

BiodivERsA – ERA-Net on Biodiversity research

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The preservation of species is not just an ethical or cultural imperative: biodiversity sustains life on Earth. Numerous biodiversity research programmes exist, but the majority of funding is at the national level, linked to the priorities of each country. While the diversity of biodiversity funding programmes poses many challenges, many Member States have fundamentally similar aims and objectives, implementation and evaluation procedures etc. Funding agencies from 15 EU countries have therefore established BiodivERsA to develop coordination of biodiversity research programmes. The ERA-Net involves 19 major research funding agencies with significant research funding in the field of terrestrial, freshwater and marine biodiversity, with the aim to achieve an efficient trans-national research co-operation in the field of biodiversity research funding. The programme started in 2005 and will run for 4 years.

Funding, management mechanisms and policies are being reviewed in an attempt to agree common strategies, common systems and best practices. The overall objective of BiodivERsA is to network Biodiversity Research Funding Agencies in Europe, and cooperation between the partners will culminate in the publication of a common research call.

The objectives and activities of BiodivERsA until now will be briefly presented.