



**ecobreed**  
IMPROVING CROPS



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<b>ABSTRACT (FOR DISSEMINATION)</b>	The document contains minutes of the seventh meeting of the Executive Board held at IFVC in Novi Sad, Serbia on October 10 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2019
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# 7\_Executive board meeting\_Oct 2019 Novi Sad\_minutes

AGENDA

## ECOBREED 7<sup>th</sup> EB Meeting

Novi Sad, 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> of October 2019

### **Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> of October | 13:00 - 18:00**

**13:00 – 13:30** | Introduction & general items

**13:30 – 14:30** | Amendment

**14:30 – 15:00** | IP issues

**15:00 – 17:00** | WPs execution issues

**17:00 – 18:00** | Deliverables and milestones (short and mid-term)

### **Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> of October | 08:00 - 12:00**

**08:00 – 10:30** | Preparation of 1<sup>st</sup> periodic report

**10:30 – 12:00** | Preparation for review meeting

**12:00 – 12:30** | Any other business and end of the meeting

## 7\_Executive board meeting\_Oct 2019 Novi Sad\_minutes

Executive Board members present: Vladimir Meglič (co-ordinator), Paul Bilsborrow (deputy co-ordinator), 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 acting WP8 leader).

Director of IFVC Ms Svetlana Balašević-Tubić welcomed the participants, saying they're happy to host the EB meeting and hoped the results of the project will contribute to the development of organic agriculture in Serbia and within the region. The co-ordinator and Kristina Petrović gave some logistic informations; the agenda was presented and accepted.

The Co-ordinator informed the participants that the **Deliverable 6.1** was submitted before the deadline, on July 19<sup>th</sup> 2019. Paul Bilsborrow added that UNEW adapted and modified the platform that was used for HMC project to ECOBREED. Potentially farmers or the researchers can use it. Werner Vogt-Kaute said it might be difficult for the farmers to use it. Paul Bilsborrow further explained how the content of the portal looks like; we need to start fixing the farms now, inserting their data into the Portal. First goes wheat, than potato, buckwheat and soybean.

Antoaneta G. Kuhar presented the process of the creation and submission of the first project's **Amendment**, the content of which content was confirmed by the EB on September 4<sup>th</sup>. Last version was submitted on October 8<sup>th</sup> and officially EC is going to approve or reject it by Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>. PO was really satisfied with our work. We have been working with SCU intensively to add them to the consortium. The budget was missing and they were not able to supply it on time and at the end they did not enter. One thing we have done is that we agreed that Carlo Leifert would be on board, but in different function, as SAG member, we will still get his advice and he will be connected to the project. Further all proposed changes to Annex 1, 2 and Part B were presented. EB members did not have any remarks.

The Co-ordinator reminded that **IP issues** are always on the table. He once again stressed that SMTA / MTA need to be stored properly. Heinrich Grausgruber added that breeding lines require stricter rules than SMTA. Kristina Petrović added that IFVC has its own form of MTA and it can't be changed. Dagmar Janovská said that for her as Director of the genebank it is mandatory to use SMTA. It was agreed that each partner uses their own documents and those, who do not have, use ECOBREED template. Kristina Petrović will send the MTA, which IFVC uses and we adopt it, while gene-banks use their SMTA.

## 7\_Executive board meeting\_Oct 2019 Novi Sad\_minutes

The Co-ordinator suggested having a register (list) to track the exchange of the material between partners. Each WP leader for the 4 crops will keep the register and sends regular updates to KIS: each year at the end of November for wheat; end of May for potato, buckwheat, and soybean.

The Co-ordinator opened the discussion about DOI, which is also important when in publications we refer to the material we use. He proposed that for the next annual meeting we have presentation for DOI from gene-banks (CRI & NPPC). In addition to it, SAG members Monika Messmer and Ferdinando Branca, will be asked to share their experience with DOI.

Dagmar Janovská outlined the on-going issues with **WSU**. Steve Jones had informed her that his trials were not successful. Risk mitigation measures were taken. We need to talk to him about trials for the next year. Dagmar Janovská will prepare a motivation letter for setting up the trials in the spring next year. The Co-ordinator asked if the USA location would be missing should we propose another one that can substitute it, for example in Slovenia we have 2 locations with buckwheat instead of 1.

The Co-ordinator informed that KIS keeps on delivering the DNA to **CAAS**. Obviously, there is mismatch for the samples also during the second attempt. We sent DNA samples once again last week and we will see if it will work. Dagmar Janovská reported she was attending the KoM of the complementary Chinese project of CAAS. Chinese colleagues are keen to collaborate with the EU in order to explain how buckwheat is important. She visited a lot of places, also gene-bank in CAAS, met the general manager, which was also very good for the ECOBREED project. CAAS buckwheat group is of 25 people and only 2 are paid by CAAS, the rest by grants. Dagmar Janovská added that CAAS sends all samples for sequencing to commercial laboratory, because for them it is cheaper. Dagmar Janovská will check with CAAS what the protocols are before we start dealing with other tasks.

NPPC reported on the procedure with the **subcontracting** of Nitra, which eventually takes much more time than expected. A workshop with fast phenotyping is proposed for end of January – beginning of February in Nitra and will be attended by UNEW, KIS and BOKU. UNEW reported no issue with the subcontracting they have which is for soil analysis.

The Co-ordinator expressed his request for **publishing**, up to now we have only one publication written by Mario A. Pagnotta. Paul Bilsborrow commented it is still too early for that, we do not have data. The Co-ordinator also said that EC is keen to know if we have any results or recommendations for the policy. We were asked from

## 7\_Executive board meeting\_Oct 2019 Novi Sad\_minutes

PO that in case we have any kind of recommendation, we need to send them for the OPB meeting that will be on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Werner Vogt-Kaute reminded that LIVESEED project has another focus and they can provide policy issues on seed production. We are focused on plant breeding and the only discussion in the near future will be about the heterogeneous material.

Pavol Hauptvogel reported that under **WP1** the 1<sup>st</sup> year of multiplication is finished. For T1.3 we need to be ready for putting together information for the IT portal (passport and description data). No information from RGA, material arrived. He also provided information for the execution of T7.2.

Heinrich Grausgruber reported that under **WP2** core collection was multiplied and 136 selected varieties will be tested. There were minor changes, because one breeding line of SEC was not successful and some varieties were replaced. SEL will rent plots for organic from the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague. No varieties included from WSU, because we didn't receive new material; the old one was not enough to be distributed. For durum we had trials last year, we have 30 entries, continuing in the 2nd year. During the multiplication he got several data from the partners, some were very exhaustive, other stating only the number of kg that was available. Paul Bilsborrow commented that some initial phenotyping data might be useful. The Co-ordinator asked to get as complete data, as possible. Heinrich Grausgruber will write to the partners and ask for additional data. He also reported that he had no response if everybody has sown the wheat. Task 2.2 just recently started. All parents from MAGIC population are involved. Task 2.3 started recently at UVIGO, but she needs to confirm if it is pre-trial or not in order to expand it. CRI will test for bunt resistance. In molecular studies for bunt resistance quite a lot of material was involved, right now is being checked for the KASP markers and then goes to green house for selfing. The material will go to the field next autumn. Based on the data that NARDI delivered, they are doing very good work on screening of the markers; therefore we might shift some molecular screening, e.g. for the Gpc-1 gene, also to NARDI. Advanced phenotyping trials will be put in Nitra. Heinrich Grausgruber asked where the wheat trial will be in Slovenia. The Co-ordinator asked if some other institutions were included to test the bunt. Heinrich Grausgruber answered there're no results for COST proposal yet; organic varieties from LIVESEED partners were included in the late maturity group, which will be tested at SECOBRA and SELGEN; some varieties were also delivered to CRI Prague for bunt testing. Monika Messmer suggested collaboration with University of Kassel, a video meeting was organised. Both works are complementary as LIVESEED concentrates on resistance genes *Bt1* to *Bt10*, ECOBREED on *Bt10* to *Bt12*. Approaches in the two projects, however, are different. Whereas LIVESEED applies a GWAS strategy,

## 7\_Executive board meeting\_Oct 2019 Novi Sad\_minutes

ECOBREED's molecular marker work is based on segregating bi-parental populations. The XXI<sup>th</sup> International Workshop on Smuts and Bunts will take place in Tulln, Austria in 2020. By then more results from both projects should be available to discuss further cooperation and synergistic effects.

Peter Dolničar reported that under T3.1 within **WP3** we had problems in Hungary (UP); this year trial is gone due to the late planting. Phenotyping protocols are prepared. Tasks 3.2 - 3.4 start next year. Breeding done as planned in all 3 countries, but Peter Dolničar still does not have their data. He further reported that there is a problem with University of Pannonia and their governance, expecting changes around the New Year. For T3.4 use of CO<sub>2</sub> capsules is planned. Phenotyping will be shifted with 2 more years (2020 and 2021). Short term plans under WP3: we have to do all the phenotyping of the tubers; next week is harvest in Slovenia; by the end of the year techniques for remote sensing should be prepared. All the evaluation of the breeding material will be done by the end of year 2019.

Kristina Petrović reported that this year focus of **WP4** is seed multiplication. Some days ago IFVC harvested the soybean and the material exchange with NARDI and SZG started. For next year the big trials are planned. IFVC has also worked very actively on dissemination of the project. Up to now she reported no problems with delays and non-collaboration with partners.

Dagmar Janovská reported that under **WP5** isolation cages were used for multiplication, honey bees were there, too; but due to the heat this year, there are no seed. All accessions under activities of T5.1 are in the harvest time at all localities involved. T5.2 started at UVIGO. P mineralisation: 3 sites (SI, CZ and the USA). She further reported about the 14<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Buckwheat that was in September in India. CRI also participated at the Research Nights in Prague.

Werner Vogt-Kaute reported under the **WP6** about the selection of wheat varieties to be used in FPT. Multiplication in CZ is done by PRO-BIO. He suggested adapting the same system for multiplication for soybean as for the wheat. Further, the multiplication for Germany will be done at PRO-BIO, Dagmar Janovská will check with them. The other 3 countries for soybean are RS, RO and EL. Kristina Petrović added that IFVC sent the seeds to Crete and gave GEO suggestion and genotypes. The Co-ordinator stressed we need to have Plan B also for UP. Werner Vogt-Kaute pointed out that the proposed system above cannot be applied for buckwheat and potato. Potato multiplication should be done by specialists and not from the farmer. For buckwheat due to cross-pollination we can't do at farms, seeds will come from the breeders. For Task 6.3 for Establishment of segregating populations for specified traits responsible are IFVC, KIS and RGA.

## 7\_Executive board meeting\_Oct 2019 Novi Sad\_minutes

Mario A. Pagnotta reported that 1<sup>st</sup> course for genotyping under **WP7** will be in Viterbo in September 2020. He is in contact with colleagues from other universities and UNITUS started advertising the event. Werner Vogt-Kaute already drafted the D7.3 which is almost ready to be uploaded.

Antoaneta G. Kuhar reported that under **WPS** social media accounts are used on a daily basis, web page is updated regularly with the most important news. Partners are actively participating to various events. The most important task at this moment is to start working on the practice abstracts. WP leaders were asked to proceed with the practice abstracts once they are ready and not to wait.

The Co-ordinator reminded about the upcoming deliverables, 2 of them D7.3 and D8.8 to be uploaded by the end of this month.

End of Day 1.

### Day 2

Antoaneta G. Kuhar presented the content of the **reporting** package we have to submit within 60 days after the end of the first reporting period. However, due to the Christmas holidays, the submission is planned for December 20<sup>th</sup> at very latest. WP leaders prepare Part B entries and send them to the Co-ordinator and his deputy by Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>. The second draft for Part B was set for Dec 6<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for Part A and submitting the financial report for each partner separately through the system (to KIS) is set for Nov 29<sup>th</sup>. Before that consultations are necessary to be done. KIS is collecting, controlling, accepting / returning the reports.

She further reminded on the procedure for the review meeting, the 2 external reviewers we were awarded and ended with some logistics information for the meeting itself. KIS to send the agenda to partners.

Next EB meeting will be video and is planned for the beginning of January. A possibility for a short face to face meeting a day before the review meeting was proposed, which depends on the flights availability.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting is foreseen for May. KIS will discuss possible dates with GEO and inform the partners asap.

The meeting ended.

## 7\_Executive board meeting\_Oct 2019 Novi

### Sad\_minutes

#### TO DO LIST

<b>What</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Status</b>
"ECOBREED" MTA based on the one IFVC has created	WPL 1-5	Nov 30 <sup>th</sup>	
A register (list) tracking the exchange of the material between partners for 2018-2019 to be sent to KIS	WPL 2-5	Nov 30 <sup>th</sup>	
Motivation letter for setting up the trials in the USA (spring 2020)	Dagmar Janovská	Dec 31 <sup>st</sup>	
Multiplication for Germany to be done at PRO-BIO	Dagmar Janovská	Nov 10 <sup>th</sup>	Done, they cannot multiply soya due to the environment conditions (hilly land), Werner was informed
Practice abstract (EIP Agri template) to be submitted to KIS at regular basis	WPL 1-7	Ongoing	1 <sup>st</sup> Practice Abstract (responsible NPPC) was submitted as a D8.8
1 <sup>st</sup> draft of Part B submitted to KIS and UNEW	WPL 1-9	Nov 22 <sup>nd</sup>	
2 <sup>nd</sup> draft of Part B submitted to KIS and UNEW	WPL 1-9	Dec 6 <sup>th</sup>	
Part A & Financial report submitted to KIS	All partners	Nov 29 <sup>th</sup>	



# 7\_Executive board meeting\_Oct 2019 Novi Sad\_minutes

## 7<sup>th</sup> Executive Board meeting

10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> of October 2019, Novi Sad (Serbia)



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