

European Science Foundation

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‘On and off-site environmental impacts of runoff and erosion’

Website: <http://www.soilerosion.net/cost634/>
chair: Anne-Véronique Auzet auzet@imfs-mail.u-strasbg.fr
vice-chair : Katharina Helming khelming@zalf.de

2nd Meeting of the Management Committee of COST Action 634 “On- and Off-site Environmental Impacts of Runoff and Erosion” Bratislava, Slovakia 8th – 10th October 2004 Minutes

1 Welcome to participants

Dr. A.-Véronique AUZET, chair of the Cost Action 634, welcomed the delegations. She reminded the committee about the status of the Action, its main objectives and presented the Working Groups [WGs] co-chairs to the new delegates.

The strategic objectives of the 1st joint WG meeting (Bratislava 8th –10th October 2004) were stated for the new delegates.

National delegates were encouraged to be proactive in networking people involved in soil protection in their countries and in developing strong links with COST Action.

2 Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted.

3 Minutes of last meeting (MC and SC Meeting Brussels, April 19th; SC Meeting, Lublin, 17-18th September)

The minutes of last MC and Steering Committee meetings were approved (see minutes of the SC Meeting Lublin in annex). The main reasons to have a steering committee is to be more efficient in managing the Action. However, MC member are invited to contribute actively to the debate and the proposals to achieve the objectives – particularly by proposing meetings and stimulating STSM.

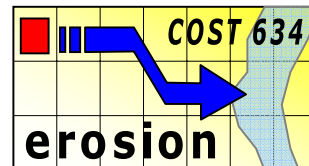
4 Report from the Scientific Officer

Emil Fulajtar, the Scientific Officer of Cost Actions of the COST/ESF TCE (Technical Committee Environment), described the changes in several procedures through the new management by COST/ESF. He summarised recent news from the COST Office, Status of Action, Number of Signatories, Budget Status, and budget allocation process. It will be soon possible to submit proposals to run thematic advanced training courses in order to foster participation of young scientists. Proposals of Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) are also welcomed (see forms on the website; min 5 working days, max 1 month and 2000 €).



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5 Year Budget status and planning

The planned budget for 2005 should be sufficient to support meetings, short term scientific missions and training courses. Training courses is a new instrument for COST action, dedicated mainly to PhD students and young scientists: the exact procedure to apply for a training course has to be decided by the COST Office.

MC expressed a strong interest for that new instrument.

6 STSM status, applications

Budget for STSM is still available for the end of 2004. MC members are requested to stimulate STSM applications. The standard procedure is to send the application (forms are available on the website) to the chair. The application consists of the presentations of the working plan (1/2 page) which has to be precise and specific. Declaration of the Applicant, acceptance by the Host and Intent to publish the results has to be given. Applications will be reviewed by a member of a panel and send to COST Secretariat if positively reviewed. The duration is minimum 5 working days (plus traveling) and maximum 1 month. The maximum budget is 2000 €, not exceeding the rules of reimbursement (max 149 € per day) and generally around 100 € per day + traveling expenses. At the end of STSM, the applicant has to produce a report, with the approval from the Host and from the MC.

MC committee approved the composition of the panel proposed by the Steering committee: Paolo Bazzoffi (I), Victor Jetten (NL), Preben Olsen (DK), Lilian Oygarden (N), Volker Prasuhn (CH), Jerzy Rejman (PL).

7 Dissemination of the information, publications, annual report

Strategy of publication has been discussed. The main recommendation is to publish papers from the meetings in special issues of international peer reviewed journal. For the Bratislava meeting, no publication was initially planned, since the main objective of the conference was the discussion of the overall strategy to achieve the objectives. However, the material presented to the conference is rich – keynotes and posters – and reflects the state of the art and the key questions. Dissemination through the website, or a book, is therefore now envisaged. The contributors will be asked for agreement.

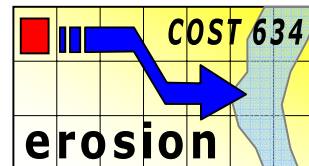
No annual report will be written in 2004: the activities have only just started, and the main objective has been to hold the 1st meeting to define the strategy of the action. The chair will present the action to the Technical Committee Environment (TCE) of COST in the next TCE meeting (Brussels, October 12th).

The chair will send information about the action to the updated list of interested persons, to invite them to consult the website regularly, and to contact the MC members of their country.



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The website will be regularly updated (announcement and report of meetings, minutes of MC meetings); short message will be sent to all the participants when new information. The possibility to include presentations etc... will be discussed with David Favis Mortlock, as well of the possible help of Victor Jetten. Offers by Andreas Vassilopoulos (G) and Victor Jetten (NL) to prepare a revised mailing list were accepted.

A small leaflet has been prepared during the meeting and is presented to the MC. Small changes were made and a logo for the action was adopted (see above). *The concept and text of the leaflet were approved and it will be distributed to the TCE (see annexe 2).*

8 Updates of Co-ordinates MC and WGs co-chairs

MC approved the proposition that Johannes Schuler becomes co-chair of the WG1, in order to include the necessary input of social sciences in this Working Group oriented on Policy Issues. The panel of WG chairs, approved during the 1st MC meeting in Brussels, was made according to technical background rather than the geographical origin; however chairs of the action are aware of the necessary representation of southern countries in the steering committee. This point will be discussed during the next steering committee and a proposition will be made for the next MC meeting.

The updated list of MC members is given (annexe 3)

9 Strategy of working groups

Many participants attended the discussion groups during the meeting. A synthesis will be prepared by WG chairs for the next SC meeting and presented to the next MC.

10 Time and place of next meeting, long-term planning

9 proposals have already been received. The most advanced project that SC recommended for approval by MC are:

- Policy, perception, management and efficiency of soil conservation strategies at farm and catchments scales (Véronique Souchère et al.), France (Normandy); June 2005;
- Reorganising field and landscape structures and practices in a context of building strategies for water and soil protection (Jerzy Rejman et al.), Poland, September 2005
- Future land use changes and modelling soil erosion (Victor Jetten, David Favis Mortlock & Mark Nearing), Utrecht, January 2006.

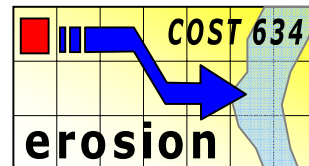
The other proposals are the following :

- Delivery of sediment and phosphorus to waters, mitigation measures for soil erosion and phosphorus, UK (Lancaster), spring 2006 ? – J. Quinton et L. Heathwaite



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- Soil erosion and sediment delivery to watercourses, land management and conservation (Klaus Kuhn), June 2006.
- Remote Sensing of Earth Surface Processes, Greece, September 2006
- Implementation of land use changes: technology, effects and modelling – to be held in Tuscany or in Catalunya in 2006, sometime in early autumn or late summer (organizers: J.A. Martinez Casanovas, M. Concepcion Ramos, P. Bazzoffi, D. Torri, others are welcome)
- Tolerance limit: its meaning, how to define and implement it in different contexts (policy, science, etc.) – organizers: Francesca Ventura, Paolo Bazzoffi, Dino Torri, 2007 in Florence, Bologna.
- Adoption of soil and water conservation measures in relation to the on- and off-site impact of erosion (J. de Graaff et al.), NL Wageningen
- Innovative approaches to mitigate on- and off-site impacts of runoff and erosion at farm and landscape levels (C. Biolders & J. Poesen), B, autumn 2007.

The question of the procedure for approval of meetings was discussed at length by the MC. The main point is the need to submit a formal proposal, allowing time for circulation and discussion before approval by the MC.

MC approved the 2 first proposals (Normandy, June 2005; Poland, September 2005), in order to allow to organize it with sufficient delays. These two meetings will be joint meetings for the 3 WGs. MC meeting will take place during this meetings. SGM is approved to allow SC meeting in Brussels in January 2005 and the preparation of the 2 joint WGs meeting planned. It was also decided to add a session on ‘phosphorous’ issues to the conference in Normandy.

A standard form will be prepared to submit proposals of WG meetings.

11 AOB

Chair thanks the MC members for their fruitful contribution to the debate and encourage them to continue to be proactive.



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