**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**

**CNR Ivalsa, Florence, IT**

**25 February 2014**

**Participants**

Chair: Gero Becker

Vice chair: Raffaele Spinelli

Admin. Officer of the action: Cassia Azevedo

MC members/ MC substitutes

(the pdf of the attendance list can be found in the annex).

**Welcome**

Gero Becker and Raffaele Spinelli welcomed the participants.

Due to the COST rules only MC members and MC substitutes are allowed to attend the meeting. Participants who were neither MC member nor substitutes were kindly asked to leave the room. An alternative program was organized for them.

**Rapporteur**

Janine Schweier 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.

**Update member countries and welcome of new MC members**

Gero Becker opened the meeting and welcomed the new MC member countries, namely: Albania, Bulgaria, Finland and Lithuania. The respective MC members introduced themselves.

Gero Becker reported that applications from South Africa (Nelson Mandela University and Stellenbosch University) were under approvement.

**Minutes from the Kick off meeting**

Gero Becker asked the MC members whether there were any questions regarding the minutes from the kick off 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).

**Report from the COST Office Brussels (Admin. Officer)**

Cassia Azevedo from the COST office in Brussels gave a short presentation about news from the COST Office, an update about new actions, information about the open call for new proposals, the status of the action, its budget and planning status and information about the upcoming APC (the pdf of the presentation can be found in the annex).

**Report from the steering group meeting (video-conference),   
January 8th, 2014:**

1. **Budget status**

Gero Becker explained that left overs from the budget of grant period 1 (ending at 30.11.2014) cannot be transferred to the next grant period.

1. **Status STSMs**

The STSM coordinator Pieter D. Kofman explained what a STSM is, how partners could apply and asked partners to apply.

Comment: after approval the successful applicants will receive a grant letter by the grant holder, not by the COST office in Brussels.

The current status was: one approved, two under approval (since approved), one under evaluation (at 2014\_02\_25).

The updated pdf of the presentation can be found in the annexes.

1. **Upcoming Training school in Sarajevo**

The local organizer of the training school, Cemal Visnjik, gave information about the upcoming training school (facilities etc.). The first training school of EuroCoppice will take place from 01-07 July, 2014 in Sarajevo.Topic: Silviculture of coppice beach forests- from traditional forest management to conversion in high forests. Host: Faculty of Forestry in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. More information can also be found on the website: <http://www.eurocoppice.uni-freiburg.de/training-schools/trainingschools-2014>.

The pdf of the presentation can be found in the annexes.

The training school coordinator Karl Stampfer informed about the status of applications and about the selection procedure. Participants of the upcoming training school will get 3 ECTS. Selection preferences: not more than 1-2 applicants per country, preference to ESR, preference to female applicants.

1. **Upcoming meeting in London**

The local organizer of the next MC meeting, Debbie Bartlett, presented the dates and the facilities of the next MC meeting (2014, Nov. 3-5; Greenwich, UK)

**Update planned activities**

Gero Becker asked partners to think about upcoming WG meetings and forward requests to the coordinator.

**Meetings in 2015**

Concerning the planned conference on silviculture and nature conservation to be held in 2015 (according to MoU) Norocel Valeriu Nicolescu (RO) offered to host both the Conference and the 2015 MC meeting in Romania.

It was taken as a MC decision to have the meeting in 2015 in Romania (unanimous vote).

Different dates were proposed. It was decided to schedule the meeting to the end of June/ beginning of July 2015. The local organizer will forward the effective date as soon as possible.

**Confirmation of vacant positions**

Up to now there was no leader of WG4. During the WG meetings the following colleagues were proposed as candidates: Peter Buckley (UK) as leader and Gheorghe Florian Borlea (RO) as vice leader. The MC members confirmed unanimous these positions as MC decision and both Peter and Gheorghe accepted to be leader and vice leader, respectively.

**Any other business**

Karl Stampfer informed about the upcoming Formec meeting (Formec= “international symposium on forestry mechanisation”) which will be held from October 5th to 8th 2015 in Austria (http://formec.boku.ac.at/). He proposed to think about combining the event with a WG meeting.

The meeting was closed at 11.45h.

**Annexes**

Annex 1: Attendance list 25/02/2014 (MC and WG meeting)

[comment: at MC Meeting only MC members or substitutes participated]



Annex 2: Cassia Azdevedo/ COST Office



Annex 3: Pieter D. Kofman/STSM



Annex 4: C. Visnjic/Training School



Annex 5: D. Bartlett/Upcoming Meeting in London

