

EPSO – new partners exploring new opportunities in molecular ecology

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European Plant Science Organisation
www.epsoweb.org
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EPSO aims to advance plant science in Europe

Independent academic organisation, founded in 2000

Mission:

- Promote plant science and plant scientists
- Discuss future plant science programmes across Europe
- Provide authoritative source of independent information on plant science
- Promote training of plant scientists to meet the 21st century challenges in breeding, agriculture, horticulture, forestry, plant ecology and sectors related to plant science

CREATING A FUTURE FOR PLANT RESEARCH IN EUROPE



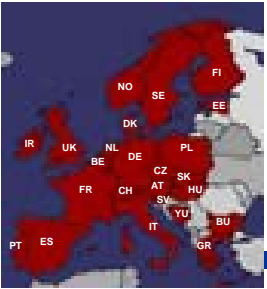
EPSO members: Academia

Academic Institutional members:


186 research institutes, universities, research departments

with over **25 000 researchers and staff** in plant science

from **27 countries**



+ 1 500 Personal members



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Activities and achievements:

- **Advice on science policy** from national to European levels
 - Research opportunities for the plant sector in FP6 & FP7
 - ERA-Net on Plant Genomics (creation and development)
 - Technology Platform “Plants for the Future” (coordination)
 - European Research Council (via ELSF and ISE)

e.g. Royal society ‘Biological approaches to enhance food-crop production’
Policy collaboration with national societies (via MoU)
Input to FP7 work programmes
Input to FP8 discussion – **highly competitive, good ideas, single voice**
e.g. promote **grand challenges food-water-energy security**




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Activities and achievements:

- **Support scientists** with
 - **Biannual EPSO Conferences (Lapland, 18 – 22.4.2010)**
 - EPSO workshops and brainstorms (BRU, Ghent, Julich)
 - **NEWSletter, website, EPSOpeda, member database etc.**






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- E.g. **EPSO Conference, Lapland, 18 – 22.4.2010**

Achieve sustainability - crop genomes, breeding tools and strategies

Achieve quality - architecture for traits, photosynthesis for solar fuels, tree biology for multiple use, metabolites for pharmaceuticals, and nutritional value

Strengthen ecosystem functioning - plant health, climate change and plant production, landscape genomics and biodiversity




EPSO Brainstorm, BRU, 7.4.2009

History:

Strong interest in such interaction became obvious

- EPSO Environmental plant biology workshop 2005
- EPSO conferences
- Natural history collections' user workshop Nov'08

Detlef, Simon and Rob kindly agreed to organise this ad hoc

You, the experts, followed this offer on short notice – Thanks!



EPSO Brainstorm, BRU, 7.4.2009

Aim and expected outcome:

Discuss and recommend crucial areas of interaction of ecologists and molecular biologists in future – e.g.:

- Landscape genomics (link herbaria to DNA sample collections)
- Wild relatives of crop plants / Domestication of novel crops from wild species
- Ecosystem fluxes

Recommend actions to support such emerging areas

- Small core group will draft and finalise this
 - Input from all participants today and after the meeting
- EPSO will advise European and national research agencies
- EPSO might organise workshops on the identified areas and will consider other appropriate support it can provide



Thank you – enjoy the brainstorm !



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