



## Draft Minutes Management Committee Meeting 4

### COST Action no. FA1103

#### Action Title: Endophytes in Biotechnology and Agriculture

Venue Izmir, Country Turkey

6.11.2014, 9:00-10:30

1. Welcome to participants

Action Chair Carolin Schneider welcomed the 12 MC participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was accepted without corrections or additions.

3. Approval of minutes and matters arising of last meeting

The minutes of the 3rd Management Committee Meeting from May 13, 2013, were accepted. These had been previously sent to all MC members and deputies.

4. Update from the Action Chair

a. Status of Action, including participating countries

The Action now includes 22 (out of 35) countries and soon will expand to 23 member nations after the addition of Cyprus. Algeria and Tunisia joined as Near Neighbour Countries. The six new International Partner Countries include representatives from India, 2x Australia, US (Rusty Rodriguez with his company, Adaptive Symbiotic Technologies), New Zealand, and South Africa.

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. Priority is given to event locations in Inclusiveness Countries.

b. Action budget status

The budget now ends at the end of November, not December as was previously the case, a major date change at COST. And the 2nd installment is paid after the end of the Grant Period, not in the middle, so money has to be advanced by the Grant Holder institution.

The largest portion of the budget was used for meetings (58 740€), but also for the training school (37 560€) and STSMs, which target young scientists ESR (30 420€).

Meetings – Core group meeting in Newcastle, Working Group 3 meeting in Bielefeld, Dissemination at IMC 10 in Bangkok and Annual Biocontrol Industry meeting in Basel, Working Group 1-3 with FA1206 in Krakow – 20 reimbursements, and Working Groups 1-4 with MC meeting in Izmir (Turkey).

Total expenses: 132 520.00€, Budget 140 200.00€

Training schools: STATISTICAL COMPUTING AND GRAPHICS IN ENDOPHYTE RESEARCH and WG2 ISOLATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF FUNGAL ROOT ENDOPHYTES.

c. STSM status and new applications

2012 (6), 2013 (7), 2014 (14) – 17 countries, with a maximum 2500 €/STSM; people stayed longer for the STSMs with the same amount of money as in previous years. Deadline for the next applications is mid-January, 2015. Send them this year! The second application deadline in 2015 will probably be in April, the last in July.

5. Promotion of gender balance and of Early Stage Researchers (ESR)

In the participating COST countries, gender balance and proportion of early stage researchers is good, though not so good in the NNC and IPC. The number of members is satisfactory as is the number of inclusiveness countries, industrial partners and international cooperations.

6. Update from the Grant Holder

The only report from the Grant Holder is that end of November is the deadline for reimbursements.

7. Update from the COST Office

8. Update from the DC Rapporteur

There was no update from the COST office nor was there a visit from the DC rapporteur.

9. Annual Progress Conference (preparation and/or feedback from DC)

The annual progress conference was held in April, 2015, in Plovdiv, Bulgaria: 350 actions in 10 domains, 31 of them in Food and Agriculture (FA). Feedback was good.

10. Follow-up of MoU objectives

a. Progress report of working groups

WG 1: Ecology of endophytes: Meeting in Florence towards publication - professional definition, financed, submitted; Strigolactones and endophytes at joint workshop in Krakow.

WG 2: Identification of new competent endophytes: Conservation (end of 2013, WG 3 meeting in Brussels) – quality assessment instruction, loss of activity following long-term preservation; training school Großbeeren (isolation and conservation of fungal root endophytes), hands on, 12 participants

WG 3: Development of new microbial inocula, elucidation of endophyte, recognition, mode-of-action: Workshop in Bielefeld - application techniques; member attended dissemination meeting in Basel regarding product overview (see above).

WG 4: New industrial products in life sciences: Training school in Braunschweig, December, 2013 (Characterization of biologically active secondary metabolites from endophytic fungi)

Meeting in Izmir (November 4 -7, 2014): Endophytes in Biotechnology and Agriculture –Emphasis on risk analysis and risk evaluation, 39 participants from 13 countries.

With this, the budget for this past year has been used up.

11. Scientific planning

a. Scientific strategy

b. Action Budget Planning

c. Long-term planning (including anticipated locations and dates of future activities)

d. Dissemination planning (Publications and outreach activities)

Ideas and budget for 2015 were submitted to COST Office.

WG 1: WG meeting together with Core Group meeting Root Endophytes (Rhizosphere 4), from 21.-25.6.2015.

WG 2: (and all WGs) Final meeting in Vienna, 23.-26.11.15. Microbe-assisted agriculture – opportunities, challenges & needs

Joint meeting with COST Action FP1103 FRAXBACK (first idea was from 12.-16.04.2015 in Dubrovnik, Croatia, their big meeting, but that won't be possible, because Croatia is not a participating member of our Action)

WG 3: Meeting will deal with monitoring and localization, presumably be organized by Dr. Gábor M. Kovacs and take place in Budapest, Hungary.

WG 4: Joint Workshop with FP1103 FRAXBACK – see above.

Our action ends 07.12.15.

12. Requests for new members

no longer relevant (Cyprus is already accepted).

13. Non-COST applications to the Actions

irrelevant

14. AOB

A. Discussion on ideas for a new COST Action: New Open Call in preparation by COST association: pre-announcement (comm 17.12. CS: [Call now published](#)) –

- There will probably be 2 calls/year as usual, which is good for collecting new ideas for another COST action.

- There should be a new Chair, with Carolin Schneider assuming a minor role. An early stage researcher, woman or one from an inclusiveness country as chair would be very good.

Topics – can be related, but not the same. This one is very broad. What could be one more specific?

-Plant microbiomes (suggested by Anna Maria Pirttila)

-Ecology of MOs would be interesting (suggested by Lotfi Fki)

-Testing bacterial and fungal endophytes in planta for improving plant health (Barbara Schulz )

-Microorganisms other than endophytes might be interesting, or perhaps investigating the whole microbiome including their interactions with one and other, as well as with the host (suggested by Carolin Schneider)

-The potential of endophytes as pathogens (Barbara Schulz)

-We should be able to profit from our various experiences.

- A new project should be broader than just the microbiome. It could include industry, e.g. IBMA and/or Koppert. Both institutions would be good (Andrea Campisano).

- Too few microbiome (Birgit Mitter)

- This needn't be exclusive (Anna Maria Pirttila)

Dropbox could be used to collect ideas (Lofti Fki).

15. Location and date of next meeting

Probably 23.-26.11.2015 in Vienna

16. Summary of MC decisions

no decisions made

17. Closing

Thank you's for organization and snacks

Barbara Schulz 2.12.2014  
Carolin Schneider 17.12.2014