

PRESENTATION OF PHASELIEU

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PHASELIEU is a Concerted Action financed by the European Commission, inside the FAIR Programme of RTD. It began in 1998, but its origin is dated two years before, when several groups of scientists decided to join their efforts in *Phaseolus* research in Europe, with the cooperation of transnational organizations. So their initiatives made possible the arising of a proposal entitled “Improvement of sustainable *Phaseolus* production in Europe for human consumption” under the short name of “PHASELIEU”. Currently this proposal is the on-going project **FAIR5-PL97-3463** (<http://www.cesga.es/phaselieu>) that includes 13 partners (from Spain, Portugal, Italy, France, Germany, United Kingdom, Belgium, The Netherlands, Austria and Israel) and three linked organizations (AEP, IPGRI, CIAT).

The overall aim of PHASELIEU is to coordinate the on-going research on *Phaseolus* and to elaborate an integrated strategy model for the improvement of *Phaseolus* production in Europe for human consumption. Also, this project would like to avoid the duplication of current research and other RTD activities at national and transnational level on *Phaseolus*.

So the strategic aims of the project are the following ones, concerning to the organization and management of research and development in *Phaseolus*:

- * The **establishment of an EU wide network of experts**
- * The **organization of thematic workshops-group meetings**
- * The **publication of several scientific and technical documents**
- * The **scientific exchange as training visits**

Some of the deliverables of PHASELIEU are Technical Reports, Electronic Newsletters, an Electronic Catalogue of Scientific Resources and Facilities, a Catalogue of *Phaseolus* genetic resources, a Handbook on germplasm evaluation and a Handbook on laboratory methods.

The overall benefit will be the concertation of bean research in Europe. This concerted action will effectively coordinate the exchange of knowledge and material, involving the different actors in basic and applied research in order to optimize the research efforts within the EU.