



A MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATOR

Dear Bio-NCP colleagues, we are pleased to present to you the third edition of the BioHorizon newsletter, in which you can read about just some of our recent 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 Gdańsk, three staff exchanges, an interactive training event focusing on innovation in Horizon 2020 in Bratislava and also some thematic 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. The purpose of all of these measures is to ensure that you, as Bio-NCPs, have constant access to the latest SC2 and KET-B related information.

The 2nd BioHorizon advisory board meeting took place recently, in conjunction with the 4th Bio-NCP meeting held by the Commission in Brussels on 8th November 2016. 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. As part of programme for the Bio-NCP meeting we also had an award ceremony for the Bio-NCP providing the most interesting insight into best practices in their daily work. On the 9th November 2016 the 1st project review took place. The work done in the first 18 months of BioHorizon was positively evaluated by independent experts and the EC decided to approve the continuation of BioHorizon. We received very positive feedback on the work done so far. I would like to thank and to congratulate all project partners and contributors for their excellent contributions and encourage all Bio-NCPs to join our activities and partake of the opportunities the project offers.

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!

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 2017!

Bożena Podlaska (IPPT PAN) – BioHorizon Coordinator



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING BIOHORIZON EVENTS

8 March 2017: Webinar on research infrastructures for life sciences in Horizon 2020, a RICH-BioHorizon collaboration, by Dr Gloria Villar Acevedo, National Health Institute Carlos III

27-28 April 2017, Brussels: Interactive BBI JU training event held in conjunction with the BBI JU open info day (details to follow soon)

13-17 November 2017: SC2 InfoWeek, Brussels, including a BioHorizon brokerage event

Q1-QII 2017: Staff Exchange for Bio-NCPs (dates tbc)

REVIEW OF THE LATEST BIOHORIZON ACTIVITIES

NCP TRAINING IN BRATISLAVA 'INNOVATION IN HORIZON 2020'



The 2nd BioHorizon Bio-NCP training event took place in Bratislava on the 18th and 19th October 2016, just after the Bioeconomy Conference hosted as part of the Slovakian presidency of the EU. The theme of the training was 'Innovation aspects in Horizon 2020.' The following experts shared their expertise with 29 Bio-NCPs:

- Patrick Hartmann** (DLR, German NCP for SMEs) on innovation in Horizon 2020 in general,
- Rosario Gurrieri** (IPR Helpdesk) on dissemination and exploitation as tools for innovation,
- Rhonda Smith** (CommBeBiz project) on using communication to stimulate the innovation process, and
- Cecilia Tatu** (Ayming) on demonstrating innovation in project proposals.

The training was highly interactive and was found to meet the participants' needs and expectations.

Feedback on the training provided by Taisiya Simochko, Ukrainian Bio-NCP:

"The training in Bratislava was very interesting. I learned a lot about innovation aspects for consideration in Horizon 2020 project proposals, and received much interesting information that I can use in my daily work as an NCP. In general, the event was a very good mixture of theoretical and practical training. Personally the most useful segments were the presentations of Rhonda Smith, Cecilia Tatu and Patrick Hartmann. All of the trainers managed to explain difficult subjects in a way that was easy to understand. Thanks a lot to the BioHorizon team for organising such a useful training event."

Contact: Serena Borgna, APRE (borgna@apre.it)

BIOHORIZON STAFF EXCHANGE IN GREECE



After the two successful BioHorizon staff exchanges held in Paris and Bonn in May 2016, four more exchanges took place in November and December 2016, in Athens, Lisbon, Prague and Rome.

On 14th and 15th November 2016 the PRAXI Network welcomed Bio-NCPs from France, Georgia, Turkey and Lithuania to Athens and shared with them their expertise and insights into the current activities of Bio-NCPs in Greece.

Contact: Cinar Adali, TUBITAK (cinar.adali@tubitak.gov.tr)

The following is feedback provided by Edita Bagdonaite, Lithuanian NCP from the Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology (MITA):



"The staff exchange in Athens was a very useful and well organised event; the exchange of good practices is of great benefit for Bio-NCPs. The presentations made by the host institution, the PRAXI Network, were very informative. The introduction was relevant to my needs and the supporting documentation was very helpful. The host colleagues were well prepared for every aspect of the planning of our staff exchange, and they were very knowledgeable and professional. The staff exchange was extremely well organised, wonderfully managed and top quality throughout. It provided a great opportunity to learn from others (ACTIA, TUBITAK) and to get ideas for changes in our own organisation. Thanks for sharing your insight, knowledge and experience in an entertaining way."

There will be further BioHorizon staff exchange sessions in 2017.

Contact: Cinar Adali, TUBITAK (cinar.adali@tubitak.gov.tr)

2ND BIOHORIZON INTERNATIONAL BROKERAGE EVENT, BRUSSELS, 28TH JUNE 2016

The 2nd BioHorizon international brokerage event took place on 28th June 2016 in conjunction with the bioeconomy infoweek organised by the EC. The event attracted registrations from more than 350 applicants from around the world, far exceeding the participant limit of 250 attendees. The objectives of the event were to provide international research stakeholders insights into the 2017 calls for proposals related to the wider thematic area covered by Societal Challenge 2 and KET-Biotech and to help them find the best consortium partners for their project proposals addressing the 2017 calls for proposals.

Summary of the community response in numbers:

- 350+ registrations
- 250 validated profiles
- 232 confirmed participants
- 425 bilateral meetings
- 26 flash presentations
- 63% of participants from EU-15
- 18% of participants from EU-13
- 9% of participants from SMEs



The event was supported by the Enterprise Europe Network's (EEN) AgroFood Sector Group, HNN2.0 Health-NCP-NET and Net4Society. During the event, representatives of both NCP networks (HNN2.0 and Net4Society) were present in the NCP corner (infobooth), along with numerous Bio-NCPs, and offered advice and services to all participants of the brokerage event.

The main part of the event was dedicated to bilateral meetings between individuals and organisations intending to prepare project proposals addressing the 2017 calls. A database of the research profiles submitted by the participants and the flash presentations are available on the BioHorizon website at <http://www.ncp-biohorizon.net/profiles>. The database is free to use for all and we encourage Bio-NCPs to guide their national clients towards the database when seeking partners to build their own research consortia.



The next BioHorizon international brokerage event will be held in late 2017, with details to follow soon. Keep an eye on the BioHorizon website for more information.

'BE SMART, THINK BLUE,' 1ST BIOHORIZON REGIONAL BROKERAGE EVENT, GDAŃSK, 19TH-20TH SEPTEMBER 2016



BioHorizon's first regional brokerage event was hosted in cooperation with the transport NCP network ETNA2020 and the Smart Blue Regions Interreg project as a part of the 'Be Smart, Think Blue' conference. This two-day meeting took place in the beautiful Polish city of Gdańsk on the 19th-20th September 2016 and addressed stakeholders in the area of blue growth.

The conference on the first day was attended by 104 participants. Over the course of the day, 13 speakers provided the audience with comprehensive insights into smart blue specialisations, including examples of success stories and reflections on the major current challenges facing the marine sector. The first day concluded with a networking dinner that provided all participants with an opportunity to get to know each other and to exchange ideas in an informal atmosphere.

During the BioHorizon brokerage event on the second day, 49 participants had the possibility to take part in both pre-arranged and spontaneous bilateral meetings, and to initiate international research cooperation addressing open calls with blue growth relevance in Horizon 2020. A particular aim of the event was to foster the participation of EU-13 stakeholders in Horizon 2020. The final version of the considered fruitful and important by the attendees. For more information on the event and to access the cooperation profiles submitted visit the dedicated website at <https://www.b2match.eu/smartblue2016>.

The next BioHorizon regional brokerage event will take place in 2017 or 2018, in conjunction with another major event. It will be dedicated to either sustainable food security, bio-based industries, rural renaissance or KET-Biotech. If you are from an EU country and know of an event taking place in your region that you think might benefit from the inclusion of a BioHorizon brokerage event, please let us know.

THE BIOHORIZON AWARD CEREMONY, BRUSSELS, 8TH NOVEMBER 2016



The European Commission hosted the 4th Bio-NCP meeting in Brussels on 8th November. This gathering of Bio-NCPs provided the perfect occasion to host the BioHorizon best practices award ceremony. The ceremony was split into three parts:

Saske Hoving and Willemien Van Asselt, Dutch Bio-NCPs and partners in BioHorizon, introduced the BioHorizon practical guide for Bio-NCPs, which is available on the BioHorizon internal communication platform (see below);

Willemien and Saske then organised an interactive good practices session, during which all of the Bio-NCPs present could discuss and share their specific national practices;

Five Bio-NCPs, **Elena Angiolini** from Belgium, **Serhat Yildirim** from Turkey, **Serena Borgna** from Italy, **Rita Litauzsky** from Austria and **Ian Holmes** from the United Kingdom gave presentations of their own examples of Bio-NCP best practices.

All of the Bio-NCPs present then voted for their favourite example by means of an online poll. Serena Borgna from APRE won the NCP vote and was elected the best Bio-NCP in terms of the use of best practices for 2016. Congratulations to Serena! It was very apparent that all of the Bio-NCPs in attendance were interested in sharing their own experiences and learning from the best practices of others.

The award ceremony was followed by the 2nd advisory board meeting during which the progress of the project was discussed. All of the presentations and the report from the meeting are available on the BioHorizon internal communication platform or directly from CIRCABC.

JUST SOME OF THE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES OFFERED BY BIOHORIZON

The BioHorizon practical guide for Bio-NCPs

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 and (3) NCP activities. These three chapters cover 21 thematic subsections. In order to be a really useful reference handbook, the practical guide was designed as a dynamic tool provided in two formats: PowerPoint and PDF. 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. 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 the case of more complex and sophisticated issues, additional hyperlinks to source material have been provided.

The final version of the 'BioHorizon practical guide for Bio-NCPs' is available from the BioHorizon internal communication platform (<https://ptj-bscw.ptj.kfa-juelich.de/bscw/bscw.cgi/d1962352/BioNCP%20practical%20guide%20version%20March%202016.pptx>).

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

Services for ICPC Bio-NCPs

In many cases the availability and the extent to which BioHorizon activities can be availed of by ICPC Bio-NCPs is not clear to many. It is for this reason that in 2016 we started telephoning ICPC Bio-NCPs directly to explain to them all the benefits they can obtain from BioHorizon. If you are interested in the project, or if you just want some specific information about one of our activities, please do not hesitate to send us an email so that we can set up a phone appointment.

Do not forget that a matrix outlining the e-mentoring services offered by BioHorizon is accessible on the website. This matrix will allow you to identify the skills of particular Bio-NCPs and will point you in the right direction if you need support in any particular area: <http://www.ncp-biohorizon.net/support/e-mentoring>.

Of course, the telephone and e-mentoring services offered to ICPC Bio-NCPs are available to Bio-NCPs from other countries, too.

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

BioHorizon internal communication platform

BioHorizon provides all Bio-NCPs with access to the project's internal communication platform. This platform offers a shared workspace that Bio-NCPs can use to store, edit and share information. Here you can also find recordings of our webinars and all training materials developed within the BioHorizon project. Access is granted to all Bio-NCPs upon registration. Login and registration: <http://www.ncp-biohorizon.net/login>.