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ABSTRACT (FOR DISSEMINATION)	The document contains minutes of the third meeting of the Executive board held at the National Agricultural and Food Centre on December 11th 2018 in Bratislava, Slovak Republic.
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**AGENDA** 

### **ECOBREED 3rd EB Meeting**

Bratislava, 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2018

#### **Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> of December | 09:00 - 17:10**

**09:00 - 09:30** | Welcome addresses

Pavol Hauptvogel, Director, Research Institute of Plant Production (NPPC)

Štefan Ryba, Director General, Section of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic

Zuzana Nouzovská, Director General, National Agricultural and Food Centre (NPPC)

**09:30 – 11:00** | Introduction & general items

Vladimir Meglič, project coordinator

Antoaneta G. Kuhar, project manager

**11:00 – 12:30** | Deliverables, milestones & aims

Vladimir Meglič, project coordinator

Antoaneta G. Kuhar, project manager

**12:30 – 13:30** / Lunch

**13:30 – 15:45** | ECOBREED WP reports

WP leaders

**15:45 – 17:00** | General discussions and conclusions

ΑΙ

17:00 - 17:10 | Any other business and end of the meeting

Vladimir Meglič, project coordinator

Executive Board members present: Vladimir Meglič (coordinator), Paul Bilsborrow (deputy coordinator), Pavol Hauptvogel (WP 1 leader), Heinrich Grausgruber (WP2 leader), Peter Dolničar (deputy WP3 leader), Kristina Petrović (WP4 leader), Dagmar Janovská (WP5 leader), Werner Vogt-Kaute (WP6 leader), Mario A. Pagnotta (WP7 leader) and Antoaneta G. Kuhar (project manager and WP8 leader).

External participants: 2 representatives of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic and 2 representatives of NPPC

Pavol Hauptvogel (NPPC) opened the meeting and introduced Director General at Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr. Štefan Ryba and Director General at NPPC, Mrs Zuzana Nouzovská.

Mr. Štefan Ryba made a speech with a focus on organic agriculture in the Slovak Republic, pointing out that it represents 197 thousand ha, which is 9% of agricultural land of SK. However, only a few organic seed varieties are present and over 95% of varieties are used from conventional agriculture. ECOBREED project should be able to solve such problems and wished us a fruitful meeting.

Mrs. Zuzana Nouzovská said she is very happy to welcome us at NPPC and that her institution is a partner in ECOBREED project. She further stressed the importance of organic agriculture for the country and is convinced we would have a fruitful meeting.

External representatives left the meeting.

Coordinator suggested starting with WPs presentations and in the afternoon move towards deliverables, milestones, aims, and discussion.

#### **WP1 Pavol Hauptvogel (NPPC)**

Pavol Hauptvogel (NPPC) further introduced the research system in SK (state budget and contribution budget from Ministries) and structure of NPPC. Then he further presented shorty the objectives and tasks of the WP1. Reminded that in autumn NPPC started the experiments with wheat, both winter and durum. The putative collection is the next task to fulfil. Soybean will be sown in March-April 2019. Shortly outlined the upcoming deliverables. Pointed out the problem with landraces. Selected wheat genotypes originate from 12 different European countries, majority originated from Germany. 179 soybean accessions are not covered under the

ITPGRFA. He analysed the data on core collection that was provided by all 4 crops. Then showed some photos from wheat sowing.

**Discussion:** Mario A. Pagnotta (UNITUS) reminded that we should use SMTA when exchanging the material. Coordinator explained that for the exchange of the material we need to use ECOBREED SMTA template that was proposed in WP10. In addition, KIS will collect copies of the SMTAs and hand them to REA when needed. Werner Vogt-Kaute (NATUR) asked to get the list of genotypes.

#### **WP2** Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU)

Presented the activities carried so far. Only MTA-ATK, UNITUS and BOKU are involved in durum wheat. Tasks 2.2 and 2.3 haven't started yet. Task 2.4. has already started, although it's foreseen for M13. In November they did marker check for common bunt resistance. Some additional material from partners (IFVC, NARDI) can be included in the backcrosses in 2019. Exchange material with Danish group from LIVESEED (Agrologica) project was agreed. A COST proposal dealing with common bunt resistance was submitted; BOKU, CRI and NARDI are included. Task 2.5: MAGIC population was created (8th of Oct planting in the green-houses; crossing will start next week) and presented crossing plan. Perennial wheat: BOKU initiated the multiplication of 5 bulks of perennial wheat obtained from Werner Vogt-Kaute (originally from WSU). Some perennial wheat is also in Slovenia at RGA. Next point is D2.1 for the end of April.

**Discussion:** there is a challenge with the material from WSU. We haven't got feedback from them. The coordinator said we are in touch with Dr Jones; he is having an issue with e-mails sent from Europe. We need to re-establish the communication about the exchange of the material. Paul Bilsborrow asked for some seeds from the ones left after planting at BOKU, 20 varieties x 50-100 seeds. Coordinator wanted to know if the cooperation with LIVESEED project was established and is working. WP1 leader answered positively.

#### **WP3 Peter Dolničar (KIS)**

Peter Dolničar presented the recent activities on WP3. Focused on the logistic issues with seed delivery and multiplication, along with Brexit impact on exchange of materials.

Regarding task 3.1 and core collection they decided to go for 2 rows x 15 plants, 2 repetitions, 60 plants per location (4 locations: SLO, UK, HU, PL). Planting and phenotyping of core collection will start in 2019.

Phenotyping using remote sensing methods will start in 2020 on set of 20 cultivars with 2 times 60 plants per cv. In 2019 they will start with preliminary testing of remote sensing methods.

Tasks 3.3 and 3.4 were discussed and experimental design proposed. For cover crops and seed technology (task 3.3) details need to be discussed between KIS and UNEW, since cover crops need to be sown already in 2019. Company BIOCARE from Germany is happy to collaborate in the task 3.4. of the project providing microcapsules with CO2 release technology for wireworm control.

In Tasks 3.5 and 3.6 an overview of present status of existing breeding populations and molecular markers deployed at three breeding stations (SLO, PL and HU) were presented and future plans proposed.

He also focused on Task 6.2 from WP6 (farmer participatory field trials): we need to get new seeds to perform trials. Werner Vogt-Kaute reminded that we agreed on starting in the year 2021. But we need to get some materials for Task 6.2. for the year 2020. For Task 6.3. in Slovenia there is a farmer, who is keen on collaborating. But we need to be aware about issues arising from Brexit.

**Discussion:** Werner Vogt-Kaute asked if each crop needs to be in each participating country. The answer was not. However, the coordinator said that if he thinks it would be good potatoes to be planted also in Bavaria or in Austria. He reminded that we need to discuss how remote sensing will be done and we need to get NITRA's commitment.

#### **WP4 Kristina Petrović (IFVC)**

Kristina Petrović presented the work that is in progress, adding that partners collaborating very well for now. Partners are preparing a detailed protocol for trials. Core collection was already prepared and multiplication will be done in spring 2019. During next year when we prepare the multiplication it's important we constantly revise the methodology. Milestones during the 1 year of the project will be achieved on time. Dissemination activities are being conducted respectively, recently attending an event in Austria (18-21 November). Proposal: collaborate with H2020 project Legumes Translated, which has just started (http://www.donausoja.org/de/research/wissenschaft/legumes-translated/).

**Discussion:** Coordinator asked to establish a link with the project Legumes Translated.

#### WP5 Dagmar Janovská (CRI)

Dagmar Janovská presented what was done. The working collection was updated with an additional list from Slovenia and finally, 263 accessions were identified. Based on the fact, common buckwheat is cross-pollinated crop, multiplication must be done in the isolation cages with pollinators. Therefore, for activities connected with the higher amount of seeds it was agreed in KoM to use commercial varieties. 16 commercial varieties (AT, SI, SK, CZ, PL) were identified in Europe. Future plan: start in M13, descriptor list is being prepared. She concluded that CAAS sent an email yesterday that they have already received the information they will receive funding from MOST, but it's not known for which amount: the initial or the extended one. The final decision they should receive before the end of 2018. They will immediately inform the coordinator.

**Discussion:** Werner Vogt-Kaute pointed out that maybe it's a good idea to collaborate with RE-cereal Interreg project (<a href="https://www.re-cereal.com">https://www.re-cereal.com</a>), where a new Russian buckwheat variety looks very promising.

#### **WP6 Werner Vogt-Kaute (NATUR)**

Werner Vogt-Kaute said there is no new information comparing to the last meeting. He would like to have a trial of each crop in Germany, but less number of lines. He added that we need to update the plan with the dissemination activities.

**Discussion:** Paul Bilsborrow commented that UNEW will have a data management system for all crops by the end of January. Werner Vogt-Kaute proposed to translate into the German language.

#### WP7 Mario A. Pagnotta (UNITUS)

Mario A. Pagnotta updated the state of the art for the WP7. He had contacted colleagues from BRESOV and LIVESEED projects, they replied positively. He presented an example of a proposed certificate of attendance for the training courses. Later on presented a potential list of topics for genotyping which was distributed among partners, who will carry them out. There is possibility that some topics can be exchanged between the partners. There was a proposal that we exchange this list with BRESOV and LIVESEED projects. Finally presented the timetable for the execution of the tasks.

**Discussion:** Kristina Petrović said that IFVC has quite a lot of the material for WP7 activities and can contribute. Heinrich Grausgruber asked how many people will attend. Mario A. Pagnotta answered there is no limitation, just bursaries. Coordinator stressed that we have to have organic as the main topic. Werner Vogt-Kaute said he will start working on 7.3 in January.

#### **WP8 Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS)**

Antoaneta G. Kuhar presented the state of the art of WP8. She pointed out that PO asked for a distinct deliverable of the Communication Plan, which might be added while we are preparing the amendment with SCU. A consistency of using logos and ppt template is still sometimes problematic. Therefore all templates will be once again put on the intranet webpage. Dissemination plan is maybe planned to be delivered late, we need to re-consider it. Templates of the practice abstracts and posters (A0) will be developed and distributed among partners. Antoaneta G. Kuhar asked for links to other relevant web-based information systems of agronomy, breeding/selection, and nutritional quality of organic food. Heinrich Grausgruber said he has plenty of information and will try to provide the most relevant ones. Antoaneta G. Kuhar stressed that we need to communicate the project through various channels and further presented the social media analytics for the project. The important issue is the Open Access, which needs to be Gold during the first 5 years of the project. DMP was not submitted yet and the update will follow further. At the end she outlined some challenges that she is tackling with. She asked for: photo material for all 4 crops that were planted and sharing up-to-date information of events. ECOBREED got an invitation from LIVESEED to be presented during Biofach in Feb 2019 in Germany. A poster is being prepared. Werner Vogt-Kaute said he is going to participate in the fair, we need to agree on which dates.

#### WP9 Vladimir Meglič (KIS)

Coordinator started with the information that we have a new project officer. We have informed her about the inclusion of SCU to the project and challenges with CAAS. As we heard today there were some movements in respect to CAAS, so hopefully CAAS will get a funding that it will enable them to continue the project as it was planned. In addition he explained the rules for travel and attendance of conferences and events, which were cleared during the last phone conversation with PO; along with the face to face meetings of the Executive Boards. He also presented the minutes of the phone conversation with PO. The coordinator will once again send an e-mail to Steve Jones, CC Dagmar and Heinrich, so they start to discuss with him future work. IP sub-committee: at KIS we changed the staff, the specialist for IP left and we haven't hired a new person yet. Coordinator asked Dagmar Janovská to check if SELGEN is still ok with participating at IP sub-committee (by Christmas); other partners are Max Mayer from Secobra and Anton Brandstatter (PSOVER).

Coordinator further reminded that Klaus-Peter Wilbois, member of SAG, does not have time to collaborate and now members are Ferdinando Branca (BRESOV), Monika Messmer (LIVESEED), Bogdan Štepec (Slovenia).

Our next EB meeting is foreseen in March 2019, the question is should it be video or face to face. We can find a venue that is accessible to all of us. After the discussion it was agreed that the next meeting might be on March 19th at BOKU, which would be confirmed by partners in January.

Next general assembly will be between May 28-30 at CRI (Prague). An e-mail with all information will follow at the beginning of January 2019.

At KIS a new person, Gašper Žerjal is now responsible for financial matters. Project manager suggested having a test reporting on a voluntary basis (especially for SMEs).

Coordinator presented the list of milestones: what has been fully or partially achieved; continued with the list of deliverables, stressing that DMP is pending to be submitted. There is a bunch of the deliverables that are due end of April. Next one is the end of January and it is a public one. Therefore, we need to make this deliverable in a way that it is representative to the project.

In terms of DMP we do have the draft that needs to be amended. Should not miss to put DOI for genetic recourses. A revision of DMP might be needed within the project timespan, and the coordinator will ask PO. Heinrich Grausgruber will try to meet with BOKU's legal office and check how they can contribute.

Coordinator asked for 3-months report on WPs: 10 sentences what has been done by Monday, Dec 17th (Oct – Dec 2018).

Coordinator asked to respect the WP and deadlines, but not for content's sake. We need to deliver sound results. He further asked partners to communicate about the challenges they are facing. He then closed the meeting.

#### TO DO LIST

What	Who	When	Status
Send minutes of phone conversation with PO to EB members	Coordinator	Dec 17 <sup>th</sup>	DONE
PPT, roll-up, SMTA, comm&diss report templates on intranet	Antoaneta G. Kuhar	Dec 17 <sup>th</sup>	DONE
Contact BOKU's legal office for DMP	Heinrich Grausgruber	Dec 17 <sup>th</sup>	
3-months report on WPs activities	All WPs	Dec 17 <sup>th</sup>	
Send an e-mail to PO asking for a revision of DMP	Coordinator	Dec 20 <sup>th</sup>	
Send mail to WSU (CC Heinrich and Dagmar)	Coordinator	Dec 20 <sup>th</sup>	DONE
Submission of DMP	BOKU & KIS	Dec 21 <sup>st</sup>	
Contact Selgen (IP sub- committee)	Dagmar Janovská	Dec 21 <sup>st</sup>	DONE
D 1.2 first draft	NPPC	Jan 10 <sup>th</sup>	
Info about General Assembly	Dagmar Janovská	Jan 15 <sup>th</sup>	
4 <sup>th</sup> EB Meeting	EB members	19th March 2019	
(BOKU, Tulln, Austria)		(TBD and TBC on Jan 15 <sup>th</sup> )	
D 1.2 contributions	KIS, BOKU, CRI, NARDI, IFVC, WSU, MTA-ATK, IHAR, UP	Jan 15 <sup>th</sup> NEW	
D 1.2 submission	KIS & NPPC	Jan 23 <sup>rd</sup> NEW	
Practice abstract and poster template	KIS	Feb 20 <sup>th</sup> NEW	
Biofach (Nürnberg, Germany)	All	13 – 16 Feb 2019	
Photo material for all 4 crops send to KIS	All (WP leaders informed, partners involved)	Continuously	

General Assembly, CRI,	All	28 – 30 May 2019	
Prague		28 morning EB meeting	
		28 afternoon General Assembly	
		29 whole day General Assembly	
		30 field trip (optional)	

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Executive Board meeting

11th of December 2018, Bratislava (Slovak Republic)





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