



# NEWSLETTER 1/2017

Newsletter for the Members of the European Association for Potato Research

March 2017

## Dear Members,

This issue of the Newsletter is devoted in large parts to the fast approaching Triennial EAPR Conference in Versailles. Almost 300 of submitted abstracts and 12 international keynote lectures promise an excellent scientific event. Read about the EAPR General Assembly and Section Meetings planned during the Conference. Please note also the early bird registration and hotel booking deadlines and do not forget that the renewed membership is necessary to benefit from EAPR Member registration discount. On 19-20<sup>th</sup> of January 2017, EAPR Council Meeting took place in Leuven, Belgium. The topics discussed by

the Council are included in the current Newsletter: new EAPR website, search for candidates for EAPR Councillors and organizers of 22<sup>nd</sup> Triennial Conference, as well as Potato Research requiring more attention from the Members. Reading the selection of students' reports from the four Section Meetings that took place in 2016 you can recall these successful events.

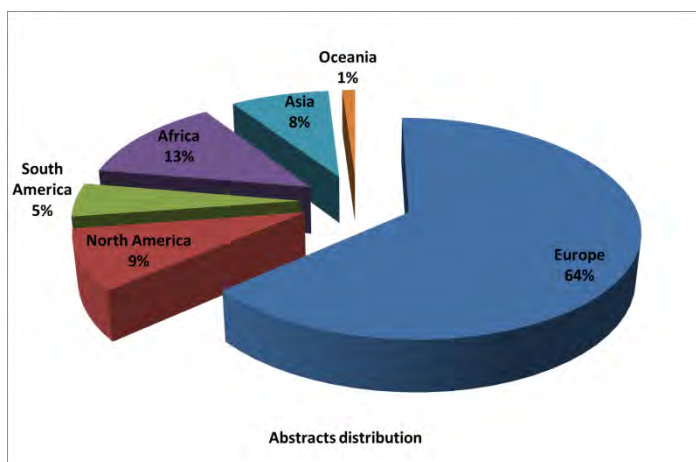
Looking forward to seeing you in Versailles!  
Michel Martin, EAPR President  
&  
Jadwiga Śliwka, President Elect



*EAPR Council Meeting in Leuven, Belgium on 19-20<sup>th</sup> of January 2017, from the left: Jadwiga Śliwka, Catherine Chatot, Michel Martin, Leah Tsrer, Kürt Demeulemeester, Mike Storey, Richard Visser, Klaus Dehmer, Ilze Skrabule, Paul Struik.*



**All indicators in place for a successful 20<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference in Versailles!**

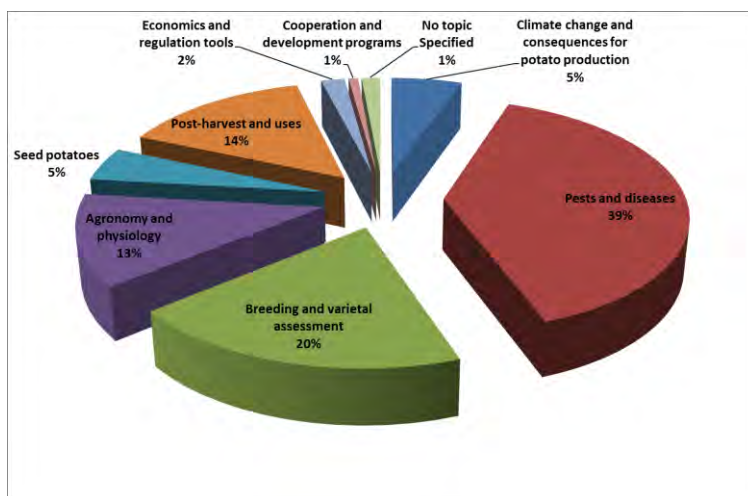


Almost **300 proposals for communication** were received by the deadline of mid-January from researchers and scientists coming from 55 countries! Regarding country distribution, Europe is well represented with about two thirds of abstracts. The remaining one third of papers came from all other continents.

With such a high number of abstracts it is clear that the EAPR Student Support operation could not grant all **47 requesters** a (partial) fellowship. With complementary subsidies accepted by the EAPR Council but also some funding given by the French Inter-professional Organisation CNIPT, **24 grants** have been offered to young scientists coming from 18 countries!

The subjects of the abstracts presented, are nicely distributed between the different topics originally identified by the scientific committee of the Conference. More than one third of the offered papers fall directly under the “pest and diseases” subtheme and 25% in the subtheme “breeding, varietal assessment and seed” of the conference “Potato facing global challenges”. Among the other main addressed topics, “Agronomy and physiology” and “Post-harvest” will be well represented too. All these presentations will be organised in **24 thematic parallel sessions** offering **125 oral presentations** in the conference. These will be completed by **the display of 151 posters** which will be explained and commented on by the presenting author during two dedicated poster sessions. The current status of art of the different main topics will be addressed in **12 keynote lectures** given by international experts. Specific time slots will also be given for thematic debates by means of **4 workshops** one of which will pay special attention to the EAPR/CIP plan!

**8 scientific and cultural excursions** will offer the opportunity to participants to discover the main area of potato production in France for the different

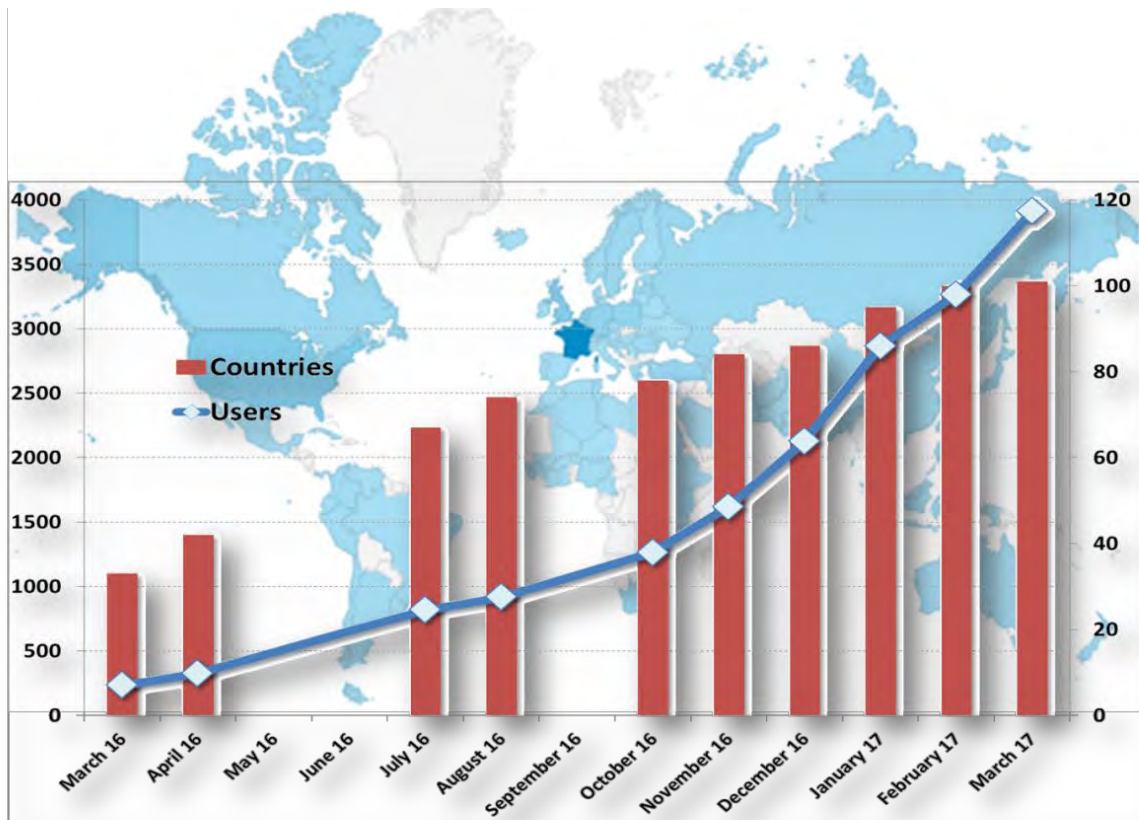


branches of the industry (breeding, seed production, fresh market, processing) and many aspects of the French R&D developed for potato!

Please find all updated details about the program on the website of the conference [www.eapr2017.com](http://www.eapr2017.com) !

The dedicated website shows also a continuous increase of connections since its launch in the beginning of 2016. By the

specialists at a global stage on what will be the Potato advances during the coming years; don't lose time to register to the conference by logging in on <http://www.eapr2017.com/registration-and-hotels/how-to-register/22> !



time you read these lines, more than **4,000 unique visitors from over 100 countries** will already have logged in at the website!

Due to the interest in the program and this unique opportunity of networking between

**Early bird registration has ended on March 20 and the deadline for hotel reservation will be June 30.**

## Save the dates for the Member Meetings during the 20<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference!

The triennial conferences are not only unbelievable scientific and networking events for the potato industry, they are also unavoidable schedules for the social life of the Association!

Please find below the main lines of this social agenda. More complete details will be sent in the beginning of April 2017. Please save the dates of these social events as soon as possible! They will all be held at

the venue of the 20<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference, in the Congress palace of Versailles:

- **Sunday 9 July (2.00 pm):**  
Extraordinary Council meeting
- **Sunday 9 July (5.00 pm) :** Meeting of Councillors + Section chairs + Country representatives
- **Monday 10 July (5.50 pm) :** 21<sup>st</sup> Ordinary General Assembly of the EAPR

Main provisional points to be placed at the agenda:

- o Evolution of the EAPR Council composition
- o Report on Potato Research (2014-2017)
- o Evolution of the Section Chairs and scheduled meetings (2017-2019)
- o Status on Country Representatives
- o EAPR financial report for the period 2014-2017

- o EAPR Council report for the period 2014-2017
- o New EAPR website
- o List of members passed away over the last three years
- **Tuesday 11 July (5.40 pm) :** Section meetings  
Main points to be discussed:
  - o Past activities during the 2014-2017 period
  - o Future activities during the 2017-2020 period
  - o Section chair evolution

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## **It is not too late to apply as EAPR councillor!**

Regarding the EAPR Constitution and Bye-Laws (article X), new councillors will be required to be elected at the coming Triennial of Versailles in July 2017. So we invite each member interested to participate in Council activity to declare her/his intention before the 10<sup>th</sup> of April by sending a motivation letter with a CV

stating her/his curriculum and her/his activity in the field of research on potatoes to our secretary Catherine Chatot.

EAPR Members interested in becoming Councillors in 2017 are welcome to contact any current Council Member to exchange about the work carried out within the Council. Any opportune ideas may be introduced in future in the council discussions in order to keep the Association as alive as possible, with a desire to progress and to develop its fame around Europe and the world!

Thank you for sending your letter and other documents in due time to our secretary Catherine Chatot  
([catherine.chatot@germicopa.fr](mailto:catherine.chatot@germicopa.fr)).

# Looking for Candidates for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Triennial Conference of the EAPR

During the next Ordinary General Assembly of the EAPR members, which will be held in Versailles on July 10 2017, the first day of the 20<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference, the choice will be made for the location of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Triennial Conference in 2023 and concomitantly on the name of the President elect for the period 2017-2020. The President elect will become President of our Association after the 21<sup>st</sup> Triennial Conferences which will take place in Poland in 2020.

The Council hopes that several countries and/or organisations will be interested to organise the 22<sup>nd</sup> Conference. It's a huge but very exciting task considering the interest to improve as much as possible sharing knowledge and innovation between the EAPR members and the technical supervisors of the potato industry. We hope that you will consider this opportunity with the most accurate interest

and send your proposal as soon as possible and before mid-June.

Thank you for declaring your interest and to specify your submission to the President Michel Martin:

([m.martin@arvalisinstitutduvegetal.fr](mailto:m.martin@arvalisinstitutduvegetal.fr)) by sending the following documents:

- Declaration of intention to organise the 22<sup>nd</sup> Triennial Conference of the EAPR including expected place and provisional date for the meeting,
- Composition of the provisional Organisation Committee,
- Name of the proposed President elect for the EAPR, in charge of the organisation of the 22<sup>nd</sup> triennial conference,
- Curriculum vitae of the proposed President elect specifying her/his implication in Potato science.

We eagerly await your quick and numerous responses!

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## Reminder for membership renewal

Please remember – unless you have done so already - to renew your 2017 EAPR membership to keep the multiple benefits you have! You can renew your membership online through the member login at [www.eapr.net](http://www.eapr.net). Information about the procedure can be obtained from [info@eapr.net](mailto:info@eapr.net). Online membership renewal is secure, easy and works in real-time by sending instantaneous invoice. The

payment methods include secure credit card processing or PayPal.

Renewal by bank transfer remains possible. In this case, please contact our Treasurer, Kurt Demeulemeester, to get information on how to do this:

[kurt.demeulemeester@inagro.be](mailto:kurt.demeulemeester@inagro.be).

We would strongly encourage you to invite your colleagues to join EAPR and encourage your organization or company to become a sustaining member of the EAPR (see the EAPR website). The

individual membership application form is available at the EAPR homepage:

<http://www.eapr.net/membership/membership-application/>

Being a member of the EAPR and paying the annual subscription (only 60 €) offers multiple benefits:

-Online access to Potato Research, Euphytica and the American Journal of Potato Research,

-Print copies of Potato Research free of charge,

-Participation in the triennial conferences and section meetings at reduced members' rates,

-Participation in annual meetings of the Potato Association of America at reduced members' rates,

-You can also order English-language books from Springer at a discount of 20%!

<http://www.springer.com/societies+%26+publishing+partners/eapr?SGWID=0-1732013-0-0-0&token=Be9DeX3w72K7Rsq>

Kürt Demeulemeester

Treasurer

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## Potato Research

The Editorial Board of Potato Research would welcome new, active processing editors. The more eminent potato scientists join the team of editors the smaller the workload will be per editor.

The editor-in-chief would also welcome submissions in the category "minireviews", a category which is very attractive for authors and readers, but unfortunately underutilized.

We will also welcome ideas for special issues.

Finally, we still keep a limited number of copies of all issues of all volumes of Potato Research. We want to clear our stock. Members who would like to receive back copies, can contact the editor-in-chief at paul.struik@wur.nl. Copies are available free of charge, but for large orders we may need to charge for postal services.

Paul Struik  
Editor-in-Chief

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## Students Reports from Section Meetings

**Denis Kutnjak** (Ljubljana, Slovenia)

I am Denis Kutnjak, PhD student from National Institute of Biology, Ljubljana, Slovenia. I have attended the EAPR Virology Section meeting with the support of EAPR Student Support. During the meeting I have presented the results of my

research work on Potato virus Y within-plant population dynamics in different potato cultivars. Using time sampled small RNA deep sequencing approach we were able to detect several interesting evolutionary patterns emerging in lineages of PVY evolved in different potato

genotypes. I was happy to present these results to a group of expert in plant virology and specialists in PVY studies. I have met many interesting scientists and was able to connect with some of them for future collaborative work. I enjoyed the lectures presented during the meeting by scientists from diverse backgrounds and I believe I have learned a lot. The

organisation of the meeting was smooth and ensured not only a lot of interesting scientific sessions, but also an extensive social program, which created relaxed networking possibilities. I would like to thank the organising committee for a good work and for awarding me the EAPR Student Grant.

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### **Jaanika Edesi (Oulu, Finland)**

This is to report that the student support awarded by EAPR covered the participation fee of 3rd Meeting of the Section of Agronomy and Physiology in Riga, Latvia and enabled me to contribute with the oral presentation “The effect of light spectral quality on cryopreservation success of potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L.) shoot tips in vitro”.

I would like to acknowledge both Scientific as well as Organizing Committee for providing such a superior scientific and social program in beautiful medieval city Riga, the capital of Latvia! In my opinion, section meetings are good opportunities to meet fellow researchers on a specific research field between the triennial conferences. During this meeting I really enjoyed the intimate atmosphere built up from scientific sessions followed by

discussions during refreshment breaks as well as social program. For me, having research interest in potato genebanking by the means of in vitro storage including cryopreservation, the meeting gave opportunity to meet researchers from different potato genebanks and discuss long-term preservation practices applied in different locations. Last but not least, during the excursion day to organic starch factory Aloja as well as Priekuli Research Centre – the leading potato research institution in Latvia, I learned not only about starch production and interesting topics studied in the institute but also how beautiful Latvian golden autumn can be, how many potato dish recipes Latvians have and what almost every Latvian likes to pick from the forest during autumn 😊 Therefore, it was a great pleasure to attend the meeting and looking forward to the next one.

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### **Marion J. Tout (Sheffield, UK)**

I found the EAPR Post Harvest meeting both interesting and useful. I enjoyed the opportunity to see the interesting work taking place across Europe, and hope to build on this wider knowledge base. It also gave me more insight into industrial demands and preconceptions. This will help me frame my research question and

highlight my achievements in future interactions. An important part of effective research is communicating it to interested parties in an accessible way.

The fact that the meeting was relatively small meant that almost all the delegates saw my presentation, which allowed me to hold some nuanced and relevant conversations over the following days. In

large meetings with many parallel sessions, PhD students often end up presenting to

empty rooms! I hope to follow up some of these contacts in the future.

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### **Mout deVrieze (Nyon, Switzerland)**

In my PhD project, we are exploring the potato's native microbiome and delving into its potential protective role against one particular disease, namely late blight. In 2014, we isolated bacterial strains from field grown potato plants and are characterizing and testing the most promising strains, all belonging to the genus *Pseudomonas*, which show various levels of inhibitory activity on the pathogen's growth and interesting plant colonizing abilities. Our aim is to provide insight into the potential utility of *Pseudomonas* through the understanding of the mechanisms underlying their inhibitory activity and their colonization behavior. My project is conducted in Switzerland at the Swiss federal research station Agroscope in Nyon.

By attending the EAPR Pathology & Pests Section Meeting, I was hoping to get the chance to discuss several aspects of my project with highly experienced people and I was eager to learn new things and broaden my knowledge on potato pests in general. In fact, I gained a lot more than

that, I discovered a scientific community with what felt to me like a real zest for sharing knowledge to make progress and was impressed by it. This inspired me and encouraged me to meet new people and benefit even more from the talks and discussions. On top of specific disease related topics, potato production and diseases were presented for each continent separately, on the organizing committee's initiative, which I particularly appreciated and thought was very enriching. Highly motivating for me was being granted the student award for best presentation at the end of the meeting. The tours, taking us along breathtaking Scottish scenery to the Blair Athol distillery and Blair castle, provided a pleasant atmosphere throughout the whole meeting and were ideal moments to socialize and discover the local culture and Scottish heritage.

In the end, thanks to the organizing committee and the people present at this meeting, I went home with not only new ideas, precious feedback and advice, but with loads of extra energy, motivation and new friendships as well.

