



Minutes

Management Committee Meeting

COST Action no. FP1106

Action Title: STReESS - Studying Tree Responses to extreme Events: a Synthesis
Venue Hyytiälä, Finland, March 7th 2014 from 16.30 to 17.30

Present: Hans BEECKMAN, Barbara BEIKIRCHNER, Andreas BOLTE, Achim BRAUNING, Maina BRYKHANOVA, Paolo CHERUBINI, Katarina CUFAR, Rakefet DAVID-SCHWARTZ, Lubica DITMAROVA, Ólafur EGGERTSSON, Yoni EPHRATH, Patrick FONTI, Ignacio GARCIA-GONZALEZ, Philip GLOMBIK, Michael GRABNER, Jozica GRICAR, Jon Khelet HANSEN, Teemu HÓLTTA, Maris HORDO, Marcin KLISZ, Marcin KOPROWSKI, Andrej KORMUTAK, Iryna KOVAL, Frederic LENS, Mariyana LYUBENOVA, Anniki MAKELA, Harri MAKINEN, Jordi MARTINEZ-VILALTA, Milan MATARUGA, Cristina NABAIS, Anders RÆBILD, Cyrille RATHGEBER, Lies ROBERT, Philippe ROZENBERG, Ute SASS-KLAASSEN (chair), Roberto TOGNETTI, Jelena TRAJKOVIC, Floortje VODDE, Georg VON WUHLISCH, Ellen WILDERINK (minutes), Barbaros YAMAN

1. Welcome to participants (16:36)

Demonstration of teaser from the instruction film made by Peter Prislán. This is already the second instruction film funded by COST. SC has contacted Sylvain Delzon to produce the third film. Request to members: provide us with ideas for new films!

2. Adoption of agenda

No additional points.

→ **The agenda was approved by MC**

3. Approval of minutes and matters arising of last meeting

→ **Minutes of last meeting held on October 16th in Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina were approved by MC.**

o Steering Committee (SC) meetings:

- SC meeting November, 27th 2013 in Wageningen; reflection on meeting, format Sarajevo, suggestions invited speakers next meeting, organisation of TG/WG activities, workshops, training schools. MC members were asked for input but response was limited
- Next SC meeting planned for April, 16th 2014 in Amsterdam. Chair invites MC members to provide SC with input (reflection on meeting, format Hyytiälä, suggestions invited speakers next meeting, organisation of TG/WG activities, workshops, training schools...).



4. Update from the Action Chair

a- Status of Action, including participating countries

In total 38 countries are participating in our Action: 31 European COST countries, 2 Near Neighbouring Countries (Russia and Ukraine), 2 reciprocal agreements (Australia and New Zealand) and 3 new members (requests still in progress):

- International Partners Countries (IPC): USA and Canada
- Near Neighbouring Countries (NNC): Tunisia (in progress)

Participant counts:

Currently our COST Action has 223 registered participants, 32% of them are female. ESR participation to Action meetings is still increasing: from 25% (Wageningen), via 32.9% (Naples) and 35.9% (Sarajevo) to 37.2% in Hyytiälä.

b- past COST Activities

- o WG/MC meeting, 16-17 October 2013, Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina
- o SC meeting, 27 November 2013, Wageningen, the Netherlands
- o TG6 Living tissue-workshop, 26-27 January 2014, Brussels, Belgium: fruitful meeting of 9 ESRs that are currently working on phloem and parenchyma tissue topics in order to have a focused discussion. The output of the meeting was the set-up of a review paper on the topic (outline, task division and time line) besides several ideas for future topic group activities and some smaller joint initiatives between individual participants. Lies Roberts and Jozica Grizar used a very successful formula: although not combined with a WG meeting, by renting an apartment for the whole group and self-catering costs were kept very low (<2400 EUR) and stimulated integration.
- o TG2 Xylogenesis- pilot in Hyytiälä, March 04-05, 2014: 17 COST participants attended the 2 day pilot prepared by Cyrille Rathgeber. Combining with WG meeting proved to be a successful formula: low costs (<3700 EUR) and intensive collaboration=> initiative will be continued in GloBoXyloCo workshop planned with the next WG/MC meeting in Portugal.
- o TG10 Forest Genetics-workshop in Hyytiälä, March 05, 2014: 9 participants, against low costs (<1300 EUR).
- o TRACE conference, May 2014, Scotland: Lies announced in ESR meeting (03.05.2014) that 3 grants are available for ESRs and that the deadline for ESRs is extended to 12.03.2014.

Products/output

- o "Wood Structure in Plant Biology and Ecology", the Special Issue of the IAWA Journal edited by Pieter Baas, Veronica de Micco, Giovanna Battipaglia and Frederic Lens is published end of 2013. The Issue contains twelve papers: 4 reviews, 3 new methods to observe functional traits, and 5 integrative physiological and anatomical studies. Pieter Baas presented officially the 1st copy to the Chair.
- o Annual report: the MC members were informed about the monitoring progress report. This report comprises a list of publications and project proposals which are listed as output of the COST Action in a given grant period. Besides this report also a poster has to be submitted and a presentation has to be given at the Annual Progress Conference (APC). The COST chair informed MC members once



more about the importance of acknowledging the COST Action in papers and proposals.

c- Budget Status, budget planning and allocation process

The MC was informed about the current budget

- o Actual grant period (1 June 2013-31 May 2014): We will be able to realise our activities within the COST budget.
- o New Action budget plan for the next GP (1 June 2014-31 May 2015) will follow soon. Keep us informed what budgets are needed for workshops etc. in combination with WG meeting in Portugal. TG leaders were asked to send in their plans for Portugal.

d- STSM status and new applications

Update by Jozica Gricar (STSM coordinator):

In the 2nd GP 15 STSMs could be approved (total budget:24.480 EUR). Both the quality of applications but also the results of STSMs have improved over the past year. The Spanish members were very active in obtaining grants, Switzerland and France in hosting applicants. Gender: 10 female applicants succeeded in obtaining a grant (91.9%), against 15 male applicants (53.6%)

Coming financial year: 1st collection deadline (June 30) is too late to do experiments in the growing season so SC decided to move collection day to 1st of June.

-> Next deadline for the STSM call is set to 1 June 2014

It is eligible to do more than 1 STSM as long as they take place in different GPs.

Rules & criteria handled by COST and the SC: did not change and are published on our website (see <http://streess-cost.eu/esr/stsm-how-to-apply>).

Chair expresses her appreciation for all the work Jozica has done as STSM coordinator.

5. Early Stage Researchers (ESR)

Update by Lies Roberts (ESR representative):

Currently our COST Action has 222 registered participants, 84 (37.8%) of them are ESRs. ESR participation to Action meetings is still increasing: from 25% (Wageningen), via 32.9% (Naples) and 35.9% (Sarajevo) to 37.2% in Hyytiälä. ESRs now come from 25 countries: since Sarajevo ESRs from Israel and Turkey joined our Action and only Bosnia & Herzegovina, Denmark, Greece, Iceland, Luxemburg and Slovakia have no ESRs.

Activities undertaken since Sarajevo:

- 1) STSMs: encouraging candidates to come up with high-quality proposals worked out very well: there were more applications and of better quality;
- 2) TRACE meeting (6-10 May 2014, Aviemore, Scotland): announced that 3 grants are available for ESRs, that the deadline for ESRs is extended to 12.03.2014 and instruction given how to apply;
- 3) Training school (26-28 May, Ghent, Belgium): on special request of the ESRs a training school on '*Modelling of plant responses to stress conditions*' will be organised by Kathy



Steppe. More than 30 ESRs showed interest to participate. **More information will be given by Kathy (through Veerle De Schepper)**

4) PhD positions in the project ForSeaDiscovery: 1 with Ignacio (chronology) and 1 with Ute (wood anatomy). **More information will be send by ERS coordinator Lies.**

5) COST Special Event: Scientific Roadmap – Projections of Global Change Impacts on Forests ESRs are able to participate with a poster. **More information will be send by the SC.**

The ESRs have much appreciation for the policy handled by the SC where (1) priority of reimbursement is given to ESRs who are actively involved (TG/WG participation) and (2) attention is given to selection of less expensive meeting locations. Even more ESRs were able to participate than in Sarajevo.

On her return Chair thanks Lies for all the work she has done. The online ESRs list that Lies composed with information on background and Action involvement of ESRs, is very helpful. Maybe a good idea for other COST Actions?

Update from the Grant Holder

- Change of COST administrative officer: we have Cassia Azevedo back!
- Britta Eilmann is on maternity leave. Ellen Wilderink took over her tasks as Grant Holder Administrator.
- Reimbursement procedure with eCOST last WG/MC meeting Sarajevo: problems occurred due to wrong address of the Grant Holder (WUR) on the forms , incomplete/wrong claims etc. Finalising the claims took again more time than expected.
- Hyytiala:
Some TRR of the TG10 workshop contain a wrong accommodation rate (€ 70 instead of the MC-approved € 100 Euro!) and the address could still be incomplete Because of the complicated combination of workshops and WG meeting GH prepared for each (combination of) meeting types Short Manuals including new rules, correct rates/ address etc. and distributed them at the Helpdesk (reception desk) during the breaks of this meeting. After the meeting participants can download the manuals from the webpage of the WG meeting.
- Reminder on COST STReESS philosophy: handle realistic reimbursement rates!-> looking for non-expensive meeting locations, -> looking for non-expensive hotels, -> sharing rooms to reduce costs!
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6. Update from the COST Scientific officer

The next reporting about our Action will be on 25/26 March 2014, in Belgrade, Serbia. Chair will report about our Action based on the Annual report & Presentation. New activity will be an 3.5 hour discussion about COST (positive/negative aspects). This is very useful opportunity! Please feed us with remarks/experiences and mail them to Ute

- **Request to MC members to send feedback (positive/negative) on experiences with COST to Chair**

7. Update from the DC Rapporteur (Yoni Ephrath)

- The Domain Committee (DC) is extremely happy with this Action!
- In general the ratio COST countries participating towards Non-COST countries (NCC)/ International Party Countries (IPC) is regarded very important by DC. However when a lot of COST countries participate -like in the STReESS Action- this ratio gets easily unbalanced.
- The restriction that participants from IPC (like Canada, or USA) can only be reimbursed once, is by the SC considered unfair and counterproductive and frustrates increasing the previously mentioned ratio. Yoni will discuss this issue with COST
- Advise: let participants send in their TRR by registered mail to prevent documents being lost in the mail.

8 Follow-up of MoU objectives

a. strategic WG/TG approach, reflection (discussion of concept, connection to stakeholders)

Original concept of Integration TGs & WGs has been adapted:

- > links to stakeholders
- > towards Action aims
- > towards projects

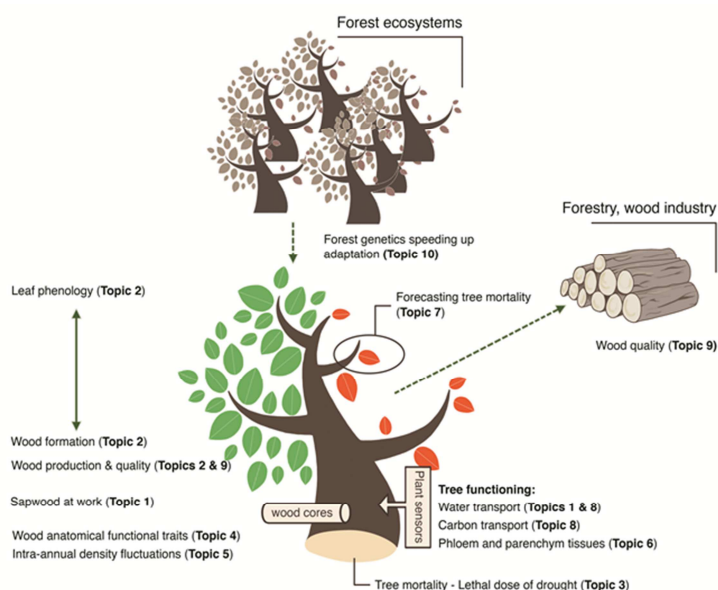


Fig. 1 – adapted version of TGs to realise Action goals

Distribution of COST docs & presentations: Not all documents are meant to be public for people outside the COST Action. This holds true for information on ongoing issues in the TGs such as development of proposals or original research ideas. To be able to keep COST participants informed the **SC will explore the possibility of a password-protected part on our Action webpage. This issue will be put on the agenda of the next SC meeting.**



b. Progress report of working groups

- WG1 (Patrick Fonti): on track! The catalogue is accessible (username=XXXX, password=XXXX); and filling up. WG 1 is taking suggestions from TG leaders on information they wish to collect via the COST catalogue. The question arose on the possibility to build up a COST/STReESS related Bibliography; discussion on this issue is still open; the 10 TGs are encouraged to establish bibliographies with support of WG1.
- WG2 (Veerle de Schepper substituting Kathy Steppe): WG2 members will proceed with the aim to compare existing (ecophysiological) models to explain plant responses to stress conditions. The planned training school will be used to achieve comparison of existing models.
- WG3 (Achim Bräuning): WG3 members decided to streamline their tasks on identifying research gaps and standardising research methods by preparing a state-of-the-art *Handbook for Wood Science* instead of separate papers. The form and outline of the handbook has been discussed.

9. Scientific planning

a. Scientific strategy; planning of contents of next meeting, 1-2 symposium days?

TG leaders received form to fill in their plans for the Portugal meeting, including suggestions for workshops.

b. Action Budget Planning, number of workshop applications

- Oct '14 TG 6 – Wood anatomy, Lisbon
- Oct '14 GloboxyloCo , Lisbon
- Oct '14 TG 9 - Wood quality , Lisbon
- 2014/2015 – WS Vasc. Transp. in Plants, Israel : to be discussed in the next SC meeting

c. Long-term planning (including anticipated locations and dates of future activities)

- Next meeting: October 2014, Portugal.
- Anticipated locations: Israel, Serbia, Germany and Turkey offered to be host, but there are only 3 meetings left. **The following selection procedure is proposed: 1). all potential hosts receive an inventory list and send in their proposal to the vice chair Paolo Cherubini before 15 April 2014). The SC will screen the proposals and prepare for voting, 3) MC members will decide by (blind) voting via internet Procedure is accepted by all present MC members**

→ **MC members accept the proposed procedure of selection of the host countries for future meetings**

d. Dissemination planning (Publications and outreach activities)

- Special IAWA issue is published and distributed. Pieter Baas presented an example to the Chair



- Instruction films: teaser of the 2nd film made by Peter Prislán is presented. The SC encourages MC members and other COST participants to come up with ideas for other instruction films.
- Tweeting tree
 - > **Live communication in Portugal**

e. H2020 strategy of our Action.

The SC will discuss the establishment of an H2020 task force to come up with a strategy how to position our Action. Koen Kramer (Alterra/Wageningen) will assist in this.

11. Requests for new members

There are no requests. In this stage of the Action people can only become a member if their expertise is fitting and needed for the Action.

12. Non-COST applications to the Actions

The following 4 countries are in the process of application:

- Tunisia (Near-Neighbour Countries)
- USA, Canada (International Partner Countries)
- New Zealand (Reciprocal agreements)

13. AOB

None.

14. Location and date of next meeting

(Was presented in the closing session to be able to inform also the other participants)

The next meeting will be in Estoril, Portugal, from 20-23 October 2014. The meeting will be organised by the MedDendro Lab, Centre for Functional Ecology of Coimbra University . Cristina Nabais informs the MC about the location (Estoril, at the coast and close to Lisbon), travel schedules (easy access by train), accommodation (2 hotels next to each other) and potential options for excursions (National park, cork oak farm)

15. Summary of MC decisions/approvals

- **. MC members accept the proposed procedure of selection of the host countries for future meetings**

16. Closing 17:28