

Open call

2026-2027 Joint Call

Novel ecosystems: biodiversity, socio- ecological consequences and future trajectories

#BiodivFuture



Biodiversa+ is pleased to announce that its 6th annual Joint Call for transnational research projects **BiodivFuture is now open.**

Co-funded by the European Commission, this call, alongside a range of actions under the [Biodiversa+ Flagship Programmes](#), will contribute to achieving one of [Biodiversa+'s strategic objectives](#): producing actionable knowledge to drive transformative change and halt and reverse biodiversity decline.

The [online submission platform \(EPSS\)](#) for pre-proposals is now open.

Scope of the call



BiodivFuture focuses on supporting **future-looking research and innovation that will address dynamics and consequences relating to the [sustainability goals of the Kunming-Montreal](#) trajectories of change**. The call covers investigating the causes (drivers), effects (biological re current and future trajectories of change **in all relevant realms (terrestrial, freshwater, marir novel, high-quality transnational research with potential for societal and political impact that holistic, systemic, and integrated approaches**.

In the face of inevitable and potentially irreversible change, **knowledge generated under this resilient, interconnected, diverse and ecologically functioning ecosystems**. This could include preserve or restore natural resources by taking multiple costs and benefits (trade-offs) into ac Well-functioning ecosystems should benefit people and protect nature at scales from local to and societal well-being.

Themes

Research priorities covered by BiodivFuture are structured into three non-mutually exclusive t

- › **THEME A – NOVEL ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONING:** Understanding the functioning of novel dynamics, identifying mechanisms and developing approaches that can facilitate biodiversi
- › **THEME B – PATHWAYS TO NOVEL ECOSYSTEMS:** Studying robust, plausible, and concr dynamics to prosper under temporal asynchronies and uncertainties.
- › **THEME C – BIODIVERSITY BENEFITS AND EQUITY IN THE CONTEXT OF NOVEL ECOS** context of novel ecosystems, supported by inclusive, collaborative, and investment-oriente

Novel ecosystems – A conceptual framework to set the scene

Novel ecosystems have been defined by Hobbs et al. in 2013 as “a system of abiotic, biotic influence, differ from those that prevailed historically, having a tendency to self-organise, a

Sections

Since the publication of this paper, the limits of this definition have been challenged by different conceptual frameworks. A conceptual framework of novel ecosystems usually comprises of (1) new ecological communities which present a suite of interactions and processes consistent with a self-organised, functioning system, (2) their emergence, with or without human intervention, due to significant biotic and abiotic changes, and (3) different views and definitions, proposals submitted to this call must demonstrate how they are added to the current knowledge. Applicants must carefully read the [announcement of opportunity \(Call Document 1\)](#), that fulfils the requirements of the call.

Call schedule

EPSS

A two-step application procedure will apply, with a mandatory submission of pre-proposals at the [Electronic Proposal Submission System \(EPSS\)](#).

- › **Launch of the call:** Wednesday 9 September 2026
- › **Deadline for pre-proposals submission (mandatory):** 10 November 2026, 12:00 (noon) CEST
- › **Results of the evaluation of the first step:** mid-February 2027
- › **Deadline for full-proposals submission:** 16 April 2027, 12:00 (noon) CEST (10:00 UTC)
- › **Recommendations for funding:** Late September to early October 2027
- › **Start of the projects:** Between 1 December 2027 and 1 April 2028



Evaluation process

Maximise your chances

Research proposals (in English only) must be submitted electronically. They will be evaluated

- › At step 1 (pre-proposal stage): (1) Fit to the **scope** of the call, (2) **novelty** of the research a
- › At step 2 (full proposal stage): (1) [Scientific] **excellence**, (2) quality and efficiency of the **ir** societal impact which includes policy impact, and approach to stakeholder engagement).

Research proposals shall demonstrate **significant transnational added value** of the project, a approaches. They should span a wide range of relevant academic disciplines and include non- while adhering to the ethics and principles of responsible research.

Applicants must carefully read the detailed [assessment criteria](#) ([Call Document 6](#)).

Building transnational research

Look for a partner or a project to join

[Partner Search Tool](#)

To be eligible, research consortia must include teams from a **minimum of 3 countries** financial **States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries**.

Not all EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries financially participate in th

Please note that each research partner in a project who is requesting funding under this call n **regional funding organisation** and comply with the [Horizon Europe Annotated Grant Agree](#) rules of your funding organisation, please contact your **Funding Organisation Contact Point** (information including the Funding Organisation Contact Point are [available here](#).

Participating countries

Over 30 funding organisations from 25 countries are joining this call, together with the European Commission.

Please consult the full up-to-date list of funding organisations participating in this Call, their individual participation modalities.

Information and key documents



Make sure to carefully read all the supporting call documents:

- › [Announcement of Opportunity](#) (including the call text detailing the scope of the call)
- › [Pre-proposal application form](#) (for information only; the actual form is to be completed)
- › [Full proposal application form](#) (for information only; the actual form is to be completed)
- › [Checklist for applicants](#)
- › [Assessment criteria](#)
- › [Open Science and Fair Data](#)
- › [Conflict of interest, confidentiality and non-disclosure policy.](#)
- › [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Sections

Watch the recording of the 10 September 2026 BiodivFuture information webinar for an intro application process and key resources.



For general questions regarding the call:

Biodiversa+ Call Secretariat

ANR, Agence Nationale de la Recherche

<mailto:biodiversa.cs@anr.fr>

For technical questions regarding the EPSS:

Taavi Tiirik

EPSS technical helpdesk

epss.biodiversa@g.etag.ee

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Be aware of all relevant European initiatives and choose wisely the one best suited for your project. For topics with a [Call](#) is recommended. For topics with a strong focus on urban transition towards a climate neutral and resilient future ocean economy and sustainability, the [SBEP 2026 Joint Transnational Call](#) is recommended.

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