

Newsletter for the Members of the European Association for Potato Research (EAPR)

March 2014

Dear Members,

2013 was the year of EAPR Section meetings. 2014 is dedicated to our Triennial Conference!

2013 has been a very active year for the Association with intense scientific exchanges through the meetings of our five sections. Many thanks to the organizers who worked so hard to provide fruitful opportunities for researchers from many countries to meet and exchange information on topics relating to the potato crop! You will find a quick review of these meetings in this Newsletter.

2014 will follow the same dynamic with the organization of the 19th Triennial Conference in Brussels. More than 300 abstracts have been submitted recently! We are now in the starting blocks for the last 4 months of preparation before welcoming the hundreds of scientists coming from all over the world. We hope that most of you will have the opportunity to join us and present updated results.

During the Brussels Conference the association will hold its 20th General Meeting, at which we will present information on the situation of the Association and the work done by the Council since the Oulu General Meeting in July 2011. We will update you on the actions of Country Representatives, Sections and members. This meeting will also include statutory resolutions regarding the membership of Council and the choice for candidate countries for the 21st Triennial Conference in 2020. Regarding these two points we are still waiting for candidates by 1st April 2014 at the very latest! Country Representatives have been asked to take action on this recently. So do not hesitate to contact your Country Representative if you are interested in either of these two possibilities for active participation in our Association (an updated list of CR's is given at the end of this Newsletter).

The Council also met recently on 23-24 January 2014 in Leuven (Belgium) for its 58th annual Council meeting and lots of points were discussed.

In this first issue of our Newsletter for 2014, you will find the following information:

- Report of the EAPR Section meetings in 2013
- News of the 19th EAPR Triennial Conference that will be held in Brussels in July 2014
- Application and renewal of membership of our Association
- Next EAPR General Meeting in Brussels in July 2014: the Agenda
- Next EAPR Section meetings in Brussels in July 2014
- Call for candidates as EAPR Councillors
- Call for candidate countries for the 21st Triennial EAPR Conference in 2020

Waiting to meet you soon in Brussels!

On behalf of the EAPR Council,
Jean-Pierre Goffart (EAPR President) and **Michel Martin** (President elect)

Reports on the EAPR 2013 Section meetings

Turkey, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Poland and Israel welcomed last year the section meetings of our Association. All were very successful with a global attendance of more than 370 scientists. Congratulations to all organizers for the good organisation of these thematic events at which EAPR Council decided to fund PhD students in order to promote their work as young potato scientists.

PhD students were invited to share their experience of the section meetings through a short report. As illustration, some extracts of these reports:



- **Section Pathology:** *My name is Elad Landau and I am doing my Ph.D. at the lab of Dr. Roni Shapira, at the Institute of Biochemistry, Food Science and Nutrition at the Faculty of Agriculture of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Israel. I attended the EAPR 2013 conference in which I gave a lecture describing some of the results from my Ph.D. dealing with the effect of sub-lethal exposure to essential oil vapours on *P. carotovorum* virulence. My research uses *P. carotovorum* as a model for bacterial virulence in a controlled laboratory atmosphere. Through my participation in the conference I gained a wealth of knowledge regarding the work done on *P. carotovorum*, as well as many other potato pathogenic microorganisms, in their natural habitat. I found the scientific discussions very fruitful and I thank the EAPR council for enabling me to participate in the conference.*

- **Section Breeding:** *I had the opportunity to take part in the 17th Joint Meeting of EAPR-EUCARPIA Congress. The challenges of improving both quality and resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses in potato in Hèvíz, Hungary. The conference arrangement was on a very good level. There were 5 sessions concerned on biotic stresses, research and breeding for improvement quality traits, genomic studies, abiotic stress resistance and prebreeding, taxonomic studies. For me the most interesting sessions were genomic and prebreeding, taxonomic studies. Close to my interest are sources of new and improved traits for potato breeding, both for biotic and abiotic stresses. I had a chance to meet many people, who are experts in those fields. I was able to discuss and exchange views on interesting topics. That was very helpful to enrich my researches. On the last day I took part in an excursion to University of Pannonia, UP Research Institute for Viticulture and Oenology at Badacsony and I visited Sümeg fortress. I spent a great time on boat trip to Badacsony on Balaton Lake. The conference was organized in beautiful place, near Balaton Lake, where combining business with pleasure was possible. Paulina Smyda, Plant Breeding and Acclimatization Institute National Research Institute, Młochów Research Center, Platanowa 19, 05-831 Młochów Poland.*

- **Section virology:** *As a new MSc student on plant virology under Prof. Sertkaya, we had decided to study virus and phytoplasma diseases of potato in Hatay, Turkey. At the very beginning of my journey into the jungle of viruses, I felt privileged to meet all the senior scientists who have worked more than my life time (at least some of them) and contributed a lot the scientific world. Seeing them in flesh and having chance to chat with them just to learn even a few things, be it a life experience or a small detail in a scientific work was an enormous experience for me. I am very grateful for EAPR for supporting me to attend the meeting. I would be more grateful if this support continues for the future meetings. ☺*

Thanks for photos received from Sylvie Marhadour, Serge Duvauchelle and Michel Martin.

Please find below a summarized table regarding these meetings together with a summary of the specific scientific topics. Links to the proceedings of these meetings will be available soon on the EAPR web site, as well as reports from other PhD students able to participate through EAPR sponsorship.

Many thanks to Klaus Dehmer for collecting information from the different Section meetings.

SECTION	VIROLOGY	BREEDING	AGRO PHYSIOLOGY	POST HARVEST	PATHOLOGY
Date	May 28-31	June 30 – July 4	September 15-19	October 22-24	November 17- 21
Location	Antalya/TR	Hévíz/HU	Prague/CZ	Warsaw/PL	Jerusalem/IS
Organizer	Gülsen Sertkaya	Zsolt Polgár	Jaroslav Čepl	Kazimiera Zgorska	Leah Tsrer
Report by	Gülsen Sertkaya	-	Jaroslav Čepl	Kazimiera Zgorska	Leah Tsrer
Attendees / countries	55 / 18	67 / 23	53 / 19	51 / 9	145 (50 foreign, 30 farmers) / 17
Oral present./ keynote lectures	20 / 3	25 / 5	25 / 3	17	29 / 6
Posters	17	20	11	21	14
EAPR support for PhD students	4 students	11 students (reduced registration)	1 student	8 students	5 students

Main scientific topics covered during the meeting

Virology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Resistance (conventional and transgenic), ✓ Plant-virus interactions and evolution, ✓ Epidemiology and control, ✓ Emerging and quarantine diseases, ✓ Diagnostic and detection methods, ✓ Virus transmission, ✓ Soil-borne viruses
Breeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Biotic stresses (late blight, nematodes, viruses, bacteria) ✓ Research and breeding for improved quality traits ✓ Abiotic stress resistance (drought, water and nutrients efficiency) ✓ Gene banks, new traits, introgression ✓ Taxonomy ✓ Genomic studies, association mapping, marker assisted breeding
Agrophysiology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Potato physiology ✓ Water and nutrition ✓ Quality ✓ Organic farming
Postharvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Production and quality of the Polish potatoes ✓ Storage conditions and potato tuber quality ✓ Efficient operation of potato stores ✓ Sprout control ✓ Breeding potato for processing ✓ Potato selection for postharvest attributes ✓ Postharvest tuber diseases

Main scientific topics covered during the meeting cont'd

Pathology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Climate Change ✓ Early and Late Blight ✓ Soft Rots ✓ Diagnostics ✓ Soil Borne Pathogens and Black Scurf ✓ Biological Control and Management
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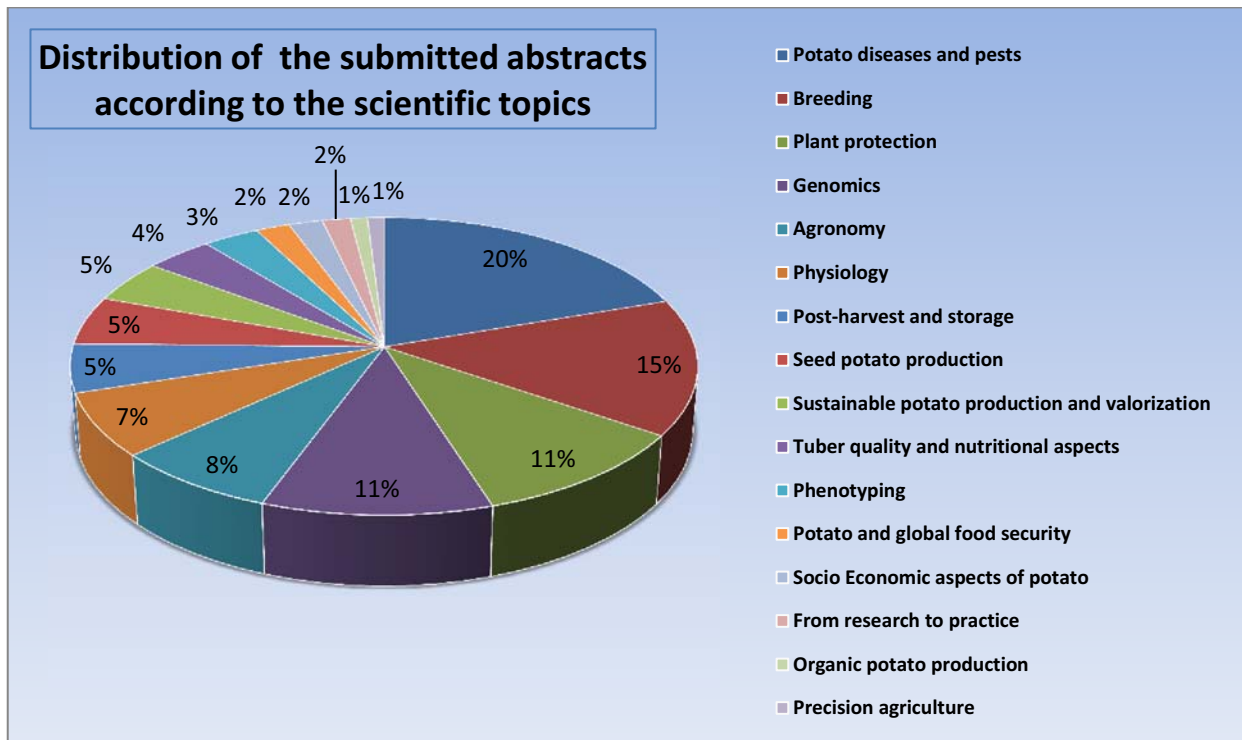
**Brussels 2014 Triennial Conference:
Successful call for abstracts: more than 300 submitted!**

The call for abstracts has been successful: **304 have been received!** Thank you to all the authors for their interest in the 19th EAPR Triennial Conference!!!

Provisional main geographic distribution of the registered participants is as followed:

Europe: 69 %; Africa: 16.5 %; North America: 5 %; Asia: 5 %; Latin America: 3 % ; Australia+NZ: 1.5 %

The provisional distribution of abstracts according to the scientific topics of the Conference is more or less similar to recent Triennials. As shown in the figure below, the leading topics are “Diseases and Pests” and “Breeding” followed by “Plant Protection”, “Genomics”, “Agronomy” and “Physiology” representing about 72% of the submitted contributions. The others topics represent between 1 and 5% each.



19th Triennial scientific programme in a few words:

- 14 Keynote lectures given by international potato experts
- around 140 oral presentations and 160 posters
- 6 specialized and interactive workshops
- 8 scientific, technical and cultural excursions across the Belgian potato cropped area

More information? Visit the EAPR 2014 Conference website www.eapr2014.be !

Please don't forget important dates of the agenda for your participation at the Brussels Conference:

- **Date for Early bird registration at reduced fees : 15 March 2014 (30 March 2014 for authors of accepted abstracts)**
- **Date for Late registration at normal fees: 15 June 2014**

Membership for 2014:

Benefit from renewing before registering for the Brussels Triennial Conference!

First of all, don't forget that a yearly regular membership gives you permanent access to the different services provided by the Association (please see www.eapr.net/membership). **This year of the Triennial Conference, take the opportunity to receive immediate benefit by renewing as soon as possible, as ordinary or sustaining members of the EAPR can take advantage of the special for member rate for registering at the Brussels Conference! As an ordinary member of the association you can save 40 € on membership + conference registration; as a company recognised as a sustaining member of the Association, you can send any number of participants to the Triennial Conference at the specific member rate!**

To obtain both best rates please renew and register before the 15th March 2014.

This year is a good opportunity to invite your colleagues to join the EAPR and encourage your organisation or business to become a Sustaining Member of the Association. New membership or renewals are possible directly online through the individual membership application form or your personal member login on the EAPR website. Online membership renewal is secure, easy and works in real-time. The payment methods include secure credit card processing or PayPal.

Renewal by bank transfer remains possible. Please contact our treasurer, Kurt Demeulemeester, for information on how to do this (kurt.demeulemeester@inagro.be).

Please note that if you do not renew before 1st April 2014, your direct personal and free online access to the three journals (*Potato Research*, *Euphytica* and *American Journal of Potato Research*) will be lost until your renewal becomes effective!

20th EAPR General Meeting:

Will be held on Monday 7 July 2014 at 19:00 during the 19th Triennial Conference in Brussels

The general meeting is "The place to be" for EAPR members interested in the life and decisions of the Association. The provisional Agenda of the 20th General meeting is as follows:

- Evolution of the EAPR Council composition
- Report on Potato Research (2011-2014) and consideration of hard copy v. electronic publication
- Evolution of the Section Chairs and scheduled meetings (2014-2016)
- Country Representatives: job proposal and validation, including discussion with members on the job of scientific cooperation
- EAPR financial report for the period 2011-2014
- EAPR Council report for the period 2011-2014
- Improvement and renewal of the EAPR website content
- List of members passed away over the last three years

EAPR Sections' meetings in Brussels:

Scheduled for Tuesday 8 July 2014, 18:00-19:00 during the Brussels Conference

Together with the Country representative's actions, EAPR Section's activities represent a very important part of the Association activity. So please note that Sections meetings are scheduled in 2014, on 8 July 2014 from 18:00 to 19:00 during the Brussels Conference. These meetings will be important to decide on the activities of each section, including the section Chair designation, for the next 3-year period.

EAPR Country Representatives' meeting in Brussels:

Scheduled for Sunday 6 July 2014, 17:30-18:30 during the Brussels Conference

A specific Country Representatives' meeting, together with the EAPR Council, is scheduled during the Brussels Conference on Sunday 6 July 2014 from 18:30 to 19:30 at the Crown Plaza Hotel, just after the Extraordinary Council meeting from 16:30 to 17:30. This will provide an opportunity to present and discuss the CR's job proposal before the General assembly scheduled for Monday 7 July 2014 [time?]. This proposal aims to amplify and clarify the role and impact of CR's in their own countries, and also their relationship with the Council.

Council renewal:

Candidate Councillors to join the EAPR Council and participate in its activities and meetings

According to the EAPR Constitution, the maximum duration of membership of the Council of the EAPR is two consecutive terms of three years. So, regular elections must be held during the General Meeting at each Triennial Conference in order to renew the Council.

Three new Councillors need to be elected during the Brussels Conference to replace Katrin Kotkas (Estonia), Louise Cooke (UK), Serge Duvauchelle (France) who will have completed their 6-year terms in July 2014.

If you are interested in serving the EAPR by joining the Council, please contact your Country Representative at once so your interest can be passed to the President of the Association before 1st April 2014. You will find the name of your Country Representative on the web page www.eapr.net/organization.

To formalise your application, please send a signed letter to the EAPR President specifying

- Your willingness to serve as a Councillor of the EAPR Council for from July 2014 to July 2017, with a possibility of renewal for one further 3-year period,
- Your motivation to apply to join the Council,
- Your area of scientific skill, together with a short explanation of your scientific activities during the last 5 years,
- Your location and position in your institution.

The EAPR Council members on 23-24 January 2014 in Leuven (Belgium) at ISHS Office, after “hard work” during the 58th Ordinary Council meeting



From left to right: Michel Martin (Fr), Mike Storey (UK), Klaus Dehmer (D), Louise Cooke (UK), Kürt Demeulemeester (B), Serge Duvauchelle (Fr), Paul Struik (NL), Elina Virtanen (Fi), Richard Visser (NL), Jean-Pierre Goffart (B). Katrin Kotkas (ES) was unable to attend.

**The EAPR Council looks forward to welcoming
you to Brussels in July!**