



COST ACTION FA1208

Pathogen-informed strategies for sustainable broad-spectrum crop resistance

Draft Minutes of the 1st Management Committee Meeting

**COST Office
Brussels, Belgium
19 April 2013**

1 Welcome to participants

The participants of the inaugural meeting of COST Action FA1208 were welcomed by Dr. Ilias Papadopoulos from COST office, and Dr. Ioanna Stavridou, the Science Officer for this Action.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Ilias Papadopoulos until the election of a chairperson for the Action, which was carried out under agenda item 6.

2 Adoption of the agenda

The draft agenda was adopted.

3 Presentation of the delegations

The COST Office was represented by the Science Officer of the COST Domain on Food and Agriculture Dr. Ilias Papadopoulos. The list of officially nominated delegates and the participants of the meeting with their contact information is presented in annex.

4 General information on the COST mechanism and on the funding of co-ordination

At the beginning of this item Dr. Ilias Papadopoulos gave a briefing on the COST mechanism, presenting the general framework for that programme created to promote scientific and technical co-operation in Europe. Relevant information can be found on the COST website at http://www.cost.eu/about_cost

Dr. Ilias Papadopoulos informed the delegates about the principles and procedures related to the COST Actions and about the possibilities of getting activities funded from the COST budget. The relevant documents can be found at the official website of COST: <http://www.cost.eu/participate>
The MC adopted as its rules of procedure the Rules of Procedure for Management Committee (COST 4154/11 Annex II).



5 Status of the Action

Action details

MoU	FA1208-MoU
CSO Approval date	21/11/2012
Start of Action	19/04/2013
End of Action	18/04/2017
End of prolongation	-

Participations

Country	Date	Status
<u>Austria</u>	05/02/2013	Confirmed
<u>Belgium</u>	31/01/2013	Confirmed
<u>Denmark</u>	29/11/2012	Confirmed
<u>France</u>	17/12/2012	Confirmed
<u>Germany</u>	17/01/2013	Confirmed
<u>Hungary</u>	13/12/2012	Confirmed
<u>Israel</u>	09/12/2012	Confirmed
<u>Italy</u>	03/04/2013	Confirmed
<u>Malta</u>	28/12/2012	Confirmed
<u>Netherlands</u>	05/02/2013	Confirmed
<u>Norway</u>	11/03/2013	Confirmed
<u>Poland</u>	28/12/2012	Confirmed
<u>Portugal</u>	04/02/2013	Confirmed
<u>Romania</u>	05/03/2013	Confirmed
<u>Slovakia</u>	03/04/2013	Confirmed
<u>Slovenia</u>	25/03/2013	Confirmed
<u>Spain</u>	28/11/2012	Confirmed
<u>Switzerland</u>	27/02/2013	Confirmed
<u>Turkey</u>	19/04/2013	Confirmed
<u>United Kingdom</u>	28/11/2012	Confirmed

Total: 20

6 Election of Chair and Vice Chair





The Management Committee elected Dr. Thomas Kroj (FR) to the Chair of COST Action FA1208. Aska Goverse (NL) was elected Vice-Chair.

The new Action Chair took over the chair of the meeting from this item onwards.

7 Election of the Grant Holder Institution & 2 Financial Rapporteurs

Grant-holder: Dr. Thomas Kroj proposed INRA as Grant Holder for the Action which was unanimously approved.

It has been agreed that maximum 15% of the budget will be allocated to the grant holder for the necessary administration.

DR. Guido Sessa (IL) and Dr. Jens Boch (DE) volunteered for the role of Action Financial Rapporteurs and were approved.



8 Working plan for implementing the Action

8.1 Objectives and working programme

The objectives of the Action FA1208 are outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) (http://w3.cost.eu/fileadmin/domain_files/FA/Action_FA1208/mou/FA1208-e.pdf) The newly elected Chair, Dr. Thomas Kroj presented a summary of the Action and the provisional grant workplan and budget (the presentation is enclosed).

The main objective of the Action is to develop innovative pathogen-informed strategies to obtain sustainable and broad spectrum resistant varieties of cereal and solanaceous crops.

Restrictions on the use of pesticides mean that there is a need for new, sustainable pest control methods. Exploiting natural plant disease resistance is highly attractive, as it reduces the dependency on pesticides. However, the use of crop resistance is bound by two factors: the limited number of resistance sources against important diseases in major crops and the frequent breakdown of resistance due to rapid evolution of pathogens. Both issues can now be addressed by innovative and powerful approaches developed on the basis of recent and unprecedented progress in research on plants and their pathogens fostered by the revolution in next generation sequencing and the investigation of pathogen effector proteins. The challenge is to implement these novel pathogen-informed strategies for the generation of sustainable broad-spectrum crop resistance. Hence, this COST Action aims to create a European network of scientists and breeders for the translation of breakthroughs in plant-pathogen interaction research into effective breeding strategies for durable disease resistance in cereal and solanaceous crops which are of primary importance for European agriculture.

8.2 Working method - organisation and management

It was decided that the Action will be carried out mainly through four Working Groups: Understanding the contribution of pathogen effectors to virulence (WG1), Host processes and proteins targeted by central pathogen effectors (WG2), Evolutionary constraints on pathogen effectors and emergence of new pathotypes (WG3), Plant immune receptors and allelic variants of host targets for sustainable and broad-spectrum resistance breeding (WG4). Also the Action will function through Short Term Scientific Missions (STMS). All 4 Working Groups should address the relevant key areas as described in the MoU. Working Groups have been invited by the Management Committee to cooperate as closely as possible and to ensure the necessary flow of information.

After a comprehensive discussion the following structures and responsibilities were agreed upon:

8.2.1 Working Group 1: Understanding the contribution of pathogen effectors to virulence

Co-ordinators: Bart Thomma (NL) & John Jones (UK)

8.2.2 Working Group 2: Host processes and proteins targeted by central pathogen effectors

Co-ordinators: Nemo Peeters (FR) & Hans Thordal-Christensen (DK)

8.2.3 Working Group 3: Evolutionary constraints on pathogen effectors and emergence of new pathotypes

Co-ordinators: Eva Strukenbrock (DE) & Didier Thaurreau (FR)

8.2.4 Working Group 4: Plant immune receptors and allelic variants of host targets for sustainable and broad-spectrum resistance breeding

Co-ordinators: Beat Keller (CH) & Vivianne Vleeshouwers (NL)

8.2.5 STSM coordinator: Lieve Gheysen (BE)





8.2.6 Executive Committee

In accordance with the existing COST rules the MC has set up an Executive Committee consisting of the Chair, Vice-Chair and the four Working Group Co-ordinators and the STSM coordinators.

8.2.7 STSM

All MC members have been invited to encourage young scientists to participate in the scheme. It has been agreed during the MC meeting that a first STSM call will be launched in autumn 2013 with a deadline after the first meeting in October. In the following years, two calls per year will be organized. Applications can only be submitted by using the on-line registration tool (www.cost.eu/stsm) described in the relevant guidelines.

8.2.8 Website

To facilitate communication between the members of the Action and to promote distribution of information on the research activities going on in the field of COST Action FA1208 an Action website will be developed. Thomas Kroj and Nemo Peeters expressed the readiness of their institute, INRA, to host and maintain the Action website on its server. The offer of INRA has been welcomed by the Management Committee.

8.2.9 DC Rapporteur of the Action

The Domain Committee on Food and Agriculture (DC FA) nominated Dov Prusky as Rapporteur for COST Action FA1208, whose task will be to report about the activities of this COST Action to DC FA.

8.3 Distribution of tasks

Furthermore, MC members have been invited to support the Action Chair in building up an informative website by providing adequate information material.

9 Place and date of future meetings

John Jones (James Hutton Institute, Dundee, UK) proposed to organise a first meeting of the project beginning of October 2013 in Scotland (9-11 October 2013). This meeting would bring together ~100 participants and cover all WGs. The meeting would be coupled to an MC meeting where additional first year's activities will be discussed and decided. This proposition has been approved by the MC.

10 Non-COST countries

The MC approved the following non-COST country institutions to join the Action (subject to completion of the necessary documentation and approval by DC FA and JAF):

Institution	Country	Researcher	Email address

11 Any Other Business

None.



12 Closing of the meeting

In closing the meeting on 19 April 2013 at 15:00 hrs Action Chair Dr. Thomas Kroj expressed his gratitude to the members of the Management Committee for their active participation in the meeting.

Ilias Papadopoulos
April 2013





List of participants

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