



3rd Management Committee (MC) Meeting

COST Action IS1104

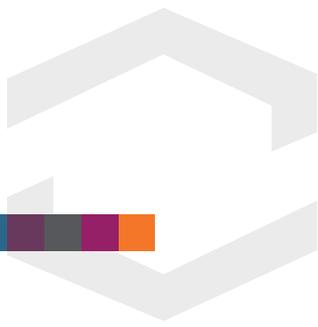
The EU in the new complex geography of economic systems: models, tools and policy evaluation

Lisbon, 26/03/2013 (1st half)

Minutes

Participants

Iuliana Armas, Romania
Marcel Ausloos, Belgium
Milen Baltov, Bulgaria
Snezana Bilic-Sotiroska, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (DC Rapporteur)
Gian Italo Bischi, Italy
Maria Bostenaru-Dan, Romania
Spiros Bougheas, United Kingdom
José Canovas, Spain
Pasquale Commendatore, Italy (Chairman)
Herbert Dawid, Germany
Peter Friedrich, Estonia (observer)
Laura Gardini, Italy
Alan Kirman, France
Mikulas Luptacik, Slovakia
Constantine Manasakis, Greece
Diana Mendes, Portugal
Tiiu Paas, Estonia
Aleksandra Parteka, Poland
Ruslan Rakhmatullin, European Commission
Denis Trcek, Slovenia
Guadalupe Trigo Rossier, Spain
Luis Miguel Varela Cabo, Spain
Nikolay Vitanov, Bulgaria
Florian Wagener, The Netherlands
Benteng Zou, Luxembourg
Saime Kayam, Turkey (observer)



1. Opening and adoption of agenda

The chairman opens the meeting at 10:45.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The members of the MC have already approved the minutes of the previous meeting by e-mail.

3. Matters arising

The chair reminds the MC members of the possibility to organise an ESF Exploratory Workshop (<http://www.esf.org/activities/exploratory-workshops.html>). Deadline for application is 18 April 2013. This is important, as it may be a source of outside funding.

Early stage researchers of the Action may apply for a € 3000 (max) grant to participate at a conference. One researcher can be funded. The chairman of the Action has to apply before 31 May 2013. Pre-applications should be sent to **the Chair Pasquale Commendatore** before 10 May 2013.

4. Report from the COST Office and status of the Action

There is no news from the COST office. The size of the Action is growing steadily: at the Brussels meeting of the MC, there were 16 member countries; in Urbino, 19; now, 22, and applications of Iceland and Turkey are pending. There are two non-COST participating countries, Ukraine and USA and European Commission Participant Institution, the Joint Research Centre, Institute for Prospective Technological Studies, represented by the MC member Dr. Ruslan Rakhmatullin.

There is some discussion about whether Australia could be included, in the person of Carl Chiarella. While desirable, the distance makes plane tickets very costly. Also it is unclear whether the reciprocal agreement of COST with Australia is going to be renewed. In the end, the added value might be limited.

5. Report from the Grant Holder

Guadalupe Trigo Rossier presents the realised expenses. As a number of attendants of the Lisbon meeting dropped out at the last moment, often due to illness, at the moment there is a little underspending on the budget of the first year. The balance is about € 4000 - € 6000.

Saime Kayam suggests to use the excess funds to fund (small) WG meetings of book contributors, for those book chapters that have fallen behind schedule. Guadalupe Trigo Rossier remarks that such meetings have to take place between 15 and 30 of April. At the first date, the precise excess balance will be known; the second date is needed in order to set up the WG meetings in the COST computer system.

Luis Miguel Varela presents the budget planning for next year. A conservative and an optimistic budget have been prepared, as the total funding the Action will receive next year will only be decided upon around the beginning of July 2013. It is probable that the optimistic budget, which will be proposed to COST, will be approved, as the number of participating countries has increased, and as there has been a steady flow of scientific output.

The underlying philosophy of the budget is that the first year of the Action has been focussed on establishing personal contacts; during the second year the Action will be concentrating more on producing output by working on specific projects, by making use of smaller units within the WGs.

The conservative budget envisages

- Meeting of all WGs at the Siena NED conference (4-6 July 2013)
- Training school on Nonlinear Dynamics and Complex Networks at Madrid (around Easter 2014) plus the MC meeting.
- Around 10 Short Term Scientific Missions
- Some expenses for the web page
- The funding of 16 people for WG meetings (that is 4 persons per WG). This is the main change from the previous year. This should fund Project Group meetings within each WG, with the express aim to bring together researchers that work on a paper which deals with an objective formulated in the Memorandum of Understanding of the Action.

Saime Kayam asks after the possibility of receiving funds from COST for “General support grants”. No one knows exactly what can be funded under this heading. The Grant Holder will enquire.

The optimistic budget differs from the conservative one on the following points

- More funding for MC members to attend the Madrid meeting
- More funding for WG-unit/Project Group meetings
- More funding for Short Term Scientific Missions

Laura Gardini moves to increase the number of Short Term Scientific Missions to be funded under the optimistic budget from 12 to 15. This is approved.

Marcel Ausloos asks two questions. The first is about hotel prices in Siena, as the NED conference is organised just after the Palio. The Chairman points out that hotel rooms have been already reserved for the conference, so there should be no problems. But there is a deadline for application for such a hotel room (15 May). The second question is about the budget for the Summer School: there seems to be no differentiation between lecturers and attending students. Luis Miguel Varela remarks that this is taken into account, as the amounts in the budget are averages. But also for the Summer School, hotels should be booked early, as Madrid is a popular travel destination around Easter.

Saime Kayam asks whether it is possible to fund the collection of data, as this is an



express goal of WG4. Luis Miguel Varela answers that this is impossible, as these are research costs that are not funded by COST.

6. Progress reports of the WGs

The Chairman summarises the contributions of the different WGs to the books, especially the review papers.

The chairman adjourns the meeting at 12:50 until Thursday.



3rd Management Committee (MC) Meeting

COST Action IS1104

The EU in the new complex geography of economic systems: models, tools and policy evaluation

Lisbon, 28/03/2013 (2nd half)

Minutes

Participants

Iuliana Armas, Romania
Marcel Ausloos, Belgium
Milen Baltov, Bulgaria
Snezana Bilic-Sotiroska, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (DC Rapporteur)
Gian Italo Bischi, Italy
Maria Bostenaru-Dan, Romania
Spiros Bougheas, United Kingdom
José Canovas, Spain
Pasquale Commendatore, Italy (Chairman)
Herbert Dawid, Germany
Peter Friedrich, Estonia (observer)
Laura Gardini, Italy
Declan Jordan, Ireland
Saime Kayam, Turkey (observer)
Alan Kirman, France
Mikulas Luptacik, Slovakia
Constantine Manasakis, Greece
Diana Mendes, Portugal
Denis Trcek, Slovenia
Guadalupe Trigo Rossier, Spain
Luis Miguel Varela Cabo, Spain
Nikolay Vitanov, Bulgaria
Florian Wagener, The Netherlands
Benteng Zou, Luxembourg





The chairman resumes the meeting at 9:15.

7. Progress report of Working Groups (continued)

Gian Italo Bischi presents the work of WG3.

The chairman reminds the WG-leaders of the importance to form subgroups within the Working Groups. For these units, tasks should be formulated on the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding. One of the main output of the second year of the Action activities will be the production of Working Papers focused on the objectives listed in the MoU. Each WG-unit should be responsible for at least one Working paper. The WG-leader should coordinate the work of the various units in the Working Group.

Spiros Bougheas suggests that there should be mailing lists for each Working Group, for instance of the form "wg1@gecomplexity-cost.eu", such that e-mails sent to that address reach all WG members. This is a task for the webmaster.

Given the increasing number of tasks and of the size of the Action, Luis Varela suggests that the Chair should delegate more responsibilities to the WG leaders. This is an item for the next meeting of the SC. The MC empowers the SC to use funds to finance an additional physical SC meeting during the first year, if one is required.

Saime Kayam informs the MC that there will be no meetings of book contributors, so that no funds need to be set aside for those.

Guadalupe Trigo Rossier mentions that from an administrative point of view, STSMs are still possible till the End of May. The MC empowers the chair to allocate the remaining funds of the first year of the action to SC meetings, STSMs or WG-unit meetings, as he sees fit.

About WG4: Spiros Bougheas wants to rethink its role. Laura Gardini states that it works quite well as it is, providing tools and tutorials for the other WGs. Florian Wagener reminds the meeting that WG4 has one specific task to it by the MoU, to produce computer code of a model of Economic aspects of the EU regions.

The chair informs the MC that at the Siena meeting, there will be separate sessions where each WG will just discuss aims and strategies.

Finally, the chairman informs the meeting that the optimistic budget plan has been revised: COST imposes a maximum of €1500 for the website. Moreover, some costs have been slightly lowered, in order to make 15 STSMs possible. The MC approves the revisions.

8. Action planning

There has been no feedback from the DC.

7.1 Annual progress conference

For the annual progress conference, a progress report has to be provided, to be written by the chairman. It consists of a management report and the budget.

Connected to this, the chairman reminds the meeting of the following points:

- a. The Questionnaire, distributed a few days before the meeting via e-mail to the Action participants, has to be completed and returned to the chairman before 5 April.
- b. If a member of the Action has a grant or applies for a grant that fits into the Action, the chairman should be notified.
- c. If publications are mentioned, information should be provided whether they are merely related to the Action's goals, or whether they actually result from the Action.

7.2 Action budget planning

This point has been dealt with earlier (see points 5. and the end of point 6.)

7.3 Action planning (including meetings)

The next meetings will be the Siena Conference, the Madrid Training School, and approved WG-unit meetings.

7.3.1 Location and date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Action is the Siena conference, 4-6 July 2013. The next meeting of the SC will be held in that occasion. The selection criteria for formal invitation will give precedence in this order to a) whom has submitted a paper for presentation; b) invited speakers c) SC members; d) MC members. The next meeting of the MC is scheduled during the Madrid Training School, which will be organised close to the Easter week 2014.

7.3.2 Long-term planning

Peter Friedrich suggested Estonia as a possible meeting place during the third year of the Action. The MC delegated the long term planning to the SC, as the WG meetings should interlock with WG-unit meetings.

9. STSM status, applications

The coordinator of the STSMs, Laura Gardini, reported on the STSM: 23 applications were awarded. Of these, 4 missions were cancelled because of health reasons, 7 have already been completed, and the others are in progress.

The following principles have been adopted with regard to STSMs by the coordinator.

Of an application, the quality of the CV is awarded at most 20 points; the quality of the application another 20 points; the coherence of the project 50 points; and the contribution of the mission to the development of the network another 10 points. A mission is approved, subject to the availability of funds, if the application scores at least 60 out of 100 possible points. Furthermore, the Action contributes €300 to travel expenses, €70 per day for daily support for long missions, and €90 per day for daily support for short missions (all rates are flat). The maximal contribution of the Action to a mission is €2500.

A fourth call for the first year will be published soon.

10. Publications, dissemination and outreach activities

As mentioned earlier, work on the book containing reviews of the topics of interest to the Action is well under way. This is the main output of the first year.

A special issue of JEDC, containing papers presented at the Siena conference, will be the main output of the Action in the second year.

Spiros proposes that WG leaders contact the webmaster directly with information, like new WG units, working papers etc., only cc-ing this information to the chairman. But all information has to go by the webmaster in order to keep up the uniform appearance of the web page.

As concerns working papers, the SC has to design a uniform first page. The following numbering format is proposed for working papers: WG1-1, WG1-2, ..., WG2-1, WG2-2, In this way, each WG leader can keep track of the working papers produced by his or her 'own' WG. Details are to be worked out by the SC.

The MC discussed a possible newsletter for the Action. Constantine Manasakis enquired after its contents. The chairman explained that it should contain

- a. Grant information (e.g. ESF-grants)
- b. Pointers to specific publications
- c. Information about upcoming activities, conferences, training schools etc.
- d. A list of new working papers and publications of the Action
- e. Information about planned output (e.g. the special issue).
- f. Requests for information

Saime Kayam asked whether it would be a good idea to have a facebook page for the action. Declan Jordan mentioned that it would be more efficient to have an RSS-feed and a facebook/twitter-link, notifying people about each website update, which would draw traffic to the website. He will write an e-mail to the chairman with more details. The chairman reminded all MC members to add a link to the Action's website on their personal pages, and to sent him a link to their personal pages in order that these can be included in the Action's web pages. Constantine Manasakis proposed to have the Newsletter twice a year, around June and December.

Constantine Manasakis volunteered to be the news editor of the Action, to the general



approval of the MC.

11. Request for new members

There was an extensive discussion about the admission of new WG members. Eventually, the MC voted to admit all candidates to the Action.

As the introductory phase of the Action has been almost completed, it should be made clear to the new WG members that funding for participating to meetings of the Action is no longer automatic. This does not imply by any mean that national funding cannot be used for participating in the different events of the Action.

Members should be encouraged to either join an existing WG unit, or propose forming a new WG unit, always with the aim of furthering the goals of the Action as expressed in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The formation mechanism of Working Group units will be detailed before the Siena meeting by the Steering Committee.

The application of Iceland, represented by prof. Erikur Bergmann, pending the acceptance of the MoU has also been accepted.

12. Promotion of gender balance and of Early Stage Researchers (ESR)

The Action stays committed of promoting gender balance as well as the interests of Early Stage Researchers as much as possible.

13. Non-COST country participations

As mentioned before, the only current application (Australia) depends on the mutual agreement of COST and Australia being renewed, as Australian participants of the Action need to be financed by their home country.

14. Web news

The Action has a new logo, as the Gecko is too dominating in the original logo.

15. AOB

There is no other business.

16. Closing

The chairman closes the meeting at 12:35.



Points for Action

Pasquale Commendatore (Chairman)

1. Ask the webmaster to include RSS-feeds/Facebook-links/Twitter-links in the website (based on the information to be provided by Declan Jordan)
2. Ask the webmaster to make specific mailing lists for the workgroups of the action.

Declan Jordan

Send e-mail to the chairman with details on RSS-feeds and Facebook/Twitter-links

Guadalupe Trigo Rossier

To enquire after the general procedures when dealing with researchers from non-COST countries, and after the advantages of non-COST participants joining the Action.

Steering Committee

1. Design first page for Working Papers of the Action.
2. Decide on details of the handling of Working Papers.
3. Propose a meeting schedule for the third year of the Action.
4. Draw up a mechanism for the formation of WG units.

