COST FA1104
3rd Management Committee Meeting
Pitesti, 16 October 2013

1. Welcome to participants

The participants to the 3rd MC meeting were welcomed by Dr. José Quero Garcia, Action Chair, who chaired the meeting.

2. Adoption of agenda

The draft agenda was adopted.

3. Approval of minutes and matters arising of last meeting

Minutes from the 2nd MC meeting were approved.

4. Update from the Action Chair

a. Status of Action, including participating count

Since this meeting was held jointly with a ‘All Working Groups’ meeting, the Action Chair made an update of the status of the Action a day before the MC Meeting, in order for all participants to share this information. An update of the number of participating countries was made. The discussions started by reviewing the meetings already planned for the current project year (July 2013 – June 2014). Several points were raised:

• The technology-transfer workshop will be organized on April 2014 in Germany (near Constance Lake) and it will specifically deal with D. suzukii. It will be connected with an Interreg programme.
• The WG3 meeting on ‘Ethological aspects in IPM’ will finally not be organized in November 2013 but on April (from the 1st till the 3rd) 2014. It will be organized jointly with the European projects REGPOT and DROPSA.
• The WG1-WG3 meeting on ‘Phenotyping protocols for tolerance to cherry pests and diseases and other important agronomic traits’ will be organized in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, by the end of May 2014, before the 24th May or after the 27th. The programme will be defined before the end of 2013.
• Petya Gercheva will contact the Chair of Action FA1103 ‘East-West collaboration for grapevine diversity exploration and mobilization of adaptive traits for breeding’ in order to discuss about the possibility of organizing a joint workshop.
• A training school dealing with NGS (next-generation sequencing) virus detection methods (within WG3) might be organised during this second reporting period (issue to be treated by Joseph Spak).

b. Action budget status

The Chair summarized the budget status. The expected number of participants attended the first two Action meetings, although more participants could have been invited to the MC meeting in Pitesti.
c. **STSM status and new applications**

At the time of this MC meeting, three STSM have already been conducted within the second Reporting period. One more STSM has been approved and a fifth one is planned.

5. **Promotion of gender balance and of Early Stage Researchers (ESR)**
   **Update from the Grant Holder**

Gender balance is being promoted at the STSM level. Out of the 6 STSM conducted, planned or approved, three of them concern female researchers. All these six STSM candidates are ESR.

6. **Update from the COST Office**

No update from the COST Office was done.

7. **Update from the DC Rapporteur**

Viktor Nedovic, our Action DC Rapporteur, could not attend this MC Meeting.

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

The Chair informed the MC about the putative dates and location of the next APC but no time was devoted to its preparation since very little activities had taken place at the time of this meeting.

9. **Follow-up of MoU objectives**
   a. **Progress report of working groups**

The MC meeting took place one day after a series of working groups’ break-out sessions. Members of WG1 and WG2 met together. Three reports, concerning WG1-WG2, WG3 and WG4 will be prepared and published on the COST Action FA 1104 official website.

10. **Scientific planning**

The largest part of the MC meeting was devoted to scientific planning.

   a. **Scientific strategy**

In terms of general suggestions, two points were raised:
- Concerning the final publication of the Action, a consensus has been met to publish a book on cherries, covering the main aspects of its production, commercialization and consumption.
- The importance of creating links between our COST Action and other European projects or networks was highlighted. Several meetings have already been organized jointly with other European projects and this option will be pursued.

   b. **Action Budget Planning**

The Chair informed that, for Year 3, the Action, according to the COST Office, would have a budget close to the one of Year 2, that is a total budget of 189 000 euros of which 164 000 will concern scientific expenditure.
Long-term planning (including anticipated locations and dates of future activities)

According to this budget, a tentative working programme for Year 3, and for some meetings, for the beginning of Year 4, was established:

Training schools: Up to five training schools might be organized during Year 3. Due to budget constraints, it was decided to organize only three of them during this reporting period.
- Training school on techniques of pest monitoring and using stochastic models for design of IPM tactics (WG3) organised in Volos (Greece) jointly by Nikos Papadopoulos and Slawomir Lux. 10-12 trainees. Minimum 3 days. 10 000 EUR. Period: September 2014
- Training school organized by Ana Cristina Santos (WG2) on techniques for fruit quality determination in Portugal. 10-12 trainees. Minimum 3 days. 10 000 EUR. Period: February-March 2015
- Training school on training systems and pruning (WG2) including extension people if necessary to be confirmed. Organized in Italy (Bologna) or France (Ctitl). 10-12 trainees. Minimum 3 days 7000-8000 EUR. Period: February-March 2015
- Training school organized by George Manganaris (WG2) on techniques for fruit quality determination in Cyprus. 10 trainees. Minimum 3 days. 13 000 EUR. Period: June 2015
- Training school on molecular markers use organized by Annalisa Marchese (WG1) in Sicily to be confirmed. 8 trainees. Minimum 3 days. 8 000 EUR. Period to be defined

STSM: A budget of at least 20 000 EUR was proposed

Meetings: For all meetings, no prior information on local organiser support (LOS) was provided.
- Several candidate countries proposed to organize the 4th MC Meeting: Poland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany and France. It was finally decided to hold the next MC Meeting in Bordeaux, France, organized by José Quero Garcia. 60 participants-60 000 EUR. Period: between the end of September and the end of October 2014
- WG1 Meeting on sour cherry breeding in Serbia (Novi Sad) organized by Vladislav Ognjanov. 15 participants. 10 000 EUR. Period: early September 2014
- WG2 Meeting on rootstocks and training systems. Place and date to be confirmed: Bosnia, France, Bulgaria? 15 participants. 10 000 EUR. Possibility to organize it jointly with the training school
- WG1 Meeting on cryopreservation organized by Daniela Giovannini and Monika Hofer in Rome or Toscana (Italy). Fall 2014. 10 participants, 10 000 EUR
- WG4 Meeting on marketing and socio-economics organized by Mario Njavro in Zagreb (Croatia). 10-15 participants, 10 000 EUR. Period: to be confirmed
- WG3 Small Meeting on bacterial diseases jointly with the 2nd ISHS conference organized by Hatice Ozaktan in Izmir (Turkey). 4-5 participants, 5000 EUR. Period: May 2015
- WG3 Meeting on entomology. Place (Greece, Poland?) to be decided. 15 participants, 10000 EUR. Period: to be confirmed

Dissemination: 5 000 EUR. Special issues and translations of leaflets

TOTAL: By considering that only three training schools will be organized during the third reporting period, representing a total budget of 30 000 EUR, then the global budget would be of 170 000 EUR, that is slightly higher than the expected real budget (164 000 EUR).
d. Dissemination planning (Publications and outreach activities)

Apart from the final COST Action publication, other possible publications were mentioned. For the moment, two of them are envisaged: one dealing with the determination of cherry fruit quality (task leaded by Ana Cristina Santos) and second one dealing with the methods for hybridization and cherry seeds germination (task leaded by Martin Jensen).

For outreach activities, MC members were encouraged to promote COST Action FA1104 in special National cherry days or when being invited to particular conferences or workshops. For this, a poster will be made available and translated into different languages. Manfred Buchele will be in charge of this activity.

11. Requests for new members

The Chair informed that for the moment, no requests for new members have been received.

12. Non-COST applications to the Actions

The Chair informed that, due to Australian budget constraints, the reciprocal agreement between COST and Australia had been discontinued. The application of New Zealand has been terminated and will have to be approved by the MC, DC and JAF. The application of South Africa is still pending. Three more countries, Argentina, Azerbaijan and Belarus, have recently informed the Chair of their interest to join the Action.

13. Any Other Business

During the break-out session of WG3 (‘Crop Protection’) it was decided to propose Nikos Papadopoulos as a new leader for this WG, after the sad and brutal death of Jorg Samietz, on the 11th April 2013. This decision was validated by the MC.

14. Location and date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place in Bordeaux, France, during the months of September or October 2014.

15. Summary of MC decisions

In summary, the MC approved the final composition of the Executive Committee in terms of working group leaders, and it approved the draft working programme established. This working programme will have to be finalized after the MC meeting by the Executive Committee, which will inform the MC of the final version.

16. Closing

The Chair of the Action closed the meeting on the 16th October at 18:30 hrs by expressing his gratitude to the members of the Management Committee for their active participation in the meeting.