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ANNOUNCES AN OPEN COMPETITION FOR THEMATIC STUDY OF:

AGROECOLOGY AND SUSTAINABLE YIELDS TWG

Study type: Desk study with some application of quantitative and qualitative research methodology

Research field: Agroecology

Study keywords: quantitative and qualitative indices; measure the socio-ecological impacts of an agroecologically-oriented food-system; organic food production. More detailed specification of the expected content of the study can be found in the annex.

Expected outcome: 20-page study without annexes

Expected structure: Introduction, objectives, study methodology and concept, main outcomes and conclusion

Duration of work/preparation: maximum 5 months from 15th of October 2021 until 15th of February 2022

Submission deadline: 15th of February 2022

Payment: € 15 000 (decreased by the compulsory social insurance rates if the applicant is a natural person, but in the case of private applicant either as an individual or as a research institute, the payment should be reduced with VAT). In order to prepare the good quality thematic study, it is possible to involve external competencies even in the framework of further contracting, however, the main contract is concluded only with the candidate.

The BIOEASTsUP project supports the completion of 7 thematic studies related to the scope of the macro regional Thematic Working Groups (TWGs). The aim of the thematic studies is to make a deep analysis that is not covering those specific needs identified by the TWGs. Thematic studies make a significant contribution to the macro-regional development of a given theme by presenting a new aspect of it. Thematic studies will be one of the cornerstones of the common BIOEAST Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA).

The thematic studies for each TWG are:

1. Agroecology and Sustainable Yields TWG
2. Bioenergy TWG:
3. Food System TWG:
4. Forestry Value Chain TWG:
5. Freshwater based Bioeconomy TWG:
6. Bio-based material TWG:
7. Education TWG:

Required documents for the application:

1. Curriculum Vitae or/and Institution introduction
2. List of references including Impact Factor publications and international and national projects in the context of study' research field
3. Work plan for preparing the study max. 2 pages.

The required documents shall be sent to the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture by email in pdf format to Ákos Kristóf ([mailto: akos.kristof@am.gov.hu](mailto:akos.kristof@am.gov.hu)) by **the latest 20th of September 2021**.

The open calls have been sent out to relevant institutions and experts via the BIOEAST Board members, so that the calls are distributed to all BIOEAST Member States. Submitted applications will be assessed by a “Core Team” on the basis of the required documents sent. The Core Team will be composed of TWG coordinators and other consortium partners of the BIOEASTsUP project. The core team will be led by the Task Coordinator (HuMA) and the Project Coordinator (IUNG). Applications received will be evaluated and selected within two weeks after the submission (deadline 4th of October 2021). Institutions or experts from Non-BIOEAST countries are freely to apply. The Study preparation process will be regularly monitored by the Core Team.

Annex

Required conditions in terms of content, focus and expected results for Thematic studies: Socio-ecological indicators of agroecology-systems in the BIOEAST countries

Study content

- reviews of existing socio-economic indicators in context of agroecology (for example the TAPE, the EU Bioeconomy Monitoring System);
- identifies gaps regarding the scope of the currently available socio-economic indicators;
- designs quantitative/qualitative indicators capable of measuring the socioecological performance of agroecology-oriented food systems/networks (for example income, costs, volunteering, dietary data, waste generated, soil quality, biomass, etc.);
- presents the usefulness of the socioeconomic indicators for the policy makers for evaluating agroecology practices.
- maps the relevant legal and policy environment in agroecology.

Expected results

- complex system of indicators for measuring agroecology-oriented food systems/networks for the BIOEAST region;
- set of region-specific policy and legal recommendations
- guideline for policy-makers for evaluating and upscaling agroecology practices

Link to the BIOEAST SRIA, Vision paper

- asset for the Thematic SRIA since it would add a gap-filling socio-economic and ecological aspects to the understanding and measuring of agroecology in the region (that was not barely touched on in the current SRIA).
- potentially creates the foundation for scientific measurement of the social and ecological indicators of agroecosystems in the region on which currently absent or little knowledge exist.
- contribution to the long-term sustainability and upscaling of agroecological practices and relevant product development in the macro-region that protect the region's biodiversity and natural assets.
- lays the foundation for an evidence-based background that could legitimize agroecological practices as their benefits and positive contributions to the environment and society would be measured. Therefore, the results would contribute to the viability and increase of rural livelihoods, plus the innovation potential building on agroecology principles can take a root and contribute to rural development in the BIOEAST region.

Link to the EU policies, strategic documents, goals

- Besides Cluster 6 within Horizon Europe, it could interlink with Cluster 2 by understanding the societal – including political, ethical, cultural, gender and economic – effects of advancements and the impact transformations drivers of change in relation to agroecology on jobs, skills, education, productivity, income, welfare and inequalities. Plus, it could contribute to the development of evidence-based policy recommendations focused on agroecology and its economics.
- From Farm to Fork (part of EU Green Deal), the study could contribute to enlarging the knowledge on agroecological practices (by measuring them through indicators) and their environmental and societal impacts (e.g. reduced pesticide usage through agroecology practices, increased organic land) Also, to make sure that agroecology generates fairer economic returns for all stakeholders by knowing and evaluating the benefits of agroecological practices. Moreover, the result of the study could contribute to empower consumers to make informed, healthy and sustainable food choices through the indicators.
- Regarding the Bioeconomy Strategy, the study could contribute to understand and measure bioeconomy, agroecology-based food systems and practices effects and impacts on the ecological boundaries of our planet. Therefore, ensuring the management of natural resources in a sustainable way, to reduce dependence on unsustainable resources and to strengthen the sustainability and viability of European rural areas by understanding agroecological practices' complex effects on society and the environment.