

sDiv Workshop Summary

”sEpiDiv II”

The workshop was a follow up meeting of the first sEpiDiv workshop in March 2015 where we had identified a common research agenda that we wanted to implement in a European Training Network (ETN). Between the workshops, we had already worked on a synopsis of the scientific part of the ETN and had identified the beneficiaries for the proposal. For the second workshop, we had invited a small group from the beneficiaries to discuss the scientific content of the proposal, the training programme and to agree upon a number of strategic decisions. Further, we used this opportunity to invite the non-academic partners to integrate them in the process of planning the project at an early stage. We discussed and agreed upon a large number of important aspects for the proposal including strategies for the different species we aim to work with, a clear layout for the training program as well as strategies for outreach, project management and dissemination.

In the final phase of the workshop we assigned specific task to the participants and plan to finalize a draft of the proposal by the end of November to be first submitted to the respective National Contact Points. Proposal submission is on January, 12th, and we expect a decision on the proposal in June 2016.

The balance between work on outputs, general brainstorming/information exchange and participants presentations was roughly 30%/50%/20%.

As in the previous workshop the working atmosphere was exceptionally constructive.

Further, we have already reached milestones that were set at the first workshop:

1. Our proposal for a *New Phytologist* Symposium on “*Plant Ecological Epigenetics: From mechanisms to ecological relevance*” that we had written during the first workshop was approved. The symposium will be held in Vienna in 2017. Main applicant is Dr. Ovidiu Paun and the whole team of organizers consist of participants of the first workshop.
2. We have submitted an invited review entitled “*Ecological plant epigenetics: Evidence from model and non-model species, and the way forward*” to *Nature Communications* which is currently under review. All members of the first sEpiDiv workshop are listed as co-authors with Dr. Christina Richards, who coordinated the writing, as first author.

In case of questions, please contact Marten Winter marten.winter@idiv.de or tel. +49 (0)341 97 33129.