

CEMBO Meeting Minutes

10.12.2022, 9:00 a.m., Bratislava Hotel Sorea Regia

Attendees:

Moter A. (AM), Bujdáková H. (HB), Bujdák J. (JB), Zaat B. (BZ), Riool M. (MR), Radochová B. (BR), vd Ploeg K. (KV), Czuz Vargová J. (JV), Bugyna L. (LB), Bilská Katarína (KB), Štefánek Matúš (MŠ), Kendra Samuel (SK)

Program

- Closing remarks for D2.4 Organization of the IC + preparation of the report
- Discussion about ongoing deliverables & milestones
- Remarks from our PO

Deliverable 2.4: International conference at CU “Hot topics in Microbiology” (IC)

Responsible institution: CU

Deadline for deliverable: 15th of Dec 2022

- The report for the deliverable was prepared and submitted in the SyGMA system on the 15th of Dec 2022.
- IC took a part between 7th – 10th of December 2022 in Bratislava, Hotel Sorea Regia in the old town. The conference started in the afternoon on the 7th (Wednesday) and finished on the 10th (Saturday). CEMBO Team met at the round table where all ongoing deliverables & milestones were discussed.
- The IC was organized in cooperation of the Czechoslovak Society for Microbiology.
- The IC has been spread through social media: Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook. The IC has been also listed in the events of our National Office of Horizon in Slovakia.
- The registration fee covered the accommodation, full board, coffee breaks and conference materials.
- The proposed presentations of the keynote speakers were scheduled for 25 minutes, followed by a 5-minute discussion. The presentations of the invited speakers were scheduled for 20 minutes, followed by a 5-minute discussion. The length of the oral presentations of young scientists was planned as per following: 13-minute talk (max. of 13 ppt. slides), followed by a 2-minute discussion. The poster presentations were scheduled on Thursday between 17:15-18:15 p.m. with the dimensions of 90 cm (width) and 120 cm (height), put up on the panels with pins.
- The IC participants were 63 in total (2 of them excused):
CU Team invited speakers: Maria Luísa Jordão, PhD. (PT); assoc.prof. Dr. Katarína Šoltys (SK); Prof. Dušan Galusek (SK); Ing. Petra Olejníková (SK); Dr. Soňa Kucharíková, PhD. (SK); + 34 PhD. Students (SK, CZ, PT, HR, AT).

AMC Team invited speakers: Dr. Gopala-Krishna Mannala (DE); Dr. Viorica Patrulea (UK); Dr. Sebastian Zaat (NL); Dr. Martijn Riool (NL) + 4 PhD. students.

CHAR Team invited speakers: Dr. Pjevac (AT); Prof. Dr. Daims (AT); Prof. Dr. med. Annette Moter; + 2 students (MD & PhD.)

Each of the session was chaired by a skilled person, discussed, and confirmed with all of them.

- Target group of the IC were young scientists, PhD. students and their supervisors. As the target group are young scientists, the priority was to practice oral presentation (plus poster presentations as per mentioned above). In total, 40 students participated at the IC (34. students invited by CU Team, 4 students by AMC, and 2 students by CHAR). 30 students have had oral presentation (1 was excused) as per scientific program + 11 poster presentations.
- The information for presentations & the venue have been uploaded to CEMBO homepage.
- The scientific program has also been sent to all IC participants.
- The abstract book has been available on CEMBO homepage only through QR code for IC participants only; as well as the zipped file with all IC images.
- The informed consent of all participants will be confirmed due to visibility on social media.

Deliverable 1.4: Improvement of CU management and administrative skills (Training in coaching and mentoring project preparations, especially within the framework of Horizon Europe or within the Slovak funding program. Improvement of skills with management and administration of large projects.)

Relevant Milestone 16: Progress in research management/administration unit

Responsible institution: CU

Deadline for deliverable: 31st May 2023

- KV has been continuously participating in several trainings, webinar & networking interactive sessions.
- Preparation of a seminar for CU concerning on positive and negative experiences during the project management (autumn 2023)

Deliverable 2.1: Expert visit report (Short term exchange between partners with visit reports incl. in annual reports M24)

Relevant Milestone M4 Annual report on annual visits of experts

Responsible institution: AMC

Deadline for deliverable: 30th Nov 2021

- Another expert visit took a part before the beginning of the IC, in the morning on Wednesday the 7th of Dec. AM & MR visited CU Team at the university. The report will be prepared by MR shortly.
- Suggestions for next EV: possible visit of HB + JB to Berlin/Amsterdam in 2023.

Deliverable 2.3. Staff Exchange program report

Relevant Milestone M6 Final Staff exchange report incl. courses & seminars

Responsible institution: CU

Deadline for M6: 30th November 2022 (incorrectly scheduled in SyGMA system, it cannot be changed manually, it will be mentioned in the final CEMBO report).

- A small group of 4-5 PhD. students from AMC can visit CU for a short stay of 1 week in spring perhaps in April 2023 (mixed biofilm/in vivo models). The program may include experiments, lecturing, seminar, etc.

- After T3 in May 2023 a short visit of PhD. students from CU to AMC is suggested (in vivo models). The suggestion for SK to watch experiments in June/July.
- Another short visit of 1 AMC student to Berlin, incl. a student from CU Team if so.

Deliverable 3.2: Workshop on possibility to create a strategic plan for building or developing cooperation with enterprises (Workshop on possibility to create a strategic plan for building or developing cooperation with enterprises [M28]. BSQ will be responsible for organizing this workshop.)

Responsible institution: CHAR

Deadline for D3.2: 31st March 2023

- AM provided us with a suggestion on how to move idea to practice: e.g. by online Technical Department guided from Berlin. *“How did we do it from the very beginning?”*
- There are few options to consider and who to involve in this deliverable: MADAMTHERAPEUTICS B.V. (<https://madamtherapeutics.com/>) or Nostics B.V. (<https://nostics.com/>), etc.

Deliverable 3.3: Exploration and commercialization road map (Exploration and commercialization road map, a document containing a set of guidelines for exploitation and commercialization [M32])

Responsible institution: CHAR

Deadline for D3.3: 31st July 2023

- The same scheme applies for this deliverable. CHAR will provide will more detailed information once it is approaching.

Deliverable 3.5: Organization of Training School ‘FISHing for biofilms’ (T2)

Relevant milestone M9 Output from training, organization of T2 by the 31st of May 2023

Responsible institution: CHAR

Deadline for M9: 31st of May 2023

- T2 was split into 3 parts: visit of JK at CU BA Team in March, followed by additional very late summer school “Next Generation Sequencing (NGS)” that was completed by the end of November.
- 4 students from CU have been registered.
- JK has provided us with the report from the 3rd part of T2, so the paperwork can be documented for the final CEMBO report and amended in M9.
- Organizing a training school in an unconventional way; the possibility of dividing the training school into several events, which are complementary to each other (note to M9 in SyGMA).

Deliverable 3.6. Organization of T3

Responsible institution: AMC

Deadline for deliverable: 28th of February 2023

- T3 is scheduled for the 24-26th of May 2023. KV will communicate postponement with PO until the mid-June by 15th June 2023.
- MR has provided with the explanation and the justification of a delay to our PO, Mrs. Costanza Conte (CC). CC approved, we can plan and go along with it.

Deliverable 3.7 Organization of T4

Responsible institution: CU

Deadline for deliverable: 31st of May 2023

- KV will communicate postponement with PO: the proposed organization will take a part in September; therefore, the new due date is suggested by 30th September 2023.
- The short explanation with how to follow the sequentiality of the training schools for CEMBO project is followed and discussed furthermore with PO.
- T4 can be proposed for the 1st or the 2nd week of Sep 2023 to practice biofilms.
- Suggestion of the topic: the preparation of mixed biofilms in vitro and in vivo in *Galleria mellonella*.

Deliverable 3.8 Promotion of gender equality

(The project's strategy is to respect gender issues as formulated in 1999 (Helsinki Group on Women and Science - ERAC Standing Working Group on Gender in R&I) and later in other documents and reports (ETAN, ENWISE, WIRDEM). In this context, the composition of the project partners and participants is designed to strengthen gender equality and the opportunity for both genders to be similarly represented in order to increase social equality and participation of women and men in the produced knowledge, technology, and innovation. The special attention will be focused on gender quality among early-stage researchers involved in this Twinning project.)

Responsible institution: CU

Deadline for deliverable: 30th of November 2023

Relevant Milestone M15: Promotion of gender equality.

- Gender balance is maintained in compliance with recommendation of EU commission. For instance, we are trying to involve women at maternity leave for partial job positions.
- AM have given us an overview how they involve women in friendly manner scientifically. Restrictions due to COVID-19 has also opened a new chapter here.

Deliverable D4.3. Progress in publishing papers

Responsible institution: AMC

Deadline for deliverable: 30th of September 2023

- Mutual ideas for joint publications of all partners.

Milestone M10 Strategic plan for communication and dissemination

Responsible institution: CU

Deadline for M10: 31st of May 2023

- Proposals on how to spread CEMBO project efficiently; how to attract public; and spread our project “know-how” to succeed in future.
- UA Opportunity – Management of the Government call no. 09I03-03-V01 + spreading the job offer for a postdoctoral position through several social media (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and platforms (EURAXESS, Science for Ukraine at EU & National level).
- Networking through the Institutional platform “Practice for universities, solutions for companies” – an initiative organized by Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency.
- To maximize visibility of the project: research news to feature in media, TV, radio, internet, etc.

Milestone M11 Website and social media

Responsible institution: CU

Deadline for M12: 30th November 2023

- Updates on more effective virtual communication, perhaps some modern tools to create interaction between researchers.
- MR has provided social media credentials to KV to cooperate better and disseminate the project faster.

Milestone M12 Appointment of external advisors

Responsible institution: CU

Deadline for M12: 31st of August 2023

- The process has been initiated as per suggestions of CU Team: 1 researcher of medical faculty, 1 teacher of Highschool and 1 member of a private company.
- These people will be informed about goals and objectives of the CEMBO project during the meeting with CU team.

Milestone M18 GDPR plan

Responsible institution: CU

Deadline for M12: 30th November 2023

- Training has been a part of our institutional customs, all CEMBO Team members have been notified about the rules.
- It defines a core objective of CEMBO and its sharing & archiving.
- As the 1st step DMP has been made, so data is collected, managed, and stored during & after the project.
- At CU: General Data Protection Policy (i.e., Data Protection Officer) sets the obligations to protect data for research purposes.
- Few remarks from partners: to always ask for data protection on social media/copyright free images and to document everything; to set up the guidelines for this deliverable; to keep in mind that ethics & data protection are the most important; and level of understanding is very low in general.

Tasks resulting from the meeting

- We completed the IC report on the 15th of December 2022.
- New suggestions for EV and SE were planned.
- MR will prepare a short report from Bratislava EV with AM.
- MR will put “in vivo experiments” into context (i.e., the experiments type, the relevance within CEMBO activities, a justification explaining the added value, which WP/task will be affected). Thereafter, Costanza will consult it internally.