



Minutes of the WG3 meeting

University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium,
Wednesday, June 15th, 10:00-12:30 and 14:00-15:00

WG3 Leader Natascia Magagnotti open the meeting at 10:00 on June 15, 2016
WG3 Leader Natascia Magagnotti welcomes the participants and asks for a rapporteur
Raffaele Spinelli volunteers and is appointed rapporteur

The following agenda is unanimously adopted:

- Point 1. Group discussion on the coppice forest utilization handbook
- Point 2. Organization of the next Conference (June 2017 – Limoges - France)
- Point 3. State of the art of article projects
- Point 4. Any other business

Point 1.

WG3 Leader reminds meeting participants that one of the main tasks of WG3 is to “*Develop a coppice forest utilization handbook, which gives advice for practitioners about how to use coppice forests in a technically viable, environmentally friendly and economically efficient supply chains.*” (from MoU).

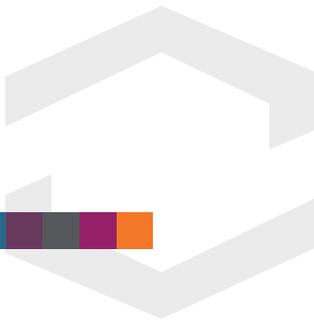
In particular, this handbook will have to:

- Compile and evaluate critically existing harvesting methods
- Setup productivity benchmarks
- Identifying knowledge gaps and formulate research strategies to overcome them

Discussion follows, for setting up the structure of the handbook and assigning the work to selected participants. The debate focuses on how to organize the handbook by coppice types. Eventually, the three following categories are identified and agreed upon.

Category one – Coppice established with indigenous hardwood species (oaks, chestnut, beech, hornbeam etc.) and occasionally exotic ones (Robinia), harvested on 15-40 years rotations for a large variety of products, and managed within the framework of a rural economy according to local traditional practice. Common all across Central and Southern Europe, from Portugal to the Balkans. It is generally harvested with forestry equipment, small-scale or industrial.

Category two – Coppice established with exotic fast-growing species (eucalypt, acacia) and harvested on 5-15 years rotations for the production of industrial feedstock (generally pulpwood), and managed within the framework of a large-scale industrial economy rural economy according to local traditional practice. In Europe, it is especially popular in the Iberian peninsula. It is generally harvested with industrial forestry equipment, or occasionally small-scale forestry equipment.



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Category three – Coppice established with fast-growing species, indigenous (willow, poplar) or exotic (eucalypt, robinia) on ex-arable land. It is harvested on 2-5 years rotations for the production of industrial feedstock (generally energy biomass), and managed within the framework of small-scale or industrial agriculture. So far, a niche sector. In Europe, it is especially popular in the Nordic and Baltic regions, in the UK, in Germany and in Italy. Experimental operations are present all across Europe. It is generally harvested with modified agricultural equipment.

In order to avoid inconsistent definitions across the action, contacts were immediately made with WG2 and WG1. However, WG2 is only working on Category one, while WG1 has not issued any general terminology for these categories. However, Pieter Kofman mentioned an ISO terminology, defining Category one as “Conventional coppice”, Category two as “Short rotation forestry” and Category three as “Short rotation coppice”. The number and text of such ISO document were requested from Pieter Kofman, in order to get an official reference for any terms adopted in the Guidelines. Until then, the above-listed definitions are adopted by WG3.

Participants discussed the proposed structure of the document and agreed on the following framework and contributors (all volunteers):

Section 1. Introduction - Contributor: R. Spinelli

Section 2. Traditional coppice

2.1 Products – Contributor: D. Rossney and P.Tsioras

2.2 Harvesting systems – Contributor: R. Spinelli

Section 3. Short rotation forestry

3.1 Products – Contributor: E. Tolosana and A. Rodrigues

3.2 Harvesting system – Contributor: E. Tolosana and A. Rodrigues

Section 4. Short rotation coppice

4.1 Products – Contributor: N. Magagnotti & J. Schweier

4.2 Harvesting system – Contributor: S. Vanbeveren

Section 5. Further reading

Each contribution (subsection) is expected to consist of 1 (min) or 2 (max) pages of text

The WG3 leaders, the volunteer contributors and the other participants agreed upon the following time line:

Mid September 2016: Contributors will send their contribution to WG3 leaders

Mid January 2017: the harmonized draft is circulated within WG3, for feedback and pictures

Mid March 2017: implementation of the first draft

Mid June 2017: presentation during the meeting in France



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ESF provides the COST Office
through a European Commission contract



Point 2.

Morgan Vuillermoz presented the proposal and the agenda for the next Conference to be held on June 19-21 in Limoges, France. This will be the final Conference of the Action, as well as the WG3 Conference. The proposed agenda for the Conference is:

June 19 - WG meetings
June 20 - Full day Excursion (and conference dinner)
June 21 - Conference

Participant approve the proposal and thank Morgan Vuillermoz and her colleagues at FCBA for offering such an attractive opportunity for the Final Meeting.

Point 3.

The WG3 Leader offers the following quick update about the status of the following active article projects:

AP2 – Mechanized chipharvesting methods for willow/poplar SRC in agricultural land

AP leader: S. Vanbeveren

Status: Data have been collected and analysed. A second draft is being produced.

AP3 – Comparing experiences with same species/products and properties of all coppice species – Quality of wood from coppice and high forest

AP leader: D. Rossney

Status: Data are being collected

AP5 – Database of traditional coppice harvesting productivity

AP leader: R. Spinelli

Status: Paper has been submitted to *Annals of Forest Science* and favourably reviewed (minor revisions). The revised version has already been submitted.

AP6 – Impact of chemical soil conditions on SRC biomass fuel properties

AP leader: M. Costa

Status: Paper has been submitted to *Bioenergy Research*

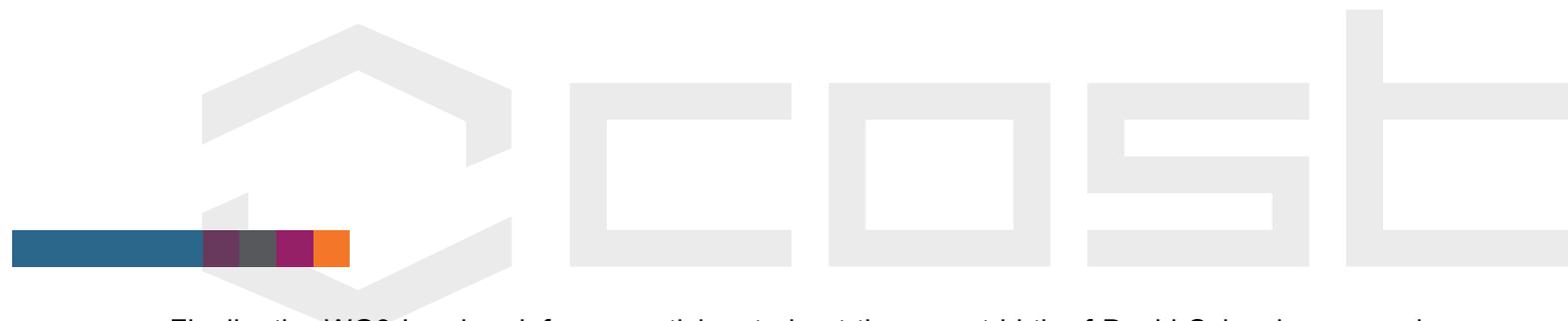
AP8 – Database of short rotation Eucalyptus coppice harvesting productivity

AP leader: P. Ackermann

Status: Data have been collected and analysed. A draft will be ready by the end of 2016.

Point 4.

The WG3 Leader informs participants of the plan for a meeting between a restricted group of participants from WG2 and WG3 in October, with the main purpose of discussing interface issues between silviculture and production, and producing a joint statement on mutually-beneficial compromise solutions. For budget reasons, the number of participants per WG is going to be restricted to 3 or 4. Raffaele Spinelli would then collect the names of volunteers and select the restricted team.



Finally, the WG3 Leaders informs participant about the recent birth of David Schweier, second son of the WG3 deputy leader Janine Schweier. All participants send Janine their congratulations and best wishes.

The meeting is concluded on time, at 15:00, on June 15, 2016.

The rapporteur
Raffaele Spinelli

The WG3 Leader
Nataschia Magagnotti

