

## CA18202 NECTAR Core Group Meeting

### Minutes

02 Oct 2020

The meeting started at the schedule time.

#### **Present:**

Action Chair, Demetrio Milea  
Action Vice Chair, Sofia Gama  
STSM Coordinator, Matteo Tegoni  
SCM (Science Communication Manager),  
Elzbieta Gumienna-Kontecka  
ITM (Industry Transfer Manager), Oreste Todini  
(P&G)  
ITC Conference Grant Coordinator, Emel Yildiz  
WG1, Montserrat Filella, Olga Iranzo  
WG2, Petr Herman, Amelia Santos  
WG3, Slobodan Gadzuric, Arunas Ramanavicius  
WG4, Aleksandar Cvetkovski  
WG5, Isabel Cavaco, Natalia Busto

#### **Absent:**

TSC (Training Schools Coordinator),  
Enrique Garcia-Espana  
EOM (Equal Opportunities Manager),  
Eva Anna Enyedy  
WG4 co-leader, Winfried Plass

#### 1- Actual GP2 situation of the Action

The Action Chair reported the last news from COST Association: delay on the payment of the first 50% budget for GP2 and intensive encouraging on the realization of web activities.

Fast check on the stage of the Grant Agreement Period Goals (GAPG) described on "Work And Budget Plan CA18202 Grant Agreement Period 2 01/05/2020 to 30/04/2021".

- GAPG1 – Ok (Social media +/- active)
- GAPG2 – Ok (Accomplished)
- GAPG3 – Ok (work in progress)
- GAPG4 – Work in progress (WG1)
- GAPG5 – Work in progress (WG2)
- GAPG6 – No news in the beginning of the meeting
- GAPG7 – No news in the beginning of the meeting
- GAPG8 – Eventual organization of a Web Training School
- GAPG9 – Work in progress (WG1)

#### 2- WGs leaders/co-leaders: Brief report (5-10 min) on news for respective WGs

- a. Ongoing activities
- b. Planned short term activities (GP2)
- c. Deliverables

WG1 – Compilation of hydrolysis products of relevant elements. Also evaluation of literature on low valence elements, in particular, Cu<sup>I</sup>. A lot of data collected and some manuscripts planned. Regular monthly meetings on Zoom, since March.

WG2 – From the 3 original "tasks" defined in Belgrade:

Task 1, Macrocycles: the standard procedures for the study of macrocycles are defined. The next step will be the experimental validation of the methods by different research groups.

Task 2, DNA: validation of different software/computation setups by the use of the same data by different research groups evaluating the results obtained. Not many options for validation of experimental procedures.

Task 3, Peptides: nothing seems to be going on... the responsible for this Task (Katalin Várnagy) is being silent to Petr's emails.

Recommendations:

To realize soon a web WG meeting.

Better communication between WG2 members.

WG3 – Several studies were done relative to the synthesis of new ionic liquids, and weak interaction studies, in particular involving pharmaceutical compounds. Several publications just accepted on the mentioned topics. STSM approved on WG3 topics.

Recommendations:

To realize soon a web WG meeting.

Creation of eventual Task Groups

Better communication between WG3 and CG and other WGs.

WG4 – No particular news.

The necessity to create a Task Group (TG) specifically dedicated to Software Development emerged.

Prof. Silvia Berto, expert in the field, was named as coordinator of this TG.

Recommendations:

To realize soon a web WG meeting.

Better communication between WG4 and CG and other WGs.

New stakeholders: ITM is trying to involve the software company that works already for them (P&G) as well as its colleagues in Cincinnati more dedicated to that topic.

Recommendations: preparation of a small informative sheet that can be used to present the Action and its interests on a "industrial" point of view.

WG5 – Social media more or less working

Collaboration platform: not working...

Recommendations:

Organization of a web meeting where we use the platform and see what are the difficulties and how it works in general.

### 3- Actions and contingency plan for WGs activities delays

Main problems seem to be the result of low organization inside WGs.

- 1) There are some WG way too big to allow that everybody can be present in the meetings. Try to find a structural point for it to work as dividing in "active" and "observers" elements. VC will check the members and will try to create and evaluate the interactions between members in order to be possible to organize people.
- 2) Organize WG meetings online
- 3) Find an effective way of work, namely, division of the work in individual Tasks
- 4) Make the platform work, between the max of people possible

### 4- Proposal for redistribution for planned GP2 Networking Tools and eventual budget remodulation

From the actual GP2 Networking Tools, some activities were already canceled, due to COVID-19 contingencies. In particular, the ISMEC conference and the Summer Training School, both postponed to next GP.

During the discussion, the presents agreed on a redistribution of the money considering:

- 1) A substantial increment on the number of STSM
- 2) Increase the budget for OA publications, to be approved for financing by CG
- 3) Increase the ITC Conference Grant budget

The discussion resulted in the following **new** Budget plan:

- (1) Meetings 45,000.00** (5-6 March 2020, Faro)
- (2) Training Schools 0.00** (eventually a web training school organized by Valencia)
- (3) Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) 30,000.00** (ca. 20 STSM, 7 already approved)
- (4) ITC Conference Grant 1,000.00**
- (5) COST Action Dissemination 11,000.00** (for dissemination and OA)
- (6) Other Expenses Related to Scientific Activities (OERSA) 600.00**

Total Science Expenditure (sum of (1) to (6)) 87,600.00

The actual budget plan, after approval of all the CG, will be sent to the MC for approval by e-vote.

#### 5- Dates for GP2 activities/calls

- 1) Launch of the 2<sup>nd</sup> STSM call ASAP
- 2) Launch of the ITC Conference grant ASAP
- 3) Organization of a Web Training School / Web Seminar possibly in Valencia (under evaluation)
- 4) NECTAR meeting, 05-06 March 2021: several things still to define depending on COVID situation. More details in next weeks.

#### 6- General discussion and thoughts (COVID-19 contingency plan)

Already discussed among the all meeting when the approach of all the other agenda items.

#### 7- AOB

CG members and AC reported strong disappointment and serious complaints among NECTAR community for COST Association behavior and management of “Belgrade” (in particular) and COVID (in general) situation.

AC reported about an “open letter” written by other ACs reporting same “mood” within other Actions.

The necessity to undertake an “integrated and visible complaint action” among ACs emerged, hoping for a productive response and concrete actions from COST Association. CG gave mandate to AC for that.