



BIODIVERSITY NEWSFLASH

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▲ **Call BRAIN-be on biodiversity now open**

The recurrent Research Framework Programme [BRAIN-be](#) (Belgian Research Action through Interdisciplinary Networks) is a funding programme organised around six themes, among which, the Axis 1: Ecosystems, biodiversity, life history.

The frame of this thematic axis is geared towards the description and comprehension of various biotic modules – soil, plants, bodies of water, atmosphere - their processes and interactions (bio/geo/chemical cycles). It is also geared towards the comprehension and prediction of the evolution of life, of the natural dynamics of ecosystems and of biodiversity as well as their reactions to the pressures of mankind and climate. The research conducted under this programme would provide the necessary scientific support for the management and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems and associated policies. This theme will allow the establishment of monitoring or surveillance if this should prove useful in the context of the research.



→ See the call text and contact point for [more information](#)

→ Deadline: Expression of interest: 26th March 2013 - Research proposals: 30th April 2013.

▲ **Release of the IPBES-1 meeting report**

The first meeting of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services ([IPBES](#)) Plenary (IPBES-1) was held in Bonn, Germany from 21 to 26 January 2013. The report of the meeting is now available in all languages on the [IPBES website](#).

The major results of IPBES-1 were:

- » M. Zakri, Science Advisor to the Prime Minister of Malaysia and Chairman of the Malaysian Professors's Council was elected as first Chair of the Platform
- » The election of the Bureau members, and Multidisciplinary Expert Panel for a 3-year term
- » An agreement on steps toward the development of an initial IPBES work programme (2014-2018), the role of the MEP in the initial work programme, the procedure for receiving and prioritizing requests put to IPBES, and possible institutional arrangements for its implementation. More specifically, it was decided that the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will provide the Secretariat for the Platform, which will operate from Bonn in Germany.
- » The adoption of the draft decision on the status of contributions and initial budget for IPBES for 2013.



The Belgian Biodiversity Platform has been involved in the process of establishing the IPBES since the very beginning and is still engaged in the ongoing proceedings.

- Access the [English version of the official IPBES-1 report](#)
 - Read more on [IPBES-1 meeting](#)
 - For more information on the process, please contact [Dr Hendrik Segers](#)
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▲ Workshop on biodiversity research for FP7 coordinators and experts

The Research Infrastructures Unit of the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation ([DG RTD](#)) and the infrastructure project LifeWatch invites FP7 coordinators, experts, and initiative representatives to a workshop entitled "*Towards a Roadmap for Research Infrastructures on Biodiversity and Ecosystem research in Europe*". The workshop will take place on March 19-20 in Brussels.

The overall objective of this workshop is to develop synergies between ESFRI research infrastructures (RI), existing research infrastructures implemented as Integrating Activities (IA), Integrated Projects (IP) and Joint Programming Initiatives (JPI) which are relevant to Biodiversity and Ecosystem research.

The following topics will be discussed:

- » Synergy between the biodiversity components of different initiatives, also in view of the supporting role of the European research infrastructures in this area.
 - » A strategy for the development of biodiversity research infrastructures in the next ten years in view of emerging scientific and technical challenges.
- For more information, please contact [Anna Maria Johansson](#), Programme Officer for the European Commission DG Research & Innovation.
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▲ Workshop on the research strategy to reinforce the ERA on biodiversity

The European Commission General Directorate for Research and Innovation ([DG RTD](#)) and the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy ([EPBRS](#)) organise a workshop on: *“Investing in Innovative Research for Nature and our livelihoods: Strengthening the research strategy to reinforce the ERA on Biodiversity”*. The workshop will take place on April 11-12 in Brussels.

The aim of the workshop is to identify ways forward to consolidate the ERA on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and to explore what are the research priorities in the current research and environment policy context.

The specific objectives of the workshop will be to:

- » Explore current priorities for the biodiversity research agenda in relation to Horizon 2020
- » Review the strategic functions of the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRS) and its added value to support the research strategy development
- » Identify links between the biodiversity research agenda and the broader European policies e.g. EU 2020 Agenda

If you are interested to contribute to the preparatory consultation and/or to the workshop please [provide your contact details](#). As the organisers would like to ensure a fair representation of disciplines and stakeholders, there will be a selection of invitees.

→ Contact [Estelle Balian](#) for more information

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'Biodiversity Newsflash' is published whenever the need arises to inform the Belgian biodiversity research community on new developments in biodiversity research policies.

The [Belgian Biodiversity Platform](#) is an initiative by the [Belgian Science Policy](#).

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