

13 Executive Board Video Meeting_26.06.2020_Minutes



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ABSTRACT (FOR DISSEMINATION)	The document contains minutes of the video meeting of the Executive board held online via webex on June 26 th 2020.
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AGENDA

ECOBREED 13th EB Video Meeting

26th of June 2020

<https://kmetijskiinstitut slovenije.my.webex.com/kmetijskiinstitut slovenije.my/j.php?MTID=m89cc6af510eb1759c9997a4ee8eb2e11>

Friday, 26th of June | 13:30 - 14:30

P10 GEO

Annual meeting: reflections

AOB

MINUTES

Executive Board members present: Vladimir Meglič (Co-ordinator), Paul Bilsborrow (deputy Co-ordinator), René Hauptvogel (on behalf of WP1), Heinrich Grausgruber (WP2 leader), Peter Dolničar (WP3 leader), Vuk Đorđević (on behalf of WP4 leader), Dagmar Janovská (WP% leader) Werner Vogt-Kaute (WP6 leader), Mario A. Pagnotta (WP7 leader) and Antoaneta G. Kuhar (project manager and WP8 leader).

The video meeting of the Executive Board was constituted and the webex video & audio connection tested. The Co-ordinator welcomed participants and presented the main purpose of the extraordinary meeting, which is **the request of P10 GEO to withdraw from the Consortium**. He reminded that P10 GEO already expressed his concerns for performing soybean trials and WP6 activates in written and was further discussed during the 2 days of the online annual meeting. In addition, a meeting with the Co-ordinator and the project manager was requested by GEO and executed online on June 23rd, during which he informed on the decision to withdraw from the Consortium. Partner GEO once again stated that he's facing problems with getting machinery for the harvest and finding farmers for performing tasks under WP6, in addition he expressed his worries that soybean could not grow on the island and there are severe needs to irrigate the crop, which could not be faced by the farmers. The background of the problematic is the bad socio-economic conditions of Cretan farmers that has recently evoked and was influenced by the Covid-19 crisis. As it

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concerns the soybean, there is a challenge to select the best variety to grow in this harsh environment, as well as a worry that the trials could not be successful even if they are being irrigated. In addition to it, there is a lack of harvesting machinery and man power that might replace it. The discussion was open.

Heinrich Grausgruber said that as it concerns the trials under WP2, screening and phenotyping tasks could be performed on smaller plots. The only problem that might arise is with the spikes that could not be threshed if the wheat is harvested manually. Samples could be sent for analyses abroad. The Co-ordinator added that this might be executed at NPPC, as they will generally carry out quality analyses for WP2 partners

Werner Vogt-Kaute reminded that he had already presented his alternatives for performing tasks under WP6, for example: reducing the plot size, manual harvest and reducing the amount of the harvested seeds. GEO needs to perform soybean and wheat trials at least 4 locations, but if he could not make it, this work might be moved to another country.

The Co-ordinator asked if the soybean trials that are obviously hard to be performed on the Crete Island could be replaced by potato trials. Peter Dolničar, WP3 leader, answered that potato also needs water and without irrigation it could be difficult. In addition, in this case GEO needs to find farmers, who have already been growing potatoes under organic conditions.

Vuk Đorđević explained that the soybean could be sown in winter and alternative varieties could be found, but still the south Crete might be a harsh environment for soybeans. However, the soybean group has nothing to do with the socio-economic conditions on the island.

Mario A. Pagnotta asked if GEO could move some of his activities to the mainland, so that the harsh environment is avoided.

Paul Bilsborrow summed up that he could not really understand what the community pressures on the island are. GEO needs to clarify what exactly he can and cannot perform from the DoA (for example, make a list). Then he needs to seriously consider the provided alternatives and try to stick to DoA. If he still cannot continue, then he needs to submit his declaration for withdraw of the Consortium and eventually a substitution to Cretan agro-environment should be found and the project to be amended.

The Co-ordinator agreed with the above-stated and announced he is going to send this conclusion as a request to GEO, later also having one more online meeting with GEO and Paul Bilsborrow in his role as a deputy Co-ordinator.

The Co-ordinator then moved to the second point of the agenda and namely the **impressions of the annual meeting**. He personally is satisfied with the way how partners had presented their progress of work. There is still nothing clear how the next annual meeting will be executed (live or online), but we need to get used to it. Heinrich Grausgruber added that maybe we need to start thinking how we should amend the budget that is linked to the travel costs. Project manager added that this might be balanced with the extension of the project.

Under AOB point there were three issues. Firstly, the Co-ordinator reported that **NPPC** has already sent the documents linked to the **subcontracting of fast-phenotyping activities**. What follows is the trials set up, schedule the events and

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set up the calls for the bursaries. Secondly, the Co-ordinator reported that there have passed two more weeks from the date the **lead beneficiary (NPPC) for D1.1, D1.2 and D1.3** promised to deliver. **The delivery of the 3 Ds hadn't happened** as promised already several times, which enables the re-submission of the revised 1st Periodic Report for the project. The Co-ordinator added that if the 3 deliverables that are an important part of the Periodic Report are not going to be delivered by Monday, June 29th 2pm CET, he is going to call Pavol Hauptvogel from NPPC and as suggested by the deputy Co-ordinator, a procedure of shifting tasks and budget between partners as a worst-case scenario could be executed. Paul Bilsborrow also added that the reputation of the Consortium has been hazarded; in addition to it, partners have been already waiting for the next transfer of funds. The project manager added that the additional work on the missing 3 Ds will not be accepted as eligible costs. René Hauptvogel, who was representing NPPC, promised that the missing deliverables will be submitted by Monday, June 29th. Thirdly, the Co-ordinator announced that the **SAG member, Mr Bogdan Štepec informed on his change of the position** as an executive director of the Farmers union co-operative of Slovenia. Therefore, this SAG member would be replaced by someone with a similar position within Copa Cogeca or other organisation. He asked the EB members to provide suggestions. Paul Bilsborrow suggested asking Monika Messmer for an advice.

The meeting ended at 13:35.