

Minutes Management Committee Meeting

COST Action no. FP1106

Action Title: STReESS - Studying Tree Responses to extreme Events: a Synthesis

Venue Estoril, Portugal, October, 23, 2014 from 18.10 to 19.10

Present: Hans BEECKMAN, Andreas BOLTE, Achim BRAUNING, Marina BRYKHANOVA, Votjec CADA, Paolo CHERUBINI, Herve COCHARD, Katarina CUFAR, Dimitar DIMITROV, Lucian DINCA, Lubica DITMAROVA, Ólafur EGGERTSSON, Patrick FONTI, Ignacio GARCIA-GONZALEZ, Michael GRABNER, Olga GRANT, Jozica GRICAR, Maris HORDO, Bilgin ICEL, Alexander KIRDYANOV, Marcin KLISZ, Marcin KOPROWSKI, Iryna KOVAL, Frederic LENS, Hans LINDERHOLM, Anniki MAKELA, Harri MAKINEN, Milan MATARUGA, Stefan MAYR, James MORISON, Ilona MESZAROS, Cristina NABAIS, Sasa ORLOVIC, Jorge PAIVA, Andreas PAPADOPOULOS, Peter PRISLAN, Shimon RACHMILEVITCH, Anders RÆBILD, Elisabeth ROBERT, Manuela ROMAGNOLI, Ute SASS-KLAASSEN (chair), Katarina STRELCOVA, Roberto TOGNETTI, Floortje VODDE, Georg VON WUHLISCH, Ellen WILDERINK (minutes), Barbaros YAMAN, Nikolay ZAFIROV

1. Adoption of agenda & approval of minutes:

a. Additional agenda points:

Results MC voting for future meeting locations (Paolo Cherubini):

1. Prague, Czech Republic, from 22-24 April 2015, organised by the Czech University of Life Sciences.
2. Slovenian Mountains, Slovenia, 2-6 November 2015, organised by the Slovenian Forestry Institute Yield and Silviculture
3. Final meeting: Berlin, Germany, Spring 2016, organised by Thünen-Institute of Forest Ecology and Forest Inventory (date to be determined later)

→ **MC members accepted the SC proposal for future meeting locations and dates**

b. Approval of minutes last MC meeting

→ **Minutes of last MC meeting held on March 7th, 2014 Finland are approved**

2. Update from the Action Chair

a. status of Action, including participant count

New Zealand (Reciprocal Agreement Countries) joined – warm welcome!

USA and Canada are now official International Partner Countries (IPC).

b. reflection on past COST activities and output

Activities Grant period (GP)2: SC meeting, Amsterdam NL, 16.04.2014 (7p); TRACE, Avimore, UK, 07-09.05.2014 (3 ESRs: Henry Cuny [poster prize!]/ Guillermo Guada Prada/Joana Vieira); MEDSTRESS workshop, Birmensdorf, CH, 19-21.05.2014 (19 p); Training School Modelling, Ghent BE, 26-28.05.2014 (35 p)

Activities GP3: COST Strategic Event, Sarajevo (BH), 28-29 August 2014 (Ute/Ingvar Bauweraerts (poster prize!)/ Maxime Cailleret/ Francesco Minnuno/ Srdjan Stojnic/ Volodya Trotsiuk); SC meeting, Wageningen, NL, 01.07.2014 (8p); TG6 workshop, San Vito, IT, 07-08.07.2014 (8p)

Output:

Special Issues: Tree Physiology (7 articles) and Dendrochronologia (5 articles)

Films: 2nd instruction film Wood Sample Preparation for Microscopic Analysis (by Peter Prislan, Slovenia, in cooperation with Spain) is available via the website. Also online: updated versions of 1st instruction film and of Tips & Tricks for Recording Films.

Papers: in total 44 published in 2014

c. STSM status and new applications (Jozica Gricar):

In GP3 initially 12 STSMs were planned (total budget:20.000 EUR), but due to the high quality of applications SC approved 14 STSMs (total budget:25.530 EUR). Quality of applications and results have improved. 17 Applying countries (new: CH,



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SL and SK) and 10 hosting countries (new: BE and AT). Most active in obtaining grants: SP and IT. Most active in hosting applicants: CH and FR . Excellent Gender-balance: 19 female applicants obtained a grant, against 20 male applicants. Due to budget constraints it is uncertain how many additional STSMs can be approved during GP3. Chair expresses appreciation from the Steering Committee (SC) for all the work Jozica has done as STSM coordinator.

d. ESRs– status and activities (Lies Robert)

Currently our COST Action has 298 registered participants, 144 (48.3%) are ESRs. ESR participation to Action meetings is still increasing: from 35 in Hyytiälä to 42 (36.8%) in Estoril. ESRs now come from 27 countries (25 in Sarajevo). ESRs from Slovakia and Denmark joined our Action and only Bosnia & Herzegovina, Greece, Iceland and Luxemburg have no ESRs. The ESRs highly appreciate 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. ESRs are so enthusiastic that they even consider joining the next meeting on own expenses. Chair thanks Lies for all the work she has done. The initiative of having a ESR coordinators in perceived as very valuable by the COST Domain Committee and it is now recommended to other COST Actions too!

3. Action finances

a. budget status

Due to budget constraints the budget for the next meeting is limited (ca 55,000 EUR). A more accurate estimation can be made after all Portugal claims have been submitted. For planning of necessary COST activities TG leaders are requested to send a realistic and well-motivated survey on STSMs that are really needed to reach TG targets. If the budget appears to be insufficient to organise the meeting as usual, the MC members will be consulted by the SC about possible scenario's (less reimbursed participants? Workshops instead of WG meeting?) to solve this problem.

→ **TG leaders send Ute realistic and motivated request for needed STSMs A.S.A.P.**

→ **MC members will be updated in January 2015 on actual budget status and possible consequences for the organisation of the next COST WG meeting in Prague.**

4. News from the COST Office

a. COST under H2020: no Domain Committee (=> forests are no longer visible!) and no rapporteurs (=> Yoni Ephrath is no longer our rapporteur).

b. evaluation of the Action: STREeSS received a very good evaluation thanks to – among other aspects - strong involvement of ESRs and members from inclusiveness countries.

5. Scientific planning - follow-up of MoU objectives

a. concept plan to scale up the Action (P Fonti)

During this COST meeting the SC has presented a plan to the TG leaders on how to reach our Action aims and position our Action in the remaining period of 1.5 years. It is important to come up with a strategic plan, including formulation of concrete products, to maximise the impact of our Action for all participants. TG leaders have been asked to provide the SC (PF) with information on (1) their planned output and (2) contribution to the deliverables of the Action. An comprehensive strategic plan based on this information will be presented during the next COST meeting in Prague.

b. progress report of working groups (P Fonti (WG1), K Steppe (WG2) , A Bräuning (WG3))

- WG1 (Patrick Fonti): survey among the WG1 members to collect information about the contribution of the TGs to the COST Action goals in order to prepare a "State of the art" document about what is ongoing in the Action to be delivered to the SC. First outline of this document will soon be sent to all TG leaders for improvements
- WG2 (Kathy Steppe, but absent): Ute gave short summary of the successful training school on modelling, organised by Kathy Steppe in Ghent, May 2014. Trainees: 31 ESRs from 16 different countries and 4 trainers. Different models were used on real data, to assess drought stress; some limitations were encountered. Future planning: 1) models are

currently being improved within the lab by Kathy and Michiel Hubeau; 2) Calibrating the model using different contributing datasets from COST modelling group; 3) write a paper.

○ WG3 (Achim Bräuning):

1. Inventory of gaps: a) Strategic gap (Nabuurs): GDP created by forest industry in Europe is very low, therefore little funding; quality matters more than quantity; b) Forest policy (Bolte): focus changing on bioenergy forests, productivity still matters!; c) Stakeholder is changing from industry to forest owners and managers and policy makers, risk management is important (collaboration with modellers) and wood quality matters (small and mid-size enterprises), some groups (mortality) work on large scales relevant for industry;. d) Reyer: modellers interested and active in productivity, but no consideration of risk (insects, mortality, etc.), gap in exchange in these communities; e) Lack of models for easily measurable parameters for practical stakeholder use; f) Lack of clear terminology!
Will be systematically addressed once the information for the strategic plan is available.
2. Handbook for Wood Science: paper more favourable than online version, but several (younger) people would prefer a more "modern" format => maybe combining a paper and kind of online version? Achim will check what possibilities might be available; also include Modelling and Dendrochemical analyses? Looking for people who want to be responsible for the different chapters.
3. Prepare Special Issue (Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution)? If yes=> min. 12 articles needed; 8 TGs responded but Achim needs feedback of all TG leaders for contributions. Time path: min. 8 months to submit plus 1-2 months to edit. Will cost money but could be partly paid from additional EU-budget.
4. Outputs: TG10 Project initiative "Identify the genes on which adaptive traits on drought stress are located"

c. H2020 strategy of Action

SC formulated a statement on the relevance of our Action activities in the context of Effects of climate change and European forests which has been included in a document offered to the EU by an International advisory board. Title: *Recommendations to the Strategic Programme 2016-17 for Horizon2020 Societal Challenge 2: FOOD SECURITY, SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY, MARINE, MARITIME AND INLAND WATER RESEARCH, AND THE BIOECONOMY*).

➔ MC Members are asked to use this COST STReSS statement (will be send around per mail to MC members) to "spread the COST message" through their institutions and/or national EU representatives.

6.. Long-term planning Action activities

a. COST meetings, workshops, trainingschools

- Training School Quantitative Wood Anatomy, Birmensdorf (CH), Nov. 18-21, 2014 , 19 ESRs granted (40 applied)
- Conference on Forest Adaptation, Orléans (FR), November 18-19, 2014 (6 invited speaker are STReSS members)
- IAWA/IUFRO meeting Tervuren
- 6th COST meeting Prague (CZ), 22-24 April 2015
- 7th COST conference Slovenia, 2-6 November 2015
- Final COST meeting Berlin, Spring 2016

b. Dissemination planning (Publications, instruction films, book, and outreach activities):

- Special Issues sapflow workshop (in progress): Tree Physiology, Trees.
- IAWA: special issue on Functional Wood Anatomical Traits (TG 4, ed. Hans Beeckman)
- Films: 3rd instruction film is planned about Methods in Quantitative Wood Anatomy.

7. AOB: none

8. Closing :19:11 hrs