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SHORT ABSTRACTS



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ing policy and provides up to date information about zoonoses to professionals.

Keywords: Network, multidisciplinary, zoonosis, One Health, policy

Posterboard: PB02

The Bulgarian Swiss Joint-Research Project PhytoBalk – an example of application of biotechnological methods for the conservation of valuable medicinal plants germplasm and region independent biotechnological production of plant derived pharmaceuticals

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Medicinal plants are considered to be a group of special interest due to their importance for human survival and potential of overexploitation. According to the World Health Organization, today about 80% of the earth population still relies mainly on medicinal plants as traditional treatment method. Threats facing medicinal and aromatic plant species in Europe are very similar across the world: unmonitored trade, over-exploitation, destructive harvesting techniques, as well as habitat loss and habitat changes result in diminution of population sizes, genetic diversity and eventually lead to extinction of the species. In the countries of the former Eastern Bloc, the deregulation of state-controlled commerce resulted in the increase of wild collection which has a negative impact on biodiversity.

The PhytoBalk project, a Bulgarian-Swiss Joint Research Project financed by the Swiss National Foundation (SNF) from 2013 to 2016, strives for the development of standardized biotechnological protocols: on the one hand to serve the conservation of valuable medicinal plants by collecting systematically plant material outside their natural habitats (ex situ), and on the other hand to provide for the tech-

nology for production of pharmaceutically relevant plant raw material and secondary metabolites of standardized quality thereof in the laboratory (in vitro).

In order to illustrate the scientific approach of the project, intermediate results of biotechnological and phytopharmaceutical studies on *Artemisia alba* and *Hypericum richeri*, two less studied species than their famous relatives Annual Wormwood (treatment of Malaria) and St. John's Wort (treatment of mild depression), are presented.

Biotechnological technologies open up opportunities for providing the basis for production of plant based, standardized and cost-effective phytopharmaceuticals to all countries, independent of their agricultural possibilities or wild natural resources. Thus the project contributes to build up opportunities for the use of nature's pharmacy for countries around the globe.

Keywords: Conservation of biodiversity, valorization of medicinal plants, biotechnology of phytopharmaceuticals, plant tissue culture, bioactivity screening, Swiss enlargement contribution, Balkan region, Eastern Europe

Posterboard: PB17

Perspectives For Public-Private Partnership For Medical Home Care In Bulgaria

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The modern Bulgarian Health Care System is facing the challenges of both the worsened national economic environment and the need for new strategies for dealing with the full scope of resources spent and results achieved. Due to the fast process of population ageing, chronic disease and disability as well as the emigration of young people from the country, Bulgaria is fighting the headlong rise of ex-