

Newsletter, January 2015

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The BiodivERsA2 partners

Fondation pour la Recherche sur la Biodiversité, FRANCE, Coordinator
Fonds zur Forderung der Wissenschaftlichen Forschung, AUSTRIA
Belgian Science Policy Office, BELGIUM
Bulgarian National Science Fund, BULGARIA
Estonian Research Council, ESTONIA
Agence National de la Recherche, FRANCE
Ministère de l'Écologie, du Développement Durable et de l'Énergie, FRANCE
Projekträger im Deutschen Zentrum für Luft-und Raumfahrt e.V., GERMANY
Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, GERMANY
Ministry of Rural Development, HUNGARY
Research Council of Lithuania, LITHUANIA
The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), THE NETHERLANDS
Research Council of Norway, NORWAY
Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, PORTUGAL
Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad, SPAIN
Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning, SWEDEN
Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, SWEDEN
Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, TURKEY
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, UNITED KINGDOM
Joint Nature Conservation Committee, UNITED KINGDOM
Natural Environment Research Council, UNITED KINGDOM

The new partners that will join BiodivERsA in early 2015 for its third phase:

Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO), BELGIUM
Agence de développement économique de la Nouvelle Calédonie (ADECAL), FRANCE
Région Guadeloupe (GUA-REG), FRANCE,
Région Guyane (GUY-REG), FRANCE
Région Réunion (RR), FRANCE,
National Science Centre (NCN), POLAND
Fundo Regional para a ciência (FRC), PORTUGAL
Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI), ROMANIA
Gobierno de Canarias (GOBCAN), Spain
Swiss National Science Fund (SNSF), SWITZERLAND

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BiodivERsA's new Twitter Account!

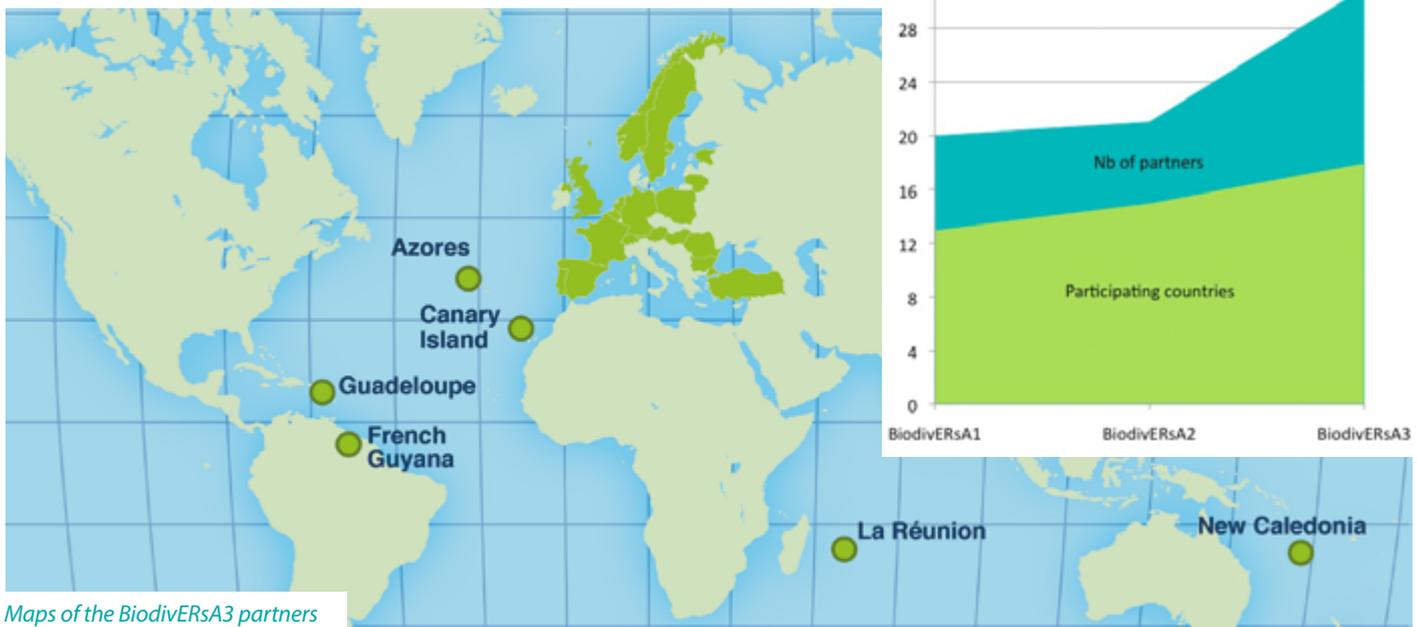
Get in-the-moment updates on BiodivERsA's activities via our brand new Twitter Account

[@BiodivERsA3](https://twitter.com/BiodivERsA3)

Edito

The BiodivERsA network is pleased to announce that its activities for programming and funding research on biodiversity and ecosystem services will continue for another 5-year period, from early 2015 onwards.

Despite the end of the second phase of BiodivERsA (2010-2014), the partners were highly committed to continue their collaboration, and submitted a proposal to the European Commission for a third phase. In September 2014, the European Commission selected the BiodivERsA3 project to be funded under the Horizon 2020 funding programme.



Maps of the BiodivERsA3 partners

The third phase of BiodivERsA will allow the network to implement an even more ambitious workplan. First, the network will be significantly enlarged: 10 new partners, including 6 from overseas regions, will join BiodivERsA bringing the number of partners to 31 and the number of participating countries to 18. This will allow the network to better promote the European biodiversity research both thematically and geographically, also taking into account major challenges faced by overseas territories. Furthermore, BiodivERsA will continue its mapping and strategic activities to increase the understanding of the research landscape in the field of biodiversity and ecosystem services. This should lead to the definition of a strategic roadmap among BiodivERsA partners, and to the development of programme alignment schemes. The network also plans to implement a young scientists scheme to support their research and help them

Since its beginning in 2005, BiodivERsA has supported research on biodiversity and ecosystem services and its integration at the European scale. It has launched five calls, allowing the funding of 47 projects for a total of 51 million euro directly raised by BiodivERsA partners. In addition to funding research proposals, BiodivERsA has carried out a great diversity of activities ranging from research mapping and programming to stakeholder engagement, dissemination of project's results and knowledge brokerage.

increase their networks. BiodivERsA will also continue to carry out joint activities with European and international initiatives, such as Joint Programming Initiatives, the Belmont Forum, the Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) etc.

The network will also continue launching joint calls, including one of major importance to be launched in 2015, which will be co-funded by the European Commission and allow to fund research projects for ca. 30 million euro (see the call pre-announcement below).

Finally the science-society and science-policy interfaces will remain at the heart of BiodivERsA3 activities to ensure involvement of relevant stakeholders along the research development process, to promote knowledge brokerage and to disseminate projects results to all relevant actors, including policy-makers.

Xavier Le Roux,
Coordinator and CEO of BiodivERsA

Pre-announcement of the BiodivERsA 2015 Call for proposals, co-funded by the European Commission

The BiodivERsA partners are pleased to announce the launch of their next call covering the following themes:

> **Theme #1: Understanding and managing the biodiversity dynamics of soils and sediments to improve ecosystem functioning and delivery of ecosystem services**

> **Theme #2: Understanding and managing biodiversity dynamics in land-, river- and sea-scapes (habitat connectivity, green and blue infrastructures, and naturing cities) to improve ecosystem functioning and delivery of ecosystem services**

This call will be co-funded by the European Commission, and will have an indicative global budget of around 30 million euro (in total for the 2 themes). The call will be launched before the summer 2015, with a closing date before the end of 2015 (exact dates will be provided on the [BiodivERsA website](#)).

Scientists will be invited to form transnational research consortia with teams from at least 3 different participating countries.

The submitted proposals will be evaluated against criteria of scientific excellence as well as policy relevance and stakeholder engagement (for more information on stakeholder engagement in BiodivERsA funded projects, please check the BiodivERsA Stakeholder Engagement Handbook [downloadable here](#))

At this stage, the following countries have expressed a preliminary interest to participate to the call:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom

These countries will have to confirm their participation to the call in April 2015, so please look at the updated list of participating countries on the BiodivERsA website.

All information on the call (i.e. complete call text, final list of participating countries, evaluation criteria, deadlines, etc.) will soon be published on the [BiodivERsA website](#).



BUFFER project, 2011-2012 Call



TippingPond project, 2011-2012 Call



VITAL project, 2008 Call



PEATBOG project, 2008 Call

Major events of the BiodivERsA2 network

Following four years of successful cooperation, BiodivERsA2 (2010-2014) has come to an end. Seizing this opportunity to present their achievements and perspectives for the future of the network, BiodivERsA partners had their final conference on October 2nd, followed on October 3rd by a Kick-off meeting of research projects funded by the 2012-2013 Call on invasive species and biological invasions.

Final conference of BiodivERsA2

(Keynote presentations available [here](#))



Bob Scholes, giving a speech on Challenges and opportunities for biodiversity and ecosystem services research

Over the past four years of cooperation, BiodivERsA2 partners have launched four pan-European joint calls, funding 35 pan-European research projects for 37 M€ (total cost of 74 M€). These projects represent interdisciplinary, cutting-edge pan-European biodiversity research with high academic impact and high societal and/or political relevance. To further promote and support this aspect of BiodivERsA's work, the network produced the "Stakeholder engagement handbook" ([see: www.biodiversa.org/stakeholderengagement](http://www.biodiversa.org/stakeholderengagement)) providing researchers with concrete tools and methods to involve stakeholders in their research projects. Another aspect of BiodivERsA's efforts to enhance the impact of biodiversity research was the use of a professional knowledge broker, the IUCN-Europe, to produce and disseminate policy briefs ([see: www.biodiversa.org/policybriefs](http://www.biodiversa.org/policybriefs)) based on the outputs of funded projects addressing pressing issues for biodiversity

and ecosystem services. These briefs, supervised and validated by BiodivERsA, comprehensively highlight these issue(s) and provide recommendations for policy-makers supported by solid scientific evidence.

The final conference was an excellent opportunity to present the wide variety of activities covered by the network. For example, in addition to its calls, BiodivERsA2 has mapped the biodiversity research landscape for Europe both in terms of level of funding ([click here to download the booklet](#)) and type of biodiversity research funded ([click here to download the booklet](#)), using the BiodivERsA database ([see: www.biodiversa.org/database](http://www.biodiversa.org/database))



Roundtable: Policy views on the future of biodiversity and ecosystem services research with Henrik Lange, Hilde Eggermont, Xavier Le Roux, Simon Tillier and Kurt Vandenberghe (from left to right)

This conference was also an opportunity to position BiodivERsA in the wider context of the European Research Area on biodiversity and ecosystem services. Interventions included keynote speeches by Kurt Vandenberghe, Director of the Directorate Climate action and resource efficiency in DG R&I who gave an overview of challenges and opportunities for biodiversity and ecosystem services research from the perspective of the European Commission. In this context, a bright future was foreseen for BiodivERsA! In addition, Simon Tillier from the French Ministry of Research presented the national perspectives, and also call for an enhanced support by Member States to the network.

From a scientific perspective, Dr. Bob Scholes from the CSIR in South Africa and Peter Bridgewater, ex-Chairman of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, presented the challenges for biodiversity and ecosystem services research, and for the involvement of stakeholders, respectively. Both highlighted the relevance and need for BiodivERsA's activities. This vision was further supported by the discussions in the roundtable on "bridging the gaps between academic excellence and societal relevance" involving Joachim Claudet (CNRS) and Olivier Musard

(French MPA agency) from the BUFFER project; Joachim Spangenberg (UFZ) from the APPEAL project (both funded by BiodivERsA); Peter Bridgewater (see above); and Emma Durham and Per Backe-Hansen (respectively from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee in UK and the Norwegian Research council, both BiodivERsA2 partners).

Kick-off meeting of the 2012-2013 Call on invasive species and biological invasions

(Keynote presentations available [here](#))

In 2012-2013, BiodivERsA partners developed and implemented a pan-European joint call on “Invasive species and biological invasions”, a topic which was previously identified as a pressing issue by BiodivERsA partners and thus included in the network’s shared research agenda. This call for research projects involved ten countries that raised a total of 8.9 million euro to fund innovative research on the topic. Attracting an important number (77) of research proposals, this call led to the selection of nine excellent projects, which presented their aims and preliminary findings during the kick-off meeting.

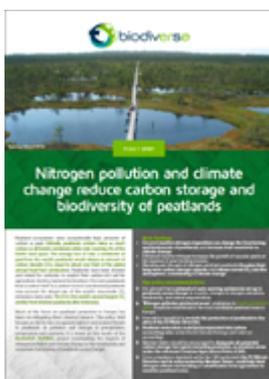
After a keynote speech by Helen E. Roy (NERC Centre for Ecology & Hydrology) on Biological invasions: a major environmental & societal challenge calling for research across borders, the investigators of each project were invited to present their plans and discuss together.

For detailed information on the call and funded projects, please consult the BiodivERsA publication [BiodivERsA 2012-2013 call for proposals: «Invasive species and biological invasions»](#) as well as the keynote presentations delivered at the kick off by project investigators on the [BiodivERsA website](#).

BiodivERsA’s latest publications

Two new policy briefs published

Deriving from the projects [LinkTree](#) and [Peatbog](#), funded under the 2008 BiodivERsA call “Linking scientific advancement to policy and practice”, BiodivERsA has published two new policy briefs :



> The policy brief «[Nitrogen pollution and climate change reduce carbon storage and biodiversity of peatlands](#)», based on the results of the PEATBOG project, focuses on the threats nitrogen pollution and climate change represent for biodiversity and ecosystem functioning of peatland.

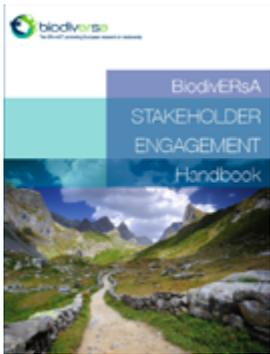


> The policy brief «[Adaptation of trees and forests to climate change](#)» derived from the LinkTree project and emphasizes how genetic variation within forest trees populations contribute to forest adaptation to environmental changes.

These policy briefs aim at disseminating the project’s outputs to relevant stakeholders and policy makers and provide them with specific recommendations.

The series of policy briefs published by BiodivERsA are available on: www.biodiversa.org/policybriefs

The Stakeholder Engagement Handbook



This practical guide addresses researchers planning and carrying out research projects.

It contains various tools and methods to identify and engage with relevant stakeholders, including policy makers, for enhancing the impact of the research carried out.

This handbook contributes to one major objective of BiodivERsA, which is promoting both science-society and science-policy interfacing all along the research development process. With this stakeholder engagement handbook, researchers have concrete tools to collaborate with stakeholders from the definition to the implementation and dissemination of the outputs of their research project.

The Stakeholder engagement handbook is available on: www.biodiversa.org/stakeholderengagement

A new brochure analysing the type of biodiversity research funded in Europe



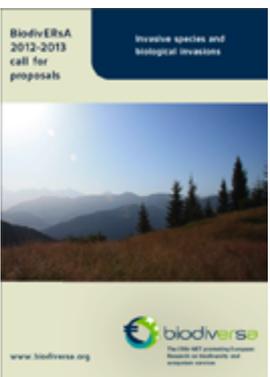
Using the BiodivERsA database, the BiodivERsA network continued the mapping of the biodiversity research landscape.

This second database brochure analyses temporal and geographical trends in the type of biodiversity research funded on a competitive basis in European countries (from 2004 to 2011).

4159 abstracts of projects funded by 15 national funded agencies across European were studied (using semantic analysis) for the purpose of this brochure and allowed to develop a robust analysis of the type of research funded in Europe in the field of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

The brochure is available on: www.biodiversa.org/8

Brochure on the results of the 2012-2013 call



This brochure analyses the results of the 2012-2013 call on Invasive species and biological invasions and gives an overview of the nine projects funded for a total amount of 8,9M euro.

The brochure is available on: www.biodiversa.org/367

Partner profile

BiodivERsA3 was an opportunity to enlarge the network to better cover European biodiversity research both thematically and geographically.

Here we would like to introduce two new partners of the network, one located in overseas territories (Region Guadeloupe) and one located in mainland (NCN, Poland).



Guadeloupe Region

Guadeloupe is an archipelago of around 405 000 inhabitants, located at the heart of the Caribbean.

The regional council of Guadeloupe is a local authority principally charged with spatial planning, training and secondary school, and economic development (agriculture, fisheries, tourism, artisan, industries, etc.). But also environment preservation (biodiversity, landscape, water and waste management, energy efficiency), research and innovation, culture and society.

Research and innovation is a priority for the Regional Council. The Regional Strategy for Innovation, co-designed with the French government Office of Research and Economic Development and Innovation, identifies priority sector such as agronomy and biodiversity, energy and raw materials, natural risk and silver economy and creative industries. By supporting research and innovation in these sectors, the Regional council of Guadeloupe aims to

- Reinforce research excellence;
- Focus research on local issues and concerns;
- Make local research centres more visible and facilitate their integration into international consortia;
- Foster research results transfer to SME and to society well-being;
- Stimulate innovative companies.

The Regional Council supports research and innovation through funding tools using structural funds (ERDF and ESF) and the launch of calls for proposals (i.e. doctorate grants to support research inspired by society's needs, post doctorate grants to host high profile young foreign researchers, administrative and methodological support to help local team participation to research framework program call). It also finances research facilities to ensure high quality research and contribute to keep them

attractive. The Regional Council of Guadeloupe also pays high attention to knowledge transfer. It is involved in various international collaborative projects.

The Regional Council of Guadeloupe was for example at the early beginning of Era-Net Net-Biome, the network on research on biodiversity in European outermost and overseas territories.

With the beginning of BiodivERsA3, the Net-Biome network had the opportunity to join BiodivERsA3. This is an important recognition of the work done so far by Net-Biome network.

The Regional Council of Guadeloupe is pleased to join BiodivERsA3. Biodiversity is a topic of interest to the Council. Many challenges facing the territory are indeed linked to biodiversity, such as emergent diseases, climate change mitigation, biodiversity erosion or pollution.

BiodivERsA3 is the third European project funded under the EC framework program in which the Regional Council is involved. The participation of Regional Council of Guadeloupe in such programme is an efficient way to introduce local research teams to the European research area and to invite them to apply to highly competitive funding scheme. For this purpose, the Regional Council of Guadeloupe will contribute to the BiodivERsA top-up funding calls, but also in other joint calls and other joint activities.

In BiodivERsA3, the Regional Council of Guadeloupe is responsible for WP2, "Integrating Research Programs and Addressing Issues With and Within Overseas Territories / Outermost Regions" and of tasks for the Promotion of Science-Policy Interface within the whole research process.

For more information, please [click here](#).

National Science Centre (NCN)

NCN is a government agency, supervised by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, set up in 2011 to support basic research in Poland. Basic research is defined as experimental or theoretical endeavours undertaken to gain new knowledge of the foundations of phenomena and observable facts.

With a budget of over 200 million euro a year NCN funds projects in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Life Sciences and Physical Sciences and Engineering. The NCN has set up 10 types of funding schemes dedicated to researchers at different stages of their career.

Our goals:

- Supporting excellent research projects in all fields of science and humanities
- Funding doctoral scholarships and post-doctoral internships
- Financing research projects carried out by experienced researchers aimed at implementing pioneering research important for the development of science
- Inspiring international cooperation in basic research

One of the priorities of the Centre is to support and develop the scientific careers of pre-doctoral and doctoral researchers about to embark on a career in research. For this group of researchers the Centre has specifically designed funding schemes such as

PRELUDIUM and ETIUDA at those individuals without a PhD degree, and SONATA and FUGA, for researchers holding a doctoral degree.

Another main objectives of the NCN is to foster international cooperation with leading institutions supporting research. The NCN's mission is to offer Polish scientists the freedom to conduct research in a broad international context and contribute to the multinational debate on basic research.

To date the NCN has been involved in several international initiatives supporting research in Life Sciences, such as:

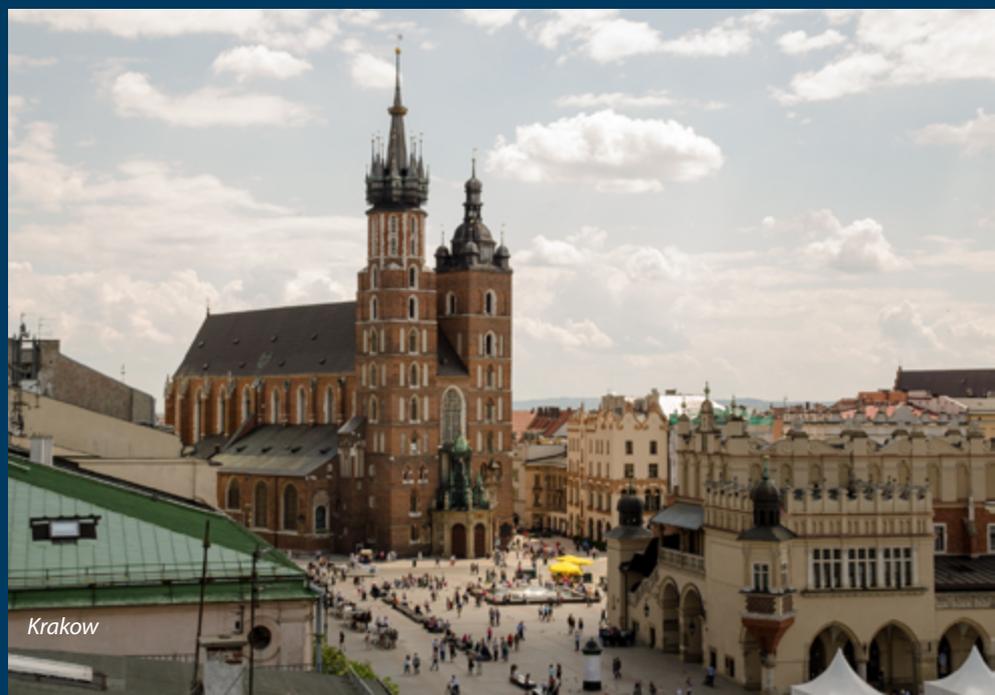
- Infect ERA (Infectious Diseases)
- JPND (Neurodegenerative Diseases)
- JPI HDHL (Nutrition and Cognitive Function, Intestinal Microbiomics)
- BiodivERsA (Conservation and Sustainable Management of Biodiversity)

In BiodivERsA, NCN will contribute to the co-funded call to be launched in 2015 and is responsible of the implementation of a future joint call to be launched in 2018.

For more information, please [click here](#).



Marcin Liana, Coordinator for Life Science



Krakow

Upcoming activities and forthcoming publications

Upcoming workshops and events:

January 2015: Pre-announcement of the 2015 call co-funded by the EC

February 2015: Start of the BiodivERsA3 project

May 2015: Launch of the 2015 call

May 2015: Kick-off of the BiodivERsA3 project

Upcoming publications:

January 2015: BiodivERsA in figures

February 2015: New BiodivERsA leaflet

First trimester of 2015: Digest of the stakeholder engagement handbook

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