



Minutes of the Core Group Meeting of COST Action CA15206 “Payments for Ecosystem Services (Forests for Water)”

*Skype/Teleconference
14h00 (15h00 CET) 29th May 2019*

1. Welcome to participants

Participants were welcomed by the Action Chair. (Others present were Gebhard Schueler, Lars Högbom, Rik de Vreese, Tom Nisbet, Zuzana Sarvašová, Paola Gatto, Paola Ovando Pol.

2. Adoption of agenda

Meeting participants agreed to adopt the draft agenda circulated in advance by the Action Chair.

3. New Grant Holder

Chair and meeting participants thank Paola Gatto and Department Tesaf of University of Padova for taking over the role of Grant Holder. Chair and meeting participants also warmly thank Claire Holmes for her GP1-GP3 support. Meeting participants take note that: Elisabetta Zanaga (pesforw.tesaf@unipd.it; elisabetta.zanaga@unipd.it;) is the new contact person for administrative queries. Chair recommends that PESFOR-W participants are notified of the change

4. Budget

The Chair noted that the GP3 final Financial report has been approved by COST. In GP3, €18.8k remained unspent from £215.8k budget (i.e. 8.7%). €147.9k received by FR so far from COST to cover €171.9k science expenditure. FR is currently awaiting receipt of balance of funds from COST to allow reimbursement of remaining expenses. FR expects Additional bank charges of about €340 in reimbursing remaining expenses; they could not be included in the final GP3 financial report due to no evidence of amount incurred. The Chair informs participants that GP4 Budget has been approved.

5. STSMs

The STSM Coordinator noted that only one application has been received so far so far under the current call for applications. It is from Krysthyna Vasylyshyn (Ukraine). The candidate has received 37 points in the internal evaluation and the application is acceptable from the technical point of view and there are no obstacles in the fact that she has already received other STSM grants. The CG approves the STSM but recommends that guidance is provided to Krysthyna's to coordinate her case-study data collection in Denmark to make it more effective. Paola Ovando Pol will take care of this by contacting directly the Danish team and then informing the STSM coordinator.

The CG decides also to launch a new call for STSMs without set closing deadline in order to facilitate a higher number of applications. Additional budget allocations on STSMs could be later decided if there will be unspent funds from the forthcoming Sixth Action meeting in Killarney (Ireland)..

6. ITC Conference grants

The ITC Conference Grant Coordinator noted that the first GP4 call for ITC conference grants would be launched soon. However, instead of having a fixed deadline for closing the call for applications, the Core Group similarly decided to leave the call open and to publicize the call and that for STSMs on social media.

7. Meeting in Ireland (4th-6th June 2019)

The Grant Holder updated the CG about the number of invitees and confirmed participants to the forthcoming meeting in Ireland. The official invitations were launched through the E-COST platform as soon as the GH transfer procedures were completed. At present, invitation has been sent to all MC member plus additional invitees as per list approved in the previous CG meeting, but only 37 have accepted the invitation. The CG decides to extend the invitation to about 10-15 other possible persons interested from UK and Ireland and to make any other effort to increase the number of participants.

8. Spatial Repository and case study fact sheets

Rick de Vreese updates the CG on the status of repository, that is near to completion (6 countries still missing, other 2 have promised to send data shortly)





The CG decides to have a joint WG1, WG2, WG3 and WG4 session during the Conference in Killarney to update all participants on the status of repository

9. Skills database

The WG4 leader reported that the skills database is near to completion. The CG decides that in the same joint WG1, WG2, WG3 and WG4 session during the Conference in Killarney, an update the status of the Skills Database will also be provided.

10. User manual

The CG decides to ask Rik de Vreese and Alessandro Leonardi to prepare a presentation on the Table of Contents and the infographics prepared for the User Manual to be jointly discussed during a common session in the next Conference in Killarney

11. Newsletter

The WG4 leader reported no news on the newsletter since the last meeting.

12. Possible use of unspent funds from meeting in Ireland

As it is foreseen that there will be unspent funds from the Meeting in Ireland, the CG decides to increase the number of participants eligible for reimbursed in Slovakia meeting from 52 budgeted to 60. Other possible destinations of funds (e.g. increase the number of STSMs or ITCs) will be decided once all expenses for Killarney meeting will be paid

13. IUFRO 2019 World Congress Forests for Water PES session

The Chair noted that which of the authors of the accepted abstracts had registered to participate in the IUFRO World Congress was expected to be clear by the end of the week, with plans to then discuss finalising the organisation of the Forests for water PES session with Brazilian co-organisers..

14. Institutional factors influencing development of woodlands for water PES

The WG1 leader confirmed proposal to publish the survey material from responses to the WG1 survey on Institutional factors influencing development of woodlands for water PES as a book.

15. Exploring opportunities for funding calls to continue research after the Cost Action has ended

Paola Ovando agreed to circulate details on expected future funding calls available through H2020. A session discussing funding opportunities will be organized during the meeting in Ireland facilitated by Johan Barstad.

16. Date of next Core Group meeting

The Chair agreed to initiate a doodle poll for dates in mid July 2019 for the next Core Group meeting.

17. Closing

The Chair thanked other members for their participation.

Prepared by:

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