



A MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATOR

WELCOME BACK TO THE BIOHORIZON NEWSLETTER!

Dear reader,

Welcome back to the **BioHorizon** newsletter!

We are continuing our series of newsletters presenting different information. Contact us discover how you can actively contribute to the BioHorizon network on your field of activity.

In today's **Newsletter** we will present you an overview of the opportunities and current activities for BioNCPs and the applicants in the H2020.

Enjoy reading this edition of our newsletter!

BioHorizon TEAM



FUTURE BIOHORIZON ACTIVITIES AND TOOLS

**4TH BIOHORIZON INTERNATIONAL BROKERAGE EVENT
BRUSSELS, 26 JUNE 2018**

The 4th BioHorizon international brokerage event will be dedicated to consortium building to address the 2019 topics in the current work programme for Societal Challenge 2 'Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine, maritime and inland water research and the bio-economy.' The main part of the event will comprise a series of pre-arranged **bilateral meetings** between people interested in the same call topics. Upon successful registration, participants can schedule these bilateral meetings automatically in advance of the event by means of a sophisticated, user-friendly matchmaking tool. Each registrant is required to submit a research profile and indicate their research interests. This information serves as a basis upon which to select partners for bilateral meetings.

In addition to the bilateral meetings between potential project partners, participants will also be able to meet with representatives of various supporting bodies and initiatives, as well as with the NCPs from the BioHorizon project, responsible for the organisation of the event. This is an opportunity for attendees to draw on personalised support and information pertinent to submitting a proposal in Horizon 2020. The event programme will also provide researchers and entrepreneurs a platform to present their **project ideas** in 5 minute flash presentations.

The event website is currently under construction but should be available from mid-April under the following link

<https://foodbrokerage2018.b2match.io/>



CHECK OUT THE NEW BIOHORIZON SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL FOR BIO-NCPs

The BioHorizon team is happy to announce that this year's benchmarking exercise will be launched at the beginning of April and that, in a change from previous years, the benchmarking tool will be available for Bio-NCPs to fill-in all year long. Don't miss the opportunity to make use of this **self-assessment tool**, as it will give you valuable insights into your capacities and the services you provide.

The self-assessment tool comprises **two questionnaires**, one for all NCPs and one specifically addressing NCPs responsible for Societal Challenge 2 and KET Biotechnology. The exercise is very important, as it gives each Bio-NCP the opportunity to compare their performance and practices with those of other Bio-NCPs and NCPs from other thematic areas. In addition, Bio-NCPs who participated in last years' exercise can assess changes in their performance by comparing their benchmarking results with the results from the previous year.

The questionnaires are short and will take up **no more than 10 minutes** of your time. So make sure you participate! The questionnaires will be available at <http://benchmarking.help-forward.gr> from early April 2018.

Contact: Katerina Papadouli (papadouli@praxinetwork.gr)



COMING SOON: INTERACTIVE BIOHORIZON ACTIVITIES

The BioHorizon consortium is currently developing new training and workshop activities for Bio-NCPs addressing those issues highlighted to us by the Bio-NCP community over the past number of months. BioHorizon's current plans for 2018 include a two-day training event and a workshop. Although not yet confirmed, it is expected that the next training activity will focus on the European Innovation Council (EIC) pilot and on how it can address the needs of the bioeconomy. Our intention is to schedule this activity for some time before summer break. This year's bioeconomy stakeholder workshop will focus on the means to enhance cooperation between the Bio-NCP community and the new Food Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), the so called EIT Food. More information will be published on the BioHorizon website in the near future so be sure to check-in regularly to avoid missing out on these opportunities.

THE NEXT ROUND OF BIOHORIZON STAFF EXCHANGES

The dates and locations of the next round of the BioHorizon staff exchange programme have been set, with three staff exchange visits planned for the first half of 2018. The host organisations for this round of staff exchanges will be:

- APRE (Italy), 20–21 March 2018
- RANNÍS (Iceland), 5–6 April 2018
- IMPULSE (Belgium), 9 May 2018

A selection has been made from those Bio-NCPs who registered to participate and the successful candidates have already been informed. A total of 17 Bio-NCPs have been chosen to participate in this round of staff exchanges. As always, the travel and accommodation expenses incurred by Bio-NCPs from Member States and Associated Countries as part of the staff exchange can be covered by the BioHorizon project!

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SAVE THE DATE!

**BBI JU INFODAY
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, 17 APRIL 2018**

The [Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking](#) (BBI JU) will host an infoday in the Commission's Charlemagne building in Brussels on 17 April 2018. The purpose of the event is to provide information about the BBI JU 2018 call for proposals, information on participation, etc. There will also be an extensive networking component with opportunities for potential consortium partners to hold face-to-face meetings.

Details of the 2018 call topics as well as more information on the event and a link to registration are available at <https://www.bbi-europe.eu/events/bbi-ju-info-day-2018>.

Bio-NCPs from the BioHorizon project will be present and will host an infobooth at the event.



AGRIRESEARCH CONFERENCE – INNOVATING FOR THE FUTURE OF FARMING AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, 2 – 3 MAY 2018

The European Commission (DG AGRI) will organise a large conference about EU agriculture and rural R&I activities now and in the future. The conference will take stock on the implementation of the strategic approach to EU agricultural R&I under H2020, as a follow-up to the 2016 “Designing the path” conference. This will be an excellent opportunity to network with actors and stakeholders who play a role in the design, implementation or promotion, dissemination and uptake of EU agricultural and rural R&I including scientists, farmers, rural communities, industry, advisors, policy-makers, citizens and NGO representatives.

For more information and registration, please visit the website of the event: <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/news/agriresearch-conference-innovating-future-farming-and-rural-communities>



INNOVATIVE BIO-BASED PRODUCTS – INVESTMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, 6 JUNE 2018

The conference, hosted by the Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking (BBI JU), will serve as a platform to present and discuss considerations emerging from the study 'Bioeconomy: Support to Policy for Research and Innovation.' The overall objective of this study is to provide new information and analyses pertaining to three distinct but related topics, namely:

- Full life cycle assessment (LCA) of case studies comparing bio-based products with fossil-based products
- EU success stories, with insights into the bio-based sector and the investment potential it holds
- Top emerging bio-based products, their properties and industrial applications

For more information on the conference visit https://www.ecologic.eu/sites/files/event/2018/bio-based-products_flyer_a5_online.pdf.

TRANSFORMING OUR FOOD SYSTEMS – A HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE ON RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

PLOVDIV, BULGARIA, 14 – 15 JUNE 2018

The Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union will host a flagship conference dedicated to research and innovation as a driver of transformation to sustainable food systems in Plovdiv on 14–15 June 2018. During the event the European Commission will present an update on the Food 2030 process and its vision in terms of shaping tomorrow's nutrition and food systems with respect to sustainability, resilience, responsibility, diversity, competitiveness and inclusiveness. The Commission will outline how it plans to deliver on the Food 2030 priorities and contribute to the achievement of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. For more information visit <https://eu2018bg.bg/>.



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A BIO-NCP, GERMANY

NCPs in Germany are in a very fortunate position. With twenty different NCP offices covering all parts of Horizon 2020 (except for the EIT), and a combined total of 120 NCP colleagues, the German NCP system is quite large. Some NCPs have clear roles and are allocated to one specific thematic area of Horizon 2020, such as SC2, while others perform overarching, horizontal tasks, such as the NCPs for legal and financial issues. The system is not centralised, meaning that the offices are not only spread across Germany (with substantial concentrations in Bonn and Berlin), but are also run by different organisations. The various NCP offices are selected on the basis of a competitive tendering process undertaken by the issuing federal ministries, namely the Federal Ministry for Education and Research and the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy. As we are not a 'one-stop shop', a central front office (the EU Büro) acts as a signpost and refers stakeholders to the NCP offices relevant to their specific needs. In many cases, however, the clients already know the NCPs assigned to their field of activity and contact them directly.



All Bio-NCPs in Germany are dedicated full-time NCPs. On the one hand, this gives us the freedom to concentrate on our NCP tasks and duties. The downside to this is that we are not directly involved in national funding programmes and so do not necessarily have direct knowledge of research and issues occurring at the national level. However, given the incorporation of the NCP offices in larger organisations centrally involved in national research programmes, we have access to and are in close contact with the responsible colleagues.

The Bio-NCPs in Germany generally all have scientific backgrounds in areas related to the bioeconomy: most are biologists, but we also have forest scientists and biotechnologists. This expertise and diversity enables us to provide content-related feedback and support to our stakeholders. The many services provided to applicants and stakeholders comprise consultancy and advice, the organisation of events, infodays and training events, and even in-depth feedback on full proposals. In addition, our duties also encompass the participation in several committees such as the SC2 programme committee and various Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR) panels and groups, as well as policy support and groundwork for several units within the Federal Ministry for Education and Research.

The daily routine of a German Bio-NCP varies a lot depending on the timing. For example, before deadlines we invest a substantial amount of time in proposal checks, whereas in the run-up to the opening of calls we place a focus on providing infodays at various host institutions in Germany. The provision of information and support to our funding ministry has the highest priority and occurs on a constant basis. However, the time required for these activities is often hard to predict, as requests from the ministry tend to arrive on an ad hoc basis and the amount of effort that must be invested depends on the level of support and detail required.

BIOHORIZON WEBINARS AND TRAININGS

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO USING TWITTER FOR BIO-NCPs WEBINAR, 28 JANUARY 2018

Twitter is a social media platform that is very widely used and has a great multiplying potential. BioHorizon has an active Twitter account and uses it successfully to engage with a variety of stakeholders. To many people Twitter remains very alien, however. A survey conducted by BioHorizon in the autumn 2016 showed that many Bio-NCPs feel that they have no understanding of how to use Twitter and indicated that they would like to learn more. To address this gap, BioHorizon held a webinar on using Twitter in January 2018. The webinar was open to all Bio-NCPs and targeted those with little to no knowledge of how to use the platform. The aim was to provide Bio-NCPs with some basic training in the use of Twitter.



The webinar was presented by Sigrún Ólafsdóttir from the Icelandic Centre for Research (RANNÍS). Sigrún is the Icelandic NCP for SC2 and the BioHorizon task leader for social media. She began the webinar by explaining some very general things about Twitter, such as the basic functions and the potential multiplying effects. Sigrún explained how tweets work and went through some general concepts relating to the Twittersphere. This was followed by some concrete examples and ideas on how Twitter can be used in the lead-up to and during events and as part of dissemination strategies. The webinar concluded with a Q&A session to address any additional questions the participants had.

The feedback provided by the participating Bio-NCPs suggested that they were very satisfied with the content and the execution of this virtual training session. If you missed out, the slides are available to download from BioHorizon's internal exchange platform.

Contact: *Sigrún Ólafsdóttir* (sigrun.olafsdottir@rannis.is)

PRIMA INITIATIVE – PARTNERSHIP FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA WEBINAR, 13 MARCH 2018

The BioHorizon webinar on the PRIMA Initiative took place on 13 March 2018. Organised by the BioHorizon project for the Bio-NCPs, this virtual training event was also open to NCPs for SC5 and to members of the EEN Agrifood and Environment Sector Groups.



PRIMA is the new European Commission initiative designed to enhance research collaboration amongst sixteen countries of the Mediterranean area in relation to the sustainable management of water and agrifood. These sixteen countries comprise both EU Member States and non-Member States. The current PRIMA budget is € 500 million. The annual work plan 2018 comprises three topics. The call for proposals is already open, with the deadline for proposal submission 17 April 2020. The rules for participation follow the Horizon 2020 rules.

Held by guest speaker Chiara Gliozzi of the Italian Ministry of Education, Universities and Research (MIUR), the webinar provided useful information on PRIMA's structure and its implementation. Chiara also introduced the annual work plan 2018, with a particular focus placed on section 1 'topics and rules.' The presentation slides and the recording of the webinar are now available for download from BioHorizon's internal exchange platform.

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