



## LEGATO Kick-Off Meeting

*INRA Dijon, 4-5 March 2014*

The LEGATO Kick-off Meeting took place in Dijon, France, on 4-5 March 2014 at the INRA Dijon Centre. More than 70 participants attended the event and a total of 36 organizations, including research and other public institutions and private companies, of 17 countries (Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Spain, Sweden and UK) were represented. The meeting was also attended by the EU Scientific Officer in charge of LEGATO, Gaetan DUBOIS.

The objective of the meeting was to officially launch the project, to remind the partners of their involvement in the different tasks, and to review in detail the LEGATO work programme, especially the experiments to be carried out. LEGATO is aimed at increasing grain legume production in the EC by addressing key issues such as breeding for improved disease and pest resistance, adaptation to abiotic stresses, and optimization for foodstuffs, and development of cropping systems that exploit fully the ecosystem services afforded by grain legumes.

After a welcome and overview of the project by Richard Thompson, the LEGATO Coordinator (INRA), Françoise Simon-Plas, President of Dijon INRA Centre and Gaetan DUBOIS, LEGATO EU Scientific Officer, also welcomed the participants. Advisory Board member Thomas D. Warkentin, University of Saskatchewan, Canada, then gave an excellent overview on pulse breeding and research, with special attention to Canada.

This was followed by presentations of individual work packages by the WP leaders, WP1: Genetics and new breeding tools and material (Paolo Annicchiarico, CRA, Italy), WP2: Biotic stress resistance (Diego Rubiales, CSIC, Spain), WP3: Optimizing plant adaptation to abiotic stress (Christophe Salon, INRA, France), WP4: Defining traits adapted to consumers' expectations (Carlota Vaz Patto, ITQB, Portugal), WP5: Grain legume cropping system management (Erik Steen Jensen, SLU, Sweden), WP6: Stakeholder interface for target orientation and practical evaluation (Steve Belcher, PGRO-RL, UK), WP7: Outreach (Dunixi Gabiña, IAMZ-CIHEAM, Spain), and WP8: Management + Intellectual Property Rights (Caroline Sautot, IT, France and Nathalie Morcrette, INRA-UCPI, France).

During the Second day of the meeting, parallel workshops for WPs were organized with detailed presentations and discussions on the WP objectives, main tasks, deliverables and milestones and partners, in order for each WP to have a clear roadmap until the end of the project. After these parallel sessions, a wrap-up session was organized so that all partners were aware of the decisions taken for each WP.

At the end of the first day, a LEGATO Executive Committee Meeting took place, where decisions were made on several issues such as the deliverable validation process, the Intellectual Property Use and Dissemination Committee, the Advisory Board membership, the stakeholder meetings and the interaction with the Eurolegume project, which has been funded in parallel by the EC.

Several Press Releases in addition to this one have been published before and after the LEGATO Kick-off meeting:

LEGATO Project Official Press Release

[http://www.legato-fp7.eu/pdfs/LEGATO\\_kick-off\\_meeting.pdf](http://www.legato-fp7.eu/pdfs/LEGATO_kick-off_meeting.pdf)

At the EU Cordis Web site

[http://cordis.europa.eu/news/rcn/36469\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/news/rcn/36469_en.html)



In English

<http://www.inrb.pt/menu-de-topo/divulgacao/projectos-/press-release-legato>

<http://www.farmbusiness.cc/news.asp?section=242&newsid=15984>

In Swedish

<http://www.atl.nu/lantbruk/eu-projekt-ska-ka-baljv-xtodlingen>

<http://www.atl.nu/lantbruk/de-tror-p-baljv-xternas-potential>

In Spanish

<http://www.agrodigital.com/PIArtStd.asp?CodArt=94971>

<http://www.agroinformacion.com/noticias/51>

[http://www.legato-fp7.eu/pdfs/Press\\_release\\_LEGATO-ESP.pdf](http://www.legato-fp7.eu/pdfs/Press_release_LEGATO-ESP.pdf)

<http://www.unileon.es/noticias/la-universidad-de-leon-participa-en-el-proyecto-legato-para-la-mejora-de-las-legumbres-europeas>

<http://www.presspeople.com/nota/universidad-leon-participa-proyecto-legato-mejora>

<http://www.gentedigital.es/leon/noticia/1336985/la-universidad-de-leon-participa-en-el-proyecto-legato-para-la-mejora-de-las-legumbres-europeas>

<http://www.ileon.com/universidad/037760/la-universidad-de-leon-participa-en-un-estudio-para-la-mejora-de-las-legumbre-europeas>

<http://www.leonoticias.com/frontend/leonoticias/La-ULE-Participa-En-El-Proyecto-Legato-Para-La-Mejora-De-L-vn138597-vst383>

<http://www.noticiascastillayleon.com/noticia/La-Universidad-de-Leon-participa-en-el-proyecto-Legato-para-la-mejora-de-las-legumbres-europeas/54390/10>

<http://www.unileon.es/dosier-de-prensa/la-ule-participa-en-el-proyecto-legato-de-investigacion-de-las-legumbres-europeas>

[http://www.diariodeleon.es/noticias/leon/leon-suma-proyecto-mejorar-leguminosas\\_871968.html](http://www.diariodeleon.es/noticias/leon/leon-suma-proyecto-mejorar-leguminosas_871968.html)

<http://www.unileon.es/files/Diario%20de%20Le%C3%B3n-Le%C3%B3n%20se%20suma.jpg>

<http://www.dicyt.com/noticias/un-proyecto-mejorara-las-principales-legumbres-que-se-cultivan-en-europa>

[http://www.larazon.es/detalle\\_normal/noticias/5804620/sociedad+medio-ambiente/la-ue-pone-en-marcha-la-operacion-lenteja#.Ttt1MWGXsHdAESa](http://www.larazon.es/detalle_normal/noticias/5804620/sociedad+medio-ambiente/la-ue-pone-en-marcha-la-operacion-lenteja#.Ttt1MWGXsHdAESa)



Participants in the Dijon meeting



*LEGATO is aimed at improving the competitiveness of legumes in European agriculture. Grain legumes represent less than 2% of cultivated arable land in Europe, in contrast to >10% in China and the Americas. Despite this, legumes offer major environmental advantages due to their ability to fix atmospheric nitrogen. Thus legumes offer major economies of synthetic nitrogen fertilizer, the incumbent energy cost and greenhouse gas production. Used in a cropping rotation, they supply nitrogen fertilizer to the following crop, increase biodiversity, and can reduce pest and disease transmission. Finally they are an important source of protein for food and feed that can increase Europe's protein autonomy. Animal feed composition is currently dependent on imported soybeans, a commodity showing a steady increase in world market prices.*

*The LEGATO (LEGumes for the Agriculture of TOMorrow) project brings together 17 research institutions and 10 companies or professional associations from 12 European states to focus on breeding and management methods for the principal grain legumes or pulses grown in Europe, the pea and faba bean. Among the actions proposed will be the use of advanced breeding methods taking advantage of recent genomics data, exploitation of genetic resource collections, techniques of high-throughput phenotyping including non-destructive root imaging, the evaluation of novel legume-based cropping systems including intercropping, and the exploration of new food products incorporating legume flours.*