Deliverable 4.3: Dedicated calls and reviews for access
Roland Pieruschka, Simone Gatzke

Document information

EU Project N°	731013	**Acronym**	EPPN2020
Full Title	European Plant Phenotyping Network 2020		
Project website	www.eppn2020.plant-phenotyping.eu		

Deliverable	**N°**	D4.3	**Title**	Dedicated calls and reviews for access
Work Package	**N°**	WP4	**Title**	NA1 - Management of Transnational Access

Date of delivery	**Contractual**		31/10/2017 (Month 6)	**Actual**		04/12/2017 (Month 8)
Dissemination level	X		**PU Public, fully open, e.g. web**			
			CO Confidential, restricted under conditions set out in Model Grant Agreement			
			CI Classified, information as referred to in Commission Decision 2001/844/EC.			

Authors (Partner)	FZJ			
Responsible Author	**Name**	Roland Pierushka and Simone Gatzke	**Email**	r.pieruschka@fz-juelich.de

Version log			
Issue Date	**Revision N°**	**Author**	**Change**
26/10/2017	0	Simone Gatzke	first review by Coordinator and project manager
21/11/2017	1	Roland Pierushka	2nd version
01/12/2017	2	François Tardieu	Final version

Executive Summary

Context
EPPN[2020] (i) provides European public and private sectors Transnational Access to a wide range of state-of-the-art plant phenotyping installations, techniques and methods, (ii) develops these techniques and methods in Joint Research Activities, thereby improving the quality in existing facilities across Europe. The opportunity for Transnational Access to the EPPN[2020] installations are widely advertised via regional conferences and web-based information. Calls for Transnational Access to the EPPN[2020] installations will be released at regular intervals. Transnational Access will be available based on a simple and transparent access procedure, which ensures that the proposals are technically feasible in relation with the instruments available in the considered installation. This will be obtained via an obligatory interaction between the platform scientist and the user. The proposals will be evaluated by a panel consisting of independent scientists outside of EPPN[2020] and representatives of the involved Transnational Access platforms.

Rationale:
A publically accessible EPPN[2020] webpage has been established to advertise open calls for Transnational Access. Calls will be opened for the installations with a deadline. User have to upload a proposal using the on-line submission platform. Each proposal will be reviewed and evaluated by an international expert recognized for their expertise in the plant phenotyping and an independent EPPN[2020] access provider.

Main Results:
Calls for Transnational Access to all installations will be released in regular intervals, each with a deadline for project submission. There will be six calls during the project duration (December 2017, June 2018, December 2018, June 2019, December 2019 and June 2020).
The first call for Transnational Access has been launched. The evaluation process of applications of the first call will start mid-December 2017. Before submitting a proposal, users interested in performing a Transnational Access experiment can select the platform of interest on the web-based portal and need to contact the responsible scientists at these installations to discuss their experiments and specifically to elaborate the feasibility of the experiment. Based on this discussion, a proposal is submitted to the on-line submission platform prior to the deadline. Proposals will be checked for eligibility before starting the evaluation procedure. Eligible proposals will be evaluated by a scientific panel consisting of at least 50% of independent plant scientists outside of EPPN[2020] and EPPN[2020] platform responsible scientists. The selection criteria are based on the scientific quality of the proposal, which represents scientific progress potentially leading to publications and the feasibility of the experiment. The submitted proposals will be ranked and selected for Transnational Access by the selection panel.

Authors/Teams involved: Roland Pieruschka, Simone Gatzke (FZJ)
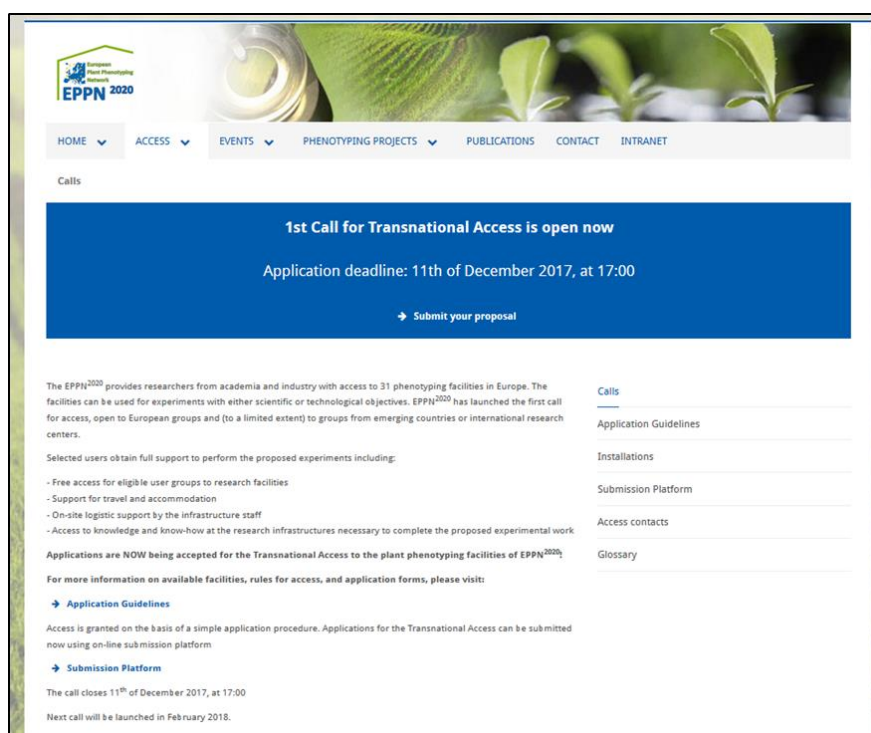
Table of contents

1. DEDICATED CALLS AND REVIEWS FOR ACCESS

The EPPN²⁰²⁰ provides researchers from academia and industry with Transnational Access (TA) to plant phenotyping installations in Europe. TA designs and manages access to EPPN²⁰²⁰ installations for a wide phenotyping community. TA will be available based on a simple and transparent web-based procedure (see also Deliverable 4.2). Before submitting a proposal, users interested in performing TA experiments can select the platform of interest on the web based infrastructure database and need to contact the responsible scientists at these platforms to discuss their experiments and specifically to elaborate the feasibility of the experiment. Based on this discussion, a proposal is submitted to the on-line submission platform prior to the deadline. Proposals will be checked for eligibility before starting the evaluation procedure.

1.1 Dedicated calls for access

TA to the EPPN²⁰²⁰ installations will be advertised through calls, which will be released at regular intervals with deadlines for project submission. In total six calls will be released during the project time (December 2017, June 2018, December 2018, June 2019, December 2019 and June 2020).

The first call has already been launched and has been made publically accessible on the EPPN²⁰²⁰ webpage (https://eppn2020.plant-phenotyping.eu/Access_Call, see Fig. 1 and Deliverables 4.1, 5.1). The deadline for the first call is beginning of December 2017. First experiments will be possible early 2018.

Fig. 1: First call for Transnational Access https://eppn2020.plant-phenotyping.eu/Access_Call

1.2 Reviews for access

Each application will be reviewed and evaluated by two reviewers, namely an internationally recognized scientist in a research area relevant to the considered application and a scientist belonging to the EPPN2020 consortium. A first screen will be performed based on criteria of feasibility, as evaluated by the relevant access provider and the executive committee. Access providers will be notified about any submissions to their installation via a section of the on-line submission platform (see Fig. 2 and Deliverable 4.2). The review process itself will be initiated only if the access provider confirms the feasibility submitted application. Each proposal section is evaluated and will receive grades from reviewers. Only applications that pass the threshold value for each section can be approved. The evaluation criteria of the submitted application are as follows (see Fig. 3):

- The application demonstrates scientific excellence or (for accesses with technological purpose) a promising technical challenge
- Whenever possible, the proposed project crosses scales for addressing a specific question (e.g. metabolomics to phenotype, platform in greenhouse to field canopy). For that, a priority will be given to applications that aim at extending or complementing an available dataset, explicitly presented in the application
- The application shows how scientific progress can lead to publication or, for technical projects, technological publications, patent or any other diffusion method.

Preference is given to users who do not belong to the EPPN²⁰²⁰ consortium. Special attention will be paid to developing-countries and to young scientists. Additionally, to efficiently address the user demand, high quality applications which were not selected for access to one platform can be re-evaluated for access to other comparable platform, if there is capacity for access. This will allow efficient use of the infrastructure and address the demand.

The final decision will be taken by the executive committee of EPPN²⁰²⁰ based on reviews. In most cases, it will be taken by the TA WP leader and the coordinator, and checked by the executive committee. In difficult cases, the executive committee will take the final decision based on a vote. In so doing, the procedure will apply the principles of transparency, fairness and impartiality. Selected projects and their status will be listed on the EPPN²⁰²⁰ website.

1.3 Accesses

Access providers and users selected for access will be encouraged to sign a bilateral agreement that states how the work will be carried out, how data will be processed, stored and made accessible to a wide community. The agreement will also indicate the ownership of different categories of resulting data (phenotypic data, environmental data, calibrations, workflows and designs). Ownership rules will be based on principles presented in D3.1 (data management plan). The key elements of the data management plan are published on the website to openly inform the access providers and users bout the EPPN2020 data policy.

Users will obtain all the logistic, scientific and technological support needed to successfully complete the proposed experiments. During the access experiments user group members will be closely involved in the experiments, in particular for taking adequate decisions during the experiment. They will be integrated into the local working groups. For each experiment, a local staff member and a mentor will support the user throughout the experimental period, by i) discussing and designing in detail the experiments, ii) training the users in standard operating procedures applicable to the installations, iii) supporting the users during the experimental phase, iv) enabling data processing and analysis, v) assisting in data interpretation including the preparation of manuscripts and reports as appropriate.

Fig. 2: Web-based section for reviewers with all relevant guidelines to evaluate submitted proposals (https://eppn2020.plant-phenotyping.eu/login_evaluator)

Fig. 3: Evaluation criteria for submitted proposals (https://eppn2020.plant-phenotyping.eu/EPPN2020_call)

Definitions

EPPN[2020]: European Plant Phenotyping Network - 2020
TA: Transnational Access

Annex 1: Check list

Deliverable Check list (to be checked by the "Deliverable leader")

	Check list		Comments
BEFORE	I have checked the due date and have planned completion in due time		*Please inform Management Team of any foreseen delays*
	The title corresponds to the title in the DOW		*If not please inform the Management Team with justification*
	The dissemination level corresponds to that indicated in the DOW		
	The contributors (authors) correspond to those indicated in the DOW		
	The Table of Contents has been validated with the Activity Leader		*Please validate the Table of Content with your Activity Leader before drafting the deliverable*
	I am using the EPPN[2020] deliverable template (title page, styles etc)		*Available in "Useful Documents" on the collaborative workspace*
	The draft is ready		
AFTER	I have written a good summary at the beginning of the Deliverable		*A 1-2 pages maximum summary is mandatory (not formal but really informative on the content of the Deliverable)*
	The deliverable has been reviewed by all contributors (authors)		*Make sure all contributors have reviewed and approved the final version of the deliverable. You should leave sufficient time for this validation.*
	I have done a spell check and had the English verified		
	I have sent the final version to the WP Leader and to the Project coordinator (cc to the project manager) for approval		*Send the final draft to your WPLeader and the coordinator with cc to the project manager on the 1st day of the due month and leave 2 weeks for feedback. Inform the reviewer of the changes (if any) you have made to address their comments. Once validated by the 2 reviewers and the coordinator, send the final version to the Project Manager who will then submit it to the EC.*