

European Science Foundation

## COST Office

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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](mailto:auzet@imfs-mail.u-strasbg.fr)  
vice-chair : Katharina Helming [khelming@zalf.de](mailto:khelming@zalf.de)

Dear All,

I am passing on some information based on discussion during the COST Technical Committee Environment last month in Brussels and since that time with the WG chairs and John Williams, the new Scientific Officer of our COST Action. As has already said (during the MC meeting in Rouen) by Emil Fulajtar, the previous Scientific Officer for our action, each COST Action will have a yearly budget (~ 80 K€). During the TCE meeting in Brussels in October, we learnt that the future of the COST budget is dependent on FP7: until the budget of FP7 is approved, the future of the COST budget will not be guaranteed. To avoid a critical situation, the new head of COST/ESF is trying to ensure at least the possibility for ongoing actions to be able to continue in 2007 (by creating a specific reserve). If the FP7 budget is approved before, this reserve will be available – but not before (and it seems to me that according to what we have learned from previous crises, this measure is sensible).

For us, the position now is the following : we can make plans for a budget up to a maximum of 79000 € + 4300 € for STSM (more for STSM if we decide to take it out of the 79 000 €).

On the basis of an e-mail consultation of WG chairs that has now taken place, we are submitting to your approval the following budget and plans, so that we can guarantee the two meetings for 2006 that have already approved by the MC.

- WG3 meeting (+ MC) "Remote Sensing and Spatial analysis tools for erosion processes", SAMOS (Greece) 26-28 May 2006
- WG1 & 2, "Farm level adoption of SWC (soil and water conservation) measures and policy implications", Wageningen (Nederland) 1-3 October 2006

together with the two SGMs meeting, that you are also asked to approve:

- SC meeting, 27th of January in Brussels, for discussion of the SAMOS meeting organization, preparation of the mid-term report and discussion of future plans for the action
- meeting of the socio-economic group arising from Bratislava and Rouen exchanges to plan the work and contribute to our next meetings - this meeting is in preparation for the Spring, probably in Strasbourg, organized by Sandrine Spaeter and Johannes Schuhler, and will include the economists, sociologists and human geographers who contributed to group discussion in Bratislava, Rouen and Lublin

In addition, STSMs will be supported, on the basis of a call - to be prepared during the SC meeting in January and submitted to you for approval.

To support all this projects, we submit to you the following budget :

Samos WG3 meeting (+ MC) : 40 eligible (36000 €) + 3000 € conference fees

Wageningen WG1 & 2 : 25 to 30 (25000 €) + 3000 €

SGM for the socio-economic group : 10 (6000 €) + (part of participants paid on other budget if the meeting is organized in Strasbourg)

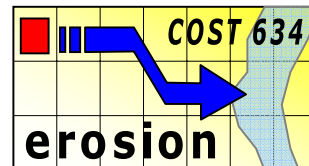
SC meeting Brussels in January : 9 (but max average 500 €/participant)

STSMs call: 4300 €



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ESF (Fondation européenne de la science) est une association à but non-lucratif de droit français (Alsace)  
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In addition, I would like to say how happy we are that most of the COST Countries are actively participating in the Action - 23 at the moment. However, if both of the MC members from each country were to participate in each meeting when an MC is planned, even if the subject of the meeting is not within the detailed focus of their own research, there would be no possibility to invite any other colleagues within the realistic budgets proposed, and MC members would not then have the possibility to nominate other researchers who can strongly contribute to the action... We have therefore decided that MC meeting can take place only once per year.

Other COST Actions have already faced the same questions, and have also adopted the following solutions, which we propose to apply to this Action, in order to allow decisions to be made efficiently and without needless expense:

1. a limitation to one MC per year
2. only one MC member to be reimbursed as MC member (the other will be reimbursed only if active participation to the specific focus of the WG)
3. This solution requires more exchanges than currently between the MC representative of the countries. It also underlines their important role to organise the COST participation in their own country and to help in structuring the collaborative research according to the objective of COST 634 within their own country – with support from Chairs and WG Chairs, as needed!
4. The greater use of e-mail to interact with the MC and a written procedure of approval to reach decisions between meetings, along the lines - “A proposal will be submitted to all MC country representative, who then have 15 days to comment on the proposal. If at the end of the 15 days period no unfavourable comment have been received, the proposal is deemed to be approved”.

Because of the present difficulties, but also due to the new possibilities of having a real view of the budget, and therefore allowing us the possibility to make plans in advance (that will give more confidence in planning projects for the WG meetings organizers), I am asking you to send me your remarks, suggestions etc... very soon. Please feel free to disagree: the COST action will be enriched by diversity of ideas, and all ideas are interesting !

I will apply to this e-mail the proposed written procedure of approval “proposal will be submitted to all MC country representative, who then have 15 days to comment on the proposal. If at the end of the 15 days period no unfavourable comment have been received, the proposal is deemed to be approved”.

I am sure you understand the need to make these proposals, and that we have limited scope to maintain the objectives of the Action within the budget constraints that are now being imposed, at least for a while. I apologise for this need, but hope you will support these proposals as a rational way to proceed.

With best wishes



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