

WELCOME TO BIOHORIZON!



Dear Bio-NCP colleagues,

We hereby send you the first issue of the BioHorizon newsletter. It contains some updates on recent activities within the consortium and information on what is currently going on with the project.

Thank you for participating in the Benchmarking survey. Based on its results, we are now making available to you a series of tools and activities, tailored for your needs. A common barrier which hinders participation in many trainings is the distance a participant has to make. To overcome this, we provide you an e-mentoring activity, which allows the experienced NCPs to contact the newcomers and NCPs based in distant parts of the world.

The newsletter also contains information on internal trainings for Bio-NCPs and on a planned brokerage event for researchers, SMEs and other stakeholders interested in SC2 calls and KET-B. Details on these issues can always be found on the BioHorizon website (www.ncp-biohorizon.net), which was recently launched. You can also follow us on Twitter (@ncp biohorizon).

Enjoy your reading and let us stay in touch.

We are very happy to receive any comments you may have at info@ncp-biohorizon.net.

Your benefit is our priority!

Bożena Podlaska (IPPT PAN) – BioHorizon Coordinator

BIO HORIZON MAIN ACTIVITIES

1) E-MENTORING ACTIVITIES

What is e-mentoring?

In order to ensure a consistent level of NCP support, also outside Europe, a simple but tailored e-mentoring scheme will be organized. This e-mentoring scheme will be implemented on-line with the clear objective of **improving connection with ICPCs and international NCPs through on-line tools in order to optimize the networking activities with ICPCs and at the same time to minimize the costs of this activity.**

Tools to be used by Bio-NCPs: direct support of a Bio Horizon mentor by e-mails and phones, discussion groups and materials from training session uploaded onto an internal document exchange platform (registration through the web) and also dedicated webinars about SC2 and KET-B.

Several experienced beneficiaries of BioHorizon will be selected as mentors according to their expertise and the list of them will be available on the exchange platform for all Bio-NCPs. In parallel, these experienced NCPs will assess the results of the benchmarking report in order to identify the needs of the non-experienced NCPs as well as ICPCs NCPs and offer them the opportunity of exchanging experience in selected issues. Thus, non-experienced Bio-NCPs and ICPC NCPs will have the possibility to select and to be supported by mentors from BioHorizon.

E-mentor facilitates information and knowledge by transferring expertise without the constraints of time, or space. E-mentoring activities will be implemented during the whole duration of the project.

Who can take part to the e-mentoring?

Everybody! E-mentoring is especially tailored for the European NCPs as well as ICPCs NCPs. It is a real occasion to reinforce your skills and to gain experience from experienced Bio-NCPs. E-mentoring will allow you to follow and record regularly your progress.

Contact: ACTIA

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

2) NCPs' SELF-ASSESSMENT

What is the Benchmarking and who can use it?

Benchmarking is an online survey addressing Bio-NCPs and KET-B including Bio-NCPs from ICPCs, conducted under the framework of BioHorizon project. It provides to all Bio-NCPs the opportunity to self-assess their capacity through an online and easy to use benchmarking tool developed by FORTH / PRAXI Network.

What does the tool do?

The tool allows anonymous benchmarking of each participating NCP. It maps the existing experience of the respective NCPs, evaluates the capacity, assists with identifying areas for improvement and offers statistics in order to fully assess the strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement of the SC2 NCPs. The outcome of the survey is a valuable tool for providing better services to clients. The Benchmarking Tool is more than a simple questionnaire that can give graphs and simple statistics. Its main purpose is to assist NCPs understand its performance vis-a-vis their peers, achieved through a database of answers provided by all users. The NCP, after having completed the questionnaire, receives a standard benchmarking report.

Contact: FORTH

Despina Adamidou (adamidou@help-forward.gr) and Constantine Vaitsas (vaitsas@help-forward.gr)

3) BIO-NCP BEST PRACTICES

Best practice guidelines are being set up in order to help you to become a more efficient Bio-NCP. They will consist in references to be adopted for a better NCP activity performance by providing advice and recommendations. They will be available by the beginning of 2016.

BioHorizon is also preparing a contest for NCP Best practices, which will reward the NCPs with the better level or the better progression by the end of the BioHorizon project. NCPs will have to apply advices and recommendations provided by the guidelines as well as to implement the knowledge gained during the staff exchanges/training sessions, in order to have a chance to win one of the prizes.

Contact: RVO

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4) STAFF EXCHANGES

BioHorizon is also organizing Staff Exchanges during which NCPs can visit NCPs from other countries. Staff Exchange (SE) provides a lot of opportunities for knowledge sharing and transfer of best practices. Staff Exchange Programme is the best way to learn on site and by practicing from the first hand. The host organization will show its workplace, explain how it works for Horizon 2020 Programme, give some advices and explain the difficulties to overcome. It lasts 2 days maximum and can include a field trip to a successful organization, institute, or university. Around 60 NCPs are foreseen to take part in the Staff Exchange Programme and each tour will be for 4-6 people maximum. So, 12 rounds of Staff Exchange is planned to be organized during the lifecycle of the BioHorizon. All Bio-NCPs around the world can join the Staff Exchange and it is possible to reimburse travel expenses for EU MS and AC counties in line with the reimbursement rules stated in Guidelines for Bio-NCPs. Once the host country for SE is determined, we will send an invitation mail to all Bio-NCPs for registration of the SE together with the draft programme and SE Form. You can easily register to the relevant SE by filling in the Staff Exchange Form for visiting NCPs and send it back to us.

Contact: TUBITAK

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5) FIRST BIOHORIZON TRAINING SESSION

BioHorizon has organized the first training session in **Rome the 7th and 8th of October** on the topic of **"Proposal Preparation for Bioeconomy -related calls in Horizon 2020 (including JTI BBI)"**. For more information and access to the training material, please visit internal BioHorizon platform on our website <http://www.ncp-biohorizon.net/>

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VIRTUAL TRAINING SESSIONS: the virtual nature of the webinar will allow all Bio-NCPs to benefit from the innovative means of training used in Bio Horizon. On the 23rd of September a **webinar** about **"Specificities of the multi-actor approach"** held by **Inge van Oost** (European Commission – DG Agriculture and Rural Development, Unit H.5 Research and Innovation) has been organized. This webinar was targeting specifically the Bio-NCPs. As a very experienced expert from the European Commission Inge van Oost provided to the participants useful information on how the multi-actor approach needs to be understood. This presentation is available on the internal project platform. We strongly encourage you to participate in upcoming webinars, about which we keep you posted!

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FORTHCOMING SC2 AND KET-B EVENTS

EUROPEAN COMMISSION IS HOLDING AN SC2 INFORMATION WEEK FROM 24-27 NOVEMBER 2015

EVENT DATE: 24/11/2015 to 27/11/2015

VENUE: Brussels, Belgium

24 November: specific workshop on multi-actor projects and thematic networks.

25 November: Food Security Infoday, organized by the EC.

26 November: Food Security and KET-B brokerage event organized by BioHorizon, <https://www.b2match.eu/foodbrokerage2015>

27 November: BioNCP meeting and the first BioHorizon advisory Board Meeting.

A HORIZON 2020 COORDINATION AND SUPPORT ACTION PROJECT

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