

**COST Action TU1202****Impact of climate change on engineered slopes for infrastructure****Core group meeting**

Norwegian Public Roads Administration, Oslo

Friday 27 June 2014



**Attending:** Paul Hughes (PH), Gaetano Elia (GE), Tom Dijkstra (TD), Kristine Flesjo (KS), Karlo Martinovic (KM), Joel Smethurst (JS), Anh Minh Tang (AMT), Manuel Oliveira (MO)

**Apologies:** Harris Saroglou, Ken Gavin

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**meeting notes/minutes**

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**1. Update on MC meeting and Domain Committee hearings**

- PH thanked AMT for the very good organisation of the last MC and WG1/3 meetings in Paris (March 2014).
- PH reported on the last Domain Committee hearing, which took place in March. The Urban and Transport Committee is happy with where we are at the moment. The Action is considered to have “good progress” (a score of 3 over 4, where 4 is the maximum).

**PH to circulate Progress Report**

- PH noted that other Actions in the same Domain are already producing a considerable number of outputs in terms of publications/reports.
- PH suggested that we should acknowledge COST in all our publications and that all published papers should have a link on the website.
- TD noted that cross-referencing is highly beneficial and that we should all promote the Action for better marketing of our work.
- PH reported that COST is now part of Horizon 2020. The new strategy is to reduce the individual Domain Committees. Our Rapporteur has come to the end of his appointment and will not attend our next meetings. It is unlikely that we will have a new Rapporteur in the future. In general, the Action will not be affected by these changes.
- KF noted that she will attend a training course on Horizon 2020 from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> of November 2014 in Brussels. She will send the agenda of the course to PH. This can help to clarify how H2020 works and how to apply for proposals.

**KF to update**

- PH noted that our budget is unchanged. If we over-spend this year, we can ask for more money next year.

**2. Applications for STSMs**

- PH updated on last year STSMs (one involving Karlo Martinovic to UCD – WG4 and one hosted by BGS (UK) receiving John van Esch (Delft, NL) – WG2).
- PH noted that we currently have 3 STSMs either ongoing or planned – these are all in WG3: Piotr Osinski is in Durham at the moment; prof. Cui is going to visit Newcastle University at the end of July/beginning of August; AMT is finalizing an STSM proposal at ENPC.

**AMT to update**

- We need at least one each from the other working groups, happening before December 2014. Lab consumables are not covered by STSMs funds. PH noted that we can now pay the STSM in advance.
- GE reported that there is one request in WG1 for a STSM involving Josif Josifovski who is planning to visit ETH.

**GE to update**

- TD reported the possibility of different STSMs in WG2.

**JS to encourage STSMs in WG2 via email**

### 3. Financial report

- After review, PH reported that we are underspending: we have additional €7500 for each WG to be spent on STSMs or additional workshops.
- **Each WG leader/deputy should have a think about how to spend the unallocated budget.**

### 4. SOTA paper/report progress

- All four WG leaders updated on the SOTA paper progress. These seem to be progressing well.
- TD reminded the proposal sent to QJEGH, consisting of 6 papers. He also reminded that the deadline to submit the papers is max April 2015 if we want the papers to be published on Issue 4 of 2015/Issue 1 of 2016.

**all WG leaders to send updates of progress to PH, KF and TD**

- Authorship to be considered in a second phase. No cap on the number of authors for each paper for the moment.

### 5. Website update

- TD reported that there has been no improvement of the website.
- TD proposed that the website should have only an open access component. No blogs or members only area.
- Reminder for all WG leaders to send information to TD: any text, interesting case studies, presentations during WG workshops, good illustrations, relevant publications are very welcome.

**info and illustrations from all as soon as possible**

**PH to produce a case study on BIONICS**

- Also ask others in the WGs to do send interesting texts/photos and references to their publications for inclusion in the website.

**WG leaders to contact WG members**

- Request of pen pictures of WG leaders, Core Group members and MC members to go on the website (see examples sent by TD in previous emails).

**TD to resend request via email**

### 6. Membership

- 120 people are currently registered members of the Action. About 80 attended at least one meeting. We can increase our numbers, like other Actions.
- More ESR are needed, even if they are PhD students at the 1<sup>st</sup> year.
- The gender ratio is about 30% female to 70% male and this is still not great. We should target at 50/50 and need to push on that.

- TD suggested that we may need more experts in asset management in WG4 and noted that an expert in Construction Management wants to join the Action.  
**PH to review the CV**
  - The Action is dominated by geologists and geotechnical engineers. More climate scientists are still needed.
  - More involvement from stake holders from countries other than UK.  
**PH to email MC members to contact asset owners**
  - The Action can benefit from the involvement of experts in applied decision making in civil engineering. They can give potential input in WG4.  
**TD to email a list of people that can be contacted**
- 7. Planning for MC and WG workshops in Lisbon**
- 3 days meeting (like in Romania). No field trip.
  - Invited speakers:
  - Agenda:
  - Training schools:
- 8. AOB**
- No AOB