



# COST

## 1<sup>st</sup> Steering Committee (SC) Meeting

### COST Action IS1104

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

Virtual Meeting, 11/07/2012

## Minutes

### 1. Setting up the Virtual Conference via Skype

The meeting was set up at 10:38.

#### *Participants*

Gian Italo Bischi  
Spiros Bougheas  
Pasquale Commendatore  
Saime Kayam (observer)  
Alan Kirman  
Ingrid Kubin (till 12:00)  
Tõnu Puu  
Luis Miguel Varela  
Florian Wagener

#### *Absent*

Michael Kopel

### 2. WGs Topics

#### WG 1

##### Literature reviews

- 'State of the art' of New Economic Geography (Pasquale).
- Spatial Econometrics and applied economics related to regional issues (Saime).
- Other approaches to economic geography (Tõnu).

#### WG 2

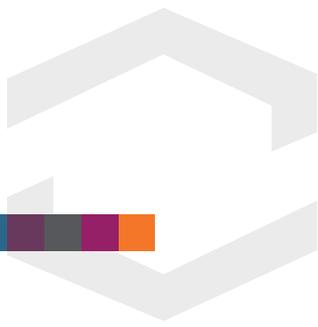
Alan suggested a list of topics



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ESF provides the COST Office  
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- It is possible to read input/output tables as describing networks. Then the variation over countries can be investigated.
- Since 2007 income inequalities increased noticeably, but were regionally differentiated. In France only Paris region was affected. Can this be observed in other financial capitals as well (London, Frankfurt)? Housing prices may be a good indicator.
- Fine analysis of intra-country trade is interesting.
- With regard to the common agricultural policies: are the trade flows changing over time?

Spiros added to this

- There is a lot of interest in the banking world in developing measures of systemic risk using network theory: this might be relevant for regional networks as well.
- The relation between the crisis and international trade should be investigated, as trade dropped faster than GDP since the crisis.

WG3

- The connection between New Economic Geography and Industrial Organisations approaches to spatial competition, as the IO models are much more refined and elaborate (Ingrid).
- How do financial markets condition firm relocation and the movement of entrepreneurs (Spiros)?

WG4

The topics for this workgroup should emerge in the course of the action

Alan suggested to identify core members within the WGs, to discuss the lists of possible topics further

### 3. Selection Mechanism for the participation to the Action events

Pasquale stated the aim of the selection mechanism: to establish a strong connection between the topics and the participants of a meeting.

Before this meeting, Florian had suggested the following *Selection Procedure*:

1. At least three months before the meeting, the topics to be discussed within the relevant WGs are determined.
2. At the same time an Admissions Committee (AC) is formed consisting of the WG leaders and the organisers of the meeting.
3. Within one week, the AC publishes a call for expressions of interest for funding.
4. Interested researchers apply for funding through the Action by sending in a short, but motivated written application. The deadline for these funding applications is set by the AC, but not later than two months before the meeting.

5. The AC prepares a list of invitees and send it to the Steering committee (SC) for approval, not later than ten weeks before the meeting.
6. The SC either approves the list, which is then final, or returns it to the AC for emendation within a week of receipt.
7. If the SC requested emendation of the list, the AC sends the emendated list to the SC no later than eight weeks before the meeting.
8. The SC draws up the final list of funded participants on the basis of the emendated list and send the list to the MC for the final approval.
9. The AC sends out invitations to the funded participants no later than six weeks before the meeting.

For the Rotterdam meeting (13-14 December), the following time frame was decided upon.

- 15 September: call for expressions of interest for funding
- 15 October: deadline for funding applications
- 15 November: deadline for sending the list of invitees is by the AC to the SC

Florian mentioned a suggestion made to him by Michael before the SC meeting that the WGs might be split into teams, participation to meetings then being decided with respect to teams. The general opinion on this was that teams should emerge endogenously, and that first some experience should be gathered with the present set-up.

#### 4. List of participants to Urbino's events

Ingrid suggested making a list of how many COST-funded participations are still available for the Urbino conference. The remainder should be made available to the WG leaders to invite additional participants to Urbino. As this is the first meeting of the Action, it is of special interest to invite people with a lot of expertise in the topic areas. This was approved.

#### 5. Urbino's events organization

For the WG meetings, at Urbino there are one large and four small rooms available.

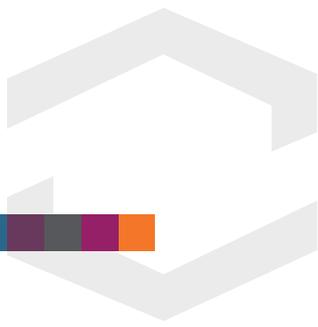
Gian Italo will prepare a detailed schedule. Roughly, the following structure was discussed:

Tuesday

- Preparatory SC meeting
- MC meeting

Wednesday

- Plenary WG meeting: Introduction to Action and overview
- Meetings of WG2-3, with members of WG1 and WG4 attending one of these
- Meeting of WG4, with at least the leaders of the other WGs, about what is needed from WG4



Suggestions for topics for the MC meeting should be sent to Pasquale before 4 September; Pasquale will send out the Agenda of the MC meeting before 11 September.

## 6. Website

Pasquale proposed to let the website of the Action be developed by a web designer from Urbino. This was approved by the SC.

## 7. Next year events

For next year, the main event will be the “100 years Richard Goodwin” conference in Siena (+/- 4 July), organised by Serena Sordi. Also the obligatory MC meeting and a Summer School are planned. A draft budget for these meetings has to be written.

Saime moved to shift this point to the Urbino SC and MC meetings. This was approved.

## 8. COST publications

There will be no publication after the Urbino meeting; the envisaged journal asked for publication fees, but there is no budget to cover these.

Participants in the Action should be reminded to mention COST in acknowledgements if there is some connection to the activities of the Action.

Tönu and Florian will inquire at Annals of Regional Science and JEDC respectively whether either of these journals are interested in bringing out a Special Issue dedicated to the Action.

## 9. Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs)

There are eight planned STSM this year. Pasquale and Laura will sort out the requirements imposed on the application procedure by the COST rules. It is already clear that the calls need to be public; they will be published on the website of the Action, and distributed by e-mail.

At first, people from the Action should be favoured, and from these, a sizable proportion should be young researchers.

## 10. AOB

Alan remarked that his old e-mail address ceased to be functional.





## 11. Closing

The meeting was closed at 12:35.