



CETAF suggestions for Missions under Horizon Europe

At CETAF 44, Vanessa Demanoff and Carole Paleco as representatives of the CETAF European Initiatives Group introduced the latest developments on the new **Horizon Europe Framework Programme**, to which extent it modifies and/or evolves from existing H2020 programme and the new features that it brings in (see the Presentation [here](#)).

Based on three pillars (Open Science, Global Challenges and Industrial Competitiveness, Open Innovation), HORIZON EUROPE seeks to support the creation and diffusion of high-quality knowledge, strengthen the impact of R&I in supporting EU policies and foster all forms of innovation while intensifying market deployment. For more information and the latest developments up to its adoption, please click [here](#). Among other aspects, HORIZON EUROPE introduces a new funding mechanism, the so-called “Missions”.

The CETAF EIAG met with representatives of the EC on 31st July 2018 when the potential for a Mission specifically focused on “Biodiversity” was discussed. While the Missions for the first period of Horizon Europe have already been fixed, there will be a chance to submit proposals for new missions under later iterations of consultations open by the European Commission, which are not expected to take place before 2023. This is where **a great opportunity for CETAF and its membership** lies. This is our chance to make ourselves visible, highlight the role of bio and geodiversity collections, and emphasize the high-quality of the initiatives and actions developed by our members in conservation and halting biodiversity loss.

Proposals for missions must fulfill several criteria and be rooted at the forefront of scientific research while addressing major societal challenges (see checklist below). We need to think big and out-of-the-box, with a multidisciplinary approach and apply creative thinking to approach biodiversity-related critical issues and to bring innovative paths to overcome those, in the overall framework of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#). The proposals should additionally show a cohesive and wide collaborative work among different stakeholders for building and facilitating a “federating element” towards which different actors may work together on a complementary and reinforcing basis,.

As agreed during the last CETAF44 meeting in Bratislava, we now would like to gather your ideas on the topic around which we may jointly build a Mission for Biodiversity. All your suggestions will be compiled and presented at the next CETAF meeting in Tartu, 15-16 May 2019. The best ones will play an integral part of the workshop scheduled in October under the Biodiversity_next Conference in Leiden, NL. You may need to keep in mind that the deadline to submit an abstract is March 22nd <https://biodiversitynext.org/>.

Please have a look at the report on Mission-Oriented Research & Innovation in the European Union, and at the list of proposals that were submitted to the first round of consultations (annexe 2 p.36) :

https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/mazzucato_report_2018.pdf

<https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/b46756ae-f1f6-11e8-9982-01aa75ed71a1>

Be imaginative and bold! Suggest what you would otherwise think impossible!



Your suggestions ***Acceleration of biodiversity assessment – Taking taxonomy to the digital Age***

Key topics with brief elaboration

- The biodiversity crisis demands taxonomic action
- Acceleration of biodiversity assessment will be one of the key topics for future protection measurements
- Taxonomic impediment

Major challenge(s) addressed

- Many taxa are being lost before they have been taxonomically described, especially in the world's biodiversity hotspots
- Rates of extinction increase, decline in biomass... need to improve the way that taxonomy is conducted in taxa that are threatened and have long delays between discovery and description

Possible proposed mechanism(s) to tackle them

- Techniques like DNA-Barcoding, NGS, automated imaging, photogrammetry, high-resolution morphometry, XRay- or 3D imaging (cf. cybertypes) have to be developed and improved to meet the challenges of high-throughput and automated characterization of collection material

Central stakeholders for each suggested topic

Museums, research institutions
Industrial service providers
SMEs (new techniques)etc.

Checklist. Does my suggestion fulfil these criteria?

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| ✓ Cross-disciplinary | ✓ Ambitious but realistic |
| ✓ Clear EU added value | ✓ Sparks activity across disciplines sectors and actors |
| ✓ Bold and inspirational | ✓ Be open to multiple, bottom up solutions |
| ✓ Measurable goal | ✓ Addressing the global sustainable development goals |
| ✓ Indicates a clear direction | ✓ Demonstrates return to society |

Please, return this filled form to: info@cetaf.org, by next **18th March 2019**

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