



**ecobreed**  
IMPROVING CROPS



Funded by European Union  
Horizon 2020  
Grant agreement No 771367

SECURITY (DISSEMINATION LEVEL)	Confidential
CONTRACTUAL DATE OF DELIVERY	n.a.
ACTUAL DATE OF DELIVERY	8. 10. 2022
DELIVERABLE NUMBER	n.a.
TYPE	Internal document
STATUS AND VERSION	Final
NUMBER OF PAGES	22
WP CONTRIBUTING TO THE DELIVERABLE	WP 9
LEAD BENEFICIARY	KIS
OTHER CONTRIBUTORS	
AUTHOR(S)	Antoaneta G. Kuhar, Vladimir, Meglič, Andreja Žibrat Gašparič
KEYWORDS	Executive board meeting, minutes
ABSTRACT (FOR DISSEMINATION)	The document contains minutes of the twenty sixth meeting of the Executive Board held at CRI, Prague, Czech Republic on 28 and 29 September 2022
DOCUMENT ID	26_Executive Board meeting_September 2022 Prague_minutes

# 26\_Executive board meeting\_September 2022

## Prague\_minutes

AGENDA

# ECOBREED 26<sup>th</sup> EB Meeting

Czech Republic, 27 - 30 September 2022

**Monday, 26 September**

Arrivals

**Tuesday, 27 September | 08:00 - 20:00**

08:00 – 20:00 | Visit of PRO-BIO in Staré Město

- ❖ *Travel by train, departure station: Praha hlavní nádraží (Praha hl.n.) EC 141 at 8:02 from Praha hl.n. to Zábřeh na Moravě (10:21) and from Zábřeh at 15:36 (E 114) or 16:37 (E 124) back at 17:52 or 18:52, lift arranged by PRO-BIO from Zábřeh to Staré Město (the way there and back, both about 45 minutes)*

*Dinner together*

**Wednesday, 28 September | 09:00 - 17:00**

09:00 – 10:00 | Introduction & general items

10:00 – 12:00 | Task 1.3

12:00 – 17:00 | 3<sup>rd</sup> Periodic Report

*Dinner together*

**Thursday, 29 September | 09:00 - 17:00**

09:00 – 10:30 | Press conference (*the time may change*)

11:00 – 17:00 | 3<sup>rd</sup> Periodic Report and AOB

**Friday, 30 September | 9:00 - 18:00**

Departures or visit of the Researchers' night in Prague

## 26\_Executive board meeting\_September 2022

### Prague\_minutes

#### Visit of PRO-BIO in Staré Město

Departure to Staré Město at 7:30.

On the first day of the meeting the ECOBREED executive board members visited the partner PROBIO, obchodni společnost s r.o. in their headquarters in Staré Město in the north-eastern part of the Czech Republic. PROBIO is the pioneering organic food producer and one of the biggest organic farming businesses in the Czech Republic. The EB members had a meeting with Adam Brezáni and Ing. Martin Hutař, one of the two founders of PRO-BIO and the beginner of ecologic agriculture in the Czech Republic. After the meeting Ing. Hutař took the ECOBREED members for a tour of their production facility and shop.

We returned to Prague at 20:00.

#### ECOBREED 26<sup>th</sup> EB Meeting

**Meeting started on Wednesday, 28 September at 9:01.**

Executive Board members present in person: Vladimír Meglič (coordinator), Paul Bilsborrow (deputy coordinator), Heinrich Grausgruber (WP2 leader), Peter Dolničar (WP3 leader), Vuk Đorđević (WP4 leader), Dagmar Janovská (WP5 leader), Werner Vogt-Kaute (WP6 leader), Mario A. Pagnotta (WP7 leader), Antoaneta G. Kuhar (project manager and WP8 leader) and Andreja Žibrat Gašparič (KIS).

Executive Board member absent: Pavol Hauptvogel (WP1 leader)

#### Introduction & general items

The project coordinator, Dr Vladimír Meglič started the meeting saying that we have visited a beautiful part of the Czech Republic (CZ) yesterday and visited our partner PRO-BIO, a pioneering organic farming business in CZ. He thanked Dagmar Janovská (CRI) for organising the trip.

The coordinator informed the EB members that the 3<sup>rd</sup> periodic report needs to be finished soon as the review meeting is planned for December 2022.

He then asked Dagmar Janovská (CRI) to add to the logistics regarding the meeting today and tomorrow. Dagmar presented the plan for today's meeting and tomorrow's press conference which is planned for 9.30 AM. The coordinator added that the press conference is important to emphasise the impact of the Czech partners CRI, PRO-BIO and SELGEN in the ECOBREED project and the importance of the institute's work in organic farming in general.

## 26\_Executive board meeting\_September 2022

### Prague\_minutes

Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) presented the agenda of the 26<sup>th</sup> Executive Board meeting. She added that we were struggling with the termination report of Nikolaos Volakakis (GEO, Greece). The termination was started in May, although Nikolaos Volakakis left before. There were some technical problems uploading the financial report into the EC system. At the end, by beginning of August they could submit the termination report (from the last periodic report to May 2022) which only included the termination letter and financial report with nothing to report. Nikolaos Volakakis (GEO) also transferred the money back to KIS and so does not have any obligations towards the consortium anymore.

The review meeting for the 3<sup>rd</sup> periodic report will be held online on 14 December 2022. Antoaneta G. Kuhar asked the EB members to reserve one whole day for this review. At present, we do not know yet who the reviewers will be as they will probably be announced at the beginning of October.

There were no further changes in the consortium during the period from the last EB meeting.

### Task 1.3

The coordinator said that he is sorry that Pavol Hauptvogel (WP1 leader) could not be present at the meeting. He has discussed the issue of Task 1.3 with him by phone and will visit him in person soon.

The coordinator informed the EB members that we need to prepare a public database on material that was identified within the project. As there is an issue with the Newcastle FPT portal, we will alternatively do a simplified database (advanced excel file with all filters to access sheet). This would be easier to do and less expensive. The database would be public and published on the ECOBREED website.

Andreja Žibrat Gašparič (KIS) presented the excel sheet proposed for Task 1.3 and the coordinator started the discussion on the various options. He added for EURISCO accessions there will be a link to the EURISCO database added to the excel file.

In column "Details" there should be a Zenodo file link for each accession. Paul Bilsborrow (UNEW) added that there should be separate links for each institution and each variety, which could be difficult for wheat, but easy for potato. Werner Vogt-Kaute (NATUR) added that the criteria should be as neutral as possible and within the frame. The coordinator said that there could be a filter added (e.g., drought resistance, blight resistance etc.) for each variety or accession. Dagmar Janovská (CRI) added that the database can be extensive with enough funds. The

## 26\_Executive board meeting\_September 2022

### Prague\_minutes

coordinator said that each crop leader will be responsible for adding the links into Details/database.

Dagmar Janovská (CRI) added that there could be different links for genotyping and phenotyping. The coordinator said that it will be simplified to one excel file with 4 sheets for the 4 crops in ECOBREED. The morphological data will be the same for all.

Dagmar Janovská (CRI) then said that there could be a separate excel file for genotyping and a separate file for phenotyping. The coordinator did not agree and maintained that one excel file would be best, but there could be filters added.

Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU) added that he has data sheets for each partner in WP2 as too many sheets in one file can be problematic.

Mario Pagnotta (UNITUS) added that we first need a list of what is in Zenodo.

The coordinator explained that there won't be enough time nor funds for a bigger database (e.g. EURISCO had 20 years to build its database), we have only one year to do this. He suggested a simplified database with the following table structure:

- Variety: will have an active link to the institution or company (e.g., KIS variety to KIS webpage)
- Accession No.: direct link to the gene bank (EURISCO)
- Details: active link either again to EURISCO or to Zenodo (Dagmar Janovská (CRI) added that in this section there should only be link to Zenodo)
- Sources: EURISCO or company link

Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU) added that we could upload this by March/April 2023 as three-year harvest are already finished. And we can then update links to articles etc. within Zenodo.

The EB members then discussed the proposed sheet structure in excel.

Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU) believes that the Accession No. column is redundant. The coordinator added that here will be placed the EURISCO link and Dagmar Janovská (CRI) agreed that this is important and should not be omitted.

Dagmar Janovská (CRI) commented that "Traits for selection" could be omitted from the excel file. The coordinator suggested to leave only drought resistance, blight resistance, suitable for organic farming and similar. Werner Vogt-Kaute (NATUR) and Peter Dolničar (KIS) agreed that "Traits for selection" is an important category for potato but will probably be empty for buckwheat. Werner Vogt-Kaute (NATUR) added that the traits "suitability for organic farming" is redundant in this project.

## 26\_Executive board meeting\_September 2022

### Prague\_minutes

The coordinator then asked the WP leaders which traits are important for farmers to look into the details. Werner Vogt-Kaute (NATUR) said that type of disease could be important. Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU) added that we only need traits suitable for organic breeding. Werner Vogt-Kaute (NATUR) said that farmers are interested in some diseases connected to the individual country (e.g., some diseases important for farmers in Germany, but not in Austria). Vuk Đorđević (IFVC) added that he has many traits for soybean and does not know how to make this so descriptive and simple for the database in "Traits for selection". He thinks that descriptive categories are not important for soybean as they could be misleading to users. He suggested to just keep the Zenodo link and then someone who is interested in the details can check them there. The EB members then agreed that the "Traits for selection" column should be removed.

Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU) said that under "Status" there should be mentioned where each variety is listed. Vuk Đorđević (IFVC) said that he would also remove this column. Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU) then suggested to add the breeding line (BL), cultivated variety (CV), and genetic stock (GS) as filters for this column. Werner Vogt-Kaute (NATUR) asked if we should include the new EU heterogenic material lists and the coordinator said that this could be added to the "Status" as a filter. To this, all EB member agreed.

The column "Country" should be kept, but not origin as decided by the EB members.

The coordinator asked if the column about "Original breeder/holding institution" is important and Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU) said that this is very important information and should be kept, and Paul Bilsborrow (UNEW) agreed.

The coordinator said that all the gene bank material will be added to column "Source" with EURISCO links. "Original breeder" we will keep and add a link to the institute/company. And in "Details" there will be a link to Zenodo with the option to put all data into one meta excel sheet, if possible, but could add links to smaller parts of data. All EB members agreed to this structure of the database.

Column "Year of release": it was decided by the EB members that this is also important and should be kept in the database. Also, the column on "Taxon" will be kept.

The coordinator then asked what the deadline for this database should be and suggested that by the end of November the database should be ready and after 1 December 2022 the WP leader could start to fill in the data. Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU) asked the WP 2-5 leaders for an online meeting to agree on the structure of this database. Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) suggested that this could be discussed in the pre-review rehearsal meeting. The date for this will be agreed

## 26\_Executive board meeting\_September 2022

### Prague\_minutes

later and send per email (but must be before the review meeting on 14 December 2022). She said that the first draft of the Task 1.3 database should be ready by March 2023 (at the time of the next EB meeting) and after this only Zenodo link should be added. KIS will prepare the background for this on the ECOBREED webpage.

The coordinator thanked everybody for the productive discussion and ended this topic.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Periodic Report

The coordinator presented the work document for the periodic report. The report will be prepared in MS Word and the coordinator asked Andreja Žibrat Gašparič (KIS) to present how the work will be coordinated as she will do the technical editing of the report.

Andreja Žibrat Gašparič (KIS) asked the EB members whether they would prefer to upload their text into a shared document on MS Sharepoint or send the texts to her and she will upload it to the shared MS file. She also asked the EB members to send her figures and tables separately and upload only the text into the shared document. She will check the document regularly and make backup copies.

Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU) said that he prefers to do the work on Sharepoint and would like to see the latest version to be available there.

After a short discussion the EB members agreed that the 3<sup>rd</sup> periodic report (PR3) will be prepared by each partner for his WP and send to Andreja Žibrat Gašparič (KIS) to upload to the shared document. The latest version of the document will be available online on MS Sharepoint. Figures and tables must be sent separately from text and bigger tables will go into the Appendix.

Werner Vogt-Kaute (NATUR) suggested that the text for each WP should be limited, e.g., to 25 pages as the document could be quite long. The coordinator agreed that we should decide on a maximum number of pages to bring some balance to the report. After a short discussion between the coordinator, Paul Bilsborrow (UNEW) and Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU) it was decided that the WP reports should be 20 pages long as a guide including tables and figures.

The reporting period for the 3<sup>rd</sup> periodic report (PR3) is from 1 May 2021 to 30 September 2022, which means it covers 17 months.

Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) summarised that the document will be available on MS Sharepoint and the project office will prepare text templates for each WP for what needs to be part of the report (tasks, problems, risks etc.). Another thing is that each WP leader will need to add a summary for publication which will be then put

## 26\_Executive board meeting\_September 2022

### Prague\_minutes

online and made publicly available after we upload PR3 to the EC system. The template for PR3 will be sent to WP leaders by Monday or Tuesday next week. Before submission, the coordinator and Paul Bilsborrow (UNEW) will read the whole document and the text will also be checked by InstaText.

Report submission official deadline to the European Commission is 29 November 2022.

After a short discussion between the EB members, it was decided that the WP leaders should have their reports finished by **31 October 2022** and submit it to MS Sharepoint and to Andreja Žibrat Gašparič (KIS). The coordinator added that the grace period is Monday, 7 November 2022. After a comment from Werner Vogt-Kaute (NATUR) about problems of getting data from the Slovak team, the coordinator said that he will help with the communication with NPPC. All the EB members agreed to the proposed deadlines for the PR3 technical report.

Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) added that the deadline for the PR3 financial report for all partners is **17 October 2022**. All partners will need to return their excel files by this date, Antoaneta G. Kuhar will check them and fill them into the portal. The final financial report should be ready by **7 November 2022**. Antoaneta G. Kuhar will help all partners with reporting in the EC portal and she will check every report before submission.

The ultimate deadline to submit the whole document for PR3 (technical and financial report) to the system is **25 November 2022**.

### Milestones

Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) then presented the pending milestones:

- M23: FPT data management system, we reported but did not mark it as achieved. Werner Vogt-Kaute (NATUR) said that there was the decision to add the bulletin as milestone; the bulletin for 2021 is now finished. Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) added that we will mark it as achieved then it will be published in Zenodo.
- MS24: not yet marked as finished; Werner Vogt-Kaute (NATUR) said that CCPs were distributed; he described what to do in Task 6.3 and there was some discussion about which crops are included (not only wheat, but also buckwheat); he added that they need to grow a population in three farms in this task. The EB members discussed what this task involves.
- MS37: Vuk Đorđević (IFVC) has send data to two partners and will check with them if they have the data. Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) said that we need to mark if it was achieved and put the date and write a short text and she asked Vuk Đorđević to ask the partners if they have received the data and



## 26\_Executive board meeting\_September 2022

### Prague\_minutes

when. He agreed to send another message to partners and put Antoaneta G. Kuhar and the coordinator in CC.

- MS38: Peter Dolničar (KIS) will also need to send the message again to partners regarding the data.
- With this, all milestones for this periodic report are finished.
- There are not many milestones left till the end of the project.

Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) showed the partners again how the portal works and what needs to be done for PR3 and what is still pending (e.g., data sets). Also, gender, innovation (this part will be checked with Helena Valas), dissemination and communication data, publications, and acritical risks.

#### Deliverables

- D3.2: UNEW needs to upload the deliverable by end of October 2022. Paul Bilsborrow (UNEW) said that he will do it until the deadline.
- Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) said that for this reporting period we only have 3 deliverables to be included. Two are minutes of the meetings and one is a practice abstract. For the next PR the list of deliverables is much longer.

#### WP1

The coordinator said that Task 1.3 is the only one not yet finished in this WP. We have already discussed the database structure within this task. The rest has been finished.

#### WP2

Heinrich Grausgruber, WP2 leader, reported on this WP.

##### *Task 2.1*

Field trials problems with hailstorm with some partners; spring wheat was harvested but no field data yet. Late nursery – communication problem with SELGEN for the past 6 months. Heinrich Grausgruber has no data and info from them. He will discuss this with Pavel Horčíčka (SEL) tomorrow if he joins the meeting. Wheat nursery at ATK was severely infected with common bunt. Hence, ATK cannot provide seed samples to NPPC for quality analyses. Instead, ATK provided seed samples to BOKU where they will be cleaned and analysed by NIRS.

##### *Task 2.2*

Problem – Karin Hage-Ahmed is away on maternity leave. One deliverable is due in spring 2023 and this has to be coordinated with UNEW. Karin got all the data from sequencing and wanted to hire new people for doing the analyses.

## 26\_Executive board meeting\_September 2022

### Prague\_minutes

#### *Task 2.3*

UVIGO – problem: how to condense the huge amount of data from UVIGO for PR3 as they always send a lot of tables.

#### *Task 2.4*

Everything under control. Marker analyses for the late maturity group will be carried out at ATK and NARDI during winter (after sowing of winter wheat). Until the milestone deadline, this will be done.

High protein content in wheat: three populations were created in two crosses: (i) MAS for the presence of *Gpc-B1*; (ii) MAS for absence of *Gpc-B1*; (iii) unselected population. Seed material was distributed to BOKU, SECOBRA, NPPC, ATK, RGA and NARDI for testing in the forthcoming season.

#### *Task 2.5*

WP2 leader needs a list of crosses from each partner which cross progenies will be still on the fields in 2023. More feedback is also needed on the perennial wheat crosses from the involved partners. Problem as some partners do not report anything on their trials.

The coordinator added to inform partners that if data is not delivered, then no costs will be advanced. Antoaneta G. Kuhar also added that she sees the excels before the reports go to the system and for this type of problems this is crucial. The coordinator added to just send them the reminder and that the cost will not be acknowledged if no data is sent.

The WP2 leader continued that the Greek material was tested two times in Greece and in 2022 one year in Italy and Austria. In order to get more reliable data, it was decided with UNITUS to test the Greek durum wheat again in 2023 in Italy and Austria together with a few check varieties.

The coordinator asked if there will be any issues for next year and the WP2 leader said that he believes everything should be ok and that they already plan some joint publications.

### WP3

Peter Dolničar, WP3 leader reported he had a meeting in Poland with partners on WP3, UNEW also attended. They planned what needs to be done in the next period. Despite this there was no real action from them in the past 2 months.

#### *Task 3.1*

Everything going according to plan. UNEW and KIS report on remote sensing results. Trials were set in all 4 countries. Hungary had only a small number of cultivars.

## 26\_Executive board meeting\_September 2022

### Prague\_minutes

#### *Task 3.2*

Paul Bilsborrow (UNEW) has prepared the deliverable for this task.

#### *Task 3.3*

In task 3.3 there was successful second year of trials. At KIS there were problems with stiling potatoes from the ground, but KIS team managed to get samples for all the planned evaluations.

#### *Task 3.4*

Finished last year, this year trials were performed in Slovenia, Hungary and Poland. No one reported problems. The deliverable is due for February 2023.

Sometimes there is a problem with communication with the partners (not answering emails).

For next year, KIS will have a smaller phenotyping trial in T 3.1 in Slovenia. There will also be the second year of cover crop trials at UNEW, UK. Breeding is a continuing process and all the activities in the programmes will be done also next year.

The coordinator asked about any problems with Hungarian partners and the WP3 leader reported that they finished Task 3.1 as it was agreed. For breeding, officially they are working. The coordinator added that we had extensive negotiations with them when transitioning to a new partner. We do not want an issue with the final report and problems with the Hungarian partner. Antoaneta G. Kuhar added that for PR1 and PR2 they claimed costs for traveling, but they later delivered a higher amount. They demanded prepayment but we hesitate to do this as we are not sure whether they will deliver their part of the agreement. In Martonvasar, at the annual meeting, we had discussions about this. The WP3 leader added that Z. Polgar (MATE) reported about his trials, and they will deliver this. Antoaneta G. Kuhar added that if they do not deliver content, there is nothing to report on finances and the WP3 leader said that he will make this communication with the Hungarian partner as soon as possible.

#### **WP4**

Vuk Đorđević, WP4 leader, reported that there were some issues with delay in shipment for protein analysis. Maria Bernhart (SZG) had problems sending this to Serbia from Austria. But this has now come to a successful conclusion.

#### *Task 4.1*

Some problems with pigeons in fields as they like soybeans very much.

## 26\_Executive board meeting\_September 2022

### Prague\_minutes

#### *Task 4.2*

Used certain genotypes from Greece and the trial went well. Due to drought, there is a question what they will harvest. The WP4 leader does not know if the data will usable.

Next year, there are some trials planned as well as some breeding activities in Serbia and Austria. Also, weed trials will be performed.

Insect tolerance is finished. This will be the focus of publications for next year.

Partners were ok and responsive, no big issues with partners.

The coordinator asked about the Romanian partners and the WP4 leader said that they get data from them now so no issues.

The coordinator added that time between harvest and final report might be a challenge for next year. The WP4 leader assured him that they will be prepared for that.

Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) asked about personnel and the WP4 leader said that in Global Seed there is a new person working with the trials (Jovica) and that they will help them with this. Antoaneta G. Kuhar added that he should contact all partners and explain what they need to do in the financial report if they want to claim money. The WP4 leader agreed to do this.

#### WP5

Dagmar Janovská, WP5 leader, reported on this WP.

#### *Task 5.1*

Completed last year, we are preparing the manuscript. We have only 12 genotypes from Slovenia, will see how to prepare this type of data.

For the report, we will use data from Austria and the Czech Republic, more concise.

US problems – germination of several lines, did not receive all the data from Rachel.

#### *Task 5.2*

Alleopathy - a lot of data from UVIGO, almost all analyses completed. Also, UNEW almost finished with summary report sent to WP leader.

#### *Task 5.3*

Two additional field trials in Slovenia and the Czech Republic, both are in the field. Slovenia had spring trials; no data received as yet. US had heavy rain and cancelled this field trial after communication with Rachel Breslauer from WSU.

## 26\_Executive board meeting\_September 2022

### Prague\_minutes

The coordinator agreed that this is not so crucial, but Aleš Kolmanič (KIS) needs to send the data as soon as possible.

#### *Task 5.4*

Genotyping has been completed. Barbara Pipan (KIS) and Meilang Zhou (CAAS) will prepare publications.

#### *Task 5.5*

Everything is under control. Only problems with RGA as Primož Titan does not send reports. In Martonvasar they agreed on internal deadlines, but RGA report did not uphold to this agreement. The WP5 leader thinks that Primož Titan (RGA) does not understand that there are different kind of reports. The coordinator agreed that this is a challenge and will call Primož directly to communicate this to him.

The WP5 leader said that for next year they are almost finished with their work on WP5.

### WP6

Werner Vogt-Kaute, WP6 leader, reported on this WP.

#### *Task 6.1*

Bulletin for 2021 is completed, only some remarks must be added for Zenodo and will be finished next week.

#### *Task 6.2*

Farmer trials are almost in line, only problem was Ion Toncea (NARDI) who had three trials instead of four. He needs to repeat the missing trial next year. Slovakia also needs to repeat three trials.

Almost all the data for the PR3 report is prepared.

The coordinator added that this should be communicated next week when the WP6 leader will visit KIS and will see Aleš Kolmanič in person.

#### *Task 6.3*

Description –there is no indication of when to finish the population evaluations in task description, only that they need to be in three locations. The coordinator agreed with the WP6 leader. The WP6 leader added that soya and buckwheat were a problem in the beginning of the project in comparison to wheat, but there is no problem now.

The coordinator added that the bulletin should be repeated for 2022 data and the WP6 leader agreed. Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU) added that to upload it to Zenodo he will need the authors for the bulletin and the WP6 leader assured him

## 26\_Executive board meeting\_September 2022

### Prague\_minutes

that he will send him the data for the 2021 bulletin next week. The coordinator added that maybe the bulletin could be published with an ISSN number, and this will be communicated at KIS as a publication in KIS monographs as an e-book. Andreja Žibrat Gašparič (KIS) will communicate this with the library at KIS.

#### WP7

##### *Task 7.1*

Mario Pagnotta, WP7 leader, reported that there some events had been organised. By the end of this year, we will have 6 days of 12 planned for Task 7.1. The coordinator added that planning these events is crucial. BOKU planned an event very well, but it was a mess with bursaries.

Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU) agreed that there were problems with the bursaries at their event this summer. Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) also agreed that we need to focus and plan the events with bursaries much better.

The coordinator added that we need to see how many events with bursaries we still have planned. The WP7 leader said that for Task 7.1 an event is planned for November in Serbia.

The coordinator informed Vuk Đorđević (IFVC) as organiser for the event how to handle the organisation of events under Task 7.1 and V. Đorđević replied that they still have no feedback from students. Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) added that we published this event, but there was no announcement with respect to bursaries. It was not enough to just publish the event on the webpage. At KIS, we had a problem with application to the workshop and bursaries as too few people applied and as such the event had to be cancelled. Better advertising is needed for future events.

Mario Pagnotta highlighted that to fulfil the 12 days planned 6 days' workshop should be organized by BOKU, NPPC and IFVC. The coordinator suggested to the WP7 leader that he should discuss with the organisers. Then there was a discussion between the coordinator, the WP7 leader and Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU) that the Slovakian team (NPPC) does not have the personnel to do an Advanced Phenotyping event of this scale.

The coordinator said that next year there is a conference in Vienna on soybean, maybe we could link this to the conference and have a workshop for younger scientists and offer them bursaries; and they could also attend for the congress. Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU) said that the problem is that the students that apply are not necessarily prepared and know some basic things. The coordinator said that the WP7 leader should talk to the Slovakian partner about how to organise this workshop. Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU) added that the limit for the bursaries should be about 10 people. The coordinator also added that we have

## 26\_Executive board meeting\_September 2022

### Prague\_minutes

money only for bursaries but not for lecturers and such costs must be covered from organiser institutions' budgets.

Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) added this part of the project was planned for young researchers and spreading of knowledge. We should figure out an add on (e.g., the Vienna conference) as this could be perfect for our workshop. Maybe we could add this to the other planned workshops at the Vienna soybean conference. But this needs to be decided soon and communicated. The coordinator said that the WP7 leader and Vuk Đorđević as organiser should talk with the organisers of this event with focus on advanced genotyping. Vuk Đorđević (IFVC) agreed that these two workshops (Slovakia and Serbia) could be part of this and will communicate it with the organiser. This is a good idea, and he will try to arrange this as the programme is still in the making. Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) added that then we will provide bursaries for the students. The coordinator agreed that this is a fantastic idea, and we should try to do it this way.

#### *Task 7.2*

BOKU event was organised. The main problem was with the bursaries.

KIS has postponed their event because of too few applicants. The coordinator needs to discuss this with Uroš Žibrat (KIS) and maybe organise the workshop at beginning of next year. He added that we need to plan at least 4-6 months before as we need to spread the word about these types of events and bursaries also. The WP7 leader then also discussed with Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) what is the budget for these events and bursaries. They all agreed that the workshops need to be advertised more and should not be prepared for more than 10-12 people.

#### *Task 7.3*

A lot of events were arranged. Some partners still did not do any events in PPT. Werner Vogt-Kaute (NATUR) added that we should have a video conference with partners which training events are still missing. Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS), the coordinator and the WP7 leader discussed how many partners have missing events. Some partners are problematic, e.g., MATE as they do not understand what needs to be done in this task and do not respond to emails. The coordinator added that for the report we need to write why some events have still not been organised. For next year, we need to discuss with partners who still need to do these events and inform them that they have one year to do that. Werner Vogt-Kaute (NATUR) added that the 7.3 events can be also done in winter. Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) added MATE needs to do it as we need the geographical coverage also in the project and focus on the different crop. We should communicate this with MATE as soon as possible.

### WP8

## 26\_Executive board meeting\_September 2022

### Prague\_minutes

Antoaneta G. Kuhar, WP8 leader, reported:

*Task 8.1* is finished.

*Task 8.2*

Dissemination activities: ECOBREED partners were more active in the past reporting period but not in the last year. We submitted practice abstracts and one of the deliverables. The WP leaders were asked how the practice abstracts (PA) are being advanced. Werner Vogt-Kaute (NATUR) said that he is in charge of the next PA and is thinking what interesting topic to include for farmers. It is planned to have a video conference for this after the periodic report. He has a set of 4 topics planned already. The coordinator added that each WP must deliver a set of PAs, each one PA. Dagmar Janovská (CRI) excused herself saying that she is delayed with the PAs. The coordinator stressed that PAs are an important part of the project.

Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU) asked if it is possible to change one of his published PAs as he has found a typo. Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) assured him that this is not a problem and will be corrected.

There was a discussion between WP leaders about the topics of PAs that were already covered. Paul Bilsborrow (UNEW) added that the topic should be understandable and not too scientific, as the target is a general audience. Peter Dolničar (KIS) said that a PA about Colorado potato beetle is planned, Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU) suggested to do something about perennial wheat. Werner Vogt-Kaute (NATUR) suggested a PA about seed quality. Paul Bilsborrow (UNEW) added that he has a PA is planned already with SMA.

The WP8 leader said that the next deliverable with PAs is due next May (2023) and so the production of the text should be underway by February or March 2023. She then asked the WP leaders to communicate this with their partners.

The WP8 leader then presented the conference attendance in PR1 and PR2 and asked if WP leaders and partners plan to attend any conference in the future. Werner Vogt-Kaute (NATUR) said that he is planning to attend to conferences or workshop within the frame of ECOBREED where he will present results. The WP8 leader said that at the 2021 buckwheat conference and the 2022 potato conference in Krakow ECOBREED had only posters and presentations with published abstracts. The next planned conference is the soybean conference in Vienna in 2023 and the annual Gumpenstein breeding conference (mainly wheat). Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU) said that he plans to attend the wheat-gluten conference in Madrid in 2023 and a conference in Hungary in May 2023 where he will be a part of the scientific committee. Mario Pagnotta (UNITUS) will also attend



## 26\_Executive board meeting\_September 2022

### Prague\_minutes

a conference in October 2022, titled "From seed to pasta". Dagmar Janovská (CRI) will attend a buckwheat symposium in Poland in 2023.

#### *Task 8.3*

Exploitation activities: a discussion on using ECOBREED logo and trademark continues. Next week Helena Valas and Werner Vogt-Kaute (NATUR) will meet in Ljubljana on this topic.

The coordinator added that questionnaires were redistributed but the response was not perfect. We need to find ways how to promote our trademark and the varieties. By spring 2023, we should have a draft on how to approach that and what is the best way to do this. Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU) added that SECOBRA was interested to use the trademark. The coordinator said that it would be free until we have the licence, so 5 years after the project it would still be free. It would be payable after 2028. Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU) added that SELGEN released the first wheat variety, should be under this trademark and communicated with SELGEN. In NARDI, one breeding line has a name, one genotype is still only a breeding line, and it will be released soon, and we could discuss with them. In the durum line, there is also potential for one variety to use the trademark. Werner Vogt-Kaute (NATUR) added that we should communicate this with the partners, they probably do not know that it is free for them right now. Trademark could be an indirect protection. Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU) added that our breeders are not interested in packing the seeds and therefore logistics is a problem. The coordinator concluded that we need a better strategy for this and discuss this with Helena Valas.

The WP8 leader then moved on to demonstration events. She showed a table that we have 27 demo events realised but some partners still had prepared no demonstration events (i.e. SELGEN, IHAR, BIOMILA, RGA, GS and MATE). She also warned that demonstration events cannot be done during the winter to which Werner Vogt-Kaute (NATUR) agreed. He also said that there is no minimum number of participants, can be only 5 farmers and the event can still proceed. The WP8 leader said that some partners make these events together with companies so WP leaders should inform their partners that they can organise the event together. For example, SELGEN is not communicating with the WP leaders and MATE is probably not at all sure what they need to do within WP8.

The coordinator proposed to send an email to these partners that this is their last chance to do this as 2023 will be the last year for these events and explain again what needs to be done for demonstration events. The WP8 leader added that questionnaires are all translated and the excel sheets for survey analysis are prepared so this should really not be an issue. The coordinator agreed that these events are easy to organise in comparison to training events. The WP8 leader

## 26\_Executive board meeting\_September 2022

### Prague\_minutes

added that in PR3 we will report that we sped up process for organising demonstration events, but 6 partners still did not prepare such events. The coordinator added that this is a deficiency of the management as everything is prepared. He knows that they had some different understanding what the events are but now this should not be an issue. Also, there are no COVID restrictions anymore. He concluded that the ECOBREED management team will inform the 6 partners that they need to organise demonstration events. Werner Vogt-Kaute (NATUR) added that the next step is to define the deadline when the partners have to tell us when the demonstration events will take place, as you plan this usually between March and September. The coordinator and the WP8 leader both agreed to this.

The WP8 then presented the new social media communication campaign that started this summer and is quite successful, there were also some non-scientific papers published in this reporting period. But when she presented the number of published scientific papers and it seems that there are yet not enough scientific articles published. There should be at least 2 scientific papers per partner, right now there are 17 peer review articles in total, should be at least 30.

The coordinator said that Mario Pagnotta (UNITUS) has submitted one article just recently and Meiliang Zhou (CAAS) will also publish his results. Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU) added that two PhD candidates will also publish their results soon. The coordinator added that Barbara Pipan (KIS) has also one article planned. Dagmar Janovská (CRI) added that the WP5 group is preparing publications on phenotyping and CAAS has also publications planned. The coordinator added that we have enough publications planned for WP5. Vuk Đorđević (IFVC) said that he has 3 students working on publications connected to ECOBREED and this will be peer-review publications. Peter Dolničar (KIS) said that they were discussion publications in Krakow and that UNEW will publish one article for sure, also as a guest editor in one of the scientific journals.

The WP8 leader then asked how we are doing on theses and dissertations connected to ECOBREED. The coordinator said that there will be some additional students with PhDs. Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU) added that we need to take care that students do not miss acknowledgments to ECOBREED. The coordinator agreed and said that we must be checking all these acknowledgments. Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU) said that there are at least 5 people connected to ECOBREED in WP2, of these there are at least 3 PhD students and 2 Masters students.

The WP8 leader then said that one of the planned activities are new project proposals for national and European projects; if anybody submitted a proposal on organic plant breeding or organic agriculture, just inform the WP8 leader, there is no need to send the proposal itself.

## 26\_Executive board meeting\_September 2022

### Prague\_minutes

The WP8 leader then reminded the EB members about the other planned exploitation activities in this task. She added that we agreed on the indicator for peer review articles and that there should be 30 articles by the end of the project. Paul Bilsborrow (UNEW) said that many articles will be published even after the end of the project. The coordinator added that the EC will check this number and we will need to explain to the reviewers why we did not reach those numbers. We can say that we plan to do articles and list them (what we plan to publish) and a deadline when it will be published. Each WP leader should inform partners about the need to publish peer-review articles as part of the project.

The WP8 leader then showed the exploitation table for PR1 and PR2 and the planned metrics and a discussion was started about what is included in the various planned activities. Werner Vogt-Kaute (NATUR) said that breeding lines will come out at the end of the project. Then there was a discussion between EB members about the meaning of the word pre-breeding. The coordinator said that we will need to explain that we are already covering a lot of the planned exploitations activities and add them to the table. The WP8 leader said that she will send this table to the WP leaders and each one explains what was planned or already finished and to defend the numbers.

Werner Vogt-Kaute (NATUR) added that for CCPs we have fulfilled the metrics (if we count the CCPs or numbers of farmers). The last time we reported 25 farmers planted CCPs. The coordinator said that we need to correct the number for PR2 and write 7 CCPs (not 25 as these were farmers). There was a discussion about metrics for farmers between the WP8 leader, Werner Vogt-Kaute (NATUR), Paul Bilsborrow (UNEW), Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU), and the coordinator: environmental metrics, yield, quality, protein yield, disease resistance, cover crops etc. could all be assessed. The WP8 leader suggested that one PA should be about the metrics for farmers and the coordinator and Werner Vogt-Kaute (NATUR) agreed to this. As these metrics are already measured, they should be added to the current report said the WP8 leader, and other EB members agreed.

The last exploitation activities discussed was efficient, ready-to-use farmer participatory breeding systems, and Werner Vogt-Kaute (NATUR) added that this is about breeding lines and for the 4 crops in the project, and Paul Bilsborrow (UNEW) agreed. The coordinator said that we are developing this and it will be achieved by the end of the project, that means it will be reported in PR4.

The WP8 leader thanked everybody for elaborating about the exploitation results.

## 26\_Executive board meeting\_September 2022

### Prague\_minutes

#### WP9

Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) will hand the person/months tables and tables of costs to all WP leaders who should check if everything is corrected and in line with the activities declared. This will happen at the end of October or beginning of November. The coordinator added that the beginning of November many have issues with availability, so this has to be planned and arranged in time. Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) knows for some partners that the reports could be a problem but after Martonvasar details have changed. None of the present partners reported bigger deviations in the reporting. Also, she asked WP leaders to think about a figure/photo at the beginning of the individual WPs in PR3 to represent the past 17 months- to have a more dynamic report.

The coordinator asked if there are any other questions or business. Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) said that the dates for next meetings should be discussed. Dagmar Janovská (CRI) said that there should be a EB meeting in person before the review. There was some discussion on which location would be best for this meeting between the EB members. They agreed that Vienna would be the best location between 13-14 December 2022. BOKU will arrange the Zoom meeting link with EC. The meeting will be attended by 10 people. The rehearsal will be on Tuesday morning. Final decision will be made after we get info from the EC.

The next EB meeting will be held in March 2023 in Spain (with UVIGO). The next annual meeting is in Vienna in June 2023. For the autumn EB meeting will have to be decided where to meet.

After that the coordinator asked Dagmar Janovská (CRI) about the details about tomorrows' press conference.

With this the coordinator concluded the 26<sup>th</sup> ECOBREED executive board meeting.

**The Wednesday meeting was closed at 18:05.**

## 26\_Executive board meeting\_September 2022

### Prague\_minutes

#### Press conference

The press conference on ECOBREED started at 8:30.

On Thursday, ECOBREED partners from the Czech Republic organised a press conference for journalists about the project. The project was presented by Dagmar Janovská (CRI), Adam Brezáni (PRO-BIO) and Pavel Horčíčka (SELGEN). Also present were members of the Czech press and the Czech Ministry of Agriculture.

The press conference was started by Dagmar Janovská (CRI) and Adam Brezáni (PRO-BIO) who presented the ECOBREED project. Then the WP leaders (Heinrich Grausgruber, Peter Dolničar, Vuk Đorđević, Dagmar Janovská, Werner Vogt-Kaute, Mario Pagnotta, Antoaneta G. Kuhar) as well as the coordinator, Vladimir Meglič, presented their institutions, the work packages, the scientific work and some results as well as the management part of the ECOBREED project.

The questions by journalist:

- *Have the issues with organic seeds evolved? When will we be able to fully rely on organic seed in our sector?*

Werner Vogt-Kaute (NATUR) said that one of the topics is to have organic seed for every crop and we still have to do this. In ECOBREED, we focus on organic plant breeding. This are two separate things. We will of course try to improve the seeds also in some trials, but this is not the main focus. Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU) added that it is important how big the market is. If every country could reach a higher amount of organic breeding, this would be great. Pavel Horčíčka (SELGEN) added that there will always a limit on the weather – cold harvest means fewer seeds; we are always limited by nature, in organic breeding especially.

- *Green Deal with 25% organic agriculture plan – what do the ECOBREED partners think about this?*

Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU) thinks that the current crises with prices will be more impactful on conventional farming as the fertiliser prices will also go up, which is favourable for organic farming.

- *You work with a lot of genetic material within the project, the information you generate do you put it into gene banks and make it available to others?*

The coordinator answered that one of the outcomes is also presenting all the data we are producing; at the end we will have a publicly available database and linked to the results of our trials for the 4 crops; so there will be info on every accession or variety that we used in the project / in the project website; there will also be a link to the EURISCO database. Dagmar

## 26\_Executive board meeting\_September 2022

### Prague\_minutes

Janovská (CRI) added that data will also be part of the national database in the Czech Republic.

- *Question about buckwheat breeding the Czech Republic and how to increase the consumption of buckwheat and take it out of the superfood basket?*

Werner Vogt-Kaute (NATUR) said that we talk with processors a lot, distributors buy products from China, Turkey even within the brand ECO, BIO etc. Maybe also buckwheat from China. But all this we can produce in our countries, much more regional. We need to substitute the foreign imports, and this goes hand in hand with higher production within a country. And it is not always a question of prices of regional food. Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU) added that the price is only a matter for low-income people; other high price products are vegan products right now but are produced very cheaply and not organic; most of lentils are from Canada if they are not organic. Meat substitute products are produced cheaply but the source material comes from far away not regional.

- *Do you face any difficulties to bring the results of research to the public (to connect research with practical experience)?*

Mario Pagnotta (UNITUS) said that in Italy they have a regional agricultural agent, this does not work very much for the extension although the farmers are interested in getting new information.

**The press conference was finished at 12:00.**