

**DIAROD COST Action Management Committee Meeting May 24 2013
(Brno, Czech Republic)**

CHAIR: Anna Brown

Welcome

Anna Brown (CHAIR) welcomed all

Agenda

Adopted by all present

Minutes of the last meeting approved by all.

Action point – Kath Tubby to write minutes and send out for approval, then put on web site once approved.

Matters arising from last meeting

- WG1 meeting held in Uppsala in October 2012
- It was not possible to arrange extra meetings of WG2 and 3 last year
- Joint meeting with IUFRO has happened!
- It is not possible to do a STSM from South Africa to New Zealand.
- Minutes from last MC meeting are on the website

Status of Action – 3 new COST countries have joined (Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey) and 1 new non-COST country (Montenegro). Canada's membership request is still on-going.

Current members -

27 COST countries

– Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, **Serbia**, **Slovakia**, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, **Turkey** and United Kingdom

12 institutes from Non-Cost countries

Belarus, New Zealand, **Montenegro**, Russian Federation, South Africa, Ukraine

Action Budget Status – the Action under-spent by around €40,000 in 2012

Year 1 (2012)

Budget = 112,447 - 155,595 Euro's

Spend = 88,826 Euro's

Year 2 (2013)

Budget = 179,803 Euro's

Spend = 5,000 Euro's.....

Report on Short Term Scientific Missions - Anna Hopkins

Anna on parental leave last year

Clarified aims to help encourage takers – aims are to enhance collaboration within the COST network, develop new techniques. Duration should be a minimum of 2-3 weeks. Point of clarification – participants could be a Technician with no degree, but not an undergraduate

COST aims for a minimum of 6 per year. In 2012 just 2 taken up. In 2013, 2 so far-

Year	No. STSMs	Between	Funding
2012	2	CZ-SA, UK-NZ	€4950
2013	2	UA-SE, ES-SE	€5000

Suggestion - host a list of projects on line or a list of projects you'd like to host? Or contact Anna Hopkins direct.

Action Point – COST participants to submit projects/invitations

Gender balance and early stage researchers– does anyone have any 'suitable' students/people who want to join the Working Groups?

Statement from financial rapporteur – presented by Iben Thompsen

- The Action distributed funds in a transparent and equitable manner across countries having accepted the MOU
- The Action allocated funds towards activities with a high-impact
- The Action used sufficient funds to include Early Stage Researchers in its activities
- The Action used funds to implement an effective dissemination strategy to showcase the Action's achievements
- The Action delivered the financial reports on time
- The Action managed the budget efficiently
- "I have checked all costs (especially those for travel), and the members of the Cost Action can be applauded for keeping down expenses as best possible. This probably has contributed to a lower than expected

Update from Grant Holder - Anna Brown

2013

- So far underspent but
 - This meeting very well attended - emphasised how productive it had been, combining the IUFRO/COST meetings in Cerna Hora/Brno.
 - WG meetings 'backloaded' i.e. late in the year
 - We need to have more STSM's
 - Training school - We need to organise training school for this year OR vote to postpone until next year (and accept underspend). Volunteers needed to host events – money available for the host (€30 per participant but can apply for more), trainers can be provided. Difficulties in organising training courses in 2013 – consensus to organise for 2014....VOTE – postponement agreed
 - Suggested Topics:
 - 'Further molecular methods' - 1 week molecular course. Location - France?, Sweden (needs to be in teaching holiday)? Contact Macrogen??. Numbers – around 15. Date – February 2014? (when Irene Barnes is released)
 - 'Assessment of Disease severity' – ideally bringing together Lindsay Buhlman, Alex Woods and UK assessors to bring together all 3 methods. Location – ideally UK unless anyone else offers. Date – June/July?
 - Some interest also expressed in Surveillance methods, artificial inoculation techniques, microscopic methods. Possibility of video/webinar on artificial inoculation techniques...?
 - Irene Barnes – could we latch onto the ICP meetings? (**Biotic damage?**). Anna Brown – but we need field sessions. Which countries have good enough disease symptoms?

Update/feedback from Domain Committee

"The DC commends the energy and enthusiasm of the Chair. The Core Group must make a substantial effort to ensure a significant number of STSMs for the current (and future) Grant Periods. The Core Group must ensure that it has a STSM Manager that has sufficient time to promote the STSM instrument in order to reach an appropriate uptake of this instrument. The Action must also pay attention to scheduling meetings that are true Action events aimed at achieving the MoU and must not schedule events for the benefit of external fora. The DC asks the Action to inform the COST Communications Officer about the development of the diagnostic protocol for possible inclusion in the COST newsletter."

Action Point – Irene/Martin to update document (correction re media)

Update from COST office

Be aware of new funding opportunity – 'Horizons'

New Interreg call as well which may fit in with environmental aspects.

COST wants to include industry participation (stakeholders – foresters, timber, saw mills, policy makers, surveyors). New angle for COST and they would consider range of meetings.

Anna Brown/Rimvis Vasaitis - possibility of combined awareness of *Chalara fraxinea*, pitch pine canker (*Fusarium circinatum*), and Dothistroma spp. for countries with no/little experience of them. Participants from UK, France, Spain envisaged some interest...

Ideally want 5 or 6 workshops in each host country/host language... same script, advised by our participants.

Action point – Kath Tubby to remind Anna Brown to send out a reminder,

Science Strategy –see separate minutes

Action budget planning

(1) MEETINGS - € 120,350

(2) SHORT-TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS - € 12,500

(3) TRAINING SCHOOLS - € 20,500

(4) PUBLICATIONS, DISSEMINATION, OUTREACH - € 3,000

B. TOTAL SCIENCE EXPENDITURE € 156,350

C. FINANCIAL & SCIENTIFIC ADMINISTRATION AND COORDINATION - € 23,453

D. TOTAL EXPENDITURE - € 179,803

Scientific planning

Working Group 1, meeting will be held in Denmark on 14/15 October 2013.

Working Group 2, to be held in October 29th in Palencia, Spain

It was agreed that Working Group 3 will meet in September in the Netherlands on 12/13th September 2013.

WG4: November 20th WG4 either in London, Paris or Prague

Training schools 2 in 2014: molecular? Disease severity?

Decision on location of joint workshop and MC meeting – Invitation from Turkey, Mid April/May or September. To be decided by steering committee.

Dissemination Planning

Field guide already available, but a need to make it multilingual

Photo guide needs to be done

Field based events – maybe France/ Spain as discussed

COST acknowledgements in papers please (volunteer for artistic contribution from Cyril Satavovska)

Action Point - Nicola to devise a standard acknowledgement sentence? Anna Brown help co-ordinate

Request for new members - Non COST applications welcome – Canada's application is in progress

AOB

Anna Brown is currently Deputy Chair of WG4 - Kath Tubby volunteered and was voted in

Vote held for just the Chair and STSM Manager to be able to sign STSM approvals – carried

There is a need for a DIAROD LOGO - Kiril Sotirovski offered to do the first draft.

Action – Kiril Sotirovski