

COST Action CA18201: "An integrated approach to conservation of threatened plants for the 21st Century"
Management Committee Meeting
Minutes
From 28/08/2023 at 09:00:00 to 28/08/2023 at 12:00:00 GMT+1
University of Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal

1. Welcome to participants, verification of the quorum and adoption of agenda
Chair Živa Fiser welcomed participants to the MC meeting. Agenda was adopted. Quorum was reached with 26 members present (Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Swiss, Turkey, United Kingdom).

2. Information to the MC

a) Recap of the minutes of the last meeting, e-votes and matters arising since the last meeting
Chair provided a recap of the following 3 votes, 2 in Grant Period 4, 1 in Grant Period 3:
-Giving mandate to the Core Group to reallocate the unspent budget
-Meeting of the Science Communication Team at the University of the Balearic Islands
-Lowering the daily allowance for the meetings in Malta
-Inviting additional participants to the WG meetings in Malta.

Additional budget was granted for this Grant Period. We are preparing the Work and Budget Plan for the next Grant Period, and will be sent by 8.9.2023.

b) Action Membership: New Specific Organisations and COST Members represented in the MC
No new organizations have joined. There are no new MC members. A few members retired and are asking for new members for their replacement. The Action is included in BGCI webpage.

c) Action Participation: WG membership and applications, New MC members/Observers and provisional substitution.

29 new WG members have joined the Action in GP4. Current status in the official number of participant so WGs (applied through e-cost): WG1: 96, WG2: 82, WG3: 72, WG4: 47 and WG5: 54. The list of all members can be viewed on the COST Association website. Budget status: summary from the Grant Holder.

d) Update from the COST Association (if representative is present)
Angelo Basteris was replaced by Marco Carulli. The chair updated about the news that Hungary is not allowed to attend any activities and no activities can occur in Hungary based on EU rules.

3. Follow up and discussion on the

a) Action management: structure, leadership positions and other supporting roles.
Structure of Action presented, Joao Loureiro was added to Science Communication Team. No other changes.

b) Implementation of the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy

38 countries are represented in the MC, 2 other countries represented in WGs. Good representation from ITC countries (60% of countries are ITC; 58% of MC members are ITC, 57% of WG members are ITC), good gender balance (47% male, 53% Female), low percentage of young researchers (28%) in Working Groups. A lot of young researchers attended the Training Schools that we have offered.

c) Grant Awarding by the Action

Aida Dervishi, Grant Coordinator gave an update on grants awarded – Virtual Mobility grants – 3, 4500 EUR + 1 submitted; STSM 8 grants – 12 224 EUR; Dissemination/ITC Conference grants 1 – 1500 EUR:

Status	Applicant Name	Title	Grant Amount EUR
Grant letter sent	Alicja Kolasinska	National flagship CITES plant species across Europe	1500
Grant letter sent	Ana Afonso	Compilation and analyses of the list of pollinators of endangered plants in Europe	1500
Report approved	Anaëlle TOUILLET LE MASSON	Improving the Functional Connectivity of Grassland Networks for Plant-Pollinator Interactions on <i>Primula veris</i>	3297
Paid	Barberis Marta	Short Term Scientific Mission on pollinator assemblages of rare and endemic species	1200
Submitted	Bojana Stojanova	Contemporary evolution of floral traits in arable weeds revealed by the resurrection method	1555
Paid	Joana Costa	Finding Bermuda buttercup – Floral biology	1200
Paid	Joaquim Santos	Building an interactive platform for European plant conservation actions	1500
Grant letter sent	Justyna Wiland-Szymanska	Nationally important endangered plants in Europe	1500
Grant letter sent	Katarina Šoln	Botanical illustration as a strategy for plant conservation	600
Grant letter sent	Katerina Iberl	International action plans for species protection based on the example of <i>Gentianella praecox</i> ssp. <i>bohemica</i>	2124
Grant letter sent	Kristiina Gibson	Engaging public in doing plant science: communication facilitators and barriers in a pan-European citizen science campaign	1500
Grant letter sent	Maja Lazarevic	Establishment of Database on Conservation actions on threatened plant species and institutions dealing with plant conservation	1500
Paid	Mariana Castro	Modelling current and future suitable areas of European threatened plant species	1500
Report approved	Mariana Prokopuk	"Invasive behavior of alien species of macrophytes (comparative studies in the climate change conditions using the example of EI	1500
Paid	Marina Nonic	Assessment of adaptive genetic diversity using new molecular genetic/genomic approaches to facilitate conservation of FGR	1500
Grant letter sent	Marta Galloni	Can citizen science help plant conservation? Strategies and tips from LIFE 4 Pollinators and Conserve Plants projects	1500
Cancelled	Meleksen Akin	A Bibliometric Analysis on Tree Conservation Genomics	1500
Paid	Mira Fiškalović	Population genetics of rare and threatened <i>Cardamine serbica</i> in the Balkan Peninsula	2000
Paid	Renata Čušterevska	Determining the conservation status of several important plants	700

We are still accepting applications for grants during this grant period.

e) Progress of each working group

A short update was provided by WG leaders of each Working Group.

f) Science Communication Plan

Marta Galloni presented the activities of the Science Communication group. Joao discussed about the insights that we can obtain from social media.

g) Progress on MoU Objectives, WG tasks, deliverables, and Goals for the current GP.

All 21 deliverables and their status were presented. Most of deliverables can be considered (almost) accomplished (no. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, 17, 21), some are still in progress (4, 7, 11, 12,

19, 20) and one is still not accomplished. The tasks have been discussed within the presentations by Working groups.

4. Planning

a) Revision of Work and Budget Plan of the current GP (if applicable)

It is expected that there will be unspent budgeted in the following items: management guidelines, grants and open access article fees. Ideas for reallocation of funds: e.g. OERSA - postal services for sending CITES posters, last minute events (ideas - meeting in Valencia alongside Mediterranean Plant Week), additional STSMs.

b) Draft plans for the following GP(s).

Plans will be discussed at the Core Group Meeting (31.8.2022), all participants are welcome to communicate ideas during this event.

c) Upcoming activities

At the moment there are no meetings, TSs or workshops planned. There are still on-going STSMs and VM. Maja Lazarević will present our Action at a dissemination event in Valencia.

5. Monitoring and Reporting to the COST Association

WBP for GP5 should be sent by 8th September for revision to the Scientific Officer. Final grant report will have to be submitted one month after the end of the Action (mid May 2024).

6. AOB

There were no other comments.

7. Summary of MC decisions

The MC voted and gave permission to the Core Group to make decisions about reallocation of the unspent budget at the end of the grant period 4 on behalf of the Action MC.

8. Next meeting details

Final conference will be held in Izola in early spring 2024.

8. Closing

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