



**Euphresco**  
Phytosanitary ERA-NET



## RP1 – Periodic activity report

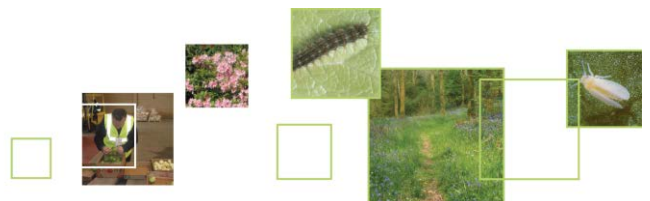
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**End Date and Duration:** 31<sup>st</sup> July 2010 (51 months duration)

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## Publishable Executive Summary



“European Phytosanitary Research  
Coordination”

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### Introduction

EUPHRESCO is a €2.63 million project funded under the 6<sup>th</sup> framework programme and will run from 2006 to 2010. The Project is a partnership of 24 leading organisations involved with funding phytosanitary (regulated plant health) research in 17 European countries. The Project is fully supported by the EU Council Working Party of Chief Officers for Plant Health Services (COPHS). It also involves the EC's Directorate General for Health and Consumer Protection (DG SANCO), the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) Plant Health Panel, all of which participate through an Expert Advisory Group.

Over the last century, the rate of introduction and establishment of new, economically or environmentally damaging plant pests and diseases has increased as a result of the expansion in global trade of plant material. Policy designed to protect Europe's agriculture and environment from these pest threats is determined at the EU level. However, the research that underpins policy is undertaken primarily at the national level and there is little coordination of these programmes.

EUPHRESCO aims to increase cooperation and coordination of national phytosanitary (statutory plant health) research programmes at the EU level through networking of research activities and mutual opening of national programmes

## EUPHRESCO Contractors and Observers

EUPHRESCO is a consortium of 24 Partners from 17 European countries. The Project also comprises Observers from Government Bodies in six Member States.

### Partners

- |   |    |   |
|---|----|---|
|    | 1  | The Central Science Laboratory (CSL), UK - <b>Coordinator</b>   |
|   | 2  | Plant Health Division, Defra (PHD), UK  |
|    | 3  | The Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW), Austria               |
|   | 4  | The Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES), Austria  |
|    | 5  | The Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research, (ILVO), Belgium  |
|   | 6  | The Federal Public Service for Public health, Food Chain Safety and Environment (FPS), Belgium                  |
|    | 7  | The National Service for Plant Protection (NSPP), Bulgaria  |
|    | 8  | The Agricultural Research Institute (ARI), Cyprus   |
|    | 9  | Ministry of Agriculture (NAAR), Czech Republic  |
|    | 10 | The Directorate for Food, Fisheries and Agri Business (DFFAB), Denmark  |
|    | 11 | The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MMM-FI), Finland  |
|   | 12 | The Ministry of Agriculture and Fishery, General Food Directorate (MAP-DGAL), France                            |
|   | 13 | Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA), France  |
|  | 14 | The Federal Ministry Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV), Germany                                 |
|   | 15 | The Federal Biological Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry (BBA), Germany                              |
|  | 16 | The Department of Agriculture and Food (DAF), Ireland   |
|  | 17 | The Ministry of Agricultural and Forestry Policy, Research and Experimentation Unit (MiPAF), Italy              |
|   | 18 | The Agricultural Research Council (CRA), Italy  |
|  | 19 | The Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV), The Netherlands                                     |
|   | 20 | The Plant Protection Service (PD), The Netherlands  |
|  | 21 | The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food (MAFF), Slovenia   |
|  | 22 | The Plant Protection Department of The National Institute of Agriculture Research (INIA), Spain                 |
|  | 23 | The Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG), Switzerland  |
|  | 24 | The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, General Directorate of Agricultural Research (MARA GDAR), Turkey |

### Observers

- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  | Ministry of Agriculture, Plant Health Department, Estonia   |
|  | Ministry of Rural Development and Food, Department of Phytosanitary Control, Greece                       |
|  | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Plant Protection and Soil Conservation Department, Hungary |
|  | Ministry of Agriculture, Lithuania  |
|  | Ministry for Rural Affairs and The Environment, Malta   |
|  | Ministry of Agriculture, Direcção-Geral de Protecção das Culturas, Portugal                               |

## EUPHRESCO Objectives

EUPHRESCO will address the strategic objective of the Framework 6 Programme 'Integrating and Strengthening the European Research Area' by 'Supporting the Cooperation and Coordination of Research Activities Carried out at National and Regional Levels'. EUPHRESCO aims to increase cooperation and coordination of national phytosanitary research programmes at the EU level through networking of research activities and mutual opening of national programmes, to achieve three main over-arching strategic goals:

1. Develop phytosanitary (statutory plant health) research policy at the EU-wide level.
2. Optimise the research provision that underpins EU quarantine plant health policy development and policy implementation, in an era of increasing biosecurity threats from alien plant pests, diseases and invasive species.
3. Increase the capacity of European phytosanitary science and research, in order to prevent the disappearance of EU expertise in this field and maintain Europe's competitiveness in the global market.

The EUPHRESCO objectives are being implemented through five workpackages (WP):

**WP1** "Project coordination, management, communication and dissemination", **WP2** "Mapping and analysis of existing research and current needs", **WP3** "Developing instruments and preparing for pilot projects", **WP4** "Test, evaluate and refine instruments through pilot projects", **WP5** "Develop trans-national agendas, a long-term, sustainable coordination Network for implementing joint activities, and investigate external linkages to other disciplines"

## Progress by Workpackage

EUPHRESCO has now been running for over a year and half and many key tasks have been successfully completed. Here we will summaries the major achievements by workpackage (WP) during the first 18-months of the Project.

### **WP1 – Project coordination, management, communication and dissemination**

WP1 is responsible for the Project administration; it coordinates the delivery of reports to the Commission and assists in the organisation of meetings. The EUPHRESCO consortium has had four Project Meetings to progress the Project's work. The vision and ambitions of the Project were presented and discussed at the kick off meeting in York and the mapping phase questionnaire in particular was discussed and progressed at the second meeting in Paris. The results of the mapping phase and the preparation for the pilot projects were the main focus of both the third meeting in The Hague and the fourth meeting in Ghent. WP1 have developed the Project website <http://www.euphresco.org>, produced leaflets, newsletters, press release templates and articles to publicise the Project and disseminate its progresses.

### **WP2 – Mapping and analysis of existing research and of current needs**

WP2 was launched at the start of the project in May 2006. The objectives were to gather information on existing phytosanitary research programmes and related resources and infrastructures. To achieve these objectives, WP2 produced a questionnaire that was made available for Partners to complete on-line in March 2007 and a shortened version for non-partners to complete in July 2007. Information from 46 programmes (35 from EUPHRESCO countries; 11 from non-partner countries) was provided, including annual budgets (€15,720,000 across all programmes entered by EUPHRESCO countries): 332 projects were entered in the database (260 from EUPHRESCO partner countries; 72 from non-partners); national management tools were provided (for WP3); the research landscape was explored and information on stakeholders and research providers obtained; future research needs

were collated to inform future research agendas. WP2 have produced a publicly available mapping and analysis report on the national/regional phytosanitary research programmes.

### **WP3 – Developing instruments and preparing for pilot projects**

WP3 is developing the mechanisms, instruments and tools needed to enable joint trans-national activities. They have produced: definitions of the three funding mechanisms (real common pot, virtual pot and non-competitive mechanism) to be tested; pilot project criteria to facilitate the selection process for pilot topics; and a proposed list of 11 research topics, with funding allocations (over €1MEur in total), for the EUPHRESKO Governing Board to approve. 16/17 countries and 21/24 EUPHRESKO Partners are involved in at least one pilot topic. WP3 have also drafted tools and processes that will be tested through the pilot projects from Spring 2008 (competitive calls; non-competitive project initiation).

### **WP4 – Test, evaluate and refine instruments through pilot projects**

Although WP4 did not officially start until November 2007, they have been working closely with WP3 in the preparations for the pilot project calls. In particular, WP4 produced a pilot-funding questionnaire to allow Partners to register their interest to participate in pilot projects under each funding mechanism and also to provisionally indicate their funding commitments. WP4 have also produced a useful timetable for call preparation and call management, from pre-call stages to proposal evaluation, project commissioning and project reporting. The target date for the launch the calls is Spring 2008.

### **WP5 – Develop trans-national agendas, a long-term, sustainable coordination network for implementing joint activities and external linkages to other disciplines**

WP5 did not start until November 2007. One of its aims is to develop a common research agenda based on shared priorities resulting in a proposed programme for trans-national funding at the end of the ERA-NET. WP5 has started to gather information of research priorities (e.g. via the WP2 questionnaire) and is developing plans for workshops from May 2008. In relation to FP7, WP5 has obtained a mandate from the EUPHRESKO Governing Board and the COPHS (EU Council Working Party of Chief Officers of Plant Health Services) to advise on plant health research priorities in FP7. WP5 and the NMG have the responsibility of coordinating advice from Partners and from other bodies.

### **Plan for using and disseminating knowledge**

A communication strategy has been produced. The EUPHRESKO website <http://www.euphresco.org> is the main tool for externally communicating the Project aims, progress and outputs. It allows registration for the six-monthly e-newsletters; publicity leaflets have also been produced. The website will publicise the launch of joint calls for pilot research projects in spring 2008. It hosts the internal database of national phytosanitary research projects that will be updated annually and will inform future R&D agendas.

Quarterly project progress reports against milestones and deliverables have been sent to the Commission and are available in the internal members' area of the website. The WP2 mapping and analyse report on national phytosanitary research programmes is available from the external Project website. Gathered information has informed the development of tools and processes in WP3 and the selection of pilot research topics. Reports are prepared for the EU Council COPHS meetings. EUPHRESKO is presented in other European fora, including EPPO and EFSA colloquiums and panel meetings. The Project's Experts Advisory Group (EPPO, EFSA, EC DG-SANCO) has opportunity to observe progress and provide input. Links have been established with other fora, e.g.: The ENDURE network of excellence; the European Mycological Network; the European Association of Phytobacteriologists; COST Action 873; ICPP secretariat. EUPHRESKO will hold workshops to help develop its future research agendas and activities and will hold a final dissemination conference in 2010.



## Section 1: Project objectives and major achievements during the reporting period

### 1.1 Project Objectives

#### WP1. Project coordination, management, communication and dissemination:

- To manage and coordinate the Phytosanitary ERA-NET
- To communicate the aims and progress of the Phytosanitary ERA-NET
- To share/disseminate project outputs for the wider benefit of non-participating European Phytosanitary research funders, other European stakeholders, including industry bodies and Technology Platforms, and appropriate Non-EU plant health bodies.

#### WP2. Mapping and analysis of existing research and of current needs:

- To systematically gather information on existing phytosanitary research programmes, infrastructures and resources; identify relevant national industry representatives; and to map any pre-existing regional/national linkages between research programmes.
- To evaluate and analyse the gathered information to identify: overlaps, gaps, duplication, strengths/weaknesses, opportunities and common research priorities.
- To develop common instruments and 'principles' for best practice.

#### WP3. Developing instruments and preparing for pilot projects:

- To develop the instruments, mechanisms and processes needed to enable joint trans-national activities and funding of a future trans-national phytosanitary research programme.
- To prepare for pilot projects to test instruments.

#### WP4. Test, evaluate and refine instruments (Pilots):

- To trial (pilot), evaluate and refine the instruments needed for trans-national collaboration and trans-national funding of research.
- To establish common, proven instruments and mechanisms for use beyond the end of the ERA-NET.

#### WP5. Develop trans-national agendas, programmes and a long-term, sustainable coordination Network, and external linkages to other disciplines:

- To develop a common research agenda based on shared priorities resulting in a proposed programme for trans-national funding at the end of the ERA-NET.
- To establish an infrastructure which will ensure long-term sustainability of the research funder network beyond the end of the ERA-NET. This network would continue to coordinate, develop and implement trans-national phytosanitary research. In addition, it would also maintain and develop further links to industry and other national and international organisations.
- To explore and improve linkages with other priority disciplines relevant to Plant Health needs (review of inter-disciplinary linkages and needs).

## 1.2 Major Achievements

- Four 6-monthly Project Meetings have been organised and held successfully, together with their associated Network Management Group (NMG) meetings. Project Meetings have involved all Project Partners and have progressed the technical work and administration of the Project. A Governing Board meeting was held at 12-months and it reviewed progress and decided on various proposals put forward by the Coordinator and the NMG. Future meetings are being planned a year in advance.
- A Consortium agreement, communication/dissemination strategy, risk register, 6-monthly e-newsletters and various other publicity materials (leaflet; articles) have been produced.
- An online 'national phytosanitary research programme' questionnaire was launched on the EUPHRESKO website and completed by Partners; a shortened version was produced and completed by various non-Partner countries in the EPPO region.
- Management procedures used by Partners, pilot project topics and tools were collated and passed to WP3 for pilot project preparation. The gathered data was analysed and presented in a public report that is available on the website
- A 'common principles' guide has been drafted to help encourage or facilitate the establishment of national phytosanitary research programmes in countries that currently do not have them, but requires further work before it can be finalised.
- An internal, searchable database of nationally funded phytosanitary research projects has been developed; it will be updated annually and will inform future WP5 activities.
- Definitions for the three funding mechanisms to be tested (*real common pot*, *virtual pot* and the *non-competitive mechanism*) have been produced. The Governing Board and Partners have agreed to test all three mechanisms by pilot research projects in WP4.
- Draft tools and processes have been produced for each mechanism so that they can be tested via the pilot projects. The call tools and processes will continue to be developed and refined prior to, and after the end of, the pilot project phase.
- Criteria were produced to aid the selection of pilot research projects. A paper containing the final list of proposed topics (title, short descriptions, anticipated outputs/benefits) for each mechanism and also the funding consortia/budgets has been submitted to the Governing Board for approval. It proposes 11 topics that enable maximum involvement of EUPHRESKO Partners (fulfilling the 'learning-by-doing' principle) and maximum use of allocated funds: 16/17 countries and 21/24 Partners are involved in at least one topic; in excess of €1 Million (>8% of total national funds held by EUPHRESKO Partners) is committed to the real common pot and virtual pot combined, plus additional resources are allocated to topics under the non-competitive mechanism.
- A timetable for preparatory work required for the pilot calls has been produced. Calls are scheduled for 3rd March 2008 and calls will be open for 2 months; projects will be commissioned by 31st November 2008 to ensure commitment of national funds.
- Ideas on WP5 workshops to develop common research agendas have been put forward.



- EUPHRESCO, via WP5 and the NMG, has been given a mandate from the Governing Board and the COPHS (EU Council Working Party of Chief Officers of Plant Health Services) to advise on plant health research priorities in FP7.
- The WP5 leaders and deputy leaders and the Coordinator attended an initial meeting between EUPHRESCO and DG-Research in October 2007. WP5 has provided advice on the 2008 and potential 2009 FP7 plant health topics to DG-Research; it has also communicated EUPHRESCO pilot research topics. WP5, with WP1, will continue to aim to coordinate EUPHRESCO activities with EU-funded or other European-level activities (e.g. FP7; EFSA funding initiatives; EPPO activities).
- Links with relevant other scientific fora have been established, e.g. The European Mycological Network; The ENDURE Network of Excellence; EPPO and EFSA panels.

## Section 2: Workpackage progress of the period

All Partners were involved in all WPs, please see Annex 1 for each Partners' contributions to the five WPs.

### 2.1 WP2 – Mapping and analysis of existing research and of current needs

WP2 leader is Partner 12, DGAL, and WP2 deputy leader is Partner 05, ILVO; the WP was launched at the start of the Project in May 2006 (Month 0).

#### 2.1.1. Objectives

The objectives of WP2 are to systematically gather information on existing phytosanitary (quarantine/statutory plant health) research programmes, including: projects and budgets, existing funding systems and research management, research providers, expertise, facilities and other relevant infrastructures and resources, perceived existing needs and priorities at a regional (sub-national), national or zonal level. To map any pre-existing regional, national or international linkages between research programmes and identify national and EU industry bodies and key non-EU bodies, for interaction. The objectives are also to evaluate and analyse the gathered information to identify: overlaps, gaps, duplication, strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and common research priorities; and common instruments and 'principles' for best practice.

#### 2.1.2. Progress towards objectives - SUMMARY

- One person was recruited for 18 months (Myriam Buzy; Month 1) to deliver the core work for FR-DGAL and FR-INRA.
- Definitions (e.g. for 'research' and 'plant health' were produced to ensure that the scope of the questionnaire was well defined and understood, and therefore completed consistently.
- A draft questionnaire was produced and a structure agreed. The structure was composed of 5 sections: Funder and Manager Details; Programme Information; Management Procedures; Research Landscape; and Future Issues.
- This draft was prepared and discussed and developed at the 6-month meeting (Paris, 6th-8th November 2006).
- The draft was finalised at a second meeting in Ghent attended by WP1, WP2 and WP3 leaders and deputy leaders (15<sup>th</sup> November 2006). The main focus of the meeting was WP3 (tools and processes for pilot projects) requirements.
- The final draft questionnaire was disseminated through the workpackage leaders and deputies for final agreement (December 2006).
- From the final version, an on-line version was constructed, tested, refined, linked to the website and launched on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2007 to all EUPHRESCO Partners (MS 2.1, DL 2.1); the design of the questionnaire reflected the key information and outputs/analyses required by EUPHRESCO (MS 2.3).
- A shortened version of the questionnaire was produced for non-Partner countries to complete on-line. Non-Partners in EPPO countries (MS 2.2) were asked to complete the questionnaire.

- During March and April 2007, Partners (and other phytosanitary R&D funders in their countries, as appropriate) completed the questionnaire (MS 2.4). Non-Partners were asked to complete the shortened questionnaire by 31st August 2007 (MS 2.5).
- Management procedures used by Partners were collated and passed to WP3 (MS 2.6).
- Information relating to potential funders of WP4 pilot research projects was collected via the WP2 questionnaire (ideas/priorities for pilot topics) and via a separate and specific 'funders' questionnaire (MS 2.7 – see also WP3).
- Other data was collated and analysed (MS 2.8). The analysis report (MS 2.9) was produced and circulated to the EUPHRESCO Project Partners and to the EUPHRESCO Governing Board members for comment. The final version (DL 2.2) will be submitted with this 18-month report and then made publicly available (DL 2.3) on the EUPHRESCO website.
- A draft 'common principles' guide to establish national programmes for use by countries that currently have no phytosanitary research programme has been produced.
- An internal, searchable database of nationally funded phytosanitary research projects has been developed by WP1 in close connection with WP2 and is being evaluated by the NMG. It will be updated annually to help inform future activities in WP5.

### 2.1.3 Progress towards objectives - DETAIL

#### Sub-workpackage 2.1. Definition of specific information to be gathered/mapped

- Definitions were produced to ensure correct and consistent completion of the mapping exercise through the questionnaire, especially definitions for research, phytosanitary (plant health), programmes and projects.
- A structure for the questionnaire was developed and refined at and after the kick-off meeting, at the six-month meeting and at a separate meeting of key WP leaders and deputies in Ghent (15th November 2006).
- The final questionnaire had the following main sections (see DL 2.2):
  - (I) Funder and manager details
  - (II) Programme information (e.g. rationale; budgetary information & issues; funding mechanisms/issues; projects; links to other programmes, etc).
  - (III) Management procedures (initiation; application; evaluation; contracts; management); 'tools' were also collected (e.g. application/evaluation/report forms; handbooks).
  - (IV) Research landscape (research providers; key 'non-governmental' stakeholders).
  - (V) Future (potential barriers for each trans-national funding mechanism; pilot project topics; future research agenda priorities/topics; reasons for engaging in trans-national activities).
- A shortened questionnaire was finalised for completion by non-Partner countries.

#### Sub-workpackage 2.2. Preparation for data collection and collect data/information

- The data collection is based on the final version of the questionnaire, which was adopted on the 4th December 2006.
- The questionnaire was designed around the key information needed for EUPHRESKO, the outputs/analyses required, and the need to facilitate trans-national activities.
- From the agreed questionnaire, an on-line version was constructed by WP1 in close connection with WP2 (Jan-Feb 2007). WP2 and other WP leaders and deputies tested and fine-tuned the prototype on-line questionnaire during the two last weeks of February 2007.
- The on-line questionnaire was made available to Partners (and other phytosanitary funders in Partner countries) on 2nd March 2007 (N.B. an excel spreadsheet of questions was made available earlier to enable data gathering in advance of the on-line version being launched).
- The first deadline for completion was the end of March (Month 11), however, this was extended to 13th April 2007 (Month 13) to facilitate comprehensive responses.
- All Partner countries completed the questionnaire (A few were also completed by phytosanitary funders in the Partner countries). In total 24 questionnaires were completed by Partner countries.
- A shortened version of the questionnaire was made available to non-Partners on the EUPHRESKO website. EPPO (The European & Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation) assisted in publicising the questionnaire to its members in non-EUPHRESKO Partner countries in the EPPO region. The deadline for completion of on-line questionnaires was 31st August 2007. In total, non-Partner countries completed 5 questionnaires.

#### Sub-workpackage 2.3. Analysis of information

- Myriam Buzy presented the initial analysis of the questionnaire at the 12-month meeting in The Hague (23rd May 2007).
- The management procedures and common instruments collected from the questionnaire were passed to WP3 for analysis and discussion at the 12-month meeting.
- The indicative list of pilot project topics also collected from the questionnaire, were passed to WP3/4 for sorting and discussion at the 12-month meeting.
- The analysis report was drafted by WP2 and refined by WP2 and WP1 (Coordinator) with further inputs from Project Partners.

#### Sub-workpackage 2.4. Produce reports and publish information on national phytosanitary research programmes

- A final draft of the report on the mapped and analysed data and information from national programmes has been circulated to all Partners and to the EUPHRESKO Governing Board for comment. The report is submitted with this 18-month report and it has been made publicly available on the EUPHRESKO website.
- In parallel, some outputs will be made available internally within the project on-line through the website as part of a searchable 'national research project' database. The searchable database has been developed and is currently being tested by the NMG. It will be discussed at the 18-month meeting and will be amended accordingly. The

future of the database (especially after the Project has ended) will also be discussed at the 18-month meeting and at future meetings; the aim is to update information annually (e.g. information on new national research projects and on annual programme funding levels).

- A draft ‘common principles’ guide to establish national programmes for use by countries that currently have no phytosanitary research programme has been drafted. The ‘common principles’ guide will be refined in due course, but current preparations for pilot projects is likely to result in a continued delay. However, this is considered a low priority and the delay will not have any impact on any other activities.

#### 2.1.4. Deliverables in RP1

Deliverables		Target Date	DL Status
DL 2.1	Final database established, operational and linked to website	Month 6	Completed
DL 2.2	Report on the mapped and analysed data and information	Month 17	Completed
DL 2.3	Published information on national programmes on website	Month 18	Completed
DL 2.4	‘Common principles’ guide for setting up national programmes	Month 18	In progress

 Completed
  In progress
  Not started
  Month 1
 31<sup>st</sup> May 2006

#### 2.1.5. Milestones in RP1

Milestones		Target Date	MS Status
MS 2.1	Prototype questionnaire constructed for Partners to test	Month 3	Completed
MS 2.2	National programme managers outside consortium identified	Month 6	Completed
MS 2.3	Plan matrices for collating and analysing information.	Month 8	Completed
MS 2.4	Data entered on database for Partner countries	Month 9	Completed
MS 2.5	Data entered on database for non-partner countries	Month 11	Completed
MS 2.6	Collation and analysis of management procedures	Month 12	Completed
MS 2.7	Information obtained for identifying potential pilot funders	Month 12	Completed
MS 2.8	Collation and analysis of programme information	Month 16	Completed
MS 2.9	Report on the mapped and analysed data and information	Month 17	Completed

 Completed
  In progress
  Not started
  Month 1
 31<sup>st</sup> May 2006

#### 2.1.6. Deviation from the Project work programme

The 'Common principles' guide for setting up national programmes (DL 2.4) is delayed. It is however a low-level priority activity and its delay will not affect any other activity. There is no milestone for this deliverable but we propose to defer the delivery of DL 2.4. to May 2009 due to other higher-level priority taking precedence in the coming year.

All WP2 Milestones are therefore complete, together with all but one Deliverable.

The only other work that will continue in WP2 is the planned low-level annual updating of national phytosanitary research projects and some limited programme information (e.g. annual budgets). The plan is for all Partners to next update the national phytosanitary research projects database etc. before the 24-month meeting in May 2008.



## 2.2. WP3 – Developing instruments and preparing for pilot projects

WP3 leader is Partner 19, LNV, and WP3 deputy leader is Partner 09, NAAR; the WP was launched in February 2007 (Month 9).

### 2.2.1. Objectives

The objectives of WP3 are to develop instruments, mechanisms and processes to enable joint trans-national activities and funding of a future trans-national research programme. The objectives are also to prepare for the pilot projects to tests these mechanisms and processes.

### 2.2.2. Progress towards objectives - SUMMARY

- Workpackage 3 formally commenced on 1st February 2007.
- Definitions for the three funding mechanisms to be tested: *real common pot*, *virtual pot* and the *non-competitive mechanism* were discussed and agreed at both the 6-month meeting (6th-8th November 2006) and the 12-month meeting (22nd-25th May 2007).
- Pilot project criteria were produced to facilitate the selection process for pilot topics.
- A pilot funding questionnaire, produced by WP4, was sent out to all Partners in September 2006 and again in December 2006. The purpose of the questionnaire was to allow Partners to register their interest to participate in pilot projects under each funding mechanism and also to provisionally indicate their funding commitments (MS 3.1).
- E-newsletters, distributed to all stakeholders and research providers listed by Partners in the WP2 questionnaire informed research providers of the intended pilot project timetable (MS 3.2).
- Decisions have been made to trial all three funding mechanisms envisaged by EUPHRESKO (real common pot; virtual pot; non-competitive mechanism (MS 3.3)).
- Pilot project topics were gathered from the WP2 questionnaire. They were refined in the 12-month meeting in Paris (November 2006). A short list of pilot project topics (MS 3.3) was refined further at a 'topics workshop' in Vienna (9th July 2007) and by email consultation with all Partners. A paper containing the final list of proposed topics (title, short descriptions, anticipated outputs/benefits) for each mechanism and also the funding consortia/budgets (MS 3.4) has been submitted to the Governing Board for approval.
- Draft tools and processes have been produced (MS 3.5) against a generic flow chart demonstrating the basic process from 'research issue identification' to 'research commissioning' and 'evaluation of results'. Call tools and processes will continue to be developed/refined to facilitate calls (competitive projects) and direct project initiation (non-competitive projects) in March 2008 (MS 2.6).
- Pilot calls are on schedule and are planned for spring 2008.

### 2.2.3. Progress towards objectives - DETAIL

#### Sub-workpackage 3.1. Develop instruments, mechanisms and processes needed to enable trans-national activities

- Information about usage of tools and the tools themselves, provided by the Partners in the WP2 questionnaire, were collected.
- Tools identified in other ERA-NETs were also collected and analysed.
- A flowchart of the process of procurement of research projects was designed.
- The definitions of the three funding mechanisms to be piloted were defined and redefined at the 6-month meeting (6th-8th November 2006) and the 12-month meeting (22nd-25th May 2007):

Real common pot for a joint call: each country provides funds into a real 'pot' in a single bank account; the best projects resulting from an open call are funded regardless of the nationality of the researchers involved. There is therefore a trans-national flow of funds. Proposals compete.

Virtual pot for a joint call: each country pays only for the involvement of its own researchers in projects resulting from an open common call. This mechanism too is competitive, like for the real common pot. Each country commits to providing funds to a virtual pot that may involve a Memorandum of Understanding between funders. This is, like for the real common pot, a competitive mechanism. Once the best projects are chosen, the national funder simply meets the costs of its own researchers through its normal contracting procedures. There is no competition between countries but only between research groups within a country there is no trans-national flow of funds.

Non-competitive mechanism: a science/research problem or topic area is divided between research groups (preferred research suppliers), organised in a consortium, in different countries according to their expertise; each country pays/provides its own researchers to deliver work to the consortium according to its own mechanisms (which may be via additional funding or through existing funds); results are pooled together by mutual agreement. It is anticipated that such projects would be non-competitive. There is no trans-national flow; there is no competition.

#### Sub-workpackage 3.2 Define the pilot studies that will be done to test instruments and mechanisms

- All three mechanisms (the real common pot, the virtual pot and the non-competitive mechanism) will be piloted, as agreed by the Governing Board in the Hague Meeting (May 2007).
- Partners were asked to complete a 'funding' questionnaire in September 2006 and they updated it again in December 2006. The purpose of the questionnaire was to allow funding Partners to register their interest to participate in pilot projects under each funding mechanism and also to provisionally indicate their funding commitments. The final outcomes were: only two countries (NL-LNV and UK-Defra) indicated a firm commitment to the real common pot; 14 countries expressed an interest for the virtual pot; and a further 8 countries indicated that they would consider a non-competitive mechanism. Partners also indicated the mechanisms they were able to participate in, via the WP2 questionnaire.

- The provisional funding commitments indicated on the pilot funding questionnaire were discussed and confirmed by the Governing Board at the first Governing Board meeting in the Hague (22nd May 2007).

### Sub-workpackage 3.3. Preparation for calls

- Partners again expressed their interest in pilot project topics at the 12-month meeting (22nd May 2007). The topics were collected from the WP2 questionnaire. Partners not present at the 12-month meeting were contacted separately such that their interests could also be registered.
- WP3 developed criteria, based on discussions with all Project Partners in the 12-month meeting, to help select pilot project topics. Since the pilots are to test the mechanisms and build confidence, the criteria reflect the likelihood of success and timescales required, as well as other factors, e.g. added value that results from meeting EU/EPPO science policy objectives and the 'learning-by-doing' principle (i.e. maximum inclusion on Partners in the pilot research projects).
- The initial pilot project selection criteria that were proposed, and subsequently developed further, were as follows:
  - Suitable for trans-national collaboration
  - Fits the remit of the funders' research programme(s)
  - Meets a recognisable science/policy need (e.g. fits COPHS/EPPO priorities).
  - Suitable and achievable with the money available for a 12- to 18-month project.
- Selection of pilot topics should also bear in mind research being done, or planned, in the EU Framework Programme 7 (FP7) in 2007-2009, i.e. avoid duplication, but look for complementarities.
- A pilot project topic workshop attended by WP3, WP4 and WP5 was held at AGES in Vienna on 9th July 2007. The above selection criteria for project topics were discussed and developed further. Once finalised and agreed, the criteria were applied to the topic list drawn up at the 12-month meeting. After this analysis, 13 topics remained (six potential topics for the virtual pot and seven potential topics for the non-competitive consortium); the process of finalising the real common pot topics was done separately between the two Partners involved in funding these (UK/NL), though discussed in meetings with Partners so that the process could be commented on.
- To narrow the pilot topic list even further and help prepare for the pilot projects, Partners were asked to respond to the below six issues by 9th August 2007.
  1. Rank the projects in order of priority
  2. Confirm mechanism to be used for each topic
  3. Confirm flexibility to accept a particular funding mechanism
  4. Reconfirm funds
  5. Confirm flexibility for moving budgets
  6. Confirm flexibility in joining other topics
- The list of topics for the pilot projects was finalised by all Partners at the project meeting in Ghent and sent to the GB for approval (see Annex 2). The GB was asked to respond to the list by 10th December.

- The proposal includes all three mechanisms and a total of 11 topics: 2 topics for the real common pot; 5 topics for the virtual pot; and 4 topics for the non-competitive mechanism.
- This list of topics ensures a very high participation of EUPHRESKO Partners: 16 out of 17 countries and 21 out of 24 Partners are participating; 11 Partners will participate in one funding mechanisms, 9 in two mechanisms, and 1 in three mechanisms. They will fulfil the desired outcome of ‘learning-by-doing’ by ensuring the maximum numbers of EUPHRESKO Partners are involved in at least one topic.
- The number of topics that are proposed maximises the potential deployment of funds that have been allocated by the EUPHRESKO Partners.
- The funding commitment (>€1 Million) to these research projects represents about 7% of the estimated total annual budgets of the EUPHRESKO Partners for phytosanitary research (approx. 15€ million); additional resources (existing or new) are also committed through the non-competitive mechanism. This is a significant success.
- A list of research providers (approx. 250, so far), potentially interested/eligible for bidding in one of the pilot studies has been compiled from the WP2 questionnaire. Research providers were informed of the pilot project timetable via the e-newsletter and the EUPHRESKO website.

#### 2.2.4. Deliverables in RP1

Deliverables		Target Date	DL Status
DL 3.1	Draft operational handbook (‘working’ mechanisms and instruments for trans-national collaboration activities)	Month 18	In progress

■ Completed 
 ■ In progress 
 ■ Not started 
 Month 1 31<sup>st</sup> May 2006

#### 2.2.5. Milestones in RP1

Milestones		Target Date	MS Status
MS 3.1	National programmes identified that could contribute funds for pilot projects in WP4	Month 9	Completed
MS 3.2	Research providers informed of pilots via e-newsletter etc.	Month 12	Completed
MS 3.3	Mechanisms to be piloted and potential project titles decided	Month 14	Completed
MS 3.4	Funding consortiums formed and project budgets confirmed	Month 18	Completed
MS 3.5	Instruments produced for each mechanism	Month 18	In progress

■ Completed 
 ■ In progress 
 ■ Not started 
 Month 1 31<sup>st</sup> May 2006

#### 2.2.6. Deviation from the Project work programme

All work for WP3 is on track; there are no deviations from the work programme. Deliverable D.L.3.1 (the draft operational handbook) is in progress and will be done by the end of February 2008, before the launch of the calls in spring 2008.

## 2.3. WP4 – Test, evaluate and refine instruments (Pilots)

WP4 leader is Partner 04, AGES, and WP4 deputy leader is Partner 22, INIA; the WP was launched at the start of the project in November 2007 (Month 18).

### 2.3.1. Objectives

The objectives of WP4 are to trial (pilot), evaluate and refine the instruments needed for trans-national collaboration and trans-national funding of research; to establish common, proven instruments and mechanisms for use beyond the end of the ERA-NET.

### 2.3.2. Progress towards objectives

This workpackage is due to start officially at Month 18 (1<sup>st</sup> November 2007). However, some preparatory activities have been done, as reported here:

- Risks identified in the risk register prior to WP4 start.
- Participation and WP4 presentations at the kick-off meeting (June 2006) and at the second Project meeting (November 2006). Participation and presentation of planned activities in WP4 during the 3rd Project and NMG meeting (May 2007) and during the 4th Project and NMG meeting (November 2007).
- Continuing collaboration with WP3 on pilot topics, including preparation of the 'funding' questionnaire and participation in the Ghent Meeting (July 2007) to refine the short list of pilot topics.
- Timetable produced for preparatory work for pilot calls in spring 2008.
- Comments and additions to the 3-, 6- and 9-month, 12 and 18-month reports for the Commission.
- A timetable for the call preparation and call management, from pre-call stages to project evaluation and commissioning and reporting. WP4 is working closely with WP3 on call preparations, including the required tools and processes for each funding mechanism.
- Currently: calls are scheduled for spring 2008 (provisionally 3rd March 2008); calls will be open for 2 months; projects will be commissioned by 31st November 2008 to ensure commitment of national funds.



## **2.4 WP5 – Develop trans-national agendas, programmes and a long-term, sustainable Coordination Network; investigate external linkages to other disciplines**

WP5 leaders are Partner 15 BBA and WP5 deputy leaders are Partner 19 LNV, the WP was launched in October 2007 (Month 18).

### 2.4.1. Objectives

The objectives of WP5 are to develop a common strategic research agenda based on shared priorities resulting in a proposed programme for trans-national funding at the end of the ERA-Net; to establish the infrastructure to sustain a long-term network of research funders to coordinate & develop trans-national phytosanitary research beyond the end of the ERA-Net; to develop further links with industry and with other national and international organizations; to explore linkages with other priority disciplines relevant to plant health needs that could be integrated into future trans-national programmes.

### 2.4.2. Progress towards objectives

This workpackage is due to start officially at Month 18 (1<sup>st</sup> November 2007). However, some preparatory activities have been done, as reported here:

- Risks identified in the risk register prior to WP5 start.
- Development of first ideas for workshops to develop the common research agendas.
- EUPHRESCO, via WP5 and the NMG, has been given a mandate from the Governing Board and the COPHS (EU Council Working Party of Chief Officers of Plant Health Services) to advise on plant health research priorities in FP7. DG-Research accepted this mandate once confirmed by the Portuguese Presidency. WP5 will be the key point of contact for the Commission's DG-Research for advice of plant health issues.
- WP5 leaders and deputy leaders and Coordinator attended an initial meeting between EUPHRESCO and DG-Research in October 2007 in Brussels. EUPHRESCO's WP5 has provided advice on the 2008 topic and also the indicative plant health topic in 2009, as well as other potential topic areas for 2009 and beyond.
- WP5 has also communicated EUPHRESCO research topics to DG-Research, DG SANCO and the COPHS. WP5, with WP1, will continue to aim to coordinate EUPHRESCO activities with EU-funded or other European-level activities (e.g. FP7; EFSA funding initiatives; EPPO activities).
- Dialogue with scientists started (European Mycological Network (EMN), ENDURE) in order to link other disciplines that are related to the Plant Health area and give notice to the pilot projects within the scientific community.

## Section 3: Consortium Management

### 3.1. Consortium management – WP1 – Project coordination, management, communication and dissemination

WP1 is lead by Partner 1, CSL through the EUPHRESCO Project Office.

#### 3.1.1. Objectives

The objectives of WP1 are to manage and coordinate the phytosanitary EUPHRESCO ERA-NET, to communicate its aims and progresses and to share and disseminate project outputs for the wider benefit of non-participating phytosanitary research funders and other stakeholders.

#### 3.1.2. Progress towards objectives - SUMMARY

- The consortium agreement and risk register were produced (MS1.1). The consortium agreement included the terms of reference for the Governing Board (GB: members and alternatives identified from each country's ministry), Expert Advisory Group, Network Management Group, etc. (MS 1.2).
- The Project started on 1st May 2006 and contracts were signed and completed; payments were made to Partners as per the contract.
- The first Project Meeting (Kick-Off meeting) and Network Management Group (NMG) meeting was held on 26th – 28th June 2006 at York UK (MS1.3).
- The Project website (MS 1.4; DL1.1) was produced and launched ([www.euphresco.org](http://www.euphresco.org)).
- The communication strategy was produced and agreed by the NMG/GB (MS 1.5). A database of interested parties has been produced including those who have registered for newsletters and stakeholders/research providers entered in the WP2 questionnaire. A EUPHRESCO leaflet/flyer was printed in English and electronic versions in four other languages (French, Dutch, Spanish and Bulgarian) produced. (DL1.2).
- The 6-month (2nd) Project meeting and NMG meeting was held in Paris on 6th – 8th November 2007. The 12-month meeting was held in The Hague on 23rd – 24th May, together with the 1st Governing Board meeting on 22nd May. The 18-month meeting was scheduled for Ghent on 21st – 22nd November; dates and venues for the next two meetings have been proposed. (MS 1.6).
- Finance reports and audit certificate for the first reporting period were collected from Partners and the 18-month report submitted (MS 1.7; DL1.3).
- Two electronic EUPHRESCO newsletters were produced and are available to download from the Project website (DL1.4); the 3rd newsletter is in preparation.
- Six-monthly reports for the Commission have been submitted (DL 1.5).

### 3.1.3. Progress towards objectives - DETAIL

#### Sub-workpackage 1.1. Meetings:

- The first Project meeting (Kick-Off meeting) was held on 26th – 27th June at CSL, UK. Representatives from all but one of the partner countries were present. The aims and vision of the EUPHRESCO Project were discussed; definitions produced (e.g. for research, phytosanitary, etc). Partners each presented information on their respective national phytosanitary research programmes. The Commission Desk officer (Ivan Conesa-Alcolea was in attendance). The Network Management Group (NMG) met on 28th June.
- The second Project meeting was held on 6th – 7th November 2006 in Paris. The Coordinator of the SAFEFOOD ERA-NET, Oddur Már Gunnarsson, was invited and gave a presentation of his ERA-NET's experiences with the mapping phase and with joint calls. Francoise Petter, from EPPO, one of our expert advisory groups (EAG), joined the meeting; EFSA (Plant Health Panel) also sent a representative. The main focus was the preparation of WP2 questionnaire. The NMG met on 8th November.
- The third Project meeting was held in The Hague on 23rd – 24th May 2007. Thomas Deppe from the CRUE ERA-NET was invited to the meeting to present his ERA-NET's experience of initiating joint calls. Manuela Kienegger, who has been involved in a number of ERA-NETs, also shared her experiences of establishing joint calls. The focus of the meeting was the development of tools and processes for pilot calls, and the short-listing of potential pilot project topics. The NMG met on 25th May.
- The first Governing Board (GB) meeting was held in The Hague the day before the project meeting. The GB Members attended it from all but one Partner country. Zsuzsa Konig (Commission Desk Officer), and Elzbieta Ceglarska from the EFSA Plant Health Panel (Expert Advisory Group) also attended the meeting. GB members: discussed EUPHRESCO's progress to date; confirmed their countries funding commitments for the pilot projects; commented on and approved various outputs (e.g. risk register; communication strategy); proposed to the COPHS (EU Council Working Party of Chief Officers of Plant Health Services) that EUPHRESCO have a mandate for advising on plant health priorities in FP7.
- The fourth Project meeting was organised to and held in Ghent on 21st – 22nd November 2007. Marianne Parel, the Project's Commission Officer attended the meeting. The NMG met on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> and Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November.
- The dates for the fifth and the sixth Project meetings and second GB meeting have all been set. The GB will meet on Tuesday 20th May 2008 in Prague, the day before the fifth Project meeting held on 21st – 22nd May (The Commission desk officer and also the DG-RTD officer will attend; EAG representatives have also been invited). The NMG will meet on Friday 23rd May. The sixth Project meeting will take place in Vienna on 26th – 27th November 2008. The NMG will meet on 28th November.
- The coordinator attended two Commission ERA-NET workshops on 14th and 15th June 2006: (a) ERA-NET joint calls and (b) KBBE ERA-NETs and SCAR. Christina Steveni, the Project's finance administrator attended a Commission run ERA-NET workshop on 5th December 2006.
- The coordinator and WP5 leaders and deputy leaders attended a meeting at DG-RTD with Jean-Francois Maljean on 1st October 2007. The purpose of the meeting was to exchange information and discuss specific issues about the interaction between EUPHRESCO and DG-RTD on FP7. DG-RTD recognised EUPHRESCO's mandate from COPHS to transfer the responsibilities of the former COPHS informal ad hoc FP7

Working Group to the EUPHRESKO NMG. There was broad agreement that EUPHRESKO trans-national activities/projects and FP7 plant health projects should be complementary, but not necessarily mutually exclusive. The need for continued EU funding in the area of Plant Health, due to limited national budgets, was acknowledged.

Sub-workpackage 1.2. Reports:

- The 3-, 6-, 9-, 12-, 15- and 18-month reports for the Commission were produced and submitted. The Commission subsequently confirmed that 3-monthly interim reports were not required.
- Commission survey on joint activities being done by ERA-NETs completed by the Coordinator.

Sub-workpackage 1.3. Knowledge management and communication:

- The Project website was launched and is being maintained. A domain name (euphresco.org) was purchased to ensure future longevity beyond the end of the ERA-NET. A specific page for the pilot project information and electronic application form submission is being developed by the CSL in conjunction with WP4 (AGES). The full website address is: [www.euphresco.org](http://www.euphresco.org)
- A communications strategy was produced and has been approved by the Network Management Group (NMG) and by the Governing Board (GB). Annex 3
- A publicity leaflet was produced in English and is available to download from the Project website (Annex 4); hard copies have been printed for Partners to disseminate at meetings as appropriate. The content was checked with the Commission prior to actual printing (e.g. with respect to any legal statements the Commission requirements). The leaflet has been translated into French, Dutch, Spanish and Bulgarian and these will be available electronically via the website shortly.
- The leaflet is available from: <http://www.euphresco.org/downloadFile.cfm?id=82>
- EUPHRESKO project sheet (series V) (Annex 5) is available to download from the CORDIS website. <http://www.euphresco.org/downloadFile.cfm?id=145>
- EUPHRESKO Project information was uploaded onto the CORDIS Wire site.
- Two 6-monthly electronic newsletters were produced (Annex 6). The first was sent electronically to those who registered via the website to receive it, including observer partners and the Expert Advisory Group (EAG) members. The second was again sent to those who had registered, observers and EAG members but was also sent to all the research providers and stakeholders listed on the WP2 questionnaire completed by Partners (the second newsletter was sent to 301 recipients). Newsletters are available from the website: <http://www.euphresco.org/public/news/index.cfm?archive=yes>
- The Coordinator corresponded with the FAO IPPC (International Plant Protection Convention) Secretariat, outlining EUPHRESKO's aims. The IPPC is collating information of other similar activities being initiated between research funders (e.g. the 'QUAD' involving USA, Canada, NZ and Australia). This is part of EUPHRESKO's strategic longer-term aim to establish wider international linkages.
- Norway approached the Coordinator and we have invited them to be a formal observer if they can identify the appropriate body/organisation to serve in this capacity.
- EUPHRESKO has had informal contact with a variety of groups, giving communication/dissemination opportunities, including: Cost Action 873 (bacterial

diseases of stone fruits and nuts): the European Mycological Network (presentation made at May 2007 EMN Meeting); the ENDURE Network of Excellence's Crop Protection Network. EUPHRESCO representatives have attended meetings of these groups.

- A model 'news release' was prepared by the Coordinator (Annex 7) for Partners to publicise the Project, especially the launch of the website so that interested parties could register for e-newsletters, be made aware of the Project's aims (especially plans for joint calls) and follow the EUPHRESCO's progress. Partners have also done a range of other dissemination activities in their respective countries.
- The Coordinator presented two platform presentations on EUPHRESCO (not paid for from the Project): (a) 'The importance of research coordination in plant health', Annual Balkan Week for Plant Health (Sofia, Bulgaria, May 2006); (b) 'EU initiatives in the framework of the Madeira declaration', EPPO Colloquium, (Prague, Czech Republic, September 2006). They can be accessed from:  
<http://www.euphresco.org/public/publications/index.cfm?id=30>
- The Coordinator has also been invited to give a plenary presentation on EUPHRESCO and European research coordination at the EFSA Science Colloquium (plant health) in December 2007 in Parma.
- EUPHRESCO updates have been produced for the EU Council Working Party of Chief Officers of Plant Health Services (COPHS) 6-monthly meetings; COPHS have been asked to note progress and continue to encourage programme managers in member countries to support EUPHRESCO, especially: funds for pilot projects and for EUPHRESCO future trans-national activities; plant health priorities in FP7.
- An article about EUPHRESCO was published in the EU Parliament Magazine (by invitation, and also approved by the Governing Board and the EC EUPHRESCO Desk Officer), 4th June 2007, Issue 247 (Annex 8). The article is available to download from the Project website: <http://www.euphresco.org/public/publications/index.cfm?id=30>

#### Sub-workpackage 1.4. Project Administration:

- The contracts were signed after final cost-model and Partner-status issues were resolved. The Coordinator has finalised with the Commission the issues concerning the change of status of DIAS who are representing Partner 10 (Denmark). Issues concerning the two Italian Partners have also been resolved with the Commission.
- The first advance payment was received from the Commission on the 25th August 2006 and was distributed to all Project Partners in accordance with the conditions of the EU Contract. Twenty Partners were paid on the 4th September 2006; one Partner requested CSL hold their income and two Partners were paid in November after delays in supplying their bank details.
- Partners were asked to produce an interim financial report covering the first 9-months of the Project. This was to ensure Partners had adequate systems in place for maintaining accurate records (to minimise delays at 18 month audit). It also allowed the Coordinator to monitor the project finances in advance of the first official reporting period.
- Partners were instructed about the 18-month report requirements at both the 12-month meeting and recently at the 18-month meeting. Partners had the opportunity to check and discuss their finance forms and audit certificates at 'finance clinics' run by the Project's finance administrator at the 12-month and 18-month Project meetings.
- The Governing Board membership (1 representative from each Country's Ministry) has been determined and its remit defined within the Consortium Agreement.

- 
- The Network Management Group (NMG) met on 28th July and 8th November 2006, 25th May and 23rd November 2007 after the respective Project meetings, to discuss technical, management, communication and governance issues.
  - The NMG has agreed that EUPHRESCO (via the WP5 leaders, DE-BBA) will participate in the Crop Protection Network of the ENDURE Network of Excellence which deals with sustainable pesticide usage.
  - A Consortium Agreement has been finalised (Annex 9) and has been signed by all but one Partner (who will sign by 31st December 2007). It includes the specific roles and responsibilities of Partners, the Coordinator, WP leaders/deputies, the Network Management Group and the Governing Board, and finance/payment issues.
  - The Risk Register has been finalised (Annex 10) and approved by the NMG and the Governing Board. As a minimum, it is kept under 6-monthly review by the NMG, and annual review by the GB.



### 3.1.4. Deliverables in RP1

Deliverables		Target Date	MS Status
DL 1.1	Operational Project website (internal/external pages)	Month 3	Completed
DL 1.2	External Communication/Dissemination Strategy; leaflet.	Month 6	Completed
DL 1.3 (part)	Project reports and cost statements (i.e. 18 month report)	Month 18	Completed
DL 1.4 (part)	E-newsletters produced and disseminated	Month 7,13	Completed
DL 1.5 (part)	6-monthly interim reports for the Commission	Month 7,13	Completed

 Completed
  In progress
  Not started
  Month 1
 31<sup>st</sup> May 2006

### 3.1.5. Milestones in RP1

Milestones		Target Date	MS Status
MS 1.1	Consortium agreement and risk register produced	Month 3	Completed
MS 1.2	Terms of reference for GB, NMG etc. produced	Month 2	Completed
MS 1.3	Kick-off Meeting (1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting) held	Month 2	Completed
MS 1.4	Project Website produced	Month 2	Completed
MS 1.5	Communication strategy produced	Month 2	Completed
MS 1.6	Six-monthly meetings (4 <sup>th</sup> meeting) held	Month 18	Completed
MS 1.7	Reports and cost statements submitted to the Commission	Month 18	Completed

 Completed
  In progress
  Not started
  Month 1
 31<sup>st</sup> May 2006

### 3.1.6. Deviation from the Project work programme

It was not possible to constitute a GB at the start of the Project and hence not possible to hold a GB meeting at the time of the kick off meeting in June 2006. However, a GB meeting at this very early stage of the Project was not deemed necessary. The first GB meeting was therefore held after the Project had been running for a year when progress could be report and more decisions could be made.

### 3.2. Partner changes

Please see the table below:

#### EUPHRESCO Partner Changes

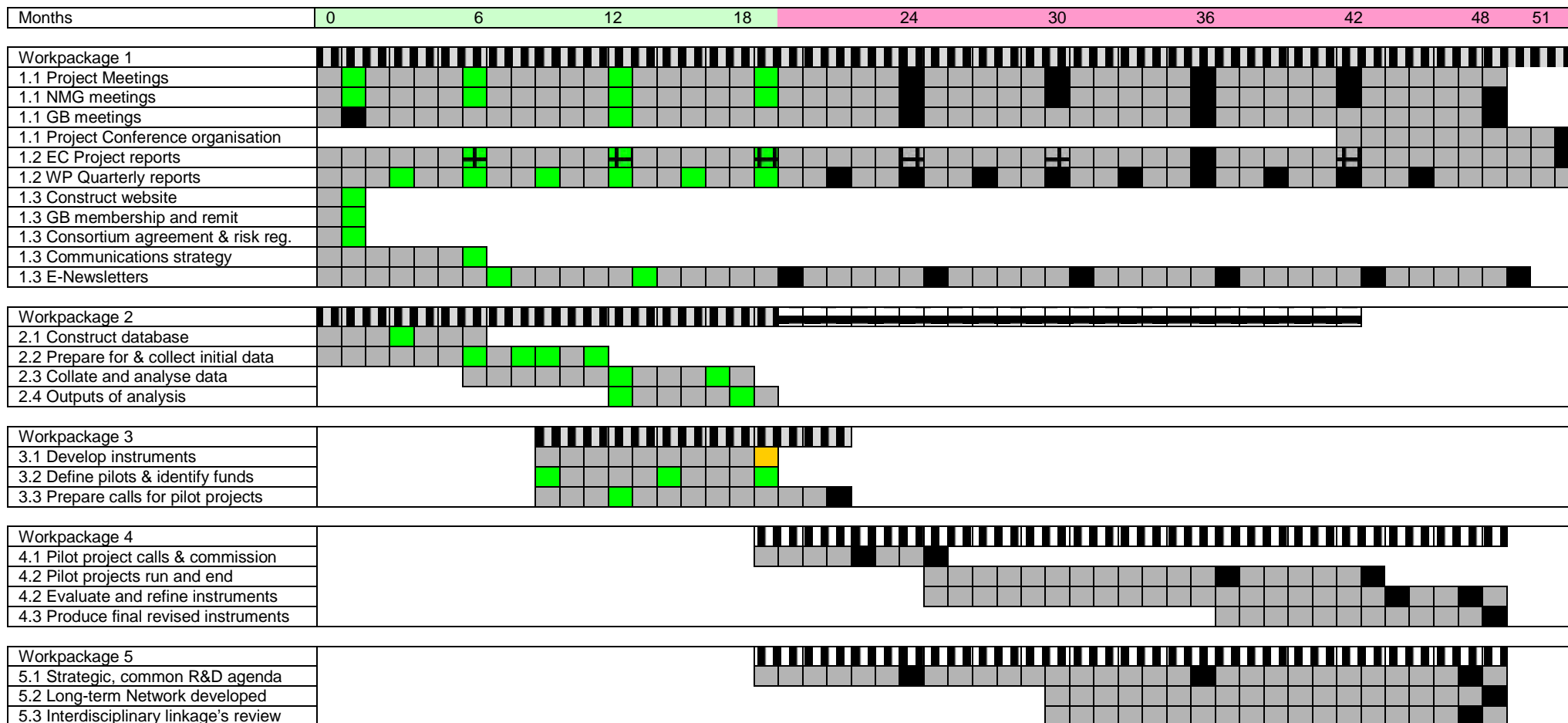
Partner No	Contact name	Changes and dates
8	Dr Anastasia Kyriakou	Dr Anastasia Kyriakou replaced Dr Nicolas Ioannou <b>19.09.06</b>
9	Eng. Karel Tureček	Eng. Karel Tureček replaced Mr Miroslav Toman <b>29.03.07</b>
9	Ing Ladislav Jerábek	Ladislav Jerabek replaced Tereza Staflova <b>24.08.06</b>
11	Mr Matti Aho	Mr Matti Aho replaced Mr Heimo Hanhilahti <b>20.02.07</b>
11	Dr Hannele Sankari	Hannele Sankari replaced Mr Markku Järvenpää <b>27.12.06</b>
18	Prof. Romualdo Coviello	Prof. Romualdo Coviello replaced Prof. Guiseppe D'Ascenzo <b>19.01.07</b>
18	Dr Vincenzo Pilo	Dr Vincenzo Pilo replaced Dr Ida Marandola <b>19.01.07</b>
18	Dr Pio Roversi	Dr Pio Roversi replaced Dr Stefano Bisoffi <b>31.10.07</b>
22	Javier Martínez Vassallo	Javier Martínez Vassallo replaced Mr Mario Gomez-Perez <b>07.03.07</b>
24	Prof. Masum Burak	Prof. Masum Burak replaced Dr Lutfi Tahtacioglu <b>25.12.06</b>

	Administrative official authorised to sign the contract
	Second administrative official authorised to sign the contract
	Authorised contact person

### 3.3. Project timetable and status

Please see the table below.

**RP1 – Periodic activity report**  
**Project timetable and status bar chart**  
 Contract No: 036212 (ERAC)



Timeline for individual workpackages  
 Milestones completed Milestone still in progress  
 Six-monthly summary report for the Commission completed  
 WP2 Low level data collection each year to maintain database

## **Section 4: Other issues**

There are no other issues to report

## Section 5: Plan for using and disseminating knowledge

### 5.1. Exploitable knowledge and its Use

There is exploitable knowledge

### 5.2. Dissemination of knowledge

Please see the table below for a list of the Project's dissemination activities. See also Annex 3 for the EUPHRESCO Communication and Dissemination Strategy.

Planned/ actual dates	Type	Audience	WP responsible
May 06	Website	Stakeholders	WP1
May 06	Plenary presentation	Annual Balkan week for plant health	WP1
Jun 06	Presentation at EC workshop - KBBE ERA-NETs and SCAR	ERA-NET coordinators	WP1
Sep 06	Plenary presentation at EPPO Colloquium	EPPO members	WP1
Sep 06	Paper following EPPO Colloquium	EPPO members	WP1
Oct 06	Press release template	Stakeholders	WP1
Dec 2006	EC workshop – finances	ERA-NET coordinators	WP1
Feb 07	Leaflet	Stakeholders	WP1
Feb 07	Newsletter – issue 1	Stakeholders	WP1
Apr 07	Presentation	EMN	WP5
Jun 07	EU Parliament magazine	EU; Magazine distribution	WP1
Jul 07	Newsletter – issue 2	Stakeholders	WP1
Oct 06	Letter to IPPC (FAO) secretariat	IPPC Secretariat	WP1
Jul 07	6-monthly update paper	COPHS/SANCO	WP1
Dec 07	Plenary presentation at EFSA plant health risk assessment colloquium	EFSA plant health panel; DG-RTD; PRA scientists	WP1
Feb 08	Presentation	ISHS	WP4
Aug 08	Exhibition stand	ICPP delegates: scientists; policy makers; non-EU research funders	WP1

### 5.3. Publishable results

To date the EUPHRESCO Project has generated a comprehensive report on the mapped and analysed data and information from the national programmes questionnaire developed by WP2. The report, Deliverable 2.2, 'Report on the Mapping and Analysis of National Phytosanitary (Quarantine/Regulated Plant Health) Research Programmes' has been circulated to all Partners and to the EUPHRESCO Governing Board for comment. The report is submitted with this 18-month report and it has been made publicly available on the EUPHRESCO website.



**Euphresco**  
Phytosanitary ERA-NET



## RP2 – Periodic activity report

12<sup>th</sup> June 2009

**Report Period Covered:**  
**Start Date of Project:**  
**End Date and Duration:**

1<sup>st</sup> November 2007 – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009  
1<sup>st</sup> May 2006  
31<sup>st</sup> July 2010 (51 months duration)

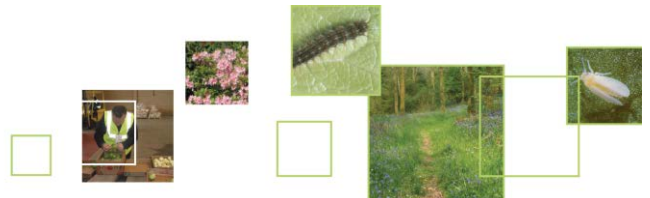
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## Publishable Executive Summary



“European Phytosanitary Research  
Coordination”

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### Introduction

EUPHRESCO is a €2.63 million project funded under the 6<sup>th</sup> framework programme and will run from 2006 to 2010. The Project is a partnership of 24 leading organisations involved with funding phytosanitary (regulated plant health) research in 17 European countries. The Project is fully supported by the EU Council Working Party of Chief Officers for Plant Health Services (COPHS). It also involves the EC's Directorate General for Health and Consumer Protection (DG SANCO), the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) Plant Health Panel, all of which participate through an Expert Advisory Group.


















Over the last century, the rate of introduction and establishment of new, economically or environmentally damaging plant pests and diseases has increased as a result of the expansion in global trade of plant material. Policy designed to protect Europe's agriculture and environment from these pest threats is determined at the EU level. However, the research that underpins policy has been undertaken primarily at the national level and there has been little or no coordination of these programmes.

EUPHRESCO aims to increase cooperation and coordination of national phytosanitary (statutory plant health) research programmes at the EU level through networking of research activities and potential mutual opening of national programmes







## EUPHRESCO Partners (contractors) and Observers

EUPHRESCO is a consortium of 24 Partners from 17 European countries. The Project also comprises Observers from Government Bodies in six Member States.

### Partners

- |   |    |   |
|---|----|---|
|    | 1  | The Central Science Laboratory (CSL), UK <sup>1</sup> - <b>Coordinator</b>                                      |
|   | 2  | Plant Health Division, Defra (PHD), UK <sup>1</sup>   |
|    | 3  | The Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW), Austria               |
|   | 4  | The Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES), Austria  |
|    | 5  | The Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research, (ILVO), Belgium  |
|   | 6  | The Federal Public Service for Public health, Food Chain Safety and Environment (FPS), Belgium                  |
|    | 7  | The National Service for Plant Protection (NSPP), Bulgaria  |
|    | 8  | The Agricultural Research Institute (ARI), Cyprus   |
|    | 9  | Ministry of Agriculture (NAAR), Czech Republic  |
|    | 10 | The Directorate for Food, Fisheries and Agri Business (DFFAB), Denmark  |
|    | 11 | The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MMM-FI), Finland  |
|   | 12 | The Ministry of Agriculture and Fishery, General Food Directorate (MAP-DGAL), France                            |
|   | 13 | Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA), France  |
|  | 14 | The Federal Ministry Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV), Germany                                 |
|   | 15 | The Julius Kühn Institute (JKI), Germany  |
|  | 16 | The Department of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (DAFF), Ireland   |
|  | 17 | The Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies (MiPAFF), Italy  |
|   | 18 | The Agricultural Research Council (CRA), Italy  |
|  | 19 | The Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV), The Netherlands                                     |
|   | 20 | The Plant Protection Service (PD), The Netherlands  |
|  | 21 | The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food (MAFF), Slovenia   |
|  | 22 | The Plant Protection Department of The National Institute of Agriculture Research (INIA), Spain                 |
|  | 23 | The Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG), Switzerland  |
|  | 24 | The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, General Directorate of Agricultural Research (MARA GDAR), Turkey |

### Observers

- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  | Ministry of Agriculture, Plant Health Department, Estonia   |
|  | Ministry of Rural Development and Food, Department of Phytosanitary Control, Greece                       |
|  | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Plant Protection and Soil Conservation Department, Hungary |
|  | Ministry of Agriculture, Lithuania  |
|  | Ministry for Rural Affairs and The Environment, Malta   |
|  | Ministry of Agriculture, <b>Direcção-Geral de Protecção das Culturas</b> , Portugal                       |

<sup>1</sup> Partner 1 and Partner 2 have merged and become part of the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) of Defra, as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009.

## EUPHRESCO Objectives

EUPHRESCO will address the strategic objective of the Framework 6 Programme 'Integrating and Strengthening the European Research Area' by 'Supporting the Cooperation and Coordination of Research Activities Carried out at National and Regional Levels'. EUPHRESCO aims to increase cooperation and coordination of national phytosanitary research programmes at the EU level through networking of research activities and potential mutual opening of national programmes, to achieve three main over-arching strategic goals:

1. Develop phytosanitary (statutory plant health) research policy at the EU-wide level.
2. Optimise the research provision that underpins EU quarantine plant health policy development and policy implementation, in an era of increasing biosecurity threats from alien plant pests, diseases and invasive species.
3. Increase the capacity of European phytosanitary science and research, in order to prevent the disappearance of EU expertise in this field and maintain Europe's competitiveness in the global market.

The EUPHRESCO objectives are being implemented through five workpackages (WP):

**WP1** "Project coordination, management, communication and dissemination", **WP2** "Mapping and analysis of existing research and current needs", **WP3** "Developing instruments and preparing for pilot projects", **WP4** "Test, evaluate and refine instruments through pilot projects", **WP5** "Develop trans-national agendas, a long-term, sustainable coordination Network for implementing joint activities, and investigate external linkages to other disciplines"

## Progress by Workpackage

EUPHRESCO has now been running for over three years and many key tasks have been successfully completed. Here we summarise the major achievements by workpackage (WP) throughout the first and second reporting periods from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2006 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009

### **WP1 – Project coordination, management, communication and dissemination**

WP1 is responsible for the project administration; it coordinates the delivery of reports to the Commission, Governing Board and COPHS, and assists in the organisation of meetings. The EUPHRESCO consortium has now had seven 6-monthly project meetings to progress the project's technical work. The vision and ambitions of the Project were presented and discussed at the kick-off meeting in York and the mapping-phase questionnaire in particular was discussed and progressed at the second meeting in Paris. The results of the mapping phase and the preparation for the pilot projects were the main focus of both the third meeting in The Hague and the fourth meeting in Ghent. The evaluation of the pilot projects along with the development of the long-term future network were the main focuses of the fifth meeting in Vienna, the sixth meeting in Prague and the seventh meeting in Braunschweig. WP1 have developed and continually maintain the project website <http://www.euphresco.org>, produced leaflets, newsletters, press release templates, pilot project posters and articles to publicise the Project and disseminate its progresses, as well as having a EUPHRESCO stand at the 2008 International Congress of Plant Pathology. Publications are available from the EUPHRESCO website.

### **WP2 – Mapping and analysis of existing research and of current needs**

WP2 was launched at the start of the project in May 2006. The objectives were to gather information on existing phytosanitary research programmes and related resources and infrastructures. To achieve these objectives, WP2 produced a questionnaire that was made

available for partners to complete online in March 2007 and a shortened version for non-partners to complete in July 2007. WP2 have produced a mapping and analysis report (Deliverable DL2.2) on the national phytosanitary research programmes; it was published in January 2008 and can be found on the EUPHRESCO website. It forms a sound basis for developing future trans-national research strategy and agendas by highlighting gaps and opportunities. WP2 is currently collaborating with WP3 and WP4 to develop the guide of “common principles” for setting up phytosanitary research programmes for countries where none currently exists, so that the potential trans-national research collaboration is facilitated. The only other work being carried out in WP2 is a regular updating of an internal database of national phytosanitary research projects and some limited programme information (e.g. annual budgets); the outputs will be made publicly available again in a fixed electronic format on the website.

### **WP3 – Developing instruments and preparing for pilot projects**

WP3 has developed the mechanisms, instruments and tools needed to enable joint transnational activities. They produced definitions of the three funding mechanisms (real common pot, virtual pot and non-competitive mechanism) that are being tested and pilot project criteria that facilitated the selection process for pilot topics in 2008. All of the 17 EUPHRESCO countries (22/23 partners) are funding at least one topic, thereby satisfying the learning-by-doing principle behind the pilot topics. All the topics also directly underpin plant health policy or operations and contribute to building Europe’s phytosanitary science capacity and capability. The processes, tools and instruments developed for the calls have been collated into the draft ‘operational handbook’ and this is available for partners to download from the members’ area of the EUPHRESCO website. The draft ‘operational handbook’ has been transferred to WP4 to be refined and finalised once the pilot projects have been evaluated. The final handbook will be publicly available by summer 2010. The pilot calls were launched via WP4 in 2008. Development of a second round of non-competitive topics was begun in early 2009. This second round of topics is additional to the contract but is being done to maintain momentum and build on the success of the first round of trans-national commissioning. Up to 7 topics are being considered. Funding consortia and topic coordinators have been confirmed; topic descriptions are under development so that project initiation can begin from June 2009.

### **WP4 – Test, evaluate and refine instruments through pilot projects**

WP4 has launched the planned pilot calls and led the commissioning of 11 pilot projects, each running for 12–18 months. Competitive calls were launched for both a virtual common pot and for a real common pot using the tools and processes developed within the EUPHRESCO Project. The virtual common pot call followed a one-stage application process and there was no competition between the 5 topics; each EUPHRESCO partner only funded the participation of its own national researchers in any successful proposal. The real common pot call followed a two-stage application process and there was competition between the two topics; there could be a trans-national flow of funds. After peer review and consideration by the funders in the call steering committees, 5 projects were commissioned from the virtual common pot call and 2 from the real common pot call. The total funding commitment across all these competitively-let projects was about €1.5 Million, (equating to about 10% of total national budgets). Additional to the competitively-let project, 4 non-competitive projects were initiated in March 2008; all involved the validation or ring testing of diagnostic methods for specific regulated plant pests or pathogens. Summaries of all 11 commissioned projects are available on the EUPHRESCO website. The remaining task for WP4 is an evaluation of the call processes; questionnaires have been developed and are being completed by funders, contractors and peer reviewers.

## **WP5 – Develop trans-national agendas, a long-term, sustainable coordination network for implementing joint activities and external linkages to other disciplines**

WP5 started in November 2007. One of its aims is to develop a common research strategy and research agenda based on shared priorities that would support continued trans-national research activities at the end of the ERA-NET in 2010. WP5 has made significant progress in gathering information that can inform the development of common research agendas. Information was collected from: the WP2 questionnaire in 2007; an international workshop on 'Future Research Agendas' held in Prague in May 2008; national workshops held in their individual countries in 2008/9; and an international workshop, 'Building and Influencing Transnational Phytosanitary Research Strategies for Europe', held in Braunschweig in May 2009. In relation to the EU's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), EUPHRESCO has advised the Commission and Member States on Plant Health research priorities suitable for EU funding under FP7. This has been done under a mandate from the EU Council Working Party of Chief Officers of Plant Health Services (COPHS). EUPHRESCO has therefore fulfilled its aim to better coordinate national, trans-national and EU-funded plant health research to ensure best value for money and research outputs that better underpin plant health policy and operations. EUPHRESCO has also advised the Standing Committee of Agricultural Research (SCAR) on Plant Health Research Infrastructure needs, and participated in ENDURE's (Network of Excellence of Sustainable Pesticide Use) Crop Protection Network. Finally, EUPHRESCO is developing a framework for establishing its longer-term and self-sustainable network; it has produced the first draft of a model structure and is also considering broadening and deepening the future network and its activities.

### **Plan for using and disseminating knowledge**

A communication strategy has been produced. The EUPHRESCO website <http://www.euphresco.org> is the main tool for externally communicating the project aims, progress and outputs. It allows registration for the six-monthly e-newsletters. Publicity leaflets have been produced in English, French, Dutch, German, Greek, Bulgarian, and Spanish. The website publicised the launch of joint calls for pilot research projects in 2008. It hosts the internal database of national phytosanitary research projects that will be updated annually and will inform future R&D agendas. Published articles are also available on the website.

Interim progress reports against milestones and deliverables have been sent to the Commission and are available in the internal members' area of the website. The WP2 mapping and analysis report (DL2.2) on national phytosanitary research programmes is available from the external project website. Gathered information has informed the development of tools and processes in WP3 and the selection of pilot research topics. The draft operational tools handbook is on the members' area of the website. Progress reports are prepared for the six-monthly EU Council COPHS meetings. EUPHRESCO is presented in other European fora, including EPPO and EFSA colloquiums and panel meetings. The Project's Experts Advisory Group (EPPO, EFSA, EC DG-SANCO) has opportunity to observe progress and provide input. Links have been established with other platforms, e.g.: The ENDURE network of excellence; the European Mycological Network; the European Association of Phytobacteriologists; COST Action 873; ICPP secretariat; and USDA-APHIS. EUPHRESCO has held workshops to help develop its future research agendas and activities and will hold a final dissemination conference in 2010. EUPHRESCO has also completed EC ERA-Net questionnaires and participated in EC ERA-Net workshops, sharing its experience with other ERA-Nets in the KBBE (Knowledge-based Bio-economy) area.



## Section 1: Project objectives and major achievements during the reporting period (1<sup>st</sup> November 2007 – 30 April 2009)

### 1.1 Project Objectives

#### WP1. Project coordination, management, communication and dissemination:

- To manage and coordinate the Phytosanitary ERA-NET
- To communicate the aims and progress of the Phytosanitary ERA-NET
- To share/disseminate project outputs for the wider benefit of non-participating European phytosanitary research funders, other European stakeholders, including industry bodies and technology platforms, and appropriate Non-EU plant health bodies.

#### WP2. Mapping and analysis of existing research and of current needs:

- To systematically gather information on existing phytosanitary research programmes, infrastructures and resources; identify relevant national industry representatives; and to map any pre-existing regional/national linkages between research programmes.
- To evaluate and analyse the gathered information to identify: overlaps, gaps, duplication, strengths/weaknesses, opportunities and common research priorities.
- To develop common instruments and 'principles' for best practice.

#### WP3. Developing instruments and preparing for pilot projects:

- To develop the instruments, mechanisms and processes needed to enable joint trans-national activities and funding of a future transnational phytosanitary research programme.
- To prepare for pilot projects to test instruments.

#### WP4. Test, evaluate and refine instruments (Pilots):

- To trial (pilot), evaluate and refine the instruments needed for transnational collaboration and trans-national funding of research.
- To establish common, proven instruments and mechanisms for use beyond the end of the ERA-NET.

#### WP5. Develop trans-national agendas, programmes and a long-term, sustainable coordination Network, and external linkages to other disciplines:

- To develop a common research agenda based on shared priorities resulting in a proposed programme for trans-national funding at the end of the ERA-NET.
- To establish an infrastructure that will ensure long-term sustainability of the research funder network beyond the end of the ERA-NET. This network would continue to coordinate, develop and implement transnational phytosanitary research. In addition, it would also maintain and develop further links to industry and other national and international organisations.
- To explore and improve linkages with other priority disciplines relevant to plant health needs (review of inter-disciplinary linkages and needs).

## 1.2 Major Achievements in RP2 (1<sup>st</sup> November 2007 – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009)

- Six-monthly project meetings were organised and held successfully, together with their associated Network Management Group (NMG) meetings. Project meetings have involved all project partners and have progressed the technical work and administration of the project. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Governing Board meetings were organised and held at 24 months and 36 months respectively.
- The consortium agreement, communication/dissemination strategy and risk register were kept under review. Six-monthly e-newsletters and various other publicity materials (leaflet and articles) were produced and a EUPHRESCO stand was exhibited at the ICPP Congress in August 2008. Six-monthly interim or progress reports have been produced for the EC and separately for the COPHS. The Activity and Management Reports for the first reporting period (RP1) have been accepted and signed-off by the Commission. All Deliverables have been fully completed within the period and provided to the Commission.
- The Mapping and Analysis report (DL2.2) from WP2 was finalised and made publicly available on the EUPHRESCO website in January 2008; it forms a sound basis for the development of future trans-national research strategies and agendas.
- Draft tools and processes have been produced for each funding mechanism and tested via pilot calls. They have been incorporated into a draft operational toolbox available on the internal website and provided to the Commission (DL3.1). WP4 will refine and finalise the draft toolbox and it will then be made publically available.
- A virtual pot (VP) call was launched on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2008; it involved a one-step application process and topics did not compete. A “funder’s panel” (call steering committee) was established for evaluating the proposals. All proposals were evaluated by peer review and then by the funders. The call steering committee met on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2008 for final research project selection and was chaired by a representative from the Commission’s DG SANCO. In total, 5 projects were commissioned, one from each topic in the call, with a total value of about €1 million.
- A real pot call (RP) was launched on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2008, it involved a two-step application process: expressions of interest followed by invited full proposals; the two topics competed and there could be a trans-national flow of funds. One project was commissioned from one of the topics against the total funds available (€260k) in November 2008; a second project (from the other topic) was also commissioned in March 2009 after additional funds (€190k) were found to fund the high quality proposal received.
- Additionally, four non-competitive projects were initiated in March 2008. These have only light administration and oversight by EUPHRESCO and are very applied topics for which there is a specific and identifiable expertise known; all are validations or ring tests of diagnostic methods on specific pests or pathogens. Each topic has a topic coordinator from the EUPHRESCO consortium and a project leader from the research consortium. Institutes from EUPHRESCO’s Observer countries and from some other European countries (e.g. Hungary, Greece, Portugal, Scotland), and from non-European countries (e.g. NZ), participate in some of these projects.
- In total, 11 research projects were commissioned across all three of the funding mechanisms tested. All projects directly underpin EU plant health policy, operations and science capability. Some of the trans-national projects directly complement EU-funded projects.



- An unanticipated second round of non-competitive topic has been initiated. Although not part of the original contract, these aim to maintain momentum and build on the success of the pilot projects. Up to 7 topics are being considered, the earliest being commissioned from June 2009.
- EUPHRESCO, via WP5 and the NMG, has advised on plant health research priorities in FP7 under a mandate from the Governing Board and the COPHS (EU Council Working Party of Chief Officers of Plant Health Services), thereby coordinating national, trans-national and EU-funded plant health research. EUPHRESCO and DG-Research have developed a clear concept on the type of research that should be done trans-nationally and the type of research more suitable for potential EU funding. WP5 has continued to respond to requests from DG-Research for information on plant health research issues, especially complementarities between EU-funded work and EUPHRESCO trans-national projects.
- Two international EUPHRESCO workshops, an internal one in May 2008 and a more external one in May 2009, were held to develop common research agendas based on shared priorities. The second workshop was particularly successful and involved a wide range of stakeholders, e.g. policy makers, research funders and scientists, together with representatives from DG-Research, DG SANCO's plant health standing committee, EPPO and EFSA. Results from national workshops were presented and discussed. A draft '*Common Strategic Phytosanitary Research Agenda*' has been produced, as has a draft framework document for the '*Structure of the Long-term and Self-sustainable Future Network*'.
- Links with relevant scientific fora and potential collaborators have been established and maintained, e.g. The European Mycological Network; The European Association of Phytobacteriologists, linked to an EPPO Panel; The ENDURE Network of Excellence; EPPO and EFSA panels; USDA-APHIS and through extension their QUAD involving NZ, Australia and Canada; the EC's Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR) infrastructures collaborative working group through a specific EUPHRESCO (plant health) response to their questionnaire on research infrastructure needs.

## Section 2: Workpackage progress during the reporting period (1<sup>st</sup> November 2007 – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009)

### 2.1 WP2 – Mapping and analysis of existing research and of current needs

WP2 leader is Partner 12 (DGAL) and the deputy leader is Partner 5 (ILVO); the WP was launched at the start of the Project in May 2006 (Month 0).

#### 2.1.1. Objectives

The objectives of WP2 are to systematically gather information on existing phytosanitary (quarantine/statutory plant health) research programmes, including: projects and budgets, existing funding systems and research management, research providers, expertise, facilities and other relevant infrastructures and resources, perceived existing needs and priorities at a regional (sub-national), national or zonal level. To map any pre-existing regional, national or international linkages between research programmes and identify national and EU industry bodies and key non-EU bodies, for interaction. The objectives are also to evaluate and analyse the gathered information to identify: overlaps, gaps, duplication, strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and common research priorities; and common instruments and ‘principles’ for best practice.

#### 2.1.2. Progress towards objectives - SUMMARY

- All WP2 milestones and deliverables in RP2 have been completed.
- WP2 is collaborating with WP3 and WP4 to develop the remaining deliverable (DL 2.4) due at Month 47: The guide of “common principles” for establishing phytosanitary research programmes for countries where none currently exists.
- Low-level annual updating of the database, to update information on national phytosanitary research projects and programme budgets, is the only ongoing WP2 activity.

Summary of WP2 progress for milestones/deliverables since the project’s start:

WP2 Deliverables until month 36		Target	DL Status
DL 2.1	Final database established, operational and linked to website	Month 6	Completed
DL 2.2	Report on the mapped and analysed data and information	Month 17	Completed
DL 2.3	Published information on national programmes on website	Month 18	Completed
DL 2.4 *	‘Common principles’ guide for setting up national programmes	Month 47	In progress

WP2 Milestones until month 36		Target	MS Status
MS 2.1	Prototype questionnaire constructed for Partners to test	Month 3	Completed
MS 2.2	National programme managers outside consortium identified	Month 6	Completed
MS 2.3	Plan matrices for collating and analysing information.	Month 8	Completed
MS 2.4	Data entered on database for Partner countries	Month 9	Completed
MS 2.5	Data entered on database for non-partner countries	Month 11	Completed
MS 2.6	Collation and analysis of management procedures	Month 12	Completed
MS 2.7	Information obtained for identifying potential pilot funders	Month 12	Completed
MS 2.8	Collation and analysis of programme information	Month 16	Completed
MS 2.9	Report on the mapped and analysed data and information	Month 17	Completed

\* Date for DL 2.4 revised from Month 18 to Month 47 in agreement with Desk Officer in RP1.

### 2.1.3. Progress towards objectives – DETAIL BY SUB-WORKPACKAGE

#### Sub-workpackage 2.1. Definition of specific information to be mapped

- Completed in RP1 (DL2.1–2.3)

#### Sub-workpackage 2.2. Preparation for data collection and collect data/information

- The WP2 questionnaire (DL 2.2) has been amended to allow low-level annual updating. The Project Office will test and refine the much reduced online questionnaire by the end June 2009. Partners will then be asked to check and update their information on national phytosanitary research projects and some limited programme information (e.g. annual budgets).

#### Sub-workpackage 2.3. Analysis of information

- Completed in RP1 (DL2.1–2.3)

#### Sub-workpackage 2.4. Produce reports and publish information on national phytosanitary research programmes

- A final draft of the report on the mapped and analysed data and information from national programmes has been made publicly available on the EUPHRESCO website.
- In parallel, some outputs have been made available internally within the project through the website as part of a searchable 'national research project' database.
- DL2.4 has been deferred to Month 47 – see below (2.1.4)

### 2.1.4. Deviation from the Project work programme

- As reported in the 24-month report and approved by the Commission, the 'common principles' guide for setting up national programmes (DL 2.4) has been deferred to the end of the project and its scope and purpose have been amended. The original intention was that a short 'common principles' guide would be developed to encourage or facilitate the setting up of new phytosanitary research programmes in countries where they did not exist. However, the consortium felt that the development of a guide to maximise any new national phytosanitary programmes' potential for future transnational funding collaborations would more useful and certainly more appropriate in terms of EUPHRESCO's goals. Deferral of DL 2.4 to Month 47 will not affect any other activity.

## 2.2. WP3 – Developing instruments and preparing for pilot projects

WP3 leader is Partner 19 (LNV) and the deputy leader is Partner 9 (NAAR); the WP was launched in February 2007 (month 9).

### 2.2.1. Objectives

The objectives of WP3 are to develop instruments, mechanisms and processes to enable joint trans-national activities and funding of a future trans-national research programme. The objectives are also to prepare for the pilot projects to tests these mechanisms and processes.

### 2.2.2. Progress towards objectives - SUMMARY

- All milestones and deliverables for WP3 have been completed; none remain.
- Tools and processes have been developed for all three funding mechanisms being piloted (virtual common pot, real common pot and a non-competitive mechanism). They have been collated into a draft toolbook which has been provided to the Commission (DL3.1) and to WP4.
- 11 topics were developed for the pilot calls. The tools and processes developed by WP3 were used in WP4 to implement these pilot calls and projects.

Summary of WP3 progress for milestones/deliverables since the project's start:

WP3 Deliverables until month 36		Target	DL Status
DL 3.1*	Draft operational handbook (mechanisms/instruments for trans-national collaboration & research commissioning)	Month 30	Completed
DL 3.2	Calls for pilot project proposals prepared by funding consortiums	Month 24	Completed

WP3 Milestones until month 36		Target	MS Status
MS 3.1	National programmes identified that could contribute funds for pilot projects in WP4	Month 9	Completed
MS 3.2	Research providers informed of pilots via e-newsletter etc.	Month 12	Completed
MS 3.3	Mechanisms to be piloted and potential project titles decided	Month 14	Completed
MS 3.4	Funding consortiums formed and project budgets confirmed	Month 18	Completed
MS 3.5	Instruments produced for each mechanism for calls	Month 18	Completed
MS 3.6	Calls prepared for WP4 pilot projects	Month 21	Completed

\* Amended to Month 30 (from month 18) as agreed with Commission Desk Officer.

### 2.2.3. Progress towards objectives – DETAIL BY SUB-WORKPACKAGE

Sub-workpackage 3.1. Develop instruments, mechanisms and processes needed to enable trans-national activities

- The processes, tools and instruments developed for the calls have been collated into the draft 'operational handbook' (DL 3.2). The toolbook has been transferred to WP4 to be refined and finalised once the pilot projects have been evaluated (DL 4.5).

*Virtual Common Pot (VP)*

- Tools and instruments needed for the virtual pot call were developed, including: funders roadmap; funders letter of commitment (signed by all VP funders); application form;

applicants guide; topic specifications; call webpage; peer reviewers form; peer reviewers guidance notes; funders evaluation form and guidance notes; a funder's decision matrix.

- The VP pilot call was planned to involve a one-step proposal process. Topics would not compete. A call secretariat was established at AGES, Austria.

#### *Real Common Pot (RP)*

- Additional tools and instruments needed for the real common pot call launch were finalised. Legal issues, relating to the restriction of bids to those contractors with a legal base in the funding countries, were resolved. Contractors in other countries could participate via sub-contacts if there was a demonstrable technical need.
- The call was planned to involve a two-step proposal process: expressions of interest followed by invited full proposals. This would give the opportunity to test a different bidding process, compared to the 1-step process used for the VP call. Topics would compete.
- Since only two partners contributed to the RP, the handling of the call process was done in the two countries involved not through a central EUPHRESCO call secretariat. The identity of EUPHRESCO and the sharing of the learning experience was still preserved.

#### *Non-Competitive Mechanism (NC)*

- Tools and processes to initiate all four projects were developed and implemented. There will be only light administration and oversight by EUPHRESCO. Each topic has a topic coordinator from the EUPHRESCO consortium and a project leader from the research consortium. In order to ensure good project management, the research consortium is required to produce a outline document, based on the topic description developed within EUPHRESCO, which details what work will be done by who and by when. A final report is required.

### Sub-workpackage 3.2 Define the pilot studies that will be done to test instruments and mechanisms

- The Governing Board (GB) agreed in May 2007 that all three mechanisms (the real common pot, the virtual common pot and the non-competitive mechanism) would be piloted.
- Funds were allocated to each specific topic by EUPHRESCO partners. The funding commitment (c. €1.5 Million) to the competitive research projects represents about 10% of the estimated total annual budgets of the EUPHRESCO partners for phytosanitary research (approx. €15.75 million). Additional resources (existing or new) were also committed through the four projects in the non-competitive mechanism. Overall, this represents a significant commitment from partners.

### Sub-workpackage 3.3. Preparation for calls

- A list of topics for the pilot projects was finalised by all partners at the project meeting in Ghent in November 2007 and sent to the GB for approval. The proposal to the GB included all three mechanisms and a total of 11 topics: two topics for the real common pot; five topics for the virtual pot; and four topics for the non-competitive mechanism.

The final list of topics ensured a very high participation of EUPHRESCO partners: all 17 countries (23 out of 24 Partners) are participating; ten countries are participating in one funding mechanisms, five in two mechanisms, and two in three mechanisms. They will fulfil the desired outcome of 'learning-by-doing' by ensuring the maximum numbers of EUPHRESCO Partners are involved in at least one topic. The number of topics that were proposed maximises the potential deployment of funds that have been allocated by the

EUPHRESKO partners. In summary, the number of topics funded from each mechanism and the number of funders involved are as follows:

- (I) 5 projects via a virtual pot calls (involving 14 EUPHRESKO funders);
  - (II) 2 projects via a real common call (involving 2 EUPHRESKO Funders);
  - (III) 4 non-competitive projects (involving 16 EUPHRESKO partners); institutes in some Observer countries, other European countries and some non-European countries are participating in some non-competitive projects (e.g. Greece, Hungary, Scotland, Portugal, New Zealand)
- Project lengths were decided to ensure completion and evaluation within the life of the EUPHRESKO Project. Virtual common pot projects were all to be 12 months long. For reason of availability of financial resources, the RP project will extend into the financial year 2010-2011, implying that projects will run for 18 months.
  - A list of over 300 research providers was compiled from the WP2 questionnaire. These research providers were informed of the virtual and real pilot project timetable via the e-newsletter and the EUPHRESKO website.
  - We are now considering potential topics for a second round of non-competitive projects (for 2009). This is additional to the EUPHRESKO contract but is considered important with respect to maintaining momentum. The Governing Board had agreed that additional non-competitive projects could be considered since this mechanism is simple and has already been sufficiently tested. The Governing Board considered that any additional competitive projects should ideally wait until after the existing pilots have finished and the instruments and competitive mechanisms reviewed. Given the above, this second round of topics is relatively limited in scope and ambition. The process for the selection of second topics is being driven via WP1 and WP5, but is presented here. We have tried a novel approach to topic selection, using an on-line Google document.
    - (I) Partners proposed potential topics in advance of the November Project Meeting. These were collated into a spread sheet made available on-line via Google.
    - (II) Partners were asked to indicate their interest in topics and add new topics as appropriate by 16 March.
    - (III) The inputs were collated and rationalised by WP1 and a consolidated short list of topics was made available again for partners to again consider interest and to develop further by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009.
    - (IV) There are currently 7 topics being considered; most topics are related to the development or validation of detection/diagnostic methods and will be taken forward via a non-competitive route (NC). The topics under consideration or development are:
      - Topic 1. *Anoplophora* detection (NC): in 2009 or deferred to early 2010.
      - Topic 2. Bacterial gene sequencing (NC): supporting EPPO protocols; proposed by the EPPO panel and associated European Association of Phytobacteriologists; complements the EU-funded QBOL project on DNA-Barcoding and data from this topic will be provided to QBOL.
      - Topic 3: Bacterial diagnostics, especially seed testing methods (NC)
      - Topic 4: *Fusarium circinatum* diagnostics (NC)
      - Topic 5: *Meloidogyne* diagnostics (NC)
      - Topic 6: Phytoplasmas in orchards – diagnostics (NC)
      - Topic 7: Potato wart disease diagnostics, including validation of molecular methods for pathotype identification (NC): a scope will be developed to

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facilitate a potential project in 2011; validation of potato wart disease diagnostics is an EPPO priority.

Project descriptions are being developed and the first projects are due to start from June 2009.

#### **2.2.4. Deviation from the project work programme**

- There are no deviations from the work programme other than the additional work being done to progress the unanticipated second round of non-competitive topics. .



### 2.3. WP4 – Test, evaluate and refine instruments (Pilots)

WP4 leader is Partner 4 (AGES) and the deputy leader is Partner 22 (INIA); the WP was launched in November 2007 (Month 18).

#### 2.3.1. Objectives

The objectives of WP4 are to trial (pilot), evaluate and refine the instruments needed for trans-national collaboration and trans-national funding of research; to establish common, proven instruments and mechanisms for use beyond the end of the ERA-NET.

#### 2.3.2. Progress towards objectives - SUMMARY

- Calls were launched by call secretariats and 7 projects commissioned from the competitive calls; 4 non-competitive projects were initiated.
- The processes and tools developed in EUPHRESCO were used in all call activities; they are now being evaluated.
- The draft tool book has been formally passed to WP4 to refine based on responses from funders, call applicants, peer reviewers, etc, on how well the tools and processes worked.

Summary of WP4 progress for milestones/deliverables since the project's start:

WP4 Deliverables until month 36		Target	DL Status
None	<b>Note: All Deliverables (DL4.1–4.2) are due Months 46–48, but are in progress</b>	-	-

WP4 Milestones until month 36		Target	MS Status
MS 4.1	Calls for proposals made; evaluation panels (i.e. call steering committees) established	Month 22	Completed
MS 4.2	Pilot Projects commissioned	Month 25	Completed

WP4 Milestones from month 36 to end of project		Target	MS Status
MS 4.3	Pilot projects, or pilot phase of projects, end	Months 37-43	In progress
MS 4.4	Evaluation of how well instruments and processes have worked and recommendations for changes	Month 44	In progress
MS 4.5	Instruments refined and incorporated into final operational handbook/toolbox	Month 47	In progress

#### 2.3.3. Progress towards objectives – DETAIL BY SUB-WORKPACKAGE

Sub-workpackage 4.1. Calls for proposals, commissioning of pilot projects and subsequent monitoring and evaluation

##### Calls for proposals

- WP4 leaders worked closely with WP3 leaders and WP1 (the Project Office) throughout all the call preparation stages. WP4 contributed to the development of the call documents

and call webpages. Timetables for the call preparations and call management were prepared and decisions made on various issues via an 'open questions' document, covering all aspects of the call (from call pre-announcements to commissioning and project monitoring) circulated to all virtual common pot partners for completion.

- A roadmap for the EUPHRESKO pilot call with virtual common pot (VP) funding was produced. EUPHRESKO partners funding topics in the VP signed a letter of commitment that confirmed their allocated funds and their agreement to the roadmap principles and timetable.
- The responsibilities of the VP call secretariat (CS) were defined and the CS established at AGES, Austria. The CS was responsible for all the administration of the VP call; it was the point of contact for any matters concerning the VP and it coordinated communication, between the funders, peer reviewers and research consortia coordinators.
- The VP call was launched on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2008 via the EUPHRESKO website.

<http://www.euphresco.org/public/calls/virtual.cfm>

EUPHRESKO partners advertised the call through their national communication channels and by putting links on their respective websites. The VP proposal submission deadline was 6<sup>th</sup> May 2008 (paper copies by 13<sup>th</sup> May 2008).

- For the real common pot (RP) call, the deadline for proposals submitted according to the expressions of interest guidelines was 21<sup>st</sup> July 2008 (paper copies by 25<sup>th</sup> July 2008). The RP was launched on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2008, again via the EUPHRESKO website, and was also advertised through relevant media in the two participating partners' countries, the UK and the Netherlands. The Netherlands ministry provided the call secretariat.

<http://www.euphresco.org/public/calls/real.cfm>

#### *Evaluation of proposals and project commissioning (virtual pot call)*

- In total, five VP proposals were received, one proposal for each of the five topics. Each proposal had at least one researcher organisation from each of the participating funding countries with the exception of the Ambrosia proposal where FR-INRA were not involved.
- VP proposal eligibility checks took place from 7<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May; these included both EUPHRESKO eligibility checks and national programme's eligibility check, as per the applicants guide and roadmap. All were considered eligible and were taken forward for peer review.
- The call secretariat (CS) proposed a shortlist of five peer reviewers per call topic to the call steering committee (CSC). The peer reviewers were selected from a list previously collated by the CS with contributions from EUPHRESKO partners. The intention was to have at least three expert peer reviewers for each topic. Peer reviewers used the pro forma and marking scheme produced by WP3 with accompanying guidance notes. Peer reviewers were asked to also indicate an overall assessment of scientific merit (low, medium, high) and a recommendation (consider for funding; consider, but with amendment; reject) that could inform the final decision making of the CSC.
- Peer reviews were returned to the CS. The CS collated responses from the peer reviewers on a standard pro forma for the Call Steering Committee (CSC) composed of the funders. The peer reviews were supplied to the funders of each topic. The funders then did individual remote evaluations, prior to the CSC meeting, in order to facilitate discussions and decisions of funding. The funders' evaluations were provided and circulated before the CSC meeting.

- The CSC met on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2008 in Amsterdam; the meeting was chaired by Guillermo Cardon from DG SANCO, one of our expert advisory group members. It discussed the proposals and used a decision-making matrix prepared by WP4. Decisions on recommending proposals for funding were made, subject in some cases to amendments and or clarifications being satisfactorily addressed by the bidding consortia.
- Contracting negotiations with the successful VP applicants took place between July and November and in total five VP projects were commissioned by 31<sup>st</sup> November 2008 and will run for a year. The five projects are listed below:
  1. **PEKID** - Phytosanitary efficacy of kiln drying
  2. **DEP** - Detection and Epidemiology of Pospiviroids
  3. **ERWINDECT** - Development and validation of innovative diagnostic tools for the detection of fire blight (*Erwinia amylovora*)
  4. **PROPSCAPH** - Evaluation of the risk of spread of *Scaphoideus titanus*, the vector of Grapevine Flavescence doree, with commercial grapevine propagation material
  5. **AMBROSIA** - Strategies for Ambrosia control

Evaluation of proposals and project commissioning (real pot call)

- Three expressions of interest were received by the 21<sup>st</sup> July deadline, two for an invasive alien aquatic weeds (IAAW) topic and one for a whole genome amplification (WGA) topic.
- Two were invited to submit full proposals, one from the WGA and one from the IAAW topic, based on the merits of the expression of interest.
- These were peer reviewed and then evaluated by the two funders. The WGA bid was commissioned from the total amount of available resource.
- Subsequently, the IAAW bid was also commissioned from additionally obtained funds from LNV and another Defra policy division.
- The projects will both run for 18 months. The two projects are:
  1. **Q-AMP** – Development of validated procedures for whole genomic amplification of DNA/RNA for quarantine plant pathogens and pests.
  2. **DeCLAIM** – Decisions Support Systems for Control of Alien Invasive Macrophytes
- Some issues relating to the real common pot call and its processes were:
  - (I) Considerable time was required to clarify the legal position regarding the restriction of bids to those organisations with a legal base in either the UK or the Netherlands. The position is now clear for the future.
  - (II) The number of expressions of interest was low and disappointing. This may have been due to one or more of the following reasons: the topics being specific; the amount of funds available being relatively small for such a short pilot project; other potential researchers not being aware of the call.
  - (III) Defra and LNV were able to successfully agree contracting arrangements via an MoU. LNV led on contracting and provided the call secretariat.
  - (IV) Currency exchange issues relating to the British pound caused some concerns. For one project (WGA) involving a Dutch and a UK contractor, Defra is now paying the UK contractor directly in pounds to overcome the depreciation in the Pound against the Euro. In the other project (IAAW), Defra have provided all of its funds in a single payment to LNV; in this project is there a significant trans-national flow of funds.

Non-Competitive projects (NCM)

- 15 EUPHRESCO partners are also involved in resourcing four non-competitive projects. These were initiated in March 2008 and are scheduled for completion shortly, including publication of results. All these projects involve the validation and ring testing of diagnostic methods for specific regulated pests or pathogens; such projects suit a non-competitive funding approach. The pests and pathogens in these projects are listed below:
  1. *Ralstonia solanacearum* and *Clavibacter michiganensis* subsp. *sepedonicus* (potato brown rot and potato ring rot): especially, validation of methods that can be approved for use via control directives.
  2. *Erwinia stewartii* subsp. *stewartii* (*Pantoea stewartii* subsp. *stewartii*); maize bacterial blight.
  3. *Globodera pallida* and *Globodera rostochiensis* (potato cyst nematodes): species and resistance identification.
  4. Whitefly transmitted viruses (TYLCV, CYSDV, CVYV, ToCV, TICV).

Sub-workpackage 4.2 and 4.3. Review of processes and instruments and production of final operational handbook

- WP has developed a number of different evaluation questionnaires and sent them out for completion to those involved in the pilot projects, mainly the funders, the peer reviewers and the researchers/applicants. Once returned, WP4 will commence their analysis and produce a report by Month 46. The draft toolbox developed by WP3 is now being refined by WP4 and will be available by Month 48, as per contract.

**2.3.4. Deviation from the project work programme**

- WP4 are progressing towards their objectives with no deviation from the project work programme.

## 2.4 WP5 – Develop transnational agendas, programmes and a long-term, sustainable coordination network. Investigate external linkages to other disciplines

WP5 leaders are Partner 15 (JKI) and the deputy leader are Partner 19 (LNV); the WP was launched in October 2007 (month 18).

### 2.4.1. Objectives

The objectives of WP5 are to develop a common strategic research agenda based on shared priorities resulting in a proposed programme for trans-national funding at the end of the ERA-Net; to establish the infrastructure to sustain a long-term network of research funders to coordinate & develop trans-national phytosanitary research beyond the end of the ERA-Net; to develop further links with industry and with other national and international organizations; to explore linkages with other priority disciplines relevant to plant health needs that could be integrated into future trans-national programmes.

### 2.4.2. Progress towards objectives – SUMMARY

- The development of a strategic phytosanitary research agenda has been progressed through an initial project workshop (May 2008), national workshops (2008/9) and an international workshop (May 2009). A draft strategic common agenda has been produced. Workshops have expanded linkages international bodies and other stakeholders, including European policy makers, EPPO, EFSA, USDA and industry representatives.
- The development of the longer-term, self-sustainable network has also been progressed through project meetings and through the workshops. A draft has been produced outlining the model framework and structure of the future network.
- EUPHRESCO has exercised its COPHS mandate to advise the Commission on plant health research priorities in FP7, ensuring coordination of national, trans-national and EU-funded plant health research to achieve best results and value for money.

Summary of WP5 progress for milestones/deliverables since the project's start:

WP5 Deliverables until month 36		Target	DL Status
None	<b>Note: All deliverables (DL 5.1 –5.3) are due Month 48</b>	-	-

WP5 Milestones until month 36		Target	MS Status
MS 5.1	Workshops held to develop European-wide and zonal agendas	Month 24	Complete
MS 5.2	Draft agendas and Action Plans drafted and sent out for consultation	Month 36	In Progress

WP5 Milestones from month 36 to end of project		Target	MS Status
MS 5.3	Submit proposed common research agenda and action plan, plus final instruments and processes, to Governing Board	Month 47	In Progress
MS 5.4	Establish Funder's Network with terms of reference/ <i>modus operandi</i> /collaboration agreement agreed by Governing Board	Month 48	In Progress
MS 5.5	Complete draft review of linkages with other disciplines relevant to Plant Health Science	Month 47	In Progress

### 2.4.3. Progress towards objectives – DETAIL BY SUB-WORKPACKAGE

#### Sub-workpackage 5.1. Transnational research agendas

- WP5 has continued the development of EUPHRESKO transnational agendas. Both EUPHRESKO-run workshops and partners own national workshops have been held to develop the transnational agendas further. The first EUPHRESKO-led workshop on '*Future Research Agendas*' was held in May 2008 in Prague; it was an internal workshop that included project partners, the Governing Board and our Expert Advisory Group (DG SANCO, EFSA-PHP and EPPO). The second EUPHRESKO-led workshop '*Building and Influencing Transnational Phytosanitary Research Strategies for Europe*' was held in May 2009 in Braunschweig; it was an external workshop that included Governing Board members and partners, some Observers partners, representatives from the Expert Advisory Group (EPPO, EFSA), policy makers (including members of DG SANCO's Plant Health Standing Committee) and invited guests from partner countries; about 85 delegates from about 20 countries attended the two day event.
- Partners held national workshops in their own countries. The Project Office attended the Bulgarian national workshop on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2009 and the Cyprus national workshop on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2009, at their request. Reports, comments and photographs of the national workshops were sent to WP5 and will shortly be added to the EUPHRESKO website.
- Dialogue with scientists has continued (e.g. European Mycological Network; European Association of Phytobacteriologists; EPPO and EFSA panels; ENDURE Network of Excellence; PRATIQUE and QBOL EU-funded FP7 projects). This is in order to link to other disciplines that are related to the Plant Health area, inform them of EUPHRESKO activities (e.g. pilot projects) and also obtain input from them on plant health research needs and priorities suitable for trans-national research, as appropriate.
- As reported in the first periodic activity report; EUPHRESKO was given a mandate from the Governing Board (GB) and the EU Council Working Party of Chief Officers of Plant Health Services (COPHS) to advise on plant health research priorities in FP7. In such a capacity EUPHRESKO has advised that it considers a topic on 'intervention strategies' to be the priority for any plant health call in 2010/11. An outline text, detailing the rationale and expected benefits was submitted to DG Research in October 2008. EUPHRESKO is therefore coordinating national, international and EU-funded research as part its longer-term strategic research agenda.
- WP5 has continued to respond to requests from DG-Research for information on plant health research issues, especially complementarities between EU-funded work and EUPHRESKO transnational projects.

#### Sub-workpackage 5.2. Long-term network

- The EUPHRESKO Network Management Group put forward an 'options' paper to the Governing Board on how to take forward the longer-term network. The EUPHRESKO Governing Board considered that a strong and fully self-sustainable network could not be fully realised by July 2010 and it voted by a clear majority to support the investigation of a potential EU-funded EUPHRESKO II project. This should ideally follow immediately on from the current project when it ends in July 2010. This would ensure that momentum is maintained and that a strong and fully self-sustainable network could be achieved at the end in 2013. A EUPHRESKO II project would broaden and deepen the network.
- WP5 initiated a dialogue with DG-Research (Directorate E) who responded favourably, in principle, to the idea of a follow-on Phytosanitary ERA-Net project; it was discussed at the FP7 FAFB programme committee meeting in October 2008. The topic has been



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supported and we anticipate a call in July 2009; if so, the current EUPHRESKO consortium will produce a proposal to broaden and deepen the network and move it towards being fully self-sustainable. Correspondence was provided to the EUPHRESKO EC Desk Officer who will continue to be kept informed.

- WP5 is currently developing the structure of the long-term self-sustainable network and has produced a first draft of the '*Structure of the self-sustainable, long-term network*'. This first draft has been sent out to all EUPHRESKO partners for a first round of consultation and was discussed in-depth in the May 2009 Project Meeting.

#### Sub-workpackage 5.3. Linkages to other disciplines

- Work on sub-workpackage 5.3 (linkages with other disciplines) started in month 30 and is due for completion near the end of the project in month 48.

#### **2.4.4. Deviation from the project work programme**

- WP5 are progressing towards their objectives with no deviation from the project work programme.



## Section 3: Consortium Management during the reporting period (1<sup>st</sup> November 2007 – 31 April 2009)

### 3.1. Consortium management – WP1 – Project coordination, management, communication and dissemination

WP1 is lead by Partner 1 (CSL<sup>2</sup>) through the Coordinator and the EUPHRESCO Project Office.

#### 3.1.1. Objectives

The objectives of WP1 are to manage and coordinate the phytosanitary EUPHRESCO ERA-NET, to communicate its aims and progresses and to share and disseminate project outputs for the wider benefit of non-participating phytosanitary research funders and other stakeholders.

#### 3.1.2. Progress towards objectives – SUMMARY

- All Project meetings, NMG meetings and Governing Board meetings have been organised and held within the period. The remaining and some additional meetings are being planned.
- RP1 Activity and Management reports were submitted on-time (15<sup>th</sup> December 2007) and accepted by the Commission, as have all subsequent 6-monthly interim reports (months 24 and 30).
- The project website has been maintained; 6-monthly e-newsletters have been produced; a stand was exhibited at the ICPP Congress in Turino, Italy, as per the project workplan; additional language versions of the EUPHRESCO leaflet have been produced; EUPHRESCO presentations have been made at EPPO and EFSA conferences; various articles have been produced; progress updates have been produced for the COPHS, as well as for the EPPO website; EUPHRESCO returned a questionnaire on research infrastructures (from a plant health perspective) to the SCAR Collaborative Working Group on Research Infrastructures; EUPHRESCO has continued to engage with a range of stakeholder, e.g. ENDURE, EPPO, EFSA, DG SANCO, as well as Observers and several non-partner countries, e.g. USA.
- The risk register has been maintained and overseen by the Network Management Group and Governing Board; payments from RP1 (final 20%) and the first advance (80%) on RP2 will be paid to partners in June 2009; re-allocations will be considered and proposed as required to the Governing Board and the EC; EUPHRESCO has returned completed ERA-Net questionnaires to the EC and attended various EC-organised ERA-Net workshops and events.

#### Summary of WP1 progress for milestones/deliverables since the Project's start:

WP1 Deliverables until month 36		Target Date	MS Status
DL 1.1	Operational project website (internal/external pages)	Month 3	Completed
DL 1.2	External communication/dissemination strategy; leaflet.	Month 6	Completed
DL 1.3 (RP1)	Project reports and cost statements (18-month report)	Month 18	Completed
DL 1.4 (part 1-5)	E-newsletters produced and disseminated (up to May 09)	6-monthly	Completed
DL 1.5 (part 1-4)	6-monthly interim reports for Commission (up to May 09)	6-monthly	Completed

<sup>2</sup> Partner 1 (CSL) has now merged with other bodies, including Partner 2 (Defra Plant Health Division) in a new Defra agency called the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera)

WP1 Milestones until month 36		Target Date	MS Status
MS 1.1	Consortium agreement and risk register produced	Month 3	Completed
MS 1.2	Terms of reference for GB, NMG etc. produced	Month 2	Completed
MS 1.3	Kick-off Meeting (1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting) held	Month 2	Completed
MS 1.4	Project website produced	Month 2	Completed
MS 1.5	Communication strategy produced	Month 2	Completed
MS 1.6 (part)	Six-monthly meetings held (up to month 36)	Month 36	Completed
MS 1.7 (RP1)	Reports and cost statements submitted to the Commission	Month 18	Completed

WP1 Milestones from month 36 to end of project		Target Date	MS Status
MS 1.6 (part)	Six-monthly meetings	Month 42	In Progress
MS 1.7 (RP2)	Reports and cost statements submitted to the Commission	Month 37	In Progress
MS 1.7 (RP3)	Reports and cost statements submitted to the Commission	Month 51	Not Started
MS 1.8	Final dissemination conference	Month 51	In Progress
MS 1.9	Final Report to Commission and final project outputs on web	Month 51	Not Started

### 3.1.3. Progress towards objectives – DETAIL BY SUB-WORKPACKAGE

#### Sub-workpackage 1.1. Meetings:

- The fourth project meeting was held in Ghent in November 2007. The results of the mapping phase and the preparation for the pilot projects were the main focus. Representatives from all EUPHRESKO countries attended the meeting. The deputising Commission Desk officer, Marianne Parel, also attended the meeting. The Network Management Group (NMG) met before and after the project meeting.
- The fifth project meeting was held in Prague in May 2008. The meeting was preceded by an internal workshop to develop future trans-national agendas and a Governing Board meeting. The meeting's main focus was preparation for the pilot calls and preparation for national workshops for future agenda setting. The Network Management Group (NMG) met after the project meeting.
- The sixth project meeting was held in Vienna in November 2008. The main focus was the development of a long-term durable network for plant health research that could be self-sustaining after the end of EUPHRESKO. The progress of the pilot projects and the further development of approaches for transnational funding collaborations were also discussed. The Network Management Group (NMG) met after the project meeting.
- The seventh project meeting was held in Braunschweig in May 2009. Like the fifth meeting it was preceded by an international workshop to develop future agendas and a Governing Board meeting. The project meeting focused on the structure and function of the future long-term sustainable network as well as topic selection for a second round of calls being commissioned by the non-competitive mechanism (NCM). The Network Management Group (NMG) met after the project meeting.
- The second Governing Board (GB) meeting was held in Prague the day before the project meeting. The GB members attended it from all partner countries. The GB reviewed the project progress and approved future directions. WP leaders attended to brief the GB members on their WP progress since the last meeting.
- The third Governing Board meeting was held in Braunschweig the morning before the international workshop. The GB members attended it from all partner countries bar one. Expert Advisory Group representatives from EPPO (Ringolds Arntis) and EFSA

(Giuseppe Stancanelli) also attended. WP leaders attended to present the progress of their WPs. The GB reviewed the project progress and approved future directions.

- The NMG and WP5 working group met in Braunschweig on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> September 2008 to develop research priorities for FP7 under the mandate given to EUPHRESCO by the EU Council Working Party of Chief Officers of Plant Health Services (COPHS), to discuss other WP5 activities, and to develop the scope of a possible EUPHRESCO II project for discussion with DG-Research, as directed by the EUPHRESCO Governing Board after a majority vote.
- The dates for the last project meeting being held in Madrid have been set for 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2009. Provisional dates for an extra WP5 meeting in November 2009 (to finalise the common agenda and future networks structures to be put the Governing Board), the final GB meeting in May 2010 (venue being decided) and an extra NMG meeting in March 2010 have been put forward. The Project Office will check participants' availabilities and set firm dates. The final dissemination conference is being held at Fera in York in July 2010; dates are yet to be confirmed. It is proposed that we might hold an additional project meeting the day after the final dissemination conference whilst partners are all together in York.
- EUPHRESCO representatives attended Commission-organised ERA-Net workshops or events in March 2008, February 2009 and March 2009.

#### Sub-workpackage 1.2. Reports:

- The Coordinator and partners responded to issues raised by the Commission on the RP1 Activity and Management reports and accompanying financial forms. RP1 is now signed-off by the Commission and Annex 1 of the contract updated.
- The 24-month and 30-month interim reports were produced and submitted to the Commission within the allocated deadline. The Commission approved the reports.
- The RP2 Activity Report (Month 36) has been produced and submitted for the 45-day deadline of 15<sup>th</sup> June 2009; the Management report is partially complete, but we are awaiting some remaining financial forms from partners.
- Papers have been prepared for the 6-monthly COPHS (EU Council Working Party of Chief Officers of Plant Health Services) meetings. The papers report progress, highlight issues and request actions from the COPHS as appropriate.

#### Sub-workpackage 1.3. Knowledge management and communication:

- The project website at [www.euphresco.org](http://www.euphresco.org) was developed at the start of the project and maintained and kept updated by the Project Office. The website hosts the plant health database of national research projects; it advertised and launched the pilot calls. Publicity leaflets, EUPHRESCO newsletters and relevant articles are uploaded regularly. Internal partner information and documents such as meeting agendas, meeting minutes and draft workpackage documents are housed on the members' page of the website where access is limited to partners holding a username and password. For transparency, minutes of all meetings (e.g. governing board, network management group and project meetings) are all made available to all partners via the member's pages on the website.
- A EUPHRESCO publicity leaflet was produced in English and is now also available to download from the project website in French, Dutch, German, Greek, Bulgarian and Spanish.
- EUPHRESCO newsletters were produced and distributed electronically to over 500 contacts: the 3<sup>rd</sup> issue in January 2008, the 4<sup>th</sup> issue for the August ICPP Turin congress

and the 5<sup>th</sup> issue in February 2009. The 6<sup>th</sup> Issue of the newsletter (due at the end June 2009) is in preparation. Please follow the link below for the 5<sup>th</sup> issue of the newsletter: <https://secure.csl.gov.uk/euphresco/public/publications/index.cfm?id=31>

- EUPHRESCO presented a stand at the International Congress of Plant Pathology (ICPP) in Torino, Italy in August 2008. This was an activity that was part of the EUPHRESCO workplan and had been approved by the Commission in advance. Various publicity materials were produced, including EUPHRESCO stress balls, pencils and handouts. Tim Hall (DG-Research, Directorate E) gave the keynote address to the ICPP congress and used EUPHRESCO as a model example of how ERA-NETs can inform the Commission's FP7 research programme on funding priorities.
- EUPHRESCO has had some communication with the USDA on exploring possibilities for future funding collaborations and potentially also with their QUAD composed of USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. A USDA-APHIS representative, Gordon Gordh, attended the May 2009 workshop.
- EUPHRESCO entries on the EPPO website were updated in March 2009 through a 'what's news' item that gives an update of progress. Please follow the below on the EPPO website:  
<http://www.eppo.org/News&Events/euphresco.htm>
- Individual partners have done their own national communication activities, some of which are available on the internal website where these are written articles or press releases: <https://secure.csl.gov.uk/euphresco/public/publications/index.cfm?id=30&startat=0>
- EUPHRESCO completed a questionnaire (led by WP4) for the SCAR (Standing Committee on Agricultural Research) detailing research infrastructure needs for plant health in March 2009. It is available on the members' area of the website. Please go to WP5, workpackage documents or follow the link below:  
<https://secure.csl.gov.uk/euphresco/secure/viewPackage.cfm?id=27>
- EUPHRESCO via the WP5 leaders has participated in the Crop Protection Network of the ENDURE Network of Excellence on sustainable pesticide usage.
- The Project Office presented the work of EUPHRESCO to the COST ACTION 873 (bacterial diseases of stone fruits and nuts) in October 2008.
- The Coordinator presented EUPHRESCO at the plenary session of the EFSA Colloquium in Parma in December 2007 and has been invited to present EUPHRESCO at the EPPO Diagnostics Conference in York in May 2009:  
<http://www.euphresco.org/downloadFile.cfm?id=235>
- Posters for the pilot projects and a poster explaining the three funding mechanisms were produced for the 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop in May 2009. The posters detailed the project aims, expected benefits, consortium partners and project leaders. The posters were displayed at the workshop in Braunschweig and will also be presented at the COPHS meeting at the beginning of June 2009. Electronic pdfs of posters will be available to download from the website, but are provided with this report for information.
- A EUPHRESCO article, entitled '*Plant health at risk*', was produced for the Public Service Review (issue EU-15) in March 2008, available from the website; costs were eligible to be charged to the Project. EUPHRESCO has been asked (via the Commission) to produce a similar article in the PSR Issue EU-18 and one is being drafted for June entitled '*Safeguarding plant health*'; it focuses on the need for trans-national research to better underpin policy, inspection services and phytosanitary science and highlights how EUPHRESCO is achieving this.

<http://www.euphresco.org/downloadFile.cfm?id=236>

Sub-workpackage 1.4. Project Administration:

- The RP1 Activity and Management Reports were submitted on-time (15 December 2007). Responses to the Commission's queries and requests have been made and the reports are now signed off.
- Following the acceptance by the Commission of the financial forms and the 18-month RP1 report, the final 20% of RP1 payments will now be made to partners. €633,633.76 has been received from the Commission in payment for the pre-financing for the second reporting period. The first 80% of the payment for RP2 will be made to partners. Following submission of the financial forms for RP2 the % of allocated resources in this period will be calculated.
- As done previously for the 18-month report, partners were instructed about the 36-month report requirements at the 36-month meeting in Braunschweig. Partners were asked to complete their finance reports prior to the meeting such that they could be checked through by the project's finance administrator at finance clinics.
- Re-allocations of finances within the next period (RP3) will be considered by the project partners and the NMG at future meetings. The governing board and subsequently the Commission desk officer would be asked to consider and approve any proposed reallocations.
- The coordinator completed Commission ERA-NET surveys on joint activities and on ERA-NETs in general.
- Governing Board members and partners were advised by letter that Defra Plant Health Division (partner 2, which provides the UK's governing board representation (chairperson) and CSL (partner 1) have both become part of the same new Defra agency, the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) in April 2009. The Commission desk officer has been informed; this does not affect the coordination role. Martin Ward has taken over from Stephen Hunter as chairperson of the governing board, as notified to GB members by letter on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2009, as per the consortium agreement.

**3.1.4. Deviation from the project work programme**

There are no deviations in WP1 to report in this period.

### 3.2. Partner changes

Please see the table below:

#### EUPHRESCO Partner Changes

Partner No	Contact person or Institution	Changes and dates
1	CSL	From CSL to Fera <b>01.04.09</b> ; Fera signatories
2	PHD	From PHD to Fera <b>01.04.09</b> ; Fera signatories
3		

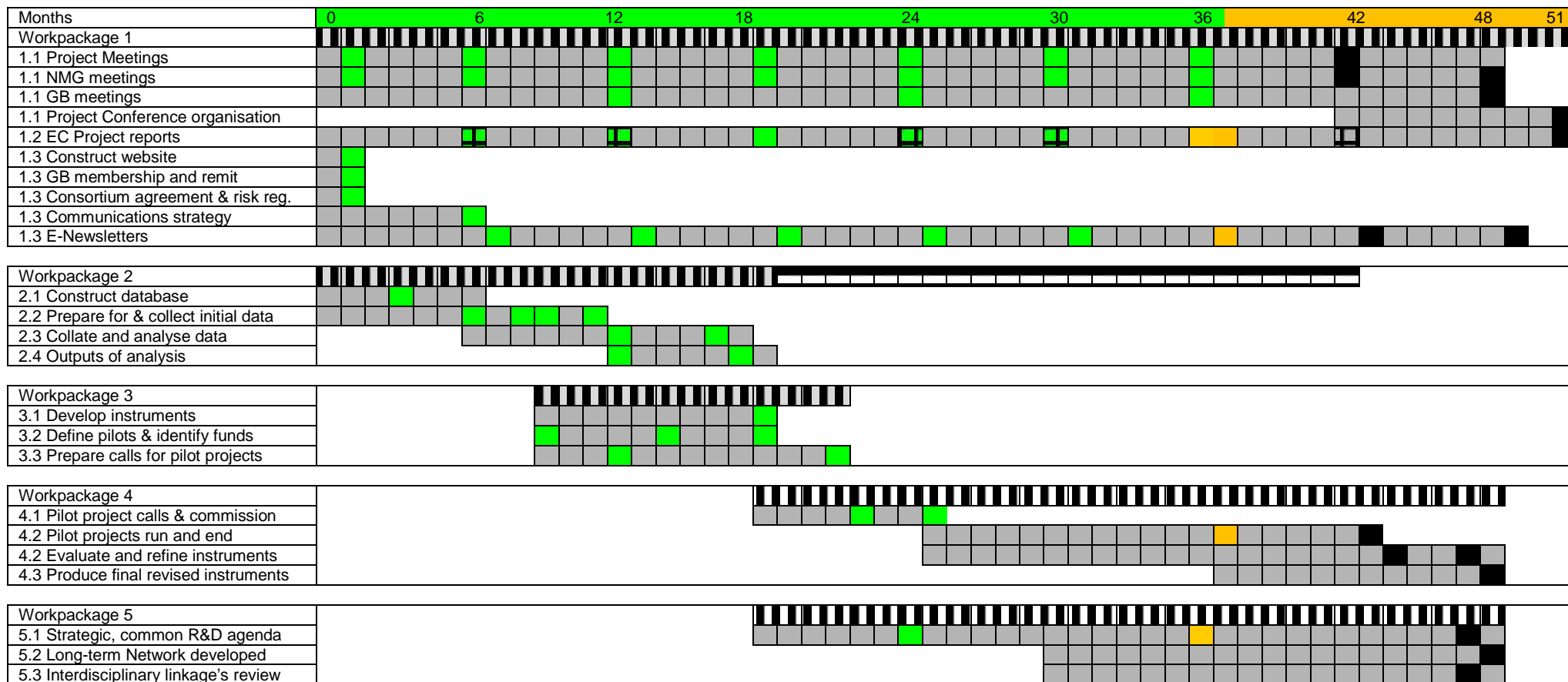
	Administrative official authorised to sign the contract
	Second administrative official authorised to sign the contract
	Authorised contact person
	Name change

### 3.3. Project timetable and status

Please see the table below.



**RP2 – Periodic activity report**  
**Project timetable and status bar chart**  
 Contract No: 036212 (ERAC)



Timeline for individual workpackages  
 Milestones due  
 Milestones completed. Milestone due now, or soon, and in progress; no serious risks of significant delay/impact. Milestone due, or past due date, and remedial action expected or required due to potential impacts  
 Six-monthly summary report for the Commission  
 WP2 Low level data collection each year to maintain database



## Section 4: Other issues

There are no other issues to report.

## Section 5: Plan for using and disseminating knowledge

### 5.1. Exploitable knowledge and its use

There is no exploitable knowledge

### 5.2. Dissemination of knowledge in RP2 1<sup>st</sup> November 2007 – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009

Please see the table below for a list of the project's dissemination activities. See also Annex 3 for the 'EUPHRESCO Communication and Dissemination Strategy'.

Planned/ actual dates	Type	Audience	Partner responsible
Dec 07	Progress report to COPHS	COPHS	1
Dec 07	Plenary presentation at EFSA plant health risk assessment colloquium	EFSA plant health panel; DG-RTD; PRA scientists	1
Jan 08	Newsletter – issue 3	Stakeholders	1
Jan 08	Mapping and Analysis Report (DL2.2)	Stakeholders	1
Feb 08	Presentation	ISHS	4
Mar 08	Public Service Review article (issue EU15)	Government officials	1
Jun 08	Progress report to COPHS	COPHS	1
Aug 08	Exhibition stand	ICPP delegates: scientists; policy makers; non-EU research funders	1
Aug 08	Newsletter – issue 4 IPPC special	ICPP delegates: scientists; policy makers; non-EU research funders	1
Dec 08	Progress report to COPHS	COPHS	1
Feb 09	Newsletter – issue 5	Stakeholders	1
Feb 09	ERA-Net and CWG workshop	ERA-nets and CWGs	1
April 09	Progress report on EPPO website	EPPO members	1

### 5.3. Publishable results

To date the EUPHRESCO project has generated a comprehensive report on the mapped and analysed data and information from the national programmes questionnaire developed by WP2. The report, Deliverable 2.2, 'Report on the Mapping and Analysis of National Phytosanitary (Quarantine/Regulated Plant Health) Research Programmes' has been circulated to all partners and to the EUPHRESCO governing board for comment. The report was previously submitted with the 18-month report and it was made publicly available on the EUPHRESCO website.



**Euphresco**  
Phytosanitary ERA-NET



## RP3 – Periodic activity report

14<sup>th</sup> September 2010

**Report Period Covered:** 1<sup>st</sup> May 2009 – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2010  
**Start Date of Project:** 1<sup>st</sup> May 2006  
**End Date and Duration:** 31<sup>st</sup> July 2010 (51 months duration)

**Project Coordinator:** Dr Alan Inman  
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Project Contract No: 036212 (ERAC)  
Project website: [www.euphresco.org](http://www.euphresco.org)



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## Publishable Executive Summary



“European Phytosanitary Research  
Coordination”

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Website: [www.EUPHRESCO.org](http://www.EUPHRESCO.org)

### Introduction

EUPHRESCO is a €2.63 million project funded under the 6<sup>th</sup> framework programme and will run from 2006 to 2010. The Project is a partnership of 24 leading organisations involved with funding phytosanitary (regulated plant health) research in 17 European countries. The Project is fully supported by the EU Council Working Party of Chief Officers for Plant Health Services (COPHS). It also involves the EC's Directorate General for Health and Consumer Protection (DG SANCO), the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) Plant Health Panel, all of which participate through an Expert Advisory Group.









Over the last century, the rate of introduction and establishment of new, economically or environmentally damaging plant pests and diseases has increased as a result of the expansion in global trade of plant material. Policy designed to protect Europe's agriculture and environment from these pest threats is determined at the EU level. However, the research that underpins policy has been undertaken primarily at the national level and there has been little or no coordination of these programmes.

EUPHRESCO aims to increase cooperation and coordination of national phytosanitary (statutory plant health) research programmes at the EU level through networking of research activities and potential mutual opening of national programmes.

## EUPHRESCO Partners (Contractors) and Observers

EUPHRESCO is a consortium of 23 partners from 17 European countries. The project also comprises observers from government bodies in six member states.

### Partners

- |   |    |   |
|---|----|---|
|    | 1  | The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), UK -<br><b>Coordinator</b>                      |
|    | 2  | The Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW), Austria               |
|   | 3  | The Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES), Austria  |
|   | 4  | The Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research, (ILVO), Belgium  |
|    | 5  | The Federal Public Service for Public health, Food Chain Safety and Environment (FPS), Belgium                  |
|    | 6  | The National Service for Plant Protection (NSPP), Bulgaria  |
|    | 7  | The Agricultural Research Institute (ARI), Cyprus   |
|    | 8  | Ministry of Agriculture (NAAR), Czech Republic  |
|    | 19 | The Directorate for Food, Fisheries and Agri Business (DFFAB), Denmark  |
|    | 10 | The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MMM-FI), Finland  |
|    | 11 | The Ministry of Agriculture and Fishery, General Food Directorate (MAP-DGAL), France                            |
|   | 12 | Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA), France  |
|   | 13 | The Federal Ministry Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV), Germany                                 |
|  | 14 | The Julius Kühn Institute (JKI), Germany  |
|  | 15 | The Department of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (DAFF), Ireland   |
|  | 16 | The Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies (MiPAFF), Italy  |
|   | 17 | The Agricultural Research Council (CRA), Italy  |
|  | 18 | The Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV), The Netherlands                                     |
|   | 19 | The Plant Protection Service (PD), The Netherlands  |
|  | 20 | The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food (MAFF), Slovenia   |
|  | 21 | The Plant Protection Department of The National Institute of Agriculture Research (INIA), Spain                 |
|  | 22 | The Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG), Switzerland  |
|  | 23 | The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, General Directorate of Agricultural Research (MARA GDAR), Turkey |

### Observers

- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  | Ministry of Agriculture, Plant Health Department, Estonia   |
|  | Ministry of Rural Development and Food, Department of Phytosanitary Control, Greece                       |
|  | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Plant Protection and Soil Conservation Department, Hungary |
|  | Ministry of Agriculture, Lithuania  |
|  | Ministry for Rural Affairs and The Environment, Malta   |
|  | Ministry of Agriculture, Direcção-Geral de Protecção das Culturas, Portugal                               |

## EUPHRESKO Objectives

EUPHRESKO will address the strategic objective of the Framework 6 Programme 'Integrating and Strengthening the European Research Area' by 'Supporting the Cooperation and Coordination of Research Activities Carried out at National and Regional Levels'. EUPHRESKO aims to increase cooperation and coordination of national phytosanitary research programmes at the EU level through networking of research activities and potential mutual opening of national programmes, to achieve three main over-arching strategic goals:

1. Develop phytosanitary (statutory plant health) research policy at the EU-wide level.
2. Optimise the research provision that underpins EU quarantine plant health policy development and policy implementation, in an era of increasing biosecurity threats from alien plant pests, diseases and invasive species.
3. Increase the capacity of European phytosanitary science and research, in order to prevent the disappearance of EU expertise in this field and maintain Europe's competitiveness in the global market.

The EUPHRESKO objectives are being implemented through five workpackages (WP):

**WP1** "Project coordination, management, communication and dissemination", **WP2** "Mapping and analysis of existing research and current needs", **WP3** "Developing instruments and preparing for pilot projects", **WP4** "Test, evaluate and refine instruments through pilot projects", **WP5** "Develop trans-national agendas, a long-term, sustainable coordination Network for implementing joint activities, and investigate external linkages to other disciplines"

## Progress by Workpackage

EUPHRESKO has now been running for over four years and has officially come to an end; all key tasks have been successfully completed. Here we summarise the major achievements by workpackage (WP) throughout the third reporting periods from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2009 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2010. For a full list of achievements spanning the four year duration of the project please see the Publishable Final Activity Report.

### **WP1 – Project coordination, management, communication and dissemination**

WP1 is responsible for the management and coordination of the project its aims are to communicate the project's achievements and to disseminate its outputs for the wider benefit of non-participating phytosanitary research funders and other stakeholders. WP1 assists in the coordination of meetings (both internal and external), takes charge of the delivery of reports to the Commission, governing board and COPHS and maintains good communication between partners and the Commission. The EUPHRESKO consortium has met for eight 6-monthly project meetings to progress the project's objectives. The first meeting, the kick-off meeting was held in York to discuss the projects visions and ambitions, following meetings to discuss particular project deliverables and outputs were held in Paris, The Hague, Ghent, Prague, Vienna, Braunschweig and Madrid. WP1 have developed and continually maintain the project website <http://www.euphresco.org>, produced information leaflets, newsletters, press release templates, pilot project posters and articles to publicise the project and disseminate its progresses. WP1 managed a EUPHRESKO stand at the 2008 International Congress of Plant Pathology and organised a final project conference to disseminate the project's achievements.

### **WP2 – Mapping and analysis of existing research and of current needs**

WP2 was launched right at the start of the project in May 2006. The objectives were to gather information on existing phytosanitary research programmes and related resources



and infrastructures. WP2 produced a questionnaire that was made available for partners to complete online in March 2007 and a shortened version for non-partners to complete in July 2007. The data was evaluated and analysed and used to produce a report on the national phytosanitary research programmes; it was published in January 2008 and can be found on the EUPHRESCO website. The report forms a sound basis for developing future transnational research strategies and agendas by highlighting gaps and opportunities. WP2 collaborated with WP3 and WP4 to develop the guide of “common principles” a guide to maximise any new national phytosanitary programmes’ potential for future transnational funding collaborations. The report was published in June 2010 and is available to download on the EUPHRESCO website. Finally, WP2 in collaboration with WP1 amended the questionnaire to allow regular updating of an internal database of national phytosanitary research projects and some limited programme information (e.g. annual budgets).

**WP3 – Developing instruments and preparing for pilot projects**

WP3 was responsible for the development of the mechanisms, instruments and tools needed to implement the pilot calls and projects and facilitate future joint transnational activities to enable joint transnational activities. They produced definitions of three funding mechanisms (real common pot, virtual pot and non-competitive mechanism) and set criteria for topic selection. 11 pilot projects in total were selected in 2008 to test the mechanisms and tools. All of the 17 EUPHRESCO countries (23 partners) resourced at least one topic, thereby satisfying the learning-by-doing principle behind the pilot topics. All the topics met specific science or policy needs and all complemented rather than duplicated any EU-funded projects. The projects could be completed within the time frame of EUPHRESCO (mainly 12-month projects), allowing proper analysis of all processes (see WP4). The total funding for the real common pot and virtual common pot projects was €1.5 million which represented 10% of the national annual budgets. The processes and tools developed for the calls were collated into the draft ‘operational handbook’ and passed to WP4 to refine upon evaluation of the pilot projects (see WP4). The handbook was finalised in June 2010 and is available to download on the EUPHRESCO website. WP3 also coordinated a second round of non-competitive projects in 2009/10 to maintain momentum for EUPHRESCO’s transnational collaborations. Some projects have started while others are still under development.

**WP4 – Test, evaluate and refine instruments through pilot projects**

WP4 launched competitive pilot calls and led the commissioning of 11 pilot projects using the tools and processes defined and developed in WP3. The virtual common pot call followed a one-stage application process and there was no competition between the 5 topics; each EUPHRESCO partner only funded the participation of its own national researchers in any successful proposal. The real common pot call followed a two-stage application process and there was competition between the two topics; there could be a transnational flow of funds. After peer review and consideration by the funders in the call steering committees, 5 projects were commissioned from the virtual common pot call and 2 from the real common pot call. Additional to the competitively-let project, 4 non-competitive projects were initiated in March 2008; all involved the validation or ring testing of diagnostic methods for specific regulated plant pests or pathogens. Posters on each pilot project were produced for the final dissemination conference and are available to download on the EUPHRESCO website. WP4 was responsible for evaluating all the processes and tools for the pilot projects. They developed questionnaires and sent them out for completion by a range of actors’ groups (project funders, research providers and peer reviewers). The data was analysed and an evaluation report was produced and is available on EUPHRESCO website. WP4 also took charge of the ‘operational handbook’ and refined the tools and processes according to the evaluation analysis and produced a final version that again, is available on the EUPHRESCO website.



### **WP5 – Develop trans-national agendas, a long-term, sustainable coordination network for implementing joint activities and external linkages to other disciplines**

WP5 had three main objects, the first to develop the structure and *modus operandi* for establishing a long-term network of phytosanitary research funders and a common strategic research agenda. The third was to explore linkages to other priority disciplines relevant to plant health. WP5 developed a model structure and *modus operandi* for a long-term self-sustainable network including proposed collaboration agreements. It also developed a common phytosanitary strategic research agenda that will support continued transnational research activities over the next 5 to 10 years. The agenda was developed using information gathered from the questionnaire developed in WP2, an internal workshop on 'Future Research Agendas' in 2008, national workshops held in individual partner's countries in 2008/9 and an international workshop on 'Building and Influencing Transnational Phytosanitary Research Strategies for Europe' in 2009. EUPHRESCO, through WP5 has supported or established links to various EU-level activities relevant to plant health research, including advising The European Commission on plant health research priorities suitable for its 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme (FP7) under a mandate from the COPHS. Working alongside The Commission to identify and coordinate pine wood nematode research in existing EU-funded projects and to identify gaps that could be addressed through EU-funded and/or transnational research. Linkages to the EU-funded ENDURE Network of Excellence on sustainable pesticide usage.

### **Plan for using and disseminating knowledge**

The EUPHRESCO website <http://www.euphresco.org> is the main tool for externally communicating the project's aims, progress and outputs. It houses information on the on the project's objectives, activities, benefits as well as contact details of the project's partners. The website was set up to enable registration for the six-monthly e-newsletters. Publicity leaflets have been produced in English, French, Dutch, German, Greek, Bulgarian, and Spanish and are all available to download from the website. The website publicised the launch of joint calls for pilot research projects in 2008 and also holds posters on each of the projects. It hosts the finalised 'operational toolbox' to facilitate transnational collaborations and also the internal database of national phytosanitary research projects that will be updated annually and will inform future research and development agendas. Published articles, presentations, posters and useful documents are available on the website.

Interim progress reports against milestones and deliverables have been sent to the Commission and are available in the internal members' area of the website. Additionally, progress reports are prepared for the six-monthly EU Council COPHS meetings. EUPHRESCO is presented in other European fora, including EPPO and EFSA colloquiums and panel meetings. The Project's Experts Advisory Group (EPPO, EFSA, EC DG-SANCO) has opportunity to observe progress and provide input. Links have been established with other platforms, e.g.: The ENDURE network of excellence; the European Mycological Network; the European Association of Phytobacteriologists; COST Action 873; ICPP secretariat; and USDA-APHIS. EUPHRESCO has held workshops to help develop its future research agendas and activities and has held a final dissemination conference in York on 30<sup>th</sup> June – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010. EUPHRESCO has also completed EC ERA-NET questionnaires and participated in EC ERA-NET workshops, sharing its experience with other ERA-NETs in the KBBE (knowledge-based Bio-economy) area.

## Section 1: Project objectives and major achievements during the reporting period (1<sup>st</sup> May 2009 – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2010)

### 1.1 Project Objectives

#### WP1. Project coordination, management, communication and dissemination:

- To manage and coordinate the Phytosanitary ERA-NET
- To communicate the aims and progress of the Phytosanitary ERA-NET
- To share/disseminate project outputs for the wider benefit of non-participating European phytosanitary research funders, other European stakeholders, including industry bodies and technology platforms, and appropriate Non-EU plant health bodies.

#### WP2. Mapping and analysis of existing research and of current needs:

- To systematically gather information on existing phytosanitary research programmes, infrastructures and resources; identify relevant national industry representatives; and to map any pre-existing regional/national linkages between research programmes.
- To evaluate and analyse the gathered information to identify: overlaps, gaps, duplication, strengths/weaknesses, opportunities and common research priorities.
- To develop common instruments and 'principles' for best practice.

#### WP3. Developing instruments and preparing for pilot projects:

- To develop the instruments, mechanisms and processes needed to enable joint transnational activities and funding of a future transnational phytosanitary research programme.
- To prepare for pilot projects to test instruments.

#### WP4. Test, evaluate and refine instruments (Pilots):

- To trial (pilot), evaluate and refine the instruments needed for transnational collaboration and trans-national funding of research.
- To establish common, proven instruments and mechanisms for use beyond the end of the ERA-NET.

#### WP5. Develop trans-national agendas, programmes and a long-term, sustainable coordination Network, and external linkages to other disciplines:

- To develop a common research agenda based on shared priorities resulting in a proposed programme for trans-national funding at the end of the ERA-NET.
- To establish an infrastructure that will ensure long-term sustainability of the research funder network beyond the end of the ERA-NET. This network would continue to coordinate, develop and implement transnational phytosanitary research. In addition, it would also maintain and develop further links to industry and other national and international organisations.
- To explore and improve linkages with other priority disciplines relevant to plant health needs (review of inter-disciplinary linkages and needs).

## 1.2 Major Achievements in RP3 (1<sup>st</sup> May 2009 – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2010)

- Six-monthly project meetings were organised and held successfully, together with their associated network management group (NMG) meetings. Project meetings have involved all project partners and have progressed the technical work and administration of the project. The Project meetings and associated NMG meetings were in Braunschweig in May 2009 and the final in Madrid in October 2009. An additional NMG meeting as help in Copenhagen in March 2010.
- The governing board met on two occasions in RP3: in Braunschweig following the project meeting in May 2009; and in Ljubljana May 2010. The governing board members prepared a note to the COPHS highlighting the major achievements of the project and issues relating to its future governance and accountability.
- Six-monthly progress interim reports have been delivered to the Commission on time and been accepted.
- The activity and management reports for the second reporting period (RP2) have been accepted and signed-off by the Commission.
- A final dissemination conference was held at Fera in York from 30<sup>th</sup> June – 1<sup>st</sup> July. The conference was attended by 100 people, 45 of which were external to the project.
- A guide of “common principles” 2010 for setting up phytosanitary research programmes for countries where none currently exists was finalised and made publicly available on the EUPHRESCO website in June 2010. The guide was produced to facilitate transnational research collaboration.
- The WP2 questionnaire developed near the start of the project was amended to allow low level updating of the plant health research database. EUPHRESCO partners were asked to check and amend existing information and add new information on national programmes, new projects and future projects.
- An unanticipated second round of non-competitive topic was initiated. Although not part of the original contract, these aim to maintain momentum and build on the success of the pilot projects. Details of these extra projects can be found in section 2 of this report.
- All 5 virtual common pot and 4 non-competitive pilot projects have been successfully completed and all the final reports have been approved and are ready for addition to the EUPHRESCO website. The 2 real common projects are due to finish later in 2010.
- The tools and processes to facilitate transnational collaboration have been evaluated by means of a number of questionnaires to a range of actors. The analysis of the evaluation led to the production of a report that has been finalised and made available on the website.
- The draft ‘operational toolbox’ has now been refined and finalised and is also available on the website.
- An international EUPHRESCO workshop was held in Braunschweig in May 2009 to develop common research agendas based on shared priorities. The workshop was a great success involving a wide range of stakeholders, e.g. policy makers, research funders and scientists, together with representatives from DG-Research, DG SANCO’s plant health standing committee, EPPO and EFSA.
- Links with relevant scientific fora and potential collaborators were established and maintained, e.g. The European Mycological Network; The European Association of Phytobacteriologists, linked to an EPPO Panel; The ENDURE Network of Excellence;

EPPO and EFSA panels; USDA-APHIS and through extension their QUAD involving NZ, Australia and Canada; the EC's Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR) infrastructures collaborative working group through a specific EUPHRESKO (plant health) response to their questionnaire on research infrastructure needs.

- The structure of the long-term self-sustainable network '*Structure of the self-sustainable, long-term network* has been finalised and includes annexes that contain proposed collaboration agreements. The Governing Board has approved the documents and they are available on the website.
- A common strategic research agenda based on shared priorities that will support continued trans-national research activities at the end of the ERA-NET in 2010 was developed. It was presented to, and approved by, the Governing Board in May 2010 and is available on the website.
- All deliverables have been fully completed within the period and again delivered to the Commission.

## Section 2: Workpackage progress during the reporting period (1<sup>st</sup> May 2009 – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2010)

### 2.1 WP2 – Mapping and analysis of existing research and of current needs

WP2 leader is Partner 12 (DGAL) and the deputy leader is Partner 5 (ILVO); the WP was launched at the start of the Project in May 2006 (Month 0).

#### 2.1.1. Objectives

The objectives of WP2 are to systematically gather information on existing phytosanitary (quarantine/statutory plant health) research programmes, including: projects and budgets, existing funding systems and research management, research providers, expertise, facilities and other relevant infrastructures and resources, perceived existing needs and priorities at a regional (sub-national), national or zonal level. To map any pre-existing regional, national or international linkages between research programmes and identify national and EU industry bodies and key non-EU bodies, for interaction. The objectives are also to evaluate and analyse the gathered information to identify: overlaps, gaps, duplication, strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and common research priorities; and common instruments and 'principles' for best practice.

#### 2.1.2. Progress towards objectives - SUMMARY

- All WP2 milestones and deliverables in RP3 have been completed.
- Amendment of the WP2 questionnaire to allow low-level annual updating of the database, to update information on national phytosanitary research projects and programme budgets was the only WP2 activity. Partners have been asked to check and amend existing data and to add any new data.

Summary of WP2 progress for milestones/deliverables since the project's start:

WP2 Deliverables until month 51		Target	DL Status
DL 2.1	Final database established, operational and linked to website	Month 6	Completed
DL 2.2	Report on the mapped and analysed data and information	Month 17	Completed
DL 2.3	Published information on national programmes on website	Month 18	Completed
DL 2.4	'Common principles' guide for setting up national programmes	Month 47	Completed

WP2 Milestones until month 51		Target	MS Status
MS 2.1	Prototype questionnaire constructed for Partners to test	Month 3	Completed
MS 2.2	National programme managers outside consortium identified	Month 6	Completed
MS 2.3	Plan matrices for collating and analysing information.	Month 8	Completed
MS 2.4	Data entered on database for Partner countries	Month 9	Completed
MS 2.5	Data entered on database for non-partner countries	Month 11	Completed
MS 2.6	Collation and analysis of management procedures	Month 12	Completed
MS 2.7	Information obtained for identifying potential pilot funders	Month 12	Completed
MS 2.8	Collation and analysis of programme information	Month 16	Completed
MS 2.9	Report on the mapped and analysed data and information	Month 17	Completed

Completed
  In progress
  Not started
  Month 51 = 31<sup>st</sup> July 2010

### **2.1.3. Progress towards objectives – DETAIL BY SUB-WORKPACKAGE**

#### Sub-workpackage 2.1. Definition of specific information to be mapped

- Completed in RP1 (DL2.1–2.3)

#### Sub-workpackage 2.2. Preparation for data collection and collect data/information

- The WP2 questionnaire (DL 2.2) has been amended to allow low-level annual updating. The Project Office has tested and refined the much reduced online questionnaire. Partners have been asked to check and update their information on national phytosanitary research projects and some limited programme information (e.g. annual budgets) by mid September 2010.

#### Sub-workpackage 2.3. Analysis of information

- Completed in RP1 (DL2.1–2.3)

#### Sub-workpackage 2.4. Produce reports and publish information on national phytosanitary research programmes

- A report on the mapped and analysed data and information from national programmes was completed in RP2 and has been made publicly available on the EUPHRESCO website.
- A guide of “common principles”: a guide to maximise any new national phytosanitary programmes’ potential for future transnational funding collaborations, has been finalised and has been made publically available on the EUPHRESCO website.

### **2.1.4. Deviation from the project work programme**

- WP2 completed their objectives with one deviation from the project work programme. As reported in previous communications, and as agreed by the Commission, DL 2.4 was deferred to month 47 due to its revised scope and purpose.

## **2.2. WP3 – Developing instruments and preparing for pilot projects**

WP3 leader is Partner 19 (LNV) and the deputy leader is Partner 9 (NAAR); the WP was launched in February 2007 (month 9).

### **2.2.1. Objectives**

The objectives of WP3 are to develop instruments, mechanisms and processes to enable joint trans-national activities and funding of a future trans-national research programme. The objectives are also to prepare for the pilot projects to tests these mechanisms and processes.

### **2.2.2. Progress towards objectives - SUMMARY**

- All milestones and deliverables for WP3 were completed in RP2
- Tools and processes have been developed for all three funding mechanisms being piloted (virtual common pot, real common pot and a non-competitive mechanism). They have been collated into a draft ‘operational toolbox’,
- 11 topics were developed for the pilot calls. The tools and processes developed by WP3 were used in WP4 to implement these pilot calls and projects.



Summary of WP3 progress for milestones/deliverables since the project's start:

WP3 Deliverables until month 51		Target	DL Status
DL 3.1*	Draft operational handbook (mechanisms/instruments for trans-national collaboration & research commissioning)	Month 30	Completed
DL 3.2	Calls for pilot project proposals prepared by funding consortiums	Month 24	Completed

WP3 Milestones until month 51		Target	MS Status
MS 3.1	National programmes identified that could contribute funds for pilot projects in WP4	Month 9	Completed
MS 3.2	Research providers informed of pilots via e-newsletter etc.	Month 12	Completed
MS 3.3	Mechanisms to be piloted and potential project titles decided	Month 14	Completed
MS 3.4	Funding consortiums formed and project budgets confirmed	Month 18	Completed
MS 3.5	Instruments produced for each mechanism for calls	Month 18	Completed
MS 3.6	Calls prepared for WP4 pilot projects	Month 21	Completed

Completed
  In progress
  Not started
  Month 51 = 31<sup>st</sup> July 2010

\* Amended to month 30 (from month 18) as agreed with Commission Desk Officer.

### 2.2.3. Progress towards objectives – DETAIL BY SUB-WORKPACKAGE

#### Sub-workpackage 3.1. Develop instruments, mechanisms and processes needed to enable trans-national activities

- The processes, tools and instruments developed for the calls were collated into the draft 'operational handbook' in RP2.  
<https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/euphresco/secure/viewPackage.cfm?id=19>

#### Sub-workpackage 3.2 Define the pilot studies that will be done to test instruments and mechanisms

- Completed in RP2.

#### Sub-workpackage 3.3. Preparation for calls

- All call preparations were completed on time and in full in RP2.
- Additional to the contract, EUPHRESKO has taken forward a second round on non-competitive projects with agreement of the governing board. Additional competitive projects are not being considered within the life of the current project. The governing board took a view that the virtual pot and real pot pilot projects and process should be fully reviewed and evaluated before further ones were launched as these were more complex than the non-competitive mechanism. Most of the topics in this second round of non-competitive topic are related to the development or validation of detection/diagnostic methods. The topics under consideration or development, or now begun, are:
  - Topic 1: Bacterial phylogenetic identification methods: supporting EPPO protocols; proposed by the EPPO panel and associated European Association of Phytobacteriologists; complements the EU-funded QBOL project on DNA-



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Barcoding and data will be provided to QBOL. Project started July 2009, ending December 2010; 17 researcher partners from 13 EU countries, including an Observer (Portugal) and a non-EUPHRESKO country not (Scotland).

- Topic 2: *Fusarium circinatum* diagnostics – Topic under development.
- Topic 3: *Meloidogyne* detection and management (5 modular sub-topics: detection, diagnostic PCR protocols, sampling, longer-term agendas, treatment of waste) – Topic under development.
- Topic 4: Phytoplasmas in orchards (diagnostics: *please add* Interlaboratory comparison and validation of detection methods) – Project started; it will complement and link to a phytoplasma COST Action.
- Topic 5. *Anoplophora* detection (NC): Topic description well developed and interest from funders obtained and due to formalised soon via letter of commitments. Expected start date: Summer 2010.
- Topic 6: Potato wart disease diagnostics - validation of molecular methods for pathotype identification: a scope has been finalised and interest invited from funders by end of May; validation of potato wart disease diagnostics is an EPPO priority. Expected start date: October 2010.

#### 2.2.4. Deviation from the project work programme

There are no deviations from the work programme other than the additional work being done to progress the unanticipated second round of non-competitive topics.

## 2.3. WP4 – Test, evaluate and refine instruments (Pilots)

WP4 leader is partner 4 (AGES) and the deputy leader is partner 22 (INIA); the WP was launched in November 2007 (month 18).

### 2.3.1. Objectives

The objectives of WP4 are to trial (pilot), evaluate and refine the instruments needed for trans-national collaboration and trans-national funding of research; to establish common, proven instruments and mechanisms for use beyond the end of the ERA-NET.

### 2.3.2. Progress towards objectives - SUMMARY

- All milestones and deliverables for WP4 have been completed.
- Calls were launched by call secretariats and seven projects commissioned from the competitive calls; four non-competitive projects were initiated.
- The processes and tools developed in EUPHRESCO were used in all call activities; they have been evaluated.
- The draft operational toolbox has been finalised and made publically available.

Summary of WP4 progress for milestones/deliverables since the project's start:

WP4 Deliverables until month 51		Target	DL Status
DL 4.1	Report on evaluation of instruments, mechanisms, processes	Month 46	Completed
DL4.2	Updated operational handbook	Month 48	Completed

WP4 Milestones until month 51		Target	MS Status
MS 4.1	Calls for proposals made; evaluation panels (i.e. call steering committees) established	Month 22	Completed
MS 4.2	Pilot Projects commissioned	Month 25	Completed
MS 4.3	Pilot projects, or pilot phase of projects, end	Months 37-43	Completed
MS 4.4	Evaluation of instruments and processes, with recommendations	Month 44	Completed
MS 4.5	Instruments refined and incorporated into Final Operational Handbooks	Month 47	Completed

Completed
  In progress
  Not started
  Month 51 = 31<sup>st</sup> July 2010

### 2.3.3. Progress towards objectives – DETAIL BY SUB-WORKPACKAGE

Sub-workpackage 4.1. Calls for proposals, commissioning of pilot projects and subsequent monitoring and evaluation

- All pilot research projects from the virtual common pot have been completed. Final reports have been received, evaluate and signed-off by call steering committees (funders). Relevant reports have been provide to DG SANCO to enable rapid dissemination and use in policy, e.g. DEP report on pospiviroids will contribute to the review of PSTVd measures. Final reports or at least publishable executive summaries will be placed on the EUPHRESCO website before the final conference.

- Non-competitive projects have been completed and all reports have been received.
- The two real pot projects are nearing completion.

Sub-workpackage 4.2 and 4.3. Review of processes and instruments and production of final operational handbook

- WP4 developed a number of different evaluation questionnaires to analysis all the tools and process to facilitate transnational collaborations. The questions were sent them out for completion to those involved in the pilot projects, mainly the funders, the peer reviewers and the researchers/applicants. The data was analysed and a report of mechanisms, tools and processes (deliverable 4.1) was produced, finalised and made available on the website.
- The draft 'operational toolbox', the collation of the tools and processes for transnational collaborations developed in WP3 was finalised in WP4 in the light of lessons learnt and recommendations made. The final 'operational toolbox' (deliverable 4.2) is available from the website

**2.3.4. Deviation from the project work programme**

- WP4 completed their objectives with no deviation from the project work programme.

## 2.4 WP5 – Develop transnational agendas, programmes and a long-term, sustainable coordination network. Investigate external linkages to other disciplines

WP5 leaders are partner 15 (JKI) and the deputy leaders are partner 19 (LNV); the WP was launched in October 2007 (month 18).

### 2.4.1. Objectives

The objectives of WP5 are to develop a common strategic research agenda based on shared priorities resulting in a proposed programme for trans-national funding at the end of the ERA-Net; to establish the infrastructure to sustain a long-term network of research funders to coordinate and develop trans-national phytosanitary research beyond the end of the ERA-NET; to develop further links with industry and with other national and international organizations; to explore linkages with other priority disciplines relevant to plant health needs that could be integrated into future trans-national programmes.

### 2.4.2. Progress towards objectives – SUMMARY

- All milestones and deliverables for WP5 have been completed. The Final deliverables from WP5 were approved by the Governing Board.
- The development of a strategic phytosanitary research agenda has been progressed through an initial project workshop (May 2008), national workshops (2008/9) and an international workshop (May 2009). A strategic common agenda has been produced. Workshops have expanded linkages international bodies and other stakeholders, including European policy makers, EPPO, EFSA, USDA and industry representatives.
- The development of the longer-term, self-sustainable network has also been progressed through project meetings and through the workshops. DL5.1 outlines the model framework and structure of the future network.
- EUPHRESCO has exercised its COPHS mandate to advise the Commission on plant health research priorities in FP7, ensuring coordination of national, trans-national and EU-funded plant health research to achieve best results and value for money.

Summary of WP5 progress for milestones/deliverables since the project's start:

WP5 Deliverables until month 51		Target	DL Status
DL 5.1	Common strategic phytosanitary research agenda	Month 48	Complete
DL 5.2	Long-term network structure established with <i>modus operandi</i> and collaboration agreement	Month 48	Complete
DL 5.3	Linkages review (incorporated into DL5.2, as agreed with EC)	Month 48	Complete

WP5 Milestones until month 51		Target	MS Status
MS 5.1	Workshops held to develop European-wide & zonal agendas	Month 24	Complete
MS 5.2	Draft agendas and Action Plans drafted for consultation	Month 36	Complete
MS 5.3	Submit proposed common research agenda to GB	Month 47	Complete
MS 5.4	Establish Network of funders; with <i>modus operandi</i> and a Collaboration Agreement agreed by The Governing Board	Month 48	Completed
MS 5.5	Complete draft review of linkages with other disciplines relevant to Plant Health Science	Month 47	Completed

Completed
  In progress
  Not started
  Month 51 = 31<sup>st</sup> July 2010

### 2.4.3. Progress towards objectives – DETAIL BY SUB-WORKPACKAGE

#### Sub-workpackage 5.1. Transnational research agendas

- A draft of DL5.1 was discussed at WP5/NMG meetings in November 2009 (Berlin) and March 2010 (Copenhagen). The draft has been finalised and was presented to the Governing Board in May 2010 for their approval. The final draft was approved by the Governing Board at its meeting in May 2010 with only minor amendment. The final version was presented at the Final Dissemination Conference in York and is available to download from the EUPHRESCO website.

#### Sub-workpackage 5.2. Long-term network

- WP5 has finalised the structure of the long-term self-sustainable network and has produced a document (DL5.2) on the '*Structure of the self-sustainable, long-term network*'– *MODUS OPERANDI*, including annexes that contain proposed collaboration agreements. This first draft was sent out to all EUPHRESCO partners for a first round of consultation and was discussed in-depth in the May 2009 and October 2009 project meetings. The document was updated after WP5/NMG meetings in November 2009 and March 2010. The final draft was approved by the Governing Board at its meeting in May 2010 with only minor amendment. The final version was presented at the Final Dissemination Conference in York and is available to download from the EUPHRESCO website.
- EUPHRESCO partners joined forces to develop a proposal (not funded from the current EUPHRESCO Project) in response to the FP7 ERA-NET call for a '*Deepened and enlarged cooperation between phytosanitary research programmes*'. One of the main aims of the proposal is to test and further develop the model for the self-sustainable network that is an output from the current EUPHRESCO and we have entered contract negotiations. The proposal has now entered negotiation stages and has a potential start date of 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010.

#### Sub-workpackage 5.3 (linkages with other disciplines)

- Work on this sub-workpackage started in month 30 and was completed in June 2010. The report has been incorporated into DL5.1 (strategic research agenda). It is included there as an annex and is available to download from the EUPHRESCO website.

### 2.4.4. Deviation from the project work programme

WP5 completed their objectives with no deviation from the project work programme.

DL5.3 was incorporated into DL5.1 with agreement of the EC Desk Officer.

## Section 3: Consortium Management during the reporting period (1<sup>st</sup> May 2009 – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2010)

### 3.1. WP1 Consortium management – Project coordination, management, communication and dissemination

WP1 is lead by the coordinator; the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera)

#### 3.1.1. Objectives

The objectives of WP1 are to manage and coordinate the phytosanitary EUPHRESKO ERA-NET, to communicate its aims and progresses and to disseminate project outputs for the wider benefit of non-participating phytosanitary research funders and other stakeholders.

#### 3.1.2. Progress towards objectives – SUMMARY

- All project meetings, network management group (NMG) meetings and governing board (GB) meetings have been organised and held within the period.
- RP2 activity report was submitted on time (15<sup>th</sup> June 2009) and accepted by the Commission.
- RP2 management report was submitted with a slight delay on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2009 and has now been accepted by the Commission.
- All 6-monthly interim reports have been submitted along with any outstanding deliverables. All project milestones have been met and all project deliverables have been completed.
- The project website has been maintained and kept up to date, with new information and useful documents uploaded regularly. Articles on EUPHRESKO were published in three European-level magazines and have been made publically available on the website. Additionally, all project deliverables and final research reports from completed pilot research projects initiated via EUPHRESKO were made available on the website.
- 6-monthly e-newsletters have been produced and distributed electronically and leaflets have been printed as required. Posters on the pilot projects and general EUPHRESKO posters have been produced and have been displayed at two international conferences. Presentations on EUPHRESKO were given at the EPPO diagnostic conference, the EU REGPOT project, the EU Q-Detect project and the EU Q-Bol projects.
- EUPHRESKO contributed to DG SANCO's Review of the Community Plant Health Regime. EUPHRESKO has continued to engage with a range of stakeholders, e.g. ENDURE, EPPO, EFSA, DG SANCO, as well as Observers and several non-partner countries, e.g. USA and New Zealand.
- A final dissemination conference was held in York (30<sup>th</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010) which presented the key outcomes of the project, experiences and lessons learned from joint activities (the learning-by-doing principle); posters covering all the 11 pilot research projects, and additional projects that had since been initiated or where under development, were presented.
- The risk register has been maintained and overseen by the network management group and governing board; payments from RP2 (final 20%) and the full amount of RP3 will be paid to partners in September 2010.

Summary of WP1 progress for milestones/deliverables since the Project's start:

WP1 Deliverables to the end of project		Target Date	MS Status
DL 1.1	Operational project website (internal/external pages)	Month 3	Completed
DL 1.2	External communication/dissemination strategy; leaflet.	Month 6	Completed
DL 1.3 (RP1)	Project reports and cost statements (18-month report)	Month 18	Completed
DL 1.3 (RP2)	Project reports and cost statements (36-month report)	Month 36	Completed
DL 1.3 (RP3)	Project reports and cost statements (51-month report)	Month 51	On-going
DL 1.4	E-newsletters produced and disseminated	6-monthly	Completed
DL 1.5	6-monthly interim reports for Commission	6-monthly	Completed
DL 1.6	Final Project outputs on website	Month 48	Completed
DL 1.7	Final Dissemination Conference	Month 51	Completed
DL 1.8	Final Project Report	Month 51	Completed

WP1 Milestones to the end of project		Target Date	MS Status
MS 1.1	Consortium agreement and risk register produced	Month 3	Completed
MS 1.2	Terms of reference for GB, NMG etc. produced	Month 2	Completed
MS 1.3	Kick-off Meeting (1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting) held	Month 2	Completed
MS 1.4	Project website produced	Month 2	Completed
MS 1.5	Communication strategy produced	Month 2	Completed
MS 1.6	Six-monthly meetings held	6-monthly	Completed
MS 1.7 (RP1)	Reports and cost statements submitted to the Commission	Month 18	Completed
MS 1.7 (RP2)	Reports and cost statements submitted to the Commission	Month 36	Completed
MS 1.7 (RP3)	Reports and cost statements submitted to the Commission	Month 51	On-going
MS 1.8	Final dissemination conference	Month 51	Completed
MS 1.9	Final Report to Commission and final project outputs on web	Month 51	Completed

Completed
  In progress
  Not started
  Month 51 = 31<sup>st</sup> July 2010

### 3.1.3. Progress towards objectives – DETAIL BY SUB-WORKPACKAGE

#### Sub-workpackage 1.1. Meetings:

- The seventh project meeting was held in Braunschweig in May 2009. The meeting was preceded by an international workshop to develop future agendas and a governing board meeting. The project meeting focused on the structure and function of the future long-term sustainable network as well as topic selection for a second round of calls being commissioned through the non-competitive mechanism (NCM). The network management group (NMG) met after the project meeting.
- The eighth project meeting was the final project meeting and this was held in Madrid in October 2009. The consortium discussed the future self-sustainable network, the common research agenda and participation in EUPHRESKO-II should it be approved for funding. As with previous project meetings, the network management group (NMG) met after the project meeting.
- The third governing board meeting was held in Braunschweig the morning before the international workshop to develop future agendas. The GB members attended it from all partner countries bar one. Expert advisory group representatives from EPPO (Ringolds Arnitis) and EFSA (Giuseppe Stancanelli) also attended. WP leaders attended to present the progress of their WPs. The GB reviewed the project progress and approved future directions.



- The fourth governing board meeting was the final governing board meeting and this was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia in May 2010. The governing board reviewed the projects achievements and addressed issues relating to its future governance and accountability. The governing board member highlighted these points in a note to the COPHS.
- A final NMG meeting was held in March in Copenhagen. The meeting focused primarily on WP5 deliverables which included the framework for the long-term self-sustainable network and the common strategic research agenda.
- The EUPHRESKO final dissemination conference was held in York in June 2010. The conference provided a great opportunity to inform partners, observers and stakeholders on the achievements of the project and discuss the lessons learnt. Over 100 people attending the project including current EUPHRESKO partners and also new EUPHRESKO partners joining the project for EUPHRESKO-II. Commission representatives, EFSA, EPPO and industry stakeholders were among the participants.
- EUPHRESKO representatives attended the Commission-organised ERA-NET workshop that was held in Brussels on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

#### Sub-workpackage 1.2. Reports:

- The Coordinator and partners responded to issues raised by the Commission on the RP2 Activity and Management reports and accompanying financial forms. RP2 is now signed-off by the Commission and Annex 1 (the description of work) of the contract updated.
- The 42-month and 48-month interim reports were produced and submitted to the Commission within the allocated deadline. The Commission approved the reports.
- A final note to the COPHS (EU Council Working Party of Chief Officers of Plant Health Services) highlighting the major achievements of the project and issues relating to its future governance and accountability was submitted.

#### Sub-workpackage 1.3. Knowledge management and communication:

- The project website at [www.euphresco.org](http://www.euphresco.org) was developed at the start of the project and maintained by the Project Office. The website hosts the plant health database of national research projects; it advertised and launched the pilot calls. Publicity leaflets, EUPHRESKO newsletters and relevant articles are uploaded regularly. Internal partner information and documents such as meeting agendas, meeting minutes and draft workpackage documents are housed on the members' page of the website where access is limited to partners holding a username and password. For transparency, minutes of all meetings (e.g. governing board, network management group and project meetings) are all made available to all partners via the member's pages on the website.
- A EUPHRESKO publicity leaflet was produced in English at the start of the project and is now also available to download from the project website in French, Dutch, German, Greek, Bulgarian and Spanish.
- EUPHRESKO newsletters were produced and distributed electronically to over 500 contacts. Please follow the link below for the 6<sup>th</sup> (October 2009) issue of the newsletter: <http://www.euphresco.org/downloadFile.cfm?id=445>. The 7<sup>th</sup> (final) newsletter has recently been completed and circulated (September 2010) and has been submitted along with this report.

- Posters for the pilot projects and a poster explaining the three funding mechanisms were produced for the 2<sup>nd</sup> WP5 workshop in May 2009. The posters detailed the project aims, expected benefits, consortium partners and project leaders. The posters were displayed at the workshop in Braunschweig. The posters were updated and re-printed along with a number of other posters on the workpackages and on EUPHRESCO-II for display at the final dissemination conference in York in June 2010. Posters on all the pilot projects, including the second round of non-competitive projects were produced. Electronic pdfs of all the new posters are available to download from the website.  
<http://www.euphresco.org/public/publications/index.cfm?id=114>
- An article on EUPHRESCO titled 'Safeguarding Plant Health' was published in the EU public Services Review (issue 18) in June 2009 and then an article titled 'Safeguarding Plant Health through Research' was published in the EU Magazine (Food issue) in October 2009. A third article was very recently published in August this year in International Innovations; the article is titled 'Collaboration in combating plant pests' and has been included with this report. All the published articles have been made publically available on the website.  
<http://www.euphresco.org/public/publications/index.cfm>
- EUPHRESCO has continued to maintain links and form new links with relevant networks and stakeholders. EUPHRESCO has sought to strengthen its links with industry stakeholders and will continue to do so in EUPHRESCO-II.

#### Sub-workpackage 1.4. Project Administration:

- The RP2 activity report was submitted on time (15<sup>th</sup> June 2009) and accepted by the Commission. The RP2 management report was submitted with a slight delay on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2009; responses to the Commission's queries and requests have been made and the report has now been signed off.
- Following the acceptance by the Commission of the financial forms and the 36-month RP2 report, the final 20% of RP2 payments will now be made to partners. 512856.50€ has been received from the Commission in payment for the last reporting period. Partners will be paid the remaining 20% owed from RP2 and the full amount of RP3.
- Partners were instructed about the final report requirements at the last project meeting in Madrid and via several email communications. The final project report has been produced.
- Some small re-allocation of finances (approx €10k) in the last period (RP3) was made to Partner 3 (AGES) to enable completion of WP4 deliverables.

#### **3.1.4. Deviation from the project work programme**

There are no deviations in WP1 to report in this period.

#### **3.2. Project timetable and status**

Project ended