



Wageningen/Doorwerth, Netherlands, October 23th 2012

Present: Giovanna BATTIPAGLIA, Hans BEECKMAN, Barbara BEIKIRCHNER, Achim BRAUNING, Paolo CHERUBINI, Dr Hervé COCHARD, Prof. Katarina CUFAR, Veronica DE MICCO, Dimitar DIMITROV, Britta EILMANN, Patrick FONTI, Ignacio GARCIA-GONZALEZ, Michael GRABNER, Jozica GRIČAR, Bilgin GULLER, Maris HORDO, Miklos KAZMER, Alexander KIRDYANOV, Marcin KLISZ, Marcin KOPROWSKI, Andrej KORMUTAK, Frederic LENS, Mariyana LYUBENOVA, Annikki MAKELA, Harri MAKINEN, Jordi MARTINEZ VILALTA, Cristina NABAIS, Steffen Manfred NOE, Andreas PAPADOPOULOS, Mikko PELTONIEMI, Anders RABILD, Shimon RACHMILEVITCH, Manuela ROMAGNOLI, Philippe ROZENBERG, Ute SASS-KLAASSEN, Bogoslav SEFC, Dimitrios STATHIS, Kathy STEPPE, Miroslav SVOBODA, Brian TOBIN, Roberto TOGNETTI, Jelena TRAJKOVIC, Josef URBAN, Georg VON WUHLISCH

0. Welcome to participants

1. Adoption of agenda

Agenda was approved

2. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of kick-off meeting held April 23rd in Brussels, Belgium 23 were approved

3. Matters arising

Core group meeting in Wageningen in June 2012

MC was informed about core group meeting (joined by Achim Bräuning, Kathy Steppe, Paolo Cherubini, Patrick Fonti, Ute Sass-Klaassen and Britta Eilmann) held on June 12th 2012 at Wageningen University. Main issues were (1) discussion of WG contents and organisation of 1st WG meeting in Wageningen in October 2012; (minutes: (<http://streess-cost.eu/images/stories/Documents/Core%20group%20minutes.pdf>).

- ➔ It was approved by the MC that the Core group meets again for taking follow-up Actions of the 1st WG meeting and preparation of the 2nd WG meeting in Naples, Italy.

COST Science Night, December 4th 2012

The COST chair is invited to present our Action at December 4th 2012 during the COST Science Night in Brussels. For that occasion a flyer about our Action will be prepared and printed by the COST office.

4. Report from the COST Office

- News from the COST Office

Collaboration with the COST office runs smoothly. The chair and Grant-holder administrator get good support from the financial officer (Cassia Azevedo) and Science officer (Melae Langbein).

- Status of Action, including participating countries

on October 24th 2012: 29 COST countries + Russia + Australia



- Budget Status, budget planning and allocation process

The MC was informed that Britta Eilmann (Grand-holder administrator) and Ute Sass-Klaassen (Action chair) attended a eCOST course in Brussels, in May 2012. The eCOST System was shortly introduced and advances were discussed.

The MC was informed about the budget for the current grant period.

- ➔ MC members agreed that money which is left from WG meetings, workshops or dissemination will be spend on extra STSMs.

MC members were informed that the actual Action budget is based on the number of countries that have been confirmed as COST members at the time of the kick-off meeting, i.e. on 23rd of April 2012. Meanwhile the number of countries increased with the consequence that the budget will raised by approx. 30'000€.

5. Progress report of working groups

The three WG leaders (Patrick Fonti, WG1; Kathy Steppe , WG2; Achim Bräuning/Andreas Bolte, WG3) provided a short summary on what has been discussed in the WG meetings during the first day.

6. Action planning

6.1 Annual Progress Conference (preparation and/or feedback from DC)

Nothing

6.2 Action Budget Planning

MC members were informed about problems that emerged in the current WG meeting with late cancellations. In the week before the meeting 4 people cancelled.

- ➔ The MC agreed that cancellation fees resulting from late cancellation can be recalled from the participants in question. The MC agreed that Non-MC members who cancelled on short notice will not be invited to join future meetings on COST expenses.
- ➔ The MC recommended to organise future conferences in a way that participants arrange hotel reservation by themselves so that organisers do not run in trouble with cancellations.

6.3 Action Planning (including meetings)

6.3.1 Location and date of next meeting

Next meeting in Naples, Italy

Veronica de Micco informed about the next meeting which will take place in Naples, Italy from 15-16 April 2013. It will be a 2-day WG meeting followed by a 3-day workshop jointly organised by COST STReESS and IAWA (International Association of Wood Anatomists). Veronica De Micco, University of Naples Federico II and Giovanna Battipaglia, Second University of Naples will be main organisers of the meetings. Our Scientific officer, Melea Langbein, arranged that our Action will get additional money



from COST to invite 80 people to participate in both the WG meeting and the workshop. But it was also stated that it is not possible that a conference fee will be paid by the COST participant, since this is not according to the COST rules.

6.3.2 Long-term planning (including anticipated locations and dates of future meetings)

During the kick-off meeting we already got some offers from MC members to organise future WG meetings. Currently, offers for organising a WG meeting are collected from Portugal Spring 2014 (meeting 5), Finland (winter), Israel, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

- ➔ Concerning future conferences it was approved by the MC that the Core group has the mandate to reduce the eligible expenses reimbursed by COST per day if the actual costs are much lower than the 120 Euro. This will provide us with the chance to invite additional people on the same budget.

7. STSM status, applications

Jozica Gricar, STSMs manager, reported that 2 STSM were approved in the last call for STSMs. The next deadline will be on November 30th and more than 2 STSMs will be approved if possible since last time lot of excellent applications have been received.

The criteria for assessment and ranking of the applications are

- ✓ Output/Deliverables
- ✓ Contribution to the Action
- ✓ Scientific quality
- ✓ CV/Motivation letter

Beside the classical STSM the Action will also announce STReESS-STSMs to help the WG leader to achieve the targets of the Working groups.

8. Publications, dissemination and outreach activities

The possibility is discussed to prepare a special issue (SI) for a peer-reviewed journal as output from the COST/IAWA workshop (International Symposium "Wood Structure in Plant Biology and Ecology", WSE) in Naples, Italy. MC members will explore possibilities, such as IAWA, Dendrochronologia, Tree Physiology, Trees- structure and function.

9. Request for new members

Since we are already a large group we are not actively seeking for new members. However, Robert Teskey indicated that he as a US-citizen would like to join the Action.

Possibilities will be explored to check possibilities for US scientists to join our Action.

10. Promotion of gender balance and of Early Stage Researchers (ESR)

Currently, we are male-dominated (80:20), however, we have many women holding important positions in the Action. In addition we have a lot of good and motivated



female PhD who are interested to profit from the Action while doing a STSM or attending the meetings workshops and training schools.

11. Non-COST country participations

Yet, Russia and Australia are participating non-COST countries. Russia is participating in the current meeting.

12. Web news

The webpage was release a week before the meeting. News will be spread via the webpage (<http://streess-cost.eu/>).

13. AOB

none

14. Closing 17:45