

Case Study 25

Raising awareness about implications of ABS measures

Leading IMAGE partner: SGGW

Other IMAGE partners involved: none

Other non-IMAGE partners and actors involved: Polish stakeholders from the research sector, from collections and from industry as well as authorities responsible for the checks on users

IMAGE WP and Task: WP1, Task 1.3

Objectives and expected results/output:

The conferences organized by Ministry contributed to building awareness among users of genetic resources on their obligations resulting from implementation of the EU ABS Regulation as well as domestic legislation of provider countries. The participants were informed about developments in ABS legal framework at the international, the EU and the national level. The participants have opportunities to present their specific problems and get interpretation if activities they are performing are falling into the scope of EU ABS Regulation, from geographical, material and temporal point of view. The conferences / meetings with staff of Voivodship Inspectorates of Environmental Protection focused on analysis of difficult cases that have been encountered during their checks on users. These checks, so far, were carried out most of all at Universities and research institutions that very often have their own collections of biological material, including genetic resources.

Material and methods

In the last three years, five conferences were organized by the Ministry of Environment to discuss ABS related issues and especially implementation of the EU ABS Regulation 511/2014, both with potential users and with authorities responsible for carrying checks on users. The first three conferences with users from research sector, universities, collections and cosmetic, pharma and other relevant industries took place on 30th October 2017, 6th November 2018 and on 20th November 2019. The conferences with authorities responsible for checks on users from Voivodship Inspectorates of Environmental Protection (WIOŚ) and Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection (GDOŚ) taken place on 13th April 2018 and 16th October 2018.

Lectures were provided at each event to discuss in details cases in the scope and out of the scope of EU ABS Regulation, with special emphasis on management of collections and cases specific for research sector. References to IMAGE project were made during these conferences. At each conference, participants were encouraged to bring their own examples of activities that could be considered as

utilization of genetic resources or examples related to acquisition or transfer of biological material in collection. Such examples were analyzed from the ABS perspective especially obligations resulting from 511/2014 Regulation.

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