



biodiversa+
European Biodiversity Partnership

Horizon Europe Info Day @Taiwan: Biodiversa+ and the BiodivMon Call

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

October 6th, 2022



Outline and speakers

I. Introduction to Biodiversa+ and functioning of a joint research call

II. Topic and scientific content of the *BiodivMon* research call

III. Types of projects funded, expectations towards applicants and useful resources and documents

IV. Call process and eligibility rules

by Magnus Tannerfeldt (Biodiversa+ vice-chair, FORMAS Sweden)

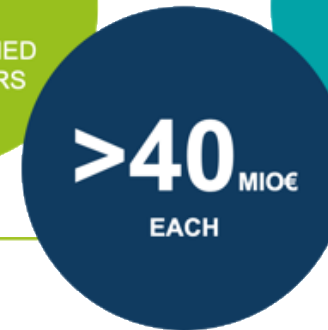
by Clara Superbie (Biodiversa+ Call Secretariat, ANR France)

Introduction to Biodiversa+ and functioning of a joint call

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

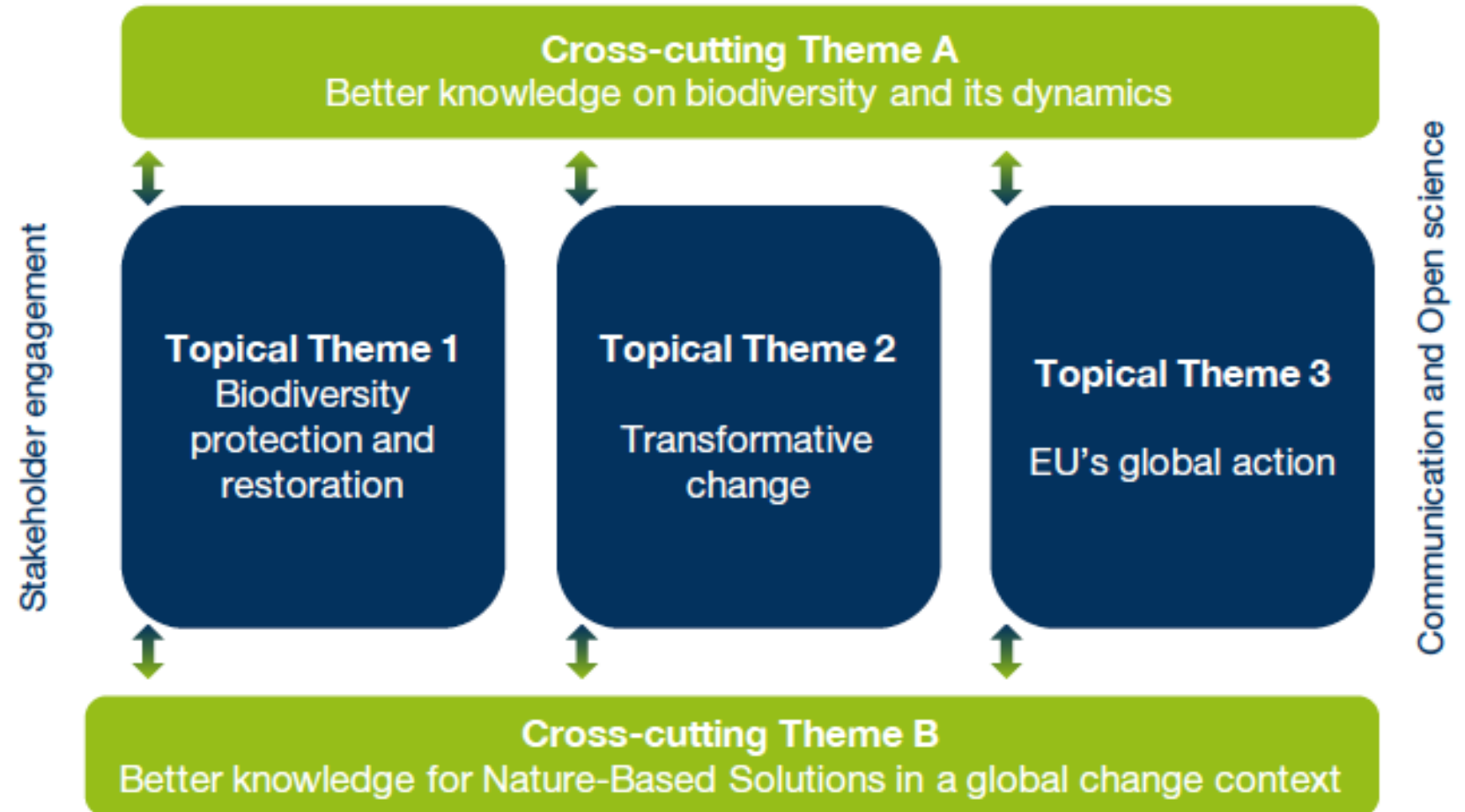
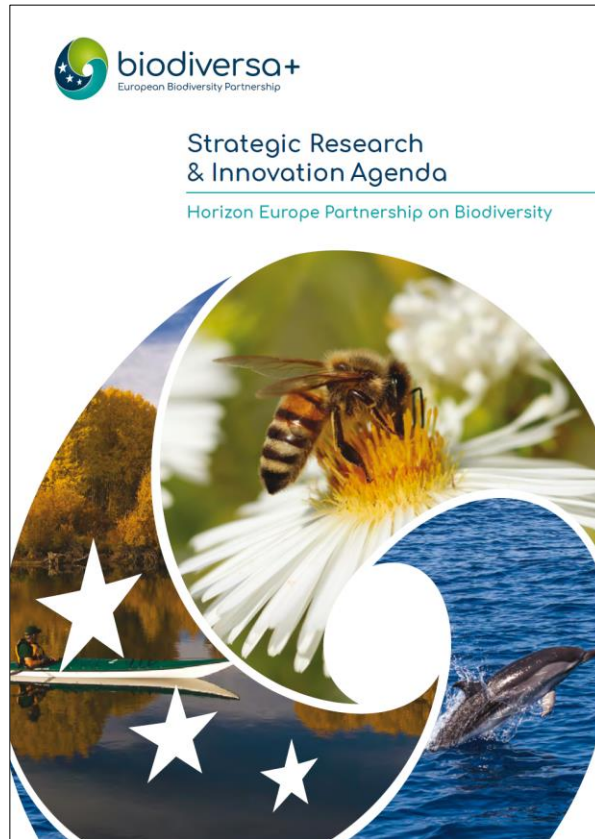
The European Biodiversity Partnership, Biodiversa+

- **Launched in October 2021**
- **Supports excellent research on biodiversity with an impact for policy & society**



Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda

➤ www.biodiversa.org/1913/download



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

Topic and scientific content of the call:

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

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

CONTEXT of the Call

- Recent assessments and reviews 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 report identified a series of **knowledge gaps**, incl. better characterization of the **distribution and status** of many habitats and species and more globally better assessment of **ecosystem condition and health** (EEA 2020)



Priorities of the call

- ✓ **Advance knowledge on biodiversity** through **transnational monitoring**, building on previous and existing efforts across Europe and beyond
- ✓ Contribute to:
 - **Enhancing and upscaling existing methods and/or** developing, applying and evaluating **new methods** to characterize and model biodiversity status, dynamics, and trends
 - 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**
- ✓ Fill **gaps** in terms of **taxa coverage, ecosystem types, regions, and sampling frequency**
- ✓ Biodiversa+ strongly supports **open science**: projects should generate **FAIR** data
- ✓ **All environments** (e.g. terrestrial, freshwater, marine); but go beyond single study sites

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 principle...*

Types of projects funded & expectations towards applicants

By Clara Superbie, Biodiversa+ Call Secretariat, ANR (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

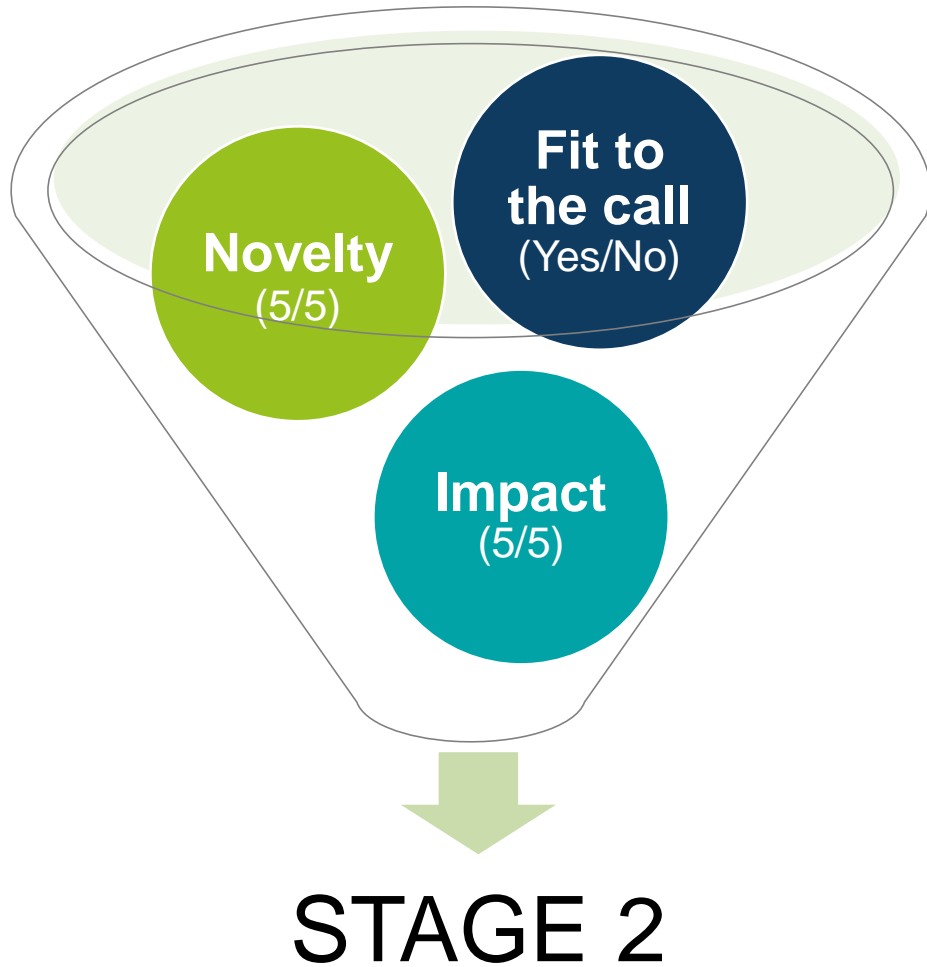
What is meant by transnational added value ?

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



The stakeholder engagement handbook:

<https://www.biodiversa.org/702>

- Whom, when, why and how to involve stakeholders and enhance the « impact » of your work

The guide on policy relevance of research :

<https://www.biodiversa.org/1543>

- What does **policy relevant of research** mean and how is it evaluated within Biodiversa+ Call?
- Help to identify **the most relevant policies and policy-making bodies** for your research project.

The citizen science tool kit:

<https://www.biodiversa.org/1814>

- To better understand **what citizen science is and its benefits**, advices to overcome the most commonly perceived challenges.

Guidance document on data management, open data, and the production of data management plans:

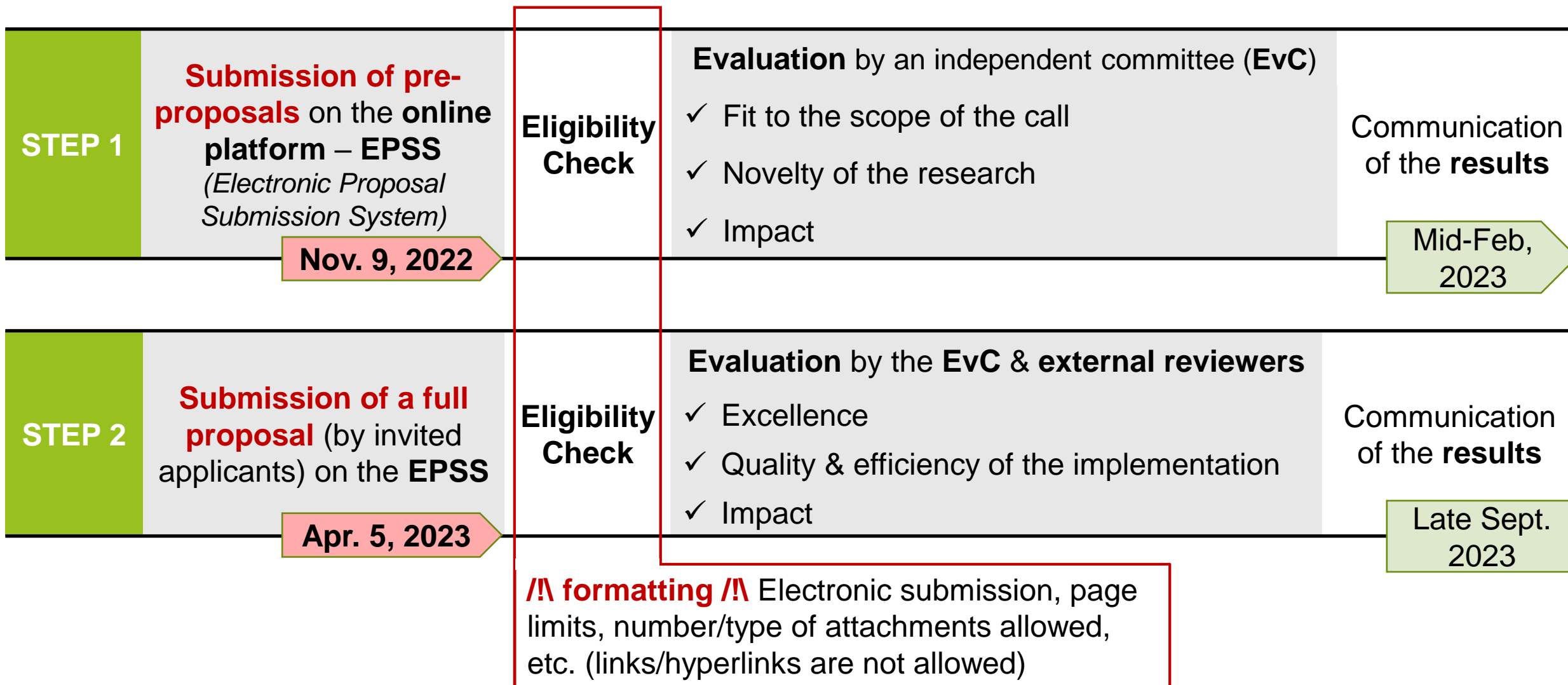
<https://www.biodiversa.org/1830>

- Applicants are requested to submit (i) a Preliminary data management information in their pre-proposals, (ii) A first Data Management Plan in their full proposals

Call process & eligibility rules

By Clara Superbie, Biodiversa+ Call Secretariat, ANR (France)

Call process



General Call schedule

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

Jun. 16, 2022	Pre-announcement
Sept. 8, 2022	Official launch
Sept. 20, 2022	General webinar: https://www.biodiversa.org/2082
Oct. 6, 2022	HE Info @Taiwan
Nov. 9, 2022, 15:00 CET	Pre-proposal submission deadline
Dec. 2022	First eligibility check
Mid-Feb. 2023	Results of the first evaluation committee (EvC) → invitation of selected applicant to submit full proposals
Apr. 5, 2023, 15:00 (CET)	Full proposals submission deadline
May 2023	Second eligibility check
Jun./Jul. 2023	Second evaluation and ranking of the proposals by the EvC
Late Sept. 2023	Funding decision by the Call Steering Committee → Communication of the results to applicants
Dec. 1, 2023 – Apr. 2024	Start of funded projects

General eligibility criteria (i)



Consortium composition:

- Transnational research consortia with eligible research Partners from **minimum 3 different countries participating in the call**, incl. **at least 3 different Funding Organisations and 2 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 PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES & FUNDING ORGANISATIONS involved in this call: <https://www.biodiversa.org/2062>
- CONSULT THE UPDATED LIST OF ASSOCIATED COUNTRIES (in Horizon Europe): https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

General eligibility criteria (ii)

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.**

Changes allowed between pre- & full proposals

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

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

- **No changes regarding the proposals' content or substance** 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).
- **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.**
- **Changes in consortium composition**
 - **No change of coordinator** (person in charge), except in case of force majeure
 - **Max 2 changes of Partners:** must be requested to the concerned funding organization (Call Secretariat in cc) for the eligibility and then approved/confirmed by the funding organisations at least 1 week before the full proposal submission deadline. 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)

⚠ If removal of a Partner, the consortium should still include the minimum number of requested Partners ⚠

Changes allowed between pre- & full proposals

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

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

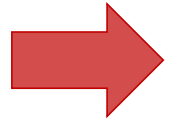


!! Applicants are strongly advised to approach their respective Funding organisation Contact Point to make sure they respect all the eligibility criteria and rules (e.g. eligible budget items etc.)!!

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/2066/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

Already 23
projects
looking for
research
partners

>100
researchers
looking for a
project to join

Resources Available online:

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

➤ 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/2062>

➤ 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/2082>
- 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**



biodiversa+
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/2062>
- **Technical helpdesk for the online platform (EPSS):**
epss.biodiversa@g.etag.ee



www.biodiversa.org



contact@biodiversa.org



BiodiversaPlus

