

General Information	
Preliminary title of the European Partnerships	Rescuing biodiversity to safeguard life on Earth
Short description of the partnership	The partnership aims to align and integrate European R&I efforts in developing and upscaling solutions to stop biodiversity loss and guide actions to protect, restore and sustainably manage ecosystems and natural capital. It will help mainstreaming of biodiversity and it represents an important contribution to a new deal for nature and people;
Services directly involved	ENV, RTD. Potentially: AGRI, CLIMA, DEVCO, JRC, MARE, EEAS
Context and problem definition	<p>There is no planet B. In Europe, as indeed globally, services from ecosystems such as provision of clean water and air, climate regulation, habitat provision that are worth of several thousand EUR per hectare per year continue to decline. Marine and terrestrial ecosystems sequester the equivalent of some 60 per cent of anthropogenic CO₂ emissions. Mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystem services in other sectors and decision making processes , at public as well as private realm is needed. Prioritising nature-based solutions is our best insurance strategy and is key to reach the goals of the UN SDGs, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction and Biodiversity Strategies on all levels. At the moment humans use more resources than the earth can renew. The web of life is degraded in an unprecedented manner, with cascading impacts on climate, ecosystems, our economy and quality of life. Today, 75 per cent of the terrestrial environment, 40 per cent of the marine environment and 50 per cent of streams are severely altered due to human activity¹. We are experiencing the 6th mass extinction in Earth's history. G7/G20 declarations and the World Economic Forum have underlined the need to halt biodiversity loss. Gaps in scientific knowledge and evidence base exist about this complex poly-crisis and effective science-policy interfaces will help to foster effective cost-effective measures and management options for maintaining and restoring ecosystems and our natural capital that are essential for achieving climate neutrality and for respecting the planetary boundaries. Biodiversity loss and climate change are linked and interdependent and therefore must be addressed in an integrated mutually beneficial manner including through a strengthened collaboration of the climate change and biodiversity scientific communities.</p> <p>Biodiversity-related research, including basic and applied research, training, infrastructures, ecosystem-based approaches and nature-based solutions, have been addressed over successive EU research framework programs. Since its beginning in 2005, BiodivERsA, one of most successful ERA-Nets, has succeeded in mobilizing national resources and aligning national research agendas on some areas of biodiversity. It has launched 7 calls for proposals for a total amount of 180 million euro (including 115 million euro of money directly raised by BiodivERsA partners and the European Commission) to fund around 90 pan-European research projects selected for both their scientific excellence and societal/policy relevance. Whilst this Partnership will build on BiodivERsA, for achieving the urgently needed transformational change, efforts require to be significantly up-scaled and accelerated. Complementarity and synergies among EU and MS activities need to be further strengthened, and public and private research funders need to collaborate, upscale their efforts and further integrate their activities in a partnership approach.</p>
Objectives and expected impacts	This partnership aims to support policy-makers, notably on improving the evaluation and monitoring of the efficiency of biodiversity-relevant policies. It will develop the science basis and science-policy interface to guide policy implementation, at global, EU and national levels.

¹Figures in this fiche refer to information from reports of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) <https://www.ipbes.net/>

	<p>It aims for a strong and efficient integration of R&I activities on biodiversity and nature-based solutions at European and national scales with relevant stakeholders, including businesses and citizens, to make Europe a global leader for the sustainable management and use of biodiversity, and for the development and deployment of Nature-based Solutions contributing to the European economic competitiveness and the high quality of life of all citizens in Europe. The outcome will be reinforced European research and innovation with an improved uptake of knowledge and innovation by practitioners, market and policy stakeholders on biodiversity to support policy stakeholders and guide decision-makers. It will allow to evaluate the efficiency of biodiversity-relevant policies and to guide policy implementation, such as for the post-2020 Biodiversity framework. This includes characterizing the biodiversity footprint of human activities and encouraging businesses to support biodiversity conservation and restoration and resilient Nature-based solutions, and allowing businesses to complement their financial reporting with a biodiversity reporting.</p> <p>The partnership aims to strengthen EU's biodiversity diplomacy and its role as global actor for biodiversity research, and helping to achieve EU biodiversity targets, SDGs, objectives of the Paris Agreement, of the CBD and other Multilateral Agreements, and to support IPBES.</p> <p>The Partnership will also contribute to awareness raising and making public, private sector and decision makers grasp the predicament of the situation we are in, and invest in understanding and promoting the behavioural, societal, economic, businesses, technological and institutional determinants of transformational change necessary to reverse biodiversity decline and invest in developing and promoting Nature-based solutions to address societal challenges and enhance resilience.</p> <p>This partnership will achieve a strong network of agencies, and ministries involving also enterprises for pan-European research on biodiversity and ecosystem services. It will undertake a diversity of activities ranging from research mapping and programming to research funding, foresight, stakeholder engagement, links to research infrastructure, dissemination of projects' outputs and knowledge brokerage. Biodiversity and ecosystem services being a cross-cutting issue, the Partnership will contribute to the implementation of all clusters under Horizon Europe and more particularly to cluster 6 and its intervention area on Biodiversity and Natural capital. The partnership will enhance knowledge on ecosystem-based solutions for the decarbonisation strategy while delivering multiple benefits (nature-based solutions are estimated to be able to mitigate 30% of GHG emissions).</p>
Necessity test: rationale for a European Partnership	<p>It is expected that the importance of a strategic biodiversity partnership will rapidly increase over the next years considering the outcomes of recent IPBES and IPCC reports. The coordination of national R&I biodiversity research efforts is essential for tackling the challenges associated with the necessary ecological transformation through a transnational, integrated and transdisciplinary approach – no single MS nor EU level calls on their own have the capacity to address these challenges. A partnership on biodiversity will provide an overarching platform that would foster seamless collaboration, interactions, sharing of knowledge, evidence and data and among all relevant actors (scientific community, public authorities, businesses, societal actors, NGOs, etc.) at appropriate levels and scales to help citizens, policymakers and businesses to take adequate action at European, national, regional and local level.</p> <p>It will engage Member States, align national agendas and thus build critical mass in capacity, resources and expertise far beyond the capacities of traditional calls through Framework Programmes. A partnership approach through BiodivERsA that was funded over previous Framework Programmes has demonstrated capacity to join forces with JPIs Water, Climate, Urban, Oceans and FACCE, building synergies across these areas and thus promoting systemic solutions. An ambitious partnership under Horizon</p>

	<p>Europe is an appropriate contribution to tackle the ecological crisis we are facing..</p> <p>Through the Partnership, cooperation is expected to grow stronger joining efforts to create knowledge, increase understanding on biodiversity and its links to many other fields such as climate change, food security, health and others and improve acting on the polycrisis. This entails valorisation of research and innovation results, skills, education, awareness raising and citizen labs and the alignment of existing research across Europe, as well as working with international partners through a tailored partnership that brings together nationally-funded research. Biodiversity loss being a global challenge, it is imperative to strengthen the international cooperation in R&I this domain to enhance the robustness and the global relevance of the outcomes.</p> <p>The Partnership makes the step towards a further aligned and integrated national and European biodiversity R&I agenda setting.</p> <p>The partnership will mobilise partners for a strategic approach towards Europe's global biodiversity diplomacy, such as for the Convention on Biological Diversity, for IPBES and IPCC, and on cross-cutting strategies to achieve multiple SDGs (e.g. 4, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15).</p>
Relevant for the following parts of Horizon Europe	<p>Pillar II 'Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness'</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cluster Health</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cluster Culture, creativity and inclusive society</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cluster Civil Security for Society</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cluster Digital, Industry and Space</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cluster Climate, Energy and Mobility</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cluster Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cross-cluster</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Pillar III 'Innovative Europe'</p>
Currently identified links with other partnership candidates / Union programmes	<p>Links with other programmes such as COST, ERDF, incl. INTERREG, EAFRD, LIFE (incl. integrated projects) will be explored.</p> <p>Biodiversity cuts across sectors (such as food), administrative and territorial boundaries (such as cities). Furthermore biodiversity loss and climate change are linked and interdependent. It forms integral part of soil, marine and water ecosystems. As such, this partnership will be expected to contribute to mission areas Adaptation to Climate Change, including Societal Transformation; Healthy Oceans, Seas, Coastal and Inland Waters; Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities; Soil Health and Food.</p> <p>Partnerships candidates which are complementary to the Biodiversity partnership, for possible cooperation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU-Africa research partnership on health security to tackle infectious diseases • European alliance for enhanced land-based solutions to increase the resilience against climate-related extreme events • Built environment and construction • Accelerating farming systems transition: agro-ecology living labs and research infrastructures • Environmental Observations for a sustainable EU agriculture • A climate neutral, sustainable and productive Blue Economy • Future-proofing our Food System for People, Planet & Climate • Circular bio-based Europe: sustainable innovation for new local value from waste and biomass • Water4All: Water security for the planet • EIT Climate-KIC

Does the proposed partnership build on currently active ones?	The proposed partnership would significantly upscale the current BiodivERsA ERA-Net (a network of 35 agencies and ministries from 23 European countries (including their overseas entities) programming and funding pan-European research on biodiversity and ecosystem services on a competitive basis. It could incorporate networks implementing actions of the Biodiversity Strategy such as mapping and assessing ecosystems and their services (MAES/ESMERALDA) and of NETBIOME and science-policy mechanism on biodiversity (EKLIPSE). It builds on the strategic research and innovation agenda developed in the earlier partnerships. A scoping meeting with BiodivERsA partners is envisaged.
Expected type and composition of partners	The Partnership will include agencies and ministries promoting pan-European research on biodiversity and ecosystem services, as well as partners from the private sector to further increase the uptake and effective use of research results, mainstream biodiversity concerns in the decision making of both public and private sector and trigger new research areas and ways of organising research. All geographical areas are concerned. The partners would, among other activities, continue co-funding calls for biodiversity research. The partnership will work in a participatory manner to include stakeholders, citizens and civil society organizations, and private sector in order to unlock implementation potential, accelerate and upscale short term action, long-term access and use of research infrastructure relevant for biodiversity, and facilitate experience exchange. Options for a more extensive engagement of citizens in research on biodiversity will be promoted also through encouragement of citizen science in this area.
Contributions and commitments expected from partners	The engagement of partners with diverse competences, responsibilities and affiliations will mobilize financial, in-kind contributions well beyond ad-hoc ERA-NETS as well as multi-level expertise in policymaking, innovation, market development for proposed solutions, regulations and stakeholders engagement.
Currently envisaged implementation mode(s).	<input type="checkbox"/> Co-programmed European Partnership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Co-funded European Partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Institutionalised European Partnership <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Article 185 <input type="checkbox"/> Article 187 <input type="checkbox"/> EIT-KIC </div>
Justification of the implementation mode	<p>A co-funded European Partnership would allow a strong and efficient international cooperation required for biodiversity research and it will enable continued ownership and continuity. It will also allow to cover from academic research, applied research, innovation, including transfer of innovation to enterprises, science – policy interface, while having better use of research infrastructures and connecting to implementation tools (financial, regulatory). Finally, it will provide the necessary longer-term flexibility and the possibility for integrating rapidly a larger range of activities devoted to the achievement of proposed targets, in close cooperation with the ad-hoc stakeholders, which should be associated as partners for achieving proposed objectives, and targets. This also enables strategic EU and MS support to international scientific bodies, such as IPBES, and multilateral agreements.</p> <p>The co-funded partnership tool is most appropriate to tackle a complex challenge such as biodiversity loss, which requires the best possible links between local/national/European/international actors, and a range of activities beyond R&I to maximize the expected impacts.</p>
Proposed starting year	2021, as early as possible to enable a smooth continuation of current BiodivERsA activities into the proposed partnership.