



biodiversa+

European Biodiversity Partnership

**2024-2025 Joint Call on
Biodiversity and Transformative Change**

BiodivTransform

General Information Webinar, 24 Sept. 2024

<https://www.biodiversa.eu/biodivtransform>



Speakers

- Magnus Tannerfeldt, Biodiversa+ Co-Chair, Formas (Sweden)
- Céline Billière, Biodiversa+ Work Package Leader & Call Secretariat, ANR (France)
- Orsolya Csiszar, Biodiversa+ Operational Team & Call Secretariat, ANR (France)
- Frédéric Lemaître, Biodiversa+ Operational Manager for Society and Policy Impact, FRB (France)

Technical Support

- Sophie Germann, Biodiversa+ Operational Manager for Research & Monitoring, ANR (France)

Programme

3 thematic sessions	1:00-1:05	Welcome & Technical Instructions	By C. Billière
	1:05-1:10	Introduction to Biodiversa+	By M. Tannerfeldt
	1:10-1:35	Topic & Scientific Content of the Call <i>incl. ~10 minutes Q&A Session</i>	By M. Tannerfeldt
	1:35-1:50	Types of projects funded, expectations towards applicants, useful resources	By C. Billière & F. Lemaître
	1:50-2:40	Call process & eligibility rules <i>incl. ~20 minutes Q&A Session</i>	By O. Csiszar
	2:40-2:45	Conclusion	By C. Billière

List of resources available online

Consult the **Call Documents** containing the following information:

- 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 at Step 2)
- Checklist for applicants
- Data policy
- Assessment criteria
- Conflict of Interest, confidentiality and non-disclosure policy.

<https://www.biodiversa.eu/biodivtransform/>

Consult the updated list of **Funding Organisations**

<https://www.biodiversa.eu/biodivtransform-participating-funding-organisations/>

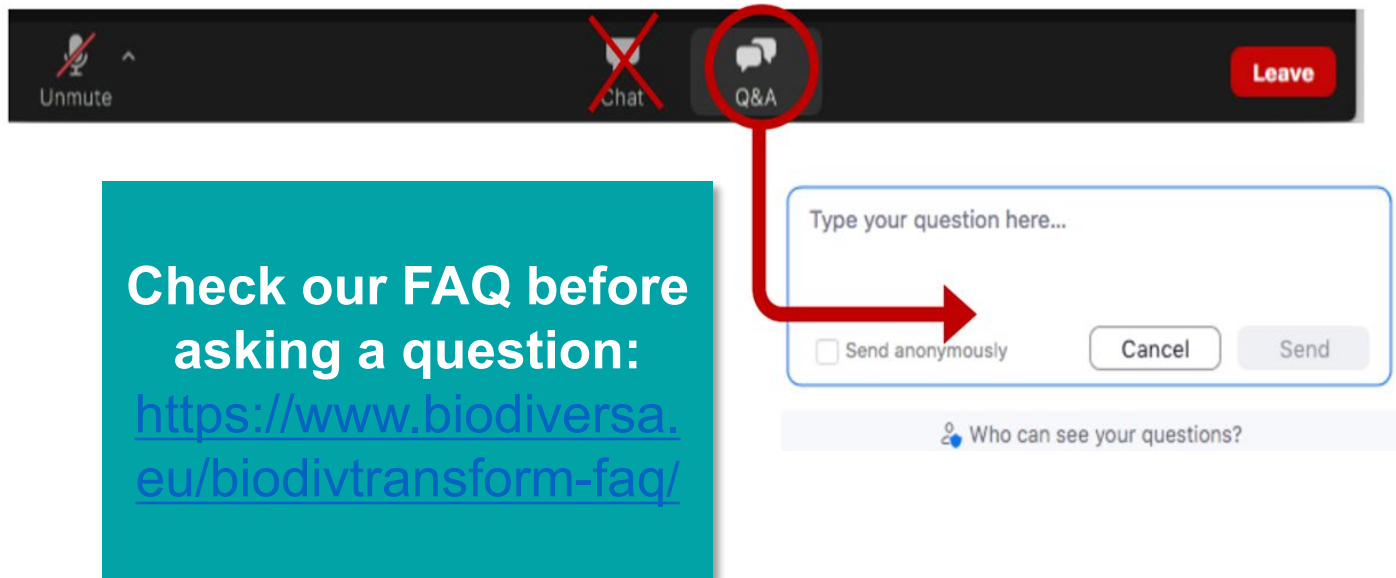
Check regularly our **FAQ**

<https://www.biodiversa.eu/biodivtransform-faq/>

**Please
carefully
read all
documents**

Webinar instruction

1. The webinar is **recorded** and the **replay will be available** on our Website (incl. the slides)
2. Audio is available to the presenters only
3. To ask questions, **USE THE “Q&A” FUNCTIONS**



Nota Bene:

- ➔ We might not be able to answer all questions
- ➔ Please ask questions related to the thematic sessions only
(3 sessions planned)
- ➔ For questions **related to the rules of your funding organisation**, please **directly contact the relevant contact** points

Introduction – What is Biodiversa+?

By Magnus Tannerfeldt, Biodiversa+ Co-Chair, Formas (Sweden)

What is Biodiversa+?

The **European Biodiversity Partnership** co-funded by the European Commission under Horizon Europe

Supporting excellent research on biodiversity with an impact for policy and society

Launched in 2021 for a 7 years duration

Jointly developed by BiodivERsA and the European Commission (DG Research & Innovation and DG Environment) – **building on the BiodivERsA experience (2008-2021)**



Biodiversa+ is a network of national partners

41

Countries

83

Partners



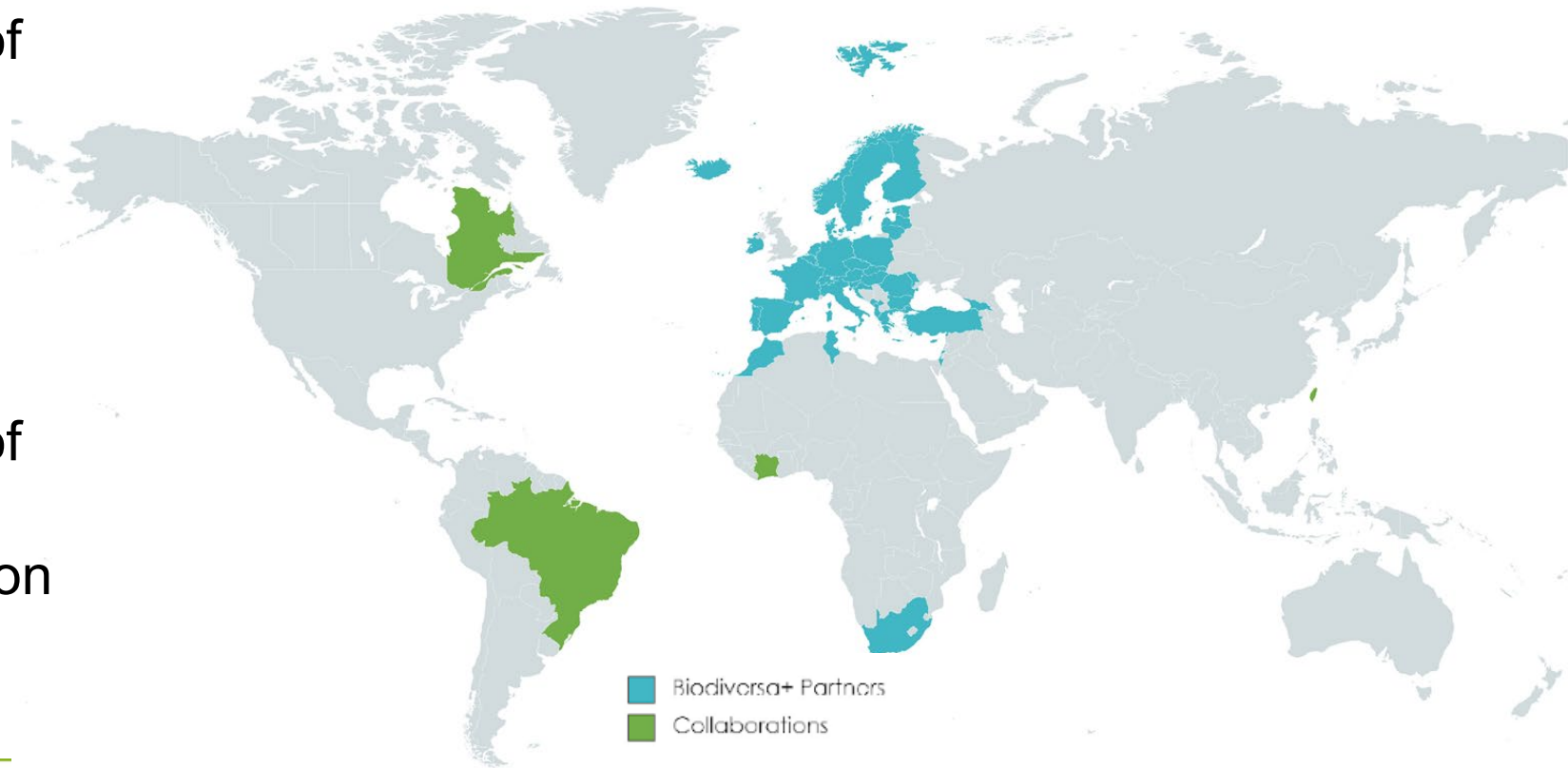
Research actors

- Ministries in charge of research
- Research funding organisations

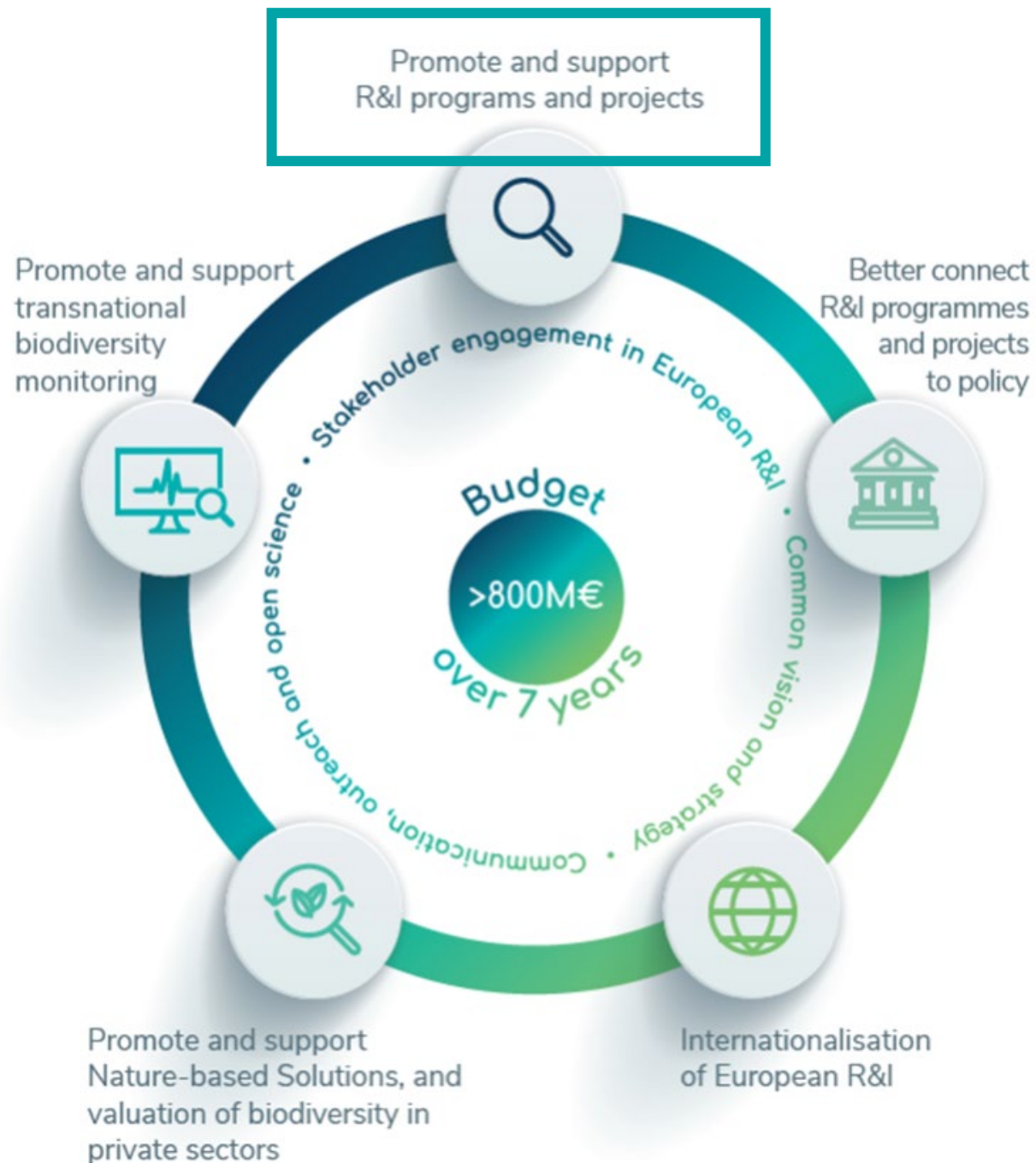
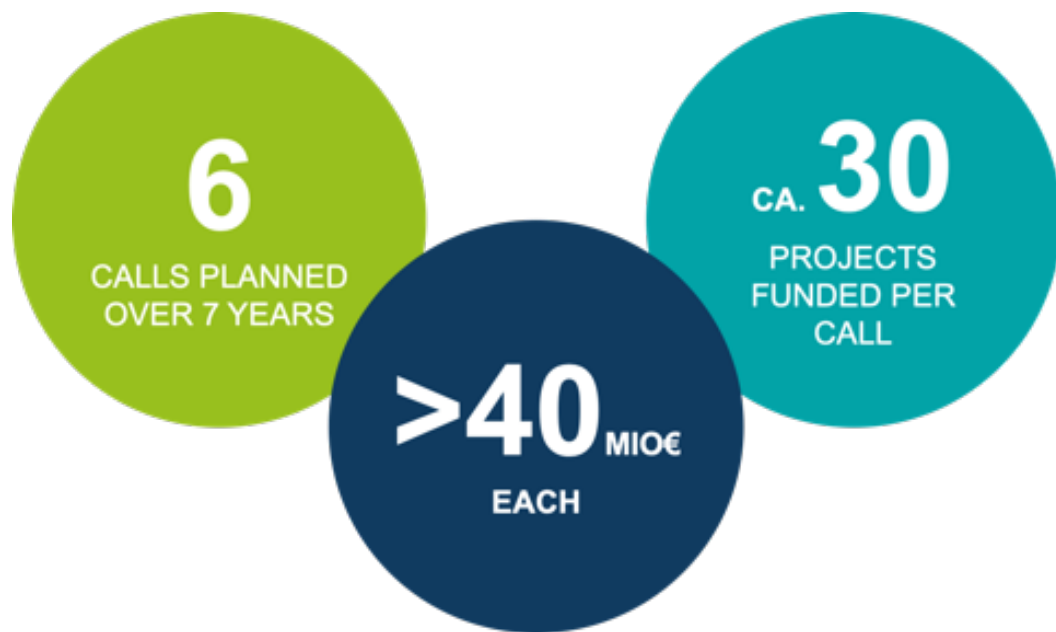


Policy actors

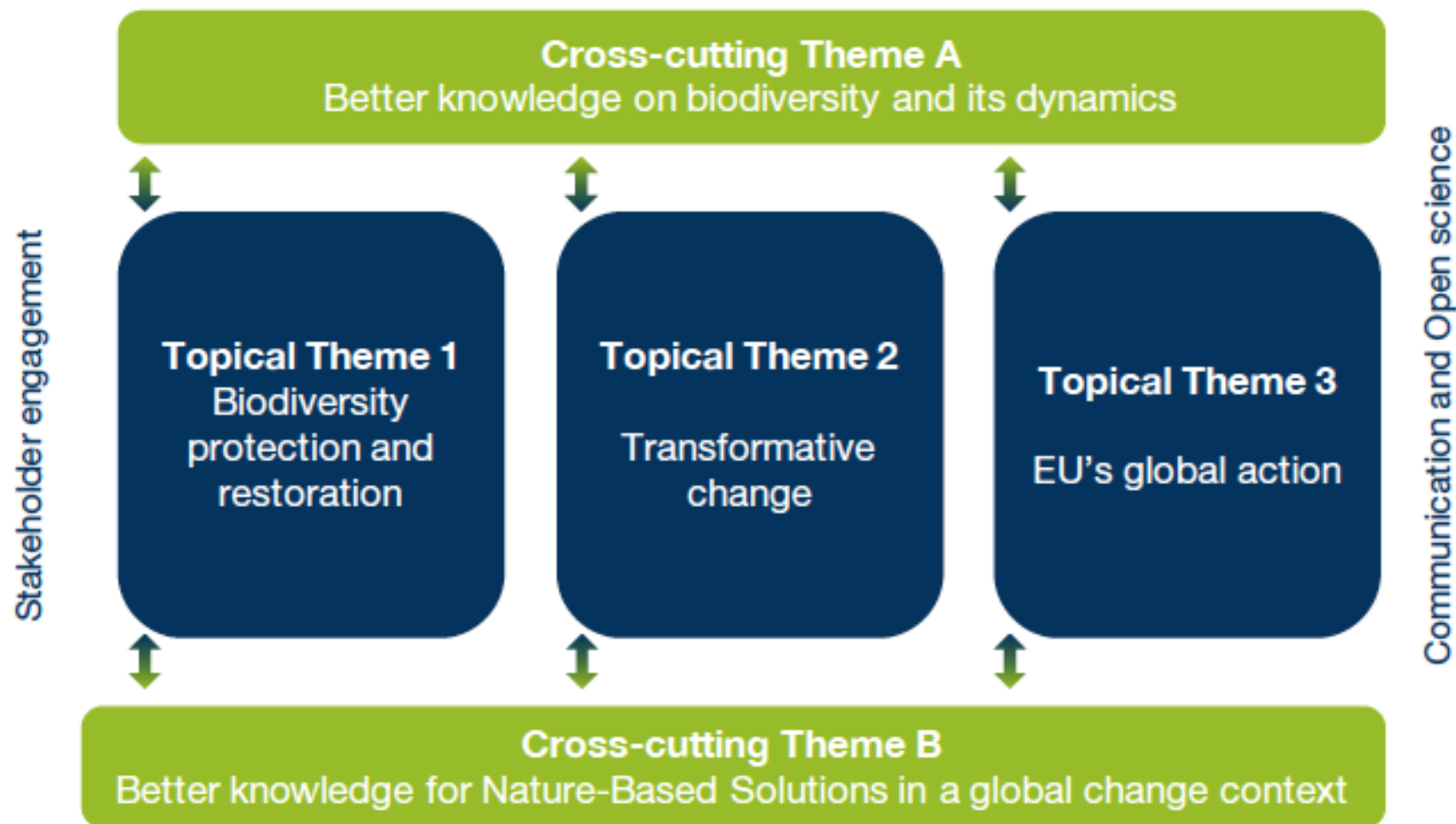
- Ministries in charge of environment
- Environment protection agencies



Portfolio of activities and calls for research proposals



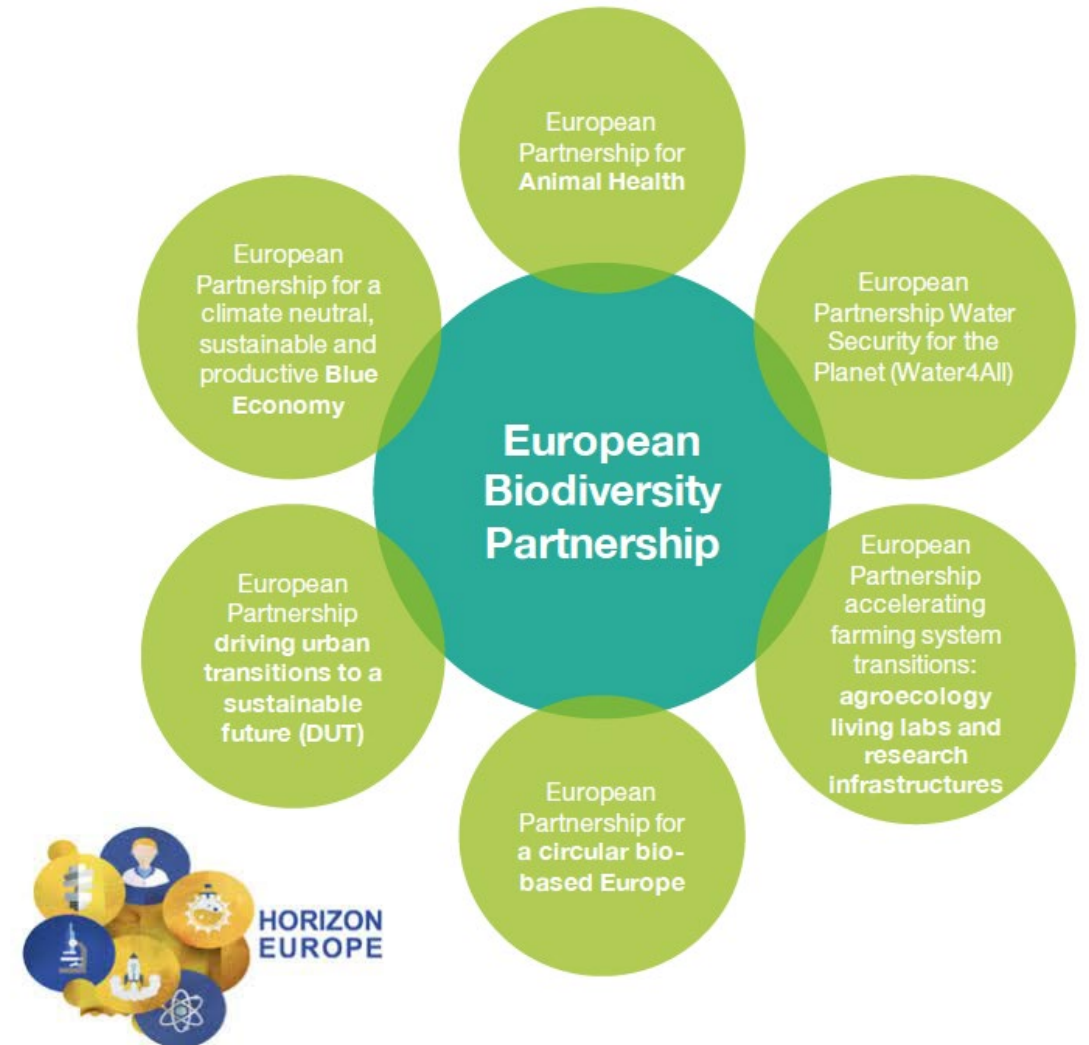
The Biodiversa+ Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda



Cooperating with European and global initiatives



... and many more!



Topic and scientific content of the BiodivTransform Call:

Biodiversity and Transformative Change

By Magnus Tannerfeldt, Biodiversa+ Co-Chair, Formas (Sweden)

Context of the call

Anthropogenic direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss



Interdependent worldwide crises of biodiversity loss, climate change, and pollution



Knowledge gaps concerning biodiversity and its interdependence with society

Lack of evidence-based policy

Inefficient & counter-productive policies, plans and actions aiming at mitigating challenges related to biodiversity and ecosystems

Objective

Understand trade-offs and cross-linkages between the worldwide crises **and** identify, analyse, and comprehend transformation processes that may halt and reverse biodiversity decline

Definition

Although transformative change remains an emerging concept, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services defines transformative change as

Fundamental system-wide reorganisation across technological, economic and social factors, including paradigms, goals and values needed for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (IPBES 2019).

A full section within the [Announcement of Opportunity \(Call Document 1\)](#) relates and discuss the concept of transformative change.





With clear focus on biodiversity, this call should help to:

- Generate **knowledge** and **new levels of ambition** and enable **new agents** of change to engage (going beyond tweaking business as usual or simple up-scaling)
- Ensure that **integrated actions** for biodiversity, clean environment and climate enable equitable and sustainable outcomes for society, while mitigating **perceived trade-offs** between crises
- **Transform root causes and change structures** of society
- Integrate **pluralistic values** and general principles such as human rights, justice, anti-discrimination and personal and political freedom **into conceptualisations and representations of biodiversity**
- **Strengthen collaborations** between research communities, decision-makers, and social justice initiatives

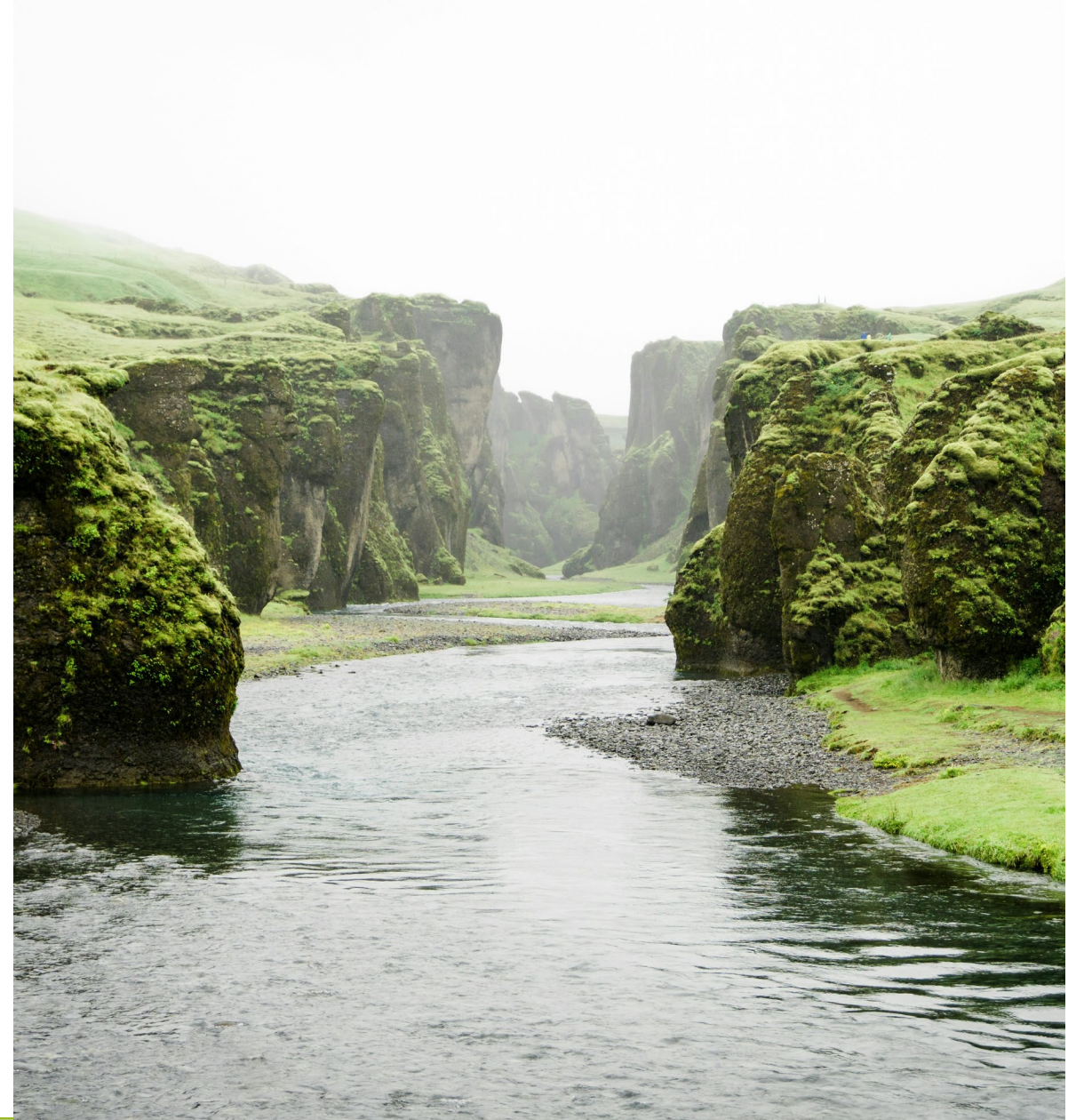
For further research priorities under this call, please read carefully Call Documents

/!\ No Call Themes /!\

This call does not define sub-themes.

Projects should demonstrate academic excellence with potential for societal and policy impact, connecting science, society, policy and practices for transformative change

The starting point for such generation of knowledge is not defined. However, it is important to highlight that this call aims to fund projects that have a **holistic approach**, **with a clear view to societal transformation**.



Knowledge gaps covered under this call include, but are not limited to:

- Multi-scalar and multi-sectoral understanding of **key drivers**, root causes, and indirect causes of biodiversity loss,
- **Systems approach** for biodiversity-positive transformative change
- Understanding the **strengths and weaknesses** of transformative change as a means to achieve nature-positive outcomes in comparison to stepwise incremental changes,
- Structural analysis of **global tele-coupling** and biodiversity footprints
- A better understanding of the role for transformative change in **reversing negative feedback loops** in the nexus of biodiversity loss and its primary drivers,
- Integrative analysis of the **role of various societal aspects** in addressing losses of biodiversity and ecosystem functions, e.g., values, justice, governance, economic, cultural, health, and gender aspects, as well as social systems and knowledge systems,
- Analysis of **economic paradigms, practices and financial models** to enable social dynamics for nature-positive outcomes while safeguarding social and ecological boundaries,

Knowledge gaps covered under this call include, but are not limited to:

- Identifying **trade-offs and co-benefits of different goals**, as well as means to reconcile **conflicts** around biodiversity and nature's contributions to people, while acknowledging the interconnectedness between humans and biodiversity,
- Evaluating trade-offs on a **temporal scale**, and levelling between short- and long-term needs,
- Analysis and scenario **modelling** of what **actual implementation** of societal transformation means for biodiversity and for people, what **governance** is needed to achieve it, and **who might gain and suffer** from the effects of such change, with special attention to marginalised and vulnerable groups,
- Evaluating “business-as-usual” scenarios and the **risks associated to NOT perpetrating transformative change** in action,
- Research on **how variations** in mission, structure, decision-making processes, technical capacity, and funding sources **in organisations involved in conservation** (including government agencies, civil society organisations, research institutes, private corporations, and community organisations) **affect their impact** on conservation policy and practice, and ultimately the status of biological diversity and nature's contributions to people

Global scope and expected impact

- Research projects in **all parts of the world** and in **all realms/environments**
!\\ some restrictions may apply at the level of the funding agency
- Projects must demonstrate:
 - **Transnational added-value**
 - **Academic excellence and novelty** in biodiversity research
 - **Societal and policy impact.**
- Projects should be:
 - **Interdisciplinary**, integrating approaches and skills of natural sciences, social sciences and humanities, and technical sciences
 - **Transdisciplinary**, and cross-sectoral, involving diverse non-academic stakeholders



Q&A Session



Check out our FAQ:
<https://www.biodiversa.eu/biodivtransform-faq/>

A screenshot of the Q&A session interface. It features a text input field with the placeholder 'Type your question here...'. Below the input field is a checkbox labeled 'Send anonymously'. To the right of the checkbox are two buttons: 'Cancel' and 'Send'. At the bottom, there is a privacy setting section with a person icon and the text 'Who can see your questions?'. A red arrow points from the 'Q&A' icon in the controls bar to the text input field.

Types of projects funded, expectations towards applicants & useful resources

By Céline Billière, Biodiversa+ Work Package Leader & Call Secretariat, ANR (France) & Frédéric Lemaître, Biodiversa+ Operational Manager for Society and Policy Impact, FRB (France)

How does a joint co-funded call work?



Types of research projects funded: average size of the projects

- **Medium size projects**
- **1.2 – 1.5M€** (on average)
- **6 Partners from different countries** (on average; minimum 3 is requested)



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



Types of research projects funded: general expectations

Overall, projects are expected to:

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

**Specific
assessment
criteria to
evaluate
these**

!! 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 !!

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:

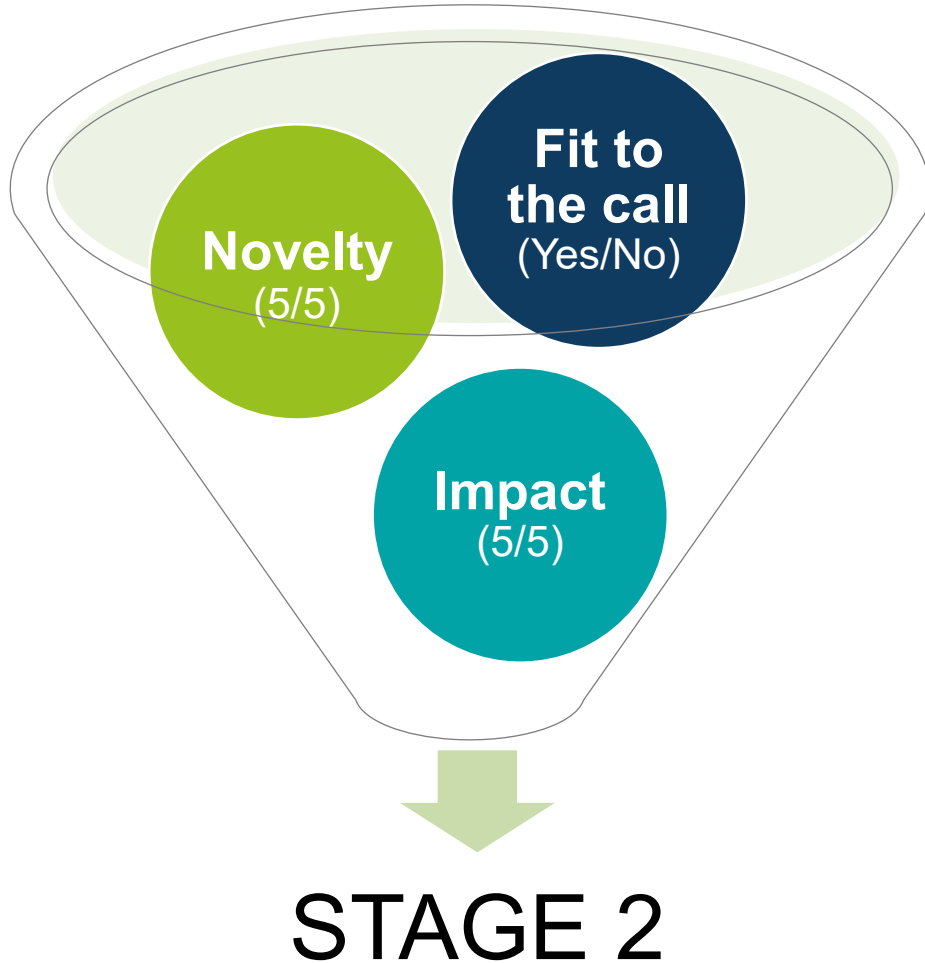
- relevance to **international policy statements** or processes, legislative frameworks or management plans;
- clear added value to national research projects across the world by **linking expertise and efforts across national teams** and **across studied areas and research models**;
- bringing about **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.

Transdisciplinarity and Interdisciplinary

Though several definitions of **transdisciplinarity** coexist, the definition used here is the **involvement of stakeholders at the different stages of the project** where relevant, for instance to define research objectives and strategies, facilitate inputs from non-academic stakeholders, better incorporate the diffusion of learning produced by the research and facilitate a systemic way of addressing a challenge.

Interdisciplinarity refers to the **involvement of multiple academic disciplines** within a research project. Integrated approaches and skills of natural sciences, social sciences and humanities, and / or technical sciences are encouraged where needed to address the specific objectives of each research proposal.

Types of projects typically 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

Evaluation criteria

Fit to the scope of the call (yes/no)

Novelty of the research

- a) The novelty and originality of the research objectives: How does the activity go beyond the state-of-the-art and advances knowledge; to what extent the proposed work explores novel concepts and the advancement with respect to the scope and objectives of the call? To what extent does the proposed activity suggest and explore creative, original concepts?
- b) Relevance of the proposed work and clarity of the theoretical framework, research questions, and hypothesis to be tested: To what extent the proposed work can lead to the purpose of the call? To what extent the proposed theoretical framework, research questions and hypothesis to be tested are clear ?

Impact sub-criteria in step 1:

a) Expected contribution of the proposed research to society, including policy:

- > Potential of the proposed work to lead to novel / original contribution for tackling societal, incl. policy challenges?
- > Credible approach/ambition towards stakeholder and/or end-user engagement to achieve the expected societal impact?

b) Transnational added value: also from the perspective of society, including policy

Developing science-society and science-policy interfacing in your research proposals



Our Perspective:

- Involvement of **stakeholders at different steps** of research process
- Science can **guide decisions in policy and society**
- Extra efforts are needed to promote **relevance and uptake of results**, but realistic that they don't guarantee uptake and impact

Requirements in terms of research proposals:

- **Clarify** relevance and highlight **policy and societal** impacts
- Outline planned **SPI/SSI** activities and resources

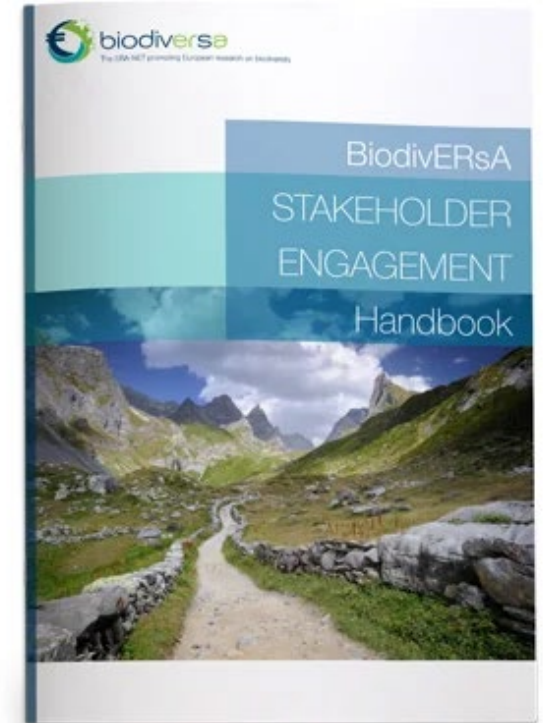
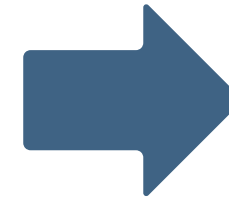
Challenges:

- Requires knowledge of **policy and/or societal processes and landscape**
- Growing need for **science-based advice** in uncertain contexts
- Involving stakeholders in steps of co-development, co-production and knowledge brokerage in research process

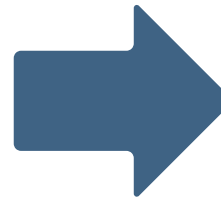


Stakeholder Engagement Handbook

Methods for effective stakeholder engagement
Getting to know the expectations from Biodiversa+ at the proposal stage
Case studies and examples from past funded projects
Increasing societal impacts of your research



Concrete tools, tips and best practices on engaging stakeholders



Annex 1: Practical Method Notes
Annex 2: Conflict Management Tools
Word Templates



Policy Guide

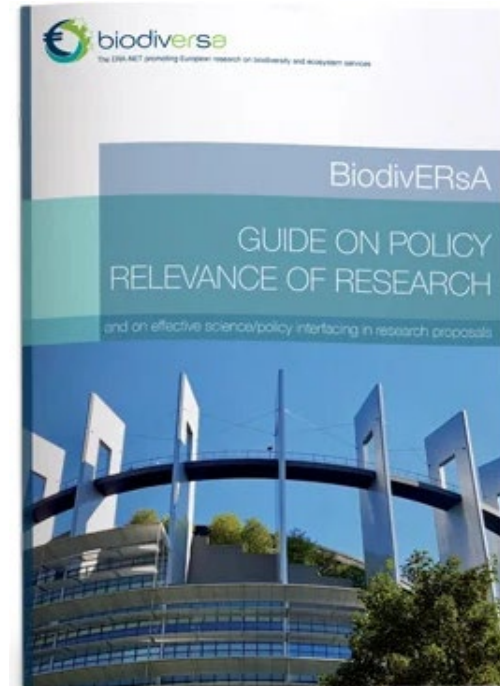
Getting to know the **expectations from Biodiversa+** at the proposal stage in terms of policy relevance

Explicit the policy relevance of your research and **credibilize** expected impacts for society and policy

Broad overview of the international and European **policy landscape and stakeholders**

Dos and Don'ts to increase the policy relevance of your research projects

Case studies and best practice examples from past funded projects





Citizen Science Toolkit

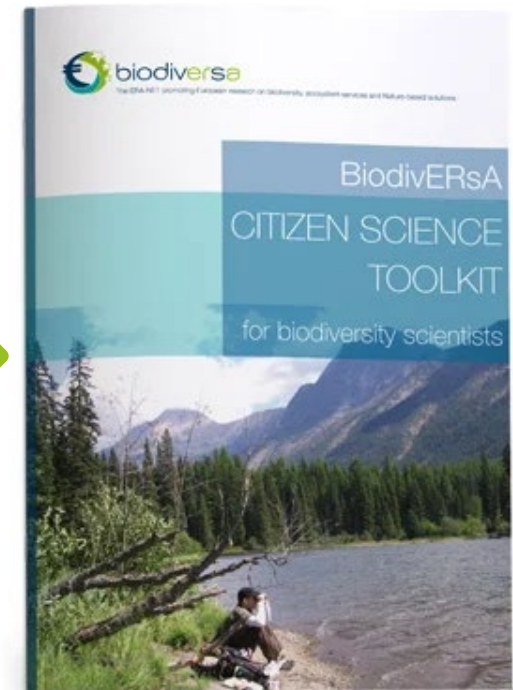
Citizen science 101 and benefits

Methods and examples for citizen science mobilization in research projects

Challenges, barriers, principles and **recommendations** for relevant mobilization of citizen science in research projects

Catalogue of resources, networks, tools, support, publications

Case studies and best practice examples from past funded projects



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

Call process and eligibility rules

By Orsolya Csiszar, Operational team and Call Secretariat

BiodivTransfrom Call Schedule

Do not
wait until
the last
minute to
submit

10 September 2024

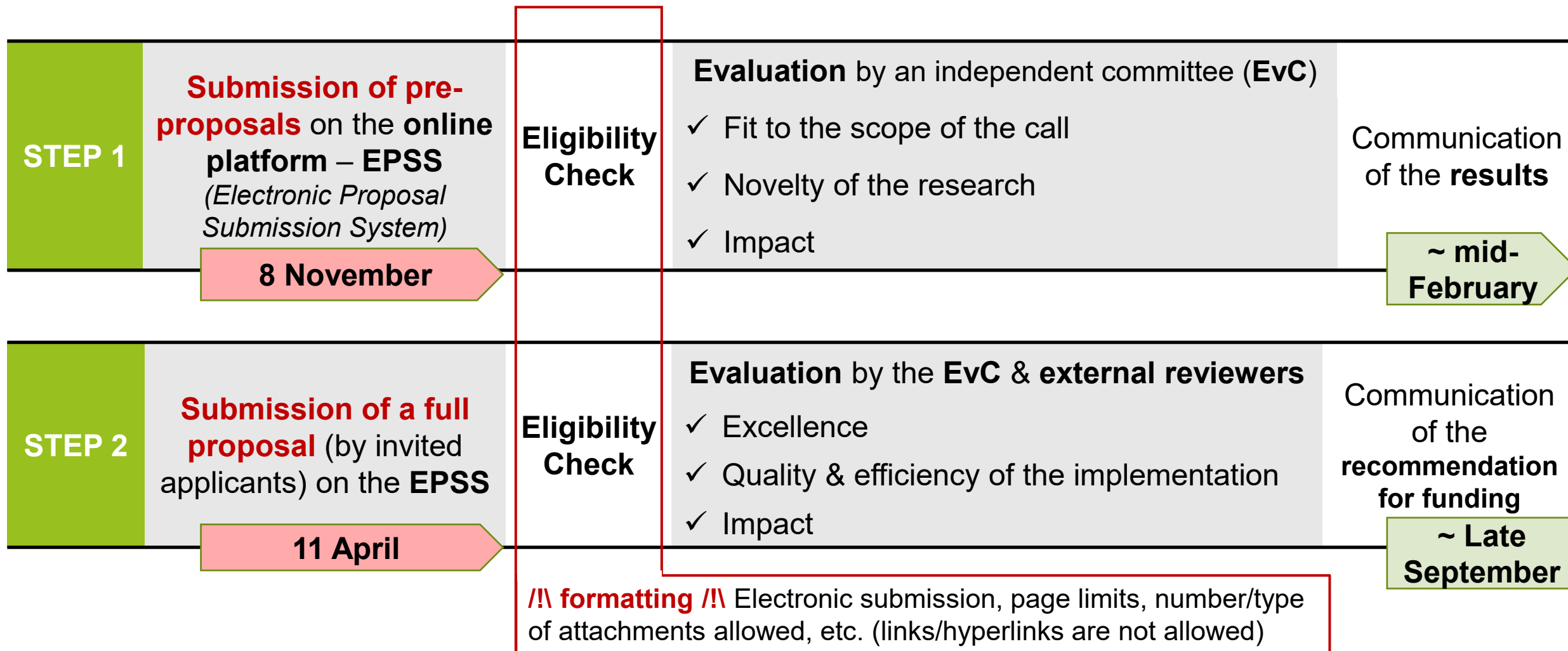
Official Launch of the Call

24 September 2024

General Webinar of the Call

Step 1	8 November 2024, 3 PM CE	Pre-proposal Submission deadline
	Mid-February 2025	Results of the Step 1 communicated to applicants
Step 2	11 April 2025, 3 PM CEST	Full proposal Submission deadline
	Late September 2025	Recommendation for funding → results communicated to applicants
1 December 2025		Earliest possible start of the funded projects
1 April 2026		Latest possible start of funded projects

General Call Process



CONSULT THE INDICATIVE PRE-PROPOSAL and **FULL-PROPOSAL APPLICATION FORMS** in the **CALL DOCUMENTS**:

Participating Countries and Funding Organisations



37 funding
organisations
from 32
countries

Total funding
for the call:
>40 Mio
EUR

Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Faroe Islands, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland (tbc), Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal (Azores only), Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tunisia, Türkiye

Consult the **updated list of participating countries and funding organisations** involved in this call here:

<https://www.biodiversa.eu/participating-funding-organisations-biodivnbs/>

General Eligibility Criteria (i): consortium composition

- ✓ Research teams will have to form 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, **at least two eligible partners per consortium must come from different EU Member States (MS) or Associated Countries (AC)** participating in the call.



Partners from
3 different
participating
countries incl.
2 different EU
MS or AC



Partners from
3 different
participating
countries BUT
only 1 EU MS
or AC

**!! NOT ALL HORIZON EUROPE ASSOCIATED COUNTRIES LISTED BY THE EC ARE ELIGIBLE,
ONLY THE ONE LISTED ON OUR WEBSITE !!**

General Eligibility Criteria (ii): the proposal

- **Projects are expected to act as transnational project** and not as a mosaic of national projects
- The project's duration is **3 years**
- 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.
- Proposals must be written **in English**

General Eligibility Criteria (iii) : the researchers

- **The applicant is eligible** and employed by an eligible organisation **according to the terms and conditions of the participating Funding Organisation** to which they apply 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*);
- **An individual researcher affiliated to several organisations cannot request funding from more than one funding organisation in this call.** They will not be considered as two different Partners within the consortium.

Changes allowed between pre- and full proposals (i)

Content

The information given in a pre-proposal 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).

Budget

- **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.

Changes allowed between pre- and full proposals (ii)

Consortium composition (i)

- **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)
- **No changes of coordinator** will be allowed, except in case of force majeure.
 - A request of change of project coordinator must be submitted to the Call Secretariat, **at least one week before the deadline** for submitting full proposals and it will be discussed on a case-by-case basis by the CSC.

**If requesting a change,
please indicate the Acronym of your
proposal in the subject line of your email**

Changes allowed between pre- and full proposals (iii)

Consortium composition (ii)

→ **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 1 week before the full proposal submission deadline
- Changes must be requested first to the concerned Funding Organisations (with the Call Secretariat in copy), who needs to check the eligibility and agree to the change before it could be integrated into the EPSS platform.
- The max. number of changes applies to “Partner”, not “team member” or “subcontractors”

What is considered a change?

→ **Addition, removal or replacement of a Partner** (incl. self-financed partners)

Changes allowed between pre- and full proposals (v)

Widening option

The widening option is a measure to **encourage participation** and success of countries / regions with **small research communities and/or where research applications have been less successful** at Step 1 (pre-proposals). It will be set-up between Step 1 and 2 of the evaluation process:

- On a voluntary basis, consortia invited to submit a full proposal in Step 2 will have the possibility to **include one or several new research Partner(s) from undersubscribed Funding Organisations**. The inclusion of one or several new research Partner(s) should be relevant for the proposal, and new research Partners should be well integrated in the consortium.
- The addition of a Partner from undersubscribed Funding Organisations is **not considered as one of the maximum two changes** allowed but the eligibility procedure remains the same and **Funding Organisation national/ regional rules must be respected**.

For more details on how to implement the widening options into your consortia, please consult the [Call documents](#).

Funding Organisations' financial rules and eligibility criteria

Please download the rules of the Funding Organisations here:
<https://www.biodiversa.eu/biodivtransform-participating-funding-organisations/>

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.

Build your consortium using the Partner Search Tool

If you are looking for a partner or for a project to join, please fill in the partner / project search form.

Submit new partner / project search

Filter submitted entries by:

Those looking for: **a partner** **a project to join** **display both**

Country: -- choose country -- ▾

Discipline: -- choose discipline -- ▾

Keyword: -- choose keyword -- ▾

Description:

Apply filter

16
projects
looking for
partners

109
partners
looking for
projects

- Fill in a Partner / Project Search form
- Your form will be visible on the platform and you may be contacted by other applicants
- Look at the forms submitted through a user-friendly search function: search for partners or projects according to different criteria: country, discipline, keywords

Q&A Session



Check out our FAQ:
<https://www.biodiversa.eu/biodivtransform-faq/>

Type your question here...

☐ Send anonymously

Cancel Send

Who can see your questions?

Conclusion

1

Check the scope of the call

2

Build your consortium

3

Check the eligibility criteria of the call

4

Verify the national regulations for ALL members of the consortium

5

Clarify procedures **with National Contact Points** and Call Secretariat

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 **8th of November 2024, at 3 PM CET**



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European Biodiversity Partnership

EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP



Co-funded by
the European Union

**Thank you and all the best with
your application !**

Contacts:

- Call Secretariat (ANR): biodiversa.cs@agencerecherche.fr
- National / Regional Contact Points are indicated in the rules of the funding organisations:
<https://www.biodiversa.eu/biodivtransform-participating-funding-organisations/>
- Technical helpdesk for the online platform (EPSS):
epss.biodiversa@g.etag.ee :

