

“Plant Translocation – Theory and Techniques” REPORT

Training School start and end date: 24-26 March 2021

Trainers: Prof. Thomas Abeli (University of Roma Tre, Rome, Italy),
Dr. Sandrine Godefroid (Meise Botanic Garden, Meise, Belgium),
Dr. Andreas Ensslin (Conservatoire et Jardin Botaniques, Geneva, Switzerland),
Dr. Guy Colling (Musée d’Histoire Naturelle, Luxembourg)

The training school “Plant Translocation – Theory and Techniques”, organised by the Department of Science of Roma Tre University and CA18201 “An integrated approach to conservation of threatened plants for the 21st Century”, took place from 24-26 March 2021, using the online platform TEAMS. The training was organized in collaboration with the Meise Botanic Garden, the National Museum of Natural History Luxembourg, and the Conservatoires et Jardins botaniques Genève.

The training school was dedicated to PhD students and postdoctoral fellows engaged in scientific research programmes and aimed to share and disseminate the latest knowledge in the field of ecological restoration and plant conservation. The course aimed at training new scientists in the management of threatened plant species populations and establish a dialogue between experienced scientists and the next generation of conservation biologists.

The organising committee composed by Prof. Thomas Abeli (University of Roma Tre, Rome, Italy), Dr. Sandrine Godefroid (Meise Botanic Garden, Meise, Belgium), Dr. Andreas Ensslin (Conservatoire et Jardin Botaniques, Geneva, Switzerland), and Dr. Guy Colling (Musée d’Histoire Naturelle, Luxembourg) received 77 applications from 29 different countries including the extra-European countries Australia, Philippines, India, South Africa and USA, and the extra-EU countries Albania, Israel, Lebanon, Moldova, Serbia and Turkey. In total, there were 19 attendees from 11 ITC countries (Albania, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Serbia and Turkey). Participation was very high every day of the training school, with an average of more than 60 people connected.

The training school that was originally planned as an in-person event at the Botanic Garden of Rome, had to be held online due to restrictions to face-to-face events in Italy during the period of the training school due to the COVID19 pandemic. This allowed the organizers to admit all people that requested to participate. Although the attendees could not use the travel grants, the Organising Committee selected 30 attendees who were suitable to receive such grants and communicated it to them. As most attendees were young scientists in their early career, this may be important for their track record.

The course consisted of eight lectures given by the organizers and of an additional one given by the special guest Prof. Kingsley Dixon (Curtin University, Australia). The training school organizers also supervised two exercises during which the attendees were divided into four sub-groups (program attached).

A certificate of participation is being prepared and a feedback form has been sent to each participant.

On behalf of the Organising Committee,

Thomas Abeli