

D15 Project kick-off meeting (minutes)

Version: M2

Insect Frass for Sustainable Pest Management

INSECTFRASS

HFRI-23673

Category	Category II
Scientific area:	Agricultural Sciences – Food Science & Technology
Principal Investigator (PI):	Maria Pappa
Host Institution:	Democritus University of Thrace (DUTH)
Cooperative Organizations:	1. Benaki Phytopathological Institute (BPI) 2. KU Leuven (KU) 3. University of Torino (UNITO)
Project duration:	36 months (01/10/2025-30/09/2028)

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Deliverable:	D15
Work Package	WP6. Project Management
Month of Delivery:	M2
Dissemination Level:	Confidential
Completion:	100%

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Summary

The INSECTFRASS project, funded by the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (H.F.R.I.) officially launched with its kick-off meeting held on 14 November 2025 in Orestiada, Greece, in a hybrid format combining in-person and online participation. The meeting was organized by the Principal Investigator (PI), Prof. Maria Pappas, and included representatives from all partner institutions. The agenda and project materials were circulated in advance to ensure effective preparation and alignment.

During the meeting, the PI presented the overall concept, objectives and structure of INSECTFRASS which aims to explore the potential of insect frass as a sustainable tool for plant protection and integrated pest management. The six Work Packages (WP) were introduced, with emphasis on their objectives, tasks, deliverables, milestones and interconnections, establishing a shared understanding of the project framework and implementation strategy.

Key methodological aspects were discussed across WP with partners contributing input on experimental design, standardisation of procedures, and data quality assurance. Particular attention was given to ensuring reproducibility and comparability of experimental outputs.

Project management procedures were presented, including communication workflows, coordination and project management tools, reporting obligations, and budget management. Partners agreed on the importance of structured collaboration and regular internal communication to ensure effective implementation of project activities.

Partners also discussed the project timeline and initial actions for the first project period, including preparatory steps for experimental work, training activities, and inter-laboratory collaboration. Opportunities for knowledge exchange and INSECTFRASS researchers' mobility were highlighted as key components for capacity building within the group.

Dissemination and communication activities were also addressed, including the planned development of the project's online presence and outreach strategy. Administrative and financial procedures were also reviewed in line with funding requirements.

Overall, the kick-off meeting successfully established a common understanding among partners regarding project objectives, organisation, and next steps, marking a strong and coordinated start to the INSECTFRASS project.