

EPSO Workshop
30th September 2003
Brussels, Belgium



"FP6 - Outcome 1st Call and Conclusions for Future Proposals"

In September 2003 an EPSO workshop "FP6 - Outcome 1st Call and Conclusions for Future Proposals" was held in Brussels. More than thirty researchers from fifteen EU member and candidate countries and invited speakers from the European Commission (EC) discussed experience and conclusions for the EU Framework Program 6.

The workshop was organized by EPSO, the European Plant Science Organisation, in close collaboration with the invited EC experts. It was kindly hosted by KoWi, the German Science Liaison office in Brussels.

Aim of the workshop

Provide information on FP6 to the plant science community, especially on the thematic priorities 1 (Life sciences, genomics and biotechnology for health), 5 (Food quality and safety) and 6 (Sustainable development, global change and ecosystems).

Participants

Scientists from EPSO members, these are some 50 institutions from 21 countries, and observers, 9 companies & industrial organizations in Europe.

They will work as information amplifiers to the staff of their institute and, in case of accession countries, to scientists in their country.



Results and follow-up

The outcome of the workshop was very positive: the European Commission experts presented their information from the 1st call and conclusions for future submission from the experience in their thematic priority and the evaluator's view complemented this picture.

Many questions of the scientists could be answered to achieve a good understanding of the principle idea of FP6, specificities of each thematic priority and important issues to consider during the proposal stage.

Scientists were encouraged to provide ideas on future research topics to the National Program Committees and Thematic Priority Advisory Groups.

Critical remarks on gaps in the approach to structure and fund research in Europe were debated. Ongoing initiatives, all part of the European Research Area (ERA), were discussed:

- The Opening up of national programs and a first step towards it, the ERA-Networks;

- The emerging Technology Platforms to articulate a long term vision for European economy and science and develop a strategic plan for national and European bodies to reach it;
- And the European Research Council (ERC) which creation is discussed at the moment to reach a stronger European base of research and knowledge, needed for economic, social and intellectual reasons.



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