

## Get ready for the upcoming Biodiversa+ Call on “Biodiversity and Transformative Change – BiodivTransform”

The [European Biodiversity Partnership](#) under Horizon Europe – Biodiversa+ - is pleased to announce that it will soon launch a new transnational joint research call on **Biodiversity and Transformative Change** (referred to as BiodivTransform).

This call, together with a series of actions embedded in the [Flagship Programme](#) “Supporting societal transformation for the sustainable use and management of biodiversity”, will help achieve one of the strategic objectives of Biodiversa+: **to produce actionable (i.e., practically usable) knowledge for transformative change to halt and reverse biodiversity decline** ([Biodiversa+ Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda](#) - Eggermont *et al.* 2021)

\*\*\*

### SCOPE OF THE CALL

Recognising that the worldwide crises of biodiversity loss, climate change, and pollution are highly interlinked, with an urgent need to understand trade-offs and cross-linkages both in terms of drivers and effects, **this joint research call will aim for interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary, and/or cross-sectoral research and innovation projects to identify, analyse, and comprehend transformation processes that may halt and reverse biodiversity decline.**

It should **generate knowledge to safeguard biodiversity and ecosystems, as well as the benefits these may provide to people, through transformative change to mitigate and reverse biodiversity threats.**

Projects will be expected to demonstrate **academic excellence** with potential for **societal and policy impact** regarding biodiversity, aiming to connect science, society, policy, and practices for transformative change.

The call is not restricted in terms of specific environments nor geographic areas, encompassing all realms (terrestrial, marine, coastal and freshwater) and ecosystems experiencing various levels and sources of disturbances, including transition zones and interfaces (coastal, wetlands, urban–rural, forest–agriculture, etc.) and in integrated land/seascapes.

**Transformative change** can be defined 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)

\*\*\*

### MAIN STEPS OF THE CALL

The call is **planned to be officially launched on 10 September 2024.**

A two-step application procedure will be used with a **closing date for pre-proposals’ submission early November 2024.** A first evaluation of pre-proposals will be organised and the deadline to submit full proposals will be early **April 2025.**

Proposals (in English only) will have to be submitted electronically. Instructions regarding submission, eligibility and evaluation criteria and other relevant information will be published with the official call announcement early September 2024.

\*\*\*

## BUILDING TRANSNATIONAL RESEARCH CONSORTIA

To be eligible, research consortia will have to include **teams from a minimum of 3 countries financially participating in the Call**, including at least 2 from EU Member States or EU Associated Countries.

At this stage, a global budget of over **40 million euros has been provisionally reserved by 34 countries together with the European Commission**. The countries which have expressed a preliminary interest in participating in the Call are:

Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Faroe Islands, Finland, France, Germany (pending), Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy (pending), Italy (province of Bolzano), Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Morocco, Norway, Poland, Portugal (Azores), Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, The Netherlands, Tunisia, and Türkiye.

Please note that this list is not final. Countries may be added and / or removed between now and the official launch of the call early September. It will regularly be updated and published on the [Biodiversa+ website](#).

### Looking for a partner or a project to join?

Use the Biodiversa+ Partner Search Tool available [here](#)

Biodiversa+ would like to support countries and regions with research communities that have been less responsive in the [past two Biodiversa+ Calls](#). Therefore, for your information, a list of concerned funding organisations has been identified: NARD (Moldova) and NSTC (Taiwan).

\*\*\*

## ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The research proposals will be evaluated by independent experts against the following criteria:

- **Fit to the scope of the call, novelty of the research, and impact** at step 1 (pre-proposal step);
- (Scientific) **Excellence, quality and efficiency of the implementation** (of the project plan) and **impact** (including expected societal impact (incl. policy impact), and approach to stakeholder engagement) at step 2 (full proposal stage).

Research projects will be expected to have a holistic approach and to be transnational, inter- and transdisciplinary and mobilise as needed natural sciences, technical sciences, social sciences and humanities.

For both steps, the **international added value of a submitted project** must be clearly presented.

The detailed list of evaluation criteria to be used for this call will be published at the official launch of the call in September.

**Get ready now by consulting** the guides published by [Biodiversa+](#) including:

- The [Stakeholder Engagement Handbook](#) for more information on stakeholder engagement in funded projects
- The [Guide on Policy Relevance](#) of research and on effective science-policy interfacing in research proposals, including engagement of policy-stakeholders (note that this guide is currently being updated)
- The [Citizen Science Toolkit](#) for more information on how to engage citizens in your research projects

\*\*\*

### INFORMATION WEBINAR

**SAVE THE DATE:** an information webinar for potential applicants will be organized on **September 24<sup>th</sup> 2024, from 1 to 2:30 PM CEST.**

→ To participate in this workshop, **register** (*mandatory*) at:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_kcZ1WXRrSY-h9ealxtIqFQ](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kcZ1WXRrSY-h9ealxtIqFQ)

We invite you to regularly consult the [Biodiversa+ website](#) and register to the [Biodiversa+ mailing list](#) to be kept updated on latest information regarding this major upcoming research funding opportunity.

--- END OF DOCUMENT ---