Deliverable 4.2: Web based portal with all relevant information about transnational access
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Document information

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Executive Summary

Context

EPPN[2020] (i) provides Transnational Access to a wide range of state-of-the-art plant phenotyping installations, techniques and methods, (ii) develops techniques and methods in Joint Research Activities, thereby improving the quality in existing facilities across Europe. In total 31 state-of-the-art installations from 15 different institutions across Europe provide access. Transnational Access will be available based on a simple and transparent access procedure. A description of the access procedure and modalities with all relevant aspects have been outlined on the EPPN[2020] website.

Objective

An EPPN[2020] web-based portal has been established, which includes a description of the access procedure and specifically the description of the Transnational Access installations with all relevant information which allow the user to select and identify the installation that corresponds best to the needs of the user. It is also meant to be a channel for dissemination of the project's results, including from the Joint Research Activities

Main Results:

We have established a web-based portal with information such as:

- Access guidelines for potential applicants with a web-based infrastructure database that includes a description of the installations available for access in EPPN[2020] as well as all relevant contact information of access providers.
- Applications for the Transnational Access can be submitted using an on-line submission platform in which all applications are managed. The platform includes detailed guidelines for the applicant, project description, project archive etc.
- A section for access providers, which enables access for the access providers to all projects submitted to their installations.
- A dedicated section for reviewers with all relevant guidelines to evaluate submitted proposals (Deliverable 4.3).
- A dedicated section for users and access providers with all results of Joint Research Activities.
- Access to the Intranet of the project (consortium only)
- An Events section to inventorize the events (congresses etc) connected to EPPN2020 theme.
- A Publication section to disseminate the publications arising from EPPN2020

Authors/Teams involved:

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1. Establishment of the EPPN2020 web-based portal

The EPPN2020 web-based portal is available at https://eppn2020.plant-phenotyping.eu/ and includes the following sections:

- Home
- Access
- Events
- Phenotyping projects
- Publications
- Contact
- Intranet

1.1 TNA Information

EPPN[2020] provides researchers from academia and industry with access to 31 plant phenotyping installations in Europe. The installations can be used for experiments with either scientific or technological objectives. Transnational Access (TA) will be available based on a simple and transparent web-based procedure (see also Deliverable 4.3), which ensures that: i) proposals are technically feasible for the available instruments in the installations; this assessment is based on the interaction of the platform scientist and the user; ii) proposals are evaluated by a panel consisting of independent scientists outside of EPPN[2020] and representatives of the involved TA platforms iii) the experiments represent state-of-the-art science with clear scientific questions and original experimental designs, resulting in publications in high quality journals. EPPN[2020] has launched the first call for TA and applications are now being accepted (see also Deliverable 4.1). The web-based portal allows different groups of people involved in that process and access to the dedicated sections. Access providers have access to all applications submitted to their installations and reviewers have access to proposals assigned to them. Finally, the EPPN[2020] Access Manager can organize web-based process in an effective way that allows a simple submission, evaluation, management and archiving of the of TA proposals.

The Website also informs the phenotyping community on the progress in the three Joint Research Activities (JRA), namely progress in (i) model assisted phenotyping techniques, (ii) statistical procedures to plan and interpret phenotyping experiments and (iii) information system to organized phenotyping datasets. These Results are made available through a special section on the website.

Application guidelines and a web-based infrastructure database

A description of the TA procedure and modalities with all relevant aspects have been outlined on the EPPN[2020] website (see Fig. 1 and Deliverable 5.1).

Fig. 1: Guidelines for TA applications: https://eppn2020.plant-phenotyping.eu/EPPN2020_Application_Guidelines

Applicants can get an overview of the installations available for TA in a database, which includes a description of the TA installations and the contact information of the access providers (see Fig. 2 and Deliverable 5.1). Installations within EPPN[2020] represent a diverse set of facilities for plant phenotyping in Europe with respect to plants/crops, environmental conditions and traits of interest. Thus, we put an emphasis on the assessment of the feasibility of the experiments before the submission of an application. Applicants are specifically requested to contact the access provider before submitting an application and discuss the feasibility so that only feasible applications enter the review process.
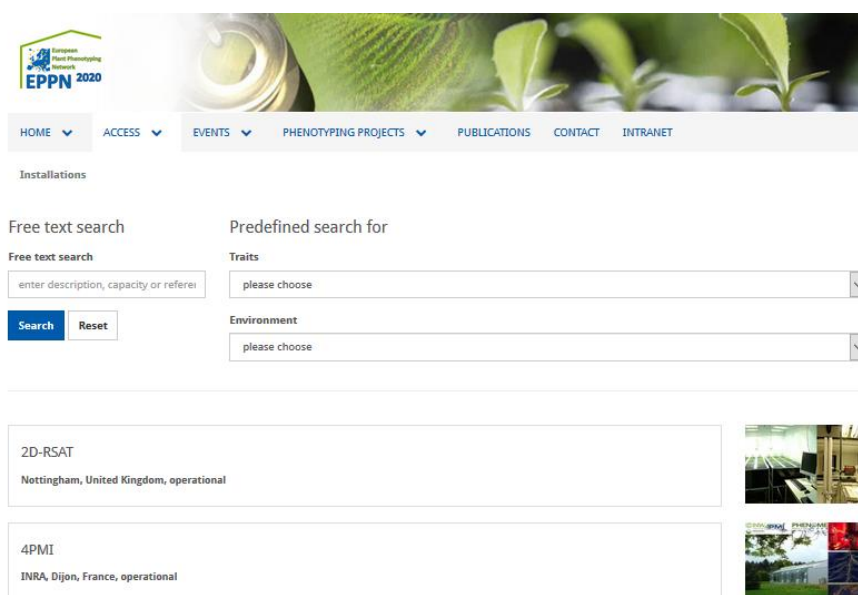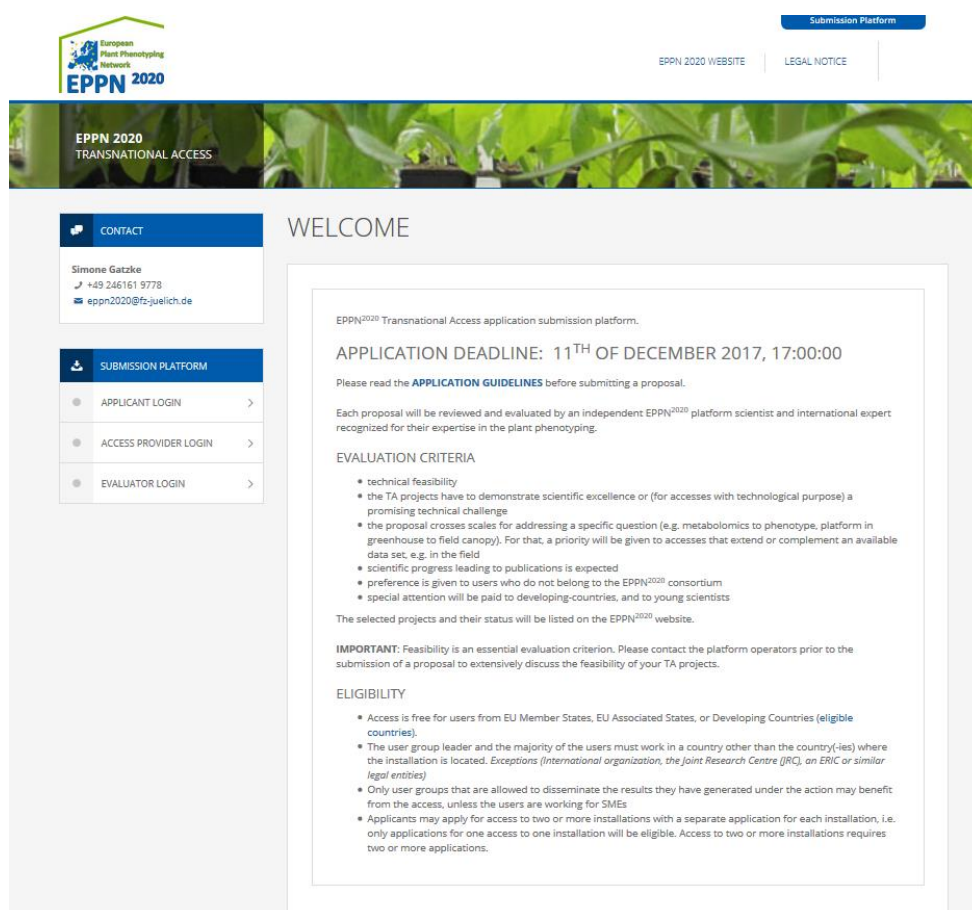
Fig. 2: Infrastructure database that includes a description of the installations available for TA in EPPN[2020] (https://eppn2020.plant-phenotyping.eu/EPPN2020_installations#/)

On-line application submission platform

Applications for the TA can be submitted using the on-line submission platform in which all applications are managed (Fig. 3). The platform includes detailed guidelines for the applicant, reports on access and all other access data. Access provider are notified about any submissions to their installation and have access to all submitted proposals to their installations via an access provider login. A review process will be initiated only if the access provider approves the submitted proposal and the feasibility.

We have set-up a section dedicated to reviewers with relevant guidelines for the evaluation process. Access is granted on the basis of proposals. Each proposal section is evaluated and will receive grades from the reviewer. Only proposals that pass the threshold value for each section can be approved. The proposal is divided into three parts: i) description of feasibility, ii) excellence and iii) expected outcome / impact of the proposal (see Fig 4). . 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.

The first call for TA has already been launched (see Deliverable 4.1). The evaluation process of applications of the first call will start mid-December 2017. Accepted projects will be listed on the website with a short description of the performed experiments and links to relevant publications resulting from these TA activities as well as user feedback about the performed experiments.

Fig. 3: On-line submission platform for Transnational Access applications
(https://eppn2020.plant-phenotyping.eu/EPPN2020_call)

Fig. 4: Evaluation criteria for submitted proposals (https://eppn2020.plant-phenotyping.eu/EPPN2020_call)

2. Dissemination of Joint Research Activities through a web-based portal

Results of the JRA activities will be publically available through the EPPN[2020] webpage (see D5.2).

JRA activities in EPPN[2020] include: i) Procedures and information for the acquisition of phenotypic data related to trait assessment and environmental monitoring, ii) statistical design and analysis approaches, iii) methods and interfaces to manage, share, reuse and visualize heterogeneous high throughput plant phenotyping dataDatasets generated and processed during and after the TA experiments of EPPN[2020] will be managed through the Data Management Plan (see D3.1). The Data Management Plan, available in the website, will help partners to manage data, meet funder requirements, and facilitate multiple use of data by the scientific community.

The results of the JRA activities will also be available beyond the EPPN[2020] consortium and published in scientific publications, reports and white papers that will be made available on the EPPN[2020] website and disseminated through other networks and initiatives such as EMPHASIS and IPPN.

3. Other sections

The EPPN2020 web based portal also contains:

- A general section presenting the projet and the consortium

- a "contact" section to communicate with the consortium:

- It also provides a direct access to the intranet:

- A list of peer-reviewed publications:

- A list of events (workshops organised in the frame of the Networking Activities and othe events connected with EPPN2020 activities and topic

Conclusion

A web-based portal has been established to broadcast information and results on the project and to allow external people to contact us. One of the main features of the EPPN2020 webportal is the Transnational Access section, allowing users to submit their proposal using the on-line submission platform. A first call for TA has been launched and was made publically accessible on the EPPN[2020] webpage. The call closes 11th of December 2017. The evaluation process of applications of the first call will start mid of December 2017. The next call will be launched in February 2018.

Definitions

EPPN2020: European Plant Phenotyping Network - 2020
JRA: Joint Research Activities
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.*