

# Formazione trasversale sulle soft skills

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## **Collaborative project writing and networking in the context of Horizon Europe**

**My experience with the “Horizon Europe - Work Programme 2021-2022 Food,  
Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment” cluster**





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## **Building a resilient ecological network of conserved areas across Europe for nature and people**

**HORIZON-CL6-2021-BIODIV-01-08: Supporting the development of a coherent and resilient Trans-European Nature Network**

Aims to design Trans-European Nature Network of conserved areas that protect at least 30% of land in the EU

Universities, research institutes, government bodies, non-governmental organizations, and key stakeholders involved





## Choosing the right partners

- Partner selection is pivotal for success
- You need individuals or organizations with the right skills, a shared commitment, and a common vision
- Time to prepare a quality proposal
- Avoiding uncommitted individuals
- Avoiding overlaps with other consortia



## Choosing the right partners

- Choosing the right partners was like building a dream team
- Gender balance





## Choosing the right partners

- Complex challenges often demand a multidisciplinary approach
- Our project benefited from ecologists, NGOs, conservationists, and community engagement specialists working together
- Review the track record of potential partners  
We chose key partners with a long track record of big international projects won
- Ensure that your chosen partners are aligned with the program's goals and objectives  
Our partners were in sync with the EU biodiversity strategy for 2030



## Understand the call

- Several EU offices can be responsible for writing different parts of the call
- Ask for help to understand the text of the call
- Evaluators are often helped by people who wrote the call

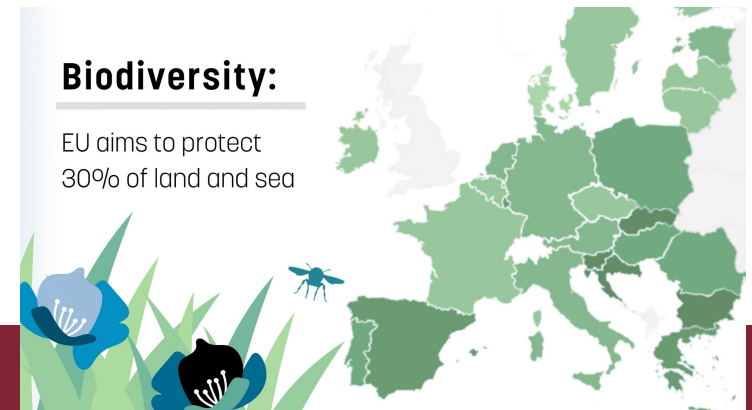




## Defining Project Objectives

- Alignment with Program Goals
- Objectives must be clear and precise
- Objectives should be measurable

We established clear metrics to measure the growth of protected areas and the development of ecological corridors, all in line with the program's defined percentages







## Project Planning and Timeline

- Break the project into manageable components

We tackled specific aspects such as land protection, ecological corridor development, and stakeholder engagement

- Set Achievable Milestones
- A realistic timeline is essential
- Efficient allocation of resources





## Project Planning and Timeline

- Demonstrate your project's adaptability
- Highlight how the different project components will work together
- Highlight your commitment to monitoring progress against milestones and adjusting the plan when needed
- Showcase project's continuity by demonstrating how the planning extends throughout the project's lifespan



## Three key parts: excellence, impact and budget

- Avoid over-focusing on implementation; "Excellence" and "Impact" are extensive and vital sections
- Simultaneously map out impacts while drafting WPs and tasks.
- Copy essential sections from the call into your proposal if they are critical
- Dedicate ample time to budgeting
- Be cautious of travel costs and account for potential inflation changes



## **Articulating Innovation and Impact**

- Clearly articulate the innovative aspects of your project
- Acknowledge and address key challenges
- Quantify the expected impact of your innovative approach
- Discuss how your innovative approach leads to sustainability and long-term benefits
- Address potential risks associated with your innovative approach and outline strategies for mitigating them



## Communication and Dissemination

- Explain who will benefit from your project's outcomes
- Detail the communication channels you plan to use
- Show how you intend to engage stakeholders in the communication process



Thank you!



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