

Announcement of Opportunity

The partners in the BiodivERsA network have joined efforts to organize and fund a

Pan-European call for transnational research proposals on

“Effects of biodiversity status and changes on animal, human and plant health”

Introduction

BiodivERsA is a network of 35 organisations from 23 European countries programming and funding excellent research in the field of biodiversity, ecosystem services and Nature-based Solutions (www.biodiversa.org). BiodivERsA Partners aim to develop a long-lasting collaboration in research programming and funding policy and practice, thereby creating added value in high quality biodiversity research across national boundaries. One objective of BiodivERsA is to organise a Pan-European research programme for research on biodiversity, ecosystem services and nature-based solutions (<http://www.biodiversa.org/1226>).

13 BiodivERsA partners are contributing to the funding of the present BiodivERsA joint call for research projects (see the updated list on www.biodiversa.org/2018-call).

Overall BiodivERsA objectives for this call:

Quantify/qualify the range of benefits and risks that biodiversity generates for the health of animals, humans and plants ...

... accounting for different configurations of nature, socio-economic, and cultural contexts and engaging stakeholders ...

... to provide relevant information for managers and inform policies in Europe –mainland and in ORs & OCTs– on the potential for adequate management of biodiversity to provide co-benefits for animal, human and plant health, as on risks associated to inadequate biodiversity status

(1) Preamble

(i) Type of research funded

This call includes two Actions:

- **Action A for supporting classic collaborative research projects.**
Classic collaborative research projects are gathering different research teams that implement research activities with the objective to produce new primary (e.g., through observational and/or experimental work) and to generate new knowledge. This corresponds to the classical type of projects supported by BiodivERsA in its previous calls, which can include modelling aspects)
- **Action B for supporting synthesis research projects.**

Synthesis research projects are gathering individuals forming a working group, which perform research and answer research questions using existing data sets (that the working group owns or will have access to). These projects won't collect or produce new primary data. The core activity of these research projects consists in synthesizing and/or analysing existing data sets (synthesizing concepts and ideas is also eligible). These projects however differ from other synthesis activities, such as systematic reviews or knowledge synthesis which are based on a synthesis of publications and reports. This corresponds to the type of projects supported by biodiversity or ecological synthesis centres like, e.g., the NCEAS/NSCENT; but not to mere follow-ups of previous collaborative research projects aiming at analysing the primary data obtained in these particular collaborative research projects.

Under Action B, the members of working groups that will be funded will have convincingly explained why they share expertise and have (or have access to) data to address specific questions relevant to the topic of the call. Proposals from the natural, health and social sciences are welcome.

Working groups are composed of 10 to 15 participants (including the funded post doc fellow and –when relevant– subcontracted and self-funded member(s)) from at least 5 different countries participating in the call. Groups of more than 15 individuals are not allowed.

Each group is expected to meet (i) once or twice every year, and (ii) for 4 to 5 full working days up to two weeks each time. The duration of the projects is 2 to 3 years.

Expected projects outputs under Action B:

The primary objective of the initiative is to facilitate the production of new insights from existing data and/or to synthesize concepts/ideas.

Expected project deliverables include scientific publications of high standard and other products (e.g. open modelling platforms, software, web sites, databases). Other deliverables such as organising an international workshop, a training session, participating in lectures, producing white papers and policy briefs, etc., are welcome.

Applicants will have to clearly indicate if their proposal is submitted as part of Action A or B, carefully reading the guidelines for the selected Action and completing the corresponding forms.

If allowed by their Funding Organisations' rules, applicants have the possibility to apply to both Actions. They however have to submit distinct proposals under Action A and B.

(ii) Definition

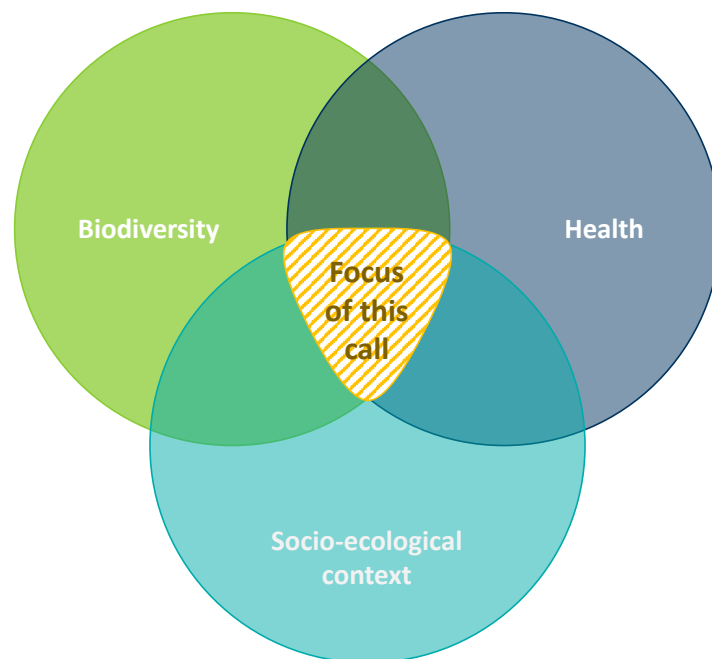
For this call the following definitions are retained:

- **Biodiversity** is defined as “the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter-alia, terrestrial, marine and their aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems” (United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992).
- Projects can focus on **animal, human and/or plant health**. Concerning human health, it is defined as “a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity” (World Health Organisation, 1948). Human health issues thus cover transmissible, infectious diseases, as well as non-communicable diseases, and well-being.

(iii) Scope of the call

This call aims at supporting transnational research projects jointly addressing issues at the nexus of biodiversity and health (as defined above) across the different relevant spatial, and temporal scales in an effort to support evidence-based decision-making. Projects addressing only biodiversity issues or only health issues will not be considered within the scope of the call. Applicants will thus have to clearly demonstrate in their proposal how they make explicit (i.e. qualify and/or quantify) biodiversity aspects and animal, human and/or plant health aspects in tandem. It is also expected that proposals will take into account the socio-ecological context (see Box 1). Transdisciplinary approaches contributing to policy coherence across sectors are encouraged.

Box #1: This call will support transnational research projects jointly addressing issues at the nexus of biodiversity and health and properly taking into account socio-ecological contexts



For instance, regarding the 'biodiversity' aspect, in a project studying the human health outcomes of urban biodiversity, characterizing a space as 'green' without quantifying biodiversity in this space would be insufficient to demonstrate the role of some facets of biodiversity in this space for human health; engaging with ecologists in addition to other experts, e.g. public health specialists and urban planners, would be needed to address this issue.

Similarly, regarding the 'health' aspect, in a project focusing on the role of biodiversity on infectious diseases affecting some wild animal species, characterizing only genetic/species/ecosystem diversity and the abundances of vectors or hosts would be insufficient; meaningfully engaging with, e.g., epidemiologists and animal health scientists would be needed. This call will thus strongly favour cross/inter-disciplinary collaborations and synergies in order to break down traditional disciplinary silos and foster novel research topics.

(iv) Restriction

The following restrictions will be applied:

- **For Action A or B, projects addressing Theme 1 should also address Theme 2 and/or Theme 3.** This should be also taken into account by projects relevant for Theme 4.

- **Projects focusing on the role of plant/animal/human microbiome for their health can apply under Action B only (i.e. research projects for synthesis of existing data and/or of ideas/concepts); but will not be eligible for Action A (i.e. collaborative research projects aiming at generating new primary data).**

(2) Research priorities of the Call

Introduction:

Recent and rapid environmental, socio-economic and demographic changes are having large impacts on the earth's biological and physical systems. These include –but are not restricted to– drastic land use changes, including for agricultural and urban development, unsustainable exploitation and management of natural resources, climate change, pollution of marine and terrestrial ecosystems, ocean acidification, population growth and globalisation (including human travel and trade). This has had profound impacts on biodiversity (including defaunation and invasive species) and catalysed rapid transitions at the level of socio-ecological systems. In this context, new knowledge is needed to tackle a range of threats to animal, human and plant health, over spatial and temporal scales spanning from local to global and from imminent to inter-generational, and to maximize health co-benefits derived from ecosystems¹. Such developments raise new challenges for researchers and a range of stakeholders including policy makers. In particular, this calls for a better integration between environmental and ecological sciences, social sciences and economics, and health sciences. It also calls for stronger engagement of stakeholders (including policy makers) in research projects to support more coordinated and coherent action on the ground and at the policy level.

Negative impacts and unintended supply-side effects of biodiversity on health (vector-borne diseases, injuries, allergies...) can be addressed within the framework of this call. This includes health impacts related to specific species and notably those newly established in ecosystems (invasive alien species, exotic pet released...) that can have impacts on ecosystems and on animal, human or plant health. Tackling these issues often requires to take into account biodiversity-health interactions using holistic approaches^{2,3}.

In addition, the development of evidence-based tools and indicators are also needed to develop, implement and monitor progress toward the implementation of policies, plans or actions for maximizing co-benefits and identifying trade-offs at the biodiversity and health interface.

Overall, the proposals submitted to this call should explain how they plan to increase awareness of the effects of biodiversity on animal, human and plant health and to inform / assist local communities or relevant decision makers to promote health-friendly biodiversity and ecosystems. In particular, proposals are expected to plan communication on the effects of biodiversity on health to the interests of relevant stakeholders and policy makers; and to develop guidance for managers, architects, planners..., about the key features of biodiversity

¹ See Buttke D.E. et al. (2015) The role of one health in wildlife conservation: a challenge and opportunity. *J Wildl Dis.* 51: 1-8.; CBD (2017) Report of the regional workshop on human health and biodiversity interlinkages for the European region. 39 pp.; WHO-CBD (2015) Connecting global priorities: biodiversity and human health: a state of knowledge review. 364 pp; WHO (2016) Urban green spaces and health. Copenhagen. 91 pp; ten Brink P., et al. (2016) The Health and Social Benefits of Nature and Biodiversity Protection. IEEP report, 288 pp.

² Keune H. et al. (2017) The need for European OneHealth/EcoHealth networks. *Arch. Public Health* 75 :64

³ CBD (2017) Biodiversity and Human Health, Report of the CBD Secretariat to the 21st meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), including the Biodiversity-inclusive One health Guidance welcomed by Parties to the CBD.

needed to obtain health outcomes, and for health professionals on how to protect/manage biodiversity to promote animal/human/plant health.

(Theme 1) Relationship between biological diversity and animal, human and/or plant health: effects and underlying mechanisms

T1.1 Positive and negative relationships between biodiversity and animal, human and/or plant diseases

This topic includes, although not exclusively:

- * Testing the generalizability of the Dilution Effect (i.e. whereby biodiversity protects human, animal or plant against infectious disease transmission) and the role that biodiverse areas play in acting as sources of novel emerging viruses. The effects of spatial and temporal heterogeneities should be further explored in order to better understand biodiversity-disease interactions in time and space, and socio-ecosystem dynamics should be taken into account.
- * Assessing the regional or global burden of diseases that is attributable to biodiversity changes.
- * Studying the transmission of diseases from wild animals to domestic ones and vice versa.

Understanding not only biodiversity effects on health, but also the magnitude of these effects is expected. Studies should consider sufficient spatial and temporal scales. Projects going beyond single study cases by considering different pathosystems/socio-ecosystems will be welcome.

Important note:

Proposals on the role of the diversity of animal/human/plant microbiome for their health can be submitted under Action B only (i.e. research projects for synthesis of existing data and/or synthesis of ideas/concepts); but not under Action A for collaborative research projects). However, proposals on the role of host reservoirs/vectors and their microbiome for plant/animal/human health⁴ are eligible for Actions A and B.

T1.2 Linkage between contact with biodiversity and Human health

* What are the implications of nature contact⁵ and biodiversity level of this 'nature' for human health and physical and mental well-being (this is relevant for humans living in urban areas but also for those living in rural areas and EU OCTs and ORs)? What are the benefits and adverse effects of exposure to biodiverse green and blue spaces? In particular, what are the potential health benefits (immuno-regulatory benefits, cardio-vascular disease, cancer, depression, anxiety, and spiritual and cultural well-being), including diseases of affluence and physiological disorders? What are the implications for health of exposure to microbial biodiversity in the environment? Here nature can refer to green or blue spaces, natural or artificial, or the wider countryside or seascape in urban, rural or coastal environments, for which exposure to biodiversity in particular should be characterized and made explicit.

* Which mechanisms underlie the effects of contact with biodiversity on Human health (psychological pathways, enhanced immune function, nature-based physical activity, social connectedness and cohesion, improved air quality, etc.)⁷; and for these potential mechanisms, how do other factors (demographic, social, biomedical and ecological) affect the association

⁵ A typology of nature contact and summary of evidence-based health benefits of nature contact are provided in Frumkin et al. (2017). For this sub-theme, BiodivERsA has largely retained the research priorities recently formulated by these authors.

⁶ Sandifera P.A. et al. (2015) Exploring connections among nature, biodiversity, ecosystem services, and human health and well-being: Opportunities to enhance health and biodiversity conservation. *Ecosystem Services* 12: 1-15

⁷ See Hartig et al. (2014) Nature and health. *Annu. Rev. Public Health* 35: 207-228.

between biodiversity nature and health?

* Which metrics of biodiversity and of contact with biodiversity best predict various health benefits? Can integrated metrics be developed to facilitate exchange of data across sectors? What are the roles of duration and frequency of exposure in predicting health benefits? Can habituation occur with attenuated benefits over time? Are there particular benefits from contact with landscapes or ecosystems aligned with conservation priorities?

* How do access to biodiverse spaces vary by socioeconomic status, ethnicity, cultural background, and other social factors, including perceptions and preferences of local residents; and how do the benefits (including perceived benefits) of contact with biodiversity vary by socioeconomic status, ethnicity, etc. in specific settings?

(Theme 2) Understanding and predicting the integrated effects of global change factors on biodiversity-related health issues

T2.1. Impacts of global change factors on biodiversity-related health issues

Noting the growing links between global change, demography (e.g. socioeconomic status, urbanization) and health⁸, the research should include:

- Exploring the integral, yet not widely appreciated nor fully understood, links between global change factors (e.g. climate change, land use changes, agriculture intensification⁹, pollution), environment, and social determinants for biodiversity-related animal/human/plant health issues.
- Research may help identifying risk-mitigating actions, including by examining the potential of nature-based solutions focused on the health benefits derived from sustainably managed or restored biodiversity and ecosystems in a global environmental change context.

T2.2. Understanding the transition steps from biological hazards to infectious disease risk and pandemic risk in a global change world

Most of the recent literature has concentrated on describing (microbial) hazards, e.g. new viruses, bacteria, fungi, but we still have a poor understanding of how biodiversity status determines the fate of a microbe turning into an emerging disease in animals, humans and plants. Individual and community risk is often the result of multiple hazards (including at the microbial level), individual and community exposures, and individual and community susceptibilities. Using different models, analyses and tools, the research will better demonstrate the role of biodiversity, at all relevant levels, on the 3 important components of disease risks: hazard (categories of microorganisms in term of risk to produce a pathogen, a parasite...); exposure (diversity within and between ecosystems, behaviours, culture...); vulnerability (nutrition, host genetics, etc.).

T2.3. Developing scenarios of the coupling between biodiversity and health issues over the next decades

For different regions and areas of the world and for different models, research will help identifying and taking into account the chains of events and interconnections between different drivers determining the biodiversity-health relationships. It will propose different typologies and will develop scenarios of biodiversity-health relationships over the next decades.

(Theme 3) Valuing/qualifying biodiversity benefits to animal, human and plant health, and promoting health-friendly biodiversity status as well as biodiversity-based health status

⁸ For instance, see Alirol E. et al. (2011) Urbanisation and infectious diseases in a globalised world. *The Lancet* 11: 131–141.

⁹ Bernardo P. (2018) Geometagenomics illuminates the impact of agriculture on the distribution and prevalence of plant viruses at the ecosystem scale. *ISME J.* 12:173-184.

T3.1. Valuing/qualifying the benefits and impacts of biodiversity for health problems, and assessing the benefit-cost ratio of the maintenance of health-friendly biodiversity status

* What are suitable methods for valuing the outcomes of biodiversity for animal, human and/or plant health, accounting for economic, environmental and societal values (cost-benefit analysis; multi criteria decision analysis, ...)?

* What is the health-related value of various forms of biodiversity (and of contact with biodiversity)? Can we better integrate this with other ecosystem services assessments?

* How can we combine both health and non-health (co)benefits of various forms of nature / contact with biodiversity?

T3.2. Interventions, policies and governance systems for promoting the use of biodiversity to improve health and for promoting health-friendly biodiversity status

* How can specific interventions be designed and implemented to promote health (legal and administrative arrangements, partnerships, financial mechanisms...) and how do they work, at different relevant scales?

* What are the alternative practices/options that can reduce threats to both biodiversity conservation and health?

* What are the indicators for monitoring the health benefits of biodiversity?

The proposals should explain how they plan to engage with rural and urban communities and decision makers to promote health-friendly biodiversity and ecosystems.

(Theme 4) Focus on biodiversity-health relations in European overseas

Applicants applying to this focused theme have to address the priorities identified under T1, T2 and T3 (that is T1+T2; T1+T3; or T1+T2+T3), but they are expected to include a European overseas dimension in term of the issues addressed, models/systems/areas covered, and stakeholders considered in their project. The intention is here to fund projects involving research teams from both ORs and OCTs (for areas eligible to this call) and mainland.

(3) Procedures, eligibility and selection criteria

Submission, deadlines and time schedule

Submission

A two-step process will apply, with a mandatory submission of pre-proposals at step 1. Proposals (in English) must be submitted electronically via the Electronic Proposal Submission System (EPSS). Instructions for electronic submission will be available at www.biodiversa.org.

Applicants have to submit pre-proposals:

- FOR ACTION A: information (in English) on the project consortia, a brief description of the project and the required budget for each partner must be submitted via the EPSS.
- FOR ACTION B: information (in English) on the working group, a brief summary of the proposal and an indicative budget for each group member must be submitted via the Electronic Proposal Submission System (EPSS).

Pre-proposal is mandatory; it is not possible to enter the procedure at a later stage. The information is used by the Call Secretariat to help find appropriate reviewers for the evaluation of proposals.

For technical questions regarding submission, please contact the Call Secretariat:

- FOR ACTION A:
 - o Sophie Germann - sophie.germann@agencerecherche.fr
- FOR ACTION B:
 - o Claire Blery - Claire.blery@fondationbiodiversite.fr;
 - o Turgut Orman - turgut.orman@tarim.gov.tr
- Technical EPSS helpdesk for both Action: epss.biodiversa2018@g.etag.ee

For any question about national / regional eligibility rules and national budgetary questions, please contact the relevant Funding Organisation Contact Point, who are listed on the BiodivERsA website. Funding Organisations' rules are advertised on the BiodivERsA website and are mandatory.

Deadlines and time schedule

If a very large number of pre-proposals is received (indicative threshold of 110 pre-proposals), the Call Steering Committee reserves the right to organise a first evaluation of pre-proposals.

If less than 110 pre-proposals are received, the evaluation procedure will consist in an eligibility check at a first step and evaluation of full proposals at a second step.

The call will go through the following processes and applicants must pay attention to the deadlines outlined below in the time schedule:

Early July 2018:	Pre-announcement of the call
1 st October 2018:	Official launch of the call
16 th November 2018, 16:00 CET (local time in Brussels):	Deadline for submitting pre-proposal
6 th December 2018:	Eligibility check completed by FCPs
Between 10-14 th of December 2018:	Eligibility results by the CSC > Eligible pre-proposals are invited to submit full proposals
8 th February 2019, 16:00 CET (local time in Brussels):	Deadline for submitting full proposals
22 nd February 2019:	Second quick eligibility check completed by FCPs
Late May-Early June 2019:	EvC meeting > Ranked list of proposals established by the EvC
Late June 2019:	Recommendation for funding projects by the CSC
October 2019:	Earliest possible start of funded projects
March 2020:	Latest possible start of funded projects

If more than 110 pre-proposals are received, the evaluation procedure will consist in an eligibility check and first evaluation of pre-proposals at a first step and evaluation of full proposals at a second step. The timeline will vary according to the procedure selected.

The call will go through the following processes and applicants must pay attention to the deadlines outlined below in the time schedule:

Early July 2018:	Pre-announcement of the call
1st October 2018:	Official launch of the call
16th November 2018, 16:00 CET (local time in Brussels):	Deadline for submitting pre-proposal
6 th December 2018:	Eligibility check completed by FCPs

End January	Results of the first evaluation panel > Selected applicants invited to submit full proposals
15 March 2019, 16:00 CET (local time in Brussels):	Deadline for submitting full proposals
End March 2019:	Second quick eligibility check completed by FCPs
Late June 2019:	EvC meeting > Ranked list of proposals established by the EvC
September 2019:	Recommendation for funding projects by the CSC
November 2019	Earliest possible start of funded projects
March 2020:	Latest possible start of funded projects

During the entire procedure, strict confidentiality will be maintained with respect to the identities of applicants and the contents of the proposals.

Eligibility of projects and group members

The call is open to proposals and research consortia that meet the following criteria:

FOR ACTION A

- The transnational, scientific research projects are performed by eligible research organisations. National/regional eligibility criteria (see funding organisations' rules) apply to research organisations and for participation by the private sector (profit and non-profit);
- The main applicant is employed by an eligible organisation in one of the countries participating to the Action A;
- The project proposal involves Partners from at least three different countries participating in the BiodivERsA call. For proposals including researchers from outermost regions and overseas countries and territories, if two outermost regions and overseas countries and territories are from the same country, these are counted as two participating countries. Where a proposal includes three or more researchers from outermost regions and overseas countries and territories from the same country, these will be counted as two participating countries;
- The project duration is 3 years maximum;
- Proposals must be written in English;
- The scope or scale of the proposed research should exceed a single country.

FOR ACTION B

- The application corresponds to a transnational, scientific research project developing a synthesis of ideas and concepts and/or data that are performed by eligible research organisations (without new primary data production);
- The application fully takes into account the national/regional eligibility criteria applying to research organisations and for participation of the private sector (profit and non-profit organisations);
- The working group involves researchers from at least five different countries participating in the call. For proposals including researchers from outermost regions and overseas countries and territories, if two outermost regions and overseas countries and territories are from the same country, these are counted as two participating countries. Where a proposal includes three or more researchers from outermost regions and overseas countries and territories from the same country, these will be counted as two participating countries;

- The Principal Investigator of the proposal is employed by an eligible organisation of one of the countries participating in Action B;
- It is highly recommended that the projects proposal comprises funding demand for minimum one post-doctoral fellow (maximum 2 year-long position) who will be part of the working group;
- The project duration is 2 to 3 years;
- The proposal is written in English;
- The scope or scale of the proposed synthesis research should clearly exceed a single country.

For both Actions: compliance with Funding Organisations eligibility criteria and rules is mandatory. **If one Partner or group member is not eligible, the whole proposal will be considered ineligible and will not be evaluated.**

For more information on national eligibility criteria or to make sure they meet national agency rules, applicants are strongly encouraged to approach their respective national contact points (list available in the call documents).

Evaluation and selection

Potential applicants are advised to take careful note of the aims and scope of the call as described above and in the Announcement of Opportunity. Applicants are strongly advised to assess the relevance of their proposed research against the thematic priorities set forth in the scientific text of the call. Any project that does not correspond to the type of projects targeted (according to the Action to which it applies) or thematic priorities identified will not be recommended for funding, regardless of its quality.

For ACTION A:

Emphasis will be placed on the link between scientific excellence and relevance to policy and practice.

Proposals from the natural, health and social sciences are welcome.

The proposals will be evaluated against the following criteria

- Scientific excellence
- quality/efficiency of the implementation
- expected impact and stakeholder engagement¹⁰.

FOR ACTION B:

Emphasis will be laid on the development of synthesis of ideas and concepts, and/or data corresponding to the topic "Effects of biodiversity status and changes on animal, human and plant health".

Proposals from the natural, health and social sciences are welcome.

The proposals will be evaluated against the following criteria¹¹:

- scientific excellence (including quality of synthesis activities),
- quality and complementarity of the working group members,
- quality and efficiency of the project implementation,
- societal and policy relevance and expected project outcomes.

¹⁰ For detailed evaluation criteria for Action A, please check the annex A-4

¹¹ For detailed evaluation criteria for Action B, please check the annex B-5

For both Actions, the evaluation procedure of the first step will depend on the number of pre-proposals received.

If for one Action, a very large number of proposals is received (indicative threshold of 110 pre-proposals), the Call Steering Committee reserves the right to organise a first evaluation of pre-proposals (i.e. a two-step evaluation).

1) First step:

- If less than 110 pre-proposals are received, only an eligibility check of pre-proposals will be performed. Eligible pre-proposals will be invited to submit full proposals.

- If more than 110 pre-proposals are received, an eligibility check and a first step evaluation (peer-review) of pre-proposals will be performed. In that case, proposals will be evaluated by the Evaluation Committee against the following criteria: fit to the scope of the call, novelty of the research and the Transnational added value. Only successful pre-proposals will be invited to submit full proposals.

2) Second step:

An eligibility check of full proposals will be performed.

Eligible full proposals will be evaluated by an independent Evaluation Committee (EvC), composed of scientific and policy/management experts and international external reviewers (at least 3 per proposal, 2 scientific and 1 policy/management).

The EvC will consist of experts in the natural, health and social sciences, as well as professionals from the field of biodiversity policy and biodiversity conservation and management. It is comprised such so that it can cover, as far as possible, the range of topics within the scope of the call.

Members take part in the EvC as independent experts and do not represent any organisation nor can they send any replacements. This means that their work on this Committee does not represent any organization or nation.

The EvC will assess the proposals according to the criteria defined (see Annex A-4 for Action A and Annex B-5 for Action B) and moderate the assessments provided by the external reviewers.

The EvC will discuss about the proposals and establish the final ranking of proposals based on the set of criteria defined.

The CSC will then decide on which projects to recommend for funding, strictly adhering to the order of the ranking list established by the EvC.

Upon the final decision by the Funding Organisations, a list of funded projects will be published on the BiodivERsA website.

Please note that **no appeal can be brought to challenge the results of the selection procedure.**

(4) Funding

For this call a total amount of 10.8M€ has been provisionally reserved by the participating Funding Organisations. Indicative budgets for each organisation are given below. Each

participant in a funded project will be funded by his or her national/regional Funding Organisation(s) participating in the call.

PROVISIONAL LIST OF PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS WITH COMMITMENTS

Country	Funding Organisation	Participation in Action A	Participation in Action B	Indicative budget (low) (EURO)	Indicative budget (high) (EURO)
Austria	FWF	Y	Y	1,000,000	1,000,000
Belgium	FWO [#]	Y	N	200,000	200,000
Belgium	BELSP0 [#]	Y	Y	400,000	400,000
Belgium	F.R.S.-FNRS [#]	Y	N	200,000	200,000
Bulgaria	BNSF	Tbc	Tbc	Tbc	Tbc
Estonia	ETAG	Tbc	Tbc	Tbc	Tbc
France	ANR [#]	Y	Y	2,000,000	2,000,000
France	GUA-REG ⁵	Y	Y	300,000	300,000
France	REU-REG	Tbc	Tbc	Tbc	Tbc
Germany	PT-DLR	Y	Y	1,000,000	1,500,000
Germany	DFG	Y	Y	1,500,000	2,500,000
Ireland	EPA [#]	Y	Y	450,000	450,000
Lithuania	RCL [#]	Y	N	100,000	100,000
Poland	NCN	Y	Y	500,000	500,000
Romania	UEFISCDI [#]	Y	N	Tbc	Tbc
Slovakia	SAS [#]	Y	N	240,000	240,000
Switzerland	SNSF	Y	N	1,600,000 CHF	1,600,000 CHF

Due to a possible high financial pressure, the Funding Organisation marked by “#” have defined maximum allowed budget per project and/or per Partner or Group member. More generally, you should consult early the Funding organisations’ rules and contact your FCP (contact details available here: <http://www.biodiversa.org/1490>) when preparing your application.

The funding organisations marked by “\$” have defined specific rules (read carefully the funding organisations’ rules and contact your FCP in case you are having questions).

(5) Programme structure and management

Programme activities

The funded projects are considered to form part of an international research programme for which joint activities will be organized, in particular a kick-off meeting at the beginning of the funding period and a final meeting to present and disseminate the project results at the end of the funding period.

At least one member of each funded consortium or working group should participate in these joint activities. **The cost for attendance to joint activities should be included in the budgets of the full proposals.**

In addition, for Action B: funded projects are required to include resources for the participation of their post-doc to a **joint post-doc Workshop**.

Project management and reporting

Funded projects will be required to submit a mid-term report and a final report on both research progress and financial aspects. Some Funding Organisations may request additional specific reports.

(6) Eligible budget items

For both Actions:

Eligible costs and the maximum allowed requested budget per project are governed by each individual funding organisations' rules. Specific questions should be addressed to the Funding organisation Contact Points (list available on the BiodivERsA website).

In case of a too high financial pressure on a participating country due to the high number of teams from this country in the submitted applications, the applicants may be asked to adjust downward their budget.

For Action B:

Synthesis research projects are highly recommended to include the following costs in their project, while taking into account the funding organisation's rules for the different budget items mentioned below:

1. **Personnel costs** for the different group members, if applicable (for instance, for 5 working group meetings of 5 days each, you may plan a total of around 40 working days per group member corresponding to $5 \times 5 = 25$ days of meetings plus $3 \times 5 = 15$ additional full days working on the project in your lab (this does not apply to the post doc). Fill the budget part of the full application form using the personnel costs for each working group members and following your Funding Organisation's rules.
2. **Personnel costs for one post-doctoral fellow** for a 2-years duration. The costs related to the post-doc should be attached to the host organisation of the coordinator. Fill the budget part of the full application form using the cost of a 2-year post doc for the organisation of the coordinator.
3. Expenses related to the **participation to working group meetings**. You will find in the budget part of the full application form indication on how to compute these costs according to the working group composition and number/duration of meetings.
4. **Subcontract costs for synthesis services**: efficient implementation of synthesis research projects supported under this call require a range of specific **intellectual & administrative** synthesis services. These services can be provided by specific infrastructures having a particular expertise in this domain. Applicants can ask between 30 and 50k€ in total for these services. These costs will be generated according to the number of meetings you plan in synthesis services (taking into account that groups are expected to meet i) once or twice every year, and (ii) for 4 to 5 full working days up to two weeks each time). You will find in the budget part of the full application form indication on how to compute these costs according to the number of group meetings planned.
5. Costs related to the **participation in joint activities of the Call** (kick-off meeting, final conference and joint post-doc Workshop): these costs should be planned for at least the coordinator of the project for the kick-off and final conference and for the post-doctoral fellow for the post-doc workshop (at least 3k€ to be provided for per working group).

6. Costs related to **dissemination activities, access to data, data open access and knowledge transfer**.
7. **Other costs and overheads**, when relevant and applicable.

(7) Further information

The Call Secretariat, ensured by NCN and ANR for Action A and FRB and TAGEM for Action B, is responsible for organizing the procedure and for all communication with applicants.

However, for national/regional funding organisation eligibility criteria, the funding organisations' documented rules must be consulted and Funding organisation Contact Points (FCP) should be approached (both lists are available in the call documents published on the BiodivERsA website), in particular with regard to eligibility of research groups / group members, eligible costs and other country-specific aspects of the call. The compliance with Funding organisations' rules is mandatory, and relevant FCPs should be contacted to obtain further information if needed.

According to their respective rules, the funding organisations may require that the project members selected for funding establish a project consortium agreement. The requirement will thus apply to all the project members, even if their respective funding organisation does not require a project consortium agreement.

We draw the attention of the applicants to the fact that if they plan to use genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources in their project, they will have to ascertain towards the competent authorities and focal point that these used genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources have been accessed in accordance with applicable access and benefit-sharing legislation or regulatory requirements, and that benefits are fairly and equitably shared upon mutually agreed terms, in accordance with any applicable legislation or regulatory requirements.¹² Please refer to the competent authorities for more information.

¹² Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS) to the Convention on Biological Diversity and REGULATION (EU) No 511/2014 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on compliance measures for users from the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization in the Union and related implementing acts.