

Minutes of the 3rd Steering Committee Meeting

October 5, 2010

Hamburg, Germany

Agenda

1. Adoption of agenda
2. Adoption of the minutes of 2nd SC Meeting
3. Final publication
4. Report of Action Chair
 - a. current status of Action – signatures, MC members, WG members
 - b. report on activities in 2010
 - c. webpage
 - d. STSM
 - e. coordination/ interaction with other COST Actions
 - f. DC FPS report
5. Report of Grant Holder
6. Activities in 2011 and 2012
 - a. 2011 – annual workshop, training school, thematic meeting, budget
 - b. 2012 - thematic meeting, annual workshop, training school
7. Next meeting
8. AOB

The meeting starts at 13:15.

Item 1:

Karin HOFSTETTER asks for a change of the agenda sent out. The topic “final publication” will be discussed before the other reports in order to ensure to have enough time for this important topic.

Item 2:

The SC unanimously approves the minutes of the 2nd Steering Committee meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, November 3, 2009.

Item 3:

As previously agreed the final publication of the Action shall be a special issue of an international journal.

Lennart SALMEN will contact the editor of the journal “Wood Science and Technology”, G. WEGENER. If WEGENER is not interested, he will proceed with the journal “Holzforschung”.

The special issue (or at least a series of dedicated papers) shall contain five review papers. Possible topics and authors are:

- micro-tomography (people in Jyväskylä, Ghent, and/or Niemz/Zurich)
- wood-water interactions (Edinburgh/Hill)
- integrated methods

- modified materials (one from genetic side (Hungary/Horvath/Peszlen, Potsdam, and/or Stockholm) and one from thermal treatment (Millitz))
- wood cultural objects, conservation issues (as was the topic at the Krakow meeting); there should be an author from the micromechanical side and one from the conversation side (Norway/Braovac)

Each contribution shall be written by a maximum of three authors. One of the authors has to be assigned as leading/responsible author. One paper should not come from a single group. It should reflect the networking between the different groups within the Action.

Each SC Member will take care of one of the papers. He/she should not necessarily be one of the co-authors. There will be a two-stage reviewing process:

1. Review initiated by the SC Member. The reviewing should, however, not be made by themselves.
2. Review by the journal.

Time schedule:

- end of 2010: final plan of topics and authors
- June 2011: submission of papers
- end of 2011: internal review finished
- beginning of 2012: delivery of all papers to journal

Item 4a:

23 countries (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom) have already signed the MoU.

In addition, there are three non-COST participants:

- Hydro Quebec (Canada)
- SCION (New Zealand)
- University of Canterbury (New Zealand)

Item 4b:

The workshop on "single fiber testing and modeling" was jointly organized with the industrial cluster project on "paper mechanics" at Innventia AB and took place on November 4-5, 2009, Stockholm, Sweden. It was organized by Lennart SALMEN and Petri MÄKELÄ. 63 participants, out of them 24 ESRs, from 16 different countries participated in the workshop. There have been 11 invited lectures and 15 poster presentations on current status in methods for mechanical tests of single fibres from various sources and problems associated with such measurements.

Highlights:

- bringing together most renown experts in the field for keynote lectures
- narrow thematic focus → active interdisciplinary exchange and knowledge transfer due to good common knowledge base, in-depth discussions
- closing up with industry

The joint focused meeting “modeling mechanical behavior of wooden cultural objects” as jointly organized by Michal LUKOMSKI (IE0601) and Kristofer GAMSTEDT (FP0802) on April 12-13, 2010, Krakow, Poland. 20 participants from both Actions and 12 additional participants, in total from 11 countries attended the meeting.

Highlights:

- interdisciplinary exchange, identification of practical applications of micro-characterization techniques in wood conservation
- insight into problems and capabilities of the (other) involved research fields
- establishment of new contacts and many ideas for cooperation across Action and disciplinary borders

The Training School “Experimental techniques” took place on May 31 – June 4, 2010, Potsdam/Golm, Germany and was organized by Michaela EDER. There have been 19 applications (16 ESRs) from 10 countries. 12 trainees (11 ESRs) from 9 countries participated in the Training School. The training was provided by 9 trainers from the MPI of Colloids and Interfaces. The trainees were provided with intensive and individual experimental training on electron microscopy, experimental micromechanics (e.g. single fiber testing), X-ray techniques, and spectroscopy.

Highlights:

- hands-on training
- small group – intensive exchange with trainers and other trainees
- very broad selection of experimental characterization techniques

The annual workshop “wood structure/function-relationships” is taking place on October 5-8, 2010 in Hamburg, Germany. The workshop is organized by Uwe SCHMITT. The 39 submitted abstracts have been reviewed by the WG Leaders. The final program consisted of 3 keynote lectures, 31 oral presentations, and 10 poster presentations. The 84 registered participants, out of them 36 ESRs, come from 21 different countries.

Highlights:

- tutorial on X-ray micro-tomography
- contributed WG-presentations – new presentation format, much time for in-depth discussions, strong thematic focus possible

The response to the call for contributed WG-presentations worked not so well as it was not clear which kind of contribution it should be. Only 5 presentations will be given. In the future the format of the WG meetings will change. Scientists giving provocative statements or poster presentations should initiate an in-depth discussion on a specific subject. Optionally, no powerpoint slides should be allowed.

Item 4c:

The Action's webpage is accessible at <http://cost-fp0802.tuwien.ac.at>. The internal area is password-protected (user name: costaction, password: !fp0802!). The “conferences of interest” will be deleted as no input is coming in.

The database for scientific publications and the documents of coordinated research efforts will not be included in the webpage because it is difficult to obtain information about and to collect according reports and papers.

The methods & equipment database (Google Docs) initiated by Oliver Arnould will be promoted again at the MC meeting.

Item 4d:

In the open system for applications 7 STSMs were approved. Call 1: 6 STSM approvals, call 2: 1 STSM approval.

The SC approves the two applications of call 3.

The next call will be in January 2011. There will be one more before the summer 2011. Depending on the remaining money one additional call might be launched in autumn 2011.

If the number of applications stays as low as in the last two calls, the system might be changed again to an open system. The decision on that will be made after the next call.

The SC decides that people can apply twice for a STSM. The topic and the place have, however, to differ.

Item 4e:

The Action E54 has already decided on its final conference. There are, however, plans for a new COST Action proposal by P. Ander which could be of interest for our Action.

Also Action FP0602 has already planned all meetings, leaving no possibility for joint activities.

Joseph GRIL who is active in Action FP0904 is planning a joint thematic meeting (see item 6b).

Kristofer GAMSTEDT reports that Action IE0601 will have its final meeting in 2012 in Turkey. They would like to continue with another Action.

Item 4f:

Following the last FPS Annual Progress Conference held on March 3-5, 2010 in Rome, Italy the Domain Committee provided the following monitoring feedback to the Chair of the Action "*The DC noted that the Action is running very well. The DC felt that the Action is outstanding with respect to the extremely high level of enthusiasm and the level of engagement and presentation of new ideas by members of the Action. The DC also commended the high number of ESRs and especially the excellent networking both among ESRs and between ESRs and established researchers, noting that this is a great strength of the action. The high industry participation as well as the high participation of institutes from non-COST countries was also praised by the DC. The DC noted the budget pressures caused by the high number of STSMs and commended the Action's commitment to STSMs*".

Following the success of the Action, an additional budget of € 15,000 was granted for 2010.

The next FPS Annual Progress Conference will take place on March 1-3, 2011 in Istanbul, Turkey.

Item 5:

Martina PÖLL presents the financial figures for 2010:

A. SUMMARY BUDGET	
(1a) Travel/hotel for joint meeting (Krakow)	€ 8,638.71
(1a) Workshop support grant	€ 330
(1b) Travel/hotel for annual workshop (Hamburg)	€ 52,000
(1b) Workshop support grant	€ 2,520
(2) Short-term scientific missions	€ 10,135 <i>Call 3 € 3,013</i>
(3) Travel/hotel for Training School (Golm/Potsdam)	€ 7,586
(3) Training School support grant	€ 450
(4) Dissemination – publications	€ 0
TOTAL SCIENCE EXPENDITURE	€ 84,672.71
B. SECRETARIAL SUPPORT	
15 % of total science expenditure	€ 12,700.91
C. TOTAL EXPENDITURE	€ 97,373.62

She reports on her experience with the Grant holder system. The system is easy to handle. Advantages are that payments can be immediately processed and that all information is available in one system. Some people are, however, facing problems in downloading the reimbursement form. It would be helpful if the Grant holder could download it on their behalf.

Item 6a:

The suggested format for the *annual workshop in Helsinki*, Finland is to have only a few selected papers during the morning session and short poster presentations and discussions during the afternoon session. In order to attract more people, there should be more oral presentations.

There should be again a tutorial before the workshop. The topic has still to be decided.

The SC suggests holding the *thematic meeting in Vila Real*, Portugal on April 27-28, 2011. Within the proposed topic of the meeting the linking of the WGs is very well represented. The term bio-materials has to be specified more. It may be changed to biological materials.

The *Training School "X-ray microtomography" in Jyväskylä*, Finland is well received by the SC. Karin HOFSTETTER will proceed with the planning. From the Action 15 trainees should be supported.

The SC approves that only one MC meeting will take place in 2011 (at the annual workshop). Karin HOFSTETTER will send out an intermediate report in the midterm of 2011.

Karin HOFSTETTER presents the budget proposal for 2011. The SC approves the proposal.

A. SUMMARY BUDGET	
(1a) Travel/hotel for thematic meeting (WG-Meeting) (Vila Real)	€ 22,540
(1a) Workshop support grant	€ 690
(1b) Travel/hotel for annual workshop (WG-&MC-Meeting) (Helsinki)	€ 46,000
(1b) Workshop support grant	€ 1,380
(2) Short-term scientific missions	€ 15,000
(3) Travel/hotel for Training School	€ 10,960
(3) Training School support grant	€ 510
(4) Dissemination – publications	€ 0
TOTAL SCIENCE EXPENDITURE	€ 97,080
B. SECRETARIAL SUPPORT	
15 % of total science expenditure	€ 14,562
C. TOTAL EXPENDITURE	
	€ 111,642

Item 6b:

Joseph GRIL proposes a joint thematic meeting on “characterization and modeling of thermo-hygro-mechanical behavior of wood” with COST Action FP0904 to be organised in March 2012 in Montpellier, France. The proposed topic is very open, it should be more specific.

The place for the annual workshop in 2012 which is also the final workshop of the Action is not yet specified. Possible locations are Edinburgh and Delft. Representatives from there will be approached.

Item 7:

The next meeting of the SC will take place in Vila Real.

Item 8:

No further comments.

The meeting ends at 15:50.