

Subject | Minutes of the Second Management Committee Meeting of COST Action CA16107

EuroXanth: Integrating science on *Xanthomonadaceae* for integrated plant disease management in Europe, Coimbra, December 14, 2017

1. Welcome to participants

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

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda (**Annex 1**) for the 2nd Management Committee (MC) meeting was adopted.

3. Establishment of quorum

The quorum (2/3 of COST Countries participating in the Action) was reached: 20 country representatives out of 24 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 2**.

4. General information about activities and achievements of the COST Action

Ralf Koebnik gave a presentation on the activities and achievements of the COST Action.

4.1 Growth of the COST Action and new members

Since the 1st MC Meeting, three more COST Countries have joined the COST Action, Croatia (16 June 2017), Estonia (22 August 2017) and Turkey (15 November 2017).

In addition, two institutions from Near-Neighbour Countries (Agricultural University of Tirana, Albania; Al-Hussein bin Talal University, Jordan) have been accepted by the MC to join the COST Action and their implementation is in progress. These new members will bring the number of participating countries to 27 (23 COST Member States, 1 COST Cooperating State, 2 Near-Neighbour Countries, 1 International Partner Country).

4.2 Overview about Deliverables

The Chair reminded that in accordance with the MoU and its objectives for research coordination and capacity building, the following deliverables had been defined:

1. Setup of a Twitter account, fed by the community of COST Action participants, that will notify on events, break-through discoveries, and societal aspects of developments with relevance to the EuroXanth COST Action (Transversal / Month 3);
2. Establishment and curation of a dedicated Scoop.it! account on latest scientific publications with high relevance to the EuroXanth COST Action (Transversal / Month 6);
3. Consortium website/newsletter that will provide information about events that are organized in the frame of the EuroXanth COST Action and which will disseminate network-relevant information, such as step-by-step protocols, factsheets, opinions, etc. (Transversal / Month 9);
4. Co-organisation of the 6th *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);
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);
12. Recommendation of disease control measures based on a better understanding of the microbe-eukaryote interaction and the effects of bio-control approaches on pathogen populations (WG4 / Month 42);
13. Trained next-generation investigators who are well connected in a stimulating trans-national career network (Transversal / Month 48).

All three Deliverables of the first Grant Period have been achieved in time:

1. A Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/EuroXanth>) with currently 273 Tweets was set up in March 2017 and has 112 Followers. It had been decided not to feed the account by the community of COST Action participants in order to avoid unintended tweets on sensitive issues (e.g. new epidemics). Instead, the account is expert-managed by the Communication Responsible, Joana Vicente.
2. A dedicated Scoop.it! account (<http://www.scoop.it/t/xanthomonadaceae-plant-diseases>) on latest scientific publications with high relevance to the EuroXanth COST Action (until now, 139 publications with 558 views) has been established in April 2017 and is curated managed by the Communication Responsible, Joana Vicente.
3. A consortium website (<https://EuroXanth.eu>) was created in March 2017 and is managed by the Chair of the COST Action, Ralf Koebnik. The website gives an overview about the COST Action and its management, lists events, announces calls for grants (STSM Grants, ITC Conference Grants), contains a form for online application, allows the download of relevant documents and explains what COST is, how one can join and how one should acknowledge the support by COST. In addition, the website invites to subscribe to a Newsletter (currently 178 subscribers). Five Newsletters have been sent until now, informing about (i) the launch of the website, (ii) the 1st Annual Conference in Coimbra (Portugal), (iii) ITC Conference Grants, (iv) the 2nd Annual Conference in Halle (Germany), and (v) the Training School on “Prognosis & Advanced Diagnosis of *Xanthomonadaceae*“ in Heraklion (Greece). In addition, two mailing lists were established, (i) a list targeting all Members and Substitutes of the MC (mc@euraxanth.eu) and (ii) a list targeting the Core Group of the COST Action (core@euraxanth.eu). Some members could not join the mailing list, probably due to spam filters of the home institutions. Therefore it is advised to send individual emails instead or in addition to the mailing list, if necessary.

With respect to the second Grant Period, the co-organisation of the 6th *Xanthomonas* Genomics Conference in Halle (Saale), Germany, follows the time schedule. The Scientific Committee of the conference (>50% COST Action Participants) is composed as follows:

Name	Role	Country	Working Group
BONAS, Ulla		DE	
BÜTTNER, Daniela	MC Member	DE	WG2
BOCH, Jens	MC Member	DE	WG3 Leader
KOEBNIK, Ralf	Chair	FR	WG2
KÖLLIKER, Roland	MC Member	CH	WG3 Vice Leader
LEACH, Jan E.	MC Observer	US	
STUDHOLME, David	MC Member	GB	WG1
WANG, Nian		US	

There is no doubt that all other Deliverables of the second Grant Period will be delivered in time, based on the activities that will be planned for this Grant Period.

4.3 Overview about Budget

The Chair of the COST Action MC compared the initially planned budget, the final budget that had been approved by the MC (total of 105,995 €), and the budget amendment from August 2017 (totaling to 119,995.49 €). Since most of the budget amendment was allocated to ITC Conference Grants, it was explained that spending this extra money for such activities is not realistic due to long lead times of conference planning, registration and abstract submission. It was reminded that the Core Group had decided, based on the given mandate, to re-allocate 5000 € from ITC Conference Grants to STSM Grants. In addition, the Chair had decided, based on the given mandate, to re-allocate 4000 € from underspending of the WG2-WG3 Meeting (6,760.13 € versus 11,775 € planned) to STSM Grants. This extra money allowed providing eight STSM Grants, among them three for missions to excellent host laboratories in the United States, instead of five STSM Grants.

Since it is expected that the rest of the money that was allocated to ITC Conference Grants, all participating MC Members were asked to agree to re-allocate all the money from ITC Conference Grants to STSM Grants. This proposal was accepted in unanimity.

5. Discussion and approval of new mandates

The Chair reminded of the mandates given during the 1st MC Meeting. In order to improve the management further, the following mandates were suggested to approval and have been approved by the participating MC Members in unanimity:

- I. The **Vice Chair** will determine amongst **eligible participants** at meetings those who are **entitled to be reimbursed** by the COST Action. This mandate follows the suggestion given in Section 4 of the Vademecum. The Vice Chair will consider the suggestions given by the Organising Committee.
- II. The **Vice Chair** will determine amongst eligible participants at a Training School those **trainers** who are **entitled to be reimbursed** by the COST Action. This mandate follows the suggestion given in Section 5.1 of the Vademecum. The Vice Chair will consider the suggestions given by the Evaluation Committee, which will consist of (i) the Chair, (ii) the Vice Chair, (iii) the corresponding WG Leader(s), (iv) the corresponding WG Vice Leader(s), and (v) one representative from the Local Organisers.
- III. The **Vice Chair** will determine the **financial contribution** (in the form of a Trainee Grant) for all eligible **trainees** who will be attending the approved Training School. This mandate follows the suggestion given in Section 5.1 of the Vademecum. The Vice Chair will consider the suggestions given by the Evaluation Committee, which will consist of (i) the Chair, (ii) the Vice Chair, (iii) the corresponding WG Leader(s), (iv) the corresponding WG Vice Leader(s), and (v) one representative from the Local Organisers.

6. Discussion of new activities for the next grant period(s)

Ralf Koebnik informed about upcoming conferences for which ITC Conference Grant calls could be considered, and invited all participants to provide ideas for such calls. It was suggested and accepted to list candidate conferences at the EuroXanth website instead of sending out individual Newsletters and emails.

Since the next Annual Conference will be co-organised with the 6th *Xanthomonas* Genomics Conference in Halle (Saale), Germany, MC Members from ITCs were asked to propose activities. Edyta Ćermić suggested organising a WG1 Meeting in

Croatia during the next Grant Period. This Meeting will specifically address Deliverables (5) and (6): **Protocols for detection** of *Xanthomonadaceae* listed as quarantine organisms in Europe (EPPO A1 and A2 lists of pests recommended for regulation as quarantine pests) and **List of molecular markers** useful to study the genetic diversity and population structure of plant-associated *Xanthomonadaceae*. This proposal was very much supported by the participating MC Members.

Alice Boulanger explained the idea of organising 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. This idea was very much supported by the participating MC Members and Alice Boulanger was invited to develop this idea further. Given the long time target this proposal will be re-discussed later.

Given the fact that WG4 needs to provide **recommendation of disease control measures** based on a better understanding of the microbe-eukaryote interaction and the effects of bio-control approaches on pathogen populations (Deliverable 12), Vittoria Catara (after consulting WG4 Leader Emilio Stefani and the Conference convenor Giorgio Balestra) suggested to organise a WG4 Meeting back-to-back with the **4th International Symposium on Biological Control of Plant Bacterial Diseases – BIOCONTROL 2019** at Università della Tuscia, Viterbo, Italy, in June 2019. This idea was as well very much supported by the participating MC Members.

7. Closing

In closing the meeting on 16 December 2017 at 6.15 pm Action Chair Dr Ralf Koebnik expressed his gratitude to all MC Members for their active participation in the meeting, for their feedback and for their more than timely e-votes in the past.

Annex 1 – Agenda

COST Action CA16107

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

2nd Management Committee Meeting

Instituto Pedro Nunes, Auditorium room, R. Pedro Nunes, 3030-199 Coimbra, Portugal

16 December 2017 from 16:40 to 18:15

1. Welcome to participants
2. Adoption of agenda
3. Verification of the presence of two-thirds of the Participating COST Countries (quorum)
4. General information about activities and achievements of the COST Action:
 - Growth of the COST Action and new members
 - Overview about Deliverables
 - Overview about Budget
5. Discussion and approval of new mandates
6. Discussion of new activities for the next grant period(s)
7. Closing

Annex 2: Attendance list

Chair of the COST Action	
Dr Ralf KOEBNIK koebnik@gmx.de	
Belgium	
Dr Bart COTTYN bart.cottyn@ilvo.vlaanderen.be	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	
Ms Biljana RADUSIN SOPIC biljana.sopic@griunibl.rs.ba	Ms Biljana LOLIC b_lolic@yahoo.com
Bulgaria	
Dr Mariya STOYANOVA mimka@gbg.bg	Prof Svetoslav BOBEV svetoslavbobev@abv.bg
Croatia	
Prof Edyta ĐERMIĆ edermic@agr.hr	
Czech Republic	
Dr Miroslav BARANEK baranek@mendelu.cz	Dr Pavel BERAN pavel.beran@centrum.cz
Estonia	
ABSENT	
France	
Dr Alice BOULANGER alice.boulanger@inra.fr	Dr Marie-Agnes JACQUES marie-agnes.jacques@inra.fr
FYR Macedonia	
ABSENT	
Germany	
Dr Jens BOCH jens.boch@genetik.uni-hannover.de	
Greece	
Dr Nicholas SKANDALIS (MC Substitute) nicholas_skandalis@imbb.forth.gr	Prof Filippos VERVERIDIS (MC Substitute) fververidis@gmail.com
Hungary	
Dr Tamas KOVACS kovacst@enviroinvest.hu	
Israel	
Prof Guido SESSA guidos@post.tau.ac.il	Prof Saul BURDMAN saul.burdman@mail.huji.ac.il
Italy	
Prof Vittoria CATARA vcatara@unict.it	Dr Maria SAPONARI (MC Substitute) maria.saponari@ipsp.cnr.it
Netherlands	
Dr Harrold VAN DEN BURG h.a.vandenburg@uva.nl	

Norway	
ABSENT	
Poland	
Dr Monika KAŁUŻNA monika.kaluzna@inhort.pl	Dr Joanna PULAWSKA (MC Substitute) joanna.pulawska@inhort.pl
Portugal	
Prof Joana COSTA jcosta@uc.pt	Prof Fernando TAVARES ftavares@cibio.up.pt
Serbia	
Prof Aleksa OBRADOVIC aleksao@agrif.bg.ac.rs	
Slovenia	
ABSENT	
Spain	
Dr Jaime CUBERO DABRIO cubero@inia.es	
Sweden	
Dr Suayib ÜSTÜN suayib.ustun@slu.se	
Switzerland	
Dr Joël F. POTHIER joel.pothier@zhaw.ch	Dr Roland KÖLLIKER roland.koelliker@usys.ethz.ch
Turkey	
Prof Hatice OZAKTAN hatice.ozaktan@ege.edu.tr	
United Kingdom	
Dr Joana VICENTE joana.vicente@warwick.ac.uk	Dr David STUDHOLME d.j.studholme@exeter.ac.uk