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1<sup>st</sup> announcement

**XXXI<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF ESNA**  
(European Society for New Methods in Agricultural Research)

devoted to the topic:

*„Advances in agrobiological research and their benefits to the future“*

co-organized with the international workshop

**RECENT ADVANCES IN PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY**

in

**Stará Lesná, High Tatras,  
Slovak Republic**

on

**24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

**The ESNA meeting 2012 is organized under the auspices of:**

Dr.h.c. prof. Ing. Peter Bielik, PhD., rector of the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra

**at the occasion of:**

60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra.

## **Organizers:**

Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra (SUA), Slovak Republic ([www.uniag.sk](http://www.uniag.sk))

Institute of Plant Genetics and Biotechnology of the Slovak Academy of Science (IPGB SAS), Slovak Republic (<http://pribina.savba.sk/ugbr>)

Plant Production Research Center in Piešťany (PPRC), Slovak Republic ([www.cvrv.sk](http://www.cvrv.sk))

European Society for New Methods in Agricultural Research (ESNA) (<http://web2.mendelu.cz/esna>)

## **Local secretariat:**

E-mail of the conference: [esnameeting2012@gmail.com](mailto:esnameeting2012@gmail.com)

Web page of the conference: [www.esna.uniag.sk](http://www.esna.uniag.sk)

Contact address: Dept. of Plant Physiology  
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**Dear guests and colleagues,**

Over the past 50 years intensive agricultural production lead to a dramatic change in farmland productivity and decline of biodiversity and environmental health in many regions of Common Europe. They are the result of continuing water pollution, soil degradation, accelerating climate change and even increasing demand for food and energy. The future of the EU common agricultural policy must be based on supporting sustainable agricultural practices, and related agricultural research to keep main EU's goals and commitments, such as stabile crop productivity, food security and environmental health.

It is expected that on the course of 21<sup>st</sup> century many of well-known symptoms of climate change will take place. However, at present a great deal of uncertainties persists in the both diversity and depth of their effect on functional mechanism within the crop – canopy – ecosystem – region level.

We consider the joint topic of the ESNA meeting 2012 “*Advances in agrobiology research and their benefits to the future*” and the workshop “*Recent advances in plant biotechnology*” as the opportunity to group together the specialists from different fields of crop biology, ecology and improving technologies, who may go deeper into the research methodology and techniques of crop food, feed and bioenergy production under changing environment and be inspired in searching for new conceptional approaches of solving this problem. We also take into account knowledge of molecular biology, genetics and eco-physiology resulting in new technological practises in plant breeding as well as in plant/crop biotechnologies.

The main organizers of the 41<sup>st</sup> ESNA meeting 2012, the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, Institute of Plant Genetics and Biotechnologies of the S.A.S. in Nitra and Plant Production Research Center in Piešťany are well experienced in the conference topic hoping to attract qualified specialists to put new ideas on a conference “round table” and strenghten the effort for more effective integration within the agricultural research.

We believe the conference intention and scientific content supported by a friendly, familiar and enjoyable environment of High Tatras place will attract Your attention and meet all Your professional expectations!

We are looking forward to meeting you at the conference in September 2012! Welcome in Stará Lesná in High Tatras (Slovakia)!



prof. Stefano Grego

Organizing committee

## Organizing structure:

### Conference Chairman:

Marián Brestič, vice-rector, Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, Slovak Republic

### Scientific Committee:

Stephen Long, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL, USA

Reto Strasser, University of Geneva, Switzerland

Hazem Kalaji, Warsaw University, Poland

Richard J. Godwin, Cranfield University in Silsoe, Great Britain

Novo Przulj, Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, Novi Sad, Serbia

Jiří Šantrůček, South Bohemian University in České Budějovice, Czech Republic

Mahendra Kumar Rai, SGB Amravati University, Amravati, Maharashtra, India

Andrzej Skoczowski, Polish Academy of Sciences, Kraków, Poland

Hong-Bo Shao, Yantai Institute of Coastal Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Yantai, China

Jozef Vidovič, Plant Production Research Centre in Piešťany, Slovak Republic

Lello Zolla, University of Tuscia, Viterbo, Italy

### Honorary Committee:

Peter Bielik, Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, Slovak Republic

Stefano Grego, president of the ESNA, University of Tuscia, Viterbo, Italy

Stanislav Procházka, Mendel University in Brno, Czech Republic

Michael Pöschl, Mendel University in Brno, Czech Republic

Ján Salaj, Institute of Plant Genetics and Biotech., SAS, Nitra, Slovak Republic

Jaroslav Hlušek, Mendel University in Brno, Czech Republic

Jiří Balík, Czech University of Agriculture in Prague, Czech Republic

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Zuzana Balátová, SUA in Nitra:

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## What is ESNA?

The European Society for New Methods in Agricultural Research (ESNA) is an international society originally established in Wageningen (The Netherlands) in 1969 with the aim to exchange new ideas and techniques for promotion of advancement in agricultural sciences. At the present it covers different aspects of scientific research in agriculture. For this reason it works ideologically in 3 main working groups (WG) with related topics:

WG 1 – Plant Sciences (plant functional biology, ecology, productivity, technological approaches for plant improvement including biotechnologies, etc.)

WG 2 – Soil Sciences (plant – soil – microbiology system relationships, wastes, pollutants, quantity and quality of products, biotechnology, etc.)

WG 3 – Environment and Agricultural Sustainability (food preservation and safety, food chain regulation, animal sciences and technology, pest control in agriculture, technologies for sustainable agriculture, etc.).

The Society organizes annual meetings in various European countries and the scientific programme is devoted to fundamental and applied issues in above-mentioned areas.

### ESNA COMMITTEE

#### **President:**

Stefano Grego – University of Tuscia, Viterbo, Italy; Fax: +39 0761 357242; Tel.: +39 0761 357246/901/900; E-mail: [grego@unitus.it](mailto:grego@unitus.it)

#### **Vice-president:**

Stanislav Procházka - Mendel University in Brno, Czech republic;

#### **General Secretary:**

Michael Pöschl – Mendel University in Brno, Czech republic; Tel.: +420 5 4513 3294; Fax: 0420 5 4513 3295; E-mail: [poschl@mendelu.cz](mailto:poschl@mendelu.cz)

#### **Committee members:**

Gheorge Budoï (Romania), chairman of the WG 1, [budoï\\_gh@yahoo.com](mailto:budoï_gh@yahoo.com)

Luigi Lucini (Italy), vice-chairman of the WG 1, [luigi.lucini@unicatt.it](mailto:luigi.lucini@unicatt.it)

Vlado Licina (Serbia), chairman of the WG 2, [licina@agrifaculty.bg.ac.yu](mailto:licina@agrifaculty.bg.ac.yu)

Iryna Smetanska (Germany), vice-chairman of the WG 2, [iryna.m.smetanska@tu.berlin.de](mailto:iryna.m.smetanska@tu.berlin.de)

Malgorzata Szczawinska (Poland), chairman of the WG 3, [malgorzata.szczawinska@sggw.pl](mailto:malgorzata.szczawinska@sggw.pl)

A. Sechman (Poland), vice-chairman of the WG 3, [rzsechma@cyf-kr.edu.pl](mailto:rzsechma@cyf-kr.edu.pl)

## GENERAL INFORMATION

for the joint ESNA Meeting 2012 and the Recent Advances in Plant Biotechnology Workshop  
24 – 28<sup>th</sup> September 2012, Stará Lesná, Slovak Republic

### Conference venue:

XXXXI<sup>st</sup> Annual ESNA Meeting 2012 following by the Recent Advances in Plant Biotechnology Workshop will be held at the hotel ACADEMIA, Congress Center of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Stará Lesná, Slovak Republic. The venue is located in the High Tatras mountain region (North-East of Slovakia) very close to Poprad town. For more detailed information about the venue visit <http://www.hotelacademia.sk>.

### Registration:

- ONLINE registration is available at the ESNA conference web page: [www.esna.uniag.sk](http://www.esna.uniag.sk).
- **Deadline for registration and registration fee payment: 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 !**
- Every participant or accompanying person is asked to register individually!

### Registration fee:

The registration fee is as follows:

ESNA members	<b>240,- EUR</b>
ESNA non-members	<b>270,- EUR</b>
Students	<b>200,- EUR</b>
Accompanying persons	<b>120,- EUR</b>

The registration fee of conference participants includes book of abstracts, conference information material, transport from airports, bus and train stations and back at the arrival and departure days, coffee breaks, get-together dinner and cocktail. The fee does not cover accommodation, excursions, conference dinner (rout) and ESNA membership dues.

The registration fee for accompanying persons includes transport from airports, bus and train stations and back at the arrival and departure days, get-together dinner and cocktail, excursions including lunch (4 days). The fee does not cover accommodation and conference dinner (rout).

### Social events:

- Get-together dinner and cocktail on arrival day (Sept. 24): **included in the conference fee**
- Conference dinner (rout) with dancing on Friday (Sept.28): **30,- EUR / person**

## Excursions

Participants can choose from the following organized trips:

1. Hiking tour to High Tatras (Štrbské pleso – Popradské pleso): 22,- EUR/ person
2. Dunajec river rafting (Pieniny National park): 28,- EUR/ person
3. The Gothic Route - The Spiš – medieval Levoča circle (sightseeing) 28,- EUR/ person

## Payment of registration fee:

- **by bank transfer** (for transfers from abroad please use SWIFT net):

Bank name: Všeobecná úverová banka, a.s.  
Bank address: Mlynské Nivy 1  
829 90 Bratislava  
SWIFT address: SUBASKBX  
F/O: beneficiary's account number: **7000066247 / 8180**  
IBAN: SK4081800000007000066247  
Beneficiary (full name and address of the client of State Treasury): Slovenská poľnohospodárska univerzita, Trieda Andreja Hlinku 2, 949 76 Nitra  
Remittance information: variable symbol (v.s.): **02141**  
(for a better identification of a payment add also: ESNA conference 2012 and your name)

## Accommodation:

The organizers provide accommodation at 3 hotels with 2-bed rooms.

Hotel Academia ([www.hotelacademia.sk](http://www.hotelacademia.sk)) and nearby hotel Horizont ([www.hotelhorizont.sk](http://www.hotelhorizont.sk)) and hotel Forton ([www.hotelforton.sk](http://www.hotelforton.sk) - app. 500 m far from the Congress center) will serve for accommodation.

## Accommodation rate per 1 person per night:

1. Congress hotel Academia (\*\*\*): 34,10,- EUR /1 person in 2-bed room  
20,10,- EUR /2persons in 2-bed room
2. Hotel Horizont (\*\*\*): 34,10,- EUR /1 person in 2-bed room  
20,10,- EUR /2persons in 2-bed room
2. Hotel Forton (\*\*\*+): 60,- EUR/ 1 person in 2-bed room  
30,- EUR/ 2 persons in 2-bed room

## Hotel reservation and accommodation will be handled by the organizing committee!

Please, indicate your choice related to accommodation in the online registration form at the conference web page. Organizing committee will develop maximal effort to satisfy your choices. Accommodation expenses will be paid in cash in EUR or by credit cards (VISA, MasterCard, EuroCard, ZBK, American Express) in the hotel where you will stay. Accommodation price includes breakfast. For more detailed information about the hotels, please

visit the abovementioned links, use E-mail ([pestova@hotelacademia.sk](mailto:pestova@hotelacademia.sk)) or call to the hotel Academia reception (tel.: ++421 52 4467464-6).

During symposium the restaurant of the hotel ACADEMIA will be available for lunches and dinners.

### **Cancellation and Refund:**

If cancellation will be notified to the Local secretariat till the **June 30, 2012** full registration fee can be refunded. No refund on the registration fee can be made on cancellations after June 30, 2012. All refunds will be processed after conference.

For those cancelling participation on the conference for whatever reason the possibility to send the abstract will be open. The price for publication of abstract, including postage of conference proceedings will be 40 EUR.

## **DRAFT PROGRAMME**

### **24 September 2012 (Monday)**

Arrivals, registration
Welcome dinner, cocktail

### **25 September 2012 (Tuesday)**

#### **Session I: Ecology and Crop Productivity**

Opening	Forewords (Rector of the S.U.A Nitra and president of the ESNA)
Keynote lectures I. Keynote lecture II. Discussion	
Topic I.	<b>Plant stress biology and climate change</b> (signalling, mechanisms of transport processes, metabolism and functions)
Topic II.	<b>Ecology of crop production</b> (crop productivity under stress environment)
Topic III.	<b>Crop improvement for managed stress environments</b> (breeding, phenotyping, ....plant/crop genetic resources)
Poster Session I.	



26 September 2012 (Wednesday)

**Session II: Food, Feed and Bioenergy versus Sustainable Agriculture**

Keynote lectures I. Keynote lecture II. Discussion	
Topic I.	<b>Crop management for food, feed and bioenergy production</b> (cropping systems, landscape-based site-specific management systems, soil quality, water availability, precise farming, .... )
Topic II.	<b>Ecological and technological aspects of agricultural sustainability, quality of agroecosystems</b> (eco-, biofarming, pollutants, environmental disturbances, phytoremediation, biofortification, waste management, ....)
Topic III.	<b>Food production, quality, preservation and safety</b> (food monitoring, imaging and processing techniques, biosensors, labelling, hygiene standards, .....)
Poster Session II.	

27 September 2012 (Thursday)

Excursion day	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hiking tour to High Tatras (Štrbské pleso – Popradské pleso)</li> <li>2. Dunajec river rafting (Pieniny National park)</li> <li>3. The Gothic Route - The Spiš - Levoča circle (sightseeing)</li> </ol>
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28 September 2012 (Friday)

**Session III: Workshop - Recent Advances in Plant Biotechnology**

Keynote lecture V. Keynote lecture VI. Discussion	
Topic I	<b>Morphogenesis and embryogenesis <i>in vitro</i></b>
Topic II	<b>Genetic transformation strategies for plant improvement</b>
Topic III	<b>Molecular markers in plant breeding</b>
Topic IV	<b>Biosafety and quality control of biotech plants</b>
Topic V	<b>Bioremediation</b>

Topic VI	<b>Applied plant biotechnology</b>
Poster session III	
Closing, awarding	

### DRAFT TIMETABLE

	Monday (Sept. 24)	Tuesday (Sept. 25)	Wednesday (Sept. 26)	Thursday (Sept. 27)	Friday (Sept. 28)
8:00		registration	registration	Excursion day	
8:30		Opening			Keynote lectures V., VI.
8:45		Keynote lectures I., II.	Keynote lectures III., IV.		Coffee break
10:10		Coffee break	Coffee break		Topic I.
10:25		Topic I.	Topic I.		Lunch
12:05		Lunch	Lunch		Topic II.
13:30	Arrivals, registration	Topic II.	Topic II.		Coffee break
14:50		Coffee break	Coffee break		Topic III.
15:10		Topic III.	Topic III.		Topic IV.
17:00		Poster session I.	Poster session II.		Topic V.
					Topic VI.
18:00 – 23:00	Welcome dinner, cocktail	Dinner	Dinner		Poster session III.
					Closing, awarding
					Conference dinner (rout)

## INSTRUCTION FOR SCIENTIFIC ABSTRACT/ PAPER SUBMISSION

### 1. Book of abstracts:

- Published prior to the conference
- ONLINE submission of abstracts available at [www.esna.uniag.sk](http://www.esna.uniag.sk); please follow the instructions at the web page!
- Please, keep term of max. 2 abstracts per person referred as the first author!
- **deadline** for abstract submission: **May 15, 2012 !!**

### 2. Scientific fulltext papers:

Selected fulltext contributions will be published *post act* (after the meeting) in the scientific journal of the Slovak University of Agriculture - *Acta Fytotechnica et Zootechnica* and international electronically issued *Journal of Central European Agriculture* (JCEA) (confirmed). Availability to publish papers in the Journal of Agronomy and Crop Science is under negotiation. More information will be given at the conference web page later!

## GRANTS

A limited number of grants for covering the registration fee is available for young scientists. It does not cover travel expenses, accomodation or excursions.

To commemorate the ESNA late general secretary Vladimir Borkovec, limited amounts of travel funds towards the travel costs have been established to provide a support of young scientists who are the members of ESNA. For selected applicants, ESNA Secretary will pay the Borkovec travel scholarships (100,- EURO) during the ESNA meeting in Stará Lesná Slovakia.

The basic criteria for the grants are **age, ESNA membership and good quality of submitted paper**. Both Application form for grant and Borkovec travel scholarship are available at the web page of the conference ([www.esna.uniag.sk](http://www.esna.uniag.sk)).

Please, fulfil the application form and send it to the Local Secretariat of the ESNA 2012 meeting together with short curriculum vitae and abstract of the paper you wish to present! The documents should be also sent to the appropriate chairman of the ESNA working group (WG1, WG2 or WG3) and ESNA Secretary in Brno (CZ) **by May 15, 2012!!** Any application of grants submitted after the deadline will not be accepted!

The ESNA president in collaboration with chairpersons of the ESNA working groups will decide and give a final approval of the applicants **by June 15, 2012!** After receiving grant, the grantists are requested to send urgently to the Local Secretariat of the meeting message (by mail or fax) that they accept the grant and will participate at the meeting. If they fail to do so, the grant will be cancelled.

## **ARRIVALS / DEPARTURES TO/FROM SLOVAKIA**

### **By air**

1. international flights to Bratislava (capital of Slovakia)
2. international flights to Krakow (Poland)
3. international flights to Vienna (Austria)
4. international flights to Slovak town Poprad (connections to London, Prague and Polish Gdansk and Warsaw twice a week).

*From March 2012 a new regular connection flight between Swechat Vienna and small Slovak airport in SLIAČ (cca 140 km from the conference venue) is also going to be available!*

### **By rail and bus**

- international transport lines to Bratislava or to Poprad

### **By car**

- travel possibilities:
  - a) Bratislava – Žilina – Ružomberok – Poprad (the shortest way, approx. 4 hours)
  - b) Bratislava – Banská Bystrica – Donovaly – Ružomberok – Poprad (the fastest way, highway D1 and route E50; appr. 3 hours)

**The organizers will provide collection of participants from/to the airports, rail and bus stations at their arriving and departure according to your indication in the 2<sup>nd</sup> conference announcement!!**

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR ORAL AND POSTER PRESENTATION AND ABSTRACT PREPARATION**

### **Lectures**

All lectures, except of invited speakers, should not take more than 20 minutes, including discussion. Time for invited lectures will be 40 minutes including discussion. The language of the conference is English.

### **Posters**

The poster board format is 100 cm (height) x 80 cm (width).

### **Visual Aids**

A data projector, standard slide projector and overhead projector will be available for use during all sessions. Facilities for the showing film and video can also be arranged, but anyone wishing to present these must provide full details of the equipment required.

## **Abstract preparation and submission**

Book of abstracts will be distributed at the registration desk at the beginning of conference comprising abstracts of all presentations. Abstracts for either oral or poster presentation must be prepared in English according to the Instructions for Authors and submitted ONLINE at the web page ( [www.esna.uniag.sk](http://www.esna.uniag.sk) ). Length of the abstract: max. 1 page (A4).

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **Climate in High Tatras**

September in High Tatras is lovely month with the most stabile weather during a year, temperature reaching 18-20°C. For rare events you are recommended to bring rainy coat or umbrella. For the reason of a conference trip to mountainy area please bring safe touristics shoes.

### **Currency**

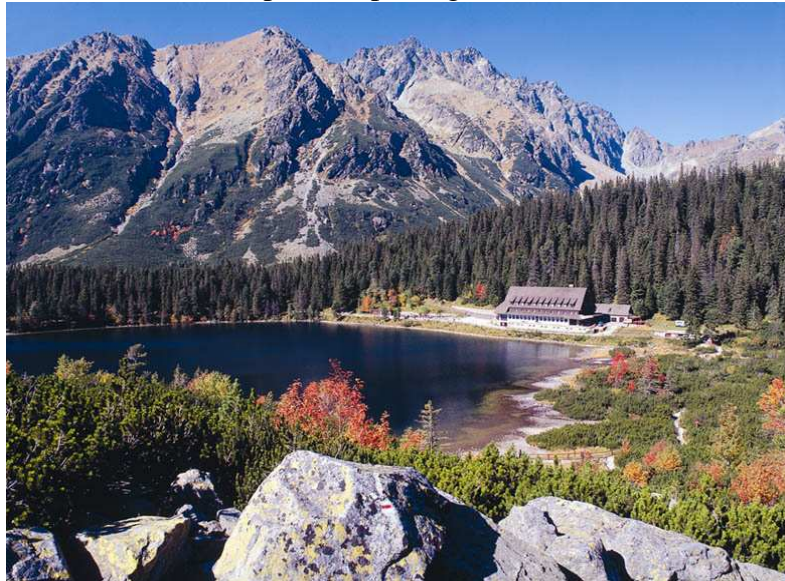
Slovakia belongs to the EURO zone, official currency is EUR.

### **Letter of Invitation**

The Organizing Committee will be pleased to send a letter of invitation to any participant upon your request (please, indicate a need for Invitation Letter in the online registration form). It is understood that such an invitation is intended to help potential participants to raise travel funds or to obtain visa. Such a letter does not commit the Organizers to cover any expenses of the participants.!

## TOURIST OBJECTIVES IN HIGH TATRAS

view of the Popradské pleso glacial mountain lake



scenery of High Tatras mountain



cable railway to Lomnický pike



Please, visit the web page of the conference ([www.esna.uniag.sk](http://www.esna.uniag.sk)) or the High Tatras town ([www.vysoketatry.sk](http://www.vysoketatry.sk)) !