

Invitation for ProCoGen Workshop 2013

“Conifer sequencing: basic concepts in conifer genomics”

Riga, Latvia – 5-6 November 2013

“Promoting a functional and comparative understanding of the **conifer genome**-implementing applied aspects for more productive and adaptive forests” (**ProCoGen**) is a 4 year EU-funded research project officially launched on 1st Jan. 2012. The main goal is to develop integrative and multidisciplinary genomic research in conifers, using high-throughput platforms for sequencing, genotyping and functional analysis, to unravel genome organization and identification of genes and gene networks controlling important ecological and economic traits.

We are organising dissemination workshops in non-participating European countries to reach out to the scientific community beyond our consortium, to avoid research gaps and to facilitate exchange of ideas, know-how and technology. The **first workshop** is going to be held in the beautiful city of **Riga, Latvia, 5th – 6th Nov. 2013**. The programme will consist of lectures, workshop or demonstration sessions by invited lecturers from European and Trans-Atlantic institutions. We are especially inviting **young scientists in the early stages of their careers** who are currently starting or planning their research in this area. The workshop will also provide an open forum for all participants to express their views, experiences, plans and ideas related to the topic. The workshop will provide a golden opportunity for participants to interact and become acquainted with scientists actively involved in conifer sequencing and annotation.

We cordially invite everyone interested in the upcoming workshop in Riga to express their interest in participation by email to: **Dr. Berthold Heinze: berthold.heinze@bfw.gv.at** and **Dr. Vedhu Krystufek: vedhu.krystufek@bfw.gv.at**. Please include a few lines of text indicating your interest and motivation for participating in the workshop (we may have to restrict attendance if we get too many registrations). **The workshop is free of charge**, but travel and accommodation costs have to be covered by the participants' own resources.

“Conifer sequencing: basic concepts in conifer genomics”

5th Nov.

9:30 – 10:00 Dainis Rungis (LVMI "Silava" Genetic Resource Centre, Riga): **Forestry Genetic and Genomic research in Latvia**

10:00 – 11:00 Berthold Heinze (Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural hazards and Landscape BFW, Vienna): **An introduction to conifer genomes, and sequencing methods**

11:00 – 11:45 Vedhu Krystufek (Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural hazards and Landscape BFW, Vienna): **ProCoGen highlights**

Lunch

13:00 – 14:00 Daniel Peterson (Mississippi State University): **The Importance of Relatives: Conifers as a Gateway into the Gymnosperms**

14:00 – 15:00 Lieven Sterck (VIB, Belgium): **A crash course in gene and genome annotation**

Break

15:15 – 16:15 Daniel Peterson (Mississippi State University): **Old and New Physical Mapping Techniques and Their Application to Conifer Genome Research**

16:15 – 17:15 Lieven Sterck (VIB, Belgium): **Annotation workshop**

17:30 – 19:00 Open Forum: **Research interest of participants, plans & proposal for the future, interaction with speakers. Suggestions for avoiding research gaps and maintaining a constant flux of information**

6th Nov.

9:00 – 10:00 Stacey Thompson Spruce Genome Project Group, Plant Science Centre, Umea University): **Technical and statistical aspects of genome-wide genotyping of pedigrees and populations**

10:00 – 11:00 Amanda De La Torre (Spruce Genome Project Group, Plant Science Centre, Umea University): **Comparative genomics: insights into conifer genome evolution**

11:00 – 12:00 Stacey Thompson (Spruce Genome Project Group, Plant Science Centre, Umea University): **Workshop - Organellar genomes of conifers: Small, yet dynamic!**

Lunch

13:00 – 14:00 Amanda De La Torre (Spruce Genome Project Group, Plant Science Centre, Umea University): **Applications of genome sequencing to Evolutionary genomics and speciation in tree species**

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