



COST

COST ACTION FP1301

“Innovative management and multifunctional utilization of traditional coppice forests - an answer to future ecological, economic and social challenges in the European forestry sector (EuroCoppice)”

Minutes of the MC Meeting

**University of Greenwich, Chatham, UK
5th of November 2014**

Participants

Chair: Gero Becker

Vice chair: Raffaele Spinelli

MC members/ MC substitutes

Documents in the annex: the pdf of the attendance list as well as the presentations can be found in the annex.

Welcome

Gero Becker and Raffaele Spinelli welcomed the participants.

Rapporteur

Christian Suchomel (University of Freiburg) volunteered to write the minutes.

Before starting the meeting

Gero Becker asked the MC members whether they wanted anything to be added to the agenda. There was no other point to be discussed and the agenda was approved.

Minutes from the last MC meeting in Florence

Gero Becker opened the meeting and asked the MC members whether there were any questions regarding the minutes from the last MC meeting. There were no comments. The minutes were approved. The document can be found on the website of the COST Action (www.eurocoppice.uni-freiburg.de).

Update status quo

- Gero Becker welcomed the new IPC, namely: South Africa. The approved organizations are the Stellenbosch University with the respective MC observers Pierre Ackerman and Cori Ham and the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University with the respective MC observers Keith Little and Andrew Mc Ewan. The MC agreed on themembership of South Africa.



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Gero Becker welcomed the new approved COST Country Norway with the respective MC observers Giovanna Ottoviani and Bruce Talbot from the Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute. The MC agreed on the membership of Norway.

- Request from Israel (to be approved), Ben-Gurion University, Orna Reisman-Berman MC decision: the membership was agreed.
- Gero Becker reminded that participants were encouraged to bring the signed TRR to the meeting in Chatham and to hand it over to Gero Becker directly (Invoices can be uploaded in e-cost after the meeting). [The reason is that we want to speed up the process of reimbursement as the Grant Period finishes at Nov 30th, 2014]. He asked for quick sending signed TRR after the meeting for those who had not yet prepared their TRR. For travel costs between airport and Chatham with a fee more than 25 € every receipt is needed.
- Gero Becker reported that Peter Buckley (Leader of WG 4) cannot participate in the COST Action for health reasons at the moment. The Vice chair Prof. Gheorghe Florian BORLEA of Banats University of Agriculture Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Timisoara, RO, will take over the lead as long as Pieter Buckley is absent. The MC wishes Peter Buckley all the best.
- STSM:
Gero Becker thanked Pieter Kofman and Enrico Marchi for the good organization of the STSMs. In total, there were 15 official applications. Currently, 11 STSMs have been carried out successfully and 1 more will come within this 1st grant period. Approved reports can be found on our website: <http://www.eurocoppice.uni-freiburg.de/stsms/reports>. Peter Kofman reminded the MC members to inform and to promote the member countries about STSM.
- Training school:
Gero Becker thanked Cemal Visnic, Sead Voivojevic, Besim Balic, Achim Dohrenbusch and Karl Stampfer for the good organization of the TS which was held in July 2014 in Sarajevo, BA. The topic was “Silviculture of coppice beech forests - from traditional forest management to conversion in high forest”. The total number of participants was 23 and they came from 14 European countries. The COST priorities for participation were met. The approved report be found on our website: <http://www.eurocoppice.uni-freiburg.de/training-schools/trainingschool-2014>

Responsibilities/ Authorization of the Steering Group

The organization of the Training school in Sarajevo showed that it's very complicate to ask all MC members for the approval of the trainees and trainers and heights of the grants (every cost country needs to be asked for approval).

Therefore, the chair asked for the authorization from the MC to approve the selection of the trainees and trainers and heights of the grants of all upcoming training schools (like in the case of STSMs) by the steering group. The MC agreed on this proposal.

Karl Stampfer mentioned once again the general COST criteria for the selection of TS applicants. GB pointed out that the additional requirements for the participation at the TS can be stated if this is necessary for the success of the TS (e.g. special basic knowledge on a topic).

The MC supported this if the preconditions are well defined in the call of the TS and if there are good reasons for participant restrictions.

Update work- and budget plan

Gero Becker explained that this year COST is in a transition period from FP7 to H2020 as well as in transition from ESF as the legal entity to the COST Association. It means for FP 1301 that we applied for expenditures of 197,685 €; but the budget will be reduced to 170,000 €.

The budget proposed will be adjusted accordingly and the MC will be asked for approval via mail within the next weeks.

Gero Becker reported that we got a notice by our DC rapporteur Prof. Miodrag Zlatic (RS) who reported from DC FPS meeting in September 2014 in Malta, where the COST president Sjur Baarson informed that the whole system of COST is changed, and that there are no Domain Committees and consequently also no rapporteurs any more. It is an open question how will the actions be evaluated in future.

Ongoing activities

- Glossary of terms:
Radomir Klvac (CZ) and Dagnija Lazdina (LV): the collection of glossary about traditional terminology is in progress.
- **2nd call for STSMs**
The second call for STSMs is open and can be found on our website:
<http://www.eurocoppice.uni-freiburg.de/stsms>
- **Website**
Our website is updated continuously. All members of the Action were asked to check it regularly for new information, minutes etc. Documents which should be put online can be send via e-mail to eurocoppice@fobawi.uni-freiburg.de. It was stated that the Link on the official EU-COST website to our EuroCoppice website is not easy to find.
Remark: unfortunately, this is due to the format of COST websites. The link to our website can be found at the bottom of the official COST website on the right side.

Upcoming activities

- Coppice conference in Brno
In April 2015, there will be a nationally organized Conference about coppice with the following topic: Coppice forests: past, present and future. The meeting will be held at 9-11th April, 2015, at Mendel University in Brno, Czech Republic. The deadline for abstract submission is 15th December, 2014.

As the scope of the conference is in line with the aims of EuroCoppice, it was decided to collaborate and to organize a joint WG meeting (mainly WG 2 and WG4 / maximum 45 participants). Radomir Klvac will be the local organizer.

More information can be found online: www.coppice.eu/konference_cs.html

- MC meeting in 2015
Concerning the planned conference on “Ecology and Silviculture management of coppice forests” (preliminary title) to be held in 2015 (according to MoU) Norocel Valeriu Nicolescu (RO) offered to host both the Conference and the 2015 MC meeting in Bucarest/ Romania. The date of the meeting was discussed and there was a certain preference for week 39.
Remark: after the MC meeting Norocel Valeriu Nicolescu has double checked the dates with his university and due to technical reasons the meeting must be scheduled definitively to October 19-21, 2015.
- Next training schools
Italy offered to organize the next Training school in 2015 about coppice and wood energy production. It will be organized by Enrico Marchi in cooperation with CNR Ivalsa/Raffaele Spinelli and Gianni Picchi. The MC agreed on this proposal.
There were no other proposals to organize a TS in 2015. GB asked to think about proposals for TS in 2016/2017.
- Joint WG meeting with IUFRO group „Small scale forestry“ is under discussion.

Other business

CNR Ivalsa is co-organizing a conference about their forest projects and offered to add the COST logo on the invitation. The MC agreed.

Karl Stampfer offered to implement a Eurocoppice session at FORMEC 2015, this was positively commented by the MC

The meeting was closed at 9:25 h.