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AGENDA

# ECOBREED 27<sup>th</sup> EB Meeting

13 & 14 December 2022

BOKU, Faculty Club, SCHW-DG/105

Peter Jordan-Str. 82, Vienna, Austria

## Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> of December | 13:00 - 19:30

**13:00 – 13:30** | Introduction, general items and AOB

- Vladimir Meglič, project coordinator
- Antoaneta G. Kuhar, project manager

**13:30 – 15:30** | Preparations for the review meeting

- All

**15:30 – 16:00** | *Break*

**16:00 – 17:00** | World Soybean Congress (WP7 workshops & annual meeting)

All & Johann Vollmann

**17:00 – 19:30** | Preparations for the review meeting

- All

**19:30** | *Dinner*

## Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> of December | 17:00 - 19:00

**17:00 – 19:00** | Reflections of the Review Meeting

- All

### ECOBREED 27<sup>th</sup> EB Meeting

Meeting started on Tuesday, 13 December at 13:25

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*Executive Board members present in person:*

Vladimir Meglič (co-ordinator, KIS), Paul Bilsborrow (deputy co-ordinator, UNEW), Pavol Hauptvogel (WP1 leader, NPPC), Heinrich Grausgruber (WP2 leader, BOKU), Peter Dolničar (WP3 leader, KIS), Vuk Đorđević (WP4 leader, IFVC), Dagmar Janovská (WP5 leader, CRI), Werner Vogt-Kaute (WP6 leader, NATUR), Mario A. Pagnotta (WP7 leader, UNITUS), Antoaneta G. Kuhar (Project Manager and WP8 leader, KIS), Johann Vollmann (BOKU), and Andreja Žibrat Gašparič (KIS).

### Introduction, general items and AOB

Vladimir Meglič, the project co-ordinator, started the meeting. He presented the agenda for both days of the meeting. He also added that the EC Project Officer (PO) asked that the Review Meeting starts one hour earlier than planned and that the meeting should be one hour shorter.

He then stated that for 2023 there are a lot of deliverables due, and many events still need to be organised, especially in WP6 and WP7. For the soybean workshop, the organiser of the soybean conference in Vienna, Johann Vollman (BOKU) will join the meeting later.

Then he talked about submission of the financial and technical part of PR3. The coordinator thanked everybody for their contributions. He also added that there were some problems with sticking to agreed deadlines although these were agreed upon at least 6 months ahead at the ECOBREED annual meeting in May. He added that from October 2022 the last reporting period has started.

Antoaneta G. Kuhar, Project Manager, added that the submission of PR3 was done on time - one day before the deadline. There were some challenges with the length of chapters, but this was balanced before submission. She thanked Andreja Žibrat Gašparič (KIS) for her help with preparing the final document.

She added that for the next 17 months, there are 1,5 million EUR left with various distribution of shares between the partners. Some partners have little money left and we will need to ask them for a written contract that they will perform their tasks nevertheless. She added that all partners need to stay within the budgets already set.

Paul Bilsborrow (UNEW) asked about the deadline for claiming costs and Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) said that this would be February 2024. She added that the criteria are amounts of person-months, not per WP.

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The co-ordinator added that one redistribution of the budget already happened with the funds from GEO (Greece) and some partners taking over their work already have increased amounts in their budgets.

Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) said that shifting the budget between WPs within a partner is not a problem but needs to be reported as a deviation. But it is important that all tasks are completed. In PR3, all SMEs performed excellent work and delivered their reports on time with no complications. Then she apologised that she announced in Prague that she will organise a meeting with WP leaders before PR3 submission, but this could not happen as some partners were very late with their financial reports. She contacted some partners individually to discuss their reports.

### **Preparations for the review meeting**

Vladimir Meglič, the project co-ordinator, repeated that the review meeting will start one hour earlier and that every WP leader has 10 minutes for the presentation and 10 minutes for the Q&A session with the reviewers.

Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU) then explained how to approach the presentations from a technical point of view (Zoom, using one computer for all presentations, sitting arrangements, microphones).

The EB members then tested the on-line system in the BOKU conference room.

The PO asked Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) to moderate the meeting with a request to stick to the timeline. It was agreed that the last versions of the presentations will be sent to Antoaneta G. Kuhar by Wednesday morning (by 6 AM). All presentations without animation must be in PDF form.

The coordinator said that the moderator of the meeting will inform speakers of their time 2 minutes before the end. He encouraged the speakers to stay within the agreed time-frame.

### **Progress reports and plans for 2023**

Antoaneta said that PR4 has started on 1 October 2022 and prepared hand-outs with plans for each WP what needs to be done in the next and final reporting period. There are 35 deliverables left to write until the end of the project. Many of them are due at the start of 2023. For example, WP2 has 2 deliverables (UNEW and BOKU) by end of February 2023. She added that one of the deliverables due in February 2023 will be public (final report on CPB and wireworm control in WP3). This will be prepared by KIS and then published in the EC Funding & Tender portal.

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This will be the first public deliverable in the crops WP. The deliverable is public once it is approved by the commission.

This deliverable was then discussed between Peter Dolničar (KIS), Paul Bilsborrow (UNEW), Vladimir Meglič (KIS) and Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS). The deliverable will be written by Jaka Razinger and colleagues from KIS experiments and by colleagues from Hungary and Poland for their experiments. Peter Dolničar (KIS) added that IHAR wants to repeat their trials on CPB in 2023 as they did not have CPB at first and then this was followed by a huge attack. Although their results will not be crucial as the attacks do not happen every year. Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) added that Task 3.4 is over and IHAR cannot claim costs for experiments in 2023. Peter Dolničar (KIS) agreed that he will inform IHAR that they can repeat the experiment, but the costs cannot be claimed. He added that the preliminary version of deliverable will be finished by end of January.

Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) added that the project office at KIS will prepare a template in MS Word for all the deliverables. She added that 2 deliverables are due from UVIGO, who are not EB members and that they will need guidance preparing the deliverables from WP leaders. These are due by end of April, but the final draft should be prepared by the end of March. Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU) and Dagmar Janovská (CRI) said that this should not be a problem as they both have regular communication and lots of data from the UVIGO team already.

Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) continued that then the 4<sup>th</sup> Practice Abstract is due and should be prepared by NATUR to which Werner Vogt-Kaute (NATUR) agreed. By end of June, there are 5 deliverables to be submitted (2 by BOKU, 3 are for WP4) and this coincides with the annual meeting and the soybean conference in Vienna. She added that two of these deliverables will also be made public. Vuk Đorđević (IFVC) said that the preparation of these deliverables will not be a problem and will be made on time. The next deliverable is due for WP5 and Dagmar Janovská (CRI) also said that this will be delivered as planned.

Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) handed out plans for all deliverables and milestones till the end of the project to each WP leader (in the attachment). There is much work to be done in PR4. For WP2, most deliverables need to be done by the middle of 2023, the rest is just the final report. She stressed that the dates for the deliverables are final dates, we can upload them well before that time.

All the deliverables were then discussed by the EB members and deadlines agreed upon. Dagmar Janovská (CRI) expects some issues with RGA in writing the deliverables but will try to start the work as soon as possible to not lose time.

Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) moved the discussion to Open science data and thanked Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU) for organising the Open data information in the EC Funding and tender portal and for uploading all the documents to the Zenodo

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ECOBREED community. He then added that there is still a problem to link some documents to our community if somebody else uploads the papers to the Zenodo repository.

The co-ordinator then moved the discussion towards the work done within each WP.

### WP6

Werner Vogt-Kaute (NATUR) said that for WP6 the plans for 2023 will be made at a video conference in January 2023. In Hungary, a trial needs to be conducted in 2023, and in Romania they sent results from 4 farms instead of 3 as planned. In T6.3, these trials will be more difficult, depends on partner's creativity on how to do the trials. At least 3 farms per country are planned. He does not think that there will be problems but Vladimir Meglič (KIS) as co-ordinator will attend the meeting to remind the partners of their obligations.

### WP4

Vuk Đorđević (IFVC) reported that in WP4 almost all trials are finished. Generally, there are no problems with partners in this WP. The only issue was with sending seed to Slovenia with Slovenian customs. The co-ordinator suggested to split the big shipment into smaller packages and send them to Slovenia and then to Slovakia. Vuk Đorđević agreed to investigate this.

### WP2

Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU) said that for WP2 he is nervous about the deliverables and their deadlines, especially for June 2023, as much data from Slovenia and the UK are still missing, especially for Advanced Phenotyping. Paul Bilsborrow (UNEW) said that the data will be sent on time and that he will remind the Advanced Phenotyping team at UNEW to send the data as soon as possible. Heinrich Grausgruber then added that UVIGO and ATK have mostly finished their work. The trials are finished so now the data needs to be analysed. He added that the high protein populations are still in the field and the MAGIC populations are planned to be distributed in 2023.

## World Soybean Congress (WP7 workshops)

Mario Pagnotta (UNITUS) stated that Advanced Genotyping is missing workshops. All other workshops in WP7 are going as planned.

Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) added that there are two Advanced Genotyping workshops planned with IFVC and NPPC. One solution is organising those together with the World Soybean Congress in Vienna in 2023. That is why Johan Vollmann (BOKU) joined the meeting as an organiser of this conference.

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Johan Vollmann (BOKU) said that Vuk Đorđević (IFVC) already approached him with the interest to organise the ECOBREED soybean workshop at the conference and this was already announced on the conference website. They plan 25 panel session and 5 workshops for now. He asked the EB members about the ECOBREED plans for the workshops.

Vuk Đorđević (IFVC) added that our workshop needs to be aligned with the other workshops. Bursaries also need to be planned. We could offer to pay the conference fees for the students.

Johan Vollmann (BOKU) said that the registration fees are different, but for students they are around 600 EUR. Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) added that for early registration it is 425 EUR (until 31 March 2023).

Vuk Đorđević (IFVC) said that they plan a workshop for one day for ECOBREED.

The project co-ordinator said that on account of this workshop ECOBREED can give out bursaries for students to attend the whole conference. But the announcement needs to be published very soon. This is a general education of young scientist and students for working in organic farming – it's planned as a training workshop. He added that Johan Vollmann (BOKU) and Vuk Đorđević (IFVC) should work out the dates on when to organise this workshop. Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) added that we can hand out 24 bursaries but there is still one more workshop planned by Pavol Hauptvogel from NPPC.

Pavol Hauptvogel (NPPC) plans a workshop in June 2023 for 8 people in laboratories.

The project co-ordinator said we need this information about organising workshops as soon as possible to advertise them and hand out bursaries. For this, we would need the program and reservations for accommodation very soon. He proposed to prepare the Vienna workshop programme first by Vuk Đorđević and to advertise it. By then, Pavol Hauptvogel should have his programme prepared and then we can calculate how many bursaries will be distributed for each event.

Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) said that it is also important to prepare the criteria for selecting students for bursaries. This information then also needs to be published together with the programme in the conference webpage and ECOBREED webpage as well as on social media.

The project co-ordinator added that by March 2023 we should have the final numbers on the number of students and bursaries as well as all the contracts prepared. Vuk Đorđević agreed to this time-line. Johan Vollmann (BOKU) added that the final conference programme will be published in March or April – the sessions will be mostly fixed by then. There will be presentations on sustainable

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soybean breeding and organic breeding which will be interesting for the students from ECOBREED workshops to attend.

Johan Vollmann (BOKU), Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS), Vuk Đorđević (IFVC) and the project co-ordinator agreed to meet for a Zoom conference with the other organisers of the conference next week to discuss the workshops in more detail.

The project co-ordinator said that KIS still needs to organise one workshop which was postponed from August 2022 as there was only one applicant. Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) suggested to use the World Soybean Conference also for the phenotyping workshop as this would be a great opportunity to have all the WP7 workshops and hand out all the bursaries. Johan Vollmann (BOKU) and Vuk Đorđević (IFVC) agreed to this. Johan Vollmann (BOKU) added that they could add another ECOBREED chair-person at the conference (Vuk Đorđević from IFVC for genotyping and Uroš Žibrat from KIS for phenotyping). This will be published also in the abstract book and on the website. Vladimir Meglič (KIS) could also prepare a short presentation on organic plant breeding.

**Meeting ended on Tuesday, 13 December at 17:25**

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### Progress reports and plans for 2023

**Meeting started on Wednesday, 14 December at 14:00**

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#### WP3

Peter Dolničar (KIS) reported that field projects in WP3 are finished. MATE had 2 Colorado potato beetle experiments regarding T3.4, but no other issues with them. In T3.5, MATE produced some results, they had problems with markers that KIS and IHAR use. There are also some problems with MATE regarding WP6, WP7 and Task 8.4 – demonstration events. He asked if a list of training events that they must do can be provided. Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) will do that together with Mario Pagnotta (UNITUS) and Werner Vogt-Kaute (NATUR). He continued that there were financial claims from MATE that were problematic. Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) suggested to make a list of obligations for all the partners for 2023 (lists, plans) and send it to them in the beginning of 2023. The EB members agreed to this.

#### WP5

Dagmar Janovská (CRI) reported that there are no issues in WP5, only with RGA regarding their results. Task 5.1 was completed, and they are preparing a manuscript. Task 5.2 – she is in contact with UVIGO and preparing a manuscript on buckwheat. Task 5.3 – she is waiting for data from CRI laboratory from last field trials, probably samples from KIS (Aleš Kolmanič) missing and an email will be sent to him as a reminder. Task 5.4 - CAAS submitted a manuscript on genotyping, also Barbara Pipan (KIS) has some manuscripts in progress. So, no problems, everything is ok, except problems with RGA trials. Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) assured that Primož Titan (RGA) will be informed of his obligations to the project.

#### WP1 – Task 1.3

Vladimir Meglič (KIS) said that Task 1.3 was already extensively discussed at the annual meeting in Hungary as well as during the last EB meeting in Prague. Pavol Hauptvogel (NPPC) then presented a proposal on how to approach the issue of link to the varieties/genetic resources. He already sent the database today to the WP leaders involved as well as to the project coordinator and project manager. He also added links to the genebanks into the database.

The project coordinator then added that for each crop we need to look at the list of varieties that were finally chosen to be a working collection in the project (all varieties used in experiments) and this is a crucial first step in building this database. After we gather this information, we can start adding links to the EURISCO database and not before. He and Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU) added that the list presented by Pavol Hauptvogel (NPPC) is not correct as the list of

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varieties used in the project is different than first planned at the beginning. We need to come to the most current version list of the varieties.

Dagmar Janovská (CRI) said that this is only a template, but the co-ordinator reminded her that the agreed database template was already discussed and agreed upon at the Prague meeting. Next step, when we have everything together, you make the EURISCO people aware of our database so that then can pull info on accessions from our database. It then can serve as additional info for them, and they can use that data.

Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU) suggested to add the season as in Task 2.3 some genotypes included were not in field trials (e.g. at UVIGO). Dagmar Janovská (CRI) agreed that this was also an issue with buckwheat. The coordinator agreed to add everything. The EB members then shortly discussed how to write names and agreed that they need to be written the same everywhere.

Pavol Hauptvogel (NPPC) agreed to gather all the new data on varieties used in the project and prepare the database.

### Event in 2023

The coordinator suggested to hold the next EB meeting in the beginning of 2023 as there are so many plans and events to be discussed for next year. He suggested to meet in Slovenia around the middle of February.

Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) said that the arrival could be on Monday, 20 February 2023 with the meeting on 21 and 22 February in Ljubljana with departure on Wednesday afternoon. The venue could be moved also to Bled or Bohinj. The location will be announced as soon as possible. The EB members agreed with the proposed dates for the meeting.

Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) continued that the ECOBREED annual meeting will be held just before the World Soybean Conference in Vienna in June 2023. The co-ordinator added that the meeting will not be long as it will be mostly concerned with informing the consortium about the final report, about the deadlines etc. The EB members agreed to hold the annual conference in Vienna on 16 and 17 June 2023 with the EB meeting on 17 June 2023 in the afternoon. The meeting will be held in Vienna or Tulln, this will be announced by Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU) once he makes a reservation for the suitable meeting room. Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS) suggested to invite our Project Officer, Tatiana Tallarico, to the meeting. She added that the next planned EB meeting after this will be the end of September. And the project coordinator added that the final project meeting will be held in Slovenia in February 2024. This will be a 2-3-day meeting and conference with an EB meeting to discuss the final report. The conference can include speakers from outside of ECOBREED project to attend this. Also, we need a bigger audience, and

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the partners should attend the final meeting in bigger numbers. The EB members agreed to discuss the dates for the meeting in June 2023.

The project coordinator then thanked everybody and hopes that the review goes well.

**Meeting ended on Wednesday, 14 December at 15:30**

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