

## Annex 4: Funding model

The BiodivERsA3 Partners agree on launching a joint call and using a joint evaluation with national and regional funding and additional EC co-funding.

For the funding of selected proposals, the BiodivERsA3 Partners agree to use a “mixed” funding model with the following use of EC contribution:

- 90% of the EC contribution is allocated on a pro-rata basis (i.e. 90% of the EC contribution will be distributed proportionally among the funding organisations based on their respective contributions. The respective contribution will be estimated after final ranking of proposals and discussion up to which rank proposals can be funded).
- 10% of the EC contribution will flow into a common pot that will be used for filling the gaps of funding within the ranking list to help funding organisations that have run out of national resources to cover their remaining national contribution requested in the projects recommended. National/regional funding organisations first have to fulfil their commitments indicated as Indicative budget (low) (see table below) before they are allowed to get money from the common pot.
- If any Partner does not spend its entire reserved budget while others do, unspent EC funds resulting from the under-expenditure would be made available for other BiodivERsA3 Partners to use proportionally to any extension of their own reserved budget.
- The CSC reserves the right to adjust the repartition of EC fund between a virtual (pro-rata) and real common pot during the funding meeting, if decided unanimously.

BiodivERsA3 Partners are aiming to fund as many of the highest ranked proposals as possible. Funding gaps may arise in the ranking when one of the BiodivERsA3 Partners runs out of money. BiodivERsA intends to deal with these gaps through the following level of flexibility:

- A funding organisation does not have to spend all the money that has been provisionally reserved
- In order to avoid early funding gaps, each Partner is asked to match as accurately and realistically as possible the financial demand from their respective research communities with the budget earmarked for the call. It means that all solutions to unblock situations at the national/regional level will be explored, such as:
  - o Some funding organisations may be able to come up with extra money to fund good proposals
  - o Some funding organisations may ask the applicants to reduce realistically their requested contribution and/or may add maximum threshold values for budget requested from the agency per proposals in the funding organisation eligibility rules
  - o Some funding organisations may be able to fund foreign teams
  - o Funding organisations may be able to fund foreign teams via subcontracting

These different levels of flexibility will be explored (i) after the first evaluation step, and (ii) after the final evaluation of the proposals.

### Funding particularities<sup>1</sup>

Some funding organisations will only fund proposals addressing theme 1. On the contrary, some funding organisations will only fund proposals addressing theme 2 (see table below).

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<sup>1</sup> For the detailed evaluation procedure (scoring and ranking), please see Annex 7.



Some funding organisations have defined specific rules: i.e., RCN will not fund proposals addressing marine environment; for BELSPO, applied research is not eligible.

#### **Failure to honour funding commitment and fall-back procedure**

National/regional organisation's procedures for joint programme funding will be made explicit to the Call Secretariat and Call Steering Committee in order to avoid any unexpected delays or issues. Each funding Partner will be asked to confirm in writing that they accept a joint evaluation procedure.

However, in the implementation of joint calls, it can happen that a Partner will fail to honour his commitment to fund research teams in the selected projects, due to internal difficulties or political turnover. In case of failure from a Partner, there won't be any judicial proceedings.

If a funding Partner cannot confirm the funding of its research teams four months after the Call Steering Committee made its decision on funding recommendation, a procedure for re-evaluation will be launched. The proposal will be reviewed without the considered research teams and re-assessed. The proposal is still considered eligible even if the number of participating countries is less than three. The exact process of the revaluation procedure will be decided by the Call Steering Committee.