

## Management Committee Meeting Minutes

COST Action no. ES1306

Action Title: Connecting European connectivity research

Venue: Durham, Country United Kingdom from 16th of September 2015 16:00 to 16:50

### 1. Welcome to participants

Saskia Keesstra, the Chair of the action welcomes all members present to the meeting.

### 2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda for the MC meeting was adopted

### 3. Approval of minutes and matters arising of last meeting

The minutes of the previous MC meeting were approved unanimously page by page. There were no arising matters.

### 4. Update from the Action Chair

#### *a. Status of Action, including participating countries*

- 34 countries have now joined in the action, which is a great accomplishment. The two COST countries that are missing are Cyprus and Latvia.
- The signing of the grant agreement was delayed slightly due to changes in administration, but everything is arranged and signed now. The grant period will end a month earlier on the 30th of April, so all activities have to be finished by then.
- The field meeting in Aveiro is being prepared. Quite a number of registrations. Soon the selected participants will be announced through the usual channels.
- Meeting in Palermo is also being prepared. Also more registrations than there is space, so a selection will also have to be made for that meeting.
- The Thinktanks are not all planned, but will all go on this year
  - WG1: Vienna (Austria) Dec.
  - WG2: again in Lleida, spring 2016
  - WG3: Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium)
  - WG4: Tallin (Estonia)
  - WG5: together with WG3
- The chair announced that people need to buy their tickets and book their accommodation further in advance to reduce the costs. Still too many people are booking their ticket only a few weeks in advance.

#### *b. Action budget status->see update from the grant holder*

#### *c. STSM status and new applications*

- Next STSM deadline is 1st of November
- Last year there were 8 STSMs. The reports are on the website. These STSMs mostly fell within WG2,3 and 4.
  - First deadline this year was June 1st. Competition increased and some applications were denied. 7 were approved, which covered slightly more than half of the total STSM budget for this grant period.
  - Ratio of male-female applications was approximately 2:1, but female applications had a higher approval rate.

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

- Many ESRs have joined this year
- Lot of interest in STSMs: we expect more competition
- Allocate maybe more money for STSMs in the coming years if the number of applications keep on increasing.
- STSMs: Goal is to have 50% female, large majority will be ESR. Still, selection criteria for STSMs will still be primarily the quality of the application.
- Participant selection: Gender balance and ESRs will be taken into account with selection of participants

## 6. Update from the Grant Holder

	Amount Planned	Actually Spent
Meetings	€ 119,000	€ 108,371
STSMs	€ 12,000	€ 11,590
Dissemination (eg Website.)	€ 4,000	€ 1,864
FSAC (administration 15% of science exp.)	€20,000	€18,048
Totals	€ 155,000	€ 139,874

Figure: Summary of the budget of the first grant period.

Last year we underspent by more than 15,000 euros. This year will not happen again due to e.g. more STSM applications.

## 7. Update from the COST Association

No one from the Cost association was present.

## 8. Follow-up of MoU objectives

### *a. Progress report of working groups*

There had been extensive reporting of the progress of the working groups during the prior two days. The reports of this will be uploaded to the website. Furthermore in appendix A an overview is given of the working groups activities regarding the different work packages and the planning of the different WGs

## 9. Scientific planning

- There was a discussion regarding funds that might be left over after the MC meeting and the meeting in Iceland. The MC decided eventually to split the money between STSMs and enlarging the thinktanks.

## Time table 3<sup>rd</sup> year:

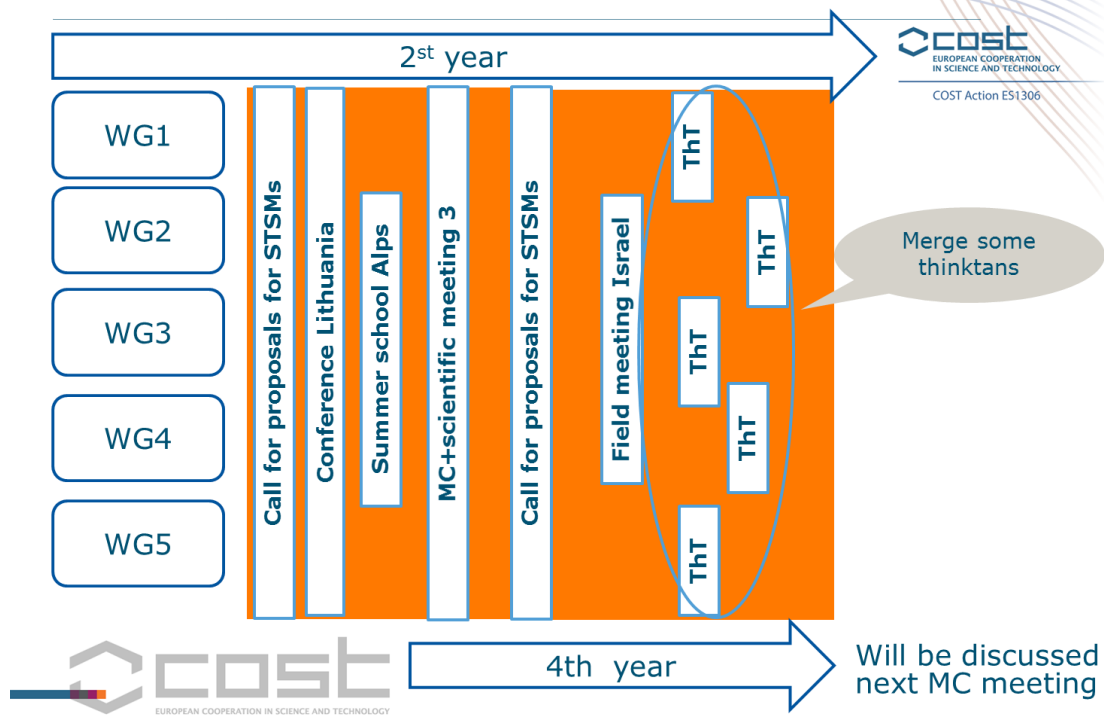


Figure: Preliminary timetable for the 3rd grant period

## Work and budget plan for the implementation of the COST Action year 3



STMSM	23000
MC and Conference in Prague	47000
Lithuania conference (July)	30000
Fieldmeeting in Israel (Jan)	15000
Trainingschool Alps (end July)	15000
Thinktanks	20000
	<b>150000</b>

FOR SCIENCE AT LIFE

Figure: The preliminary budget for year 3

The global planning for year 3 was unanimously accepted by all present members of the MC.

### *Dissemination planning (Publications and outreach activities)*

- Dissemination goes well. There were multiple oral and poster presentations at e.g. the EGU
- There are several papers in preparation
- A question was if COST would cover the Costs for an open-access publication. This is possible, where all costs can be covered (ex VAT).
- On the website several working groups use the website very well. The forum is however hardly used. An email discussion list could be a good solution to this, because it is easier than going to a forum everytime. Rens Masselink and Frederic Darboux will explore the possibilities of this.

## 10. Non-COST applications to the Actions

- The chair asked what the general opinion was of the MC about including NNC countries into the action, seeing that they will get reimbursement, but they do not provide with extra money for the budget. The MC agreed that there should be a possibility for the NNC members to participate.
- One open application from Ukraine. Saskia will look into how to accept the NNC member.

## 11. AOB

There was no other business

## 12. Location and date of next meeting

The next MC meeting will be held in Prague in September 2016

## 13. Summary of MC decisions

The following decisions were taken by the MC:

- The minutes and the agenda of the meeting were adopted
- The preliminary planning and budget for year 3 were accepted.
- If there is any leftover in the budget this will be divided between STSMs and enlarging the thinktanks.

## 14. Closing

The meeting was closed at 16:50

## Appendix A: WG progress and planning

### WG1:

Think tank in April 2015  
 Think tank planned for December 2015  
 Paper on connectivity in an interdisciplinary setting  
 Paper on connectivity in a geomorphological setting



Tasks	Deliverables	Year			
		1	2	3	4
WG1	Theory				
WP1.1	<b>Think tank to write paper on connectivity definition comparison</b>	X			
WP1.2	<b>Workshops and web forum on research approaches in Europe.</b>	X			
WP1.3	Selected definitions and data to study different approaches		X		
WP1.4	Identify conceptual models for various climatic settings & scales.		X		
WP1.5	Probabilistic, quantitative unscaling approach for connectivity			X	



### WG2

Think tank spring 2016 in Lleida (Spain)  
 Data pool on google  
 Field meeting Aveiro (Portugal)  
 Meeting in Palermo (Italy) (also for the other WGs)  
 Training school with WG1 and 4  
 Paper on measurement approaches in connectivity research  
 Next years: part of field meetings and combined think tanks



WG2	Measuring approaches				
WP2.1	<b>Standardize: survey protocols for various spatial/temporal resolutions</b>	X			
WP2.2	<b>Manuals: data post-processing and uncertainty analysis.</b>	X	X		
WP2.3	Hierarchized data pool open access online for participants			X	X
WP2.4	Identified conceptual models for different climatic settings and scales			X	X



## WG3



Think tank in Aveiro (Portugal)  
Think tank in Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium)  
Part of larger meetings and field meeting in Iceland

Short communication on modelling benchmarking  
Paper on model comparison

WG3	Modelling approaches				
WP3.1a	<b>Online resources: model benchmarking and evaluation of connectivity</b>	X			
WP3.1b	<b>Scientific publication: approaches to model connectivity</b>	X			
WP3.2	<b>Teleconferences: data quality control and provision of metadata</b>	X			
WP3.3	Scientific publication: different aspects of model inter-comparison		X		



## WG4



Think tank in Eichstatt  
Think tank in Tallin (Estonia) spring 2016

Review paper on indices  
Web-data base of references of connectivity literatures

WG4	Indices and scaling				
WP4.1	<b>Evaluation connectivity indices: Review paper and web-database</b>	X			
WP4.2	Report on comparability and predictive ability of indices		X		
WP4.3	Collection of requirements for new indices			X	
WP4.4	Paper(s) on new indices and research needs for more effective indices				X



## WG5

Think tank in Berlin  
Establish contacts: Interviews with stakeholders

Thinktank with WG3 in Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium)

Questionnaire to stakeholders in different countries in different languages  
Paper on mental models on connectivity  
Training school on communication in year 4

WGS	Transition of connectivity research towards sustainable land & water management				
WPS.1	<b>Established contacts and links between the two communities</b>	X	X		
WPS.2	<b>Workshops: identify best models for an effective management tool</b>	X	X	X	
WPS.3	Think-tank: define common language to foster good communication		X	X	
WPS.4	Workshop: Linking connectivity and societal issues		X	X	X
WPS.5/5.6	Integrating knowledge of the rest of WGs during Training Schools			X	X

