



European Polysaccharide  
Network Of Excellence

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N°42 - NOVEMBER 2017



***“Nature makes polysaccharides,  
EPNOE turns them into products”***

## Editorial

**D**ear Reader,

We have taken the decision of sending the 42<sup>nd</sup> EPNOE Newsletter to all contacts in the EPNOE scientific and industrial community, as we believe the information within will be of potential interest for you.

Up until now, EPNOE was only open to legal bodies, e.g. companies, research organisations and universities, as listed page 2.

**From January 2018, individual members will be welcome to join, furthermore there will be no registration fees for students.**

This will open a new phase in the development of EPNOE, offering the possibility for individuals to join EPNOE without involving their organisation, which can sometimes be complicated.

As you may know, EPNOE, the European Polysaccharide Network of Excellence ([www.epnoe.eu](http://www.epnoe.eu)), is a very active research, education and knowledge transfer network connecting research and education centres, universities and companies since 2005.

This Newsletter describes EPNOE, its history and its activities.

Subscription to the Newsletter is free (see our web site at [www.epnoe.eu](http://www.epnoe.eu)).

We hope that the quality of our networking activities will convince you in the benefits of joining EPNOE.

With our best regards,



**Dr. Patrick Navard**  
Coordinator of EPNOE  
Armines/Mines ParisTech/CNRS  
CEMEF - Centre for Material Forming  
Sophia-Antipolis (France)



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## A short history of EPNOE

In 2002, the European Commission launched an expression of interest to create research networks in Europe. Several academic and industrial partners built a first consortium and submitted a network on cellulose called Cellnet. Considered too narrow by the European Commission, it was extended to polysaccharides. The "Polysaccharides" proposal was submitted in 2003 as a Network of Excellence, a novel virtual research organisation at the level of the 25 countries then in the European Union. "Polysaccharides", renamed EPNOE - "European Polysaccharide Network of Excellence", was selected by the European Commission. EPNOE started in 2005 associating sixteen European laboratories from nine countries all of whom are still members of EPNOE today.

In 2007, EPNOE evolved from an informal network to a new formal structure, becoming a non-profit organisation named the EPNOE Association. The EPNOE Association is the current independent structure organising all EPNOE activities and it is solely funded by membership fees. The initial mission of EPNOE was to promote the use of polysaccharide renewable raw materials as industry feedstock for the development of advanced multifunctional materials. It rapidly extended to all fields where polysaccharides are used, such as food, feed, health, cosmetics and materials.

EPNOE is now a sustainable structure which organises Research and Education on polysaccharides at the European level and interacts on the global scale with all persons and organisations (like ACS) dealing with polysaccharides and polysaccharide-related science and products.

Present academic/research Members: [Armines](#) (Mines ParisTech, Mines Alès, Mines Douai) (France); [BOKU University](#) (Austria); [University of Jena](#) (Germany); [VTT](#) (Finland); [University of Hamburg](#) (Germany); [Abo Akademi University](#) (Finland); "Petru Poni" Institute (Romania); [University of Maribor](#) (Slovenia); [Wageningen University & Research](#) (Netherlands); [TITK](#) (Germany); [IBWCh Institute](#) (Poland); [University of Nottingham](#) (UK); [University of Innsbruck](#) (Austria); [University of Utrecht](#) (Netherlands); [University of Graz](#) (Austria); [Jan Długosz University in Częstochowa](#) (Poland); [INSA/Laboratoire IMP](#) (France); [Karlstad University](#) (Sweden); [INP Toulouse](#) (France); [Université de Picardie Jules Verne](#) (France); [Albert Ludwig University of Freiburg](#) (Germany); [Graz University of Technology](#) (Austria); [University of Huddersfield](#) (UK); [University of Aveiro](#) (Portugal); [KTH Royal Institute of Technology](#) (Sweden); [ETH Zurich](#) (Switzerland); [Mid-Sweden University](#) (Sweden); [Swerea IVF](#) (Sweden)

Present industrial Members: [Cargill](#); [Dow Wolff Cellulosics](#); [SE Tylose](#); [Lenzing](#); [Sappi Saiccor](#); [Kiram](#); [Novamont](#); [Agrana Research Innovation](#); [Ynsect](#); [Cosun](#)

### References

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- SpringerBriefs on Biobased Polymers. <http://www.springer.com/series/15056>



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## Why join EPNOE?

**If you, your company, institute, or university department is working in the field of polysaccharides or polysaccharide-related products, EPNOE is the ideal community to:**

- Network with experts in many scientific fields.
- Access R&D infrastructure.
- Keep abreast of the latest research developments in your fields of interest.
- Enlarge your outlook to other areas or materials.
- Participate in many brain-storming and project-building meetings.
- Exchange of knowledge and students.
- Discuss basic science.
- Create new educational programs.
- Connect with the organisations collaborating with EPNOE (for example, American Chemical Society, Polintegra in Poland, BioEconomy Cluster in Germany, Céréales Vallée in France, BioNanoNet, Controlled Release Society in Italy, Cellulose Society of Japan, Riadicyp in South America, etc.).
- Gain access to scientists and engineers with the expertise to help develop your technologies, or to provide scientific/technical assistance.
- Collaborate with industry to build industry-focused R&D projects and consortia.
- Access and participate in EU-Projects.
- Meet future employers or educated graduate students. Post open job positions.
- Publicise your achievements. As an EPNOE Member, you will be embedded in a productive research and enterprise network, with a strong focus on biomedical, food, materials and processing applications.

### Innovation and Knowledge transfer

Knowledge transfer and innovation are important components of EPNOE activities with contracts tailored to meet partner needs.

EPNOE academic/research members are active in many collaborative agreements with companies to develop knowledge transfer and products.

Currently, EPNOE scientists participate in projects associated with over 400 R&D contracts annually.

(Continued overleaf)





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## Why join EPNOE?

(continued)

### Internal EPNOE events organized in 2016-2017

- Meeting with three innovation clusters: Polintegra, Bioeconomy Cluster, Céréales Vallée - Feb 2016, Sophia-Antipolis (France)
- EPNOE Brokerage Event 2016 - July 2016, Paris (France)
- Latest trends and opportunities in polysaccharide science & technology - Dec 2016, Sophia-Antipolis (France)
- EPNOE "Dormant Ideas" meeting - May 2017, Sophia-Antipolis (France)
- EPNOE strategy meeting - Dec 2017, Paris (France)



Face-to-face meeting on "Dormant Ideas"

### Open EPNOE events organized in 2016-2017

- 2<sup>nd</sup> International EPNOE Junior Scientists Meeting - October 2016, Sophia Antipolis (France)
- 5<sup>th</sup> EPNOE International Polysaccharide Conference - August 2017. Jena (Germany)
- 25<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Materials and Technology Conference. An EPNOE-day on biobased polymers - Oct 2017, Portorož (Slovenia)



Opening ceremony of EPNOE 2017



Junior Scientists Meeting

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## Next Major Meetings

### Public events, open to other than only EPNOE members

#### Conferences

- 3<sup>rd</sup> International EPNOE Junior Scientists Meeting  
Maribor, Slovenia, 14-15 May 2018
- 6<sup>th</sup> EPNOE International Polysaccharide Conference  
Aveiro, Portugal, 7-10 October 2019

#### Application-focused short workshops

Four workshops are already planned. To be up-dated, see website or register to EPNOE Newsletter (free).

- *"Polysaccharides as Sweet Spot for Innovation"*, Summer 2018, Leuven Belgium.
- *"Towards flame retardant biopolymers and biocomposites: current research strategies, scientific barriers and application perspectives"*, October 2018, Alès (France).
- *"Fiber-reinforced composites"*, 11-12 July 2018, Feldkirch (Austria).
- *"Chitosan and derivatives, for medical applications"*, end of 2018, Lyon (France).

### Meetings open only to EPNOE Members

- Beginning of 2018: collective preparation for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Networks (ITN) call.
- From Spring 2018: series of topical brain-storming and face-to-face meeting for project preparation.
- Spring/Summer 2018: meeting on health related matters with the Controlled Release Society.
- Spring/Summer 2018: meeting with BioNanoNet.
- Autumn 2018: Building collective EC projects.