

6 Executive Board Amendment Video Meeting_September 2019_Minutes



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AUTHOR(S)	Antoaneta G. Kuhar
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Executive Board members present: Vladimir Meglič (co-ordinator), Paul Bilsborrow (deputy co-ordinator), Pavol Hauptvogel (WP 1 leader), Kristina Petrović (WP4 leader), Werner Vogt-Kaute (WP6 leader), Mario A. Pagnotta (WP7 leader) and Antoaneta G. Kuhar (project manager and WP8 leader).

Executive Board members absent: Heinrich Grausgruber (WP2 leader), Beata Tatarowska (WP3 leader), Peter Dolničar (deputy WP3 leader), Dagmar Janovská (WP5 leader)

The video meeting of Executive Board was constituted and skype video & audio connection tested. The coordinator welcomed participants and presented the main purpose of the meeting, which is approving the core for the amendment, which needs to be submitted by Tuesday, September 10th at very latest in order to avoid starting the reporting period with an amendment request open. Project manager added that only previously discussed changes with PO are going to be introduced; any other issues need to wait till the approval of the 1st periodic report, which is March 2020 at earliest. Heinrich Grausgruber, Dagmar Janovská, Kristina Petrović and Mario A. Pagnotta have previously sent by e-mail their comments on the amendment core, which were discussed further. In terms of WP4 it was agreed to change “Serbian” to “South-east conditions”. The budget of the new partner SCU-COR will be added to the amendment core once it arrives. If no budget and other necessary data arrive till the deadline, SCU-COR is skipped from the amendment. Finally, it was agreed that the project manager sends an e-mail to the partners asking to confirm their PLSIGN and FSIGN in order to avoid delays with the amendment sign.

Other businesses:

- Kristina Petrović, the host of the 6th EB meeting asked the participants to send their logistics information in order to book the accommodation and transfers from/to the airport. The project manager is going to send excel file to be filled in and returned both to Kristina and Antoaneta.
- A discussion on advanced phenotyping and for the inclusion of common genotypes was initiated. It was agreed that e.g. 5 varieties (medium maturity) across both sites would be ideal; 15 early varieties for Slovenia and 15 later ones for the UK. In Slovenia they will be planted mid to late October and in the UK end of September ideally.

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Amendment core final draft:

Dear Madam/Sir,

In connection with the above-mentioned Grant Agreement, I request (on behalf of the consortium)

the amendment attached to this request.

It concerns the following changes:

1. Addition of a new beneficiary (international partner)
2. Changes of Annex 1 (description of the action)
3. Changes of Annex 2 (estimated budget of the action)
4. Changes of Part B

These change(s) are necessary for the following reason(s):

- 1. SCU-COR (PIC 962062491) added as new beneficiary – international partner (beneficiary No. 26). Start date: entry into force of the amendment**

Centre for Organics Research (COR) was established in November 2017 as a first organic farming focused R&D and training centre in Australia. COR is a Joint Research Centre of the New South Wales - Department of Primary Industries (NSW-DPI) and Southern Cross University (SCU) located in Lismore, Australia. Contribution of COR within ECOBREED's activities is mainly in the areas of the farmer-participatory evaluation/benchmarking of new wheat varieties and factorial field experiments. In addition, limited number of trials on soybean, buckwheat and potato will be performed. COR contribution will be added to WP6 to perform detailed genetic and grain quality analyses for the participatory trials in Australia, as well as inclusion of a comparison of soil management/fertilisation protocols as a second factor in the participatory variety trials.

SCU-COR's intention to join the ECOBREED consortium was already presented by its director Dr Carlo Leifert during the kick-off meeting of the project in June 2018. It was well accepted by the partnership.

Annex 1 and 2, as well as Part B updated as SCU-COR added as new beneficiary. SCU-COR's budget added.

2. Changes of Annex 1 (DoA)

All changes in Annex 1 are either proposed to replace minor mistakes that appeared during the GAP or to reflect the vegetation of the 4 crops that was affected by the start of the project in May 2018. In addition to it for more effective execution and supervision the governance structure was slightly adjusted or extended (introduction of Task leaders). The proposed changes do not reflect the resources available for the partners:

2.1. WP1

- 2.1.1. Task 1.1. leader introduced: Pavol Hauptvogel (NPPC)
- 2.1.2. Task 1.2. leader introduced: Johann Vollmann (BOKU)

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2.1.3. Task 1.3. leader introduced: Vladimir Meglič (KIS)

2.2. WP2

2.2.1. Task 2.1.: leader introduced and text updated

- Leader: Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU)
- Insert “GEO” as involved partner: GEO is mentioned as partner in the text but not in the list of “partners involved”
- Clarification of the content: adding Slovenia for carrying out field tests
- “West” and “East” are replaced by “Late” and “Early” as this is more correct
- Durum wheat is screened not only at one site, i.e. UNITUS, but also by BOKU and MTA-ATK

2.2.2. Task 2.2. leader introduced: Paul Bilsborrow (UNEW)

2.2.3. Task 2.3. leader introduced: Adela Sánchez Moreiras (UVIGO)

2.2.4. Task 2.4. leader introduced: Hermann Bürstmayr (BOKU)

2.2.5. Task 2.5. leader introduced and text updated

- Leader: Maria Megyeri (MTA-ATK)
- New responsible partner: MTA-ATK instead of NARDI. Crosses for the MAGIC populations as well as for some MAS work are carried out by MTA-ATK

2.2.6. Due date for D2.3 changed from M48 to M54: Harvest of the 3rd year of screening is expected in August 2022 (M52) at partners SECOBRA and SELGEN. Two additional months are needed for post-harvest analyses and writing the report.

2.2.7. MS12: lead beneficiary for WP2 changed from IFVCNS to BOKU. It was a mistake during the GAP.

2.2.8. MS17: lead beneficiary for WP2 changed from IHAR to MTA-ATK; due month from M48 to M60. It was a mistake during the GAP, IHAR is not working under WP2. Delay corresponds to the outputs of T2.5.

2.2.9. MS19: deleted for WP2, it was a mistake during the GAP.

2.3. WP3

2.3.1. Lead beneficiary changed from IHAR to KIS, than having Peter Dolničar (KIS) as WP3 leader, Beata Tatarowska (IHAR) as his deputy. Coordination of work between the involved partners is more effectively executed if it is done by KIS due to its suitable geographical location.

2.3.2. Task 3.1. responsible partner changed from KIS to UNEW, task leader introduced: Ankush Prashar. End of the Task 3.1. moved from M36 to M52 in order to get 2 additional seasons (years 2021 and 2022).

2.3.3. Task 3.2. leader introduced: Paul Bilsborrow (UNEW)

2.3.4. Task 3.3. and 3.4.: for both leader introduced: Peter Dolničar (KIS). End of both tasks moved from M48 to M54 in order to get one additional harvest (years 2022).

2.3.5. Task 3.5. responsible partner changed from KIS to IHAR, task leader introduced: Jaroslav Plich (IHAR). End of the Task 3.5. changed from M48 to M60 (breeding of organic potato with marker assisted selection is a long term process which will continue after the project terminates).

2.3.6. Task 3.6. leader introduced: Jaroslav Plich (IHAR)

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2.3.7. D3.2., D3.3. and D3.4. due date changed from M48 to M54: due to the start of the project in May 2018, these deliverables were due for the beginning of the last growing season. By expanding them to M54 we get one season more.

2.3.8. MS22: lead beneficiary for WP3 changed from BOKU to UNEW. It was a mistake during the GAP, BOKU is not involved in WP3.

2.4. WP4

2.4.1. Task 4.1. leader introduced: Vuk Đorđević (IFVCNS)

2.4.2. Task 4.2. leader introduced: Vuk Đorđević (IFVCNS)

2.4.3. Task 4.3. leader introduced: Johann Vollmann (BOKU)

2.4.4. Task 4.4. leader introduced: Marina Čeran (IFVCNS)

2.4.5. Task 4.5.: leader introduced and text updated

- Leader: Darko Marić (GS)
- Deleted “(the same 6 selected species/mixtures as used in Task 3.3)” and replaced by “selected according to agro-ecological conditions in production region”. Argumentation: After analysis of cover crops for soybean we came to the conclusion that cover crops listed in Task 3.3 are not adequate for production in conditions of south-eastern Europe. Secale cereale and mixed of Pisum sativum and Avena sativa selected based on the orientation of organic farm Global Seed which is focused on animal feed production. These cover crops have multiple role in agro-ecological conditions of south-eastern Europe.

2.4.6. Task 4.6. leader introduced: Maria Bernhart (SZG)

2.4.7. MS14: lead beneficiary for WP4 changed from BOKU to IFVCNS. IFVCNS is doing by far more genotyping in soybean than BOKU (which is using only a few molecular markers).

2.4.8. MS17: lead beneficiary for WP4 changed from IHAR to IFVCNS; due month from M48 to M60. It was a mistake during the GAP, IHAR is not working under WP4. Delay corresponds to the outputs of T4.6.

2.4.9. MS22: due date changed from M24 to M30. At M24 the first year of the soybean trials are just sown. Results will be available not before October 2020 (M30).

2.5. WP5

2.5.1. Objective 4 of WP5 adjusted to: perform crosses between and within common buckwheat (*Fagopyrum esculentum* Moench.) genotypes and self-compatible species of the genus *Fagopyrum* to identify fertile progenies that can be used in buckwheat organic breeding programmes. Justification: wider crosses between and within *Fagopyrum* species may enhance the possibility of obtaining the fertile progenies and extend the number of genotypes with demanded traits.

2.5.2. Task 5.1. leader introduced: Dagmar Janovská (CRI)

2.5.3. Task 5.2. leader introduced: Adela Sanchez Moreiras (UVIGO)

2.5.4. Task 5.3. leader introduced, text updated, time scope prolonged:

- Leader: Gabriela Mühlbachová (CRI)
- Text “e.g. conventional vs zero tillage” changed to “e.g. spring vs summer sowing”. Argumentation: Formerly, conventional vs zero-tillage field trials were considered, however, the demand for spring and

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summer sowing of common buckwheat and its influence on the P availability for the subsequent crop was asked by practice. Buckwheat is used not only as a crop for grain production, but it is used as a cover crop and crop for pollinators as well. Buckwheat sowing in summer might be used as freezing cover crop. However, the P availability at different times, in different soils and by different varieties is not known. The zero-tillage technique uses the sowing in the mulch of other crops and we finally realized the cover crop might influence results of P availability made by buckwheat.

- In order to get one more harvest, the end of the Task 5.3 is prolonged to M54.

2.5.5. Task 5.4. leader introduced: Meiliang Zhou (CAAS)

2.5.6. Task 5.5. text adjusted and leader introduced:

- Leader: Primož Titan (RGA)
- New text: To enhance the yield performance of common buckwheat crosses between and within common buckwheat (*Fagopyrum esculentum*), and self-compatible species of the genus *Fagopyrum* will be introduced. The accessions of common buckwheat for this task will be based on information identified from TASK 5.1; other *Fagopyrum* species will be obtained from the gene banks. Crosses will be carried out with the use of hand emasculation, hot-water emasculation and environment sensitive male sterility of some buckwheat accessions (photo or thermo, photo-thermo or thermo-photo male sterility systems). Production crosses (F1, F2, BC1, and BC2 generations), will provide a starting point for the production of buckwheat cultivars suitable for organic farming. Cooperation between project partners will facilitate access to a wide range of buckwheat genotypes/genetic diversity. This will be subsequently used for selection for heterosis and the creation of synthetic varieties. Synthetic varieties with higher amount of seeds will be evaluated under different environments to optimise performance. Argumentation: wide crosses in the genus *Fagopyrum* are prerequisite for the development of heterotic combinations which can improve the performance of existed buckwheat varieties. Extension of different intra- and inter- specific crosses is an additional guarantee for the development of high fertile progenies.

2.5.7. D5.4 lead beneficiary changed from CRI to CAAS, mistake during the GAP. Due date changed from M48 to M54 (see the argumentation in 2.5.4.)

2.5.8. D5.6 lead beneficiary changed from SZG to RGA, mistake during the GAP

2.5.9. MS8: lead beneficiary for WP5 changed from NPPC to CRI. It was a mistake during the GAP, NPPC is not working under WP5

2.5.10. MS13: lead beneficiary for WP5 changed from IFVCNS to RGA. It was a mistake during the GAP, IFVCNS is not working under WP5

2.5.11. MS14: lead beneficiary for WP5 changed from BOKU to CAAS. It was a mistake during the GAP, BOKU is not working under WP5

2.5.12. MS17: lead beneficiary for WP5 changed from IHAR to RGA; It was a mistake during the GAP, IHAR is not working under WP5

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- 2.5.13. MS22: lead beneficiary for WP5 changed from BOKU to CRI. It was a mistake during the GAP, BOKU is not working under WP5
- 2.5.14. MS24 deleted. It was a mistake during the GAP

2.6. WP6

- 2.6.1. New partner SCU-COR added
- 2.6.2. Task 6.1. leader introduced: Paul Bilsborrow (UNEW).
- 2.6.3. Task 6.2 time slot adjusted to the harvests (M25-48 to M27-55) and leader introduced: Werner Vogt-Kaute (NATURLAND). Text adjusted with the participation of SCU-COR.
- 2.6.4. Task 6.3. responsible partner changed from WSU to NATURLAND (Werner Vogt-Kaute) as risk mitigation measure.
- 2.6.5. MS22: lead beneficiary for WP6 changed from BOKU to NATURLAND. It was a mistake during the GAP.

2.7. WP7

- 2.7.1. Task 7.1. leader introduced: Mario A. Pagnotta (UNITUS)
- 2.7.2. Task 7.2. leader introduced: Pavol Hauptvogel (NPPC)
- 2.7.3. Task 7.3. time slot adjusted to the harvests (M7-48 to M15-55) and leader introduced: Werner Vogt-Kaute (NATURLAND).

2.8. WP8

- 2.8.1. WP8 leader changed from Barbara Škrbina to Antoaneta G. Kuhar (both KIS)
- 2.8.2. SCU-COR added to the list of partners
- 2.8.3. Task 8.1. leader introduced: Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS)
- 2.8.4. Task 8.2. text deleted "linked to the General Assembly Meeting" and leader introduced: Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS)
- 2.8.5. Task 8.3. leader introduced: Vladimir Meglič (KIS)
- 2.8.6. Task 8.4. leader introduced: Werner Vogt-Kaute (NATURLAND); time slot changed from M25-48 to M25-55 to adapt to the harvests of the crops; new partner involved added SCU-COR
- 2.8.7. Task 8.5. leader introduced: Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS)
- 2.8.8. Task 8.6. leader introduced: Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS)
- 2.8.9. Task 8.7. leader introduced: Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU) and time slot changed from M1-6 to M1-60.
- 2.8.10. D8.1 "IT" changed to "IP" (typing error)
- 2.8.11. D 8.3. due date changed from M54 to M58 (see 2.8.5.)
- 2.8.12. MS29 to MS33 moved from WP9 to WP8.

2.9. WP9

- 2.9.1. New partner added: SCU-COR
- 2.9.2. Task 9.1. text "Teleconference meetings between all EB members will be held at 3 monthly intervals (with minutes then distributed to all partners)" changed to "EB meetings will be held at 3 monthly intervals (with minutes then distributed to all partners)"; leader introduced: Vladimir Meglič (KIS)
- 2.9.3. Task 9.2. leader introduced: Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS)
- 2.9.4. Task 9.3. leaders introduced: Vladimir Meglič and Antoaneta G. Kuhar (both KIS)

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- 2.9.5. D 9.3. due date changed from M24 to M28.
- 2.9.6. D 9.4. due date changed from M36 to M40.
- 2.9.7. D 9.5. due date changed from M48 to M52.
- 2.9.8. D 9.6. due date changed from M58 to M60.
- 2.9.9. Dissemination level of D9.7. changed from Public to Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services).

2.10. Table 1.3.4. WT4 List of milestones: adjusted to the changes above

2.11. Table 1.3.6. WT6 Summary of project efforts in person-months: efforts of the new partner 26 SCU-COR added

3. Changes of Annex 2 (estimated budget of the action):

- 3.1. New line introduced for Partner 26 SCU-COR and total for the project changed to
- 3.2. Budget structure for Partner 14 – IHAR changed in a way that 7.000 eur from “Other direct costs” (column “f”) were added to direct personnel costs (column “a”). IHAR is not going to purchase equipment (stone collecting machine) previously stated in Table 3.4b and estimated for 11.000 eur. The latter will be allocated partly to category 'personnel costs' (7.000 eur) since collecting of stones should be done by hands, and partly for category 'travel' (4.000 eur) since this category is underestimated in the IHAR's budget. Stones on Polish potato fields are an important problem and, to assure proper quality of experimental fields, should be collected and removed each year. This work is very laborious and time-consuming. It cannot be done by the machine, because prices for stone collectors have increased.
- 3.3. Budget structure for Partner 19 - RGA changed in A. Direct personnel costs. Dr Titan was acting as SME owner without salary (claiming unit costs) from May 1st to December 31st 2018. From January 1st to August 31st 2019 he was employed at RGA. From September 1st 2019 he is again SME owner without salary. Shift between budget categories (unit to actual) was done in a way that 3.900 eur were deducted from “Total c” column and replaced the value in column “a”.

4. Changes in Part B

Changes in Part B reflect the inclusion of the new partner 26 SCU-COR, adjustments of governance structure (described above) and change in Table 3.4b for partner 14 – IHAR (see point 3.2.).

The request is accompanied by the following supporting document(s):

- Annex 1
- Annex 2
- Part B