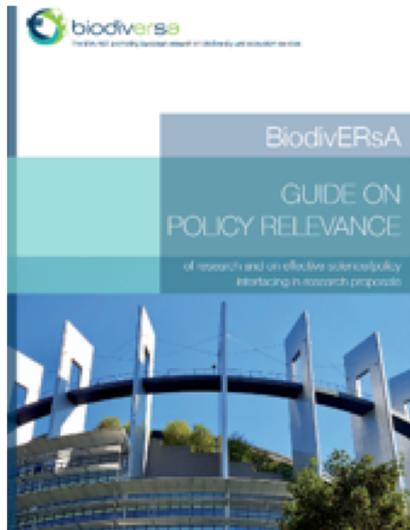
It will help you to:

- 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**

Qualify and demonstrate the policy relevance of your research proposal

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

S.	I.	E.	V.
State	**Identify**	**Engage**	**Value**
State clearly and demonstrate the policy relevance of your research proposal	Identify which policy stakeholders you engage and/or target in your research proposal	Engage with policy stakeholders and promote science/policy interfacing within your research proposal	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

LINK: *https://www.biodiversa.org/1543*

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

LINK: https://www.biodiversa.org/1677/download

Q&A Session

Call presentation

___

Session 3 – Call process & eligibility rules

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 /!\

biodiversa+
European Biodiversity Partnership

➢ CONSULT THE **INDICATIVE** **PRE-PROPOSAL and FULL-PROPOSAL APPLICATION FORMS** in the **CALL DOCUMENTS**: https://www.biodiversa.org/1772

General call schedule

June 2021:	Pre-announcement of the call
1 October 2021:	Official launch of the call
30 November 2021, 15:00 CET (local time in Brussels):	Deadline for submitting pre-proposal
January 2022:	First eligibility check completed by the Call Secretariat and Funding organisation Contact Points (FCPs)
Mid-February 2022	Results of the first Evaluation Committee (EvC) meeting ➢ **Selected applicants are invited to submit full proposals**
14 April 2022, 15:00 CEST (local time in Brussels):	Deadline for submitting full proposals
May 2022:	Second quick eligibility check completed by the Call Secretariat and FCPs
June or July 2022:	Second EvC meeting > Ranked list of proposals established by the EvC
Late September 2022:	Recommendation for funding projects by the Call Steering Committee (CSC) ➢ **Results communicated to applicants**
1 December 2022:	Earliest possible start of funded projects
1 April 2023:	Latest possible start of funded projects

‼️ Do not wait the last minute to submit ‼️

biodiversa+
European Biodiversity Partnership

Participating countries and funding organisations

45 funding organisations from 33 countries

Total funding for the Call:

over 40M€

Austria, Belgium, Brazil**, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy (incl. the Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen), Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Morocco, Norway, Poland, Portugal (incl. the Azores), Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa**, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland**, Taiwan**, The Netherlands, Tunisia and Turkey.

*** Non-EU / Non Associated countries*

➢ CONSULT THE UPDATED **LIST OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES & FUNDING ORGANISATIONS involved in this call** here: **https://www.biodiversa.org/1938**

➢ CONSULT THE UPDATED **LIST OF ASSOCIATED COUNTTIES** (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**

biodiversa+
European Biodiversity Partnership

General eligibility criteria (1/4)

Consortium composition:

- Scientific teams will be invited to form transnational research consortia with <u>eligible</u> 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

biodiversa+
European Biodiversity Partnership

General eligibility criteria (2/4)

Project duration: 3 years

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.

biodiversa+
European Biodiversity Partnership

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**: a limited number of changes may be allowed provided they are in line with the general rules of the call and the rules of the Funding Organisations:

  • **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.

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.

  - → A request of change of coordinator must be submitted to the Call Secretariat, <u>at least one week before the deadline for submitting full proposals</u> and it will be discussed on a case-by-case basis by the CSC.

- **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 FCP (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 eligibitility criteria

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

‼ Applicants thus have to comply with their funding organisations' eligibility criteria and rules (e.g. eligible budget items etc.)

Applicants are strongly advised to approach their respective Funding organisation Contact Point to make sure they respect all the eligibility criteria and rules **‼**

If one Partner is not eligible, the whole proposal will be considered ineligible and will not be evaluated, unless the elibility issue(s) can be fixed.

➢ Consult the updated Funding Organisations' rules and Funding Organisations' Contact Points here (soon available): https://www.biodiversa.org/1938

biodiversa+
European Biodiversity Partnership

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/

❖ 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

biodiversa+
European Biodiversity Partnership

Q&A Session

Conclusion

General information

Lots of resources available online

> Consult the **CALL DOCUMENT** containing the following information:
> **https://www.biodiversa.org/1772**
>
> - 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 (rules + contact points will be available soon): https://www.biodiversa.org/1938**

> Check regularly our **FAQ: https://www.biodiversa.org/1925**

‼️ **Please carefully read all documents** ‼️

1. Check the Themes and the 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/1772

6. Elaborate your proposal according to the Call documentation, the instructions provided in the proposal template and in the guidelines of the evaluation
7. Submit by 30 November 2021 15:00 CET

biodiversa+
European Biodiversity Partnership

ALL THE BEST WITH THE PREPARATION OF YOUR APPLICATION!

biodiversa+
European Biodiversity Partnership

EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP

Co-funded by
the European Union

Thank you!

Find out more about the call: https://www.biodiversa.org/1772
The link to the online platform (EPSS) will also be available here

Contacts:

- **Call Secretariat (ANR)** // Juliette Bettus & Sophie Germann:
  Biodiversa.cs@agencerecherche.fr

- **National/Regional Contact Points** will be indicated in the rules of the funding
  organisations (available soon): https://www.biodiversa.org/1938)

- **Technical helpdesk for the online platform** (EPSS): epss.biodiversa@g.etag.ee

---

🌐   www.biodiversa.org

✉   contact@biodiversa.org

🐦   BiodivERsA3