



## THE BENEFITS BROUGHT BY BIOHORIZON



**Dear Bio-NCP colleagues,**  
The purpose of the BioHorizon Newsletter is to inform you about the project's ongoing activities, the highlights from the latest project actions and the upcoming meetings and events. We are well into our second year and, just like last time, there's quite a lot to report on. You will find updates on numerous activities such as the 1<sup>st</sup> BioHorizon Advisory Board meeting held in January 2016 in Brussels, activities offered by the project to benefit individual Bio-NCPs and information on some of our plans for the future. Enjoy the newsletter and let us stay in touch. We are very happy to receive any comments you may have at [info@ncp-biohorizon.net](mailto:info@ncp-biohorizon.net).

Follow us on twitter and LinkedIn.

**Your benefit is our priority!**

*Bożena Podlaska (IPPT PAN) – BioHorizon Coordinator*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SC2 INFO WEEK FROM 27-29 JUNE 2016, INCLUDING A BIOHORIZON BROKERAGE EVENT

**27 June - Dissemination event** – The event will showcase the results of interesting and successful FP7 and Horizon 2020 projects which can be inspirational for calls open in 2017. **Registration** is now open and will close on 10 June or earlier if the maximum capacity is reached.

**28 June - Infoday on SC2 calls for 2017 (morning)** – This infoday will provide practical information for those wishing to prepare successful proposals as well as an interactive presentation of the upcoming topics. Like last year, it will be possible to submit questions on topics once your registration is confirmed. Presentations made during the parallel sessions will be based on these questions. **Registration** is now open and will close on 10 June or earlier if the maximum capacity is reached.

**28 June - Brokerage event (afternoon)** – The brokerage event is organised by the BioHorizon project and will support participants seeking potential partners for application to the 2017 calls in SC2. **Registration** will run until 6 June 2016.

**29 June - Coordinators' day** – Coordinators of projects selected from the 2015 calls are invited to take part to learn how to run their project successfully.

More information: <http://www.ncp-biohorizon.net/events?cmd=showDetail&id=32>

### 2<sup>ND</sup> BIO HORIZON INTERACTIVE TRAINING, BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA, 18-19 OCTOBER 2016

The 2<sup>nd</sup> BioHorizon on-site training event will take place in Bratislava, in conjunction with the Bioeconomy stakeholder conference (to take place on 17 October and organised under the Slovak presidency of the Council of the EU). The training event will be dedicated to innovation aspects in the Horizon 2020 projects in the bioeconomy field.

The training will last one and a half days and is open to all Bio-NCPs. BioHorizon will offer up to 24 Bio-NCPs reimbursement for their participation (on a *first come, first served* basis).

If you are interested in participating, please send an email to either Serena or Marina ([borgna@apre.it](mailto:borgna@apre.it); [Marina.Jurjevic@mobilnost.hr](mailto:Marina.Jurjevic@mobilnost.hr)). A save the date email should follow in the coming days.

## THE RANGE OF BIOHORIZON SERVICES

### 1) E-MENTORING ACTIVITIES

**Main target:** The E-mentoring service provided by BioHorizon is tailored to the needs of new NCPs and from outside Europe, especially to the needs of Bio-NCPs from ICPCs.

#### Objective:

In order to meet the needs of less experienced NCPs, NCPs from countries with low participation in Horizon 2020 and NCPs from ICPCs, the E-mentoring service is especially tailored to address some of the shortcomings most commonly experienced by NCPs! The E-mentoring service will help you to reinforce your existing skills and to acquire new competences through the support provided to you by more experienced Bio-NCPs (mentors). Persistent and personalised assistance provided by a mentor, implemented over the whole duration of the BioHorizon project, will help you to improve your qualifications and serve to deepen cooperation within the whole network of Bio-NCPs. A matrix presenting the contact names of mentors with their different skills and expertise is now available. Please do not hesitate to contact mentors for any support you might need in your daily NCP activity, for instance:

- SUPPORT DEVELOPING AN NCP STRATEGY,
- ASSISTANCE IN HORIZON 2020'S SC2 AND KET BIOTECH, AS WELL AS IN OTHER HORIZON 2020 AND EU PROGRAMMES,
- ASSISTANCE IN LEGAL AND FINANCIAL ISSUES, PROJECT MANAGEMENT, PARTNER SEARCH ACTIVITIES AND THE IDENTIFICATION OF CONSORTIA,
- SUPPORT ADVISING ON PROPOSALS AND WITH CHECKING PROPOSALS PRIOR TO SUBMISSION,
- IMPROVING YOUR VISIBILITY AND COMMUNICATION WITH YOUR NATIONAL CLIENTS,
- SUPPORT IN THE ORGANISATION OF TRAINING ACTIVITIES, INFODAYS AND SEMINARS,
- IMPROVING CONTACTS WITH THE EC (LOBBYING).

<https://ptj-bscw.ptj.kfa-juelich.de/bscw/bscw.cgi/d2026872/Matrix%20of%20Mentors%20Skills.xlsx>

A webinar on the presentation of the different services offered by BioHorizon to ICPCs NCPs is being planned. Based on doodle results, the webinar will be held in May or June. If you missed this email, please let us know. During the proposed webinar, BioHorizon work package leaders will introduce activities performed in BioHorizon as well as the services offered. You will have the opportunity to ask questions and to establish cooperation with the partners in BioHorizon.

#### Contact: ACTIA

*Christophe Cotillon (c.cotillon@actia-asso.eu) and Antoine Kieffer (a.kieffer@actia-asso.eu)*

### 2) ROUND 2 OF THE BIO-NCP SELF-ASSESSMENT USING THE BENCHMARKING TOOL COMPLETE

NCPs were invited to participate to the second round of benchmarking during February 2016. Participation remained at the same level as in the previous round. It's worth noting that during the first round of the self-assessment, 35 NCPs from 28 countries (Member States, Associated Countries, ICPCs) took part in the online survey. Each participant received an overview of their total score and the scores for each activity, as well as a radar chart indicating their scores compared to the highest individual and lowest individual scores. Combining data from all participants, indicative suggestions can be made concerning, for example, the design of new training modules for SC2 NCPs.

**Why should I participate in the survey?** The benchmarking tool is more than a simple questionnaire producing graphs and simple statistics. It can help an NCP to understand their performance on the basis of a database of answers provided by all users. The benchmarking tool provides a means to track your performance and identify your strong points but also your weaknesses. Just try it!

#### Contact: FORTH

*Despina Adamidou (adamidou@help-forward.gr) and Constantine Vaitas (vaitas@help-forward.gr)*

### 3) PUBLICATION OF THE BIOHORIZON PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR BIO-NCPs

#### The Bio-NCP Practical Guide

The Bio-NCP Practical Guide is a comprehensive collection of information and practical guidelines on how to perform the daily work of a BioNCP. It consists of three large chapters: (1) Introduction, (2) What you need to know and (3) NCP activities. These three chapters cover 21 thematic subsections. In order to be a really useful reference handbook, the BioNCP Practical Guide was designed as an interactive tool provided in two formats: PowerPoint and PDF.

The first part of the BioHorizon Practical Guide provides general information about SC2, KET-B and related networks and instruments, in the 'What you need to know section'. The second part provides an overview of the most common tasks and challenges encountered in the daily work of a NCP. It is then up to each NCP, newcomers and more experienced NCPs, to pick and choose the elements they think are most relevant to their daily work. In addition, in the case of more complex and sophisticated issues additional hyperlinks to source material have been provided. The final version of 'BioHorizon's Practical Guide for Bio-NCPs' is available from the BioHorizon internal communication platform <https://ptj-bscw.ptj.kfa-juelich.de/bscw/bscw.cgi/d3962352/BioNCP%20practical%20guide%20version%20March%202016.pptx>

#### NCP competition and award ceremony

To stimulate NCPs to adopt good practices in their activities, a competition rewarding NCPs for implementing the best practices recommended in the guidelines will be organised. Specifications, rules and selection criteria related to this competition will be developed in the coming weeks and communicated to all Bio-NCPs by the end of May 2016. Participants will in all likelihood be asked to develop an expression of interest using a prepared template. The award ceremony will be organised to take place during an upcoming BioHorizon event.

#### Contact: Netherlands Enterprise Agency RVO

*Saske Hoving (saske.hoving@rvo.nl) and Willemien Van Asselt (willemien.vanAsselt@rvo.nl)*

### 4) BIOHORIZON STAFF EXCHANGES ARE STARTING NOW!

#### Objective:

Transfer of knowledge and exchange of experience between Bio-NCPs. The activity is dedicated to all NCPs responsible for SC2 and KET-B.

#### How does it work?

The staff exchange visits are organised as small workshops involving a maximum of 5 Bio-NCPs. These NCPs visit with a host NCP office for a maximum of 2 working days. The staff exchange programme for 2016 compiling the wishes submitted by NCPs to visit a variety of participating host organisations has been established and is available on the BioHorizon internal exchange platform: <http://www.ncp-biohorizon.net/login>

Bio-NCPs from all around the world can join the staff exchange. BioHorizon can reimburse travel expenses for participants from EU Member States and Associated Countries. Reimbursement will proceed in line with the reimbursement rules stated in the Guidelines for Bio-NCPs, which are also available on BioHorizon internal exchange platform.

#### Why get involved?

The programme provides many opportunities for knowledge sharing and for the transfer of best practices between Bio-NCPs. **Find out how your NCP colleagues from other countries work!**

#### Ongoing staff exchange:

**PT JÜLICH – 10-11 May:** The first round of BioHorizon staff exchanges will take place in Bonn with the participation of 7 visiting Bio-NCPs. There will be a visit to Project Management Jülich, where Bio-NCPs will have a chance to get to know the host organisation's research institutes and to network with researchers. In addition, there will be roundtable discussions on how the German NCP system works, how the German Bio-NCPs network with clients and an opportunity to learn more about the German bioeconomy strategy.

**ACTIA – 19-20 May:** The second round of BioHorizon staff exchanges will take place in Paris with the participation of 4 visiting Bio-NCPs. Visiting NCPs will learn more about how French NCPs assist coordinators in submitting successful proposals and provide tips and tricks. In addition, they will receive information about the European Innovation Partnership on Agriculture and will visit CERVIA.

#### Contact: TUBITAK

*Cinar Adali (cinar.adali@tubitak.gov.tr)*

## PAST EVENTS

### 1<sup>ST</sup> ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Twenty five Bio-NCPs were present during the first BioHorizon Advisory Board meeting, which was also attended by the Commission's Project Officer with responsibility for BioHorizon, Tiziana Della Ragione. The main area of discussion focused on the current activities taking place in the BioHorizon project, and the progress made so far. The purpose of the meeting was to provide Bio-NCPs with inside knowledge of the BioHorizon project, the activities dedicated to them and the opportunities arising from BioHorizon, as well as the project's plans for the future. Each work package was presented by the respective WP Leader. All presentations are available to Bio-NCPs on the BioHorizon internal communication platform. It was a great pleasure to meet all of our colleagues from the network and to engage in fruitful discussion, and hear opinions and feedback on the progress of the project to date.

### 1<sup>ST</sup> BIOECONOMY STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP FOR BIO-NCPs

The 1<sup>st</sup> Bioeconomy Stakeholder Workshop for Bio-NCPs was held on 26 January in Brussels. The event took place in conjunction with the EC conference on 'A long-term strategic approach to agricultural research in Europe'. The aim of the workshop was to provide Bio-NCPs with inside knowledge of EC and SCAR activities affecting the short and longer-term programming of research and innovation activities in the field of SC2. The workshop facilitated an overview and the sharing of experiences on the implementation of national research and innovation strategies related to the bioeconomy sector.



### 2<sup>ND</sup> BIOECONOMY STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP FOR BIO-NCPs

Hosted under the heading 'Development of partnerships between BioHorizon and Joint European R&I Funding Initiatives', the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bioeconomy Stakeholder Workshop sought to provide Bio-NCPs an overview of public-public partnerships (P2Ps) in the SC2/KET-B area, and to establish communication channels between these initiatives and the Bio-NCPs.

The speakers covered Joint Programming Initiatives (JPI-FACCE, JPI-HDHL and JPI-Oceans), ERA-Nets (Platform) and Article 185 Initiatives (BONUS and PRIMA) operating in the bioeconomy sphere. These initiatives contribute to the implementation of the European Research Area (ERA), be it at the level of joint strategic research programming (JPIs), joint programming and funding of projects (ERA-Nets), or of regional co-funded programmes (Article 185).



The scientific domains covered in these initiatives are relevant to the clients of Bio-NCPs and a mutual benefit was identified in the creation of direct communication channels between each of the initiatives and BioHorizon. Representatives of the JPIs, Platform and Article 185 initiatives urged Bio-NCPs to subscribe to the respective newsletters as a first step to stay informed. A second step will involve the centralisation of information through the BioHorizon coordination, for dissemination throughout the extended network on Bio-NCPs.

#### Contact: FCT

*Maria Joao Fernandez (MariaJoao.Fernandes@fct.pt) and José Antao (jose.anta@fct.pt)*

### WEBINAR: 'STANDARDISATION IN NMBP AND BIO PROPOSALS (INCLUDING KET-B)'

The BioHorizon and NMP TeAm 3 networks organised a webinar for NCPs focused on 'Standardisation in NMBP and Bio proposals (including KET-B)', which took place on 31 March 2016. Thanks to the valuable contribution of CEN and CENELEC, the webinar explained the role that European standardisation plays in research and how project applicants can address standardisation in NMBP and SC2 proposals.

The presentation is available on the BioHorizon internal exchange platform. We strongly encourage you to participate in upcoming webinars, about which we will keep you posted! For more information visit <http://www.ncp-biohorizon.net/events?cmd=showDetail&id=33>.

#### Contact: JUELICH

*Michaela Pöter (m.poeter@fz-juelich.de) and Alexandros Theodoridis (a.theodoridis@fz-juelich.de)*

### WEBINAR: 'HOW TO REPORT ON HORIZON 2020 MULTI-ACTOR PROJECTS AND THEMATIC NETWORKS'

During her presentation on 'Practice abstracts' in the EU common knowledge and innovation systems (AKIS): how to report on Horizon 2020 multi-actor projects and thematic networks in the EIP common format, Ms van Oost of the European Commission's DG Agriculture and Rural Development revealed that the minimum expectation of multi-actor projects is that these result in substantial and easily understandable practical knowledge for broad dissemination, communicated in the form of so-called practice abstracts.

These abstracts should take the form of concise yet concrete reports on selected specific elements of a project. The aim is not to describe projects as a whole. The practice abstracts should also avoid a description of project activities and focus on providing an operational framework for the target audience.

Each project should produce a large number of practice abstracts. These can be produced using different media, and presented in a manner adapted to the targeted end-user group. The primary language is English but versions in the appropriate national languages are also welcome.

The template for the preparation of practice abstracts in the EIP common format is available on the EIP website, at <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/content/eip-agri-common-format>. For more information refer to <http://www.ncp-biohorizon.net/events?cmd=showDetail&id=33>.

#### Contact: JUELICH

*Michaela Pöter (m.poeter@fz-juelich.de) and Alexandros Theodoridis (a.theodoridis@fz-juelich.de)*

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BioHorizon Coordinator: Bożena Podlaska (Bożena.Podlaska@kpk.gov.pl), IPPT PAN (Institute of Fundamental Technological Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences)

Contact/Information: [info@ncp-biohorizon.net](mailto:info@ncp-biohorizon.net)