



A MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATOR

Dear Bio-NCP colleagues,

We are pleased to present to you the sixth edition of the BioHorizon newsletter, in which you can read about some of our recent, successful activities and get updates on things that are currently going on in the BioHorizon project. In the past few months we have hosted two successful **brokerage events**, one in **Brussels** and one in **Prague**, several **staff exchanges**, an interactive **training event focusing on innovation in Horizon 2020** in Brussels, **bioeconomy workshop on synergies** with Horizon 2020 in Lisbon, and a few interesting **webinars**.

The project website is well developed at this stage and the Twitter and LinkedIn accounts are receiving ever greater recognition from the outside world. In total, **our social media are followed by more than 700 people, including over 600 on Twitter**. The purpose of all of these measures is to ensure that you, as Bio-NCPs, have constant access to the latest and relevant SC2 and KET-B related information.

The 3rd **BioHorizon advisory board meeting** took place recently, in conjunction with the 5th **Bio-NCP meeting** held by the Commission in Brussels on 13th November 2017. The advisory board meeting represents an annual opportunity to summarise our activities to the Bio-NCP community and to discuss the direction of developments within the project. **Thank you for all the constructive feedback you have provided concerning our efforts to date and for the trust you place in us as representatives of the Bio-NCP community**. Your benefit is our priority!

In 2018, we look forward to launching at least one training and one bioeconomy workshop. We continue our work to organize the staff exchanges and enhance a pan European network of Bio-NCPs working together.

Enjoy this newsletter and please send any comments you may have to info@ncp-biohorizon.net.

I wish you a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year, and I look forward to seeing you all in 2018!

Bożena Podlaska (IPPT PAN) – BioHorizon Coordinator

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BIOHORIZON INTERNATIONAL BROKERAGE EVENT, 15TH NOVEMBER 2017, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

With around **270 participants from 37 countries** and with over **600 bilateral meetings**, the BioHorizon International Brokerage Event confirmed its status as **high-quality international event in the Societal Challenge and KET-Biotechnology topics**.

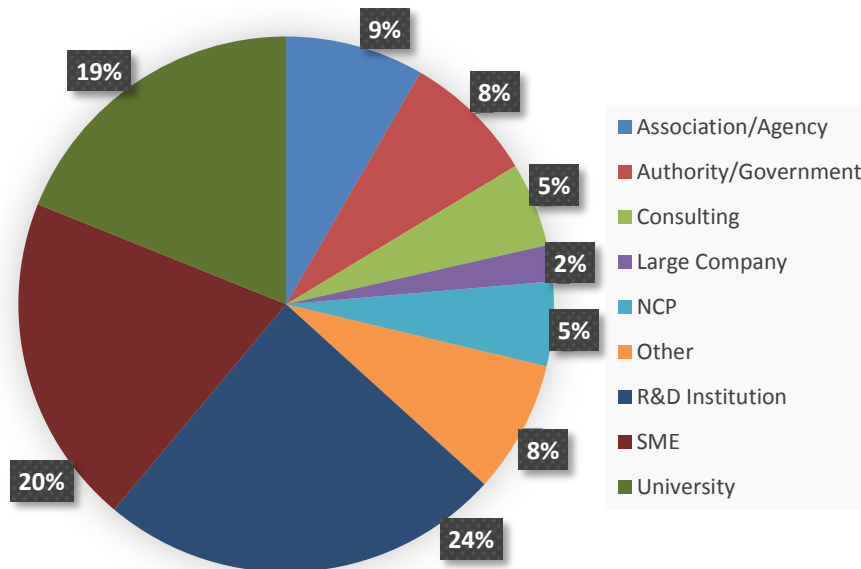
The plenary session started with an opening speech of the BioHorizon network coordinator **Božena Podlaska** and with the a contribution of the European Commission's Deputy Head of the Bioeconomy Directorate's Strategy Unit, DG Research and Innovation, Mr. **Jyrki Suominen**. The session included also the presentation of an experienced evaluator, Mrs **Ondina Beatriz Afonso**, from Clube de Produtores Continente, Portugal, to provide her experience as evaluator and some tips to applicants. As final speaker of the plenary session **Elena Angiolini**, Bio NCP and main organizer of the Brokerage event, provided the audience with some practical suggestions and information about the bilateral meeting sessions.

The second part of the morning has been dedicated to **3 parallel sessions with the presentations of selected flash presentations**. Session 1: Sustainable Food Security (de Gasperi room), Session 2: Blue Growth + KET Biotechnology (Lord Jenkins room), Session 3: Rural Renaissance (Sicco Mansholt room).

The bilateral meetings sessions confirm their importance as the best opportunity to meet high quality potential project partners as validated by feedbacks from participants (at least 118 further collaborations are planned and 83 collaborations considered). For more information on the event and to access the cooperation profiles, please visit the dedicated website at <https://www.b2match.eu/foodbrokerage2017>

The event closed with an informal networking cocktail.

The types of organisations that participated in the BioHorizon international brokerage event:



Sustainable Food Security (SFS) flash presentation session, chaired by David Butler Manning (JUELICH, Germany).



Bilateral meetings at de Gasperi room.



BIOHORIZON REGIONAL BROKERAGE EVENT, 6TH NOVEMBER 2017, PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

BioHorizon hosted its **second Regional Brokerage Event on 6th November 2017 in Prague, Czech Republic**. The event was organised as a side event to the 8th International Symposium on Recent Advances in Food Analysis (**RAFA2017**) and provided attendees with the opportunity to meet potential collaboration partners for the 2018 topics within Horizon 2020's Societal Challenge 2 'Sustainable Food Security' call.

Participation in this free of charge brokerage event was open to any and all interested researchers, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders active in the area of food and nutrition, not limited to participants of RAFA2017. **43 participants coming from 14 different countries availed of this opportunity.**

Followed by a welcome address given by Ms. **Božena Podlaska**, coordinator of the BioHorizon network, and a brief introduction to bilateral meetings, the coordinator of the EU project Healthy Minor Cereals, Ms. **Dagmar Janovská**, provided hands-on experience and valuable tips on how to set up an international consortium for H2020 projects. Subsequently, six participants presented their project ideas in 5-minute flash presentations.

The main part of the event was dedicated to face-to-face meetings between participants interested in the same topics. More than 30 pre-arranged and spontaneous bilateral meetings took place.

The event was considered fruitful and important by the attendees. For more information on the event and to access the **cooperation profiles** as well as the **flash presentations submitted**, please visit the dedicated website at <https://www.b2match.eu/foodsecurity2017>.



Welcome address by the coordinator of the project Božena Podlaska (IPPT PAN, Poland).



Sustainable Food Security (SFS) flash presentation session.



3RD BIOHORIZON ADVISORY BOARD, BRUSSELS

The **3rd BioHorizon advisory board meeting** took place on **13 November 2017** in Brussels after the 5th Bio-NCP meeting for SC2 NCPs organised by the European Commission. All officially nominated Bio-NCPs were kindly invited to participate. The aim of the 3rd BioHorizon advisory board meeting was to provide Bio-NCPs with information on the BioHorizon project activities, discuss the project progress and collect suggestions from Bio-NCPs regarding the future project development and the work plan. An interesting complement to the discussion was an **interactive exercise - construct the 'big network picture' again**. The meeting was attended by **39 Bio-NCPs** and **Emanuela Picco** from the European Commission. Thank you for your contribution and participation. Together we can do more!

All presentations, results of the exercise and meeting minutes are available on the [BioHorizon Internal Communication Platform](#).



BIOECONOMY STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP FOR BIO-NCPs

The **3rd BioHorizon Bioeconomy Stakeholder Workshop** provided participants an overview of the development of the bioeconomy in different regions of the EU and provided Bio-NCPs with some concrete examples of the application of **synergies between different EU funding programmes**.

The stakeholder workshop took place as a side event to the **Agri-Innovation Summit (AIS2017)** in Lisbon, a joint initiative of a **Portuguese consortium of organisations and the Portuguese government in partnership with EIP-AGRI, ENRD and the European Commission (DG AGRI)**. The summit targeted a diverse audience, covering farmers, rural businesses, start-ups, researchers, rural development programme managing authorities, national rural networks, Horizon 2020 multi-actor project representatives, local action groups, advisors and NGOs. The aim was to promote cross-fertilisation between multi-actor innovation initiatives, to raise awareness of innovation and digitisation opportunities for agriculture and rural economies and to provide inputs for EU innovation policies for agriculture and rural areas.

A highly motivated group of participants, including **Bio-NCPs and representatives of National Rural Networks and EIP-AGRI Operational Groups, actively participated in a discussion of aspects related to the role of NCPs in synergies between funding programmes**. The discussion allowed Bio-NCPs to exchange knowledge and experiences in order to find solutions facilitating their daily work. The need for dedicated training events for NCPs in relation specifically to this important topic was highlighted, as was the need for the reinforcement of collaboration between Bio-NCPs and their counterparts in the National Rural Networks. The hosting of the workshop back-to-back with AIS217 added considerable value to the workshop, in particular as the combination allowed for a better understanding of the concept of synergies between funding programmes.

All the presentations and other relevant materials can be found on the BioHorizon Internal Communication Platform/Website: <https://ptj-bscw.ptj.kfa-juelich.de/bscw/bscw.cgi/2644658>.

Contact: Maria João Fernandes, FCT, mariajoao.fernandes@fct.pt and José Antão, GPPO-FCT, jose.anta@fct.pt



Workshop participants.



BIOHORIZON WEBINARS

BIOHORIZON WEBINAR "HOW TO MAXIMIZE YOUR MATCHMAKING OPPORTUNITIES" FOR NCPs AND BROKERAGE EVENT PARTICIPANTS

Matchmaking events offer participants the opportunity to expand their network, find potential collaboration partners with the right expertise, and establish new project consortia. However, newcomers to this kind of events that are not well aware of the rules of the game of networking are often not able to utilize their full potential.

With this webinar, Ms **Elena Angiolini** from the BioHorizon NCP network explained **how to make best use of matchmaking events and provided attendees with some do's and don'ts and valuable tips how to maximise the event's outcome**. All steps, from the creation of cooperation profiles before the event to the pitching during an event and the follow-up afterwards have been addressed.

The training took place on 28th September 2017. You can access the documents and content here: <http://www.ncp-biohorizon.net/events?cmd=showDetail&id=153>.

Contact: Elena Angiolini, IMPULSE Brussels, ean@impulse.brussels



SC2 WEBINAR ON "CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN SC2 AND SC5"

Held by guest speaker **Lana Žuđija** (Policy Officer at European Commission, Directorate-General for Environment, Unit B.1. – Sustainable Production, Products & Consumption), the **webinar focused on 'Circular Economy in SC2 and SC5'**.

The activities under the Societal Challenges 2 (SC2) and 5 (SC5) Work Programmes for 2018-2020 will help implement important EU policies and initiatives such as the Circular Economy Package and the EU Circular Economy Action Plan. Within the calls a number of topics contribute to the Focus Area 'Connecting economic and environmental gains - the Circular Economy' (CE).

Ms. Žuđija has highlighted the importance of Circular Economy in both work programmes and has provided NCPs with relevant background information and helpful knowledge on the contents and the intended implementation of topics contributing to the CE Focus Area.

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SUCCESS STORY

SUPPORT TO NEWCOMERS: INFODAY IN TUNISIA 28TH TO 30TH OF NOVEMBER 2017

The BioHorizon NCPs from France, **Christophe Cotillon** and **Antoine Kieffer**, visited their Tunisian counterparts **Atef Jaouani**, **Slim Abdelkafi** and **Moez Hanin** in Tunisia as a staff exchange and support to the new Tunisian Bio NCP network with the organisation of 2 regional infodays.

Tunisia has only recently been nominated Associated Country, this is why until then the Horizon2020 results have been quite poor compared to FP7 in Tunisia, and the Tunisian researchers are maybe not as much familiar with Horizon2020 mechanics and especially SC2 compared to other countries. This is why the Tunisian Ministry of Research and Education has decided to use the opportunity given by the new status to build a solid NCP network. The new and very motivated Tunisian Bio NCPs are seeking for any ways to learn and improve, so they have attended the infoweek in Brussels, as well as the BioHorizon Brokerage event, but as newcomers they requested support from NCPs from Member States to organise their first national infoday.

2 infodays were organised in Tunisia: the first one took place in Tunis the 28th of November. Pr **Olfa Zeribi**, the head of Tunisian NCPs gave an overview of the Horizon2020 programme. The Tunisian NCPs also invited Mr **Octavi Quintana Trias** to give a presentation about PRIMA. Then, Mr **Zied Kbair** gave a few figures about Tunisian performance in Horizon2020, as well as the partner searching tools. Antoine Kieffer gave a presentation on the SC2 calls for 2018-2020 and Christophe Cotillon gave advice on how to write a successful proposal. This was followed by a networking lunch and a one to one coaching session involving all present Bio NCPs. The same scheme was followed the 30th of November at the second infoday in Sfax.

This was a very interesting event for both sides, Tunisian NCPs receiving support that will help them to organise further infodays by themselves in Tunisia and thus improving the Tunisian participation to Horizon2020. French NCPs got to better understand the needs of newcomer NCPs as well as the needs of their clients, so they can give better advice in the future.

More than 120 clients attended two info days.

Contact: Antoine Kieffer (a.kieffer@actia-asso.eu) and Christophe Cotillon (c.cotillon@actia-asso.eu), ACTIA



Christophe Cottilon, ACTIA, France.



Infoday participants.



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

Antoine Kieffer, French Bio-NCP and European project manager, explains the French Bio-NCP system, and outlines the main tasks he deals with daily:

"In France, the Bio-NCP system is a little bit special. As opposed to some other European countries, being an NCP is not a full-time job, and every Bio-NCP also works in the wider bioeconomy field; either as a project manager, researcher, or industry representative. We are officially supposed to spend 25% of our time working as an NCP. This system has its pros and cons obviously. On the negative side is the fact that we may not have that much time to organise regular events such as national brokerage events, training programmes and webinars (even though we do host such events from time to time), and we definitely do not have the time to review proposals. However, on the bright side, all French Bio-NCPs are experts in at least one SC2 field: agriculture, food, blue growth, forestry, etc. This allows us to answer more precisely when clients come to us with a very specific question about the work programme, and as some of us are researchers or project managers, we can guide clients towards consortia that we have identified for the different topics.

As for our work and duties as Bio-NCPs, these focus mainly on providing online and telephone support to clients and the organisation of regional infodays. When a request for information is submitted by a client through a common email address, the entire French Bio-NCP consortium (led by INRA) receives this request, and the NCP who is most skilled in the particular field then provides the necessary answer to the question. When planning our infodays, we meet with regional representatives in Paris around June and then try to set up dates and content for all of the infodays planned for the coming year."



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING BIOHORIZON EVENTS

WEBINAR HOW TO USE TWITTER

BioHorizon will hold a webinar for all Bio NCPs on **how to use Twitter effectively in your daily work as an NCP**. The course will be designed for total / relative beginners to Twitter, but advanced Twitter users are welcome to join the course and add their valuable insights.

For many Twitter feels like a real jungle. At the same time its prevalence in meetings and events is getting bigger every year. BioHorizon team wants to give a training on Twitter: what it is, what are the main concepts (hashtags, mentions), how to use it effectively, **how to increase visibility and dissemination as a Bio NCP**. The course will be constructed as a short webinar / technical training in January and if you're interested in joining. The date for the webinar and login details will consequently be sent to you by email.

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STAFF EXCHANGES IN BIOHORIZON

BioHorizon plans to organise **4 Staff Exchange Visits** for the first half of 2018. Host organisations for this round of Staff Exchanges will be **IMPULSE (BE), IPPT PAN (PL), APRE (IT) and RANNIS (IS)** and we plan to organise them during **between February – May 2018**. Once the dates be confirmed, an invitation e-mail including the doodle will be sent to all BIONCPs and you are all welcome to join these visits. Keep in mind that travel and accommodation expenses for MS and AC can be covered by the BioHorizon Project !!!

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