



CopyTree – European Network for Innovative Woody Plant Cloning (COST Action - CA 21157)

From lab to forest and orchard

The Final CopyTree Conference

Hosted by the:

Academy of Sciences of Albania

14–16 September 2026



Conference Location

Tirana International Hotel & Conference Center






City Center, Scanderbeg Square, Tirana, Albania

Conference Coordinator: Valbona Sota

The fourth and final conference of the CopyTree COST Action (CA21157) will be hosted by the **Academy of Sciences of Albania** in Tirana, marking the grand finale of this European network dedicated to advancing woody plant cloning and biotechnology.

This three-day event will bring together leading scientists, researchers, and stakeholders to present and discuss the latest innovations in tree biotechnology, with a strong focus on bridging fundamental science and applied solutions.

The scientific program will feature:

-  **Five keynote lectures**, each representing one of the Working Groups
-  **Oral and poster sessions** showcasing cutting-edge research
-  **Networking and working groups meetings**
-  **Dissemination and outreach activities**
-  **Social program** fostering collaboration across the network

A post-conference tour to Southern Albania will take place on **17–18 September 2026**, offering participants an unforgettable journey through breathtaking landscapes, crystal-clear coastlines, and charming historic towns. This experience will combine relaxation and discovery, highlighting the region's rich biodiversity, traditional culture, and unique connection between nature and local livelihoods (*See Annex 1 - Post Conference Tour*).

Working Groups

- **WG1:** Genetics, epigenetics, and protein networks; innovative chemical and physical approaches to overcome recalcitrance; advanced bio-imaging systems.
- **WG2:** Detection and diagnosis of viruses, viroids, and bacteria; sanitation protocols; production of clean planting material; mid- and long-term germplasm conservation.
- **WG3:** Somatic embryogenesis (initiation, multiplication, germination, and conversion); temporary immersion systems; automation in micropropagation (robotics, laser technologies, AI).
- **WG4:** Risk assessment in plant cloning; strategies to enhance public awareness and stakeholder acceptance; investment and commercialization pathways.
- **WG5:** Communication, dissemination, and technology transfer.

Preliminary program

	14-Sep	15-Sep	16-Sep
08:15	Registration		
08:30		Desk open	Desk open
09:00	Welcome	Keynote speaker WG (30 min)	Keynote speaker WG (30 min)
09:15			
09:30	Keynote speaker WG (30 min)	Talks	Talks
09:45			
10:00	Talks	Coffee break and Poster Session	Coffee break and Poster Session
10:15			
10:30	Coffee break and Poster Session	Talks	Talks
10:45			
11:00	Talks	Talks	Talks
11:15			
11:30			
11:45			
12:00			
12:15			
12:30	Lunch	Lunch	Closing Talk
12:45			
13:00	STSM Session	Keynote speaker WG (30 min)	MC Meeting
14:15			
14:30	Coffee break and Poster Session	Talks	
14:45			
15:00	Keynote speaker WG (30 min)	Coffee break and Poster Session	
15:15			
15:30	Talks	Talks	Guided walking Tour
15:45			
16:00			
16:15			
16:30			
16:45			
17:00	Talks	WGs Meeting	
17:15			
17:30			
17:45			
18:00	Ring test Meeting		
18:15			
18:30			
18:45			
19:30		SOCIAL DINNER	

Abstract Submission Guidelines

Deadlines

- **May 31** – Deadline for abstracts for oral presentations
- **June 15** – Deadline for abstracts for poster presentations and attendees only
- **August 25** – Deadline for full paper submission (Proceedings Book)

Submission Requirements

Abstracts must be prepared according to the official template and submitted using the registration form available on the CopyTree web page (*see Annex 2 – Abstract Template*).

- A maximum of two abstracts per participant is allowed.
- Abstracts must be written in English, the official language of the event.
- The abstract body is limited to 1500 characters, excluding: Title, Authors' names, Affiliations, and Keywords.

Authors Information

- Include full names and complete affiliations of all authors.
- Provide the email address of the presenting author.

Submission Details

When submitting your abstract, please indicate:

- The relevant Working Group (WG1–WG5) that best fits your topic.
- The preferred type of presentation: *Oral* or *Poster*.

Important Notes

1. File Naming

The abstract file must be named using the author's name and surname.

2. File Format

Abstracts must be submitted only as a Word document. No other formats will be accepted.

3. Co-authors Submission Procedure

If all authors are registering for the conference, the abstract should be uploaded only once by the first author.

Co-authors must register separately, but should:

- Click "Upload" without uploading any document
- Confirm by selecting "I have uploaded..."
- Leave a comment confirming their association with the submitted abstract

4. MC Members as Attendants

Management Committee (MC) members attending without submitting an abstract must still complete the registration process. They should:

- Select any Working Group in the registration form
- Click "Upload" without uploading a document
- Confirm by selecting "I have uploaded..."
- Leave a comment stating that they will attend without submitting an abstract

Oral Presentations

Presenters are kindly requested to prepare their presentations in **widescreen PowerPoint format (16:9)** for optimal display. Further details regarding presentation duration and technical requirements will be provided in due course.

Poster Presentations

Posters will be presented in **electronic format** using dedicated display stands. Participants are required to submit their posters as a **PDF file**, formatted to **70 × 100 cm** (portrait orientation).

Confidentiality: All submitted materials shall be used solely for the purposes of the Conference and shall not be disclosed, distributed, or used for any other purpose without the prior written consent of the author(s).

Further details regarding submission procedures and technical specifications will be provided at a later stage.

Proceedings book

A **Conference Proceedings Book** will be published, including selected works presented at the conference. All participants will have the opportunity to submit a **full paper (5–6 pages)** based on their contribution.

This **ISBN-indexed volume** will be prepared and finalized by **September 2026**. To ensure timely preparation and editorial processing, full manuscripts will be required **prior to the conference** (*see Annex 3 – Full Paper Template*).

A question regarding your intention to submit a full paper will be included in the registration form, in order to facilitate planning and editorial organization.

Further details regarding submission guidelines, formatting, and deadlines will be provided in due course.

Conference fee and reimbursement

Participation in the conference is **free of charge** for all registered attendees.

Travel expenses and daily allowances (**€130 per day**) will be reimbursed in accordance with COST rules for the following participants:

- Core Group (CG) members
- Management Committee (MC) members attending the MC meeting
- Keynote speakers and speakers selected from oral presentation abstracts

All abstracts not selected for an oral presentation will have the option to be presented as a poster.

Detailed information regarding the reimbursement procedure will be communicated directly to eligible participants.

General Contact:

- For issues or additional information related to the Conference Days in Tirana, Albania, please contact valbona.sota@fshn.edu.al
- For technical issues related to the registration form and the abstract upload on the website, please contact copytree21157@gmail.com; valbona.sota@fshn.edu.al

Additional highlights

1. Currency & Payments

- Currency: Albanian Lek (ALL)
- The official exchange rate can be consulted on the website of the Bank of Albania: https://www.bankofalbania.org/Tregjet/Kursi_zyrtar_i_kembimit/
- While the local currency is the Lek (ALL), Euros (€) are also accepted in many places, especially in Tirana, including major shops, restaurants, and shopping centers.
- Payments can be made in cash or by card, but it is advisable to check in advance whether card payments or Euros are accepted, particularly in smaller businesses.

2. Weather (September in Tirana)

September in Albania offers **ideal Mediterranean conditions** — warm, sunny, and perfect for both indoor and outdoor conference activities. **Average daytime temperature: 26°C; Average sunshine hours/day: 8–10; Average rainfall: low.**

3. Albania offers excellent value-for-money

Estimated Cost Comparison Table (Per Person, 3-Day Stay)

Expense Category	Albania (Tirana)
Hotel (3 nights)	€90–€250
Meals (3 days)	€60–€90
Local transport	€10–€20
Total (approximate)	€160–€360

4. Accommodation capacities in Tirana: flexible, affordable, and accessible

Tirana offers a **wide range of accommodation options** suitable for all participant categories (from early-career researchers and students to senior scientists and policy representatives). The city's hospitality infrastructure is well-developed and capable of hosting large international events.

5. Easy access: Direct flight connections to Tirana from across Europe

Tirana is served by **Tirana International Airport (TIA)**, Albania's main international gateway, which has rapidly expanded in recent years. The airport now offers **direct flights to over 85 cities** in Europe and beyond, making it highly accessible for COPYTREE participants from across the COST network. Tirana has year-round or seasonal direct flights to the following key destinations:

- **Western Europe:** Rome, Milan, Venice, Bologna, Florence, Verona, Turin, Paris, Lyon, Marseille, Geneva, Zurich, Frankfurt, Munich, Düsseldorf, Stuttgart, Vienna, Brussels, Manchester, London (Heathrow, Gatwick, Luton, Stansted)
- **Central & Eastern Europe:** Budapest, Prague, Warsaw, Bucharest, Sofia, Belgrade, Ljubljana, Zagreb
- **Northern Europe:** Copenhagen, Stockholm, Oslo
- **Southern Europe & Balkans:** Athens, Istanbul, Podgorica, Skopje, Pristina, Sarajevo

6. Airport to City Center Access

- Tirana Airport is located **just 17 km (25 minutes)** from the city center.
- Shuttle buses, taxis, and private transfers operate **24/7**.
- Approximate cost: **Airport shuttle: €4; Taxi: €20–25**

You can find more information here: <https://www.tirana-airport.com/>

Lunch Options

Lunches will be **at participants' own expense**. A **self-service lunch option** may be available at the conference venue for approximately **€10 per person**. The conference venue also features an **à la carte restaurant**. In addition, the **city center offers a wide range of affordable dining options**, with meals typically priced between €10 and €20.

Further details will be provided in due course.

Social Program

A **welcome cocktail reception** will be on Sunday afternoon, **13 September 2026**, in the garden of the Academy of Sciences of Albania, offering participants the opportunity to network in a relaxed and refined setting.

A **social (gala) dinner** will take place **on 15 September 2026** at a restaurant **featuring traditional Albanian cuisine**. The cost will be approximately €50 per person. Further details regarding the venue will be provided in due course. An **invoice can be issued upon request after the event**.

A **guided city walking tour of Tirana** (approximately 2 hours) will be organized on **16 September 2026 (afternoon)**. The tour will include key landmarks such as Skanderbeg Square, the National History Museum, the Clock Tower, the Pyramid of Tirana, and Toptani Castle, among others.

Annex 1

Exclusive Post-Conference Experience – Southern Albania

Tirana – Berat – Albanian Riviera – Saranda – Butrint – Gjirokastër

 **Dates: 17–18 September 2026**

Extend your stay in Albania with a **carefully curated two-day journey** through some of the country's most captivating cultural and natural landscapes. This exclusive experience blends **UNESCO heritage, Mediterranean elegance, and authentic local charm**, offering a perfect balance of discovery, comfort, and relaxation.

Beyond its growing role as a hub for scientific collaboration, Albania reveals itself as a destination of rich cultural heritage, unspoiled natural beauty, and remarkable diversity. Hosting the CopyTree Grand Finale in Tirana provides a unique opportunity to combine scientific engagement with an inspiring cultural experience, creating lasting impressions both professionally and personally.

Highlights of the Experience

- Wander through the timeless beauty of Berat, the “City of a Thousand Windows” (UNESCO World Heritage Site).
- Enjoy a scenic drive along the Albanian Riviera, with breathtaking views of the Ionian Sea.
- Relax in the coastal atmosphere of Sarandë, your overnight destination.
- Discover the ancient wonders of Butrint National Park (UNESCO World Heritage Site).
- Experience the crystal-clear waters and serene beauty of Ksamil.
- Step into history in Gjirokastër, renowned for its stone architecture and unique cultural heritage (UNESCO World Heritage Site).

Comfort & Hospitality

Accommodation in a seaside hotel in Saranda, combining comfort, quality service, and a relaxing Mediterranean ambiance.

Culinary Experience

Enjoy carefully selected meals inspired by traditional Albanian cuisine, offering a taste of local flavors in authentic settings.

Indicative Prices (per person) depend on the room you choose:

- **Triple Room: €195**
- **Twin Room: €225**
- **Single Room: €250**

✓ Included

- Comfortable transportation with air-conditioned coach
- 1 overnight stay with breakfast
- Selected meals featuring traditional cuisine (2 lunches & 1 dinner)
- Professional English-speaking guide
- Entrance fees to key cultural sites (Berat & Butrint)

This tour is designed to offer not just a visit, but a memorable experience of Albania's heritage, landscapes, and hospitality.

Payment for the tour will be arranged **directly with the travel agency**. Further details regarding payment procedures will be communicated in due course.

Cultural and Natural Attractions: A Destination Worth Exploring

1. Tirana's Vibrant Urban Scene

Tirana itself offers a **dynamic and welcoming atmosphere**, combining modernity with a rich historical narrative. Attractions include: **Skanderbeg Square**, the city's cultural heart; **Bunk'Art and House of Leaves**, powerful museums of recent history; Colorful architecture, lively cafés, and artisan markets.



2. UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Albania is home to UNESCO-listed towns and landmarks:

Berat, known as the “City of a Thousand Windows,” is a stunning example of Ottoman architecture and religious harmony.



Gjirokaštër, a stone-built hill town, features a majestic castle and well-preserved traditional homes.



Butrint, a UNESCO World Heritage site where layers of **Greek, Roman, Byzantine, and Venetian civilizations** come together in a unique archaeological landscape.



3. The Albanian Riviera

Just a few hours from the capital lies the **Albanian Riviera**, where mountains meet the turquoise waters of the Ionian Sea. Participants will enjoy scenic views of coastal destinations such as **Vlora, Dhërmi, Ksamil, and Sarandë**, with selected stops along the way.



Annex 2

Abstract template

Title

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ABSTRACT

The abstract should provide a clear and concise summary of your research. It should identify the problem or question your study addresses, explain the rationale for the work, and outline the methods used to conduct the research. The abstract should also summarize the main results and conclusions. If the project is still in progress, you may include preliminary findings or expected outcomes based on your hypotheses. Conclude with a brief statement on the significance of the project and its contribution to the field. Do not include citations in the abstract. Please avoid special characters, symbols, and mathematical notation in both the title and the abstract. The abstract must not exceed 1500 characters, including spaces. Submissions that exceed this limit may not be accepted. Abstracts will be reviewed, and authors will be notified of acceptance for presentation by email.

Keywords: from 3 to 5 keywords (key concepts in the abstract)

Annex 3

TITLE IN CAPITAL WITH *TIMES NEW ROMAN*, SIZE 11, BOLD, CENTERED, SINGLE LINE SPACING

The names of author(s) with size 11, Bold, Times New Roman, Centered

Addresses of authors, the institution where he / she is employed, Size 10, Times New Roman, Centered

The main author's email address (e-mail: xxx.xxx@univ.com)

Abstract

The abstract should designate the authors' contribution to the paper they refer to and contain 200-300 total words.

Keywords: *Must be in Times New Roman, Size 10, Italic. Number 3 to 5 keywords.*

1. The whole text of the full papers has to be in **Times New Roman font – 11**, MS Word 2003-2007
2. Full papers' margins should be **2 cm, top, bottom, left, and right for A4 format paper.**
3. **Line spacing** should be **single**, and **alignment** should be **justified**.
4. **Between two paragraphs, use an empty row (space), and in no case spacing (Auto, 3 pt, 6 pt, etc.).**
5. The submitted full papers should contain **no less than 4 pages.**

1. Introduction

Introduce the question/s tested by the experiments described in the paper. Explain why this is an interesting or important question/s. Describe the approach used in sufficient detail (so that a reader who is not familiar with the technique will understand what was done and why), and very briefly mention the conclusion of the paper.

2. Materials and Methods

This section should contain a description of the materials used and methods employed in a form that makes the results reproducible, but without a detailed description of already known methods. The details of a published protocol do not need to be reproduced in the text, but an appropriate reference should be cited – e.g., simply indicate “as described by Timperley et al.”. Any changes from the published protocol should be described.

3. Results

Summarize the data collected and, if applicable, their statistical treatment (includes only relevant data, but gives sufficient detail to justify your conclusions). Use equations, figures, and tables only where necessary for clarity and brevity.

Each table needs a short descriptive title above it (Times New Roman, font size 9, bold) and should be numbered consecutively with Arabic numerals (see Table title in the example below). Table column headings should clearly define the data presented. If necessary, suitably identified footnotes (font Times New Roman size 8) should be typed below the

table and should be referred to by superscript lowercase letter. Table from example (with footnote) Table 1.

Table 1. Sample table title

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Row 1	1.5831	2.14	3.68
Row 2	4.39	5.02	N/A
Row 3	7.3794	8.37	9
Row 4	10.9371	11.198	12.33

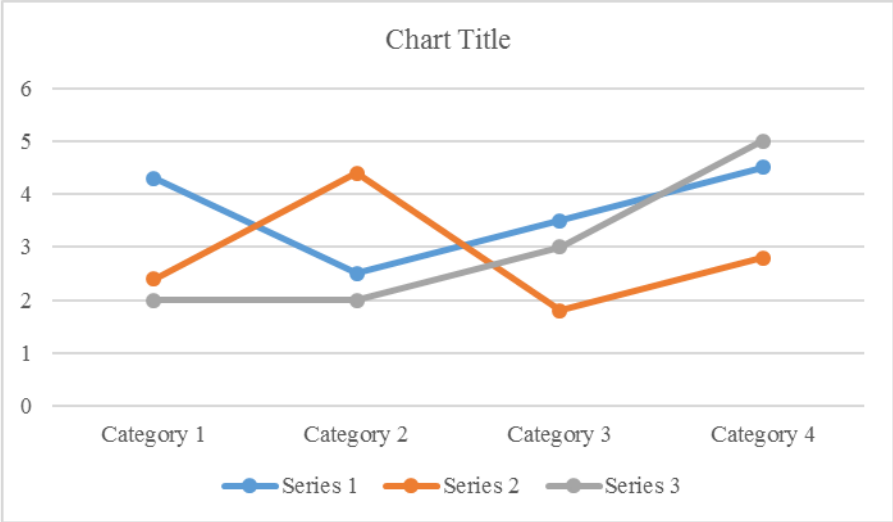


Fig. 1. Sample chart title

Figures should be numbered consecutively with Arabic numerals in order to which they refer. Make sure that the Figure caption (text explaining the figure) is included after the figure or image (below it) and written in font Times New Roman, size 9, bold.

4. Discussion

Discussion. The purpose of the discussion is to interpret the results. Be objective; point out the features and limitations of the work. Relate and compare your results to current knowledge in the field and to your original purpose in undertaking: Have you resolved the problem? What exactly have you contributed? Briefly state the logical implications of your results. Suggest further study or applications if warranted.

5. Conclusions

The purpose of the Conclusions section is to put the interpretation into the context of the original problem, which has to be brief. Your conclusions should be based on the evidence presented. Summarize your major points succinctly. Point out the significance of your results and discuss the open questions that remain in the area and future directions.

References

1. Huffman, LM. 1996. Processing whey protein for use as a food ingredient. *Food Technology*, 50(2): 49-52.
2. Exelby, HRA. 1997. Aspects of gold and mineral liberation. PhD thesis, University of Queensland, Brisbane.
3. Simpson, L. 1997. Tasmania's railway goes private. *Australian Financial Review*, 13 October, p. 10.
4. University of Queensland Library. 2009. *Mechanical engineering subject guide*. University of Queensland Library, viewed 6 February 2009,
5. Cookson, AH. 1985. *Particle trap for compressed gas insulated transmission systems*, US Patent 4554399.

Important notes:

The names of species should be given in italic lettering using binomial nomenclature. The genus name may be abbreviated but only used in conjunction with the species name (i.e., *E. coli*).

Use standard abbreviations (e.g. hr., min, sec, etc.) instead of writing complete words.

As a general rule, **do not use an abbreviation unless a term is used at least three times in the manuscript.**

With two exceptions (the degree symbol - e.g. 100°C and percent symbol - e.g. 1%), a space should be left between numbers and the accompanying unit (e.g. 1 cm).

For **liter** is used abbreviation **L** and not **l** (e.g. 1 L, 1 mL etc.).

In general, abbreviations should not be written in the plural form (e.g. 1 mL or 5 mL, not mLs).