



EUPHRESCO-2 Kick-off Meeting Copenhagen 25th March 2011

WP5 Workshop: Integrating new European Partners, engaging with European Observers and outreach to other European and Mediterranean countries

EUPHRESCO 2 was launched on 1st January 2011 and the first kick-off (KO) meeting was held on 24th March in Copenhagen. A one day workshop specifically aimed at new partners and new observers was held in conjunction with the KO meeting on 25th March. The workshop's primary focus was to welcome and integrate new partners and new observers to the EUPHRESCO 2 project and the EUPHRESCO network. The workshop was attended by 50 delegates from 27 different European countries. Representatives from all 31 partners but two were present.

The workshop was opened by Niels Gøtke; he welcomed all the participants to the meeting and to Copenhagen and welcome new participants to the project. He gave a talk on the importance of plant health research coordination and spoke of the benefits of being part of the network. Niels went on to chair the following session consisting of networking opportunity for new partners lead by Steen Lykke Nielsen, he asked new partners to pick an 'old' partner as a mentor to facilitate their understanding of and integration in, the project. The list of new partners and their chosen mentors is below.

New Partner	'Old' Partner – Mentor
CRA-W (BE)	INRA (FR)
MARDD (EE)	ELI (NL)
BLE (DE)	JKI (DE)
MoA (LT)	BMLFUW (AT)
INRB (PT)	AGES (AT)
SASA (UK- Scotland)	INIA (ES)
IPP UAAS (UA)	PPS (NL)
FGU VNIKR (RU)	JKI (DE)

New partners were asked to give five minute presentations to introduce themselves, their institutes, their national plant health programmes and their initial views of the opportunities and benefits of EUPHRESCO. Presentations were given by CRA-W (BE), MAEDD (EE), MoA (LT), INRB (PT), SASA (UK-Scotland), IPP NAASU (UA), FGU VNIKR (RU) and the new observer from Poland NCBiR.

The next session was chaired Alan Inman and focused on the benefits of being part of the EUPHRESCO network. The first talk given by Francoise Petter the EPPO Secretariat was the benefits of EUPHRESCO seen from the viewpoint of EPPO and the second given by Tuula Maki-Valkama, the benefits of EUPHRESCO seen from the viewpoint of an "old" partner. Eric Regouin gave the last talk of the morning about funding mechanisms for transnational phytosanitary research cooperation. Lunch provided a good opportunity for networking and learning more about the project as posters detailing EUPHRESCO's achievements to date, goals for the future and transnational projects that had been commissioned were on display.

Eric Regouin chaired the session after lunch, there were talks by Sylvia Blümel on the mechanisms to identify prioritise and select topics for transnational research projects. Two talks by Silke Steinmüller on EUPHRESKO's mandate to advise on plant health research priorities in the EU FP7 programme and an introduction to the proposed long-term self-sustainable network. An open discussion at the end of the session aimed to collate participants' views, questions, answers and feedback of how they see opportunities developing for them within EUPHRESKO 2. A concern was raised regarding the transition from an EU funded project to a self sustainable network in 3 years time. Niels Gøtke indicated that he thought EUPHRESKO had a very good chance of being successful post EU funding, he pointed out that his views were shared with chief officers of plant health service (COPHS). Another point was added that the benefits of joining and remaining in the network were very clear and as long as they remind that way, maintaining the network would not be a problem. Alan Inman told the group that EUPHRESKO's success would be aided by regular national lobbying and that national contact points should be kept updated with the project progresses; he added that he was happy to provide presentation templates for this purpose.

Steen Lykke Nielsen gave the last talk on the remaining activities of workpackage 5; enlarging the network cooperation and Niels Gøtke closed the meeting stating that it had been a great success and had provided the new partners and observers with the opportunity to better understand the benefits of EUPHRESKO.