

Year of CfP: 2007

Project No: 07049 Completed

Project title: The 'integrative biology' community in Montpellier - Perpignan – Avignon - 1st Languedoc Roussillon – Catalonia meeting on Integrative Plant Biology
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Unit managing the project: LEPSE (Ecophysiology of Plants under Environmental Stresses) (INRA, Montpellier SupAgro)

Project leader: François Tardieu (tardieu(a)supagro.inra.fr)

Country involved in the project: Spain

Research units from the Foundation's scientific network involved: LGDP

Subthematic axes: IPB-1 (Integrative Plant Biology 1: *Genetics and genomics, plant breeding, ecophysiology*)

Objectives:

In Languedoc Roussillon and Catalonia, a substantial scientific community has been working for many years on the development and adaptation of plants to the environment. There have always been links between our two communities, resulting in particular in an Associated European Laboratory that has linked for 12 years the LGDP (UMR CNRS 5096) and the CSIC centre in Barcelona. To focus on coordination and grouping, the scientific communities in the sector in each region have centred themselves on IFR 127 DAPHNE on the one hand and the consortium CSIC-IRTA, a new institute managed by P. Puigdomenech and uniting CSIC, IRTA and Barcelona University scientists on the other. We therefore have an opportunity to set up a European scale trans-regional centre devoted to integrative plant biology.

The aim of this project was to bring together for the first time all the teams of IFR 127 DAPHNE and the consortium CSIC-IRTA-UB within the framework of the 1st Languedoc Roussillon – Catalonia meeting on Integrative Plant Biology. It was organised by Manuel Echeverria (Director of LGDP UMR 5096) and Pep Casacuberta (Consortium-CSIC). It was attended by some 150 IFR and Consortium research scientists, lecturer/researchers and students. It was held on 3 and 4 December 2007 at Banyuls-sur-mer (halfway between Montpellier and Barcelona). A series of talks by researchers and leading teams from the various IFR and Consortium laboratories made it possible to draw an accurate picture affording a clear view of the objectives and the work performed by our two communities.

This should make it possible to generate dynamics of interaction between our communities with the aim of developing joint projects in integrative biology that are of fundamental interest for our trans-Pyrenean region and that also carry weight at the European level.

Action carried-out and results obtained:

The 1st Languedoc Roussillon - Catalonia Meeting in Integrative Plant Biology focused on the topic "Molecular and genetic aspects of plant development and their adaptation to stresses". The event, held on 3-4 December 2007 at Arago Laboratory in Banyuls sur Mer (France), was organized to facilitate contact and exchange between the research community in Languedoc Roussillon and Catalonia as well as to contribute to the emergence of a strong European pole in this field.

A total of 110 researchers and students from Barcelona, Cabriels, Perpignan, Montpellier and Avignon participated in this meeting where about 20 presentations were made illustrating the some of the most outstanding works of the research teams involved. The event facilitated the establishment of contacts and linkages between the two scientific communities which should be reinforced in the future and which may give rise to future collaborations, projects and exchange of students or PhDs.

Prospects for the future:

The 1st meeting has been very much appreciated by the participants, and has fully achieved its objectives. We have thus decided, with the support of the scientific community, to pursue this event through the organization of the 2nd Meeting in Spain.

Total Agropolis Fondation funding: € 8,077 (travel expenses, conference room rental fee, catering costs)

Funding categorie(s): Agropolis Fondation small grants (support for the organisation of high-level scientific events (conferences, seminars))

Project duration: October 26 2007 – March 1 2008

Keywords: integrative biology – symposium – interdisciplinarity