

# Subject | Minutes of the Third Management Committee Meeting of COST Action CA16107

EuroXanth: Integrating science on *Xanthomonadaceae*  
for integrated plant disease management in Europe,  
Halle (Saale), July 18, 2018

## 1. Welcome to Participants

The participants were welcomed by Ralf Koebnik, Chair of the COST Action CA16107.

## 2. Establishment of Quorum

The quorum (2/3 of COST Countries participating in the Action) was reached: 21 country representatives out of 28 attended the meeting (COST doc. 134/14 “COST Action Management Monitoring and Final Assessment” Annex I, Article 8). The list of participating delegates with their contact information is presented in **Annex 1**.

## 3. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda (**Annex 2**) for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Management Committee (MC) meeting was adopted.

## 4. Update on Participating Members

The Chair welcomed five new members that joined the COST Action since the last MC Meeting in December 2017, namely Denmark, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania and South Africa as an International Partner Country, represented by the University of Pretoria.

The Chair informed about the upcoming change of status of two partners. First, the NNC Albania has now a full member status within the COST programme, and the Kosovo has now an independent status as NNC. This change in status will be

considered and contacts have been established to interested researchers in these two countries (Prof. Magdalena Cara, Albania; Mr. Bekri Xhemali, Kosovo).

## 5. Overview about Dissemination Activities

The Chair gave a presentation about the activities and achievements of the COST Action. First, an update was given about the different dissemination activities, which were defined as Deliverables 1 to 3 in the COST Action. Since the last MC Meeting, five newsletters have been sent, which are now addressed to 226 subscribers. The number of tweets at Twitter increased by 285, totalling to 558. The EuroXanth Twitter account has now 176 followers (64 more compared to the last MC Meeting). The EuroXanth Scoop.it! account was viewed 929 times (increase by 371). However, since April 3, 2018, no new publications have been scooped because the subscription was only for one year free of charge. As discussed with the dissemination responsible, Joana Vicente, she will figure out which options exist in order to continue with scooping publications.

## 6. Change in Administration

Due to French regulations, the fixed-term work contract with the Grant Holder Manager Audrey Canado-Janjon could unfortunately not be renewed. As an immediate solution it was agreed with the Directorate of the Research Unit IPME (IRD Montpellier) that a permanently contracted secretary will help with the management and become the new Grant Holder Manager. The new manager, Isabelle Sciacco, can be reached by email at CA16107@ird.fr.

## 7. Finances

### 7.1 1<sup>st</sup> Budget Year

The Chair reminded of the planning, amendment and real expenses during the 1<sup>st</sup> budget year (Tables 1 and 2).

A – Networking Tools	Planned	Amended	Spent
(1) Meetings:	62 875 €	63 317 €	53 788 €
(2) Training Schools:	20 690 €	20 690 €	26 024 €
(3) Short-Term Scientific Missions:	8 125 €	8 125 €	22 570 €
(4) ITC Conference Grants:	0 €	11 732 €	960 €
(5) Dissemination, Publications:	480 €	480 €	0 €
(6) OERSA:	0 €	0 €	0 €
<b>B – Total Science Expenditure:</b>	<b>92 170 €</b>	<b>104 344 €</b>	<b>103 342 €</b>
<b>C – FSAC:</b>	<b>13 825 €</b>	<b>15 652 €</b>	<b>15 501 €</b>
<b>D – Total Expenditure:</b>	<b>105 995 €</b>	<b>119 995 €</b>	<b>118 843 €</b>

Table 1. Budget overview for 1<sup>st</sup> budget year

	Planned	Spent
(1) Meetings:	62 875 €	53 788 €
(a) Annual Conference (* 57/78), (b) incl. MC Meeting:	48 600 €	42 083 €
(c) WG Meeting (WG2 & WG3) (* 12/14):	11 775 €	6 760 €
(d) Dissemination Meeting (1 participant):	1 335 €	1 271 €
(e) ITC Conference Grant (1 participant):	#1 165 €	960 €
(f) Workshop (WG1) (* 8/9):	0 €	3 673 €

Table 2. Budget breakdown for Meetings during the 1<sup>st</sup> budget year.

\* Number of reimbursed participants vs. number of participants in total

# During planning of the 1<sup>st</sup> budget year, the new tool of ITC Conference Grants was not available yet. It had therefore been planned as a regular meeting.

Notably, there was substantial underspending for Meetings, which was to a large part used to support more STSMs (11 instead of 5). The costs for the Training School had increased because the event was initially planned for only 2.5 days but then, because of improved content and since savings allowed, extended to 5 days. The budget amendment in August 2017, which by default increased the budget for the new tool of ITC Conference Grants, had to be reallocated because it was not realistic to support that many grantees. This is due to the fact that conferences are planned long ahead and inscription dates are many months before the event takes place. Hence, it may often happen that one needs to register to a conference that would only take place in the next budget period.

All in all, the budget was very well spent during the 1<sup>st</sup> budget period.

## 7.2 2<sup>nd</sup> Budget Year

The Chair then reminded of what was decided by the MC for the 2<sup>nd</sup> budget year (Tables 3 and 4).

A – Networking Tools	Planned	Amended	Spent
(1) Meetings:	88 650 €		
(2) Training Schools:	0 €		
(3) Short-Term Scientific Missions:	16 500 €		
(4) ITC Conference Grants:	7 600 €		
(5) Dissemination, Publications:	293 €		
(6) OERSA:	0 €		
B – Total Science Expenditure:	113 043 €		
C – FSAC:	16 956 €		
D – Total Expenditure:	129 999 €		

Table 3. Budget overview for 2<sup>nd</sup> budget year

	Planned	Spent
(1) Meetings:	88 650 €	
(a) Annual Conference (*65/130), (b) incl. MC Meeting:	75 850 €	
(c) WG Meeting (WG1) (*16/20):	12 800 €	

Table 4. Budget breakdown for Meetings during the 2<sup>nd</sup> budget year.

\* Number of reimbursed participants vs. number of participants in total.

Compared to the first year, the amount allocated to STSMs has been increased, now expecting at least 10 STSMs to be supported. The amount for the Annual Conference has also been increased because this year it will be a co-organised event with the 6<sup>th</sup> *Xanthomonas* Genomics Conference (Deliverable 4) with more than usual participants, resulting in a strong international visibility of the EuroXanth COST Action.

## 8. Deliverables and Activities in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Budget Year

The Chair reminded of the Deliverables that are due during the 2<sup>nd</sup> budget year, as stated in the Memorandum of Understanding.

4. Co-organisation of the 6<sup>th</sup> *Xanthomonas* Genomics Conference, which will take place in Halle (Saale), Germany, in 2018 (Transversal / Month 18);
5. Protocols for detection of *Xanthomonadaceae* listed as quarantine organisms in Europe (EPPO A1 and A2 lists of pests recommended for regulation as quarantine pests) (WG1 / Month 24)
6. List of molecular markers useful to study the genetic diversity and population structure of plant-associated *Xanthomonadaceae* (WG1 / Month 24);
7. Curated, internet-accessible database for molecular typing of plant-associated *Xanthomonadaceae* essentially for epidemiological purposes (WG1 / Month 24).

In order to provide Deliverables 5 to 7, a two-days WG Meeting has been planned for September 2018 where the various points will be addressed. The preparation of this meeting is in the hands of the WG1 Leader, Prof. Joana Costa, and the Local Organiser, Prof. Edyta Āermić (University of Zagreb, Croatia).

## 9. Planning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Budget Year

Before discussing the details for the 3<sup>rd</sup> budget year, the Chair reminded that the following deliverables had been defined:

8. Personnel from ITC (Inclusiveness Target Countries) and non-ITC trained in the use of software, databases and websites relevant for detection, molecular typing and epidemiology of bacterial pathogens (WG1 / Month 30);
9. Protocols for resistance and pathogenicity screening of the most important crop species and bacterial strains covered by the EuroXanth COST Action (WG2 & WG3 / Month 30);
10. Repertoire of important candidate bacterial factors in the microbe-eukaryote interaction at different steps of the infection/dissemination cycle (WG2 / Month 36);
11. Inventory of plant resistance genes, allelic variants and quantitative trait loci (QTL) in crop species that are effective against infection by members of the *Xanthomonadaceae* family (WG3 / Month 36).

To address these Goals and Deliverables, most of which specifically concern WG2 and/or WG3, the following activities have been suggested (Table 5):

<b>Meetings / Workshops / Training Schools</b>	
(a) Annual Conference, (b) incl. MC Meeting:	To be organized in the Czech Republic (Lednice) or in Serbia (Belgrade [?])
(c) WG Meeting (WG2 & WG3):	Back-to-back with MPMI Meeting in Scotland
(d) WG Meeting (WG4):	Back-to-back with BioControl Meeting in Italy
(e) Training School (WG2 & WG3):	To be organized in Toulouse (France)
(f) Workshop:	To be defined

Table 5. Suggested activities and events during the 3<sup>rd</sup> budget year.

Two localities were discussed for the next Annual Conference, either Lednice in the Czech Republic or Serbia (e.g. Belgrade). Candidate Local Organisers have been identified and contacted: Dr. Miroslav Baranek from the Faculty of Horticulture

(Lednice) and Prof. Aleksa Obradovic from the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Belgrade. For budgetary and organisational reasons, this conference will be organised within the time frame of September to November 2019.

A Working Group Meeting will be planned for WG2 and WG3, which could be organised back-to-back with the MPMI Meeting in Glasgow, Scotland (<https://www.ismpmi.org/Congress/2019/Pages/default.aspx>) (July 2019). Another Working Group Meeting will be planned for WG4 (Deliverable due in year 4), preferentially back-to-back with the BioControl Meeting in Viterbo (June 2019), Italy (<http://www.biocontrol2019.com>), as discussed during the previous MC Meeting. Prof. Emilio Stefani gave an update on the organisation and content of the BioControl Meeting. All three concerned WG Leaders have agreed to take care of the organisation of these events.

As already discussed during the previous MC Meeting, Dr. Alice Boulanger has volunteered to organise a one-week Training School in Castanet-Tolosan, France, in the third Grant Period. The goal of this Training School with specific relevance to Working Groups 2 and 3 is to address different aspects of *in planta* analyses (strategies and methods) to follow *Xanthomonadaceae*-plant interactions during the infection process.

If necessary and if the budget allows, another Workshop might be organised in order to fulfil the Goals and provide the Deliverables in accordance with the MoU and its objectives for research coordination and capacity building.

## **10. News about COST Policy**

The Chair informed the MC about news with respect to COST policy and budgetary issues, as he had learned from the French COST National Coordinator, Dr. Emmanuel Pasco-Viel, during a meeting that took place on June 11, 2018, in the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation in Paris. This information concerned the position of COST within the next framework programme Horizon Europe, the strategic priorities (Promoting and spreading excellence; Fostering interdisciplinary research for breakthrough science; Boosting careers of young researchers), new COST Instruments (COST Academy, COST Connect, ITC Conference Grants), future modalities for COST proposals, and budgetary problems at COST.

## **11. Diverse Points**

### **11.1 e-Votes**

The Chair acknowledged the timely responsiveness of the MC Members whenever an e-vote was requested.

### **11.2 Ideas for ITC Conference Grants / Dissemination Meetings**

Several ideas for possible ITC Conference Grants / Dissemination Meetings were presented, such as

- 8<sup>th</sup> FEMS Congress of European Microbiologists, Glasgow (UK) – July 7 - 12, 2019
- 18<sup>th</sup> International Congress on MPMI, Glasgow (UK) – July 14 - 18, 2019
- EFSA Conference on *Xylella fastidiosa*, Corsica (France) – September/October 2019

- 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Plant-Pathogenic Bacteria (ICPPB), Assisi (Italy) – 2020
- APS Meetings

Prof. Vittoria Catara informed the MC about the organisation and content of the next ICPPB in Italy.

### **11.3 Presentation of STSM Details at the EuroXanth Website**

Dr. Bart Cottyn requested that more details about the STSMs should be presented at the EuroXanth website, such as topics/titles, concerned WG, host institute. These suggestions were discussed and it was decided for future STSMs that both the title of the STSM and the host will be published online upon prior information of the grant applicants.

## **12. Closing**

In closing the meeting on 18 July 2018 at 8.30 p.m. Action Chair Dr Ralf Koebnik expressed his gratitude to all MC Members for their active participation in the meeting.

## Annex 1: Attendance list

Chair of the COST Action	
Dr Ralf KOEBNIK <a href="mailto:koebnik@gmx.de">koebnik@gmx.de</a>	
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## Annex 2 – Agenda

**COST Action CA16107**

**Action Title: EuroXanth: Integrating science on *Xanthomonadaceae* for integrated plant disease management in Europe**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Management Committee Meeting**

**German Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, Lecture hall, 06019 Halle (Saale), Germany**

**18 July 2018 from 19:00 to 20:30**

1. Welcome to participants
2. Verification of the presence of two-thirds of the Participating COST Countries (quorum)
3. Adoption of agenda
4. Update on participating members
5. Overview about dissemination activities
6. Change in administration
7. Finances
  - 1<sup>st</sup> budget year
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> budget year
8. Deliverables and activities in the 2<sup>nd</sup> budget year
9. Planning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> budget year
10. News about COST policy
11. Diverse points
  - e-votes
  - Ideas for ITC Conference Grants / Dissemination Meetings
  - Presentation of STSM details at the EuroXanth website
12. Closing