



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 Steering Group Meeting

**Brno, CZ
April 8th, 2015**

Minutes Summary

Participants:

Action Chair: Gero Becker

Action Management: Alicia Unrau

WG1 Leader: Dagnija Lazdina

WG2 Leader: Valeriu-Norocel Nicolescu

WG4 Leader: Peter Buckley

WG4 Vice-Leader: Florian Borlea

WG5 Leader: Debbie Bartlett

Meeting Host: Radomir Klvac

Rapporteur: Alicia Unrau

Agenda

1. Glossary (WG1) Update
2. Upcoming MC Decisions
3. Progress Report
 - Overview, format, content, focus etc
 - Status
 - WG reporting
 - Check
4. Milestones, Achievements and Gaps
5. Coordinating Actions and Content
 - improving Action networking / communication / WG interaction; planning, WG outputs

Points 1-4 pertain mainly to information exchange, whereas Point 5 is brainstorming

Minutes

1. Glossary (Radomir & Dagnija)

Temporary link (it will change when the glossary is hosted somewhere else):

www.datales.cz/glossary/glossary.php

Glossary framework

- The online Glossary is originally from Action FP0902
- We have permission from the Chair of Action FP0902, LUKE (previously named METLA), to host and alter the glossary
- Glossary still has the original name - "Forest Biomass Glossary" - but we can change it and add logos etc.
 - o Radomir has already added a reference to FP1301, he has the copyright at the moment, but doesn't mind transferring it
- Kristaps Makovskis (who works with Dagnija) is just commencing an STSM in Brno to work on the Glossary with Radomir
- It's currently hosted privately by Radomir's colleague, but should be easy to transfer to Mendelu or Freiburg

Addition from 09.04. → The Chair suggests hosting the glossary in Mendelu since the knowledge and expertise are there; Radomir agrees.

Glossary content

- It is already filled with some terms, but no extra terms specifically related to coppice
- A coppice category can be added, but cannot overlap with other categories (ie. a term can only appear in a single category)
- There can be up to 25 languages; now approx. half are in use (with approx 300 terms)

Open Questions and Next Steps

1. What terms are already defined in existing international literature / glossaries? (Where?)
2. How many (main) coppice specific terms exist in total?
3. How will the terms be categorized?
4. Who will be translating the terms?
 - Individuals need to be identified and "pushed"
5. How will quality be ensured?
 - "Rules" are required for factors such as: who will be able to modify terms, how they will be cross-checked, etc. (and more strict for the English terms?!)
6. Who will be updating the database? How frequently?
7. Dissemination plan

Dagnija & Radomir will create a concept; other WG leaders will be CCed in the group emails Dagnija sends to WG 1 members.

2. Upcoming MC decisions

How new members are nominated for / join a WG

Gero and Raffaele are discussing this point at the moment. They will compile a list of options and a vote will be taken soon.

Deviations from MoU → vote / amendment / Progress Report

If there are any concerns that MoU objectives or deliverables won't be met, these should be discussed sooner rather than later. This is also a relevant point for the Progress Report due 30.04.15.

Meetings – 125 years IUFRO; Freiburg 2017

IUFRO's 125th anniversary will be held in Freiburg in Sept 2017. This corresponds with the end of the Action and the Chair suggests having the final conference directly before or after the IUFRO conference.

Host & location of next Conference; WG 4 topics Spring / summer 2016

The date and location of the next conference for 2016 should be set asap (likely a 2 day conference and 1 day excursion). Since WG4 still has an outstanding conference, it is preferred that it be hosted by one of the WG4 members.

Host, topic & location of TS 2016

We also need the same information for the next Training School. Preference would be given to WG 4 or 5 as there hasn't yet been one on that topic, but this isn't absolutely necessary.

3. Progress Report

The COST Association posted the Progress Report template the week before the Brno Meeting. The Timeline is as such:

- The Grant Holder has started to fill in the report and will continue to do so
- WG Leaders need to supply the GH with a short summary of work done in each WG (a template will be sent the week of the 13-17.04.)
- The GH will send around a draft version for comments
- It will be sent to Action Rapporteur Miodrag Zlatic for remote assessment at the end of April
- Once accepted, the report will be published on the EU website

4. Milestones, Achievements and Gaps &

5. Coordinating Actions and Content

The Chair and the STSM Coordinator (prior to the meeting via email) suggested that STSMs be more focussed on achieving WG objectives in the MoU and have clearer requirements ("guideline") for the STSMs + reports. More STSMs are encouraged in WG 1, 4 & 5 since there have been few in those WGs thus far:

WGs:	1	2	3	4	5
# STSM:	2	7	6	2	1

Potential issues with MoU objectives and deliverables were discussed.

General Issues:

- Debbie raised the concerns that we do not have a common vision for the future of coppice, that there is too high of a focus on machines and we should better incorporate the diversity of coppice
- It was agreed that WG 1 is central to work of other WGs and needs to move forward
- Gero highlighted that it is necessary to review the work plans to make sure that everything is achievable; otherwise it is necessary to state this sooner rather than later
- There was agreement that the work in the WGs is only being done by few members and that it is very difficult for the WG leaders to receive feedback from members (lack of motivation?). In addition, there is very little interaction between the WGs at the moment
 - o It would be useful to set rules for meeting attendance etc by the MC and Chair (Debbie mentioned that the other COST Actions she's in have done this recently)
 - o Dagnija mentioned that she will CC other WG leaders in group emails she sends to help with WG interaction

Working Group 2:

- Solutions for Milestone 5 ("Silviculture guidelines for future CFM") were discussed:
 - o Option 1 – it be kept very general; that coppice should be mentioned in XX policies etc.
 - o Option 2 - it includes several Case Studies, such as on a gradient from North to South (possible that EU Forest Strategy includes interesting Case Study regions)
 - o Option 3 – A combination of 1 & 2
- The meaning of Point 5 of the Work Plan ("5. Develop a European coppice forest technology in cooperation with WG 1 and WG3") was discussed
 - **Update 09.04.:** It was concluded that "technology" was a typo (perhaps corrected by the Word Spell-check) and that it should read "typology".
 - The Chair and GH Manager will pass on this clarification to the Scientific Officer

Further steps:

There was only very little time for these final two points, although it was felt by the group that much more discussion is needed if the WGs are to interact to a necessary extent and MoU goals are to be met (and all the more if the other goals of a COST Action, proposals and/or publications, are to be planned). A major problem with attaching SG meetings to other meetings/conferences (such as this one) is that there is always the pressure of having other WG meetings to attend at the same time.

It was suggested that a separate in-depth Steering Group Meeting be held prior to the Bucharest Meeting to organise WG interaction and content, as well as prepare any necessary actions for the MC meeting in Bucharest (Oct). Frankfurt was suggested as a location, so as to allow all participants to arrive and depart quickly. The dates of June 25 (afternoon) – 26 (morning) would work for all present. The Chair and GH Manager would organise the meeting.

The GH will commence the steps necessary to carry out such an event, ie. contact other SG members, asking the MC etc.

- End of Meeting -