



COST

3rd Steering Committee Meeting

COST Action IS1104

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

Lisbon Meeting, 26.March.2013

Minutes

Participants

Snezana Bilic-Sotiroska, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Gian Italo Bischi, Italy
Spiros Bougheas, United Kingdom
Pasquale Commendatore, Italy (Chairman)
Alan Kirman, France
Guadalupe Trigo Rossier, Spain
Luis Miguel Varela Cabo, Spain
Florian Wagener, the Netherlands
Saime Kayam, Turkey

1. Communications from the Chair

Pasquale Commendatore passed on information about:

- a. the Call for Conference Grants from the COST office (almost every six months aiming to support Early Stage Researchers)
- b. the ESF supported Exploratory Workshops. The call closes on 18 April 2013. It was suggested that this opportunity could be used to get extra funding for working group units by proposing topics additional to actions direct area of interest.

2. State of the book of the Action and future publications

The chair provided information about the internal refereeing process, pointing out that it would be a further opportunity for networking and getting to know what other participants of the action were working on. He also passed the information that the book contributors would be meeting to decide on some matters between 13:10 and 13:30, right at the end of the opening session.

3. Organization mechanisms of research and research outcomes (Working groups, Working papers series)



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Pasquale Commendatore suggested setting up small *working group units* (WGU) to increase the research efforts for the rest of the action period. It was accepted unanimously. The WGUs would consist of a small number of participants of the action and would have the opportunity to meet once or twice to work on a specific topic related to the Action.

The WG leaders/co-leaders were asked to form at least one WGU in their WGs and the budget would include some funding for the meetings of WGUs. It was emphasized that this organizational change would not imply abolition of STSMs since STSMs were mainly for the mobility of individuals and that these two instruments could be used interchangeably (Spiros).

P. Commendatore argued that the WGUs should aim to produce a visible output in the form of a working paper that would initially be published as part of the *Working Paper Series* (to be started soon) and then submitted for publication in academic journals.

Florian Wagener suggested to start with the papers submitted to the Siena Conference which would later be submitted to the special issue of the event.

P. Commendatore pointed out that the Steering Committee should act as the editorial board of the Working Paper Series but a member of the group should take on the responsibility of editorial manager/ managing editor, who would be responsible from ensuring that the papers are directly related to the Action.

Luis Miguel suggested that SC should encourage the WG leaders to form more than one WGU with specific tasks and deadlines. Spiros commented that there should be a more flexible bottom-up way/organisation. Florian mentioned that any bottom-up organization would still have to inform the WG leaders and propose tasks/deadlines attached to the WGU.

PC emphasized that the WG leaders/co-leaders should form at least one WGU specifically on one topic of the action and then apply for support to organize WGU meetings.

Alan Kirman noted that producing output specifically by the action was important to show that there is actual cooperation between members.

Saime Kayam mentioned that the research topics discussed at the Urbino meeting could be used as a starting point. Luis Miguel suggested that the WG leaders should put a top-down action on research topics.

F. Wagener proposed to put in place a selection/application procedure for WGUs.



Snezana Bilic-Sotiroska (reporter to the Action) pointed out that compliance with the MoU is obligatory. She emphasized a number of points to be taken into consideration:

- What is the added value of the action?
- Policy recommendations, policy maker meetings should be organized in the last year.
- Remember that budget of the following year depends on results, visibility, etc.
- Try to use external funding as much as possible.

Upon these warnings from the reporter, the Chair explained that the objectives for the first year (network-cooperation) have been achieved. The second and third years would focus more on research that was the reason for changing the organisation of activities.

It was accepted that Florian Wagener would write down the procedure as he explained during the meeting.

4. The SC delegates Florian Wagener to prepare a scheme for a Selection Mechanism for the participation to the WG units meetings to be discussed in the SC next meeting.
5. Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs)

Pasquale Commendatore gave some information about the STSM of the first year. There are some missions still to be completed. And any extra budget remaining from the Lisbon meeting could be used to make a last call for STSM. Florian Wagener pointed out that the relationship between MoU and STSM topics should be made explicit in applications and reports.

6. List of participants to Siena's events

P. Commendatore explained the deadlines and applications for the Siena Conference. The MC and SC members, the conference presenters and WGU members should have priority in participation to the Siena event.

7. Preliminary discussion on the second year budget

Chair explained that it was envisaged two alternative budgets for the second year, one conservative and the other more optimistic. It was explained by the Grant Holder that there would remain approximately €6000 from the Lisbon meeting, which needed to be spent before the end of May 2013.

Both the conservative budget and the optimistic budget allocated funds for WGU meetings unlike the budget of the first year.



8. Next year events (Siena Conference, Training school)

The Siena conference is to take place on 4-6 July 2013. The training school is planned for the Easter of 2014 in Madrid.

9. Developing the Website (ex. Newsletter)

The chair mentioned that the website required constant updating and the action could issue a Newsletter to improve information sharing between participants. He also suggested that the WGU should produce working papers and the action produce a working paper series.

10. 1st year final Scientific report

P. Commendatore summarized the achievements of the first year. He opened the floor for discussion on raising external funds. Saime Kayam asked whether support from national grant programmes should be considered as external funding for the action or not. It was made clear by the chair that as long as there was a close link between action and grant topics the answer was affirmative.

About the final scientific report, Chair asked all participants to fill in the questionnaire that was distributed previously via e-mail, on research collaborations between action members over the last 12 months, publications on action topics etc. as soon as possible.

11. Preliminary discussion on Horizon 2020

Chair explained that there is a change planned for FP projects from 2014 onwards called the Horizon 2020. The action should finalize by applying for larger projects towards the end of action period.

12. AOB

The applications for participation are discussed. It was agreed that if participation becomes too restricted then it would create a discrimination against the late comers and this would contradict the objectives of the Cost. It was approved that the action should be as inclusive as possible considering the budget and other constraints.

13. Closing

The meeting was closed at 10:30.