



## FEBS 'Ambassadors on Education' Meeting Prague, Czech Republic; 8–9 April 2016

This meeting, the first of its kind, was organized by the FEBS Education Committee and kindly hosted by Tomáš Zima, President of Charles University and a former member of the committee. It took place at Patriotic Hall, Karolinum – a fascinating rectorate building. With the overall aim of promoting molecular life sciences education throughout Europe, the objectives of the meeting were: to share information on FEBS educational issues, strengthen the communication between FEBS Constituent Societies, build efficient networks, define skills and knowledge in molecular life sciences education, and address standards. The meeting took place with 28 participants including FEBS Education Committee members and the 'Ambassadors on Education' representing 22 FEBS Constituent Societies: Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, UK and Ukraine.

After a warm welcome from Tomáš Zima and a short talk from Gül Güner introducing the mission, vision and objectives of the FEBS Education Committee, the first part of the programme involved short presentations from the committee members and the Ambassadors on their educational activities. The programme was carefully structured with interactive lectures and small- and large-group discussions, to enable efficient sharing of information and experiences and proposals for the future. Stimulating topics were discussed in small groups: 'Key knowledge and skills expected from a molecular life sciences graduate', 'Innovative education methods and new technologies', 'Training the trainers' and 'FEBS Education Platform'. The

main outcome of the meeting was the foundation of a platform at the European level to collaborate on educational issues, encompassing the FEBS Education Committee and the Ambassadors on Education of FEBS Constituent Societies, to promote education across Europe. The participants agreed on communicating and working with each other through email, the FEBS education platform and possible future FEBS services. Specific other conclusions were: to plan and produce a 'Good Practices on Education' document; to compose a 'toolkit' for an education workshop that can be run by the Ambassadors; and to enhance education activities in their respective societies.

The feedback obtained from the participants was both encouraging and helpful for future directions. The majority of the participants were 'very satisfied' with the meeting programme, organization and venue. Some of the answers to the question of what was particularly helpful at the meeting were: 'It has been my first approach to FEBS education activity and it was extremely interesting and stimulating'; 'Getting direct contacts with Education Ambassadors from other BS [FEBS Constituent Societies], sharing experience and roles'; and 'Setting the blueprint of an integrated workflow for harmonizing(?)/improving biochemical education'.

We thank all delegates who contributed to this fruitful meeting, as well as Tomáš Zima and his team for their warm and efficient hospitality. The FEBS Education Committee will be arranging a second Ambassadors Meeting in April 2017, hosted by Paris Descartes University.

*Gül Güner Akdoğan  
Chair, FEBS Education Committee*

