



## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> WG Meeting of the WG 4**

**Greenwich University  
3-5 November, 2014**

### **Minutes Summary**

**Place : Medway campus of Greenwich University, Gillingham**

#### **Time:**

*Monday, Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014: 16:00-18:30 WG meetings*

*Tuesday Nov 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014: 16:30-18:30 Working Group meetings*

*Wednesday Nov 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014: 16:00-18:00 Working Group meetings & plenary session*

*Thursday Nov 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

*Departure*

#### **Participants:**

Gero Becker, Germany

[gero.becker@fobawi.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:gero.becker@fobawi.uni-freiburg.de)

Svetla Bratanova-Doncheva, Bulgaria

[sbrat@abv.bg](mailto:sbrat@abv.bg)

Paola Mairota,

[paola.mairota@uniba.it](mailto:paola.mairota@uniba.it)

Katrin Heinsoo

[katrin.heinsoo@emu.ee](mailto:katrin.heinsoo@emu.ee);

Christian Suchomel

[christian.suchomel@landespflge.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:christian.suchomel@landespflge.uni-freiburg.de)

Rodolfo Picchio, Italy

[r.picchio@unitus.it](mailto:r.picchio@unitus.it)

Florian Borlea, Romania

[fborlea@yahoo.com](mailto:fborlea@yahoo.com)

**WG Leader:** Peter Buckley  
Florian Borlea co-leader

**Rapporteur:** Florian Borlea



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**Welcome:** Professor Becker chaired this meeting and welcomed all participants to the meeting.

## **Agenda**

Professor Becker presents the agenda and asks for approval. The agenda was approved without amendments.

### **Point 1**

What was achieved so far?

Aims and Objectives proposed to be achieved within WG 4 and not finalised during the meeting in Florence were presented and revised. Selected literature *on coppice forest, landscape pattern, and fragmentation measures* was analysed by group members. Important related issues were mentioned and proposed in order to address them in the future work of the WG 4: *the present-day importance of the forest fragmentation in the wider landscape, fragmentation in its “quality” sense, the age structure within the forest itself (at the class level), changes in habitat quality resulting from neglect or conversion to high forest and their consequences for biodiversity, new plantations (including short-rotation coppice and agroforests) and natural regenerations (large areas in Eastern Europe), finding the appropriate model and having prudent approach in “measuring” fragmentation and relevant structural landscape.* Important points were made about *scale and the diverse perceptions that different species have of the coppice mosaic.* Members of the WG 4 group had already started to collect information on forest coppice management and Natura 2000 sites containing forests with coppice potential. WG 4 analysed a list of some candidate biological and ecosystem indicators of coppice forests, developed within WG4 from the list published by the European Environmental Agency in 2010, which could be potentially be applied to the conservation, maintenance and protection of coppice forests.

### **Point 2**

Scheduled activities for grant period 2 (2015):

What should be achieved?

Aims and objectives to be achieved:

- Reviews of literature in relation to coppice forest management practices and biodiversity over Europe (special attention to be addressed to the literature in the local language).
- Identifying “coppice species”, especially those of conservation concern, likely to benefit from continued coppicing, and to review their ecological requirements
- Identifying “traditional forest habitats”, especially those of conservation concern, that are dependent or favoured on coppice management
- Reviewing relevant case studies where species responses to different management scenarios are modelled

- Developing case studies of the above.
- Comparing similarities and differences in spatial patterns resulting from coppice management with fire patch distributions in Mediterranean forests in order to see to what extent is one an ecological substitute for the other, and what are the resulting age-class distributions

How will it be achieved?

Who should do what?

- **A case study about similarities and differences in Natura2000 management plans in coppice stands.** Paola Mairota and Christian Suchomel decided to assume the coordination and push forward the Natura 2000 management plans in coppice stands case study to present results at the conference in Brno. They wrote a first methodology plan for the Natura 2000 study. In order to contribute to the study, WG 4 members were asked to:
  - identify broadleaved forest stands with Natura2000 status from eunis website for your country.
  - divide a country list of Natura2000 broadleaved forest stands into regions
  - choose a survey region or more than one
  - organize the management plans for these areas
  - analysis of the management plans for coppice management specifications.
- WG 4 members will contribute to **literature review on coppice and biodiversity over Europe** (a synthesis of synthesis),
- WG 4 members will also contribute to **literature review about environmental services provided by coppice forest.** WG 4 should solicit the engineering experience of members from other working groups (WP3 and WP2) should be solicited to fully explore the role of coppice in stabilising soil erosion, rock fall and river banks; however, there was some experience within this group of coppice resprouting and slope stabilisation treatments after fire.

**Christian Suchomel and co-leader Florian Borlea give a short summary from their WG 4 meetings** in the plenary session in order to inform all participants about the activities in the WG.

#### **Planned activities within the WG:**

##### **1. International Coppice Conference in Brno**

- The WG 4 members will participate to an International Coppice Conference in Brno, in April 2015. **Topics will include subjects from the WG 4 area of work:**
  - patterns of plant and animal biodiversity in coppice systems

- potential of coppice forests for economy, recreation, and soil and nature protection.

The deadline for abstract submission is 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2014.

## 2. **Training schools**

- There were no proposals from WG 4 to organize TS in 2015. Possibilities about proposals for TS in 2016/2017 must be considered by WG 4.

## 3. **STSM**

- WG 4 members were asked to inform and to promote the member countries about STSM.

## 4. **International Conference**

- WG 4 will organize the international **Conference on services, protection and nature conservation of coppice forest management** which is planned for 2016 but the location is still a subject of debate.