



ERB Facility
EUROPEAN RAPTOR BIOMONITORING FACILITY
COST ACTION 16224

FOURTH GENERAL MEETING (GM4)

VIRTUAL

Thursday 7th October 2021, 14:00-17:30 CEST

PROGRAMME



This event is organised by COST 16224 Action European Raptor Biomonitoring Facility and supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology)

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COST is supported by the EU Framework Programme Horizon 2020.

WELCOME

Welcome to this Fourth General Meeting (GM4) of the COST Action *European Raptor Biomonitoring Facility* ([ERBFacility, CA 16224](#)).

Our last General Meeting was convened in Oporto, Portugal in February 2020 shortly after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The world has been a very different place since then. We hope you and your families and friends have kept safe in this time.

Our fourth Grant Period (GP4), initially scheduled to run from 1 May 2020 to 30 April 2021, was extended by 6 months, in line with other COST Actions, to 16 October 2021. With vaccination programmes rolling out across the late spring and early summer 2021, and in a welcome sign of COST Association confidence in our work, our Action was awarded a substantial budget increase, supporting plans to convene a series of face-to-face meetings in the early Autumn including this General Meeting. However, the emergence of COVID variants and continuing travel restrictions has sadly meant that meetings and missions have had to remain almost entirely virtual. Consequently our GP4 budget – like that of most COST Actions – has remained largely unspent. With no carry forward permitted by COST, this funding will sadly be lost.

However, despite the challenges, our Action has made very substantial progress over GP4 thanks to the dedication of our Core Group, our Working Groups, our Proof of Concept team, our virtual mission holders, and of course the valuable input from so many across the network – which now numbers over 200 participants from analytical labs, collections and field organisations across Europe.

GM4 will present progress made under the Analysis, Collections and Field Arenas, and progress on our Proof of Concept work and the Advice Hub. It will also discuss plans for the final 6 months of the Action under Grant Period 5 ending 16 April 2022. We will also outline plans to secure a COST Innovator's Grant for a further 12 months to put in place a Business Plan to sustain the Facility in the longer-term.

The COST Association has already approved a budget of over €100,000 for GP5 – around double the budget initially on offer - and we hope travel restrictions will continue to ease over this period, so that we can make full use of this generous allocation which once again signals strong COST Association backing for our work.

GM4 will be followed by a Management Committee Meeting on Friday 8th October 15:30-17:30, to which MC Members have been invited. MC will review and adopt the Work Budget and Plan for GP5 following its discussion at the General Meeting. A separate Agenda will be issued for the MC Meeting.

Looking forward to lively and productive meetings and to once again benefiting from your knowledge and experience in taking forward the European Raptor Biomonitoring Facility.

The Organising Committee

Guy Duke, Chair ERBFacility
Al Vrezec, Vice-Chair ERBFacility
Lee Walker, Lead WG1 (Analysis Arena)
Antonio García-Fernandez, Lead WG2 (Analysis Arena)
Paola Movalli, Lead WG3 (Collections Arena)
Chris Wernham, Lead WG4 (Field Arena)
Oliver Krone, STSM Coordinator
Madis Leivits, Communications Manager
Nermina Sarajlic, Deputy Communications Manager
Rafael Mateo, Lead Proof of Concept
Rui Lourenço, Co-Lead Proof of Concept
Pablo Sánchez-Virosta (Local organizer / Grant Holder)

PROGRAMME

Thursday 7th October

14:00-17:30 CET

Join Zoom Meeting

Time	Topic	Speaker
SESSION 1: Opening		
14:00-14:15	Welcome and overview of ERB Facility, progress since GM3, forward look	Guy Duke, Chair ERB Facility
SESSION 2: WG4 (Field Arena)		
14:15-14:45	1. Overview of progress GP4 2. Virtual mission presentation <i>The value of contextual data to contaminant studies – Tawny Owl proof of concept example</i> (Host: Rui Lourenço, University of Evora, Portugal) 3. WG4 Plans to end of Action	Chris Wernham , Lead WG4 Urška Ratajc (National Institute of Biology, Slovenia). Chris Wernham
SESSION 3: WG3 (Collections Arena)		
14:45-15:15	1. Overview of progress GP4 2. STSM/VM presentations <i>Standards and protocols for receiving, storing and processing raptor carcasses and extracting tissue samples</i> (Host: Silvia Espín, University of Murcia, Spain) <i>Towards a framework for the European Raptor Specimen Bank</i> (Paola Movalli, Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Netherlands) 3. Collaboration ERB Facility – LIFE APEX: effective use of chemicals monitoring data for chemicals management 4. WG3 Plans to end of Action	Paola Movalli , Lead WG3 Silvia Espín (University of Murcia) Pablo Sánchez Virosta (University of Murcia) Alex Badry (Environment Agency, Germany) Paola Movalli
SESSION 4: WG1&2 (Analysis Arena)		
15:15-15:45	1. Overview of progress GP4 2. STSM presentations Methods for forensic analysis of Phosphine, cyanide and glycos (Host: Antonio J. García-Fernández, University of Murcia, Spain) Review of analytical methods for contaminant monitoring (Host: Antonio J. García-Fernández, University of Murcia, Spain) 3. WG1&2 Plans to end of Action	Lee Walker , Lead WG1 & Antonio García-Fernández , Lead WG2 Brankica Kartalovic (Scientific Veterinary Institute “Novi Sad”, Serbia) Eirini Trypidaki (University of Crete, Greece) Lee Walker & Antonio García-Fernández
15:45-16:00	Break	

Time	Topic	Speaker
SESSION 5: ERBFacility Proof of Concept		
16:00-16:30	Proof of Concept – progress and forward plans	Rafael Mateo , Proof of Concept Coordinator & Rui Lourenço , Proof of Concept Deputy Coordinator
SESSION 6: ERBFacility Advice Hub		
16:30-16:45	Advice Hub – state of play and forward plans	Silvia Espín (University of Murcia)
SESSION 7: Closing session		
16:45-17:00	Future plans – COST Innovator’s Grant Final reporting Wrap-up	Guy Duke Al Vrezec , ERBFacility Vice-Chair & Guy Duke
SESSION 8: Informal discussion		
17:00-17:30	An opportunity for participants to discuss issues arising from the formal sessions	Chaired by Guy Duke



European Raptor Biomonitoring Facility

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General Meeting and Management Committee Meeting

ERBFacility Fourth General Meeting (GM4) on 7th October 2021 and its Fifth Management Committee Meeting (MC5) on 8th October 2021 in Spain and online

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