



Newsletter No. 8 - September 2018

BioHorizon changes for a new format of newsletter, discover our news and events in a faster and more efficient way!

EDITORIAL

Dear Bio-NCP colleagues,

We are pleased to present to you the eighth issue of the BioHorizon newsletter, in which you can read about **training plan for the autumn 2018**. Please keep in mind that our training and workshop are organized back to back with an important European conference and NCP meeting.

Make a note in your calendars today and join our training and workshop. Be part of these important events and learn new competences !

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

Looking forward to seeing you soon,

Bożena Podlaska (IPPT PAN) – BioHorizon Coordinator

Interested in more news? Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).

FUTURE BIOHORIZON ACTIVITIES: SAVE THE DATES!

4th Bioeconomy Stakeholder Workshop for Bio-NCPs



BioHorizon invites you to participate in the **4th Bioeconomy Stakeholder Workshop for Bio-NCPs – ‘Promoting innovation in the agri-food sector: a dialogue between Bio-NCPs and the EIT-Food’** which takes place in the conjunction with the **high-level Bioeconomy Conference organized by the European Commission**.

The emerging bioeconomy is moving from a research niche to the market norm and Europe needs to maintain its current global leadership. The update of the EU Bioeconomy Strategy is a major European Commission wide policy initiative which will be presented and discussed during the [Bioeconomy Conference](#).

The Bioeconomy Stakeholder Workshop for Bio-NCPs is the specialised event hosted by BioHorizon project to exchange research and innovation needs between Bio-NCPs and experts of the initiatives within the Societal Challenge 2. This time we will focus on the opportunities that open up thanks to EIT-Food, a European event hosted by BioHorizon project to exchange research and innovation needs between Bio-NCPs and experts of the initiatives Knowledge and Innovation Community, which was set up to transform our food ecosystem. By connecting consumers with businesses, start-ups, researchers, and students from around Europe, EIT Food supports innovative and economically sustainable initiatives which improve our health, our access to quality food, and our environment.

Save-the-Date: from 22 to 23 October 2018, in Brussels. Venue and more detailed information on both agendas for the conference and the workshop will be provided soon.

Understand, follow and be part of these changes!

Make a note in your calendars today!

4th BioHorizon interactive training for Bio-NCPs



BioHorizon invites you to participate in **the 4th interactive training: European Innovation Council (EIC) pilot** which take place in the conjunction with **the 6th Bio-NCP meeting organized by the European Commission**.

[The EIC pilot](#) supports top-class innovators, entrepreneurs, small companies and scientists with bright ideas and the ambition to scale up internationally. It brings together the parts of Horizon 2020 that provide funding, advice and networking opportunities for those at cutting edge of innovation.

Save-the-Date: from 21 to 23 November 2018, in Brussels. Venue and more detailed information on both agendas for the NCP meeting and the training will be provided soon.



Increase your work qualifications with small and medium enterprises!

Make a note in your calendars today!

[Check the BioHorizon events calendar right here](#)

BioHorizon staff exchange programme



Since 2015, BioHorizon organised **12 Staff Exchanges** in various countries in Europe and **55 Bio-NCPs** in total attended these mentoring visits. All the Bio-NCPs had a chance to know better how counterpart Bio-NCPs in Europe work in their daily NCP life and they also share knowledge and best practices with other participants.

According to the feedbacks of Bio-NCPs, these mentoring visits are very useful to build new networks and implement good practices at home countries. Only in 2018 we have already organized **3 Staff Exchanges: in Italy, Iceland, and Belgium, and plan to organise 2 more mentoring visits in the coming months.** As always, travel and accommodation expenses for MS and AC will be covered by the BioHorizon project! So take this opportunity to join these last rounds and do not forget to follow us in our e-mails and social media for an announcement.

[Check Staff Exchange service here](#)

BioHorizon self-assessment tool

Reminder: [the BioHorizon self-assessment tool was launched at the beginning of April](#) and is **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 are available at <http://benchmarking.help-forward.gr> and soon under the [SUPPORT](#) section of the website.

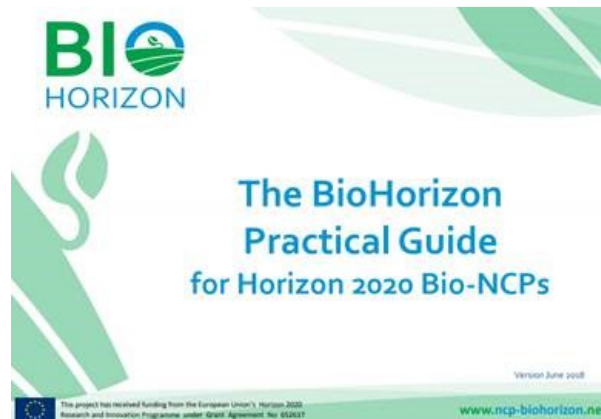
Contact: Katerina Papadouli, FORT/PRAXI NETWORK,
(papadouli@praxinetwork.gr)



Check out the new BioHorizon self-assessment tool for Bio-NCPs!

Find out more! Check our SUPPORT section here

Updated BioHorizon Practical Guide (June 2018) is now available!



The BioHorizon practical guide for Bio-NCPs is a **comprehensive collection of information and practical guidelines on how to perform the daily work of a Bio-NCP**. It consists of three large chapters: (1) Introduction, (2) What you need to know, (3) NCP activities and covers 21 thematic subsections. The first part of the BioHorizon practical guide, the 'What you need to know section,' provides general information about SC2, KET-B and related networks and instruments. The second part provides an overview of the most common tasks and challenges encountered in the daily work of a Bio-NCP.

Contact: Saske Hoving, MinEZ/RvO (saske.hoving@rvo.nl) and Willemien Van Asselt, MinEZ/RvO (willemien.vanAsselt@rvo.nl)

[Download the updated practical guide here \(for Bio-NCPs only\)](#)

UPDATED WORK PROGRAMME 2018-2019 and 2019 CALL TIMELINE

At the end of July 2018 the Commission launched the pre-publication of the Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2018-2019. All parts of the updated work programme, including Societal Challenge 2, are available [here](#).

Although no further changes to the work programmes are expected between now and the official publication on 16 October 2018, readers should be aware that changes are still possible.

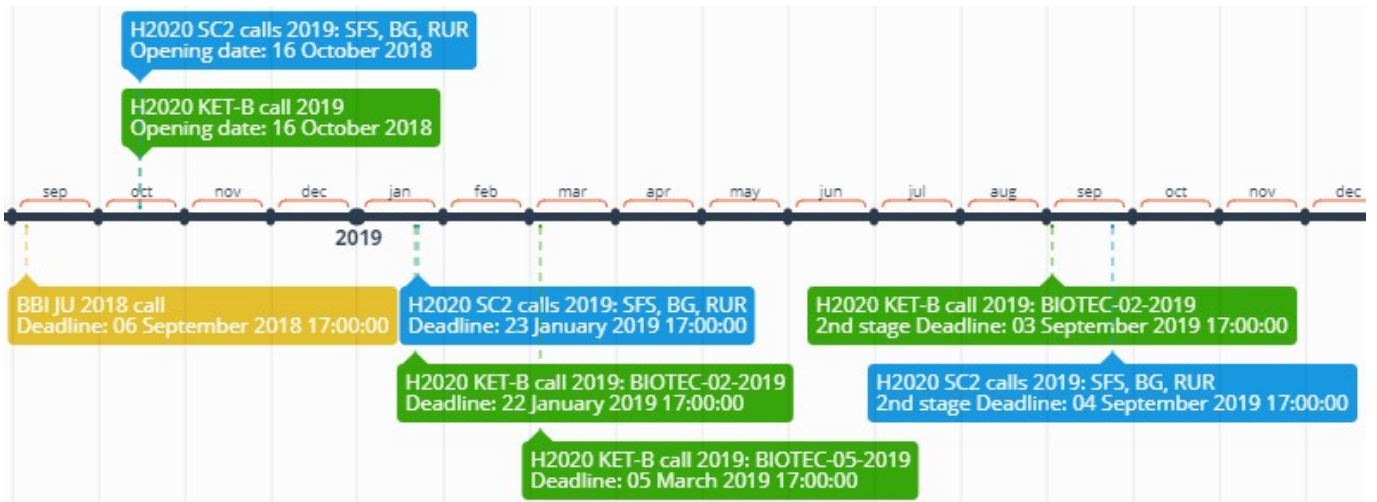
There have been a number of alterations to the SC2 work programme published on 27 October 2017 (to topics, dates, budgets and action types). The majority of these changes are relatively minor adaptations of the topic texts, but some changes are more notable. Some of these bigger changes are:

- **SFS-11b-2019:** *Anti-microbials and animal production / Alternatives to anti-microbials* is now an IA whereas previously it was a RIA.
- **SFS-24-2019:** *Innovative and citizen-driven food approaches food system approaches in cities*. The available budget for this topic has increased by €3 million.
- **SFS-31-2018-2019:** *ERA-Nets in agrifood*. The available budget for ERA-Nets has been reduced by €6 million.
- **RUR-01d-2019:** *Building modern rural policies on long-term visions and societal engagement / Rural society-science-policy hub*. This is a re-publication of RUR-01a-2018, initially only foreseen for 2018.
- **RUR-17-2019:** *Reinforcing the EU agricultural knowledge base*. New CSA.
- **RUR-18-2019:** *Support to BioEast*. New CSA.
- **RUR-20-2018:** *Digital solutions and e-tools to modernize the CAP*. This is a re-publication of RUR-14-2018, prompted by a lack of any suitable proposals submitted in February 2018. In spite of the late announcement, the proposal submission date is 11 September 2018.
- New other actions to support a Finnish Presidency conference, public procurement for a study on gaps in food research and innovation and for external expertise.

Our advice to NCPs and potential applicants is that you download the latest version of the work programme, transfer any notes you made in your copy of the last version to the new one and then discard the old file to avoid any confusion.

The revised work programme contains no additional information on the topics for 2020. Our understanding is that the Commission will only begin to develop these final topics in the first quarter of 2019.

SC2 and KET-B 2019 call timeline



[Search for calls by topics](#)

PREVIOUS EVENTS

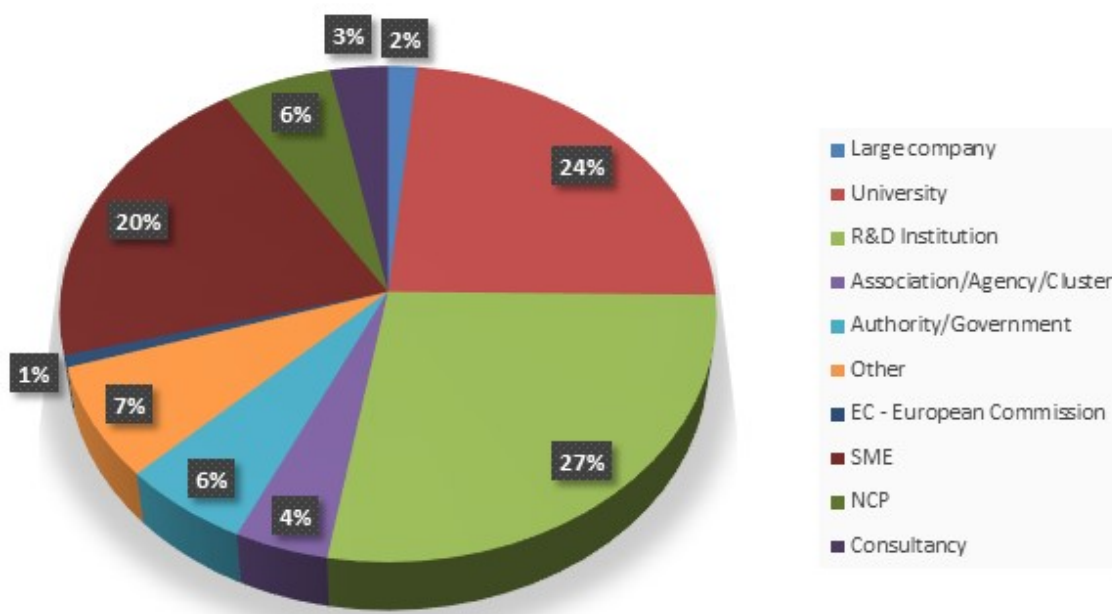
BioHorizon SC2 and KET-B Brokerage Event 2018



The [4th BioHorizon International brokerage event](#) took place in conjunction with the [Societal Challenge 2 Info Day](#) organised by the EC. With **237 participants** from **32 countries** and **over 500 bilateral meetings**, the event again proved to be a high-quality international matchmaking event for the Societal Challenge 2 and KET-Biotechnology topics.

Summary of the BioHorizon SC2 and KET-B Brokerage Event 2018

Profiles from all participants in BioHorizon's brokerage events as well as all **flash presentations** are **archived on the respective event websites**. You can use the **B2Match search tool** to browse the profiles for partners with a relevant expertise.



Profiles and offers of participants ('Marketplace'), all **project idea pitches** ('Flash presentations'), **presentations** from the plenary session and **video recordings** of the event ('Agenda) are available on the event website!

Browse and download brokerage event materials right now

Success story: SC2 InfoDay in Ukraine



On **June 13, 2018**, **International Open Information Day** “Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research and the bioeconomy” **was organized in Kiev at the National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine (NULESU) with the support of the BioHorizon project’s experts.**

During the event **70 participants attended**. Programme was tailored to the participants’ needs and agreed beforehand with the local Bio-NCPs colleagues. After the presentation the floor was opened for discussion. The meeting was moderated by Liliya Kalachnyuk – Bio-NCP from the National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine (NULESU).

Ukraine became a new member of Associated Countries (AC) in March 2015. Since then, Ukrainian organizations have been able to fully participate in Horizon 2020 on equal terms with the EU Member States and other ACs.

[Check more information and pictures of the event here](#)

Staff exchange in Iceland: NCP feedback



Staff exchange in Reykjavík, Iceland, on 5th and 6th April 2018

In April, the **Icelandic Center for Research (RANNIS)** hosted **five Bio-NCPs from Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg and The Netherlands** in its premises. The staff exchange also included a site visit at an Icelandic Food and Biotech R&D institute and an excursion to the famous Thingvellir national park.

Summary by **Alexandros Theodoridis**, visiting German Bio-NCP:

“The one and a half day staff exchange in Iceland started with a welcome by our host and BioHorizon colleague Sigrún Ólafsdóttir, followed by a tour de table with all visiting NCPs. Subsequently, all NCPs presented their NCP work at their home offices as well as an overview on SC2-related research and the underlying funding systems in the respective countries. Having one of the world’s most profitable fishing fleets and due to climatic constraints for forestry and agriculture, Icelandic activities are, unsurprisingly, focused on the Blue growth sector. RANNIS itself not only administers the main public competitive funds in the fields of research, innovation and education in Iceland but also coordinates and promotes Icelandic participation in Horizon 2020 as well as other European and international programmes. After this information exchange between NCPs we left RANNIS and were transported to Matis, a government-owned Icelandic Food and Biotech R&D institute at the outskirts of Reykjavík, where several scientists and R&D managers introduced their concrete work and the aims and functioning of the institute. Finally, the day was concluded with a sightseeing excursion to the impressive Thingvellir national park and a joint dinner – of course we had fish! The second day was dedicated to discussions on more horizontal issues such as SSH integration in SC2 proposals and an outlook on FP9. A joint lunch in RANNIS ended the staff exchange, and experiences between all participating NCPs was very inspiring and fruitful. Moreover, the Icelandic landscape is just stunning. The staff exchange was not only very informative but also great fun!”

Staff exchange in Belgium



Staff exchange in Brussels, Belgium, on 9th May 2018

In May, **three Bio-NCPs** from Malta, Lithuania and Tunisia took the opportunity to visit and exchange practices with their Belgian hosts - **Brussels Business Support Agency (hub.brussels)** and other NCP colleagues.

Staff exchange in Italy



Staff exchange in Rome, Italy, on 20th and 21st March 2018

The Italian Bio-NCPs from **Agency for the Promotion of European Research (APRE)** organised a successful Staff Exchange in Rome, Italy.

The visiting **six Bio-NCPs** from Cyprus, Israel, Latvia, Tunisia, and Turkey, had the chance to get a better understanding of the Italian NCP system, and to have a meaningful exchange about SC2,

proposal evaluation, multi-actor approach and Impact readiness level with their hosts. This was followed by the visit of an Italian research organisation. The Italian NCPs from APRE organised a successful Staff Exchange the 20th-21st of March in Rome, Italy.

The visiting NCPs had the chance to get a better understanding of the Italian NCP system, and to have a meaningful exchange about SC2, proposal evaluation, multi-actor approach and Impact readiness level with their hosts. This was followed by the visit of an Italian research organisation.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A Bio-NCP - GREECE



Katerina Papadouli, Greek Bio-NCP, explains the Greek Bio-NCP system, and outlines the main tasks she deals with daily:

“In Greece, the NCP system is structured in a particular way, in the sense that being an NCP is not a full-time job. Therefore, Bio-NCPs have other responsibilities in relevant fields, dealing with SMEs and research organisations in the Agrofood sector and in the Bioeconomy. As NCPs, we are regularly dealing with partner search requests coming from Greek clients or from our partners in other Horizon 2020 countries. All the inquiries we receive are being filtered through our NCP front office and delegated to each NCP according to their thematic area. Although our limited time does not always allow us to be proactive and get involved thoroughly in proposal preparation and proposal checking, nevertheless, our expertise allows us to provide up to date information to Horizon 2020 applicants on the Societal Challenge 2 topics and crosscutting issues, such as legal and financial aspects, gender issues, ethics, etc. Additionally, every year we organise stand-alone informational events, to present the topics that are open, with speakers from the Commission and one-on-one sessions with NCPs for, universities, organisations by industrial associations,

research institutions, and industry who often require our support in staying informed on the open calls, partnering opportunities etc. Therefore, several times every year we are invited to present the open calls of Societal Challenge 2 and the support we can provide as NCPs, in conferences organisation among research recognisable makes us work information to potential applicants."

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Check our BioHorizon team that can support you



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The content of the BioHorizon newsletter has been prepared by the project consortium.

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