The BiodivERsA partners aim to further integrate pan-European biodiversity research by:

- Better covering European biodiversity research both thematically and geographically (enlarged network to new countries, and Overseas Countries and Territories and Overseas Regions)
- Mapping the research landscape, and developing and implementing a shared, strategic roadmap among BiodivERsA partners
- Further cooperating with key Joint Programming Initiatives and international initiatives to promote research at the crossroad between ‘biodiversity & ecosystem services’ issues and other grand challenges
- Supporting new research through joint calls, sometimes with co-funding by the European Commission
- Working towards the alignment of national research programmes on biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Interfacing of science-society and science-policy during the whole research process and disseminating research results

“The network of organisations programming and funding research on biodiversity and ecosystem services across European countries and territories”
BiodivERsA

Context, vision and objectives

Biodiversity is Earth’s living heritage and is essential for the delivery of ecosystem services. It is as much an environmental issue as an economic, food-security, energy-security and political one. With adequate support and a solid research basis, biodiversity and ecosystem services can become a toolbox for the resilience of human societies facing a changing, unsettled world.

Biodiversity questions cross both borders (e.g., alien invasive species) and disciplines (e.g., valuation of ecosystem services). They can thus be tackled more effectively by collaboration between multi-national teams. BiodivERsA aims at integrating national/local programmes and funds to achieve resource efficiency and synergy, and build up the European Research Area for biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Funded by Horizon 2020 for its third phase, BiodivERsA gathers 31 organisations from 18 European countries, mainland and overseas. It provides the focus, money, and networking opportunities for research that helps to understand the dynamics of biodiversity and ecosystem services, and explores innovative solutions for their conservation, and sustainable management and use.

Since 2008, BiodivERsA has been launching calls to support (for 51M€ over 2008-2014) outstanding and multidisciplinary research relevant to society and policy. BiodivERsA partners also reinforce strategic mapping and programming of trans-national research, stakeholder engagement and research results dissemination.

Common agenda
BiodivERsA develops a strategic roadmap with a pluri-annual vision to support pan-European research on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Mapping activities to prepare a coordinated strategy
The analysis of national and international research strategies on biodiversity and ecosystem services, the mapping of the research landscape, and the liaison with main European and international initiatives, help BiodivERsA partners to identify shared priorities and develop a strategy which is coordinated, coherent and relevant.

Knowledge brokerage and dissemination
In addition to academic productions, funded projects generate a range of products, e.g., management plans, guidelines, new indicators, maps, etc., useful to local stakeholders and policy makers. Moreover, key results from BiodivERsA funded research are disseminated to policy makers by means of policy briefs, linking the new knowledge to major European policies.

Stakeholder engagement
Stakeholder engagement is promoted throughout the research development process, from co-design and implementation of programmes to dissemination. Various tools (handbook, workshops,...) help research teams to engage with relevant stakeholders and enhance the impact of their work.

Funding research projects
BiodivERsA regularly funds research through annual calls for proposals. It funds medium-sized pan-European projects which are selected based on both their scientific excellence and societal/policy relevance.

Other joint activities
BiodivERsA promotes the alignment of national/local research programmes on key issues. It also develops a young scientists scheme and supports mobility schemes.

Examples of joint calls

- **2008**
  - Biodiversity: linking scientific advancement to policy and practice (14.2M among 8 countries)

- **2010-2011**
  - Biodiversity and ecosystem services, and their valuation (9.6M among 7 countries)

- **2011-2012**
  - Biodiversity dynamics: developing scenarios, identifying tipping points, and improving resilience (8.9M among 8 countries)

- **2012-2013**
  - Invasive species and biological invasions (8.9M among 9 countries)

- **2013-2014**
  - Promoting synergies and reducing trade-offs between food supply, biodiversity and ecosystem services (10.3M among 10 countries; jointly with PAGCE-JPI)

- **2015**
  - Understanding and managing biodiversity dynamics to improve ecosystem functioning and delivery of ecosystem services in a global change context: the cases of soils and sediments, and land-river and sea-scapes (>25M€ among ca. 15 countries, jointly with the EC)