cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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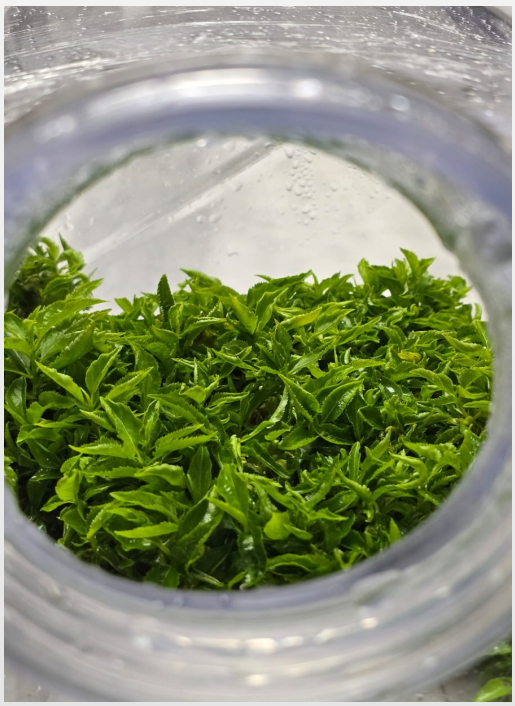
COPYTREE NEWSLETTER

No. 10, January, 2026

CA 21157 www.copytree.eu

"European Network for Innovative Woody Plant Cloning"

Collaboration on a European level between experts for sharing and applying innovative *in vitro* technology on woody plants



Enjoy your reading!

ACTIVITIES

1.1. Testing of New Compounds

RING TEST

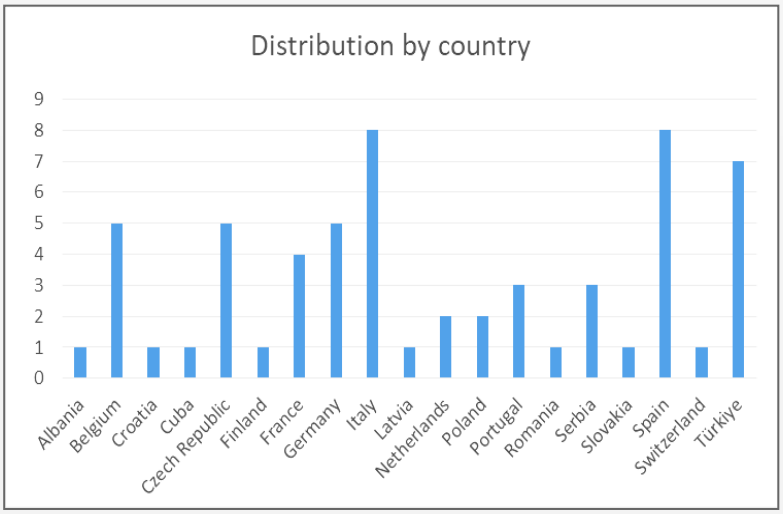
As part of the COPYTREE Action's goals to promote collaboration through joint experiments (ring test), data sharing, and joint publications, four high-performing compounds (19, 20, 52, and 77), primarily derived from diphenyl urea and synthesized by Dr. Jaroslav Nisler (https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5950-5172), were selected and distributed to interested Action's members.

These compounds are currently being evaluated for their effects as cytokinin oxidase/dehydrogenase inhibitors on micropropagation, somatic embryogenesis, endosperm culture, and regeneration in woody plants.

In total, the compounds were distributed to 65 CopyTree members from 19 countries. Efforts are currently underway to formalize protocols with members working on these compounds.

Initial results from the ring test participants have started to be received. It has been observed that the compounds enhance micropropagation efficiency in carob, blueberry, and Prunus species. Members involved in these studies are in the process of preparing manuscripts to report their results.

Ring test studies are continuing, and updates will be shared as new results become available from the members. Additionally, all Ring test participants will be informed regarding the final Ring test report results collection template.



1.2. CopyTree White Papers Series

The scientific content of the White Papers has already been produced by experts within the CopyTree network and is now being organized into a dynamic, tree-structured web platform. This format will interlink consolidated expert knowledge across key thematic areas, including:

- *Recalcitrance in woody species*
- *Diagnosis, sanitation and conservation*
- *Scale-up, automation and industrial transfer*
- *Public acceptance and legislative frameworks*

Rather than introducing new material, the initiative focuses on structuring, connecting, and making existing knowledge easily accessible through an intuitive, expandable web-based framework.

Tailored to a broad audience, from students and early-career researchers to industry professionals and policy stakeholders, this initiative aims to strengthen knowledge transfer, capacity building, and evidence-based decision-making across Europe and beyond.

First drafts will be published soon on www.copytree.eu, with regular updates ensuring long-term relevance and usability

1.3. Collaborative projects involving CopyTree members

1. Development and application of *in vitro* techniques for the conservation and improvement of chestnut (*Castanea sativa* Mill.) as a forest species in the Republic of Srpska. Funded by the Ministry of Scientific and Technological Development and Higher Education of the Republic of Srpska.

COPYTREE participants: Svjetlana Zeljković, Vanja Daničić.

2. Biotechnological approaches to obtain pine trees better adapted to biotic and abiotic stresses (PID2024-156422OB-C32) Funded by Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities - Spanish Research Agency.

COPYTREE participants: Paloma Moncaleán, Itziar A. Montalbán, Ander Castander-Olarieta, Katherine P. Sandoval, Vera Pavese, Kateřina Eliášová, Jorge Canhoto.

1.4. PhD Thesis Defense

We are pleased to announce the successful PhD thesis defense of **Elsa Baltazar**, a member of the CopyTree network, held on **12 December 2025** at the **University of Coimbra**.

The doctoral research was supervised by **Sandra Correia** and focused on key challenges in stone fruit production.

Thesis title: *"Propagation, scion–rootstock interaction and fungal dysbiosis in stone fruits from Cova da Beira"*

1.5. Publications that acknowledged CopyTree

Castro-Camba, R., Sánchez, C., Rico, S., Vidal, N., Aldrey, A., Cernadas, M.J., Covelo, P., Vielba, J.M. (2025). Pretreatment with silver thiosulfate increases the auxin-inductive effect for rooting mature chestnut shoots. *Plants* 14, 3756. https://doi.org/10.3390/plants14243756

Darouez, H., & Werbrouck, S. P. (2025). Beyond conventional auxins: Evaluating DCPE and DCP pulse applications for enhanced rooting in *Lavandula angustifolia* Mill. *Agronomy*, *15*(7), 1677. https://www.mdpi.com/2073-4395/15/7/1677

Megrelishvili, I., Elbakidze, T., Werbrouck, S., Maziashvili, N., Khidesheli, Z., Rabaaoui, A., Ujmajuridze, L. (2025). First detection of *Xanthomonas campestris* in Georgian hazelnuts: A threat to economic production. *Journal of Plant Protection Research*, *65*(4), 2.

Rito, M., Caeiro, S., Rosa, P., Azevedo, C., Correia, S. (2025). *Populus* callus cell lines: A novel source of extracellular vesicles with nanocarrier potential. *Curr. Issues Mol. Biol. 47*, 1015. https://doi.org/10.3390/cimb47121015

Sota, V., Jevremović, S., Abraham, E., Daničić, V., Bošnjak, D., Nacheva, L., Cvjetković, B., Andonovski, V., Bogunović, S., Kongjika, E., Zeljković, S., Jevremović, D., Marković, Z., Galović, V., & Vujović, T. (2025). The Balkan region and the "Nano Gap": An underexplored dimension of *in vitro* biotechnology for woody plants. *Plants*, *14*(22), 3499. https://doi.org/10.3390/plants14223499

Thiesen, F.N., Chmielarz, P., Pawłowski, T.A., Bubner, B. (2025) Stable *in vitro* propagation of *Fagus sylvatica* using micro-cuttings established from seedlings. *Plant Cell Tiss Organ Cult* 163, 108 (2025). https://doi.org/10.1007/s11240-025-03304-y

Zdravković-Korać, S., Gašić, U., Jevremović, S., Uzelac, B., Belić, M., Ćalić, D., Milojević, J. (2025). Enhanced initiation of somatic embryos in suspension cultures of *Aesculus flava* and metabolic profile of zygotic embryos and somatic embryos during their development. *Front. Plant Sci.* 16:1736161. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpls.2025.1736161

UPCOMING EVENTS

13th Call of STSMs

Who can apply?

PhD students, postdocs, or permanent researchers from an institution affiliated in a COST member country or Near Neighbour Country, and who are members of Cost Action CA21157.

Missions during the period 16.03.2026 – 06.10.2026

Submission of applications: 23.01.2026 - 28.02.2026

READ MORE

3rd Call for Conference Grants

Would you like to present your research results in an international scientific conference, but need support to participate the event?

Conferences during the period 01.01.2026 – 06.10.2026

Call will be open until the funds allocated to this have been exhausted.

Submission of applications in e-COST from 28.11.2025

READ MORE

Two Upcoming CopyTree Training Schools

CopyTree is pleased to announce the organization of **two Training Schools**, to be held in **Spring 2026**, offering advanced, hands-on training in key areas of woody plant bio-technology and genetic resource conservation.

"Protoplast Biotechnology"

Switzerland

Host institution:

ETH Zurich

Swiss Federal Institute of Technology

"Germplasm Preservation of Forest Tree Species"

Poland

Host institution:

Institute of Dendrology, Polish Academy of Sciences

In collaboration with the Kostrzyca Forest Gene Bank

Further details on dates, programs, and application procedures will be announced soon.

Stay tuned and save the date!

WEBINAR SERIES

Interested in learning more about *in vitro* culture of woody plants?

We are excited to announce our upcoming Webinar Series, where you will gain valuable insights on the following topics:

Overcoming recalcitrance in woody plants; Tools for diagnosis, sanitation, and storing clean stocks; Scaling up the production of elite clones at an affordable price; Understanding the real risks associated with this technology; Raising awareness and providing information tools to improve public acceptance; Encouraging foresters and landowners to invest in planting poly-clonal forests.

CopyTree is currently looking for speakers for the webinar series!

The webinars will run for 60 minutes, with 5 minutes for introduction, 45 minutes for presentation, and 10 minutes for addressing participants' questions.

If you would like to submit a topic for consideration, please contact the CopyTree Webinar Coordinator, at tobias.bruegmann@thuenen.de

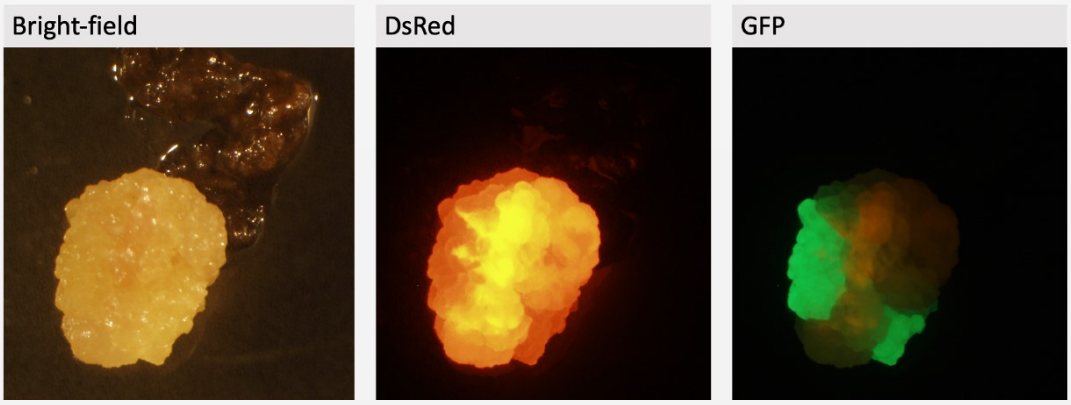
Upcoming webinars

Tuesday, 14/04/2026 | 03:00-04:30 PM CEST

Speakers:

Andrea Vitale (Italy): tba

Bircan Taskiran (Türkiye): How Effective Is an Altruistic Approach for American Chestnut Transformation? Accelerating Regeneration and Improving Transformation Efficiency



Tuesday, 05/05/2026 | 03:00-04:30 PM CEST

Speakers:

Teresa Hazubska & Vanja Daničić (Poland & Bosnia-Herzegovina): *Picea omorika*: ecological and genetic aspects + in vitro approaches and cryopreservation of embryogenic tissues for conservation

Tba

The registration links will be sent out via the CopyTree mailing list at the beginning of March.

COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES

- **COST Website**: https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA21157/
- **CopyTree Website:** www.copytree.eu

Please follow us on social media pages:

INTERNAL AREA OF COMMUNICATION

Are you already an approved CopyTree member?

Join our community area by signing up in this link:
https://www.copytree.eu/join-us

After signing up, join different working groups in interactive discussions.

CONTRIBUTORS:

Content providers:

Dicle Dönmez, Franka Thiesen, Itziar A. Montalban, Nieves Vidal, Sandra Correia, Snežana Zdravković – Korać, Stefaan Werbrouck, Svjetlana Zeljković, Valbona Sota, Tobias Bruegmann.

Graphic & Design:
VALBONA SOTA
Science Communication Coordinator
valbona.sota@fshn.edu.al

GENERAL CONTACT:
copytree21157@gmail.com

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COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a funding agency for research and innovation networks. Our Actions help connect research initiatives across Europe and enable scientists to grow their ideas by sharing them with their peers. This boosts their research, career and innovation.

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