

COST Action CA18111 (PlantEd)

“GENOME EDITING IN PLANTS - A TECHNOLOGY WITH TRANSFORMATIVE POTENTIAL”

## --- 1st Announcement ---

2<sup>nd</sup> PlantEd conference

## Plant genome editing – the wide range of applications

20 – 22 September 2021

Lecce, Italy

Including:

Open conference; Working Group meetings; Management Committee Meeting

### *Scope of the Conference*

The 2nd conference of PlantEd ([COST Action 18111](#)) will take place over three days, with open scientific sessions dedicated to genome editing technology in plants, followed by PlantEd [Working Group](#) (WG) meetings as well as a [Management Committee](#) (MC) meeting. The conference will be carried out as a hybrid event, with physical presence of a limited number of participants (80 according to the actual COVID-19 rules) combined with live streaming (up to 500 participants, through the Gotowebinar platform). The conference will be promoted by the [scientific journal Plants](#) (IF 2.76).

The PlantEd Conference, being a network for research on plant genome editing across Europe and beyond, is an excellent platform for dissemination, discussions and connections, and for updating on the latest research and innovation forefront.

**Topics to be covered:** The conference will host sessions on the application of genome editing in various types of economically important plants (cereals, oilcrops, roots and tubers, legumes, fruits and vegetables, trees, algae), as well as the latest technological advancements for genome editing in plants. Joint sessions with other relevant COST Actions will be organized to explore mutually beneficial interactions.

The conference takes place towards the end of the second grant period, which marks the half time of the duration of the Action. The outcome of the WG meetings and the MC meeting will help shaping the activities of PlantEd over the second half.

A WG2 Training School will follow immediately the end of the conference (to be announced separately).

## ***Tentative Program (under development)***

### **Day 1 (20 Sept 2021)**

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#### *Morning:*

- ✓ Registration of participants
- ✓ Official opening of the conference
- ✓ Keynote lecture
- ✓ Technological advancements session

#### *Afternoon:*

- ✓ Crop-specific session
- ✓ WG meetings (WG1-WG5)

### **Day 2 (21 Sept 2021)**

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#### *Morning:*

- ✓ Crop-specific session
- ✓ Poster session
- ✓ Joint session with other COST Action

#### *Afternoon:*

- ✓ Crop-specific session
- ✓ 3<sup>rd</sup> MC meeting (open to any Action participants as observers)

#### *Evening:*

- ✓ Social dinner

### **Day 3 (22 Sept 2021)**

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#### *Morning:*

- ✓ Crop-specific session
- ✓ STSM session

#### *Afternoon:*

- ✓ Poster prize ceremony
- ✓ Closing of the conference

## Registration

### Physical participation

Registration deadline: **31 July 2021**

### Online participation

Registration deadline: **15 September 2021**

Registration should be made online through a dedicated link which is available at the COST PlantEd web site: <https://plantgenomeediting.eu/2nd-planted-conference/>

**For registration, please state whether you wish to participate physically in Lecce or follow the live streaming.**

For all Action participants: please indicate to which WG meeting are you interested in.

For Action Management Committee members: in addition to the above, please indicate if you will participate in the MC meeting.

The maximum total number of conference participants is limited to 80. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it is necessary to provide sufficient spacing among conference participants. We have therefore limited the number of participants present at the venue. Physical participation of non-speakers is on a first come-first serve basis, with priority given to PlantEd participants. Among the PlantEd participants, priority will be given to 1) those selected for oral presentation, 2) MC members participating also in the MC meeting, and 3) those presenting a poster. Due to potential travel restriction policies, we will also give priority to vaccinated participants before non-vaccinated (vaccine passport, if applicable, to be presented upon arrival at the conference venue).

There is no conference fee. PlantEd participants and invited speakers are in addition eligible for reimbursement of costs for travel and accommodation. The number of Action participants that will be reimbursed is limited and will be based on active participation, including at WG meetings, MC meeting, invited conference speakers and those selected among the submitted abstracts (see below). The official e-COST invitation (*which is necessary for reimbursement*) to Action participants that have been selected for reimbursement will be sent out not later than 20 Aug 2021. In 2020, the COST Association updated the reimbursement rules. They are now based on a country-dependent daily allowance for accommodation, meals etc., together with the travel expenses. [Please read the details here.](#)

## Abstract submission

Abstract submission deadline: **15 July 2021**

Abstract submission should be made by e-mail to:

Angelo Santino, [angelo.santino@ispa.cnr.it](mailto:angelo.santino@ispa.cnr.it)

(cc: Roberto Defez, [roberto.defez@gmail.com](mailto:roberto.defez@gmail.com) and Dennis Eriksson, [Dennis.Eriksson@slu.se](mailto:Dennis.Eriksson@slu.se))

Please indicate if you wish to give an oral presentation or a poster presentation. An oral presentation should match the scope of this conference as described above. **N.B. before submitting an abstract, you will need to register for the conference.**

## Logistics Note

### LOCAL ORGANIZERS



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEL SALENTO

**University of Salento:**

***Prof. Luisa Siculella***

***Prof. Gian Pietro di SanSebastiano***



**CNR, Institute of Sciences of Food Production, Unit of Lecce:**

***Dr. Angelo Santino***

***Dr. Antonia Gallo***

***Dr. Giovanna Giovinazzo***

### **Local organizer contact persons:**

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### **Contact person for virtual event organisation:**

#### **Mr. Domenico Genchi**

E-mail: [domenico.genchi@ispa.cnr.it](mailto:domenico.genchi@ispa.cnr.it)

### **Contact person for administrative issues:**

#### **Ms. Annamaria Pascali**

E-mail: [annamaria.pascali@ispa.cnr.it](mailto:annamaria.pascali@ispa.cnr.it)

## Accommodation

Accommodation during meeting is optional. There are lots of hotels and B&Bs in Lecce.

Below is a list of some hotels:

### **Patria Palace Hotel ★★★★★**

Special prize for PlantEd conference: 90€

Piazzetta Gabriele Riccardi, 13-Lecce, Italy

<https://patriapalace.com/en/>

Tel. +39 0832 245111

E-mail: [info@patriapalace.com](mailto:info@patriapalace.com)

### **Grand Hotel Tiziano ★★★★★**

Special prize for PlantEd conference: from 65€ (standard single room)

Viale Porta D'Europa-Lecce, Italy

<http://www.grandhoteltiziano.it/en/>

Tel. +39 0832 272111

E-mail: [info@grandhoteltiziano.it](mailto:info@grandhoteltiziano.it)

### **8piuhotel ★★★★★**

Special prize for PlantEd conference: from 75€ (standard single room)

Viale del Risorgimento-Lecce, Italy

<https://www.8piuhotel.com/en/>

Tel. +39 0832 306686

E-mail: [bookinglecce@8piuhotel.com](mailto:bookinglecce@8piuhotel.com)

### **Hotel President ★★★★★**

Special prize for PlantEd conference: from 65€ (standard single room)

Via Antonio Salandra, 6 -Lecce, Italy

<https://www.hotelpresidentlecce.it>

Tel. +39 0832 456111

Email: [info@hotelpresidentlecce.it](mailto:info@hotelpresidentlecce.it)

### **Bed&Breakfasts**

We suggest you to visit this website to find the B&Bs closest to the conference venue

<https://www.bed-and-breakfast.it/it/vicino/ex-monastero-degli-olivetani-lecce>

## Conference venue

The conference will be held at “Ex Monastero dei Monaci Olivetani” and Studium 2000 at the University of Salento.



*“Ex Monastero dei Monaci Olivetani”, Viale S. Nicola, Lecce*

The Olivetani monastery is a convent in the city of Lecce, currently home to the Department of Historical Studies of the University of Salento; its foundation dates back to the late twelfth century. The monastery, located near the municipal cemetery, was probably built between 1171 and 1174 for the order of the black Benedictines. In the nineteenth century, the convent was acquired by the City of Lecce who used it as a public office and later as a hospice of begging. In 1985 the building was entrusted to the University of Salento, which restored it and made it a cultural center.



*Studium 2000, Via di Valesio, Lecce*

Studium 2000 is a newly built branch office of the University of Salento that houses libraries, study rooms, university lessons and conference rooms in large and comfortable spaces.

## *Meals and social dinner*

### **Lunch and coffee breaks during meeting**

Lunch and 2 coffee breaks will be served at the conference venue on all meeting days. It will cost approx. 30 €/day and must be paid in cash on the desk during registration.

### **Social dinner**

The social dinner will be organised at the Olivetani monastery (more info in the logistic note No. 2).

It will cost approx. 40 € and must be paid, in cash, on the desk during registration. On the other meeting days, there are no fixed dinner plan.

The airport closest to Lecce is BRINDISI AIRPORT (SALENTO airport, distance 40 Km). There are several daily connections from Rome, Milan and other Italian and European cities. Alternatively, Bari Airport “Karol Wojtyła” (distance 170 km from Lecce) is also well connected with principal Italian and European cities.

### **TRANSFER: BRINDISI AIRPORT-LECCE and LECCE-BRINDISI AIRPORT** **BARI AIRPORT-LECCE and LECCE-BARI AIRPORT**

Different options are available:

Shuttle Bus;

Taxi;

Train;

Transfer service from the airport (private);

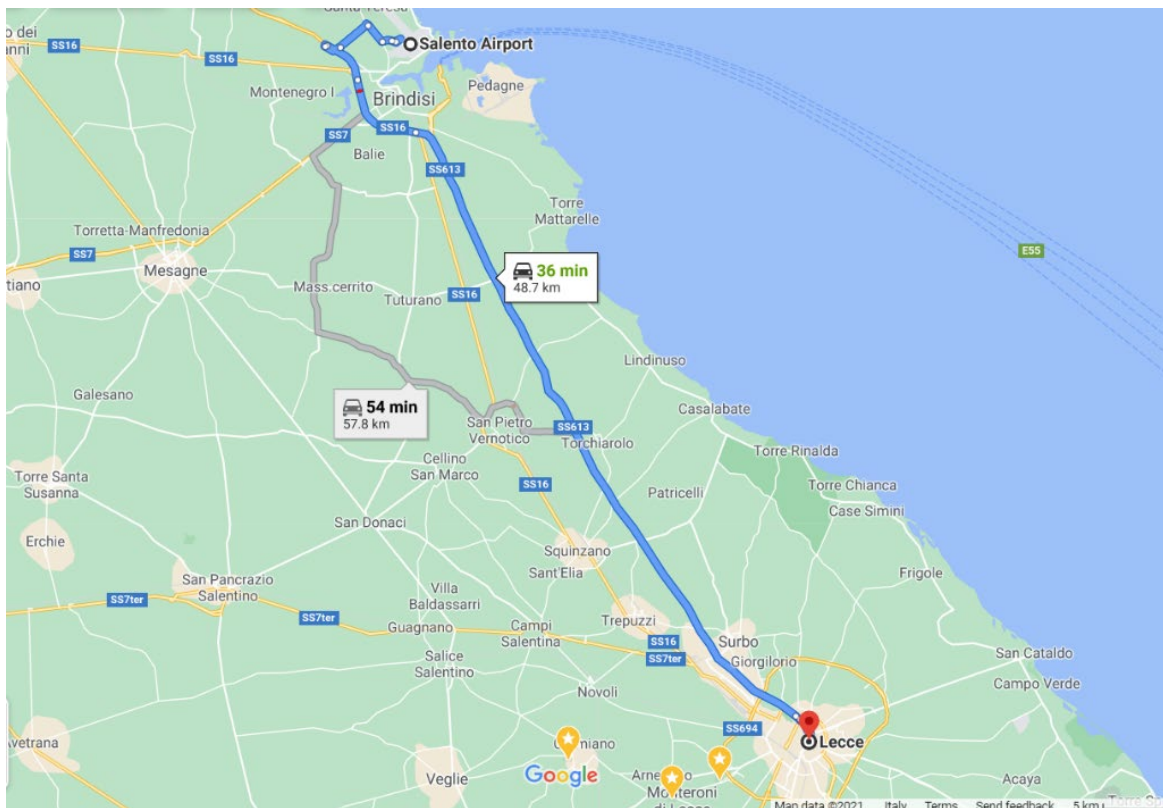
Car rent.

For more information, please visit the following websites:

<https://www.rome2rio.com/map/Brindisi-Airport-BDS/Lecce>

<https://www.rome2rio.com/map/Bari-International-Airport-Karol-Wojtyla-Viale-Enzo-Ferrari-70128-Bari-BA-Italy/Lecce>





Transfer route BRINDISI airport to Lecce

## **ABOUT LECCE**

Lecce in Apulia region is the provincial capital of the Salento area, only 12 km away from the Adriatic Sea and just a few more kilometers from the Ionian Sea. Archaeological research reveals that the Messapians were the first founders of the city. The Romans dominated the area next, leaving beautiful examples of Imperial architecture such as the amphitheater and the Roman theatre in the center of town. Under the Norman conquest in the 11th century, the city started to gain wealth and prominence; impressive structures such as the convents of the Olivetans and the Benedictines were built, as well as the first cathedral dedicated to Saint Irene. The County of Lecce was one of the largest and most important fiefs in the Kingdom of Sicily from 1053 to 1463, when it was annexed directly to the crown. From the 15th century, Lecce was one of the most important cities of southern Italy. To avert invasion by the Ottomans, a new line of walls and a castle were built by Charles V, in the first part of the 16th century. During the 17th century the architectural development flourished and the town was enriched with precious Baroque monuments; a highly ornate style of façade emerged that can be seen in the spectacular church of Santa Croce.

Lecce is mostly known as the Italian city of the Baroque style which characterizes a great number of architecture monuments, churches and buildings: a glimpse at original door-knockers, gargoyles and various limestone animals supporting balconies throughout the city can give you a sense of why Lecce stone is so highly prized.

Not far from Lecce, on both Adriatic and Ionian coasts, there are many small seaside towns with ancient histories and beautiful beaches.



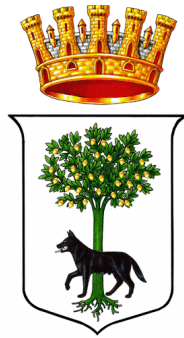
Touristic information

<http://www.tourism.ilecce.it/>

## **WEATHER**

<https://www.accuweather.com/en/it/lecce/214968/weather-forecast/214968>

## **WELCOME TO LECCE**



The Roman Amphitheatre



The Church of Santa Croce



The Roman Theatre





Piazza Duomo and the Cathedral



Cathedral Bell Tower



Porta Napoli



## Beautiful seaside towns around Lecce



Otranto



Castro



Gallipoli



Santa Cesarea Terme



Santa Maria di Leuca



Torre dell'Orso



Porto Cesareo



Porto Badisco