



ecobreed
IMPROVING CROPS



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DOCUMENT ID	5_Executive board meeting_May 2019 Prague minutes

AGENDA

ECOBREED 5th EB Meeting

Prague, 28th of May 2019

Tuesday, 28th of May | 08:00 - 11:30

08:00 – 08:30 | Introduction & general items

08:30 – 09:00 | IP issues

09:00 – 09:30 | GA amendment

09:30 – 11:00 | WP execution issues

11:00 – 11:30 | Preparations for 1st periodic report

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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), Dagmar Janovská (WP5 leader), Werner Vogt-Kaute (WP6 leader), Mario A. Pagnotta (WP7 leader) and Antoaneta G. Kuhar (project manager and WP8 leader).

Executive Board members absent: Kristina Petrović (IFVCNS)

Coordinator Vladimir Meglič greeted everybody and passed the word to the host, Dagmar Janovská, who welcomed the participants at the premises of the gene bank and gave some logistical information. Then the coordinator went through the agenda and asked if there are any issues with which the agenda should be amended. There were no such items, the agenda was approved.

Coordinator ***outlined the activities and reached*** outcomes since the last EB meeting in Vienna. All 7 deliverables were submitted on time. After the end of the annual meeting we need to submit D 9.2 (KIS), at the end of the July is due D 6.1 (UNEW), and till the end of the first interim period, there are two more deliverables left D7.3 and D 8.8 (NATUR & NPPC), both public and due on October 31st. In total 8 milestones were reached on time. There are 4 more to be accomplished by the end of May and namely M10 (UNEW), M11 (UVIGO), M12 (IFVCNS) and M29 (KIS).

The annual meeting of LIVESEED project took place in Poland between May 14th and 16th. The Coordinator outlined several issues that are also touching the area of the ECOBREED project. It looks like Seed microbiome (Gabriele Berg, AGES) becomes interesting for Europe. Heinrich Grausgruber added that there are 2 groups in Austria working on that and effects are quite astonishing. A poster for ECOBREED during EUCARPIA meeting in December 2019 will be presented. Attendees up to now: Karin Ahmed (BOKU) and Paul Bilsborrow (UNEW). The Coordinator added that Monika Messmer announced and informed about EUCARPIA conference in the year 2021. In addition to it, it is possible to have joint appearance with the 3 projects during the coming events. For training the responsible persons are Adrian Rodrigues (UPV) in LIVESEED and Ferdinando Branca in BRESOV. During LIVESEED's annual meeting it was proposed to put joint calendars within the 3 projects and start planning the events and offer education for young farmers and researchers. LIVESEED published a paper on system-based breeding (www.liveseed.eu) and the Coordinator encouraged the EB members to check it out. There was also a discussion on collaboration with the USA organic seed producers and breeders (Ms Micaela Colley, OSA). She invited ECOBREED members to present results at the next meeting in Oregon in February 2020. They are also organising students' symposium on organic seed production in September on the US East coast, which might be interesting for our students. The World Organic Congress will take place in France in 2020 (September 21 - 27). Obviously, there are quite a lot of meetings and we need to agree who goes where and presents what. The coordinator will attend the BRESOV annual meeting in June 2019 and European Conference on Crop

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Diversification organised by ÖMKI- Hungarian Research Institute of Organic Agriculture in September.

The Coordinator reminded that the IP subcommittee is having a meeting later in the afternoon. **IP issues** are becoming more and more important. We need to finalise the annual IP report. The Coordinator asked the EB members to look once again at SMTAs and check if they are completed or do we need to add some other information. Heinrich Grausgruber suggested having a reduced version of SMTA; he's having several versions incl. some very strict ones from the US institutions. He can share them to work out (a) a reduced version for already registered varieties just for documentation and (b) a strict version for breeding material. To be discussed this within the IP subcommittee.

The Coordinator reported that there was a video meeting on April 4th with Carlo Leifert (SCU) regarding the **amendment**. Carlo Leifert sent us a written explanation of his vision where exactly to be included in the project. However, there are issues with the exchange of the material. The procedures to pass Australian quarantine are long, so if we are going to send him anything, we need to do it right away. We need to discuss material he needs in accord with their climate conditions. He will mostly participate in WP6, so it will be prudent to organise a video meeting with Carlo Leifert and Werner Vogt-Kaute. Changing dates and adjustments for the rest WPs will be discussed during the group meetings today and tomorrow.

The **1st period** lasts 18 months and ends on October 31st, 2019. Then we have 60 days to submit financial and scientific part. Due to the Christmas holidays, the Coordinator will submit it on Dec 20th at the very latest.

The coordinator outlined the following **WPs execution issues**:

- Nomination of task leaders, who could help WP leaders (here and after WPL) with the execution of the tasks.
- Practice abstracts for WP1 to 7: according to the GA, we have mandatory only 4, which is a small number. We are for sure going to exceed them. Paul Bilsborrow suggested preparing a practice abstract for every task. The Project Manager added that the EIP template is already on our intranet page (folder "Templates"); the explanation of it is also available in WP8. EB members asked the template and web page of EIP Agri to be distributed also by e-mail.
- Cooperation with other projects: the Coordinator informed the EB members that the coordinator of Nefertiti project contacted him with a request to collaborate. Werner Vogt-Kaute said that according to his understanding the

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project has a network and demonstration focus, so we can agree in cooperation and we need to wait. One activity would be that we inform in the NEFERTITI network about our field days, training events and demonstration events so their farmers can participate. Another project to work with might be Sol Ace, where UNEW is a beneficiary. The Coordinator asked the EB members to inform him about the possible synergies with other EU funded projects.

- CAAS & WSU:
 - The Coordinator informed the EB members that the representative of CAAS is not going to attend the annual meeting due to personal reasons. Meanwhile, at the beginning of May, KIS sent by DHL to China preliminary samples in order to check the quality of DNA. Dagmar Janovská is traveling to CAAS in June in order to attend the KoM of the approved project by MOST.
 - WSU: The Coordinator said that the Project Manager tried to get skype meeting with Steve Jones, but he didn't reply to the e-mail. Dagmar Janovská reported that she is in contact with Steve Jones, he got the parcel with buckwheat seeds and it will be sown in the USA already this week (last week of May). However, she hadn't got any material from WSU. Instead, she can request the same material from the USDA gene bank, as Steve uses the same. Heinrich Grausgruber reported that WSU does not respond to his e-mail concerning the wheat. Even though BOKU also has some material from WSU, but it is from some years ago and its quality is questionable. Nevertheless, they will try to search for WSU material (Greg Morris?) and include the wheat in the autumn. Heinrich Grausgruber added that we could include is perennial wheat lines from WSU. Paul Bilsborrow added that in the UK there are 3 wheat varieties from WSU, however, suggested that BOKU contacts once again WSU and asks for seeds. The discussion ended with the conclusion that Heinrich Grausgruber is going to check who is having what kind of material nearby and include it.
- Press conference: Dagmar Janovská presented the scenario for the afternoon's press conference and said that there is a Germany speaking journalist, who might be interested in talking to some of them.

The Coordinator opened the discussion on the time frame and ***quality control of the deliverables and milestones***. Therefore KIS proposed the following Ds and Ms preparation and submission protocol:

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Deliverable submission: Step-by-step

- Step 1: WPL initiates the process by contacting the lead beneficiary (LB) of the D.
- Step 2: LB of the D collects input to the deliverable from the relevant contributors, creates a first draft of the deliverable and clears this first draft with those who have contributed to the deliverable.
- Step 3: LB sends an updated draft to WPL.
- Step 4: Upon approval, WPL sends draft to coordinator (Vladimir) and deputy coordinator (Paul) – latest ten days prior to submission deadline to EC.
- Step 5: Coordinator (Vladimir) and deputy coordinator (Paul) review deliverable. Coordinator (Vladimir) submits it to EC.

Milestone submission: Step-by-step

- Step 1: Lead beneficiary (LB) of the M sends an e-mail to Vladimir / Antoaneta and to WPL a month before M's deadline info with its status (possible delay, definite delay, on time).
- Step 2: Lead beneficiary (LB) of the M sends an e-mail to Vladimir / Antoaneta and to WPL once a milestone has been completed. In the e-mail subject, please write: "ECOBREED: completion of MSXX". When you send us this notification, please also inform us when the MS has been completed and a short comment.
- Step 3: Vladimir / Antoaneta marks the necessary info into the Portal.

The Milestones' protocol was approved. Whereas EB agreed on skipping the internal reviewers, which means that the second part of Step 1 and entire Step 3 are delated.

At the end the Coordinator proposed a ***discussion about the templates*** we have been already created, he also stressed the obligatory elements, colours and fonts they need to contain. The roll-up has now two more versions, based on the request of CRI; a new version of the book marker will be proposed; the academic poster (size A0) was distributed among partners. The EB members proposed changes to the academic poster template and to the template for the deliverables. It was agreed that the template for deliverables will only contain the obligatory cover page, the header and table of content. The font stays Open sans, size 12pt. The structure of the documents is then in the governance of the partner, who is responsible for it. New templates to be uploaded on the intranet page and on request distributed to partners.

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Peter Dolničar reported about the issues with Hungarian partner **UP**. As it was already announced, there have been changes in the staff, responsible for the execution of tasks. In addition to this, it is now expected that according to the decision of the Hungarian government, the potato breeding section of UP to be overtaken by MTA-ATK. We need to follow closely the work of UP.

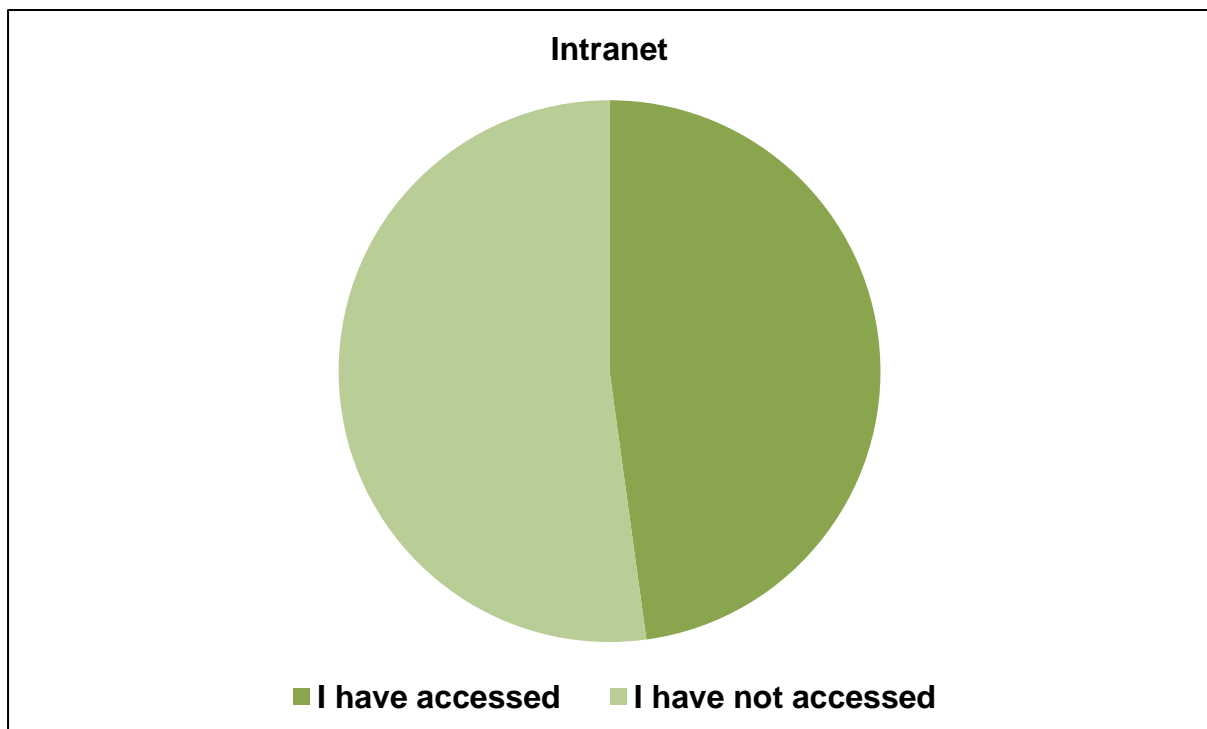
Next EB meeting to be held in Novi Sad in September. An event (press conference or similar) with policymakers and the director of IFVCNS will be organised. Project Manager will send doodle poll to fix the dates. An optional EB meeting is foreseen for December in Vienna.

The coordinator announced that an **anonymous "What to improve" survey** will be distributed among the participants of the annual meeting. The aim of the survey is to get feedback on the needs of the partners.

There were 23 respondents; the results of the survey are presented in the graphs below.

1. Intranet

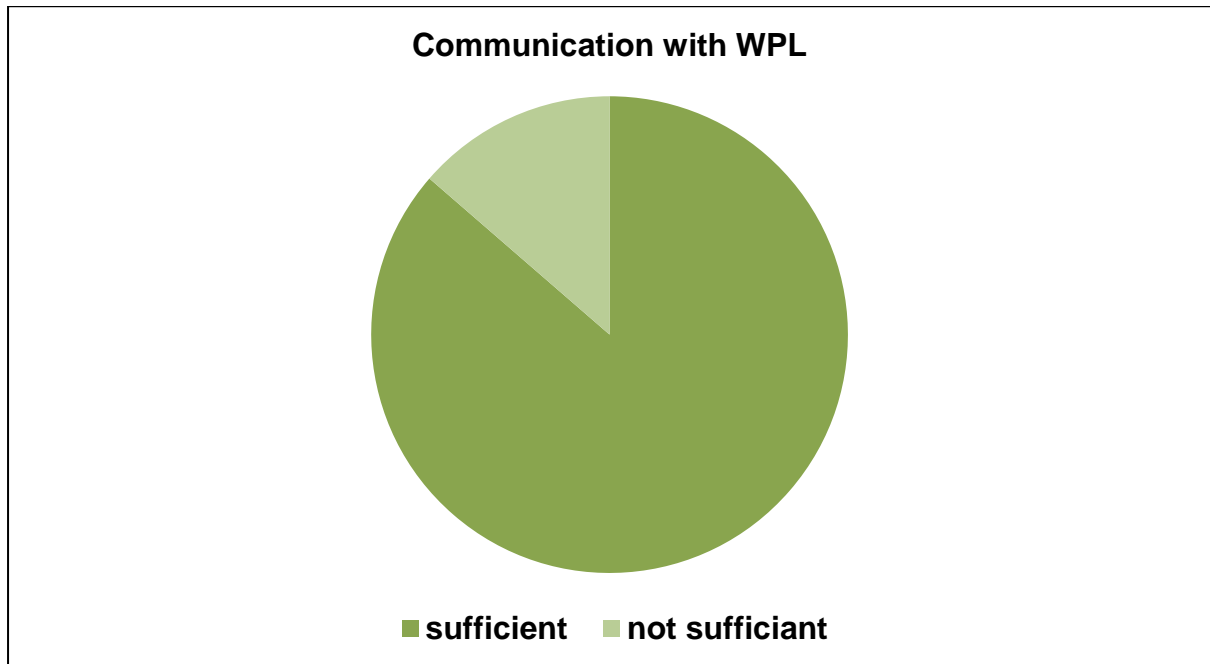
- I have accessed intranet already and am aware of its content
- I have not accessed intranet yet and am not aware of its content



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2. Communication with WP leaders

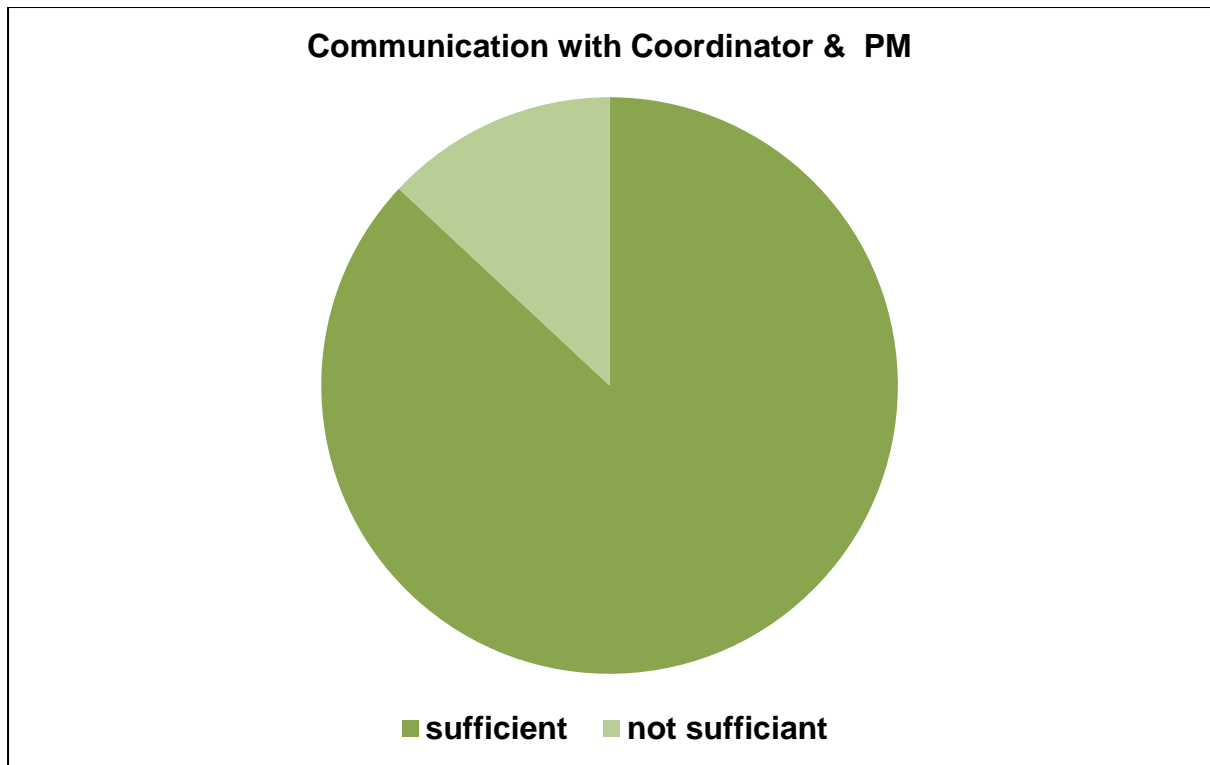
- I get sufficient instructions and guidance
- I don't get sufficient instructions and guidance
- I miss the following content: _____



3. Communication with the Coordinator and the Project manager

- I get sufficient and detailed instructions and guidance, as well as fast answers to my questions and queries
- I don't get sufficient and detailed instructions and guidance, as well as fast answers to my questions and queries
- I miss the following content: _____

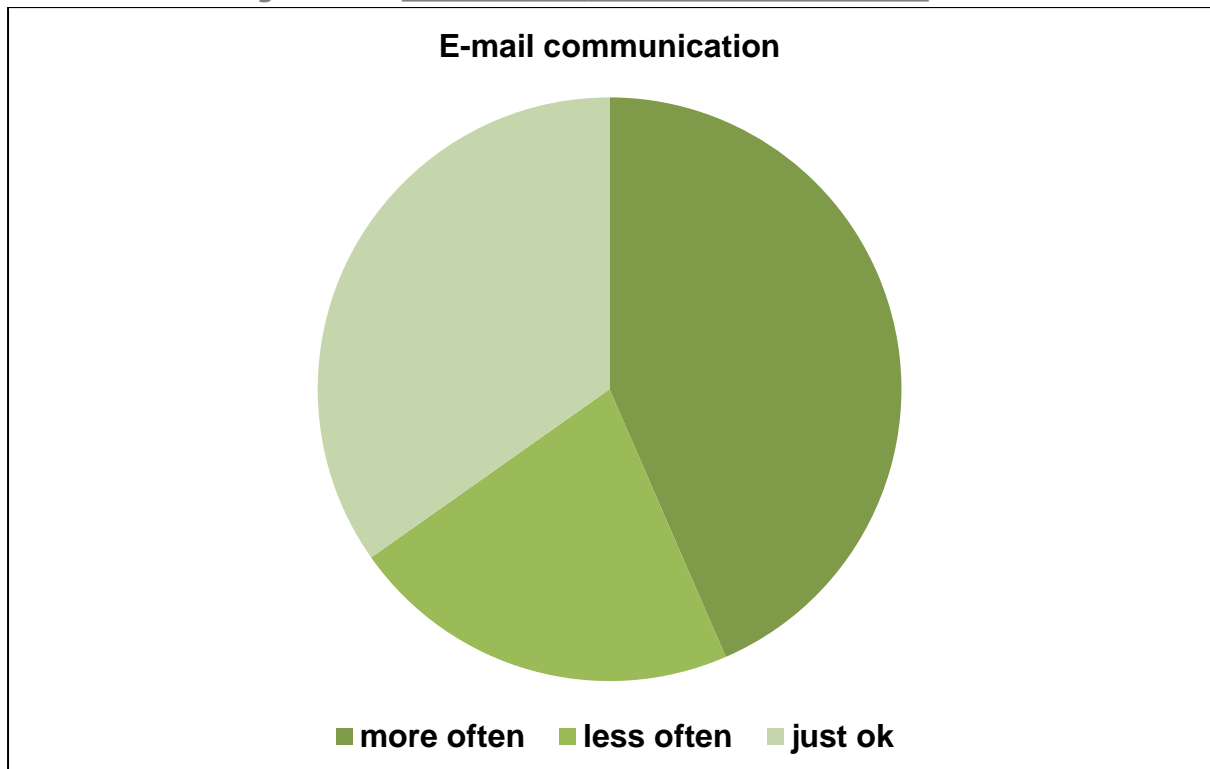
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4. E-mail communication

- I want to receive more often
- I want to receive less often

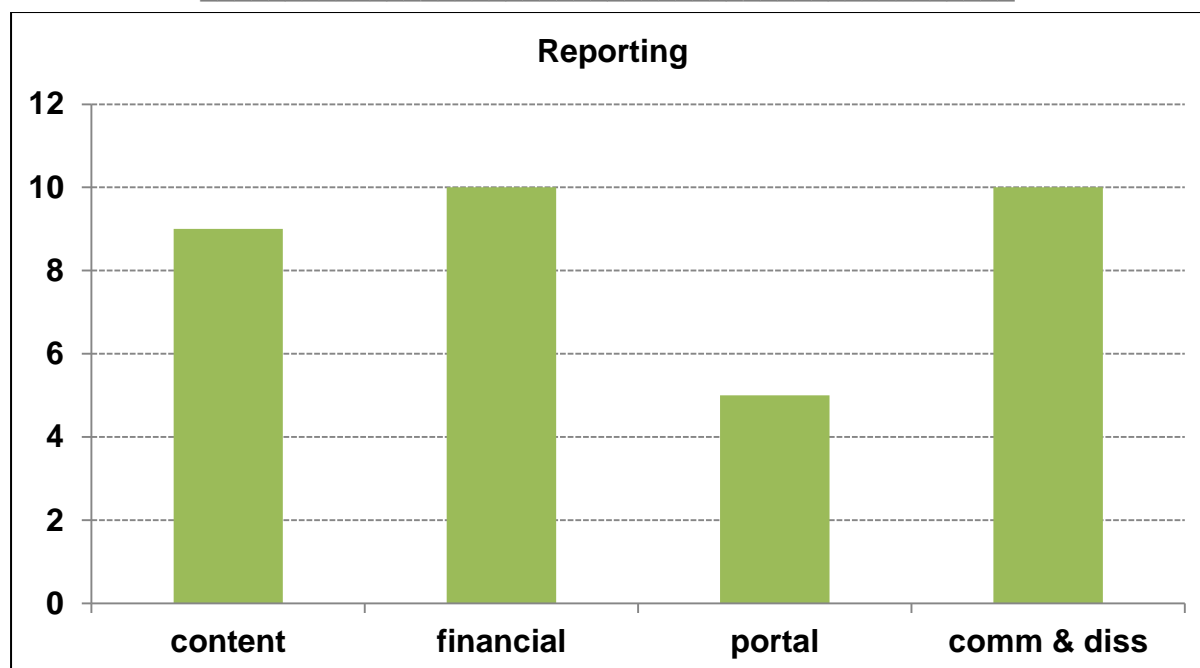
I miss the following content: _____



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5. Reporting

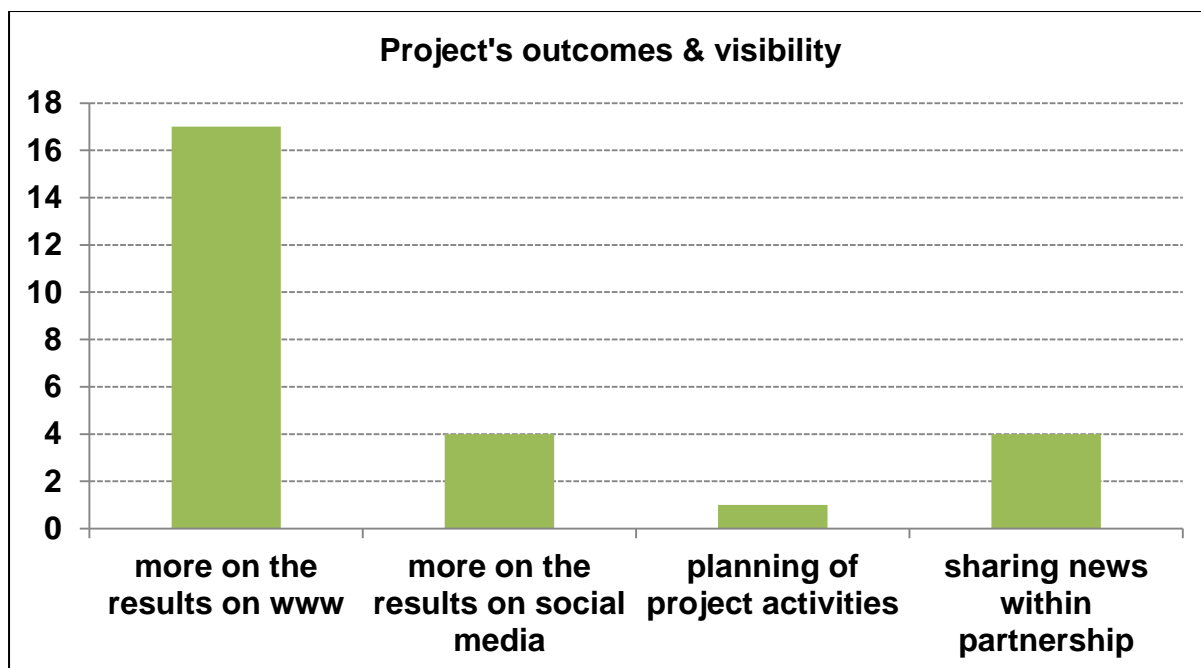
- I need more guidance on content reporting
- I need more guidance on financial reporting
- I need more guidance on Funds & tenders portal (ex Participants Portal)
- I need more guidance on reporting on communication, dissemination and exploitation
- Other: _____



6. Project outcomes and visibility

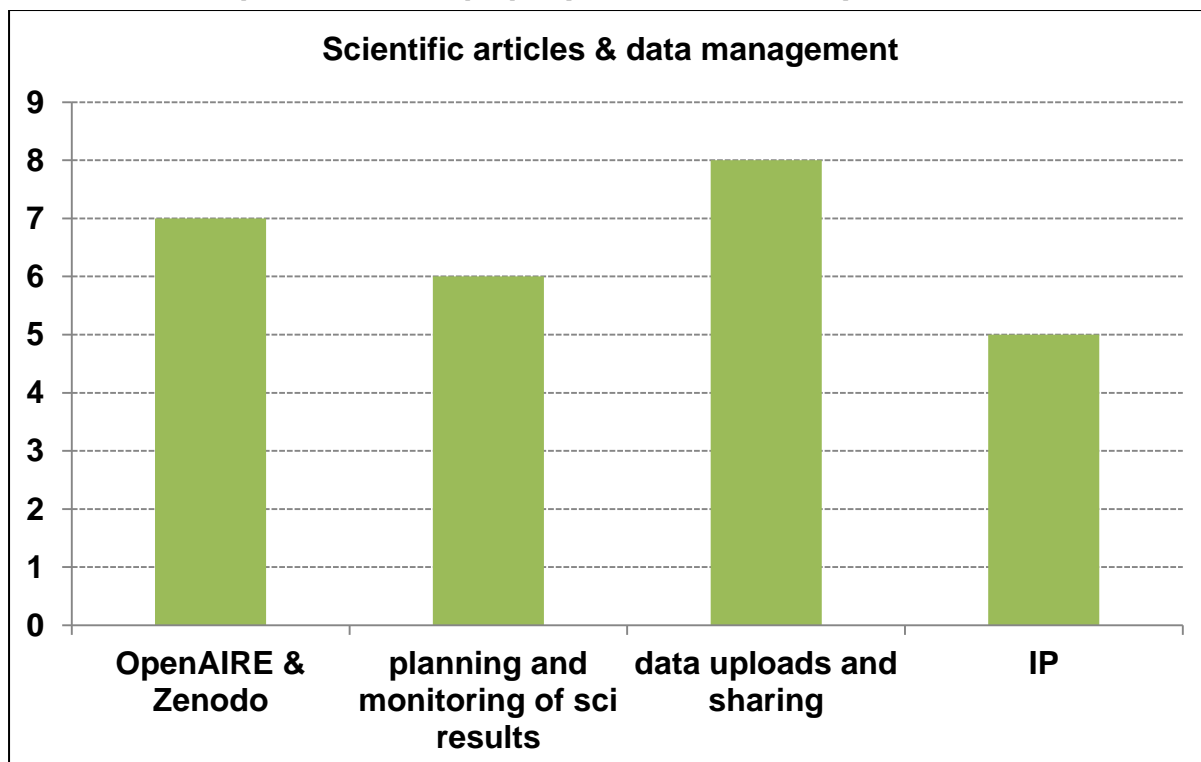
- I would like to read more on the results on www.ecobreed.eu
- I would like to read more on the results on social media
- I would like to be involved more closely in the planning of project activities
- I would like sharing news within the partnership more often
- Other: _____

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7. Scientific articles and data management

- I need more guidance on OpenAIRE and Zenodo
- I need more guidance on the planning and monitoring of scientific results
- I need more guidance on data uploads and sharing
- I need help on intellectual property issues related to my results



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The Coordinator opened the discussion on the results of the survey. They definitely show that 1/2 of the respondents are not acquainted with the intranet page they have been provided with. Therefore the Project Manager is once again going to provide the necessary link to the partners. Generally, respondents are satisfied with the communication with the WPL, the Coordinator and the Project Manager; a small number stated it's not sufficient. Respondents are satisfied or request more e-mail communication from the Coordinator. However, a small number requested less often communication. Heinrich Grausgruber proposed that the Coordinator prepares monthly reports on what has been achieved or on news (templates, guidance, etc.) and distribute them among the partnership. However, this is quite an effort. Though, WPL are responsible for inclusion of the partners and e-communication with them. As it concerns the news, they will be distributed as before, e.g. once appeared. Respondents need more information on reporting on communication & dissemination, financial reporting and content of the project. They would also like to see more on the results on the web page of the project. Here is disputable the confidential nature of the results. Respondents also need more information on all aspects under the scientific articles and data management of the project. In the end, some EB members (Paul Bilsborrow and Heinrich Grausgruber) stated that ECOBREED is not the only project they have and the same is maybe true for other partners. In addition to it, it's very likely that each respondent search for information and ways how to reach it at the moment they need it.

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TO DO LIST

What	Who	When	Status
Doodle poll for EB meeting in Novi Sad	Project manager	June 14 th	DONE
Final proposal of a list with the titles of the practice abstracts and responsible names send to Coordinator / WP8 leader	WPL 1-7, deputy coordinator	June 14 th	
Final proposal of the Task leaders send to Coordinator	WPL 1-9	June 14 th	
Final proposal for the amendment of the WPs (seasonality, dates, content, administrative, financial, etc.)	WPL 1-9	June 21 st	
Template for a reduced version of SMTA	Heinrich Grausgruber IP subcommittee	June 21 st	
3-months report on WPs	WPL 1-9	June 25 th	
Video meeting with Carlo Leifert and Werner Vogt-Kaute	Coordinator	June 28 th	
Practice abstract EIP Agri template to be distributed among the responsible partners	Project Manager	June 28 th	
New templates to be uploaded on the intranet page and on request distributed to partners	Project Manager	June 30 th	
Wheat material from WSU: searching for alternative sources	Heinrich Grausgruber	July 31 st	
Joint calendars within the 3 projects (ECOBREED, LIVESSED and BRESOV), planning the events and trainings for young farmers and researchers	Coordinator Mario A. Pagnotta Werner Vogt-Kaute	Ongoing	
EB members to inform the Coordinator about the possible synergies with other EU funded projects	EB members	Ongoing	

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28th of May 2019, Prague (Czech Republic)



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