

# MONTHLY INFORMATION EMAIL

## EU GREEN WP3



Dear all,  
This second edition focuses on the results of the seed funding. The selection committee, composed of the members of the Joint Research Committee, met on December 7th to discuss the 18 pre-selected projects. Once more the Joint Research Committee and the Work Package 3 Team wish to thank and congratulate all of you for the hard work that has been accomplished.

In order to prepare the next year of our Work Package, don't forget to fill in the 2023 WP3 satisfaction survey before the 30th of January 2024. It will allow WP3 to assess the achievements of the past year, and to approach 2024 with a global and bottom-up vision.

Thanks for reading,  
WP3 Team

## SEED PROJECTS

Below are the 10 selected projects for this first seed funding call for a total budget of 299 745€. As a reminder, 24 projects were prepared, and 18 were pre-selected by the clusters before the Joint Research Committee's final evaluation. The success rate is of 41,6%.

For Cluster 1, the selected projects are TAILEXER (Prescription of tailored physical exercise from the integration of omic, clinical and lifestyle data to prevent cardiovascular diseases) and MHUS (Mental Health of University Students: associated factors between countries). The purpose of TAILEXER will be to integrate omic, clinical and lifestyle data to define the cardiovascular risk level of an adult population to propose tailored physical exercise programs that focuses on those physical condition factors most necessary for each person according with their health status. As for MHUS, this project will be comparing the mental health of university students between European countries and the factors that influence it.

For Cluster 2, the selected projects are CDF+ (Circular Dairy Farming Plus), a project on the sustainable food production chain and waste management; and AGRIBIOPEP (Bioactive peptides recovery from agrifood industry waste), which proposes solutions for reusing and valorizing the high percentages of waste from agri-food industries.

For cluster 3 the selected project is CHAIN2SUSTAIN (Collaborative Human AI Decision-Making for Sustainability) which aims at benchmarking different approaches to hybrid Human and Artificial Intelligence (AI) collaboration, for the purpose of assisted decision making, with a sustainability bias.

For cluster 4, there are two selected projects. The first is NOTES (Net-zerO challenge for Tourism EducatorS), a project that will assess and identify the skills and training required by the tourism industry. The other selected project is MOTEA (Model of Tourism for Engagement Adoption) which aims to enhance the digital communication of European Tourist Destinations (ETD) to transform them into Smart Tourist Destinations (STD) and promote sustainability. It focuses on studying ETDs webpages in the Strategic Online Communication Approach context for public engagement.

For cluster 5 the selected project is BASE (Baseline Assessment of Sustainability related Educational practices and perceptions of the academic and research staff across EU Green), a project that will design, execute, and evaluate a survey to explore the sustainability-related education practices and perceptions (SREPP) of academic and research staff across the partner Universities.

The selected projects for cluster 6 are PROVES (Promoting evidence-based solutions for biodiversity and ecosystem services delivery) and EUFoodHabits (European consumers' preferences and attitudes towards plant-based products designed to replace animal-based products). The latter aims to explore how European consumers, with different cultural backgrounds, perceive plant-based options, so that we can provide as main outcome, scientific-based dietary recommendations based on enhanced and sustainable dietary patterns. PROVES' aim is too build a long-term research collaboration platform to provide evidence based solutions that can foster biodiversity, restore degraded environments, promote ecosystem resilience and adaptation, and human well-being, with a focus on EU GREEN regions.

The WP3 and the Joint Research Committee would like to congratulate once more everyone who worked on this first call.

**The next Seed funding call will open on September 1st 2024 and close on November 2nd 2024.**

## RESEARCHER MOBILITY PROGRAM

The Researcher mobility program, which finances inter EU GREEN mobilities up to 2000€ per person and per travel, gathered 10 applications overall. This is below the planned estimate as each university can fund up to 10 mobilities per year. [See details on the funded mobilities here.](#)



*The first mobility took place last week with Alain Pagano (UA, in the middle in red on the picture) visiting his colleague Marco Bartoli (UNIPR) in the frame of the cosupervision of their master student, Mariastella Rappocio who was graduating (in black in the picture).*

**The next call opens on March 1st 2024 and applicants are welcome to contact their local referent (listed here) to get information on this call, or to reply to this email.**





# CLUSTERS UPDATE

## Cluster 1

- The subgroup on occupational health from cluster 1 is looking for new participants. Here are some keywords related to the topics at hand in this subcluster: medicine; epidemiology; preparedness/ emergency; physical exposure; Job exposure matrix; work exposome; systematic review; ageing; cohort; translational. To join this initiative, [please fill in this brief document before January 8th.](#)
- An Erasmus Mundus Design Measure is in preparation on the topic “health and well-being” with 5 partners (ATU, UE, UEX, OVGU, HiG)
- The next meeting will take place online on January 26th 2024

## Cluster 2

- Cluster 2 is moving on with an MSCA Staff Exchange application related to the improvement of the efficiency of the different steps of the dairy chain supply.
- The next cluster meeting will be online on December 22nd 2023.

## Cluster 3

- Cluster 3 team is looking for sub-cluster leaders. [The suclusters list is available here, please modify the document to indicate your interest.](#)
- A **BIP\*** on the topic “mathematical and computational modelling for broad application in developing understanding and decision making in health, environmental, societal, and industrial systems” is in preparation.
- The next meeting will be online on January 12th 2024

## Cluster 4

- A question regarding the redefinition of the scope has been introduced, with the possibility of including politics.
- A HORIZON-CL6-2024-CircBio-01-4 is in preparation, for a project called “Tracking circularity in tourism destinations” or “TRACE”. The team from ATU is looking for partners on the following topics : AI, circular economy, sustainable tourism; but all suggestions are welcome. Please reply to this email if you are interested.
- In the frame of a **BIP\*** on the topic "Competence development of university teachers focused on social responsibility", colleagues from UEX are looking for partners. Please reply to this email if you are interested.

## Cluster 5

- Colleagues are working on a **BIP\*** on outdoor learning practices.
- Members of cluster 5 have collaborated on the Educational Strategy with the WP2-Education centered on sustainability and SDGs
- The next cluster meeting will take place online on January 8th 2024



## Cluster 6

- An Erasmus Mundus Design Measure - International Master in Ecosystem Restoration using Nature Based Solutions (IMERNATS) is in preparation with five partners (ATU, UO, HiG, UE, UEX).
- Colleagues from universities of Évora (UE), Extremadura (UEX), Parma (UNIPR), Gävle (HIG), Wrocław (UPWr) and ATU are preparing a **BIP\*** on Ecological Restoration. The programme will be coordinated by UE and is focused on a very up-to-date topic totally in line with UN's Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.
- Following on the work carried out for the INVAGREEN proposal recently submitted for the seed funding call, colleagues from HIG have proposed a BIP\* on Invasive Alien Species. Several partners are working together to draw up a proposal.

## PHD COUNCIL

The second meeting of the Phd Council, composed of representatives for the doctoral schools of the alliance will take place on January 23rd 2024. One of the tasks of this instance is to construct a Blended Intensive Program dedicated to young researchers. The first edition will be held by UEX, and is being designed by a team composed of participants from UE, UO, HiG and UEX.

## TASKFORCE

- The Taskforce will host webinars on the following topics:

**Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Post doctoral Fellowships** : “introduction to the call” and “how to write a competitive proposal” in April 2024

Other webinars will come on **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Doctoral networks**, and on **Horizon Europe Pillar 2 (Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society)** calls.

The recording of the previous webinar on **Horizon Europe Pillar 2 - Cluster 6 (Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment)** [is available here.](#)

[If you would like to see a topic proposed in those webinars, please reply to this email.](#)

- The University of Parma has recently launched the MSCA@UNIPR BOOTCAMP 2024, which consists of 5 days of high-quality training dedicated to post-doc researchers who wish to apply for the next MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2024 call, having the University of Parma as hosting institution. From the 13th to the 17th of May in Parma, 20 motivated and talented researchers will be selected, and they will be provided with intensive training and coaching on how to develop successful project proposals for the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship (MSCA-PF). To be selected for the Bootcamp, the post-doc researchers together with their supervisors will have to complete a short project proposal. Call documentation, eligibility conditions for candidates, application form, and detailed information are available [at the following dedicated webpage](#). After the bootcamp, the participant will be committed to apply for the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2024, HORIZON-MSCA-2024-PF-01-01 call by submitting a final project by the call deadline (11th September 2024).
- The European taskforce, composed of European project advisors from the alliance, will meet online on February 12th 2024.



## JOINT RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The Joint Research committee, composed of all the vice rectors for Research from the alliance, will meet on February 2nd 2024.

## MEET A RESEARCHER



This month's researcher is **João E. Rabaça** from University of Évora. He holds tenure of Associate Professor at Department of Biology, School of Sciences and Technology and coordinates the LabOr-Laboratory of Ornithology an infrastructure of MED – Mediterranean Institute for Agriculture, Environment and Development. His research focused on avian ecology and conservation biology. In recent years, he has used his knowledge on birds' biology to foster consciousness of Nature and sustainability among citizens. Additionally, he has a special awareness in the spread out of scientific knowledge.

### **Recent publications:**

Mendes, Ana; Martínez Hernández, Lorena; Badoz, Léa; Slobodian, Lydia & Rabaça, João E. Towards a legal definition of ecological restoration: reviewing international, European and Member States' case law. *Review of European, Comparative and International Environmental*, 2023, 32(1), pp.3-17 <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/reel.12476>

Roque, Inês; Lourenço, Rui; Marques, Ana; Martínez-López, Emma; Espín, Silvia; Gómez-Ramirez, Pilar; García-Fernández, Antonio J.; Roulin, Alexandre & Rabaça, João E. A first record of Organochlorine Pesticides in Barn Owls (*Tyto alba*) from Portugal: assessing trends from variation in feather and liver concentrations. *Bulletin of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology*, 2022, 109(3), pp. 436-442 <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35871684/>

Lourenço, Rui; Pereira, Pedro F.; Oliveira, Amália; Ribeiro-Silva, Joana; Figueiredo, Diogo; Rabaça, João E.; Mira, António & Marques, João T. Effect of vineyard characteristics on the functional diversity of insectivorous birds as indicator of potential biocontrol services. *Ecological Indicators*, 2021, 122, pp. 107251 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolind.2020.107251>

*If you would like to introduce someone from your university, please reply to this email.*





## WHAT ELSE?

- Next January, the UA internal selection committee for the doctoral allowances will take place. As a reminder, this call offers funding for co-direction or co-tutelle PhDs with a French cosupervisor and is co-funded by the French Ministry of Research.
- **Call for Blended Intensive Programs** ideas : the WP6, dedicated to “Mobility and Internationalization” is launching a call to gather BIPs applications within the alliance, with an **application deadline on January 8th 2024**. For applying, please contact: Anna Posadowska-Malarz ([anna.posadowska-malarz@upwr.edu.pl](mailto:anna.posadowska-malarz@upwr.edu.pl)) from WP6 for more information on **BIPs** and the application process. Additional information can be also requested to your local WP6 representative.

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### What is a Blended Intensive Program (\*BIP) ?

A Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) combines physical and virtual mobility. It's a unique opportunity for collaborative problem-solving with experts from various countries and fields, tackling challenges related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Please contact the international services from your university for more information as the slots for BIPs are constrained by the Erasmus+ granted to each university. For instance, the university of Angers doesn't have funding left for 2023 - 2024.

Contact Anna Posadowska-Malarz ([anna.posadowska-malarz@upwr.edu.pl](mailto:anna.posadowska-malarz@upwr.edu.pl)) from WP6 Team for more information on BIPs and the application process.

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- ***Eat less meat: Will the first global climate deal on food work?*** For the very first time, "after three decades of climate summits, 134 countries signed the first ever declaration on reducing emissions from food production on 1 December at the COP28 meeting. Food accounts for one-third of global greenhouse-gas emissions, so researchers welcome the move. If people switched to eating mostly plants, and less meat, it would cut one-quarter of food-related emissions. Halving food loss and waste would have a similar impact. Figuring out what is politically digestible is the next big hurdle". [Find the complete article here](#).
  - Save the date! The next **Researchers' week will take place in ATU, Sligo campus from the 17th to the 19th June 2024 for all WP3 members**.



**Thank you for reading this 2nd edition of EU GREEN's Work Package 3 information email.  
Happy holidays to you and your loved ones.**

**Kind regards,  
Work Package 3 Team**

