



EMPHASIS

NEWSLETTER



Dear colleagues and friends,

We look back at a challenging year. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused disruptions and hardship in Europe and around the world.

At the same time, we also look back at an important year for the establishment of the European Infrastructure for Plant Phenotyping, EMPHASIS.

In February, the [EMPHASIS Interim General Assembly \(IGA\)](#) was set up - a board currently counting eleven member countries whose governments have signed a Letter of Intent declaring their intention to move EMPHASIS towards operation: Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Serbia, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Portugal and the United Kingdom. All European countries that are not yet members are welcome to join the board - please do not hesitate to [get in touch](#).

The IGA will act as the main decision-making body during the implementation phase, which will bridge the preparatory phase of EMPHASIS to the phase of full operation. To compensate for some of the restrictions related to the pandemic, EMPHASIS-PREP, the EU-funded project to prepare the pan-European infrastructure, has been extended until June 2021.

In November, the IGA defined the scope and timeframe of the implementation phase: It will run throughout 2021 with the aim of developing the long-term legal framework of EMPHASIS and pilot services. Pilot services include a subset of services that might be provided through EMPHASIS in the operational phase as well. The first of these services have recently been made publicly available to the community via the [EMPHASIS website](#). With these services we aim to address the pan-European plant phenotyping community at large and develop benefits to the community in specific areas. Your active engagement is essential to test and improve these pilot services and the entire service portfolio of EMPHASIS in the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has worked hard to make significant progress for the concept of EMPHASIS as the pan-European research infrastructure for plant phenotyping. Your commitment, work and support brought us closer to operation - at often challenging conditions during a time strongly affected by the global pandemic.

We need to continue joining forces to stay globally competitive in the rapidly growing field of plant phenotyping. Let's work together in the interest of a strong and interactive European plant phenotyping community.

Wishing you a healthy and happy festive season and all the best for the new year - with hopefully getting to a (new) normal as quickly as possible!

Uli

- Prof. Ulrich Schurr, EMPHASIS Coordinator

Please Participate and Share



Global Plant Phenotyping Survey 2021



EMPHASIS



IPPN

The Global Plant Phenotyping Survey addresses participants from all geographic regions and in all professional disciplines in any way related to plant phenotyping. It is carried out biannually by EMPHASIS and IPPN and helps us to assess the status of global plant phenotyping and emerging fields, to identify potential gaps and understand the demands of the community. We will share the results online as a resource for the whole community. Previous survey results have been used widely for analyzing the global status of plant phenotyping (e.g. [Yang et al.](#)). Participating in these surveys empowers everyone to add to the big picture of how plant phenotyping is being viewed and applied. Please help us by completing the survey and disseminating the [link to the survey](#) among your contacts and any relevant audiences. Thank you!

[Access Survey](#)

NEXT STEPS

Scope and Timeline of Implementation Phase

On 9 November, the EMPHASIS Interim General Assembly (IGA) made important decisions regarding the scope and timeline of the implementation phase: It will run from January to December 2021 with the aim of developing a long-term legal framework, a business plan and demand-driven services. The IGA also agreed on a cost coverage sharing model among its member countries. Astrid Willener from the Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG), Switzerland, has been elected Chair of the EMPHASIS IGA, and Oliver Payne from the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, UK, will serve as Vice-Chair.

[Read More](#)

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Resources on Good Phenotyping Practices

With the Harmonisation Pilot we are exploring how to establish EMPHASIS as a central point of information on Good Phenotyping Practices - and we need your input. Our aim is to provide resources to allow experimental reproducibility between research infrastructures and reusability of the obtained data. To this end, we are collecting guidelines on experimental procedures and the use of equipment, calibration of sensors and FAIRdata examples. On the EMPHASIS website you can browse through the resources we have collected thus far and submit your ideas, recommendations or publications via a simple form.

[Browse and Contribute](#)

RI-VIS

New Guide on How to Draft a Communications Strategy

A team of communication experts and managers of research infrastructures led by EMPHASIS and Instruct-ERIC have developed a step-by-step guide on how to develop and implement communication strategies. The guide is a free resource to assist research infrastructure managers and communication staff and has been developed as part of the EU-funded RI-VIS project, a consortium of 13 partners that aims to increase the visibility of research infrastructures.

[Download Guide](#)

SOAR FOUNDATION REPORT

Developing Global Priorities for Plant Research

The Supporters of Agricultural Research (SoAR) Foundation has published a report targeting funders of agricultural research and proposes research priorities for the next decades based on the input of twelve leading international plant scientists who have provided their perspectives on research directions and strategies for cooperation. The report also stresses the importance of cooperating with initiatives such as EMPHASIS.

[Download Report](#)

News from National Communities

In this section, we happily publish news from European and partner countries' phenotyping communities. If you would like to contribute, please contact emphasis@fz-juelich.de.

NORWAY

Application Submitted for Plant Phenotyping Platform

The plant research community in Norway has joined forces and submitted a national infrastructure proposal to establish the Norwegian Plant Phenotyping Platform (PheNo). The aim of the initiative is to provide the Norwegian plant research and industry communities with state-of-the-art facilities for high-resolution phenotyping under controlled growth conditions, in the field and for seed phenotyping, says coordinator Morten Lillemo.

[Read More](#)

ITALY

First Call for Access to National Infrastructures

In early 2021, the Italian Network of Plant Phenotyping Infrastructures (Phen-Italy) will launch the first call for access to the national plant phenotyping infrastructures. Applicants are requested to submit a project proposal aiming at answering a clear scientific question and/or addressing a technological challenge in the field of plant phenotyping. More information will be circulated in 2021.

[More About Phen-Italy](#)

IRELAND

New PlantScreen System at University College Dublin

University College Dublin (UCD-Ireland) has acquired a PlantScreen system from Photon System Instruments (PSI) with the financial support of Science Foundation Ireland Future Research Leaders Programme (SFI-FRL) awarded to Dr. Sónia Negrão.

[Read More](#)

NETHERLANDS

Two New Gantries Installed in NPEC Greenhouse

The gantries will allow multispectral imaging, 3D scanning and high-resolution thermal imaging of plants as well as a combination of multispectral and thermal imaging with gravimetric phenotyping to study plant water household.

[Find Out More](#)

DENMARK

SUSWHEAT Project Receives Funding From Independent Research Fund Denmark

The collaborative SUSWHEAT project combines globally leading research expertise on wheat from complementary teams at Copenhagen and Aarhus University, China and the UK, creating a strong partnership to dissect the resilience mechanisms in response to future climate. The collaborative project has recently been granted funding from the Independent Research Fund Denmark.

[Read More](#)

SPAIN

New Practical Application for Smallholder Farmers

The University of Barcelona in partnership with the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) are developing a smartphone-based, user-friendly application for smallholder farmers from the MENA region (Morocco, Egypt, Tunisia) and United Arab Emirates (UAE) for detection of plant diseases and nutritional disorders. The aim of the application is to identify major biotic and abiotic stresses in key relevant herbaceous crops.

[Read More](#)

PAST EVENTS

In case you missed it ...

Recordings of past Phenomics Webinars session can be viewed on YouTube

[Watch Videos](#)

Recordings of seminar on Field Phenotyping by Fred Baret (INRAE) and Rick van de Zedde (WUR - NPEC)

[Watch Videos](#)

Recordings of the PhenoRob Seminar Series

[Watch Videos](#)

EVENTS

Coming up ...

8 January 2021, online

PhenoRob Seminar: Jan-Henrik Haurert & Armin Djamei

[More Information](#)

18-20 January 2021, online
Intercropping for Sustainability
[More Information](#)

26-27 January 2021, online
ERIC Forum Meeting 2021
[More Information](#)

29 January & 19 February 2021, online
AgriTech 4.0
[More Information](#)

10 February 2021, online
COST Action Workshop: Remote sensing and plant phenotyping
[More Information](#)

16-19 February 2021, online
2021 North American Plant Phenotyping Network (NAPPN) Annual Conference
[More Information](#)

21-24 March 2021, Lemesos, Cyprus
Hydro2020: III International Symposium on Soilless Culture and Hydroponics
[More Information](#)

22-24 March 2021, Valencia, Spain
Plant Biology And Biotechnology 2020
[More Information](#)

11-15 April 2021, Orlando, Florida, USA
Autonomous Air and Ground Sensing Systems for Agricultural Optimization and Phenotyping VI
[More Information](#)

20-22 April 2021, Limassol, Cyprus
MPU 2021: "Safeguarding Mediterranean Plant Health"
[More Information](#)

1-5 May 2021, Rimini, Italy
9th ISHS Strawberry Symposium
[More Information](#)

8-12 May 2021, online
Advancing together: Enhancing quality of life through HortScience
[More Information](#)

17-19 May 2021, online
21st Symposium of the European Grassland Federation
[More Information](#)

2-4 June 2021, Ottawa, Canada
International Conference on Research Infrastructures (ICRI)
[More Information](#)

21-24 June 2021, Novi Sad, Serbia
20th International Sunflower Conference
[More Information](#)

21-25 June 2021, online
ICAR 2021: The 31st International Conference on Arabidopsis Research
[More Information](#)

28 June-2 July 2021, Wageningen, Netherlands
Summer School on Image Analysis for Plant Phenotyping
[More Information](#)

29 June-2 July 2021, Antwerp, Belgium
SEB Annual Meeting 2021
[More Information](#)

6-8 July 2021, Angers, France

IPPN Affordable Phenotyping Workshop: Plant Phenotyping with Minicomputers and Low-Cost Cameras

[More Information](#)

5-10 September 2021, Novi Sad, Serbia

World Soybean Research Conference XI

[More Information](#)

13-14 September 2021, Cologne, Germany

2nd Cologne Conference on Food for Future

[More Information](#)



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