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| **Minutes** |
| **3rd Management Committee Meeting** |
| **COST Action no. FA1208** |
| **Action Title: Pathogen-informed strategies for sustainable broad-spectrum crop resistance** |
| **Zakopane, Poland, 16th October 2014** |

Meeting Agenda

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| 1. Welcome to participants |
| 2. Adoption of agenda |
| 3. Approval of minutes and matters arising from the last meeting |
| 4. Update from the Action Chair |
| 1. Status of Action, including participating countries 2. Promotion of gender balance and of Early Stage Researchers (ESR) 3. Non-COST applications to the Actions |
| d. Action budget status |
| e. STSM - procedures and 1st and 2nd call |
| 5. Update from the Grant Holder |
| 6. Update from the COST Office |
| 7. Annual Progress Conference (preparation and/or feedback from DC) |
| 8. Follow-up of MoU objectives |
| 9. Scientific planning |
| 10. AOB |
| 11. Location and date of the next meeting |
| 12. Summary of MC decisions |
| 13. Closing |

**1. Welcome to participants**

The participants of the 3rd MC meeting were welcomed by the Action Chair. The list of the MC members attending the meeting is enclosed at the end of the document.

**2. Adoption of agenda**

The draft agenda was adopted.

**3. Approval of minutes and matters arising from the last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting were adopted without modifications.

**4. Update from the Action Chair**

**a Status of Action, including participating countries**

24 COST countries participate in the SUSTAIN Action. In addition, Ukraine, a COST Near Neighbor Country, is in the Action. The reciprocal agreements of COST with certain countries has been discontinued and therefore, Argentina does not have the particular status of a ‘reciprocal agreement country’ any more.

**b Promotion of gender balance and of Early Stage Researchers (ESR)**

Out of the 240 participants of the SUSTAIN Action 35 % are Women (30% in the MC, 45% in the core group) and 30% are ESRs (PhD 8 years or less). The promotion of gender balance and ESR participation are important objectives of the Action and will be criteria for the attribution of STSM grants and meeting participations.

**c Non-COST applications to the Actions**

There were no applications from Non-COST countries.

**d Action budget status**

The working and budget plan for 2013/14 was recapitulated:

(1) MEETINGS € 121,000

(2) SHORT-TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS € 13,000

(3) TRAINING SCHOOLS € 0

(4) PUBLICATIONS, DISSEMINATION, OUTREACH € 0

(5) OTHERS € 1,000

B. TOTAL SCIENCE EXPENDITURE (sum of (1) to (5)) € 135,200

C. Financial & Scientific Administration and Coordination

(max 15% of B.) € 20,280

D. TOTAL EXPENDITURE (B+C) € 155,480

The actual budget for the Annual Conference in Zakopane and the Workshop in Tel Aviv planned for February 2015 are expected to be close to the estimations. The budget for the Workshop in Wageningen in spring 2015 will be finalized according to the final cost of other events. This workshop will also be supported by other sources of funding. The actual budget for STSMs will depend on the number of applications. It was emphasized that STSMs are a priority of the SUSTAIN Action

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**e STSM - procedures and 1st and 2nd call**

The success of the first and second calls for STSMs was highlighted. 8 STSMs were funded during the first grant period (2013/14) and 4 have already been funded in the present second grant period (2014/15). The third call for STSMs that take place in the second half of second grant period is ongoing. The same criteria for evaluation and selection that were presented and approved by the MC last year are still in force. This means that candidates must complete a form available on the COST website, before sending their CV, covering letter, work plan, letter of support from their institution and letter of support from their host institution to the STSM committee, via the dedicated email address ([stsm.sustain@supagro.inra.fr](mailto:stsm.sustain@supagro.inra.fr)).

**5. Update from the Grant Holder**

See update from the Action Chair

**6. Update from the COST Office**

The MC members were informed that Ioanna Stavridou, the Action’s Scientific Officer could not attend the meeting. She will try to attend the next annual conference. The role of the Action’s Scientific Officer was outlined

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

The Action was presented by the Action Chair at the last APC (Plovdiv, Bulgaria, 28-30 April 2014) and received positive feedback. The MC members were informed about the following other Actions that may be relevant for certain participants:

- COST FA1103 Endophytes in Biotechnology and Agriculture that deals with the analysis and use of bacterial and fungal endophytes for plant production and other applications

- FA 1105 Biogreenhouse that fosters a sustainable and productive EU organic greenhouse horticulture. I.e. WG1 “Robust planting material” and WG3 “Plant Health” are certainly relevant for some Action participants.

- FA1106 QualityFruit dealing with hormone and environmental cues controlling fruit ripening and particularly interested in regulatory genes controlling nutritional and sensory fruit traits

- COST Action FA1306 The quest for tolerant varieties: Phenotyping at plant and cellular level. This novel Action deals among others with the dissemination of the results of high throughput phenotyping (plant & cell) and novel sensor development. In addition, it will treat the integration of the results from different omics levels (phenomics, metabolomics, proteomics, transcriptomics, genomics) which is of interest for many participants of FA1208.

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**8. Follow-up of MoU objectives**

The activities (workshops, training school and STSMs) of the first grant period and the first half of the second grant period have been presented and it was unanimously concluded that until now the Action reached its goals.

The first Annual conference held in Birnam/UK (October 2013) united more than 100 participants including internationally leading groups in molecular plant-pathogen research. The scientific program of the conference was outstanding and it gave many ESRs the possibility to present their results to a broad audience.

The “1st TALEN and CRISPR Training School” (March 2013, Halle/DE) met very strong interest, not only in the field of plant-pathogen interaction research but also in other disciplines of plant biology or top-medical research. Among the 38 applications, 18 with strong links to SUSTAIN topics were chosen to ensure high quality training and to serve the objectives of the Action. Among them, 2 were from private companies very much interested in the transfer and dissemination of these innovative technologies.

The workshop on “Cellular dynamics of effector action and recognition” held in April 2014 in Toulouse (FR) was a scientifically-excellent and well-recognized event and allowed to attract new partners to SUSTAIN.

The workshop on “Structure-guided investigation of effector function, action and recognition” organized in September 2014 in Bucharest united 47 scientists. It treated an emerging topic in molecular Plant Pathology and was highly relevant to WG1, 2 and 4.

STSMs are a great success. 13 applications were received and 8 STSMs were chosen for the first year. 4 STSMs were funded in the first half of grant period 2. It is evident that this type of networking activity, which is particularly suited for the career development of ESRs, meets a real need in the SUSTAIN community and should be maintained at this volume or even further developed in the future.

The central role of the Action website (http://www.cost-sustain.org/) for information on activities and application to SUSTAIN events was emphasized. The MC expressed its satisfaction with the website.

**9. Scientific planning**

During the present grant period two additional workshops are planned. A workshop on Experimental approaches for the investigation of effector function, that will be held 10th to 12th February 2015 in Tel Aviv, Israel. The workshop has already been approved by the MC and is organized by Guido Sessa (Tel-Aviv University, Israel) together with Boris Szurek (IRD, France). It will bring together 35 participants and is particularly relevant for WG2 objectives. A workshop on Pathogen-informed Crop improvement is planned to take place from 8th to 10th April in Wageningen, The Netherlands. The outline of the workshop organized by Aska Goverse, Vivianne Vleeshouvers and Bart Thomma (Wageningen,The Netherlands) was presented to the MC and approved by an MC vote. The workshop that will bring together ~35 participants is particularly relevant for WG4 objectives and will create additional contact with seed and breeding companies.

For the next grant period, Eva Stukenbrock (University of Kiel, Germany) volunteered to organize a workshop on Evolutionary genomics of plant pathogens in Kiel, Germany. The program and the objectives of the workshop were presented and approved by an MC vote. The workshop will bring together 40 participants and it is particular relevant for the activities of WG3 which is still somewhat underrepresented in the Action.

Other, possible activities for the third and fourth grant period were discussed. Training schools were judged particularly interesting instruments as they provide concrete hands-on training in cutting edge techniques. Two topics were identified for such activities in 2015 or 2016:

- Bio-informatics: Barbara Geric Stare mentioned the possibility to organize at EBI in 2015 or 2016 a bioinformatics training school similar to the Agricultural Omics Course (http://www.ebi.ac.uk/training/course/agricultural-omics) that has been organized by the CropSustaIn project together at EBI (Hinxton, UK) in February 2014.

- Protein structure modelling: This topic met strong interest. A local organizer with expertise in this domain and willing to invest in such a training event will have to be identified and an organizing committee has to be established.

The core group and potential local and scientific organizers will take up discussions initiated during the MC meeting and will make concrete suggestions for workshops & training schools to serve as a basis of the elaboration of the working plan for the next grant period. All participants were encouraged to make additional suggestions for workshops and training schools.

The following additional activities and topics were discussed and will be followed by the concerned persons and the core group:

- possibility of creating joint activities with other Actions, or even inter-domain activities

- co-organization of Conferences by the Action. Participants who are involved in the organization of conferences should remind that the Action can co-organize and co-fund conferences or organize sessions in Conferences.

**10. AOB**

No other points were raised

**11. Location and date of next meeting**

The next MC meeting will be combined with the next annual conference of the Action expected to be held either in Autumn 2015 or in spring 2016. The location of the Conference has not been decided and the Action chairs are looking for participants who would like to organize this event.

**12. Summary of MC decisions**

- Unanimous vote in favour of the workshop Pathogen-informed Crop improvement, scheduled for spring 2015 (Wageningen, The Netherlands).

- Unanimous vote in favour of the workshop Evolutionary genomics of plant pathogens, scheduled for summer 2015 (Kiel, Germany).

**13. Closing**

**MC members attending the meeting**

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| **Name** | **Category/Position** | **Country** |
| Thomas Kroj | Chair | France |
| Aska Goverse | Vice Chair | Netherlands |
| Balazs Barna | MC Member | Hungary |
| Jens Boch | MC Member | Germany |
| May Bente Brurberg | MC Member | Norway |
| Florica Constantinescu | MC Member | Romania |
| Armin Djamei | MC Member | Austria |
| Antonin Dreiseitl | MC Member | Czech Republic |
| Figen Ersoy | MC Member | Turkey |
| Marcin Filipecki | MC Member | Poland |
| Suzan Gabriels | MC Member | Netherlands |
| Barbara Geric Stare | MC Substitute | Slovenia |
| Godelieve Gheysen | MC Member | Belgium |
| Sophien Kamoun | MC Member | United Kingdom |
| Beat Keller | MC Member | Switzerland |
| Magdalena Krzymowska | MC Member | Poland |
| Jana Libantova | MC Member | Slovakia |
| Morten Lillemo | MC Member | Norway |
| Bruce McDonald | MC Member | Switzerland |
| Matias Pasquali | MC Member | Luxembourg |
| Dov Prusky | MC Member | Israel |
| Diego Rubiales | MC Substitute | Spain |
| Alan Schulman | MC Member | Finland |
| Guido Sessa | MC Member | Israel |
| Boris Szurek | MC Member | France |
| Halil Toktay | MC Member | Turkey |
| Maria Carlota Vaz Patto | MC Member | Portugal |
| Gyula Vida | MC Member | Hungary |