

EUPHRESKO – Coordination of European Phytosanitary Research

EFSA Scientific Colloquium on Pest Risk Assessment

Parma, Italy

6th December 2007



Outline

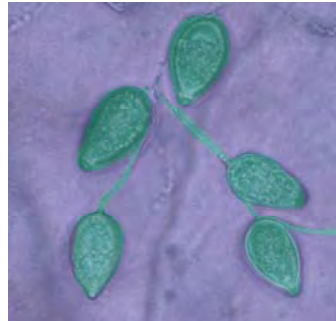
- **Introduction**
 - Challenges for Plant Health & the importance of research
 - The need for Phytosanitary Research in Europe
- **EUPHRESKO Phytosanitary ERA-Net**
 - What it is and why it's needed
 - What it aims to do
 - Progress and achievements to date
 - Relevance to PRA and support for plant health policy



Introduction: Challenges for Plant Health

The basic challenges for Plant Health reflect:

- An increasing threat from exotic pests due to ...
 - Increasing globalisation in trade (volume and diversity) & EU enlargement;
 - Climate change; increasing concerns for environmental protection
- Limited and decreasing resources and erosion of the scientific basis



Introduction: Challenges for Plant Health

Challenges

Increased trade

=

Increased risks
from plant pests



Legislation: to
prevent pest
introduction
& movement

Inspection &
Monitoring

Eradication &
containment

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Underpinning Science & Research

Introduction: Challenges for Plant Health

- In this era of increasing plant health threats, there has been a recognised erosion of the scientific base & of resources, e.g.:

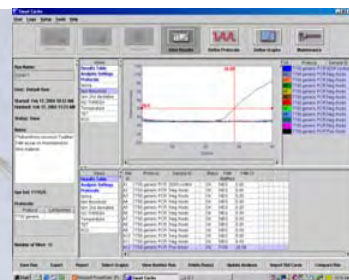
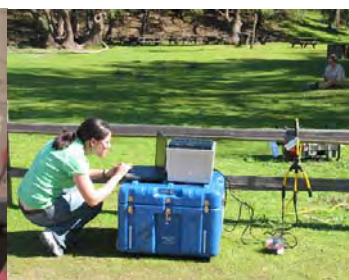
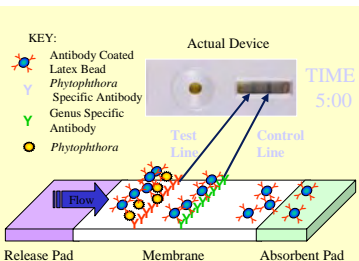


- *EPPPO's 'State of Emergency in Plant Health' declaration (2004)*



- *EU COPHS* Council Working Party's concerns (November 2004) about the erosion of the scientific base, leading to various initiatives:*
 - *FP7: COPHS informal Working Group (plant health priorities)*
 - *Diagnostic cooperation issues (Commission Working group)*
 - *Phytosanitary ERA-Net (EUPHRESCO)*

* Chief Officers of Plant Health Services



Phytosanitary ERA-NET - EUPHRESKO

EU PHytosanitary RESearch COordination – EUPHRESKO

.... *In Greek “ We will find solutions! ”*

What are ERA-Nets:

EU-funded “**Coordination Actions**” to increase cooperation & coordination between national/regional **research funding bodies** through:

- Networking & mutual opening of research programmes
- Establishment of long-term networks of research managers/funders

NB. In FP6 there was no money for research itself



Phytosanitary ERA-NET - EUPHRESKO

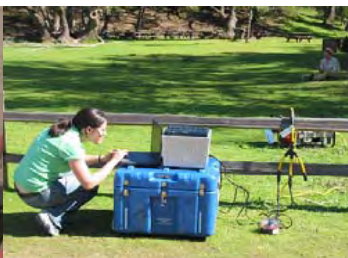
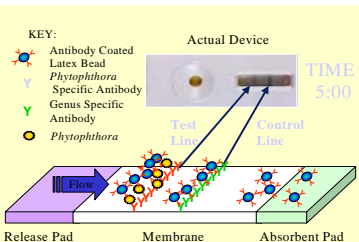
Why EUPHRESKO?

– Better coordination & support for plant health policy

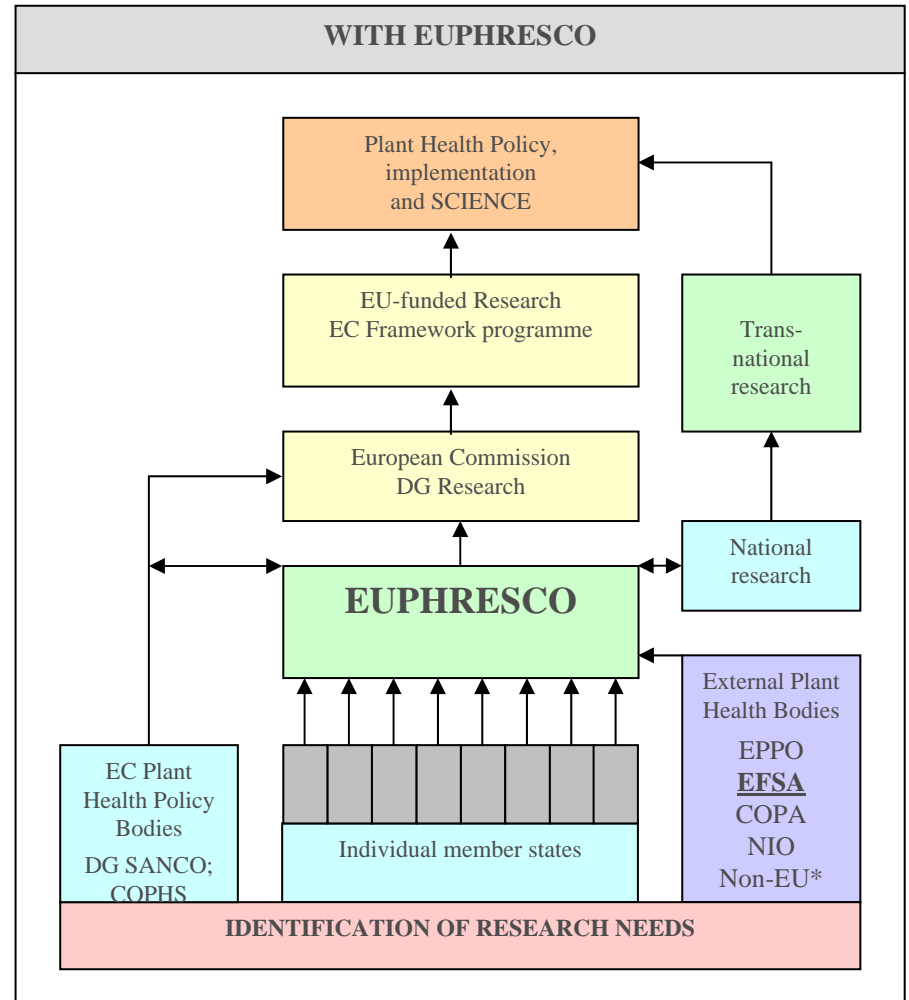
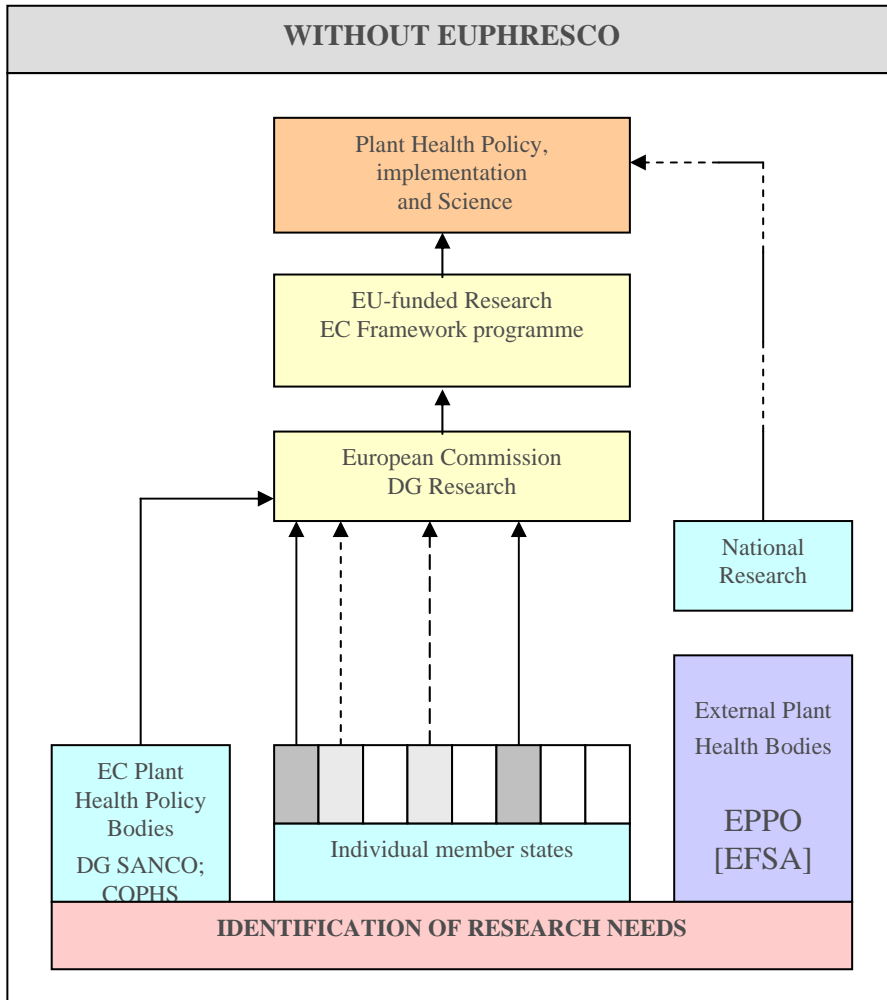
- In the EU, Plant Health legislation and policy is determined at the EU level
- But most research (>85%) is done at the national level
 - There was previously no coordination between national research programmes
 - There is little or no alignment with EU-funded research programmes (though successful and often PRA-related)
- Need to better coordinate national research with itself and with EU-funded research (*complementarity*)



Research funding "silos"



EUPHRESKO - benefits



Phytosanitary ERA-NET - EUPHRESKO

Why EUPHRESKO? – Need to optimise the use of limited funds

- Firstly Not all EU member states have significant programmes
- **National programmes are relatively small:**
 - Limited budgets (€15 million annually across EUPHRESKO countries)
 - Part of larger agricultural research programmes
 - Generally performing applied research based on national priorities
 - Commissioning small projects (61% were < €80k in 2006/7)
 - No pre-existing linkages between national/regional funders, only links between actual scientists
- **Need to optimise resources:**
 - Reduce potential duplication
 - Pool funds to achieve better research progress
(responsive and sustainable applied research; more strategic research)
 - Encourage establishment of new national research programmes
 - Increase European phytosanitary science capability

Phytosanitary ERA-NET - EUPHRESKO

- STARTED 1st May 2006 (ends June 2010)
- SCOPE: "An ERA-net for research policy development and implementation in the area of statutory and emerging plant pests, diseases and invasive species (but not GMOs)"
- PARTICIPANTS - Research Programme Funders/Managers
 - 24 Partners from 17 countries (15 MS; 1 ACC; 1 AS)
 - 6 Observer MS countries
 - 3 Advisory Groups
 - EC DG-SANCO
 - EPPO
 - EFSA PHP



Phytosanitary ERA-NET - EUPHRESKO

The EUPHRESKO Project is following a step-wise approach:

- **WP2:** Mapping and analysis of national programmes
- **WP3:** Development of trans-national funding approaches and processes/tools for joint activities
- **WP4:** Testing approaches/processes/tools through pilot research calls/projects
- **WP5:** Development of future trans-national agendas and a long-term sustainable network (launched June 2010)



Phytosanitary ERA-NET - EUPHRESKO

Main progress so far:

- **WP2:** Mapping & analysis report – Available soon from website
- **WP3/4:** Pilot research project topics developed (11):
 - Real pot (2); virtual pot (5); non-competitive mechanism (4)
 - Competitive calls or non-competitive project initiation in spring 2008:
 - Which will test the processes via short pilot research projects
 - Most topics will be on diagnostic or management issues
- **WP5:** FP7 activities and trans-national agendas:
 - COPHS mandate to advise on Plant Health priorities in FP7
 - Coordinating trans-national activities and EU-funded research
 - FP7 (2007-2013): 2007 call of PRA science; advice given for 2008+



Phytosanitary ERA-NET - EUPHRESKO

What could be specific opportunities for pest risk analysis-related research via EUPHRESKO?

- **Pilot Research Projects**
 - Support for risk assessment and risk management for specific pests
- **Future research agendas** (involving policy makers, scientists, etc.)
 - EUPHRESKO trans-national research – workshops 2008+?
 - EU-funded research – 2010-13 workprogrammes?
- **Specific research areas:**
 - Biological data to fill in PRA gaps for specific pests?
 - Development of risk management options?
 - Invasive alien species?
 - Environmental issues?
 - Development of methodology?



In Conclusion ...

- Plant Health faces significant challenges with limited and declining resources in an era of increasing biosecurity threats
- Research and science capabilities will be essential in meeting these challenges and in underpinning policy development and operations
- There needs to be better coordination of national and EU phytosanitary research programmes to:
 - **Optimise limited resources**
 - **Meet national, regional and European policy needs**
 - **Sustain Europe's Phytosanitary Science capability**
 - **Protect Europe's agriculture, environment & plant-based exports**



In Conclusion ...

EUPHRESOCO will continue to help facilitate this by:

- Coordinating nationally-based plant health research at the European level
- Developing future trans-national research agendas and activities via a long-term funders network
- Advising and representing Plant Health interests in Framework Programme 7 (FP7)



Finally ... EUPHRESKO Contact



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