



## **Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina, October 16<sup>th</sup> 2013**

Present: Hans BEECKMAN, Barbara BEIKIRCHNER, Andreas BOLTE, Achim BRAUNING, Maina BRYKHANOVA, Paolo CHERUBINI, Hervé COCHARD, Shabtai COHEN, Katarina CUFAR, Dimitar DIMITROV, Ólafur EGGERTSSON, Patrick FONTI, Josef FRYDL, Ignacio GARCIA-GONZALEZ, Michael GRABNER, Olga GRANT, Jozica GRICAR, Bilgin GULLER, Teemu HÓLTTA, Jon Kehlet HANSEN, Maris HORDO, Alexander KIRDYANOV, Marcin KLISZ, Marcin KOPROWSKI, Andrej KORMUTAK, Iryna KOVAL, Frederic LENS, Harri MAKINEN, Jordi MARTINEZ-VILALTA, Milan MATARUGA, Ilona MESZAROS, James MORISON, Cristina NABAIS, Jorge PAIVA, Shimon RACHMILEVITCH, Lies ROBERT, Manuela ROMAGNOLI, Philippe ROZENBERG, Ute SASS-KLAASSEN, Dimitrios STATHIS, Kathy STEPPE, Brian TOBIN, Roberto TOGNETTI, Josef URBAN, Marta VASILESCU, Ellen WILDERINK, Barbaros YAMAN

1. Welcome to participants (16:05)

2. Adoption of agenda

Additional points: 4b. Past COST activities, and 4e. Promotion of gender balance and of Early Stage Researchers (ESR)

→ **The agenda was approved by MC**

3. Approval of minutes and matters arising of last meeting

→ **Minutes of last meeting held on April 16<sup>th</sup> in Naples, Italy were approved by MC.**

- Output Naples COST WG meeting and COST/IAWA workshop (April 2013) (reported by Paolo Cherubini).

The meeting was very successful and resulted in:

- *Special Issue of the IAWA Journal (in press)*: Wood Structure in Plant Biology and Ecology, edited by Pieter Baas and **Veronica de Micco, Giovanna Battipaglia and Frederic Lens** as guest editors. The Issue contains twelve papers: 4 reviews, 3 new methods to observe functional traits, and 5 integrative physiological and anatomical studies.
- *Dendrochronologia*: 6 papers submitted, all in review: 2 technical notes, 4 original research papers
- *Tree Physiology*: 2 papers submitted: 1 rejected, 1 still in review
- *Trees*: 5 papers submitted, under review
- *The Open Forest Science Journal*: 13 papers submitted, 6 accepted.

Important request: mention under acknowledgements if your study was conducted in the frame of COST Action STReESS and send us your papers so we can add them as output of our Action to our website.

- Steering Committee (SC) meetings:
  - SC meeting Wageningen 24 May 2013 -> agenda points: reflection on Naples WG meeting & workshop, evaluation of integrated concept of



realising COST deliverables in Topic groups (TGs) and Working Groups (WGs), long-term planning of achieving milestones & deliverables, planning WG meeting Sarajevo, workshops & training schools.

- Next SC meeting planned for November, 27<sup>th</sup> 2013 in Wageningen; chair invites MC members to provide SC with input (reflection on meeting, format Sarajevo, suggestions invited speakers next meeting, organisation of TG/WG activities, workshops, training schools...).

Request by chair/SC to MC members: allow SC to keep the option of organising an additional 2<sup>nd</sup> SC meeting between two WG meetings.

→ **The MC approved that the SC can decide to organise two SC meetings between two WG meetings.**

#### 4. Update from the Action Chair

##### a- Status of Action, including participating countries

There are 31 European COST countries, as well as non-COST countries as Russia and Ukraine participating in our COST Action STReESS. Involvement of Australia is not possible anymore as Australia cancelled the agreement with EU COST. Our two Australian COST partners are informed about this fact.

##### b- past COST Activities (*evaluation of concept to combine WG meeting and workshop*)

- Naples, May 2013: the *combination of a Workshop & WG meeting* worked very well and proved to be an COST and cost efficient concept.
- Ghent, June 2013, Birmensdorf, Sept. 2013: the concept '*COST participation*' in COST STReESS-related workshops is another option to proceed our Action goals and make our Action more visible. We reimburse e.g. 5 ESRs linked to our Action, who to participate in a workshop or meeting. Two events were approved to be appropriate by the MC: the CLIMTREE meeting in Birmensdorf and the sapflow workshop at Ghent University. Participation in CLIMTREE finally failed due to the long-term planning of the workshop (we were late!).  
The SC encourages MC members to suggest workshops or meetings which could be beneficial for ESRs of our Action.
- 9<sup>th</sup> International Sapflow workshop, 4-7 June 2013, Ghent, Belgium (report by Kathy Steppe): > 160 participants from 30 countries, 5 ESRs were sent on COST expense. Output: Proceedings Acta Horticulturae (published)/ Special issue Tree Physiology (deadline invited papers: December 2013)/ Special Issue Trees: Structure and Function (deadline invited papers: December 2013).
- DendroGlobal workshop: Quantifying drought tolerance by using dendrometers, 18-20 September 2013, Ghent, Belgium (report by Kathy Steppe & Patrick Fonti): Small workshop/writer meeting (approved by MC) of TG 8; 9 participants coming from 5 countries. Output: Action plan for TG 8.

Request by chair/SC to MC members: the SC can decide on approval of small workshop instead of a writer meetings?

→ MC approved that SC can approve for small workshops instead of writer meeting



### c- Budget Status, budget planning and allocation process

The MC was informed about the budget

- Past grant period (1 May 2012-31 May 2013): we spent € 210.000, which is well above the approved budget of € 156.200, thanks to additional budget allocated to STSMs and the WSE workshop (with special thanks to our Scientific coordinator Melae Langbein!).
- Actual grant period (1 June 2013-31 May 2014): from the total expenditure of 202.400 EUR already € 10.000 is spent. Chair will check with Scientific manager Melae Langbein for possibility of additional budget for a training schools at the end of the actual grant period.

### d- STSM status and new applications

Update by Jozica Gricar (STSM coordinator):

In the first grant period 10 STSMs were completed, 2 in the first round and 8 in the second round with a total investment of € 18.790. In the second grant period we will again have two calls for at least 7 STSMs, with a total budget of 14.000 EUR. Up till now 3 classical and 1 STReESS STSMs (=STSM announced by WG or TG leaders to work on Action deliverables) were approved. Deadline for the next call is **30 November 2013**. Higher quality criteria are handled by COST and the SC and will be soon published on our website (see <http://streess-cost.eu/esr/stsm-how-to-apply>).

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

Update by Lies Roberts (ESR representative):

Currently our COST Action has 196 registered participants, 71 (37.8%) of them are ESRs. ESR participation to Action meetings increased during the last year: from 25% (Wageningen) to 35.9% (Sarajevo). ESRs come from 23 countries, only Bosnia & Herzegovina, Denmark, Greece, Iceland, Israel, Luxemburg, Slovakia and Turkey have no ESRs.

Activities undertaken since Naples:

- 1) online ESRs list composed with information on background and Action involvement of ESRs; will be completed and communicated to SC and TG leaders;
- 2) SC is encouraged to handle a policy 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 => more ESR in Sarajevo;
- 3) STSMs are additionally promoted to encourage candidates to come up with high-quality proposals; discussion on this issue with SC is ongoing.
- 4) ESRs are encouraged to suggest topics for (ESR) training schools; from the online poll '*Modelling of plant responses to stress conditions*' emerged as topic for a training school => the ESR coordinator send a request for a training school on this topic to SC.

### 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 Naples: problems occurred due to wrong address of the Grant Holder (WUR) on the forms, incomplete/wrong claims etc. Finalising the claims took far more time than expected.
- Planning for eCOST management for Sarajevo meeting:  
The TRR still contain the incomplete address and a wrong accommodation rate (€ 120 instead of the MC-approved € 70 Euro!  
Ellen Wilderink prepared a Short Manual including new rules, the correct rates (€ 70 per night), deadline (30 days), correct address etc. and ran a Helpdesk (reception desk) during the breaks of this meeting.

## 6. Update from the COST Scientific officer

Greetings from Melae Langbein! She will try to join the next meeting!

## 7. Update from the DC Rapporteur

Dr. Jhonathan Ephrath was enthusiastic about the last meeting and promised to join our COST meetings in future.

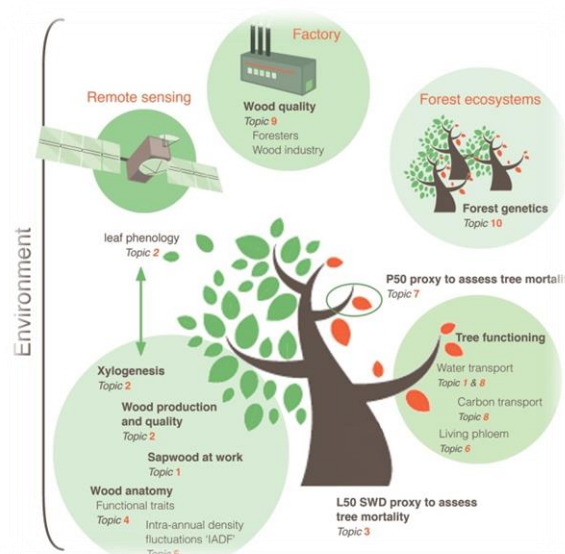
## 8 Annual COST Progress Conference

The next reporting about our Action will be on 25/26 March 2014. Issues will be presented and discussed during the next COST meeting in Finland which will be held just before the Annual Progress Conference.

## 9. Follow-up of MoU objectives

### a. Strategic WG/TG approach

- Kathy Steppe presents the new concept as established by the SC. The basic idea is to work in thematic TGs on COST deliverables. TGs will report to WGs and WGs will support TGs to get (common) products/deliverables realised. The relation of TG themes to each other and to aims of the COST Action are illustrated in the following figure. MC members are encouraged to reflect on/ add to the concept. Reactions are very welcome, preferably until November 27<sup>th</sup> when the SC evaluates and further elaborates on this concept.



**Fig. 1 - concept 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): The catalogue is accessible (username=stress, password=FP1106); 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 (Kathy Steppe): WG2 members will proceed with the aim to compare existing (ecophysiological) models to explain plant responses to stress conditions. A training school on this topic would perfectly fit this issue. The results are planned to be published and project proposals will be developed; it is once more emphasised that the role of WG2 is not to design new models for TGs, but WG2 will assist TGs in integrating their results in 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; An outline will be presented at the next meeting in Finland. WG3 also plans to develop a common strategy to increase the chances of Action participants to develop research proposals in the EU and National frameworks. The MC members are requested to feed Achim Bräuning with ideas on this issue but also to send information of National/International lobbying contacts of MC members. The idea is to "speak with 1 voice" when it comes to push our research topics. Formulation



of a position papers could help in this process. The issue will be discussed on the SC meeting and raised again during the next MC meeting.

## 10. Scientific planning

### a. Scientific strategy

In total 4 special issues or special sections are planned as an outcome of the COST WG meetings and the COST/IAWA/WSE workshop. The respective journals are IAWA Journal, Trees, Tree Physiology and Dendrochronologia. TGs are now productive and more products are expected soon.

### b. Action Budget Planning next Grant Period

There are still possibilities for organisation of workshops and training schools in this grant period. The 3-day Workshop on cambial modelling in Finland (*CAVIAR - Intra-annual dynamics of cambial activity and wood formation: data processing, visualisation, and analysis using R*) by Cyrille Rathgeber is a good example how to apply for a workshop/Training School.

Training school on *Modelling of plant responses to stress conditions*, offered by Kathy Stepe. Budget of ca. 15.000 EUR has to be arranged with Brussels. The SC asks MC members for approval to continue with the planning of this training school

→ **The MC approves that the Training School on *Modelling of plant responses to stress conditions* should be organised.**

### c. Long-term planning

- Next meeting: 5-7 March 2014, Hyytiälä, Finland.
- Meeting November 2014 (week to be defined), Sesimbra, Portugal. Jorge Paiva gives a short (draft) outline of the meeting: 1-2 days of workshop, 2 days of plenary session, 1-2 scientific excursion to Natural Park of Arrabida. Ignacio Garcia-Gonzales asked if a Training School in connection to this meeting would be possible. The SC will discuss this option and will ask Ignacio Garcia-Gonzales to provide them with a detailed proposal.
- Location for spring 2015 meeting?  
Shimon Rachmilevitch proposed to organise a WG meeting in Israel; Andreas Bolte suggested Berlin, Germany as location.
- Participation in other meetings: Achim Bräuning and Patrick Fonti will visit in January the 9<sup>th</sup> International conference on Dendrochronology in Melbourne, Australia and promote our COST Action during talks and with folders.

### d. Dissemination planning (Publications and outreach activities)

- Special issues will be published and distributed
- Production of Films as a product of TG and WG initiatives are planned. The first film is presented to the MC before the meeting as an example. It is a film made for COST STReESS by the DendroLab of WUR showing how micro-cores for wood anatomical studies are processed. The film causes a lot of positive reactions, will be put on the webpage and serve as a template for additional films on preparation



techniques and methods used in our COST Action. The SC encourages MC members and other COST participants to come up with ideas for instruction films.

- COST Action showcase: to promote our Action and get closer connected to stakeholders the EU offers the tool of a *Strategic event*. Organisation of such an event will enable to communicate our results to stakeholders. Seen the fact that we are just starting producing results in our Action the SC suggests to postpone organisation of such a strategic event until 2015.

e. H2020 strategy of our Action (Achim) see agenda point 9b.

#### 11. Requests for new members

There are no requests. People can still become a member if their expertise is fitting and is needed for the Action.

#### 12. Non-COST applications to the Actions

There are no applications.

#### 13. AOB

None.

#### 14. Location and date of next meeting

The next meeting will be in Hyytiälä, Finland, from 5-7 March 2014. The meeting is organised by the University of Helsinki in cooperation with the Finish Forest Research Institute. Teemu Hölttä informs the MC about the location (Hyytiälä Forestry Field Station, 250 km from Helsinki), travel schedules, accommodation (student residences; 2 people per room!) and the Finish winter. *We are all looking forward to it!*

#### 15. Summary of MC decisions/approvals

- Approved that in general 2 SC meetings between WG meetings are acceptable
- SC can give approval for small workshop instead of writers meeting
- Training School on *Modelling of plant responses to stress conditions* (by Kathy Steppe) can be organised

#### 16. Closing 17:25