1. Content of the 'Topic Description' document

1.1. Topic area

C: Management of pest/vector

1.2. Links to the Euphresco Strategic Research Agenda

The topic addresses the following objective(s) of the 2017-2022 Euphresco Strategic Research Agenda:
☒ Objective 2017-R-6.1: to test and validate methods for in situ detection and identification of pests
☒ Objective 2017-C-1.1: to address plant health challenges through integrative approaches and support collaboration among disciplines

1.3. Topic title

Tree health in urban environments: occurrence of organisms harmful to plants in urban greenery and the risk they represent to forestry, horticulture and agriculture

1.4. Description of the problem the research should solve

Urban greenery is an important part of city environments improving the quality of life.
However, from the plant health perspective it is often an ecosystem on the brink, created by the introduction of new species or the introduction of native plants of foreign origin into a very stressful environment. Often not in the first line of plant health surveys, urban greenery can represent an important entry point and a pathway of spread for invasive alien organisms and pathogens. At the same time, the aetiology of some of the observed symptoms is often unclear and the identification attempts fragmented over disciplines.
The project is proposed to:

- Generate new data on the occurrence of plant pathogens and/or pests (including e.g. *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *aesculi* (horse chestnut bleeding canker), *Ceratocystis platani* and *Phytophthora* spp.), associated with wood decay and necrosis in urban trees using specific and generic methods
- Organize a symposium to exchange knowledge and state-of-the-art across different disciplines including diagnostics and management
- Identify and test new survey techniques and identification methods, and
- Assess the risk that introduced pests represent to forestry, horticulture and agriculture.

The project will seek cooperation of official laboratories and inspectors with sectors responsible for management of public urban greenery and include aspects of citizen science to promote plant health.

1.5. Description of the expected results

- Short reports on the occurrence of the pathogens and/or pests of interest
- Data on performance of detection and identification tests
- List of potentially/known harmful pathogens and pests occurring on urban trees

1.6. Beneficiaries of this research product

The project will benefit to NPPOs and Diagnostic laboratories.

1.7. Research funders and research contribution/ distribution

Funding organisation	Research activity and researchers involved
1. Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food, Slovenia Erika Oresek Erika.Oresek@gov.si	-Focus on *P. s.* pv. *aesculi* and its distribution in Slovenia (sampling, detection, identification) and *X. fastidiosa*; -Non-targeted approached for identification of causative agents in complex diseases; -Reviewing management options Contact person: Tanja Dreo E.mail: tanja.dreo@nib.si -Focus on harmful pests and diseases in urban trees and forests (chain management to eradicate and/or control selected pests/disease); -To review and set up a preposition for best practice on chain management in the eradication/control of harmful organisms in urban areas; -Participate in a symposium Contact person: Dušan JURC, E.mail: dusan.jurc@gozdis.si Contact person: Barbara PIŠKUR E.mail: barbara.piskur@gozdis.si
2. Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety, Austria Sylvia Bluemel sylvia.bluemel@ages.at	-Focus on *P. s.* pv. *aesculi* and its distribution in Austria (sampling, detection, identification) and *X. fastidiosa*; -Furthermore detection of *Ceratocystis platani* and *Phytophthora* spp. in urban area, sampling, detection Contact person: Richard Gottsberger E.mail: richard.gottsberger@ages.at Contact person: Thomas Leichtfried E.mail: thomas.leichtfried@ages.at
3. Ministry of Agriculture, Plant Biosecurity, Plant Protection and Inspection Services, Israel Abed Gera AbedG@moag.gov.il	- Contribution to be detailed Contact: Yael Meller Harel E.mail: yaelm@moag.gov.il Contact: Avigail Heller E.mail: avigalih@moag.gov.il
4. Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture, United Kingdom David Kenyon	-Focus on *P. s.* pv. *aesculi* and its distribution in UK (sampling, detection, identification) and *X. fastidiosa*;

david.kenyon@sasa.gsi.gov.uk	-Identify and test new survey techniques and identification methods; -Assess the risk that introduced pests represent to forestry, horticulture and agriculture Contact person: David Kenyon E.mail: david.kenyon@sasa.gsi.gov.uk
5. University of Padova, Italy Lucio Montecchio montecchio@unipd.it	-Work on *Ceratocystis platani* and/or phytophthoras; -Host a symposium in our Center of study for monumental parks and trees. Contact person: Lucio Montecchio E.mail: montecchio@unipd.it
6. Research and Development Institute for Plant Protection, Romania Ioan Rosca ioan.rosca@icdpp.ro	- Contribution to be detailed Contact person: Ioan Rosca e.mail: ioan.rosca@icdpp.ro

1.8. Research project partnership outside Euphresco

Euphresco funding ensures a certain level of transnational collaboration among Euphresco member countries. It is possible, if the funding consortium is interested, to contact funding organisations or research groups outside the geographical area covered by Euphresco members. The Euphresco coordinator could advertise the research topic in order to have an enlarged collaboration. If funders are interested in this possibility, please check the case below:

☐ The funding consortium of the topic mentioned in section 1.2 requires that the topic is advertised outside the Euphresco network

Information to define the profile of sought partners could be useful (but not mandatory): country/region (if there are preferences), skills/expertise required, *etc*.

1.9. Any other relevant information on content

None.

2. *Euphresco management aspects of the project*

2.1. Indication of the topic budget

Funding organisation [a]	Mechanism [b]	Total Budget [c]
1. MKGP (SI)	NC	€ 23 000
2. AGES (AT)	NC	€ 17 126.60
3. MOAG (IL)	NC	€ 10 000
4. SASA (GB)	NC	€ tbc
5. UNIPADOVA (IT)	NC	€ tbc
6. ICDPP (RO)	NC	€ 4 000
total		

2.2. Expected duration of the project (only for non-competitive topics)

24 months

2.3. Identification of project coordinator

Has the research project coordinator been identified?

☒ Yes
☐ No

2.4. Any other relevant information on topic organisation and management

None.

[a] First member is project coordinator. A minimum of two partners are necessary for each proposal. Add lines as needed.
[b] Please indicate the preferred mechanism (e.g. real pot RP; virtual pot VP; non-competitive NC), or several mechanisms if there is flexibility.
[c] Optional, as this amount can still change in the next phase. In-kind contribution should also be indicated in this column.