

## 2 Executive Board Video Meeting\_September 2018\_Minutes



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Executive Board members present: Vladimir Meglič (coordinator), Paul Bilsborrow (deputy coordinator), Pavol Hauptvogel (WP 1 leader), Heinrich Grausgruber (WP2 leader), Beata Tatarowska (WP3 leader), Peter Dolničar (deputy WP3 leader), Kristina Petrović (WP4 leader), Petra Hlásná Čepková on behalf of Dagmar Janovska (WP5 leader), Werner Vogt-Kaute (WP6 leader), Mario A. Pagnotta (WP7 leader) and Antoaneta G. Kuhar (project manager).

Executive Board member absent: Barbara Škrbina (WP8 leader)

Second meeting of Executive Board was constituted and zoom video & audio connection tested. The coordinator welcomed participants and presented the proposed agenda:

1. Welcome, introduction and general items
2. ECOBREED WP reports
3. General discussions and conclusions
4. Any other business and end of the meeting

1) Coordinator announced that project's PO Ivica Karas left on 1<sup>st</sup> of August and we got a temporary replacement; still waiting for the permanent one. Coordinator informed the EB members that there had been an ongoing exchange of emails with Meilinag Zhou (CAAS) and deputy coordinator, Paul Bilsborrow, was in CC. Meilinag Zhou was advised not to apply for the extended budget to MOST, but he did not follow this advice. Right now there's no information what's going on. However, this situation might cause problems with the implementation of the work programme. Therefore we need plan B. Coordinator added that there is a possibility to do some genotyping at KIS, and following his conversation with Dagmar (CRI), it's also possible within their lab. Deputy coordinator expressed his opinion that Meilinag Zhou needs to withdraw his application with the extended budget and it's quite important to notify PO. Coordinator suggested writing a short e-mail to the PO once we have who will be the next one. Deputy coordinator added that potentially we might have an access to relatively cheap NGS facilities, which will be discussed during the coordinator's visit at UNEW in October.

2) **WP1 report (Pavol Hauptvogel):** identification of wheat from the Slovak Republic and Austria was done and multiplication initiated; quantity of seed might be a problem. Heinrich Grausgruber added that every partner established a list of potential varieties and he got all except Selgen and WSU. In addition to this Mario A. Pagnotta established durum wheat list. The plan is that every partner multiplies the material on their own and uses it next year. Coordinator suggested that Heinrich Grausgruber informs everyone how much does he need. Heinrich Grausgruber answered at least 0,5kg for the next season, but we could decide for 1kg. Pavol Hauptvogel wanted to know the dimensions of big plots. Heinrich Grausgruber said it's 10m<sup>2</sup>, because most partners are limited to organic fields. Pavol Hauptvogel added that a phenotyping is being prepared at NPPC. Coordinator said that there are 32 accessions from Montenegro available, but this needs to be discussed further. In addition to this, he proposed that "wheat" group has individual discussions about the

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logistics. Deputy coordinator suggested asking Carlo Leifert to contact Steve Scott Jones (WSU). Heinrich Grausgruber will also ask Dagmar Janovska to contact Pavol Horčíčka (Selgen). Coordinator added that he would like to ask Pavol Horčíčka to be a member of the IP sub-committee and would also call him.

**WP 2 report (Heinrich Grausgruber):** all partners sent material for the MAGIC population of wheat. Maria from MTA is back and we can continue with the work. We're preparing DNA for bunt resistance for several crosses for October and we go on only with the test. We are also cooperating with Monika Messmer from LIVESEED project, along with colleagues from Denmark and Kassel. There is a possibility that one Swiss and one German organic breeders will supply 40-50 g of material. Material was already distributed in September for sowing (multiplication) in October.

**WP 3 report (Beata Tatarowska):** we are preparing the core collection and I've sent our proposal to Peter Dolničar already. We need to know how many tubers from each cultivar and multiplication we need to prepare for next year. Peter Dolničar answered that he got the list, however, we should not limit ourselves to the countries that are represented at the project; we're waiting for Ankush (UNEW) and Hungarian partners (UP). We suggest avoiding big plots (slow rate of multiplication). There are already some suggestions for phenotyping. Coordinator asked how is with the exchange of material because of the weight of potato seeds. Peter Dolničar said we should be also aware of quarantine pests, therefore rather focus on commercial varieties; weight might be an obstacle. Deputy coordinator added that UNEW suggests transferring the seeds from one country to the other, because of the quarantine. Peter Dolničar said that from the beginning we should definitely use seeds from certified breeders. Coordinator suggested individual meetings with potato group.

**WP 4 report (Kristina Petrović):** Soybean group is cooperating and all is going on by the plan, except NARDI, who does not respond to her e-mails. She asked coordinator to help her out with this. In addition to this, she asked WP1 leader to provide them with a template of the table for core collection.

**WP 5 report (Petra Hlásná Čepková on behalf of Dagmar Janovska):** Dagmar prepared a list of 280 accessions from different environmental conditions from 30 countries within Europe. Some of them we've already had in the gene bank, right now are waiting for the ones from Ukraine. Number of H-genes is a challenge. Coordinator asked trying to select most promising accessions or cultivars. Petra Hlásná Čepková added that the summer this year is not a usual one and we will see what will happen in autumn.

**WP 6 report (Werner Vogt-Kaute):** We haven't started our WP so it is not necessary that I say a lot. We will write to the partners in winter whether they will have field days next summer and to mention ECOBREED project in the field days.

**WP 7 report (Mario A. Pagnotta):** There is nothing to be discussed right now.

**WP 8 report (Antoaneta G. Kuhar on behalf of Barbara Škrbina):** Project logo, presentation and poster template, 1st press release was distributed to all partners for use. Visual appearance was registered at EU Intellectual Property Office for classes 31, 35 & 42. An initial Dissemination Plan needs to be set up at the beginning of the project which will include the goals, target audience, key messages to disseminate, sources and concrete dissemination activities (tools, timing and responsibilities) and indicators for the evaluation of the proposed goals. She

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reminded that key stakeholders and end users need to be identified at the start of the project and a mailing list will be established with the support of all partners. All members of the consortium should publish at least one article in a technical magazine during the project implementation time in order to strengthen a dissemination mentality in scientific and innovative teams. Intranet page is working; ID and password were distributed among partners. She stressed that project communication is very important. One channel is the website. We have planned an extensive range of demonstration events (minimum of 22 demonstration events). These events will be supplemented with breeder focused demonstration events with each breeding partner holding at least 1 event per year (minimum of 18 breeding demonstration events) in years 4 and 5 of the project with considerable potential within the EU to target breeders, seed merchants and others with an interest in developing breeding programmes for the production of improved varieties. She has been encouraging partners to use our social media communication tools. Not to forget that each partner should write one informative or promotional article signed by an author to be published in a local newspaper or broadcasted through radio or TV. Kick-off of the project was broadly covered by Slovene local media; it was also published through the channels of UNITUS, VURV and NARDI. ESA (European Seed Association) published an article. Each partner needs to prepare a report on the dissemination and communication activities performed every 6 months, template will be provided, the first reporting period is 1<sup>st</sup> of May – 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2018. The project needs to be promoted via fairs, events, workshop or different meetings. Coordinator attended the biggest agricultural fair of Slovenia at the end of August and presented the project in front of policy stakeholders and breeders. NARDI will attend International Exhibition for Ecological Agriculture ECO-INT 2018 NATURAL TASTE, 2nd Edition (20 – 23 september 2018 in Bacau / N-E Romania). Coordinator is planning to submit an abstract for ICOAS event Eisenstadt, 7-9 November (6th International Conference on Organic Agricultural Sciences), Secobra and Naturland announced they will attend „Öko-Feldtage“ in Kassel, Germany, July 2019. By the end of October, we need to submit Deliverable on Data management plan, for which BOKU is responsible.

**WP 9 report (Vladimir Meglič):** Project manager took over WP8. As soon as we get permanent PO we need to proceed with the foreseen amendment with SCU. There is no feedback from SAG member Klaus-Peter Wilbois. The only information we got is from Monika Messmer (LIVESEED) that he is pretty occupied with the lectures and it might be difficult to be in the advisory board and attend annual meetings. Werner Vogt-Kaute suggested discussing with him.

**WP 10 report (Vladimir Meglič):** we have 3 requirements to report. Deputy coordinator will try to get more specific info from UNEW's projects office department.

3) Coordinator reminded that we have marked 2 milestones (4 & 5). Deliverable 1.1 is due at the end of October (NPPC is responsible). In addition to this one more deliverable will be public (putative collection). End of October is also a time when we need to submit Data management plan and all 3 ethics requirements. Heinrich Grausgruber reminded that during the KoM we agreed that exchange of the material will be documented. Coordinator said that Pavol Hauptvogel (NPPC) has a template from their gene bank and asked him to put the ECOBREED and EU logo and

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distribute it among partners. Coordinator added that we should use collaboration with BRESOV and LIVESEED and share experience for developing materials (booklets) for future breeders.

4) Other businesses: Coordinator proposed and EB members agreed to have 3<sup>rd</sup> EB meeting face to face in Bratislava at NPPC on December 11<sup>th</sup>. The 2<sup>nd</sup> EB meeting was concluded.