

An Exploitation Strategy Seminar and a Mid-Term Assessment Meeting of an EU sixth framework programme project:

“Discovering Quorum Sensing in industrially useful Fungi, a novel approach at molecular level for scaling-up in white biotech.”

held in Prague, Czech Republic, 14-16 May 2008

A mid-term assessment meeting of the EU-project I'm working in was organised at one of the collaborators' facilities, in the Institute of Chemical Technology in Prague. An EU-official was scheduled to participate in the meeting but he/she had cancelled after all. Nevertheless, the meeting was held, and the minutes of the meeting will be provided to the EU-officer for assessment. He/she will then decide on the continuation of this project based on the material he/she has been provided with.

Before the actual meeting an exploitation strategy seminar was organised where a senior consultant to the European Commission gave us instructions regarding patenting issues. Because so few results of the previous framework programmes have been industrially exploited and patented the European Commission is now trying to improve the situation by organising these seminars. The aim of the seminar was to point out the possible exploitable results of this project and to improve the discovery of any patentable results within academia. The potential problems and risks concerning patenting and protecting the know-how were also discussed. The seminar gave a very profound information package of different possibilities concerning intellectual property rights and patenting issues.

During the actual mid-term assessment meeting partners in each work package of this EU Consortium gave short oral presentations over the results achieved during the first half (18 months) of the project. These results were then discussed and the activities for the next 18 months were planned. My contribution to this meeting was to present the results we had achieved in transcriptomics analyses as part of the functional genomics analyses work package. In addition to the oral presentation I also presented a poster in the meeting. Nearly 30 people, consisting of PhD students, researchers and professors from seven European universities and from one industrial partner in this EU Consortium, all representing different expertise areas, were gathered to summarise the achieved results and plan the directions of the future research within the Consortium. This pointed out the importance of explaining one's own research in such terms that also people with differing expertise can follow the presentation.

This three day meeting was very well organised and we had even the opportunity to get a taste of the traditional Czech cuisine and a quick look of the beautiful city of Prague. I would like to thank the organisers of the meeting at the Institute of Chemical Technology in Prague for a very nice and fruitful meeting and ISB for the financial support.

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