



**Minutes
Core Group Meeting CG4**

COST Action no. FA1103
Action Title: Endophytes in Biotechnology and Agriculture
Tuesday, 23.6.2015, 8:00-10:30

Please note: Van der Falk Hotel Maastricht
Nijverheidsweg 35
6227 AL Maastricht
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Core Group of FA1103:

Bruno Biavati (Coordinator STSM Committee)
Andrea Campisano (Vice Leader WG1)
Matthias Döring (Leader WG3)
Carlo Leifert (Action Vice Chair)
Anna-Maria Pirttilä (Vice Leader WG4)
Carolin Schneider (Action Chair)
Heinz-Martin Schumacher (Vice Leader WG2)
Angela Sessitsch (Leader WG2)
Marc Stadler (Leader WG4)
Jaco Vangronsveld (Vice Leader WG3)
Leo van Overbeek (Leader WG1)

Member excused

1. Welcome to participants
Carolin Schneider opened the meeting at 8:00 and welcomed the participants.
2. Adoption of agenda
The agenda was adopted.
3. Approval of minutes and matters arising of last meeting
The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

4. Update from the Action Chair

a. Status of Action, including participating countries

Carolin Schneider gave an overview about the status of the Action regarding Members, International Cooperation and WG Members:

	Number
Participating COST Member Countries and Cooperating State	22
Participating inclusiveness COST Member Countries ⁷	9
MC Members	44

International Cooperation:

	Number ⁸
Near Neighbour Countries (NNC) participating in the Action	2
Institutions from NNC participating in the Action	2
International Partner Countries (IPC) participating in the Action	6
Institutions from IPC participating in the Action	10
Specific Organisations ⁹ participating in the Action	0

⁷ Current COST Member Countries targeted by the COST inclusiveness Policy: EU 13 (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Croatia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia), EU candidate countries (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Serbia, Turkey) and potential EU candidate countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina). In addition, to comply with the EC criteria for 'Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation', Portugal and Luxemburg are included.

⁸ Update at the beginning of each Work & Budget Plan negotiation

⁹ EU Commission, EU Agencies, European RTD organisations and International Organisations (see COST doc. 4115/13)

¹⁰ Give an approximate estimation in percentage on the current level of achievement of each of the Action Objectives by clicking on the empty boxes. Update at the beginning of each Work & Budget Plan negotiation

Working Groups and Working Groups' Membership:

WG N.	WG Title	Total number of members ¹¹	Number from Inclusiveness Countries	From Industry	From international cooperation institutions	Number of ESRs	Gender balance (men/ women)
WG1	Ecology of endophytes	175	23	4	5	50	93/82
WG2	Identification of new competent endophytes	167	22	7	3	46	88/78
WG3	Development of new microbial inocula	119	18	6	1	36	67/52
WG4	New industrial products in life sciences	78	9	2	2	22	40/38

Add as many rows as necessary

b. Action budget status

Carolin Schneider gave an overview about the Action budget for 2015 and details of the activities according to the work & budget plan 2015 (to be found there)

III. SUMMARY BUDGET

A.COST Networking Tools	EUR
(1) MEETINGS	99.000
(2) TRAINING SCHOOLS	0
(3) SHORT-TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS	30.800
(4) DISSEMINATION	0
(5) OERSA	0
B.TOTAL SCIENCE EXPENDITURE (sum of (1) to (5))	129.800

c. STSM status and new applications

Bruno Biavati as STSM coordinator prepared an STSM overview (2012-2014, 1st and 2nd call 2015):

Year	Applications	Used Budget (€)	Duration (days)
2012	6	11,180	190
2013	7	14,500	280
2014	14	30,860	845
2015	6	12,810	237

For the next and last call 15.7.2015 approx. 18.000 € budget is left.

5. Annual Progress Conference

Carolin Schneider explained that APC is not taking place anymore. Core Group decided to though keep up the cumulative Monitoring Progress Report for the last year of FA1103 (2015) to have it complete for 4 years. Carolin Schneider will initiate the process starting mid August.

6. Follow-up of MoU objectives

a. Progress report of working groups

The Working Group Leaders 1-3 reported the activities. For WG3 a Powerpoint presentation is available upon request and on the website.

7. Scientific planning

a. Dissemination planning (Publications and outreach activities)

Final Action Dissemination (FAD):

- Angela Sessitsch launched a special issue in FEMS Microbiology Ecology for the Final Action Conference
- Carolin Schneider and Angela Sessitsch explained the plan of making a professional video about the Final Action Conference including the Round table discussion and documentation of the presentations. There is an extra budget of 5.000 € available for the FAD.

8. AOB

The participants discussed about the end of FA1103 on December 7, 2015 and the necessity to save the very valuable network. Angela Sessitsch proposed the idea of an Endophyte Association and will initiate the process together with the Chair with a questionnaire to FA1103 Members on fees/benefits/other to find out majority appeal.

The participants discussed as well the possibility of a new COST Action proposal. The fall collection date is September 8, 2015. The COST Open Call will continue having the spring and autumn Collection Dates, when all submitted proposals are gathered and evaluated. A spring collection date 2016 is therefore expected. Discussion will continue.

9. Closing

Carolin Schneider closed the meeting at 10:00 and expressed sincere thanks for the productive meeting.

CS 23.7.15