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**COST Action CA22158**

**MiCropBiomes: “Exploiting Plant-Microbiomes Networks and Synthetic Communities to improve Crops Fitness**

**Minutes of the WG3 Online Meeting**

**Online, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 - 09:00-10:00**

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**Minutes of the WG3 Meeting written by J.F. Pothier and R. Artimová**

Attending:

Joël F. POTHIER	CH	WG3 Leader
Renata ARTIMOVA	SK	WG3 Vice-Leader
Ahmet AKKOPRU	TR	WG Member
Esther BADOSA	ES	WG Member
Jens BOCH	DE	WG Member
Anna BONNATERRA	ES	WG4 Leader
Vittoria CATARA	IT	WG Member
Duska DELIC	BA	MC Member
Caroline DE TENDER	BE	WG5 Leader
David GRAMAJE	ES	WG Member
Hans HOENICKA	DE	WG Member
Jelena JOVICIC-PETROVIC	RS	WG Member
Jelena JOVIC	RS	WG Member
Samet KALKAN	TK	WG Member
Ralf KOEBNIK	FR	WG5 Vice-Leader
Loukas KANETIS	CY	MC Member
Hanna KOCH	AT	MC Member
Yoana KIZHEVA	BG	WG Member
Juliana LUKSA	LT	WG Member

Juraj MEDO	SK	MC Member
Irma MILANESE	IT	WG Member
Alexandros MOSCA	IT	WG Member
Mária NEOROLOVA	CZ	WG Member
Amaia NOGALES	ES	WG Member
Maria PANDOVA	BG	WG Member
Iakovos PANTELIDES	CY	MC Member
Marko PETEK	SI	MC Member
Claire PRIGENT-COMBARET	FR	WG4 Vice-Leader
Dejana PANKOVIC	DE	WG Member
Joana PULAWSKA	PL	WG Member
Gordana RACIC	RS	WG2 Vice-Leader
Conceição SANTOS	PT	Action Chair
Elena SERVIENE	LT	MC Member
Merike SOMERA	EE	MC Member
Francesco SPINELLI	IT	Action Vice-Chair
Elodie VANDELLE	IT	WG2 Leader
Zisis VRYZAS	GR	WG Member
Luyben ZAGORCHEV	BG	MC Member

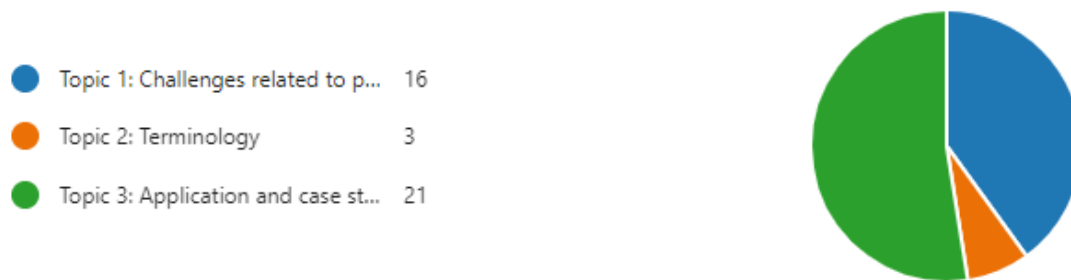
On March 1, 38 members of the MiCropBiomes COST Action from 16 countries met in an online meeting via Zoom for the first meeting of WG3. After a short welcome, the Chair briefly informed all participants about recent updates concerning our Action, such as the contact of an editor for a special issue.

The WG3 leader used a presentation to briefly recall the six objectives of the Action and the close interrelationship between the WGs. This was followed by a brief overview of the WG3 composition to date (103 persons, 28 MC members, 32 countries), the three main tasks, the three deliverables and two milestones assigned to WG3.

The main purpose of this online meeting was to start work on the 1<sup>st</sup> Grant Period Goals (GPGs). These GPGs require WG3 members, but also other WG members, to divide into three topics subgroups (Challenges, Terminology and Applications) and two strategies subgroups (Model Crops and their Microbiota; PGP / BCAs and Phages/Viruses) subgroups.

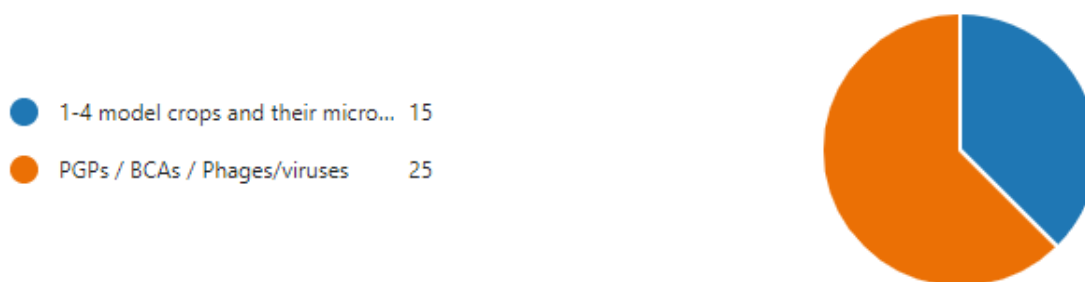
After the Wg3 leader presented these GPGs in a written and visual form, participants were invited to register their interest via an online survey. A total of 39 responses were collected in this way.

A total of 53% of the participants indicated their interest in Topic 1 “Application and Case Study”, whereas 39% and 8% were allocated to the Topic 1 “Challenges related to phytobiome’s performance” and Topic 2 “Terminology” (Fig. 1).



**Fig. 1** - Repartition of the 39 answers concerning the three topics.

Nearly two-thirds of the participants (63%) indicated their interest in the strategy related to plant growth promoters, biocontrol agents, phages and viruses, while 38% mentioned the model crops and their microbiome strategy (Fig. 2).



**Fig. 2** - Repartition of the 39 answers concerning the two strategies.

The survey also showed that most of the participants were willing to accept STSMs, although some answered “do not know yet”. If participants were willing to, the WG3 survey also pointed at the end to an online survey form for the COST Action CA22142 Root-Benefit to strengthen the link between these two Actions.

The presentation and the survey were followed by a general discussion. The main topic of discussion was the strategies that the WG members will focus on (i.e., model crops and their microbiota; PGP / BCAs and Phages/Viruses). In order to group data on model crops and PGP / BCAs, it was suggested to create a database on an online platform (e.g., Microsoft Teams, Google Drive). However, the exact format still needs to be defined, as for example the number of references to create a review on such topics could be very important. The communication channels were also discussed with the WG5 leaders as an important aspect for the WG3 and the other WGs to progress in their tasks. A suitable option seemed to be a common shared online folder for the Action (e.g., Microsoft Teams, OneDrive, Google Drive) where all WGs would have their folder’s structure and communication channels.

It was also discussed which four crops should be chosen as model crops and it was suggested to conduct a survey among farmers when possible. The meeting ended with a discussion on how to bring together sub-groups to work on the same topics and strategies.

The survey is still available under <https://forms.office.com/e/gsqyXFrpv?origin=IprLink>

This first exchange ended after ~60 minutes of presentation and fruitful discussion.

Everyone was cordially invited to the second WG3 online meeting, which can be scheduled based on the survey results on May 3 at 9:00 AM CET.



Twenty-six of the 39 participants in the WG3 Online Meeting via Zoom