

COST TU1202 Impacts of climate change on Engineered Slopes for Infrastructure

Management committee meeting

Newcastle University Research Beehive, 7th March 2013 13:00 – 17:00

Minutes

Present: Mihael Brencic, Yu-Jun Cui, Gaetano Elia, Kristine Flesjo, Stephanie Glendinning, Paul Hughes, Josif Josifovski, Meho Sasa Kovacevic, Tim Lansivaara, Lukas Lesniewski, Karlo Martinovic, Nikolaos Michas, Manuel Oliveira, Piotr Osinski, Carlos Pereira, Fernando Rodreguez Lopez, Harry Saroglou, Sarah Springman, Anh Minh Tang, John Van Esch, Vlatko Sheshov.

Welcome

Action Chair Paul Hughes welcomed the MC members.

1. Adoption of agenda

Action Chair presented the agenda previously emailed to MC members. The agenda was adopted unanimously by the MC members.

2. Approval of minutes and matters arising from last meeting

Approval of the minutes distributed for the previous meeting was proposed by Karlo Martinovic and seconded by Gaetano Elia.

3.1 Update from the Action Chair

The contract between Newcastle University (as grant holders) and the COST office has now been signed, the financial year for Action TU1202 will run from the beginning of January to the end of December.

3.2 Status of Action, participant count etc

17 COST countries (Switzerland, Spain, France, Finland, United Kingdom, Greece, Hungary, Croatia, Italy, Ireland, Macedonia, Norway, Netherlands, Portugal, Poland, Romania, Slovenia) and 1 non COST country (United States) have joined the Action.

74 participants have been invited to join the Action, 60 have accepted the invitation – it is anticipated that this number will rise by around 50% before the 2nd working group meeting.

3.3 Action budget status

The budget for 2012-2013 is €129000

The predicted expenditure for the first MC meeting (Newcastle 7th March 2013) and Working Group Workshops (Newcastle 8th March) was estimated at €44000. The local organising committee believe that there will be an underspend and report final costs to the MC via email once all the expenses claims are in.

€10000 has been budgeted for STSMs in the first year – this has not been allocated to any projects as yet.

3.4 Gender balance and ESRs

Action participation is 69% male, 31% female

MC membership is 74% male, 26% female

No statistics were available on ESR numbers within Action, however 50% of WG leaders/deputies are ESRs.

The Action needs to be active in recruiting female participants to the MC and working groups – it is written into our MoU that we will promote the careers of female researchers and ESRs.

3.5 Vacant Action roles

Joel Smethurst was voted in as leader of **WG2**, Harry Sarolou as co-leader.

Manuel Oliveira was voted in as co-leader for **WG3**

The view of the committee was that the Chair should be **STSM co-ordinator**.

Kristine Flesjo was voted in as **Vice chair**, subject to approval by her manager and for 12 months in the first instance – Kristine will confirm via email to the chair once she has been able to discuss this with her manager.

The position of **website manager** was not filled but the Newcastle University Impact Manager was suggested as was the British Geological Survey (to run parallel with the CLIFFs website). Chair to follow this up.

4 Update from the DC rapporteur

Gabor Telekes the DC rapporteur was unable to attend the meeting

5 Planning

5.1 Identification of knowledge/skills gaps

Additional participation from a number of research areas and background were suggested by the committee.....

Climatologists, Geomatics, agronomists, botanists

Non-researchers (later in the Action?)

Standards? (Harry + CEN suggestion)

Construction contractors and maintenance specialists

Economists

Representatives of the insurance industry

Transport Research organisations

5.2 Potential non COST members of MC

Charles Ng of HKUST was suggested by the chair – chair to contact MC members will email the chair with further suggestions

5.3 Anticipated locations and dates of future activities, WG agendas

The committees view was that MC meeting and WG workshops should continue to be held together and that the workshops should be extended to two days to include a site visit if possible.

There should be workshops targeted at specific groups, particularly later in the Action. These should include

Stakeholder workshop
Global researcher workshop

Additional suggestions should be emailed to the chair.

Raluca Maftei has volunteered to host the next MC meeting/workshop in Romania in October (date to be confirmed – chair to contact Raluca to get dates). This will coincide with an EGU sponsored conference at same location.

Yu-Jun Cui volunteered to host the next workshop in Paris in September to coincide with the ISSMGE conference.

The committee agreed that in the first instance the MC meeting should be held in Romania but if this is not possible then it should be held in Paris. The chair will follow this up with Raluca Maftei to confirm and report back to the MC with dates as soon as possible. In the event of the workshop being held in Romania a workshop will be held in Paris at a future date.

For future workshops (March 2014) Karlo Martinovic volunteered to host in Croatia. Nikolaos Michas volunteered to host a workshop in Greece towards the end of the Action and Sarah Springman volunteered to host a workshop in Switzerland.

5.4 STSM planning

Ideas for STSMs will be generated at the workshop on the 8th of March. If required some funds could be used to hold training schools instead.

5.5 Action budget planning

The committee expressed a view that there would be sufficient activity within the Action to use this year's budget and that a significant underspend would be unlikely.

Chair to investigate situation with regard to rollover of funds from year 1 to year 2 if there is an underspend.

6 AOB

None

7 Location and date of next meeting

Romania, 21st of October (MC meeting), 22nd/23rd Working Group Workshops

or
Paris, September

8 Summary of MC decisions

- All members of MC to continue to promote ESR and female participation in the Action
- Joel Smethurst was voted in as leader of WG2, Harry Sarolou as WG2 co-leader.
- Manuel Oliveira was voted in as co-leader for WG3
- Chair to be STSM co-ordinator.
- Kristine Flesjo was voted in as Vice chair
- Chair to ask BGS to host Action website
- Recommendations for additional participants from other research backgrounds listed in 3.5 to be sent to the chair and relevant WG leaders.
- Chair to investigate situation with regard to rollover of unspent funds from one financial year to the next