



Meeting "Steering Group EU Minor Uses Coordination Facility", 4-5 April 2018

The main conclusions of the meeting of the "Steering Group EU Minor Uses Coordination Facility", held on 4-5 April 2018 in Brussels, are listed below.

- The meeting of the **Steering Group** on 4 April 2018 was attended by representatives from European Commission, Germany, the Netherlands, EPPO and MUCF. The meeting of the **extended** Steering Group on 5 April 2018, that was open to all funders, was attended by representatives from European Commission, Austria, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, EPPO and MUCF.
- **Long-term funding strategy** Regarding the long-term funding strategy of the MUCF the following actions have been taken: (i) a mid-/long-term planning (5-10 years) and a strategy how other Member States can contribute, has been prepared (end 2016), (ii) a letter from the European Commission has been sent to Permanent Representations of the EU Member States in September 2017, (iii) the long-term funding of the MUCF was discussed in the AGRI-FISH Council meeting on 9 October 2017, and (iv) in November 2017 Member States have been approached with a request for a voluntary assessed contribution.

At the time of the meeting, **positive responses** had been received from 13 EU Member States (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Sweden) and Switzerland.

With **voluntary assessed contributions** matching annually at least EUR 700 000 the continuity of the Coordination Facility can be guaranteed. In other scenarios, with less contributions, there will be an effect on staffing, EUMUDA and/or reimbursement of expenses for Expert Groups.

The Grant Contract for the 3rd year is operational until 14 April 2018. This, together with the commitments and contributions from Member States, and the amount that was not spent in the first two years of the Coordination Facility, the **continuity of the MUCF for 2018 has been guaranteed**.

For the **year 2019 and beyond** there is currently only a commitment for funding of EUR 165 000 per annum. The amount not spent in the third year, and that can be used for 2019, is estimated at EUR 50 000.

The MUCF should work towards long(er) commitments and financial agreements with Member States for several years

- **Other options for funding** The meeting agreed to approach DG AGRI with a request for funding. A vision document on the way forward for the MUCF in 5 years 'time, with a strong emphasize on IPM-solutions, will be taken as a starting point for the discussions with DG AGRI.

The possibility to fund the Coordination Facility via the EPPO-contribution will be discussed in the next EPPO Executive Committee meeting in June 2018.

The MUCF will approach the Member States that actively supported the point on minor uses in the Council Meeting last October, and until now did not contribute or commit themselves to the funding of the Coordination Facility.

The meeting agreed that contributions by industry, and third parties, should **not** be used to cover the costs of the Coordination Facility itself. This to avoid any conflict of interest in the running of the Coordination Facility. Of course, contributions by industry, and third parties can be dedicated for specific minor use projects to solve minor uses needs.

- **Annual Planning and Reporting MUCF** For the next years, starting in 2019, the reporting year will start on the 1st January of each year, and will end on 31st December of each year.

An annual report, including a financial statement, will be submitted by the EU Minor Uses Coordination Facility within 4 months after the end of each year.

Member States should commit themselves before 1st September of each year to pay their annual contribution for the following year, under the condition that the annual report and financial statement have been approved. The actual contribution has to be paid before the 31st March of the year being funded.

Based on the commitments received the EU Minor Uses Coordination Facility will prepare a workplan and financial planning for the next year.

The meeting of the Governing Board (the term 'Governing Board' is still under discussion) will be planned for early February and will be linked to the Stakeholder Advisory Forum.

The year 2018 will be a transition-year as the first reporting after the expiry of the grant agreement, will cover the period from 15th April 2018 – 31st December 2018.

- **Reimbursement policy** The Coordination Facility has an approved policy (rev. 1 of January 2016) on 'travel and subsistence expenses' that provides guidance for reimbursement of expenses to attend meetings organized by the EU Minor Uses Coordination Facility.

The meeting agreed on the following:

- To align as much as possible with current reimbursement practices within the European Commission and EPPO.
- For meetings in 2018 the MUCF will no longer provide a full Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) to experts, but will only reimburse actual travel and accommodation costs.
- Reimbursement will be limited to 1 expert/Member State for the Commodity Expert Groups and the Horizontal Expert Group. For CEG Fruits & Vegetables a maximum of 2 experts/Member State will be reimbursed. In addition to these numbers the Chairs of the different expert groups will be reimbursed. Member States may send more experts to the meetings, but on their own expenses.
- For meetings in 2019 only travel costs will be reimbursed. To establish an upper limit for any claim for reimbursement of the main travel will be considered in the next meeting of the Steering Group.
- Guests invited on account of their expertise, in agreement with the Coordination Facility, can be fully reimbursed.
- For meetings of the Steering Group and the Governing Board the same rules apply.

- **Steering Group Minor Uses – Terms of procedures**

The Minor Uses Steering Group has developed its Terms of Procedure (rev. April 2016).

Considering the expiry of the Grant Contract and the changes in the Steering Group the Terms of Procedure needs to be updated, especially as regards its composition. Currently, the Steering Group comprises all of the four funders, plus the Director-General of EPPO. Terms of Reference for the Governing Board should be prepared as new funders should also take part in the governance of the Coordination Facility.

Preferably, the Steering Group should consist of representatives of the original funders (to guarantee continuity), and the three EU-zones (according to Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009), should also be represented. FR indicated to be willing to give up its seat in the Steering Group, in favour of another Member State from the southern zone.

The meeting agreed on the following:

- The meeting agreed to appoint an interim Steering Group on the basis of the “Governance and Responsibilities” section in the prospectus, as amended following the meeting of the Steering Group on 04 April 2018.
- The meeting agreed unanimously that the new (interim) Steering Group will consist of Germany and the Netherlands (as representatives of the original funders), as well as Sweden, Italy and Switzerland. The Netherlands was elected as the new interim-Chair of the Steering Group.
- The COM will attend meetings of the Steering Group (and Governing Board) as permanent observer. Also, Director-General EPPO and MUCF will attend these meetings.
- A draft constitution document will be prepared by EPPO/MUCF.

- **Objectives of the MUCF for 2018**

The staff of the Coordination Facility has prepared its objectives for 2018. The objectives for 2018 of the Coordinator reflect the work that has to be carried out by the Coordination Facility in 2018. The objectives of the other staff members are derived from the objectives of the Coordinator.

The Steering Group approved the objectives of the Coordinator for 2018.

- **Second Stakeholder Advisory Forum – 06 February 2018**

The second Annual Stakeholder Forum of the European Union Minor Uses Coordination Facility (MUCF) was held on 6 February 2018. The draft report is now available.

Post meeting note: The final report of the Second Stakeholder Advisory Forum is now available on the minor uses website:
https://www.minoruses.eu/media/files/meetings/Second_stakeholder_advisory_forum_february_2018.pdf

- **Feedback from the Minor Uses Coordination Facility**

- Member States that had not responded to **the survey on their minor uses needs and priorities**, in preparation of the Second Global Minor Use Priority Setting Workshop, have been asked again by the MUCF for their needs and priorities. The final list with minor uses needs and priorities will form the basis for the workplans of the CEGs. The MUCF will actively contact/visit companies to discuss what chemical and non-chemical solutions are available.
- **EU Minor Uses Database (EUMUDA)** Actions taken: (i) since end of December 2017 the guide for users of EUMUDA is available, (ii) the access rights have been implemented, (iii) information on crop areas in the EU (minor and major crops) is currently sourced from EUROSTAT.
- **REFIT** The contractor has started in July 2017 and has to deliver its report end of May/early June 2018. The MUCF participated in an online stakeholder survey. The input from the MUCF was -among other issues-related to: a harmonized EU-wide definition of minor uses; Member States should move away from asking ‘national specific requirements’; the use of residue data generated outside the EU should be supported; MRL applications should be maximally extrapolated for minor uses. The MUCF has also participated in a ‘Focus Group on PPP authorization’ on 5 March 2018. This will be followed by a second stakeholder meeting.
- As **chairs and co-chairs of CEGs** will have the right to amend project information it is considered necessary to formally establish the list of (co-) chairs of CEGs. The CEG (co)-chairs agreed on publishing their email address in EUMUDA.

- **‘National contact points’** will have special rights in EUMUDA. They are appointed by the Member States. Preferably, there should be at least two contact points (as back-up) per Member State. The tasks of a National Minor Uses Contact point are described in the document ‘National minor uses contact points – Overview of responsibilities’. A bullet point regarding the responsibility of the contact point related to funding issues (taking care that letters and invoices are distributed to the right people within a Member State) will be added. The document (in preparation) will also contain an Annex with the list of National Minor Uses Contact Points.
- A **guidance document (GD) on minor uses** is strongly needed. The MUCF is working on this. The GD will include the procedure to follow and recommendations to MS how to facilitate minor uses extensions/authorisations.

- **Next meeting**

The next meeting of the Minor Uses Steering Group Meeting will be end of October/early November.