



Editorial

EPSO members' feedback on H2020 first years

EPSO Activities

- EPSO Representatives decided EPSO priorities 2015-20
- EPSO welcomes Dennis Eriksson as Internship Expert
- Apply for the first EPSO Young Plant Scientist Award, deadline 30 Nov
- Join us at the Plant Biology Europe EPSO/FESPB Congress 2016 in Prague, 26th-30th June 2016
- EC experts for Scientific Advice Mechanism announced
- Working Group on Agricultural Technologies Meeting, 3.12.15, Berlin
- European Parliament workshop on plant breeding, 1.12.2015
- Find out more about the Global Plant Council
- EXPO Conference on Crop genetic improvement technologies
- The Success of the FoPD Celebrated at the EXPO Milano

Members News

- INRA Agriculture and Innovation Vision for 2025 published
- iGem team SpaceMoss wins Gold Medal at MIT
- Birger Lindberg Møller awarded a Proof of Concept grant from ERC
- CRAG recognized with prestigious Award
- IBERS leads Welsh Plants and Architecture Cluster
- Root associated bacteria protect their host plant from fungal disease

National Research Funding

- Panorama of plant research funding in Greece

European and Global Research Programmes

- Horizon 2020 Work Programmes Published
- Science4Refugees, EIP-AGRI & COST
- Upcoming H2020 Deadlines

Career Opportunities

About EPSO

Horizon 2020 – EPSO members' feedback on first years and recommendations for future calls and towards FP9

EPSO members welcome in the Horizon 2020 Programme the strong support for the ERC and the Marie-Curie programmes as well as the broad themes in the Societal



Challenge programme encouraging innovative approaches.

As always, there is room for improvement and the three key suggestions from EPSO members to the European Commission (EC) concern Societal Challenges (mainly SC2):

- Shorter pre-proposals and regarding their evaluation to i) use the threshold as now, publish these numbers and give feedback to proposers, but ii) only invite to full proposal such number that success rate in stage 2 will be 22-30%. By this, broad themes will continue and transparency as well as final success rates will be improved.
- Collaborative basic research is not/marginally funded in any of the Horizon 2020 instruments and urgently needs to be included in the SCs to complete the innovation cycle and ensure Europe's competitiveness, including eastern and southern countries.
- Better balance support for new technologies / research versus low-tech tacit knowledge in SC2 (avoid restrictions as seen in WPs 2016/17) – state the goals, but leave technologies / approaches open to achieve these.

Regarding content, specifically in the Societal Challenges, EPSO members welcomed a closer cooperation between the European Commission and the European Technology Platforms, such as ETP Plants for the Future of which EPSO is one of three stakeholders, and are looking to further improve this joint approach towards Work Programmes 2018/20.

To support plant scientists in their proposals, EPSO developed a briefing on the recently published Work Programmes 2016/17, including relevant call texts, success rates, hints from EPSO members and is starting a fact collection on economic indicators as well as EU policies.

Due to the decreasing submission rates to the ERC, EPSO members will encourage and support their scientists to submit excellent proposals to the ERC.

Assessing FP7 and first calls in H2020, looking ahead to 2020 and beyond to FP9, EPSO made submissions to the EC's consultations on [FP7 \(subm.\)](#), [Long-term strategy for European research and innovation \(subm.\)](#), and on the [role of research and innovation for food and nutritional security \(subm.\)](#).

The Plants for the Future ETP starts developing input for the Work Programmes 2018-20, based on the [Action Plans on Innovation, Research and Education](#) and the member meetings of EPSO, ESA and CopaCogeca. Please contact us to get involved.

Contact: [Karin Metzloff](#)

EPSO Activities

EPSO Representatives decided EPSO priorities 2015-20 at their General Meeting June 2015

Based on the high credibility and success of EPSO, yet ever increasing requests for activities, the EPSO Representatives, representing over 220 research institutes and universities across Europe and beyond, discussed the current and proposed new EPSO activities and prioritized these by vote for 2015-20 as follows:

1st Priority:

Developing advice on European science policy: Horizon 2020; Plants for the Future European Technology Platform, Initiative for Science in Europe (ISE), ERA-Net on Molecular Plant Sciences, Joint Programming Initiatives, European Innovation partnership AGRI, interaction with the European Parliament on plant breeding; and the respective Working Groups on Agricultural Technologies, Crops-food-health, Horticulture, Trees and Molecular farming

Advancing communication: via the website and social media; tailored Briefings and 2 Newsletters as well as articles for our members

2nd priority:

Provide science support: through the 'Fascination of Plants Day', the Working Group Basic Plant Sciences, the Bi-annual conference, and the new EPSO Young Plant Scientist Award scheme.

Developing advice on global science policy: Developing countries (and the DevCo Working Group), Support for world members.

The EPSO Representatives, the EPSO team and interested colleagues among the member institutions will collaborate to implement the priority actions. Those ac-



tivities not prioritised will be pursued by interested EPSO members and can be supported by the EPSO team subject to time and resources available.

Representatives continued again the lively discussions in parallel groups looking at mutual benefits among the EPSO members (including support for our Eastern and world members), starting the EPSO Young Plant Scientist Award and involving mid-career plant scientists as EPSO Supporting Scientists to better involve young and mid-career plant scientists, and advancing proposals regarding training for Developing countries and for joint education actions including Eastern countries.

Last not least, the global coordinators of the Fascination of Plants Day 2015 agreed to continue for the FoPD 2017 – encouraging and supporting interactive events around the 18th May 2017. Several Working Groups will hold meetings end of 2015 and early 2016 and EPSO members prepare jointly with their colleagues from FESPB the joint EPSO-FESPB Plant Biology Conference in Prague in June 2016.

Contact [Karin Metzloff](#) and your [EPSO representative](#) to give input and get involved.

EPSO Welcomes Dennis Eriksson as Internship Expert—next opening 2016

Two months into my Internship Expert position at the EPSO office in Brussels, I must say it has so far been a rewarding experience. Much focus has been on preparing a workshop on climate change, to take place on the 1st of December as part of a European Parliament initiative on plant breeding. This work is organised within the 'Plants for the Future' European Technology Platform, which provides plenty of opportunity for EPSO to interact not only with policy makers but also with industry and the farming sector.

Since I have for many years had a keen interest in the policy and regulation of plant breeding techniques, I now have a feeling of 'being in the right place at the right time'. This year, many important events are unfolding.

The national opt-outs for GMO cultivation and GMO food/feed have certainly not escaped anyone's notice, and we are currently anticipating a legal interpretation on New Plant Breeding Techniques from the European Commission. The EPSO Working Group on Agricultural Technologies is working intensely on these issues, and I hope I am able to make a contribution.

I am looking forward to the remaining seven months at EPSO's office. **Contact:** [Dennis Eriksson](#)

EPSO Representatives can send a new internship expert to EPSO starting June/September 2016.

Contact: [Karin Metzloff](#)



Agricultural Tech. Meeting 3 December, Berlin

Contact [Joachim Schiemann](#) & [Dennis Eriksson](#) for more info



EPSO General Meeting 26 June, Prague, CZ

EPSO Representatives **Contact** [Karin Metzloff](#)



EPSO/FESPB Conference 27 Jun—1 Jul 2016, Prague, CZ

Contact [Jana Albrechtová](#) for more information