

## COST FA1103: Endophytes in Biotechnology and Agriculture

### *Defining endophytes: a meeting to establish a standard paper*

2-4.12.13 Florence, Italy.

#### SCIENTIFIC REPORT

The meeting was attended by 8 scientists from EU COST countries:

- Gabriele Berg (Austria)
- Andrea Campisano (Italy)
- Stéphane Compant (France)
- Matthias Doering (Germany)
- Pablo Hardoim (Portugal)
- Leo van Overbeek (Netherlands)
- Anna Maria Pirttilä (Finland)
- Angela Sessitsch (Austria)

The meeting started on Monday Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9 a.m. and ended on Wednesday Dec 4<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon.

On Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>, the session was introduced by a presentation by M. Doering regarding the history of the word endophyte from its first appearances and of how it was defined in different papers. The presentation also addressed some of the wider issues around the definition of endophytes, including what type of organisms can exist inside plants. The discussion then was initiated, addressing the major points regarding the structure of the manuscript to produce. A list of critical issues on the topic of endophytes was drafted, taking into account all suggestions and discussing them briefly. The draft document including all relevant points was developed into a series of chapters and sub-chapters for the final manuscript.

The second day, Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>, the group discussed in depth on how to develop of the concept of endophytic lifestyle and the definition of endophyte, taking integrating ecological considerations and the instances that may arise from the market for the registration of bio-based products. An abstract was worded to summarise all the points we aimed at addressing. Finally, a list of journals was prepared, to be prompted with inviting the review. Manuscript chapter responsibility was shared among participants.

The last day, Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>, was dedicated to the in-depth analysis of the artwork and inserts for the manuscript. Artwork creation was deemed necessary and a quote from a company producing graphics for science was examined. How to integrate this and the other items into the paper was also considered. The group agreed to ask financial support to COST for the further expenses involved in the manuscript creation. The subdivision of the total workload was finely distributed and the tools for sharing the work advances (such as email and a dropbox folder) were agreed upon.

Finally, a timeline for specific milestones was prepared.

