

4_Executive board meeting_March 2019 Vienna_minutes



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ABSTRACT (FOR DISSEMINATION)	The document contains minutes of the fourth meeting of the Executive board held at BOKU on March 22 nd 2019 in Vienna, Austria.
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AGENDA

ECOBREED 4th EB Meeting

Vienna, 22nd of March 2019

Friday, 22nd of March | 09:00 - 16:30

09:00 – 09:30 | Welcome address

09:30 – 10:00 | Introduction & general items

Vladimir Meglič, project coordinator

Antoaneta G. Kuhar, project manager

10:00 – 11:00 | IP discussion

All

Anton Brandstetter, PSOVER, invited

11:00 – 11:20 | ECOBREED WP short reports (2 min each)

WP leaders

11:20 – 12:30 | WP execution issues

All

***12:30 – 13:30** / Lunch*

13:30 – 14:30 | ECOBREED amendment

Vladimir Meglič, project coordinator

Antoaneta G. Kuhar, project manager

14:30 – 15:00 | ECOBREED 1st annual meeting

Dagmar Janovská, local organiser

Antoaneta G. Kuhar, project manager

15:00 – 16:00 | General discussions and conclusions

All

16:00 – 16:30 | Any other business and end of the meeting

Vladimir Meglič, project coordinator

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Executive Board members present: Vladimir Meglič (coordinator), Paul Bilsborrow (deputy coordinator), Pavol Hauptvogel (WP1 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: Anton Brandstetter (PSOVER) invited.

Coordinator Vladimir Meglič greeted everybody and passed the word to the host, Heinrich Grausgruber, who gave some logistical information. Then the coordinator went through the agenda.

Within the **introduction and general items section** the Coordinator and Project Manager informed Executive board members about the meeting with PO and OPB initiative (BRESOV & LIVESEED projects) on 21st of February 2019 in Brussels.

- The **meeting with PO** brought a positive and fruitful discussion on the current state of the art of the project, as well as outlining the future activities and challenges. When performing the activities within the project we either stick to the work programme or always justify the changes and if necessary the finances that are linked to them. In this respect, do stick to the 3m reports we need to submit to PO. Deliverables to be submitted on time, if an update is necessary and it is within the reporting period, we ask PO for resubmission; either we wait for the project review meeting and do this following reviewers' remarks. Open access is very important issue, guidance with proposed steps and repository was sent by the Project Manager to project partners on January 26th; they follow the DMP and usual H2020 practices. In regard to this Heinrich Grausgruber added that we still need to prepare a proposal for the identifier of the files and present the proposal to the GA members in Prague (May 2019). The coordinator further reported that PO also stressed the importance that we reach policy makers at national level beside the international communication and dissemination activities of the project. In terms of Brexit and having in mind British partners we have, there is nothing new, it is business as usual. Amendment to be prepared due to the inclusion of Australian partner and correction of the RGA technical mistake within their budget; based on the seasonality of the crops, a 3 to 4 months extension of the project might be taken into consideration. Further on, issues with the international partners, CAAS and WSU, were discussed. CAAS got its financing from MOST and there should not be any impediment for carrying on

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the project work; however, REA hasn't got any official information yet. WSU is not able to participate in the 1st annual meeting due to the lack of finances. Dagmar Janovská (CRI and WP5 leader) declared she does not have funds to pay for getting any samples from the USA to EU. Since the project performance is very important, we estimate how much these costs are and discuss this with Steve Jones about it. Meanwhile Heinrich Grausgruber and Dagmar Janovská prepare a proposal how many samples and costs are foreseen in regard to samples exchange between WSU and EU; than EB members decide who is going to cover the costs. Heinrich Grausgruber proposed a video conference with Steve Jones during Prague meeting; Dagmar Janovská will check the technical possibilities for it. In addition to it, Coordinator will organise a video conference with WSU in advance.

- Meeting with OPB (LIVESEED & BRESOV projects) and PO proved to be very successful and important for arranging common projects' activities. Both projects are interested in getting information when our trainings will be prepared, about bursary and etc. ESA will try to join us in this initiative so, events don't overlap too much. At the same level we talked about exchange of experts on different topics, LIVESEED has quite extensive network, so we can join forces and have common seminars. Werner Vogt-Kaute said he sent several e-mails, but they do not respond. Coordinator will let know LIVESEED who is responsible for WP6 on ECOBREED side, so information flow is not impeded. There are several events, which we can choose to promote our trainings (event in Denmark, event in December in Austria on plant microbotics, application programme for ERASMUS, coordinated by Adrian Rodriguez). There is also an initiative about COST application. Initiative on the common platform where all materials can be available, where to be stored (on the 3 projects' website); check possibilities of webinars or teleconferences. Once we have proposal for our first event, we will distribute info with the other 2 projects. We need to try figure out if there are summer schools already available, so we can put together a list with courses and seminars. Heinrich Grausgruber has already provided a link with available summer schools. There is also a possibility to organise a common project session during Biofach fair in Germany.

Coordinator further reminded about the **IP content** of our project, what we put as tasks and responsibilities. IP sub-committee has fairly important role. Paul Bilsborrow added that we need to be careful what we disseminate not to jeopardise the patents potential, as well focus on protecting plant breeding rights. Coordinator said that we opted for not releasing most of Ds in public, but only the list of the material we work with; but we need to discuss if groups working on the 4 crops

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have an access to the information about the work of the others. Heinrich Grausgruber proposed to fix a rule, who is going to have access to what kind of data. Mario A. Pagnotta doesn't see point to have it. Coordinator recalled that there are provisions in the Consortium Agreement (background). We go step by step and case to case depends on the crops. Werner Vogt-Kaute was interested if farmers will get the materials during the PPB. Anton Brandstetter proposed that they can get material with numerical names, so they do not know what kind of material they work with. Mario A. Pagnotta asked about the open access of the data. Coordinator announced that KIS needs to employ a new IP specialist and asked if partner PSOVER has a lawyer. Anton Brandstetter said they do not have and pay external. Coordinator proposed that Paul Bilsborrow is appointed as IP sub-committee member in respect to the scientific publications and there is an IP subcommittee meeting in Prague. We need also to have a look if each partner has TTO (technology transfer office) and how they are dealing with transferring with the outcomes; at the end we need to harmonise procedures. We have one more thing that we need to produce and it is the 1st annual report in M13 and then every year on. Heinrich Grausgruber reminded that UPOV regulation is the heading regulation.

Decision: Each crop leader is responsible for following the ECOBREED template for SMTA and for collecting them and other possible documents linked to the exchange of material and sending e-copy to the project manager. Paul Bilsborrow is appointed as an IP sub-committee member.

Anton Brandstetter left the meeting.

WP1 Pavol Hauptvogel (NPPC)

Pavol Hauptvogel (NPPC) reported that 2 Ds were uploaded, working on the other Ds. Genetic resources are being multiplied. He and the coordinator visited NITRA about phenotyping, who will contribute to the publication (handbook) on phenotyping. He also emphasized that the phenotyping center in Nitra has only 108 positions for plants, which means testing only 10 varieties of wheat; we need to discuss the criteria for selecting which ones to be tested; we're preparing special characteristics (like agronomic data, diseases). Heinrich Grausgruber therefore stressed that we need to be careful about what kind of varieties we choose in accordance with the organic breeding and organic farming important traits. Peter Dolničar added that 68 varieties of potatoes will be on the list, there are some delays and logistics issues, but we are doing our best to transfer the material (still don't have anything from the UK; please send them before 29th of March).

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WP2 Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU)

1st field trial and multiplications are going on. Trials from Nikos Volakakis stand alone. Field trials: after suggestions of Max Mayer and Pavel Horčíčka, trials with spring wheat varieties and breeding lines are in process and they are successful up to now. First crossing round of the MAGIC population was finished and harvested in the green house. Two crosses failed and will be repeated in May in the field. The crosses on the protein content work will be carried out in May; lab work was done in Tulln on bunt resistance. They will go for another round and check if the marker is available. Material will be available for the next year for testing on the field.

WP3 Peter Dolničar (KIS)

Peter Dolničar visited Hungarian partner UP and there are some changes that may influence the work on WP3. Zsolt Polgar left UP, so did some other colleagues. Now in charge is Istvan Cernak, but he is not agronomist. Fortunately Zsolt is still in contact with UP. Peter will prepare all plans for Slovenia and also for Hungary in order to avoid any complications. KIS will start planting in April.

WP4 Kristina Petrović (IFVC)

Kristina Petrović informed that they're preparing for seed multiplication; the focus right now is on D4.1, which will consist of different protocols. She added that application Canopeo can be used. Internal meetings for wheat and soybean have been organised. IFVCNS is also active with the communication of the project: TV show on applied science was recorded, where Kristina Petrović was talking about ECOBREED.

WP5 Dagmar Janovská (CRI)

Dagmar Janovská said that sowing is planned for the middle of May, 42 genotypes were chosen for all localities – AT, SI, US and CZ. All partners will add 20-30 and coming to 60-70 altogether. Final list of genotypes will be sent to Paul Bilsborrow. UVIGO will receive 40 genotypes in Prague. For T5.3 10 commercial varieties will be used. For T5.4 all samples will be sent to KIS in order to prepare DNA to be sent to CAAS. CAAS financing was solved, as Coordinator reported. But there is an issue now, as previously discussed and it is WSU.

WP6 Werner Vogt-Kaute (NATUR)

Werner Vogt-Kaute said that right now only T6.1 is relevant. Paul Bilsborrow said UNEW has database for wheat and potato, Kristina Petrović is sending it for

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soybean, Dagmar Janovská for buckwheat. Together with Secobra NATUR will attend an event in Kassel Öko-Feldtage (July 3-4th 2019).

WP7 Mario A. Pagnotta (UNITUS)

Mario A. Pagnotta said he contacted several persons from BRESOV and LIVESEED, as well some colleagues of our project. The situation with Ds is under control. What we have to decide is the form of the Deliverable, the languages that we are going to use for the trainings. We could put ISBN code for the training material. He would like to start fixing the dates of the trainings asap. Heinrich Grausgruber asked if we have an idea how long these events should be. Mario A. Pagnotta added that another issue is budgeting and bursaries. We need to decide about the criteria of selection the participants. The length should be between 2 and 3 days. Topics depend on the availability of the lecturers. Coordinator reminded not to forget that we collaborate with BRESOV and LIVESEED, so their specialists could be engaged; he will also ask who is responsible for training.

WP8 Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS)

Antoaneta G. Kuhar presented the state of the art of WP8. She pointed out that PO is satisfied with project's visibility. A consistency of using logos and ppt template is being improved. All templates were put on the intranet webpage. Templates of the practice abstracts will be developed based on the content of each of them separately. Antoaneta G. Kuhar stressed that communication of the project through various channels and especially on social media is very good. She once again stressed the importance of the Open Access, which needs to be Gold during the first 5 years of the project. DMP was submitted in January and can be revised after the first periodic report. ECOBREED was presented during Biofach in Feb 2019 in Germany, which proved to be a very successful story. ECOBREED brand was recorded in the Register of European Union trade marks (for 10 years).

Coordinator continued with the ***WPs execution issues***. There are 7 milestones that we need to reach by beginning of June. In addition to this there are 7 deliverables by the end of April and one by the end of May. Most of the deliverables so far were submitted late. We do not want to continue this practice.

The content of the first ***amendment*** was presented by the Coordinator and Project Manager. It will contain the inclusion of Australian partner SCU, correction of the technical mistake in RGA's budget. He further asked EB members to send asap their

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vision if any of the Tasks need to be redefined due to the seasonality or if there are not logical issues. A video meeting with Carlo Leifert to be organised within the next week or two.

Dagmar Janovská presented her proposal for the **1st annual meeting** that will be in Prague between May 28th and 30th. Dinners were set. 22 partners or cca 50 participants are expected. There will be also representatives from the Czech Ministry of Agriculture, as well as CRI management body. Selgen visit was discussed into details. Coordinator has to send framework agenda for the event by the end of the following week, so CRI could organise the catering. 4 parallel meetings for the crops will be organised. Project Manager was asked to send the list of the participants to EB members.

During the **general discussion** Coordinator asked for 3-months report on WPs by March 28th. He further asked partners to communicate about the challenges they are facing and thanked to Heinrich Grausgruber for hosting the meeting. He then closed the meeting.

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TO DO LIST

What	Who	When	Status
Proposal how many samples and costs are foreseen in regard to samples exchange between WSU and EU	Heinrich Grausgruber and Dagmar Janovská	Apr 30 th	E-mail from Heinrich and Dagmar sent to Steve Jones on 8 – 9 of April 2019
Video conference with Steve Jones	Coordinator, Paul Bilsborrow, Heinrich Grausgruber, Dagmar Janovská, Carlo Leifert, Project Manager	By Prague meeting	
Check who is responsible for training for LIVESEED and BRESOV projects	Coordinator	May 21 st	
3-months report on WPs	All	March 28 th	DONE / Approved by the PO on April 11 th
Video meeting with Carlo Leifert	Coordinator	April 5 th	DONE
Framework agenda and list of participants for 1 st annual meeting	Coordinator / Project manager	March 28 th	DONE
D 1.3 first draft	NPPC / KIS	April 18 th	
D 2.1 first draft	BOKU	April 18 th	
D 3.1 first draft	IHAR / KIS	April 18 th	
D 4.1 first draft	IFVCNS	April 15 th	
D 7.1 first draft	UNITUS	April 18 th	
D 7.2 first draft	NPPC	April 15 th	
D 5.1 first draft	CRI	May 6 th	
Submission D 1.3, D 2.1, D 3.1, D 4.1, D 7.1 & D 7.2	All responsible	April 30 th	
Submission of D 5.1	CRI	May 24 th	

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22nd of March 2019, Vienna (Austria)



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