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ABSTRACT (FOR DISSEMINATION)	The document contains minutes of the thirty third meeting of the Executive Board held at KIS in Ljubljana, Slovenia on 15 January 2024
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33_Executive Board meeting_January 2024

Ljubljana_minutes

AGENDA

ECOBREED 33rd EB Meeting

Salon Orhideja, Eurostars uHotel,
Miklošičeva cesta 3, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

15 January 2024

Monday, 15 January 2024

8:00-8:30	Welcome & opening the EB meeting General information about PR4 & final report Vladimir Meglič, project coordinator Antoaneta G. Kuhar, project manager
8:30-9:00	WP 1 – PR4 & final report preparation Pavol Hauptvogel (NPPC), WP1 leader
9:00-9:30	WP2 – PR 4 & final report preparation Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU), WP2 leader
9:30-10:00	<i>Coffee & tea break</i>
10:00-10:30	WP3 - PR 4 & final report preparation Peter Dolničar (KIS), WP3 leader
10:30-11:00	WP4 - PR 4 & final report preparation Vuk Djordjevic (IFVC), WP4 leader
11:00-11:30	WP5 - PR 4 & final report preparation Dagmar Janovská (CRI), WP5 leader
11:30-12:00	WP6 - PR 4 & final report preparation Werner Vogt Kaute (NATUR), WP6 leader
12:30-13:00	WP7 - PR 4 & final report preparation Mario Pagnotta (UNITUS), WP7 leader
13:00-13:30	WP8 - PR 4 & final report preparation Antoaneta G. Kuhar (KIS), WP8 leader
13:30-14:30	<i>Working lunch (Eurostars uHotel)</i>

33_Executive Board meeting_January 2024

Ljubljana_minutes

ECOBREED 33rd EB Meeting

Meeting started on Monday, 15 January 2024 at 8:10

Executive Board members present in person: Vladimir Meglič (coordinator), Paul Bilsborrow (deputy coordinator), Pavol Hauptvogel (WP1 leader), Heinrich Grausgruber (WP2 leader), Peter Dolničar (WP3 leader), Vuk Đorđević (WP4 leader), Dagmar Janovská (WP5 leader), Werner Vogt-Kaute (WP6 leader), Mario A. Pagnotta (WP7 leader), Antoaneta G. Kuhar (project manager and WP8 leader)

Other project members present: Marjana Vasiljević (IFVC), Andreja Žibrat Gašparič (KIS)

Welcome & opening the EB meeting

Vladimir Meglič, project coordinator, welcomed everyone to the 33rd EB meeting in Ljubljana and presented the agenda with special focus on the preparation of Periodic Report 4 (PR4), final report and the deliverables. The project coordinator stated that ECOBREED is an important project especially in the light of the new regulation being prepared in organic breeding.

General information about PR4 & final report

Antoaneta G. Kuhar (project manager, KIS) said that the meeting will be about all the information regarding the reporting. 31 January 2024 is the last day for submitting two reports, i.e. PR4 and the final report, to the European Commission (EC). The Project Officer (PO) said that the external reviewers already have access to the project in the portal and can look through the deliverables and continuous reporting. The external reviewers will get PR4 and the final report via email as the reporting in the portal will be open later (Part A of the technical report). Periodic report 4 is focused on the last 17 months of the project. Although we still have one more month in front of us, we need to report what we plan to do until the end of the project.

She also said that after the end of the project, the consortium will have 60 days to submit all the financial and technical reports. If there will be a lot of shortcomings, then the window for preparing the final report will be longer.

By 31 January 2024, all deliverables need to be uploaded to the system. She kindly asked to send them to the KIS team as soon as possible as formatting and proof reading takes time.

The PR4 and final technical report will be sent to the PO via email. The final report needs to answer also the 3 questions about overview of the project, socio-

33_Executive Board meeting_January 2024

Ljubljana_minutes

economic impact of project etc. She also stated that the consortium needs to report to the EC about outcomes and results for 5 years after the end of the project (impact!). The consortium must report on any results 5 years after the end of the project and the continuous reporting in the FC portal will be available in this time period. Everything also needs to be uploaded to the ECOBREED website. Key Exploitable Results (KERs) – table where we should state which partner will keep the result “alive” for some time after the end of the project. The reporting will be open in the portal by 1 March 2024. And we will need to add all this information and report about it.

Heinrich Grausgruber (WP2 leader, BOKU) and Mario Pagnotta (UNITUS) had a short discussion with the project coordinator and project manager regarding what should be written in which report. The project manager said that all important publications should be cited in the reports, although they are also listed in the continuous reporting in the EC portal. She also reminded the EB members that all publications are available in the ECOBREED website and on Zenodo.

Heinrich Grausgruber (WP2 leader, BOKU) added that some data on Zenodo is still restricted, and this should be checked with partners at the General Assembly meeting. All EB members agreed.

Paul Bilsborrow (deputy coordinator, UNEW) had a question regarding length of the reports per WP. The project coordinator suggested that the final publishable deliverable for the 6 years could be longer (and uploaded to the portal). The PR4 should be adjusted to c. 20 pages for each WP and the same thing goes for the final report and each WP. This was already discussed at the last meeting in Vienna.

Andreja Žibrat Gašparič (KIS) presented the status with regard to deliverables, PR4 and final report. The EB members looked at the already prepared document (objectives, impact, number of pages per WP, KERs, exploitation table etc.).

The project coordinator had a comment regarding the exploitation table where all breeding lines should be presented by all crop WPs as promised in the review report response. After a short discussion EB members agreed to change this sentence in the PR4 as to explain why the exact numbers are difficult to be presented. EB members agreed to add text and explanation to the follow up recommendations after the last periodic report review.

The project manager said that the financial part (Excel template) should be delivered by 10 March 2024. This is the last deadline. All financial officers from partners will get this information by beginning of February. The ultimate deadline is beginning of April for uploading everything to the portal – as 1 April 2024 is Easter holiday, our deadline for uploading will be end of March (Friday, 29 March 2024). As the SAG will not be with us these 2 days, we are going to submit the final

33_Executive Board meeting_January 2024

Ljubljana_minutes

report of the project also to them and ask them for feedback and comments by beginning of February 2024.

The project coordinator added that the review meeting is on 14 February 2024 on-line for the reviewers and in-person in Vienna for EB members, from morning to afternoon. EB members will have a meeting one day before for preparation for the review. Based on the immediate feedback by reviewers, we will make a meeting right after or the day after the review meeting to see what we need to do or change.

The EB members then shortly discussed logistics regarding the review meeting in February.

WP 1 – PR4 & final report preparation

Pavol Hauptvogel (NPPC) presented the results on WP1. All partners prepared special Excel sheet for Task 1.3, only information on soybean from WP4 is partly missing. Also, for soybean and potato accession numbers (EURISCO link) need to be added to the database for Task 1.3. Also, the Zenodo links are still not added for wheat, potato and soybean. He will discuss the missing data with all WP leaders this week in Ljubljana and prepare final version for Task 1.3. Final version will be available by Monday, 22 January 2024.

The project coordinator added that one milestone for WP1 still needs to be reached.

WP2 – PR 4 & final report preparation

Heinrich Grausgruber (WP2 leader, BOKU) reported about some problems with Zenodo and datasets that are restricted. WP leaders should give feedback what to do about these datasets (what will remain confidential/restricted in Zenodo or what will be open). The EB members discussed every restricted database in Zenodo on what can become open and what not (yet).

WP3 – PR 4 & final report preparation

Peter Dolničar (WP3 leader, KIS) reported that deliverables D3.5 and D3.8 will be finished by Monday, 22 January 2024 and sent to the project coordinator. For WP6, he will also send general conclusions for the final report. So only some issues where to put KIS results to the report for WP6. Partner IHAR will not be present at GA but the partner is responsive and delivers all work on time.

WP4 – PR 4 & final report preparation

Vuk Đorđević (WP4 leader, IFVC) reported that all activities and reports have been finished in WP4, only information to Task 1.3 needs to be added.

33_Executive Board meeting_January 2024

Ljubljana_minutes

WP5 – PR 4 & final report preparation

Dagmar Janovská (WP5 leader, CRI) reported that only the final publishable report and deliverable need to be prepared. Everything else delivered and reported on time.

WP6 – PR 4 & final report preparation

Werner Vogt-Kaute (WP6 leader, NATUR) got all reports from all partners with the help of the coordinator. All deliverables and reports delivered. The missing text for the final report will be send by Friday, 19 January 2024. Discussed also publications with WP2. Bulleting 2023 will be published in February 2024.

WP7 – PR 4 & final report preparation

Mario Pagnotta (WP7 leader, UNITS) got all reports from partners. At the last event in Slovakia, there were 2 bursaries (one student from the Czech Republic and one from Slovakia). Happy with the results in this WP and events and number of participants during the project.

WP8 – PR 4 & final report preparation

Andreja Žibrat Gašparič (KIS) reported that for the guidebook on participatory plant breeding of the four crops, only the information for buckwheat was submitted to KIS. The crop leaders will prepare this as soon as possible and KIS will publish the guidebooks on the ECOBREED website. This would also need to be delivered by end of January 2024.

Antoaneta G. Kuhar (project manager, KIS) reported that for WP8, Helena Valas will present the business cases for the four crops and have individual meetings with crop leaders. Table for exploitation needs to be filled in in PR4 so that we can finish the Key Exploitation Results (KER). There are fairs and business meetings missing but maybe were not reported by partners. We will ask partners that did not report on WP8 to provide us with the missing information.

Antoaneta G. Kuhar (project manager, KIS) also asked EB member about submitting papers before publications to the IP sub-committee for another 5 years (specifically, to check for acknowledgement). The project coordinator and EB members agreed to this.

The meeting was finished on Monday, 15 January 2024 at 13:15