

Recommendations of the External Advisory Board of EXTEMIT-K 2018

“The External Advisory Board (EAB) consisted of (in alphabetic order): Bill S Hansson (Chair), Paal Krokene, Sigrid Netherer and Johanna Witzell. Two [scientific] members were absent and did not take part in the evaluation.

The EAB visited the facilities of EXTEMIT-K (E-K) during March 14-16, 2018.

The meeting included a mini-symposium where both E-K members and EAB members contributed lectures. The EAB members were also taken through the laboratories of E-K to observe the progress in construction since the visit in spring 2017. In addition, individual members of the EAB held level-specific meetings after the conclusion of the full meeting.

The general impression of the EAB was very positive. Despite strong obstacles encountered both in application for new co-worker visas and in EU purchasing legal requirements the team has managed to start up the program in several different directions. Important for this success is the scientific leadership by Prof Fredrik Schlyter, the administrative leadership by Radek Rinn and the overall leadership and support by Prof Marek Turçani. Below we provide input regarding both organisational and scientific issues. We also provide more specific wishes regarding the organisation of the program as we see the need for somewhat extended direct discussions between the EAB and the E-K scientists.”

“One key sentence from the report:

The team should draw a conceptual framework that clearly illustrates the novelties with respect to fundamental and applied research”

THE SCIENCE

“The EAB was impressed by the progress in installing the new E-K laboratories. Advanced machinery has been purchased and installed. The mass spectrometer is up and running, while the gas chromatography-electrophysiology machinery still remains to get operational.”

Gene Level (G)

See above on GC-MS.

Tree Level (T)

The extent of hypothesis-based science “HBS” (as compared to pure description & data collection) was stressed by EAB.

Landscape Level (L)

The reason (Hypothesis) for focus on the three ecotypes of spruce was asked for.

THE ORGANISATION

“In our previous rapport (2017) we provided quite substantial input regarding the internal organisation of the project. Some of our suggestions have been realized but we see that the E-K group to some extent still suffers from lacking communication and information. A very positive side is the appealing website of E-K, which forms a nice window towards the outside. We would like to see similar measures being taken towards the inside” The EAB stressed the need to improve cohesion overall of the team.

THE RESULTING CHANGES at EXTEMIT-K

The HBS in general and for ecotypes is covered in [the EXTEMIT-K comment](#) from autumn semester, together with several actions done to improve social and organizational cohesion.