



A MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATOR

Dear Bio-NCPs,

BioHorizon would like to welcome you all back after your well-deserved and, we sincerely hope, enjoyable holidays!

With this, the fifth newsletter in the series, we would like to present to you a small number of the recent activities undertaken in BioHorizon and to give you some insights into future plans for our group and for the sector. In the following, you will find a calendar of the most important upcoming events for Bio-NCPs between now and the end of the year and, illustrated by means of a review of recent BioHorizon activities, an overview of just some of the services offered by BioHorizon that you can avail of as a Bio-NCP. Please don't hesitate to contact us to discover how you and your clients can benefit from the work carried out by BioHorizon!

We hope you enjoy reading this edition of our newsletter!

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The BioHorizon Team



EVENTS CALENDAR

This calendar displays the activities and events organised, or contributed to, by BioHorizon. Other interesting events and conferences related to SC2 and KET B are listed on the BioHorizon website: <http://www.ncp-biohorizon.net/>

Date	Event	Link/registration
28 th September 2017	Webinar 'How to maximise your matchmaking opportunities'	A recording and the presentation slides can be found here: http://www.ncp-biohorizon.net/events?cmd=showDetail&id=153
11 th -13 th October 2017, Lisbon	Agri-Innovation Summit 2017 (AIS 2017)	http://www.aislisbon2017.com/
13 th October 2017, Lisbon	3 rd BioHorizon Bioeconomy Stakeholder Workshop for Bio-NCPs	http://www.ncp-biohorizon.net/events?cmd=showDetail&id=141
6 th November 2017, Prague	Regional Brokerage Event 2017	https://www.b2match.eu/foodsecurity2017
13 th November 2017, Brussels	5 th Bio-NCP meeting + 3 rd BioHorizon Advisory Board meeting	http://www.ncp-biohorizon.net/events?cmd=showDetail&id=129
14 th November 2017, Brussels	Infoday on SC2 calls 2018	https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/news/horizon-2020-societal-challenge-2-infoweek-including-high-level-policy-events
15 th November 2017, Brussels	International Brokerage Event 2017	https://www.b2match.eu/foodbrokerage2017
16 th November, Brussels	Bioeconomy Day	https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/news/horizon-2020-societal-challenge-2-infoweek-including-high-level-policy-events

17 th November, Brussels	Digitisation Day	https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/news/horizon-2020-societal-challenge-2-infoweek-including-high-level-policy-events
28 th -30 th November 2017, Sfax	First Tunisian Infoday with support from BioHorizon NCPs	Christophe Cotillon – mailto:c.cotillon@actia-asso.eu ; Antoine Kieffer – a.kieffer@actia-asso.eu ;
5 th December 2017	Webinar 'Circular Economy'	Registration will open soon on: http://www.ncp-biohorizon.net



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A BIO-NCP

STAFF EXCHANGES IN TURKEY, POLAND AND SWITZERLAND, JUNE/JULY 2017

Over six days in June and July, 15 Bio-NCPs from 13 different countries took part in three BioHorizon mentoring visits organised by TÜBITAK (Turkey), IPPT PAN (Poland) and EURESEARCH (Switzerland). We hope that the following reflections shared by some of the Bio-NCP participants will serve as encouragement to participate in future rounds of the staff exchanges organised for Bio-NCPs by BioHorizon.

Staff exchange in Ankara and Istanbul on 14th and 15th July 2017

In July TÜBITAK welcomed four Bio-NCPs from the Czech Republic, Estonia, France and Greece and was pleased to introduce to them the NCP system in Turkey. The staff exchange took place in two cities, Ankara and Istanbul, and included visits to several TÜBITAK centres.



Feedback and a summary of what was learnt during the staff exchange in Turkey by **Argo Soon**, visiting Estonian Bio-NCP:

TÜBITAK is a rather big organisation and it is responsible for national research as well as innovation funding. It administers bi- and multilateral research cooperation programmes as well as EU Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation. TÜBITAK is active in research communication and popularisation; they implement a variety of research-related contests for all age groups – from schoolchildren to mature researchers; and they run their own publishing unit and bookstore.

Not surprisingly, the visiting Bio-NCPs were most interested in how the daily work of a Bio-NCP is carried out in Turkey, and in getting to know the principle Turkish research organisations and discovering who the main clients of Turkish Bio-NCPs are.

Unlike NCP host organisations in many other countries, in Turkey TÜBITAK itself runs several research institutes that are also actively involved in EU Framework Programme projects. The other main research performers are naturally universities and other (academic) research institutions. However, there are also various organisations representing local bio-producers interested in participation in international R&D projects. Given Turkey's considerable size, there are differences in agriculture and bioeconomy between regions and, as a consequence, the primary research interests contrast on a regional basis. Hence, certain specific research topics are performed in particular regional research centres only. This fact is important to consider when helping your national clients to identify prospective research partners in Turkey.

The Turkish government considers research to be a priority, which is reflected in the generous funding available. Participation in international research projects is supported by national programmes for infrastructure, by funding for human resources development and by popular schemes for Horizon 2020 project proposal preparation. As some of these wonderful tools were only introduced quite recently, the expected results – better participation in Horizon 2020 – are not yet reflected in the statistics. However, the well-equipped labs, dedicated research staff and well-conceived R&D programmes hold the promise of better results from Turkish research and researchers in the not too distant future.



Staff exchange in Warsaw on 20 and 21th June 2017

IPPT PAN was pleased to share its experiences as a NCP host organisation with seven Bio-NCPs from Belgium, Lithuania, Macedonia, Slovenia, Turkey and Ukraine. The staff exchange took place in two cities: Warsaw (IPPT PAN premises) and Skierniewice (Research Institute of Horticulture – Polish partner in the GoodBerry project).



Feedback and a summary of what was learnt over the two days by **Serhat Yildirim**, visiting Turkish NCP:

The host organisation in Poland was the Institute of Fundamental Technological Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences (IPPT PAN), where all of Poland's NCPs are based.

This staff exchange was organised as a joint event for NCPs for SC1 Health and SC2 Bioeconomy. Altogether 17 NCPs representing the two areas were present. During the first day we discussed in great detail the structure of the NCP system in Poland, and the contrasts with the structures found in the countries of the visiting NCPs. This session was very interesting and gave us an opportunity to pick up some of the best practices provided by different NCPs. Attendees had a unique opportunity to listen to a presentation on the EIT FOOD, the collocation centre for the central European countries being situated in Warsaw. The Interim Director of the EIT FOOD, CLC North East, described the structure, opportunities, and potential calls to be opened as part of EIT Food.

On the second day the attending Bio-NCPs visited the Department of Horticultural Plant Breeding and the Rhizosphere Laboratory of the Horticulture Research Institute in Skierniewice, near Warsaw. This well organised institute is very successful in terms of participation in Framework Programme projects and as a recipient of national and regional research grants.

The staff exchange proved to be a very enjoyable experience, and over the two days I learnt a lot from the host organisation and from all of my other colleagues participating in the exchange.

Staff exchange in Switzerland on 3rd and 4th July 2017

EURESEARCH welcomed four Bio-NCPs from France, Germany, Poland and Spain for a visit in July and used to opportunity to explain the workings of the NCP system in Switzerland.



Feedback and a summary of what was learnt during the Swiss staff exchange by **Jesus Escudero**, visiting Spanish NCP:

I found the BioHorizon staff exchange at EURESEARCH in Bern on 3-4 July 2017 to be very informative, interesting and well structured. As a relatively new NCP, I profited greatly from the shared know-how gleaned during this exchange. From the presentations and discussions, it was apparent that EURESEARCH is an efficient agency responsible for presenting European research programmes in line with national needs. The location of the central office in Bern, where all of those involved with the European R&D programme are located, is a great advantage. Their work is very well arranged and they have a very wealthy system in terms of resources. The organisation of the exchange was absolutely fine, combining several meetings, activities and visits in Bern for the benefit of the participants. I would like to thank BioHorizon for the invitation to take part in this event. It was very good. Big congratulations!

SUCCESSFUL TRAINING IN APRIL: JOINT BBI JU AND BIOHORIZON TRAINING FOR BIO-NCPS, 27TH AND 28TH APRIL 2017, BRUSSELS

The 3rd BioHorizon Bio-NCP training focusing on 'Bio-Based Industries – BBI calls for proposals' took place in Brussels on 27th April 2017, just a day before the BBI JU infoday. We were hosted by BBI JU at their premises and the following experts shared their expertise with 33 Bio-NCPS from across Europe and beyond: **Philippe Mengal** (BBI JU Executive Director), **Ana Ruiz** (BBI JU project officer), **Pilar Llorente** (BBI JU project officer), **Paloma Mallorquin** (BBI JU project officer) and **Nicolò Giacomuzzi-Moore** (BBI JU Head of Finance and Administration). The training was highly interactive and was found to meet the participants' needs and expectations.



On 28 April 2017, BBI JU hosted its fourth **infoday** in Brussels, following the official launch of the [2017 call for proposals](#). The morning was dedicated to information about the state of play in the BBI JU, the EU's bioeconomy strategy and the new strategic orientations for BBI JU, with keynote speeches provided by Philippe Mengal, John Bell and Dirk Carrez. Following the opening session, members of the BBI JU team shared relevant information on participating in BBI JU's 2017 call for proposals, including the call conditions and the rules for participation, how to submit proposals and how these are evaluated. Finally, some tips and tricks on how to write a good BBI JU proposal were provided. The afternoon was dedicated to partnering meetings. **The BioHorizon project and a number of Bio-NCPS were present at an infobooth throughout the day and were able to support participants with first hand advice.**

For more info on the BBI JU 2017 Infoday visit <https://www.bbi-europe.eu/events/bbi-ju-2017-open-info-day>.

Presentations and other support material from this training can be found on BioHorizon's Internal Communication Platform ([click here](#)).

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 BioHorizon, 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 should you need support in any particular area. 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 secured 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 to date. Access is granted to all Bio-NCPS upon registration. Login and registration: <http://www.ncp-biohorizon.net/login>.

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