



MedPlant latest news - Oktober 2014

Time is flying and MedPlant has a 1st year anniversary. A lot has happened since last October and much more is on the way. In this 3rd newsletter you can read about the Supervisory Board meeting, project review days and summerschool in Morocco, future meetings and some of the exciting things going on with the projects.

Rendezvous in the shade of date palms and olive trees

In September MedPlant successfully held its 3rd Supervisory Board Meeting and Project Review Days in Marrakesh, Morocco. Minutes from the meeting has been sent out. The Fellows presented the progress and challenges of their projects and used the chance to network and get input from each other and the partners/associated partners. Next Supervisory Board meeting will be on-line 23 February for the full partners.

MedPlant completed its 1st summer school – and Tom Cruise filmed 'Mission Impossible 5'

From 11-19 September MedPlant hosted the summer school in Morocco on 'Conducting and Communicating Ethnobotanical Research'. The course was a mix of lectures, exercises and fieldwork in close by villages, where the students had the chance to apply the different methods and explore local plant use and observe lifestyle and practices. Part of the course was dedicated to learning about communicating research to the general public. The course was organized by Medplant associated partners Gary Martin from the Global Diversity Foundation and Rajindra Puri from University of Kent.

1 year report – an EU deliverable

The fellows must write a 1 year report within 30 days after 12 months of their project. The report must describe scientific achievements, participation at network wide training activities and national and international conferences along with dissemination by publications. A template will be provided by the coordinator.

Midterm Meeting in Reading – expected to be in the first half of August 2015!

The 5th Supervisory Board meeting, hosted by Julie Hawkins, will also be the Midterm meeting of MedPlant with evaluation of the EU and they principally expect all partners and associated partners to be there, so we hope to see as many of you as possible.

Popular MedPlant workshop at UNESCO conference in Paris

MedPlant hosted a workshop entitled "Medicinal Plant Research – where next" at the UNESCO conference Botanists in the 21st Century in Paris 22-25 September with over 100 participants creating significant interest in the MedPlant training program. 3 of the fellows did a small interview:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QLwyfclrs14>

At the conference also a final declaration was written, available http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/SC/pdf/ConfBotanist_Final-declaration-2014-eng.pdf and it may result in the UN to declare 2017 as the "International Year of Plants for Life".

EU Progress Report - keeping the 94% success level...

The coordinator just submitted the first MedPlant report to the EU with a status of how MedPlant is progressing, and the overall message is that everybody has made a great contribution getting MedPlant started and the network is well on its way.

Updates from Fellows and Partners

Paul Wennekes, ESR12, gave a lecture at the Blissfields festival, 5 July 2014.

Meadhbh Costigan, ESR9, has presented her research proposal at the International Society of Ethnobiology Congress in June in Bhutan, and Botanical Ontologies in May in Oxford.

Prof. Anders Backlund, Uppsala University has presented a lecture at the "Young Researchers Workshop" of the GA meeting in Guimarães, Portugal 30th Aug. 2014, where MedPlant was thoroughly introduced.

Matthias Geck, ESR7 has started fieldwork at the new field site in Chiapas, Mexico where he has collected the first 600 use-reports on 203 medicinally used taxa. He is regularly giving interviews on the project and medicinal plants in general in the local indigenous radio station. The interviews explain the goals and activities of the research project as well as give general comments on medicinal plant use. Further, 10th December he will participate in a larger exposition on Zoque culture in Copainalá, Chiapas, where he will organise and support the presentation of traditional Zoque medicine by several local healers.

Rosa Bounfiglio, ER1, has attended the "20th EuroQSAR 2014" in Saint Petersburg, Russia from Aug. 31. - Sept. 4, 2014 and has presented her project in an internal postdoc meeting at AstraZeneca.

Vincent Manzanilla, ESR13, has presented his project several times at seminars and conferences in Morocco, France and Norway.

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