

EUROGARD IX

Ninth European Botanic Gardens Congress: “Botanic Gardens – where people and plants meet

MAY 16-20, 2022 BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

THE EUROPEAN BOTANIC GARDENS CONSORTIUM,

THE HUNGARIAN ASSOCIATION OF ARBORETA AND BOTANIC GARDENS

BOTANIC GARDEN OF EÖTVÖS LÓRÁND UNIVERSITY



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Scientific Program

The scientific program included 70 oral presentations, partly in parallel sessions, and were, apart from 2 plenary sessions, presented in 12 themes.

Botanical gardens as custodians of biodiversity

Botanical gardens as experience-based classrooms

Planta Europa

Botanical gardens and global change

Botanical gardens and policy

Botanical gardens for food security

Botanical gardens in a social context

Botanical gardens as eco-attractions

Botanical gardens as living treasures

Botanical gardens as perpetuators of cultural heritage

Botanical gardens as green laboratories

Botanical gardens as historic gardens



Scientific Program

6 workshops

1. Sentinel plant research in Europe
2. Networking for plant conservation and habitat restoration
3. Botanical garden visitors do not waste food
4. Peer-to-peer learning : citizen science and community engagement at botanical gardens
5. The future of living collection management : understanding the impact of your collection through value scoring
6. Enabling responsible exchange of plant material and data



Scientific Program

- 2 satellite meetings:
 - ▶ Ensconet
 - ▶ Nordic meeting
- 51 posters

- 2 thematic exhibitions:
 - « Exhibition for all senses »
 - emphasis on visitors with special needs
 - « 95 years of Botanical Illustrations »



Conclusion 1

- ▶ It is acknowledged that botanic gardens come from very different roots but since 2002, the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, and its update in 2010, has provided a focus and primary framework to guide botanic gardens' activities in strategic and practical contributions to plant conservation.
- ▶ While it is clear that the GSPC targets have not been achieved in full, presentations made during this congress illustrate the good progress that has been made in implementing the strategy.
- ▶ The congress unanimously supports the continuation of the GSPC in the context of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF) as a contribution to the achievement of the vision of *living in harmony with nature* by 2050.
- ▶ The congress looks forward to the publication of the new European Action Plan for botanic gardens that will guide our work to address future challenges aligned with the post-2020 GSPC and GBF.

Conclusion 2

- ▶ The congress notes with concern the increasing negative impacts on plant conservation actions and research caused by constraints to the exchange and sharing of plant material as a result of the implementation of the regulations of both Access and Benefit Sharing and biosecurity. The negative consequences of these issues need to be communicated to national and regional ABS and biosecurity focal points, and solutions - such as those proposed by the new plant material exchange platform presented at this conference - should be explored.

Conclusion 3

The presentations made during this conference illustrate the expanding range of activities in which botanic gardens are involved, including for example:

- ▶ *in situ* conservation actions in partnership with land managers and local authorities
- ▶ seed banking and the use of seeds in integrated *ex* and *in situ* restoration projects
- ▶ the use of exotic plants in collections as sentinels in pest and disease monitoring
- ▶ urban greening projects aiming at increasing biodiversity in cities as well as enhancing resilience in the face of climate change

Conclusion 4

- Given the increasing challenges posed by global change, extreme weather, geophysical events and war, it is of great importance that botanic gardens put in place risk management strategies to safeguard their personnel, visitors, collections and infrastructure.

Conclusion 5

- The theme of this congress is *Where People and Plants Meet* and we have seen some inspiring examples of the education and engagement work carried out by botanic gardens across Europe. However, in order to further engage we have to continue to build our relationships with local communities, including through citizen science projects, ensuring that our messaging is clear and consistent.

We acknowledge and applaud the efforts of the organizers to establish a silent auction in aid of botanic gardens and our colleagues in Ukraine, and we thank participants for their generous support.

Finally, the European Botanic Gardens Consortium is pleased to announce that it has accepted an offer from the **University of Rome** in Italy to host the tenth Eurogard Congress in 2025.

We look forward to seeing you all there!



europaean botanic
gardens congress

16–20 May 2022, Budapest

botanic gardens – where people and plants meet