

Horizon 2020 Work programme

Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry, Marine, Maritime and Inland Water Research and the Bioeconomy

Call

H2020-FNR-2020: Food and Natural Resources

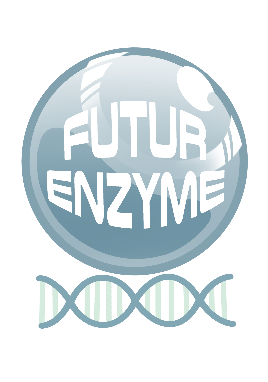
Topic name

**FNR-16-2020: Enzymes for more environment-friendly consumer products**

Cluster name

**Enzymes for greener products**







Grant agreement no 101000607

Grant agreement no 101000560

Grant agreement no 101000831

Grant agreement no 101000327



FNR-16-2020 Cluster “Enzymes for greener products”

**EVENT/ACTION**

First FNR-16-2020 Cluster meeting minutes

**DATE**

14th October 2021

**LOCATION**

Online

**Version**

Final

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# INTRODUCTION

The first meeting for the FNR-16-2020 Cluster “*Enzymes for greener products”*, organised in cooperation with the European Research Executive Agency (REA) (Unit B3 “Biodiversity, Circular Economy and Environment”), was held online on 14th October 2021. This Cluster gathered together to join efforts for a higher efficiency and impact of the 4 integrating projects: EnXylaScope (Grant Agreement no 101000831), FuturEnzyme (Grant Agreement no 101000327), OXIPRO (Grant Agreement no 101000607) and RADICALZ (Grant Agreement no 101000560). These projects are funded under the frame of Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2018-2020, call “Food and Natural Resources”, topic FNR-16-2020 “Enzymes for more environment-friendly consumer products”.

This meeting is the first of a series of meetings through which the 4 Consortia, in accordance with the terms of the Grant Agreement, will undertake the best collaborative efforts with a view to maximise efficiency and impact, by favouring synergies and avoiding overlapping or duplication of activities. This is especially important given that the 4 projects target multiple types of audiences such as scientific community and other social audience, SMEs, industry, consumers, policy makers, etc.

The Project Coordinators and Project Managers of the 4 projects attended the meeting, which was joined by the 2 Project Officers and the Head of Sector in Unit B3 “Biodiversity, Circular Economy and Environment” of the European Research Executive Agency (REA), to give advice and help identifying synergies. The Policy Officer of the European Commission Directorate-General “Research and Innovation” also presented the policy aspects related to the topic FNR-16-2020.

This meetup was proposed by Gro Bjerga, Coordinator of OXIPRO, and Manuel Ferrer, Coordinator of FuturEnzyme, and soon accepted by the rest of the Coordinators, at which the Project Officers agreed. It was organised by Spanish National Research Council CSIC, using the online platform *Conecta CSIC*. The recording of the meeting is available under this [link](https://balanbbb.corp.csic.es/playback/presentation/2.0/playback.html?meetingId=9fb699bac22158c9d98e238cbba516563ab777ff-1634208481810).

# MINUTES

**Manuel Ferrer welcomed** all the participants and gave the speaking turn to **Evdokia Achilleos**, Head of Sector of the REA Unit B3 “Biodiversity, Circular Economy and Environment”. She highlighted the importance of this meeting and that REA is implicated in building well-functioning relations amongst all the participants and facilitating dialogue with Policy Officers working in related areas. She also encouraged the Cluster members to be aware of any initiative regarding the topic “*use of enzymes and related*” at a national level, suggesting contacting the National Contact Points in this direction. She reminded that it would be much appreciated that project results from the FNR-16-2020 Cluster are communicated to the Project Officers. Gathering the results of the 4 projects is positive also because it will help in the exploitation of the results even after the projects are completed. She reminded the benefit of keeping REA updated about future collaborations, as they will facilitate networking also with other clusters if we need a support.

Then, **Paloma Mallorquín**, Policy Officer of the EC DG “Research and Innovation” Unit B1 “Circular Economy & Biobased Systems” intervened to give an EU policy content resume. One of the points she described is the EU strategy for sustainable textiles, highlighting the importance of introducing the use of enzymes in all the steps of the production. At the end of her intervention, she invited the projects members to check the implementation plan of the [Missions in Horizon Europe](https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/missions-horizon-europe_en), published in September 2021, to explore further synergies in our research areas with this EU initiative.

Manuel Ferrer thanked Paloma Mallorquín for her involvement in our Cluster meeting. He also pointed that a key message during the communication and dissemination strategy may be that through the activities of the 4 projects, we are not only going to reduce the pollution and harm to the environment, but with our developments we will also contribute to the recovery and restoration of natural environments, which is possible by reducing pollution levels.

Our Project Officers, **Ruska Kelevska** (EnXylaScope, OXIPRO and RADICALZ) and **Colombe Warin** (FuturEnzyme) took the floor, and reminded the fact that there are deliverables at each reporting periods, called “policy briefs”; Those are very important documents to channel the projects’ results to the different levels of the EU. Colombe Warin suggested that it could be interesting to have synergies at these policy briefs that could help when transferring the results to the EU hierarchy. Manuel Ferrer agreed and suggested the possibility of preparing two such policy briefs, one in the first year of the projects to settle the stage we are now, and one at the end of the projects, so when projects end one can compare the “before” and the “after” and see what we have achieved.

Following the agenda, **Carolina Peñalva presented EnXylaScope** as Project Coordinator. Then, she proposed the following collaborations, opportunities and synergies:

For policy-work: promoting agreements, organization of a policy event, such as a Colloquium.

Regarding Dissemination and Communication events: common participation in courses, workshops, webinars (EnXylaScope targets 3 thematic webinars that can be framed in the Cluster for greener products); publication of promotional articles, etc. (already achieved [one](https://sites.google.com/gl.miteco.gob.es/revistaambienta2/revista-128/innovaci%C3%B3n-128-enzimas-productos) thanks to FuturEnzyme project); common conference “Enzymes for more environment-friendly consumer products” with the 4 relevant projects included.

About real experimental synergies: periodic online/face-to-face meetings where to identify synergies and increase the potential impact and to identify some common areas of interest, and sharing ideas. As example, partner Divis will develop a software tool, including a graphical user interface (GUI). The tool can serve as a platform for other enzyme applications and EnXylaScope will engage with other FNR-16-2020 funded proposals regarding how they would like to see the tool developed over the project.

Manuel Ferrer pointed the fact that different events are planned, so it would be useful to prepare a timeline to collaborate in them without conflicts; it may also be positive to establish an NDA (non-disclosure agreement) in case experimental synergies are expected; a key message that we need to make clear is that we are targeting many different products to promote a sustainable bioeconomy in different directions.

Paul Webb, Head of REA Department B “Green Europe”, commented through the public chat that the collaboration in the mentioned events would be very welcome.

Then, **Manuel Ferrer**, **Coordinator of FuturEnzyme,** presented the project. Inter-consortia network events proposed are webinars (month 1-24), workshops, courses, and conferences (month 24-36), general inter-consortia meeting (month 36) and inter-consortia policy event (month 44). He questioned about the need of a transparent legal framework in which to operate, exploit and disseminate synergies. More in detail, the *suggested actions* are:

* Media package release (2022)
* Webinar “Enzymes for more environmental-friendly consumer products” (2022)
* Summer School on Metagenomics (2022)
* Workshop on good practices (2023)
* Course on bioinformatics and computational analysis (2023)
* Industry-oriented workshop (2023)
* Workshop on European Green Deal aligned with Rights, Ethics and Equality (2023)
* Intra-consortium exploitation workshop with other funded projects (2024)
* Conference on International biotech/bioeconomy (2024)
* Intra-consortium policy event with other funded projects (2024)

He also proposed to join forces for an article in the CORDIS communications like research EU or articles in other scientific (peer review) or popular journals; FuturEnzyme will run a confidential questionnaire and if the output results in public interest, it can also be interesting to perform a Cluster one.

**Aurelio Hidalgo, RADICALZ’s Coordinator** resumed the project (a change in the agenda was needed due to IT issues). He pointed at the organization of:

* Technical meetings, planned for year 2 (2022).
* Training events such as a workshop and a summer school on enzymes for bioeconomy, planned for year 3 (2023).
* Communication events such as the European Night of Researchers or an interactive round table (ESOF2024), planned for years 2 and 3 (2022 and 2023)
* Dissemination actions such as newsletter (not usually highly successful in terms of subscriptions, but maybe a joint one with the 4 projects will help).
* Industrial stakeholder legacy info day, planned for year 4 (2024).
* Dedicated sessions in relevant conferences on biocatalysis, biotechnology and/or metagenomics.
* Policy-related discussions (to prepare policy meeting and policy brief).

**Gro Bjerga, Coordinator of OXIPRO**, described the project. Regarding collaboration for coherent policy-making, she proposed the following actions: a working group with FNR-16 community Cluster Enzymes for greener products; a joint policy meeting at month 12 (06/2022); FNR-16 contribution for policy-makers at month 24 (06/2023). OXIPRO also has other tools, such as 2 round tables or join policy meetings; 1 lunch talk at EU Parliament where synergies are welcomed. OXIPRO has several ways to bring policy feedback, e.g., policy reports. The project met and agreed in the following *structure* and *actions* for the Cluster collaboration:

*Structure proposed*: propose to establish a working group to support policy making.

*Activities proposed*: invite Cluster members to 2 round table/joint policy meetings (OXIPRO: 1st and 3rd year); joint high-impact social awareness campaign throughout Europe (OXIPRO: 3rd year online, 4rd year physical in ES-Barcelona and NO-Bergen); joint publication (access possible areas for this); capacity building (OXIPRO: webinar series).

*Immediate actions*: joint press release on the «enzyme Cluster» (OXIPRO offers to prepare the draft); common #tags and @ the other projects (#enzymecluster); common platform for open science deposits (Zenodo).

Colombe Warin liked the immediate actions, and she proposed to fix in this moment the tags to be used to transfer them to the communication department at REA.

# PROPOSED ACTIONS

After the end of the presentations, the common actions to undertake are discussed.

**Immediate:**

- To prepare a report of maximum 2 pages summarizing this event and to be published on the project’s websites (Manuel Ferrer suggested the first draft to be prepared by FuturEnzyme and then shared to ALL to agree in a final draft).

- Preparation of the minutes summarizing the meeting and key actions (FuturEnzyme, ALL).

- To agree on common tags for communication and dissemination: #EUGreenResearch #enzymecluster #enzyming #greenerproducts #greentech #REA\_research #circulareconomy #climatechange #sustainable #consumerproducts #green #ecofriendly #environment #biotechnology #biobased #EUMissions #EUGreenDeal (add for policies, ALL).

- To discuss and agree on common messages to be clearly mentioned during the communication and dissemination activities, such as the sectors we target and why, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) we target and why, the industrial sectors we target and why, the enzymes we all together target and why, the technologies we target and implement and why, the implications on environment, in bioeconomy, in health, in decreasing contamination level, in safety, in consumer benefits (in a quantitative level), how we ensure industrial implementation and why this is important, the role of EU funding in reaching the European Green Deal (EGD) objectives, etc. (messages to be discussed and agreed by ALL).

- To prepare a joint press release, or preferably a launch a web friendly newsletter case on websites and LinkedIn of all four projects on the same day (ALL, RadicalZ). For this purpose, a visual identity image for this will be designed by AITIIP, that will be later evaluated by ALL before final agreement.

- To prepare a roadmap (first draft for circulation Feb 18th, 2022; accepted by the Cluster coordinators), to mark the specific activities, collaborations and initiatives and their timing that will make easier to visualize all the Cluster actions (FuturEnzyme, ALL). Note: this roadmap will compile all communication/dissemination/exploitation/training events/activities, which can be of common interest, planned by the different Consortia.

- To organize/perform campaigns to reach not only an European audience but also non-European audience (ALL). This action was suggested by Ruska Kelevska, who added the idea of carrying out a campaign to reach a broader consumer and social audience, so the results are better spread and better understood. In here, we can use the help of consumer organisations: FuturEnzyme in collaboration with Altroconsumo, EnXylaScope by their partner RISE, by performing different surveys about consumer acceptance and other tests. In this regard, as immediate action, Manuel Ferrer suggested that maybe the Cluster members can contact their countries’ consumer organisations to check if it is possible to make an altogether campaign. Colombe Warin pointed that it is positive that it is made not only at national level but to enlarge at EU level by focusing more on Central and Eastern Europe.

- To organize working groups (at least an executive and a policy group; see details below) for activities related to technical work for consumer products (e.g. taking care for example of national standardization activities as suggested by Ruska, etc.). Gro Bjerga comments (by the public chat) that they have a partner involved in standardization of life sciences, so it could be useful to check with them, they will plan to provide a webinar on the topic of standardization (OXIPRO, ALL).

- To organize a working group for policy-related activities (OXIPRO, ALL).

- To use a common platform for open science deposits (ALL).

- To design an image using the isotypes of all four projects to be used for common dissemination, exploitation and communication activities (AITIIP will propose a logo/image, to be later on defined/agreed with ALL).

- To agree on a template for networking activities (the template may contain the cluster branding, if and when agreed).

**On a longer term:**

- Webinars, courses, workshops (ALL); to be discussed once the roadmap is detailed (see above).

- Round tables/joint policy meetings (ALL); to be discussed once the roadmap is agreed upon (see above).

- Training events: summer schools (ALL); this can be discussed once the roadmap (see above) is detailed.

- Join forces for articles in CORDIS, popular magazines, scientific magazines (e.g. [Horizon magazine](https://ec.europa.eu/research-and-innovation/en/horizon-magazine?pk_campaign=search_campaign&pk_source=google&pk_medium=search)), newsletters, etc. Ruska Kelevska and Colombe Warin suggested the possibility to publish a brochure on [CORDIS](https://cordis.europa.eu/en) platform when the projects have interesting results to promote our research. It is free of charge and Projects Officers can provide the needed contacts (ALL).

- Organize a joint policy event at the end of the projects: preparation of a policy paper/brief – one now, and one later or at the end of the project (ALL); this can be discussed once the roadmap (see above) is detailed.

- Compile inputs to public consultations, technological implementations, gaps, etc.

- Check the possibilities for experimental synergies (sharing Life Cycle Assessments, etc.).

**-**  Agree on regular meetings involving all project members of the 4 Consortia.

# FINAL COMMENTS AND REMARKS

It is important to notify for events and feedback for policy making as soon as possible to the Project Officers, not wait until reporting periods or any other deadlines.

Marta Redrado, Project Manager from EnXylaScope, proposed to work by defining Coordinator’s meetings in which what is going to be done is decided and then, small and specialized groups composed of members of the 4 Consortia meet to discuss how to carry the actions out.

Colombe Warin reminded us to keep them posted about our actions in advance, and that our Project Officers support us and help us to channel our research in the best possible way. She also suggested that we can make actions with target on other countries that are not a part of our Consortia.

# WORKING GROUPS

Two working works are suggested, namely an **Executive group** and a **Policy Group** (ALL). Once the roadmap with activities are defined, other synergies and Groups will be inspected.

**Executive group**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Project | Charge |
| Carolina Peñalva | EnXylaScope | Coordinator |
| Manuel Ferrer | FuturEnzyme | Coordinator |
| Gro E. Kjæreng Bjerga | OXIPRO | Coordinator |
| Aurelio Hidalgo | RADICALZ | Coordinator |
| Marta Redrado | EnXylaScope | Project Manager |
| Patricia Molina | FuturEnzyme | Project Manager |
| Anne Dorthea Mæland | OXIPRO | Project Manager |
| Nargisse Nejda | RADICALZ | Project Manager |

**Policy group**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Project | Charge |
| Carolina Peñalva | EnXylaScope | Coordinator |
| Manuel Ferrer | FuturEnzyme | Coordinator |
| Gro E. Kjæreng Bjerga | OXIPRO | Coordinator |
| Aurelio Hidalgo | RADICALZ | Coordinator |
| Marta Redrado | EnXylaScope | Project Manager |
| Patricia Molina | FuturEnzyme | Project Manager |
| Anne Dorthea Mæland | OXIPRO | Project Manager |
| Nargisse Nejda | RADICALZ | Project Manager |

# PARTICIPANTS

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
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| Gro E. Kjæreng Bjerga | OXIPRO | Coordinator | grbj@norceresearch.no |
| Aurelio Hidalgo | RADICALZ | Coordinator | ahidalgo@cbm.csic.es |
| Colombe Warin | FuturEnzyme | Project Officer (REA) | Colombe.WARIN@ec.europa.eu |
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| Paul Webb | REA.B “Green Europe” | Head of Department | - |
| Roberto Enseñatt-Waser | REA, Unit B3 “Biodiversity, Circular Economy and Environment” | Project Adviser | - |
| Giulio Pattarano | REA, Unit B3 “Biodiversity, Circular Economy and Environment” | Research Programme Administrator | - |
| Attila Berczik | REA, Unit B3 “Biodiversity, Circular Economy and Environment” | Deputy Head of Unit | - |
| Berta Gonzalvo Bas | EnXylaScope | R+I Director | berta.gonzalvo@aitiip.com |
| Pablo Domínguez de María | RADICALZ | Innovation and Exploitation WP leader | - |

# AGENDA

**COORDINATORS’ MEETING\***

**Cluster “Enzymes for greener products”**

(14th October 2021, 13:00 - 15:00)

**On-line link:** https://conectaha.csic.es/b/pat-ox0-xbn-x5z

**AGENDA**

13:00-13:10 Welcome

Manuel Ferrer - FuturEnzyme’s Coordinator

* Brief introduction to the event, the agenda and the participants

13:10-13:15 Welcome

Evdokia ACHILLEOS - Head of Sector

REA, Unit B3 “Biodiversity, Circular Economy and Environment”

13:15-13:25 Presentation on topic FNR-16 -2020

Paloma MALLORQUIN - Policy Officer

DG Research & Innovation, Unit B1 “Circular Economy & Biobased Systems”

13:25-13:30 Introduction of Project Officers of FNR-16-2020 projects

Ruska Kelevska and Colombe Warin - Project Officers

REA, Unit B3 “Biodiversity, Circular Economy and Environment”

13:30-13.35 EnXylaScope: project overview and synergy expectations1

Carolina Peñalva - EnXylaScope’s Coordinator

*Short Q&A*

13.40-13.45 FuturEnzyme: project overview and synergy expectations 1

Manuel Ferrer - FuturEnzyme’s Coordinator

*Short Q&A*

13.50-13.55 OXIPRO: project overview and synergy expectations1

Gro E. Kjæreng Bjerga - OXIPRO’s Coordinator

*Short Q&A*

14.00-14.05 RADICALZ: project overview and synergy expectations1

Aurelio Hidalgo - RADICALZ’s Coordinator

*Short Q&A*

1 Brief of the project, partners and synergy ideas.

\*Meeting organised in cooperation with the REA (Unit B3 “Biodiversity, Circular Economy and Environment”).

14.10-14.45 Discussion of synergies and opportunities

Coordinators and other participants

* Dissemination and communication: popular science articles, courses, workshops (Master, PhDs, postdoct, …), webinars, roundtables, …
* Technical meetings: IP and PO, …
* Policy actions: policy events, policy paper, …
* Stakeholder and Consumer actions: infodays, stakeholder/consumer briefings, …
* Frameworks for sharing ideas, techniques, materials, ...
* How to avoid overlapping or duplication of activities.
* Etc.

14.45-14:55 Conclusions and agreed actions

Coordinators

Live summary of actions to be taken on synergies and opportunities: key bullet points and take-home actions

* Draft a short report (max 2 pages) to be published on the projects’ website
* Etc.

14:55-15:00 Closing remarks and next steps

Ruska KELEVSKA and Colombe WARIN

15:00 End of the meeting