



Editorial

EPSO engages in science advice to policy

EPSO Activities

- Welcome to our new Swedish members
- EPSO Funding Toolkit updated
- Internship Expert Opportunity for you —great success
- Join us at the Plant Biology Europe EPSO/FESPB Congress 2016 in Prague, 26th-30th June 2016
- Agricultural Technologies Working Group
- ERA-CAPS Network preannounces 3rd Transnational Call for Proposals on Molecular Plant Sciences
- Study on benefits of plant breeding published
- Advertise and find your career opportunities and advertise your events
- 18th of May 2016 marked the 'unofficial' Fascination of Plants Day

Members News

- Emphasis listed in the European Research Infrastructure Roadmap
- Stakeholder dialogue to foster investment in agriculture and IPM
- Honorary award for Jose Gonzalez Andujar
- IDP-BRIDGES ITN Project
- SIGNAT project on plant growth and development
- Whealbi project on wheat and barley

National Research Funding

- Panorama of plant research funding in Australia & New Zealand

European and Global Research Programmes

- LIFE Programme
- H2020 analysis for plant scientists, Future EC research policy, ERA-Gas
- Upcoming H2020 and LIFE Call Deadlines

Career Opportunities

About EPSO

EPSO engages in science advice to policy

EPSO members welcome the European Commission's (EC) new focus on policy and appreciate the opportunities to get more involved in science advice to policy – a core area of EPSO activities.

Recent examples are the involvement of EPSO experts in EC workshops towards the Food 2030 initiative – on the plant microbiome and on building our future food systems (DG RTD), in discussions on the future strategy for research and innovation in agriculture (DG Agriculture) and inviting advice on crop genetic improvement technologies – including asking EPSO to organize the EC conference at EXPO Milano on crop improvement technologies (DG RTD and JRC).

Following up on this, the EPSO Working Group on Agricultural Technologies developed draft material and finalised this with the EPSO members for publication as the EPSO [Statement on Crop Genetic Improvement Technologies](#) and EPSO [Fact sheets on New Breeding Technologies](#). The group offers to engage in further discussions at national and at European levels and looks into opportunities on how to improve the existing legislation in the longer term as well as engaging more with the public through responsible research and innovation and the [Fascination of Plants Day](#) under which we will again encourage events worldwide around 18 May 2017.

In addition, EPSO as a member of the European Technology Platform Plants for the Future is developing with our colleagues from industries and farmers input towards the strategy for the last three years of the Horizon 2020 (based on the [Action Plans on Innovation, Research and Education](#) and the member meetings) and in parallel brings together supporting facts on the potential economic, environmental and societal impact of the broad themes we propose encouraging innovative approaches to i) Improve resource use efficiency and resource stewardship; ii) Increase yield and yield stability combining abiotic stresses including temperature stress (marketable yield); iii) Improve plant health – fight ongoing diseases with major impact and for 2020 emerging diseases; iv) Develop plants with improved composition for human nutrition and health as well as for animal nutrition & lowering environmental footprint (for animal husbandry & aquaculture); v) Green bioactive molecules – secondary metabolites & green proteins; vi) Outreach activities of scientists across Europe and beyond; and vii) Agricultural research and innovation with / for Developing countries.



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Along these lines EPSO members welcome a closer cooperation between the European Commission and the European Technology Platforms, such as Plant ETP, and are looking to further improve this joint approach towards Work Programmes 2018-20.

As always, there is room for improvement and the three key suggestions from EPSO members to the EC, which have also been submitted to the EC public consultations are:

Future Societal Challenges (SC) work programmes (WP) should give more equal consideration to basic research in relation to the other components (applied research, demonstration and innovation actions) to complete the research and innovation cycle necessary to address the societal challenges.

Better balance support for new technologies / research versus low-tech tacit knowledge e.g. in SC2, avoid restrictions as seen in WPs 2016/17 – state the goals, but leave technologies / approaches open to achieve these.

Strengthen Europe as a strong contributor in global actions and even leader as appropriate

These more general suggestions are also part of the advice developed in the Initiative for Science in Europe

(ISE) voicing the views of the scientific community to the general public as well as the European Commission, Parliament and Member States.

To support plant scientists in their proposals, EPSO just published its [analysis of the Horizon 2020 calls](#) of the ERC, Marie Curie and Societal Challenges programmes, which we are happy to discuss with policy makers too, and EPSO will update its briefing on the Work Programmes 2016/17 upon publication by the EC, including relevant call texts, success rates, hints from EPSO members as well as the EPSO fact and policy collection on economic indicators and 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.

As an observer in the ERA-Net on Molecular Plant Sciences, ERA-CAPS, EPSO offers advice to national agencies and encourages plant scientists to submit excellent proposals to the [2016 ERA-CAPS call](#).

Please contact us to get involved and collaborate with us on science advice to policy.

Contact: [Karin Metzloff](#)



Join us at the Plant Biology Europe EPSO/FESPB Congress 2016 in Prague, 26th-30th June 2016

EPSO, FESPB and the local organisers are happy to present you an excellent line up of speakers.

The list of conference [themes](#), the preliminary schedule and the [oral presentations](#) selected from submitted abstracts are available on the [conference website](#).

Are you interested in Science Communication? Join our social reporting team at the Plant Biology Europe Congress in Prague!

The team will be involved in tweeting from the session, writing blogs about selected topics and photography. We will meet up on the first day during the Science Communication Session to get to know each other and divide tasks during the conference. What better to get to know other students and scientists whilst making the most of the conference? **Contact** [Calum MacKichan](#) for more details.

During the **Science Policy Session** Karin Metzloff (EPSO) will present EPSO activities on science advice to policy and on science support; Ciaran Mangan (European Commission) will provide an update on the Horizon 2020 calls relevant to plant scientists and strategies towards 2030 currently developed; Catherine Kistner (DFG) will give insight in the ERA-net on

Molecular plant Sciences call 2016 which will be launched just before the conference; and Uli Schurr (FZ Jülich) introduces recent and upcoming activities of the Plants for the Future European Technology Platform.

Contact: [Congress Secretariat](#); [Karin Metzloff](#)

Confirmed invited speakers in alphabetical order:

Uta Paszkowski (UK); **Julia Vorholt (CH)**; Philippe Ciais (FR); **Tomas Hickler (DE)**; Barbara Halkier (DK); **Mami Yamazaki (JAP)**; Herman Höfte (FR); **William Willats (DK)**; William Plaxton (CAN); **Harvey Millar (AUS)**; Pascal Braun (DE); **Cris Kuhlemeier (CH)**; Cristina Ferrandiz (ES); **Karel Říha (CZ)**; Roman Hobza (CZ); **Andreas Houben (DE)**; Lucas Cernusak (AUS); **Rowan F. Sage (CAN)**; Stefan Kepinski (UK); **Thomas Schmülling (DE)**; Michael Frei (DE); **Rainer Matyssek (DE)**; Lukas Schreiber (DE); **Asaph Aharoni (IL)**; Christian Körner (CH); **Ivan Janssens (BE)**; Michal Marek (CZ); **Karin Metzloff (BE)**; Ciaran Mangan (BE); **Catherine Kistner (DE)**; Ulrich Schurr (DE); **Christine A. Raines (UK)**; Sarah Wyatt (USA); **Markus Grebe (SE)**; Loïc Lepiniec (FR); **Eva Stoger (AT)**; Anne Krapp (FR); **Soren Husted (DK)**; Graham Moore (UK); **Przemysław Wojtaszek (PL)**; Jaroslav Doležal (CZ); **Judith Burstin (FR)**; Hendrik Küpper (CZ); **Alexander Lux (SK)**; Anja Krieger-Liszkay (FR); **Roman Sobotka (CZ)**; Axel Mithöfer (DE); **Alistair Hetherington (UK)**; Hans Schnyder (DE); **Stefan Mayr (AT)**; Christian Jung (DE); Christian Wilhelm (DE); **Mario de Tullio (IT)**



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



Fascination of Plants Day 2017

18 May 2017

Contact: [Calum MacKichan](#)