



European Plant Science Organisation

To all EPSO representatives, supporting scientists and personal members

Brussels, 19 December 2008

Dear Colleagues and Friends of EPSO,

With 2008 we close another successful year for [EPSO](#). We would like to use this opportunity to thank you for your membership and share our perspectives about the past, present and future of plant science in Europe. Together we have much accomplished. Now it is important to increase this success and make it sustainable.

EPSO has grown impressively during the eight years of existence of the organization. [EPSO now represents](#) over 180 research institutes and universities from 27 countries with more than 25 000 staff. In addition, EPSO now has 1 300 personal members who have registered. Collectively, this community of plant scientists has brought plants back on the European agenda, and EPSO is beginning to have impact at national levels as well. An increasing number of politicians support plant research, but some politicians still have not yet fully realized the importance of plants for the future of European agriculture, economy and the environment. Therefore EPSO will continue to speak out clearly as the united voice for plant research in Europe.

As a major result of your concerted efforts the **7th Framework Programme** has funding available for plant research topics - a scenario that could not be expected after the almost complete elimination of plant science from Framework Programme 6. We must continue this joint effort to keep plants on the European agenda as well as increase our efforts to inform the public about the importance of plants for the future of our planet. As a partner of **multinational research networks** (European Research Area Network on Plant Genomics, ERA-PG, and Plant-KBBE¹), EPSO supports the vision of a common research area for European scientists and encourages you to participate actively as well.

The **European Technology Platform “Plants for the Future” (Plant ETP)**, with a strong involvement of EPSO, published its Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) last year and is now focusing on implementing this SRA. The Plant ETP promotes and advocates strategic and internationally competitive research, supports education and communication, and embraces innovation. In 2005 and 2006 you and colleagues from industry and farmers organized national consultations on the SRA, which now see the emergence of national Plant TPs as a result. EPSO and Plant ETP very much encourage the development of national Plant TPs. They will further increase awareness and interest in national research councils and various ministries about the critical importance of strong and vibrant plant research. This dialogue with key politicians and decision makers in 2009 and beyond will encourage all European countries to adopt the “Plants for the Future” SRA for their national programmes.

EPSO is continuing efforts to build a **strong reputation among scientists in Europe and globally**. We have been fortunate to win the support of leading plant scientists in Europe to successfully build a global EPSO network, which has become the preferred contact in Europe for international scientists and industries interested in European plant sciences. Your efforts and contributions have also established the EPSO Conference as one of the international top plant science events. Many participants of the 2008 EPSO Conference in France expressed their

¹ Plant - Knowledge-Based-Bioeconomy focuses on public-private partnerships in research projects and covers all plant research. It was launched by France, Germany and Spain and is open to participants from other countries.

excitement about this highly interactive, stimulating, very intense and enjoyable meeting. We aim to even top this with the 5th EPSO conference in Finland in September 2010. EPSO workshops have successfully established the reputation of visionary and high quality think tanks in emerging areas of plant science. The 2008 Bioenergy workshop drew much attention and the two 2009 workshops on Plant Productivity and Plant Phenotyping have already raised considerable interest. This year we presented the workshop conclusions and more science outlooks at the EPSO Conference, the EPSO symposium at the European Science Open Forum and at the Venice World Conference on the Future of Science as input to the broader policy debate.

Building on this success, **EPSO will develop** further. At the 2008 General Meeting you mandated EPSO to continue our work by focusing on science policy and to provide more support to national policy activities:

- EPSO will promote plant science in FP7 and with your help continue to provide critical input to the Work Programmes.
- EPSO offers support to national research programmes and provides you information on EU structural funds in your country.
- [EPSO News](#) focuses on science programmes and funding opportunities from European and national sources and news from the plant community. Detailed information is available in the EPSO members' only web section.
- The [EPSO Online Portal](#) links to major science resources, tools, events and job offers.
- **NEW:** You can search the [EPSO members' database](#) for member addresses and expertise
- **NEW:** You can present your department / institute in the [EPSOpedia](#), EPSO's own wikipedia to attract collaborations, students and staff, political and public attention.
- **New in 2009:** You as an EPSO personal member can offer your expertise to an EPSO institute / university and receive updates via the EPSO Human Resource Network.

You, the members of EPSO, are most important and on your behalf we will continue to promote plant research in European science policy with highest priority. The quantum leap in [our new activities](#), and the bonus of a free personal membership for all staff working in EPSO institutional member laboratories, already attracted institutional members from New Zealand and Australia. We encourage more European and selected international research institutions across all areas of plant science and universities to join EPSO as new institutional members and take advantage of the free personal membership. Please help to increase the EPSO membership and thus the impact of EPSO by inviting university scientists to join forces and become EPSO members as university clusters ([access the benefits and conditions of membership](#)) to strengthen the input from university scientists into our policy and science activities. Universities provide our younger generation the foundation of science—and it is our younger generation who will contribute to a sustainable society in the future. Beginning in 2009 EPSO will also **work with national plant science organizations and societies** to develop partnerships for science policy work. These will greatly enrich our activities and convey a strong message to decision makers that EPSO represents a united plant community.

Numerous meetings and events at EPSO **headquarters**, which is [located](#) close to the European Commission, the European Parliament, National Permanent Representations and many European associations, increased interactions with our partners and friends. We look forward to *your* visit!

Your vision for EPSO is implemented by the commitment of our Executive Committee, our [Board](#) Members Eva-Mari Aro, Raoul Bino, Jacek Hennig, Jonathan Jones, Christophe Plomion, Pere Puigdomenech, Chiara Tonelli and Erkki Truve, and our [team](#) Isabelle Caugant, Ivana Migliore, AnnaKarin Hedin and Katrien Molders. We would like to thank our leaving board members Helene Lucas and Kirsi-Marja Oksman-Caldentey for their inspiration and contributions.

Finally, we most welcome your feedback and advice and would like to thank all of you for your vision, commitment and support to EPSO. Together with you the EPSO Team is looking forward to shaping the future of plant science in Europe. The EPSO Executive Committee wishes you, your family and your colleagues all the best for 2009!

Wilhelm Gruissem, Karin Metzloff and Ulrich Schur

EPSO activities in 2008 – an Overview

Events

- Cont. Talks at other events
- May [EPSO Biofuel workshop](#)
- June WG and KM at European Group of Ethics
EPSO General meeting and Board meeting
[4th EPSO Conference](#)
- July EPSO session on bioenergy at ESOF 2008
- Sep Several speakers at Venice Conference on the Future of Science
- Nov EPSO at Ecology consortia workshop on natural history collections
EPSO board decides Finland as hosting country for the [2010 EPSO Conference](#)

Publications

- Cont. Articles in other newsletters
- Jan Open letter to members
- Feb Newsletter 5 (Conference, ESF science strategy activities, Spanish research programmes)
- Apr Newsletter 6 (Eastern Europe, ESF science synergy activities, Dutch research programme)
- Jun [EPSOpedia](#) launched
Newsletter 7 (Spanish research, FP7 Environment programme, Swedish research programme)
- Sep Newsletter 8 (EPSO Conference, COST programme, Austrian research programme)
- Oct [EPSO submission to Royal Society](#) call 'Biological approaches to enhance food-crop production'
- Nov [Newsletter 9](#) (Industry perspective, Eurostars programme, Belgian research programme)
- Dec EPSO letter to EU Commissioners on balanced support to all technologies and EFSA

New members

- Cont. Personal membership increases to over 1 300
- Apr Spanish university cluster (La Mancha)
- May Vienna cluster (expanded from BoKu University)
- Jun New Zealand Crown Research Institute cluster (4 CRIs)
Poland New Member State cluster II around Poznan
- Sep Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics
- Oct Agroscope, CH
Technical University Munich, DE

New observer

- Mar European Landowner Organisation, ELO

Links

- Cont. FESPB: Discuss collaboration concepts
- May SEB: Meeting of Directors and Presidents
- Jun SEB: Workshops at EPSO Conference
- Sep COST: Formal links with the Domain Committee Food and Agriculture established (KM and Albino
Maggio become observers)
- Oct IPMB: Enquiry if EPSO would be interested to organise an EPSO-IPMB Conference
- Nov COST: Meeting K Metzloff + A Maggio
- Dec FESPB: Memorandum of Understanding between EPSO and FESPB signed

[Plant ETP](#)













- Cont. Talks at EC and partner TP events
- Feb Proposal on joint support action of 9 ETPs submitted
- Apr Steering Council agreed on the goals, aims, activities, structure (membership based), financing
Executive Committee letter to EU Commissioners on biotechnology
- Jun SRA parts II and III brochure printed and sent out
Italian Plant-TP launched
- Sep K Metzloff appointed member of Lead Market Bio-based products EC advisory group
Discuss German Plant-TP
New coordinator started
- Oct Input to FP7 Work Programme 2010
- Nov K Metzloff appointed member of EC ETP expert group
- Dec Contract negotiation on joint support action of 9 ETPs close to final
Partner in the joint non-food ETPs proposal on a Biorefinery support action – proposal submitted

ERA-PG

- Cont. Meetings of coordinators

List of the EPSO institutional members

EPSO has 60 institutional members bringing together over 186 research institutes, universities and research departments from 27 countries (25 in Europe and two beyond), with over 25 000 people working in plant science.

Country	Member Institute
 Australia	Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomic (ACPFPG) NEW
 Austria	Vienna Plant Science Cluster (Cluster of: Univ. of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna; Max F.Perutz Laboratories, Univ. Vienna; Gregor Mendel Institute of Molecular Plant Biology, Vienna; BFW – Department of Genetics, Vienna; Austrian Research Centers GmbH, Seibersdorf) Expanded
 Belgium	Flanders Interuniversity Institute for Biotechnology, VIB, Gent
 Bulgaria	AgroBioInstitute, Kostinbrod (Cluster with: Soil Science Institute N. Pushkarov; State Agricultural Institute, Gen. Toshevo; Institute of Plant Genetic Resources Sadovo; Insitute of Maize, Kneja)
 Czech republic	Institute of Experimental Botany, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Praha (Cluster with: Mendel Univ., Brno; Crop Research Institute, Praha; Department Plant Physiology – Charles Univ., Praha; Institute of Plant Molecular Biology AS CR, Cesk Budejovice)
 Denmark	Plant Biotech Denmark (Cluster of: Dep. Plant Biology, Dep. Agricultural Sciences and Dep. Molecular Biology, Copenhagen Univ.; Dep. Genetics and Biotechnology and Dep. Molecular Biology, Univ. Aarhus; Dep. Biochemistry and Nutrition of the BioCentrum and Biosystems Dep. Riso, Technical Univ. Denmark/Lyngby; Dep. Biotechnology, Chemistry and Environmental Engineering, Univ. Aalborg; Inst. Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Univ. Southern Denmark)
 Estonia	Tallinn University of Technology (Cluster with: Jõgeva Plant Breeding Institute; Estonian University of Life Science, Tartu; University of Tartu)
 Finland	Viikki Research Program in Plant Biology, University of Helsinki
	Dep. Of Biology, Turku University
	VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland, Espoo
	MTT Agrifood Research Finland, Jokioinen
 France	CNRS (National research organization with institutes in Bordeaux, Cadarache, Clermont-Ferrand, Dijon, Evry, Gif sur Yvette, Grenoble, Ivry, Lille, Lyon , Marseille, Montpellier, Orsay, Paris, Perpignan, Poitiers, Roscoff, Rouen, Sophia-Antipolis, Strasbourg and Toulouse)
	INRA (National research organization with institutes in Angers, Antibes, Antilles-Guyane, Avignon, Bordeaux, Clermont-Ferrand, Colmar, Corse, Dijon, Jouy-en-Josas, Lille, Montpellier, Nancy, Nantes, Orléans, Paris, Poitou-Charentes, Rennes, Toulouse, Tours, Versailles-Grignon)
	CIRAD, Paris
 Germany	Max-Planck-Institut für Züchtungsforschung, Cologne, Max-Planck-Society
	Max Planck Institute for Developmental Biology (Cluster with: Centre for Plant Molecular Biology, Tübingen University and Institute for Biology II, Freiburg University)
	Max-Planck-Institute for Molecular Plant Physiology, Golm, Max-Planck –Society
	Fraunhofer Institute for Molecular Biotechnology, Aachen, Fraunhofer Society
	Gemeinschaft zur Förderung der privaten deutschen Pflanzenzüchtung e.V., Bonn
	Leibniz Institute for Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK), Gatersleben
	Institute Phytosphere Research; Research Center Jülich
	Leibniz Institute of Plant Biochemistry, Halle (Saale)
	Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology, Jena
Technical University of Munich NEW	
 Greece	Agricultural University of Athens (Cluster with: University of Crete; National Hellenic Research Foundation)
 Hungary	Biological Research Centre, Szeged, Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Cluster with: Agricultural Research Institute HAS, Martonvásár; Agricultural Biotechnology Centre, Institute Plant Biology, Gödöllő; Wheat Genetics and Breeding Department, Cereal Research Non-profit Company, Szeged; Univ. Szeged; Dept. Plant Physiology and Molecular Plant Biology Eotvos Univ., Budapest)
 Ireland	BioResearch Ireland, BRI, Dublin
	Plant Science Group, School of Biological and Environmental Science, University College Dublin
 Israel	Zamir, Wolf, Ori, Weiss and Adam Laboratories, The Robert H. Smith Institute of Plant Sciences

	and Genetics in Agriculture, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Italy 	Università degli Studi di Milano
	Italian Plant Molecular Biology Consortium (Cluster with Univ Siena, Dip di Biologia Ambientale)
	Centro Interdipartimentale Ricerche Biotecnologiche (CIRB), Bologna
	Agri-Food department of CNR (Plant science groups from IBBA, IBIMET, IGV, IPP, ISA, ISAFoM, ISPA, ISPAAM, IVV and IBAF, IBP, IC, IGB, IVALSA)
Nether-lands 	Wageningen University / EPS (Cluster of units from Wageningen Univ., Radboud Univ., Utrecht Univ., Leiden Univ., Univ. Amsterdam, Free Univ. Amsterdam, CSB-KNAW and NIOO-KNAW)
	Plant Research International, Wageningen
New Zealand 	CRI cluster (consisting of Scion; The Horticulture and Food Research Institute of New Zealand Limited, Auckland; Crop & Food Research, Christchurch; AgResearch Limited, Hamilton) NEW
Norway 	Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences – Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Ås
	Bioforsk Norwegian Institute for Agricultural and Environmental Research, Ås
Poland 	Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics, Warsaw, Polish Academy of Sciences (Cluster with: Dep. Plant Genetics Breeding and Biotechnology, Warsaw Agricultural Univ.; Institute Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Univ. of Wrocław; Dep. Physiology and Biochemistry, Research Institute of Pomology and Floriculture, Skierniewice; Dep. Biochemical Genetics, Institute Plant Genetics, PAS, Poznań)
	Poznan university cluster (Cluster of: Faculty of Biology, Adam Mickiewicz Univ.; Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry, Polish Academy of Science; Department of Genetics and Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, Univ. Lodz; Faculty of Biology and Environmental Protection, Univ. Silesia; Faculty of Biochemistry, Biophysics and Biotechnology, Jagiellonian Univ.) NEW
Portugal 	Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology, FCUL, Lisbon
Serbia 	Institute of Molecular Genetic and Genetic Engineering, Belgrade (Cluster with: Faculty Agriculture and Faculty Biology, Univ. Belgrade; Molecular genetics and breeding, Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops – Novi Sad)
Slovakia 	Institute of Plant Genetics and Biotechnology, Nitra, Slovak Academy of Sciences (Cluster with: Faculty Natural Sciences, Dept. Plant Physiology, Comenius Univ. Bratislava; Botanical Institute, SAS, Bratislava; Institute Forest Ecology, SAS, Zvolen; Institute Landscape Ecology, SAS, Bratislava; Faculty Plant Genetics and Breeding, Slovak Agricultural Univ., Nitra; Research Institute Plant Production, Piešťany)
Slovenia 	National Institute of Biology (New member States cluster consisting of : Biotechnical Faculty, University of Ljubljana; Slovenian Forestry Institute; Agricultural Institute of Slovenia)
Spain 	Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas-CSIC, Madrid
	Universidad de Barcelona
	Laboratori de Genètica Molecular Vegetal CSIC-IRTA, Barcelona
	Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Tecnología Agraria y Alimentaria INIA, Madrid
	University Castilla La Mancha (Cluster with: Univ. M Hernandez; Univ. Malaga; Univ. Valencia; Univ. Salamanca) NEW
Sweden 	Umea Plant Science Centre, part of two Umea universities
Switzer-land 	Zurich Basel Plant Science Centre (Cluster of units from ETH Zurich, Univ. Zurich, Univ. Basel)
	University of Lausanne (Cluster with: Institute Plant Sciences, Univ. Bern; Dep. Molecular Biology, Univ. Geneva; Institute Botany and Plant Physiology, Univ. Neuchâtel; Institute Plant Biology – Univ. Fribourg)
	Agroscope NEW
UK 	John Innes Centre, Norwich
	Centre for Plant Sciences (CPS), Leeds University
	Scottish Crop Research Institute, SCRI, Dundee
	University of Warwick
	Rothamsted Research, Harpenden
	Lancaster Environment Centre, University of Lancaster
	Sainsbury Laboratory, Norwich

EPSO already has 1 355 Personal Members

Most of our personal members are professionals, 139 are post-docs and 208 are students

1 309 personal members are from institutional members

By stakeholder: all belong to academia

By geography: 1 245 work in Europe and 64 beyond Europe

By career stage: 965 are professionals, 137 post-docs and 207 students

46 personal members are working at other places

By stakeholder: 75% work for academia, 24% for industry and 1% in the political sector

By geography: 38 work in Europe and 8 beyond Europe

By career stage: 44 are professionals, 2 post-docs and 1 is a student

EPSO Membership Benefits – an Overview

Note: Institutional member benefits are relevant to personal members and vice versa.

EPSO advises policy and decision makers at national and European level on Science Policy

EPSO is a key adviser in furthering the plant sector in Europe in partnership with other stakeholders (in the Technology Platform “Plants for the Future”) and national research councils (in the ERA-Net on Plant Genomics and the Plant-KBBE). In addition to advice at European level, EPSO will offer increasingly information to decision makers at national and regional level. To do so, EPSO will continue to collaborate with related stakeholders in Europe and key science organizations from the regional to a global level. The EPSO workshops will be an important tool to develop such information for emerging opportunities.

Such advice contributes to both, a global effort to boost plant science in partnership with similar academic associations outside Europe; and to promote basic science at European level and to advocate strong independent scientific advice in European policy making in the Initiative for Science in Europe (ISE).

→ Benefit mainly for EPSO institutional members. Continuing activity

The Electronic Directory – your address book of individual and institutional members

The database includes the area of expertise of EPSO members and all other EPSO contacts world wide.

→ Access is restricted to EPSO members. Access starts December 2008.

The EPSO Online Portal to plant science – your link to main science funding and information sources

This portal links to funding agencies at national and European level in Europe, to scientific databases, online tools, meetings, research locations and can host your web-casts of seminars and lectures at member institutes.

→ Access is restricted to EPSO members. Continuing activity

The EPSOpedia – your wikipedia to present your institute / university and its activities

This wikipedia presents EPSO and its institutional members. You can present your activities to attract students, new staff, communicate to the science community and the public at large.

→ The EPSOpedia has public access. Only EPSO institutional members can write. Started in 2008

The EPSO Bi-annual Conference is a top level snap shot and outlook of all areas in plant sciences

EPSO conference awards honour outstanding posters. EPSO conference grants provide financial support to students and to senior scientists from new Member States to participate to the conference.

→ The Conference has Public access. Only EPSO institutional members form the organizing committee. Only personal members benefit from a reduced registration fee and can apply for support grants. Ongoing activity

The EPSO Workshops are organized on selected topics on request of its members

EPSO organizes top level workshops with a bottom up principle bringing distant disciplines together to break down barriers between disciplines and foster new promising research areas.

→ Benefit for institutional members. Only these can propose topics and apply to participate. Ongoing activity

The EPSO Bi-monthly electronic Newsletters, *EPSO News* – your update on science and science policy

This Newsletter focuses on research funding at national and European level open to cross-national research, News on Research Programmes across Europe, EPSO’s activities, job openings and meeting announcements.

→ Access is restricted to institutional member representatives and personal members. Ongoing activity

The EPSO Job listings – your job opportunities

Current job offers relevant to the plant sector globally are displayed for 3 months on the EPSO web, linked to the EPSO online portal and included in the Newsletter. This ensures a top job brokerage for the plant sector.

→ The job list has public access and benefits all members. Ongoing activity

The EPSO World Wide Human Resources Network – your anchor in European science

EPSO members volunteer as tutor for early career scientists, e.g being well connected to your home country / Europe while you are abroad. EPSO members revive the tradition of summer student programs around Europe.

→ Only personal members can apply for a tutor under this scheme. New activity in 2009

GROUPS OF MEMBERS and SUPPORT from other parties

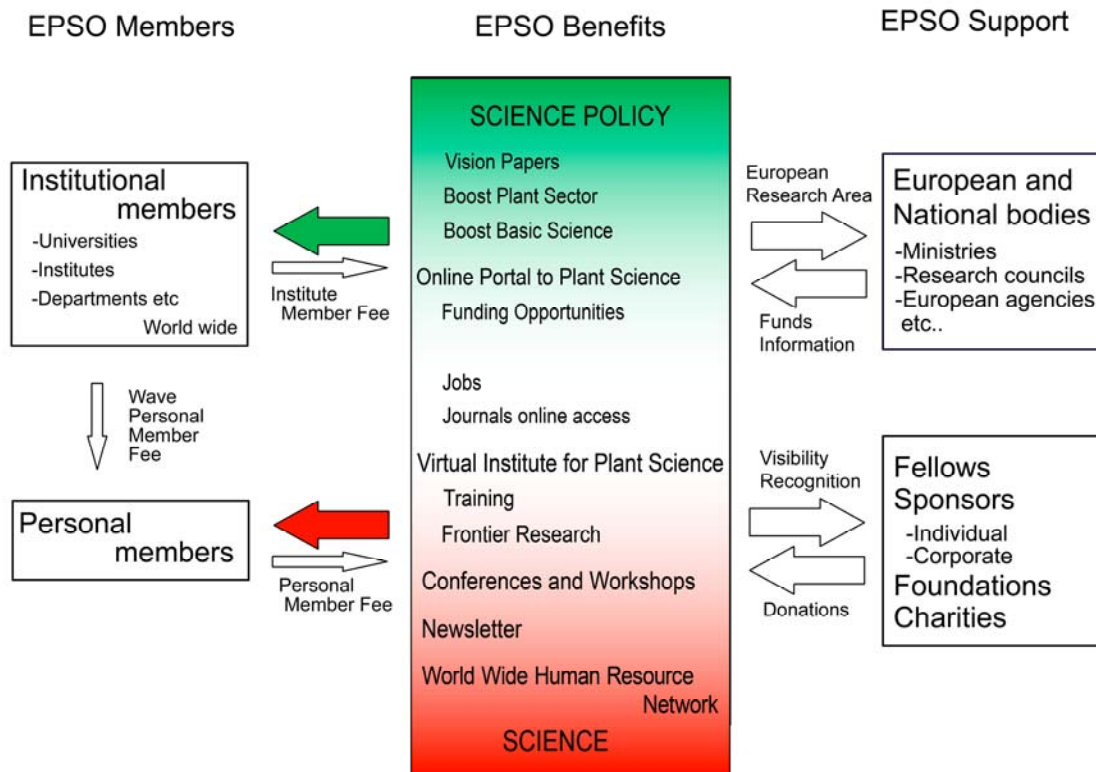
EPSO offers membership to two groups: to institutes, universities, departments or research units thereof; the institutional membership is offered, from 2008 on as well outside of Europe; for individual persons the personal membership started as a new possibility in 2007.

EPSO will invite national and regional agencies to contribute financial support to EPSO's activities which will help realising the European Research Area and attract especially young people to (plant) science.

EPSO will offer to other interested parties visibility and recognition for providing financial resources to EPSO.

Such parties can be foundations, charities, publishing companies, institutional and individual sponsors and EPSO Fellows.

Creating a future for plant research in Europe



1 - Institutional members

Legal entities, such as an institute, university, department or research unit thereof, from academia in the field of plant research are invited to become an institutional member to EPSO.

Two specific cases are allowed for in this group of membership. The first one being "University clusters", giving the opportunity to a group of university departments / groups from different locations from maximum five different universities to join as one member to encourage participation of universities in EPSO. The second being "New Member State clusters", giving the opportunity to several research institutes and universities (maximum five) from always one New Member State or Candidate Country to form one member to EPSO. Switzerland and Norway are not eligible for the latter specific case.

EPSO's main activities for institutional members are the Science Policy, the Online Portal – specifically to Funding Opportunities, the EPSOpedia, the Bi-annual EPSO Conference and the EPSO Workshops.

Subject to such members from outside Europe, the Newsletter will provide information as well on collaborative research opportunities between Europe (national and European funds) and other parts of the world.

All people working at a Member Institute / university can register as a personal member to EPSO without paying the personal membership fee to EPSO.

EPSO's benefits for personal members as shown below will ultimately benefit institutional members.

Institutional members contribute the institutional membership fee to EPSO. This is an annual fee according to the number of people working in the institute or university, related to plant science.

Institutional members are allocated to one of currently three classes: A* members are research councils or very large research units (beyond 600 people); A members are medium to large research units (from 50 people on, including university clusters) and B members are small research units (below 50 people, including New Member State clusters).

Institutional members outside of Europe contribute 2/3 of the fee.

Reflecting the high input of institutional members to EPSO, they have one representative each to the General Meeting – the Annual Assembly of EPSO members (A* members have two to three representatives); three to nine supporting scientists – primary contacts for EPSO's activities; and ten seats in the EPSO board – elected by the General Assembly.

2 - Personal members

Individual persons interested in plant science supporting the vision of EPSO and fostering its implementation are invited to become a personal member to EPSO. This invitation is open to all nationalities, professions, career stages and age groups world wide.

EPSO's activities with exclusive access to personal members are the bi-monthly newsletter, a reduced EPSO conference registration fee, eligibility to apply for an EPSO conference support grant, use of the EPSO world wide human resources network. Other activities important to personal members include the Online Portal - specifically plant science activities, the e-directory of EPSO members and e-job listings.

EPSO's activities for institutional members as shown above will ultimately benefit personal members.

Personal members contribute the personal membership fee to EPSO. This is an annual fee according to the career state.

Personal members are allocated to one of currently three classes: Members are people working in their profession; Post-docs are people with a PhD or Dr degree not working independently yet; and students are PhD students approaching a PhD or diploma degree, and undergraduate students approaching a bachelor, Master or Diploma degree; and school students.

The personal membership fee for personal members working in a member institute or university is waived.

Personal members will have one representative to the General Meeting – the annual assembly of EPSO members. They will have one seat in the EPSO board – elected by the General Meeting.

3 – Associations and societies

EPSO will offer to national academic associations and societies to join forces on policy issues. EPSO will offer such entities to sign a memorandum of understanding and get involved in the development of EPSO policy statements and recommendations and at the end of each such discussion partner societies and associations can choose to be a signatory to the policy document.

This will provide mutual benefit to EPSO and national societies / associations as they will increase their visibility and involvement in the policy arena at European and national level. At the same time this will substantially increase the weight of such policy recommendations towards the aim of speaking with one voice for the European plant science community.

Academic associations and societies bridging small number of countries, i.e. two to four, can be considered for such a partnership as well.