

CNR headquarters – Piazzale Aldo Moro 7; Roma, November 18 - 19, 2014

Object: **Meeting Minutes all WGs**

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Object: **Meeting Minutes WG1**

Chairman: Roeland Samson (chair) and Elena Paoletti (vice-chair)

Vice-chairman: Carlo Calfapietra

Minutes taken by Marco Moretti and assisted by Roeland Samson

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**WG1: Environmental services of GI and UF and implications of climate change**

**Agenda for the Rome meeting:**

- 1) Optimization of data collection sheet: we should improve this. For which purpose?  
Publication, exchange with others, possible meta-analyses,
- 2) Preliminary report on the common measurement campaign
- 3) Validation of our efforts:
  - a. In case of any publication on the topic of the COST action, do not forget to cite the COST action in the acknowledgment.
  - b. Book: a book is an obligate deliverable at the end of the COST-action
  - c. Projects: we will try to launch or initiate new projects at the European and/or international level and other types of collaboration
  - d. Stakeholders: we have to keep in mind involving stakeholders at different levels: regional, national, international
  - e. Website: it would be good to increase the visibility of WG1 on the website

## REPORT OF THE MEETING SESSIONS (N.B.: Important deadlines are highlighted in red color)

**Tuesday Nov 18, 14:15-18:30:**

- **General issues**
  - **Finance:** the overall project budget has been reduced by 70 kEU. Therefore there will only be one main COST-meeting in **Nice 1-2 June 2015**; COST-members dealing with Mediterranean forests can also meet in **Barcelona (March 17-18)**.
  - **Book:** Quite urgent issue as it should be finished within the end of the project. Call for ideas is open. Please send ideas for chapters, titles, short abstract to Roeland and Elena.
  - **Final conference:** important but less urgent than the book. But if someone has idea where and how to organize it, please talk with Carlo.
  - **STSM:** In 2014 9 of the 11 selected short term scientific missions (STSMs) were used by people of the WG1. Nice! We would like to motivate people of WG1 to make further use of this ideal opportunity for gaining international experience and perform common measurements and publish together.
  - **Website ([www.greeninurbs.com](http://www.greeninurbs.com)) and other dissemination:** Giovanni Sanesi will send out information on the website to attract other people to visit our webpage and enhance possible connection/ networking.
  - **Training school:** A training school will be organized **from June 29 till July 3 in Pieve Tesino** (North of Italy). The idea is to focus on several topics representing the activities of the three working groups. Ideas are more than welcome and should be sent to Roeland.
  
- **Data base:** Richard Tavares translated the indicators which were defined during the Lausanne meeting into a first draft of a data collection sheet. This data collection sheet was presented
  - The data base is structured in 2 parts:
    - Introduction & Support /assistance
    - Individual data entry worksheets for the three groups of environmental ecosystem services as defined in Lausanne, i.e. Air & Climate, Biodiversity and Delivery of Goods
  - On-going work:
    - Further refinement of the different sheets in relation to requested indicators
    - Optimization of the interaction and overlap to facilitate the work
  - Future work:
    - Tests with real data

- After this presentation a discussion was developed on how to proceed with this database. The use and need seems to be largely dependent on specific needs and activities of the different subworking groups (Air & Climate, Biodiversity, Delivery of Goods).
- Therefore, participants have split up in the three different subworking groups as defined in Lausanne (Air & Climate, Biodiversity, Delivery of Goods). Each working group discussed possible paper topics.

**Nov 19, 8:30-12:00**

- **Results of subgroups meetings of Tuesday, November 18**
  - o **Biodiversity:** will use Web of Science to make a state of the art overview of the relation between biodiversity and different ESS provided by the biodiversity in order to prepare a paper title e.g. "Urban forests and ecosystem services: what is the role of biodiversity" or something more sexy "Extending the trait-based approach to biodiversity in urban forests"
  - o **Delivery of Goods:** a revised, more customized data sheet structure prepared, removing overlaps and redundancies to focus the literature survey exercise on preparing two manuscripts – one, titled: “A pan-European evaluation of the regional trends in utilization of urban GI in provision of goods and services” (lead: Abhi, Luciano, Lilit,...: using a low-level meta-analysis); two, “Developing a pan-European understanding for enhancing the potentials for underutilized ecosystem services from urban trees (lead: Miglena, Vladimir, Lina,...: using a more detailed cross-cutting evaluation, including economics). The first round drafts of the two papers ready for **February 2015** and circulated within all members of WG1.2, synchronized with literature survey completion. The final draft to be prepared for Nice, June meeting and sent to Roeland, following further iterations within group.

*Agreed general approach for literature search* - look for possible reports from regional/local authorities first to take stock of the practice and then look for scientific literature, including journal articles and conference proceedings.

- o **Air and Climate:** Atlas of European urban tree species (coordinators Tine and Sladjana); urban tree species characteristics in relation to air pollution mitigation (Ruediger and Roeland); urban tree species characteristics in relation to CO<sub>2</sub>-fixation Didier and Stanislaw); urban tree species characteristics in relation to mitigate the urban heat island effect (Jelle and Richard).
- o The paper-coordinators are expected to draft a paper outline, which needs to be send to Roeland before **December 15**. All outlines will be send around together to the WG1 members which then can contact the respective coordinators if they would like to contribute.
- o Optimizing the DataBase by Richard
  - We go ahead with the paper-based database but in a limited way. Authors are asked just to fill in the general part of the database, to have an overview of available papers on the different topics.

- Each subgroup can then further develop a parallel database for their own paper
  - Remind that a first draft paper should be ready for the Nice meeting in **June 1-2**. The aim is certainly to work further on these papers during this COST-meeting in Nice. Papers should be submitted by **November 2015**.
- **Interaction between WG1 and WG3**
  - Vladko agreed to represent WP1 and improve trans-WG's collaboration by e.g. act as rapporteur to/with WG3 for the economic evaluation of the ESs.
- **Preliminary feedback on the first results of the common campaign organized this summer**
  - *Aim:* Overall estimation of urban air quality in Europe by bio-monitoring in contrasting urban environments using plane (*Platanus sp.*) tree leaves
  - *What will we measure?* 1) SEM analysis (Gregorio, I): relative % of elements (Fe, Ti, Sb, Cu, Zn); 2) SIRM analysis (Roeland, B): relative PM deposition
  - *Preliminary results:* Leaves were received from 35 cities, from 20 countries!
    - Very interesting and promising results from both approaches were already obtained
    - Further/ Final results will be presented in Nice.
- **Common research project: inventory of possibilities**
  - Call for ideas is open. Please let circulate ideas and suggestions of grant sources (e.g. possible platforms: Horizon 2020, Science Europe).
- **WG1 on the GreenInUrbs-website ([www.greeninubs.com](http://www.greeninubs.com))**
  - Subgroup leaders send a short description and main message of the activity done to Roeland by **November 30**.
- **Book: contribution of WG1 by end 2016, ca. 400 pages (Leaders are in brackets)**
  - Four suggestions so far: 1) Different species and traits and link to the different ESs in UF across Europe (this might be the core of the book) (Jelle); 2) Link environmental ESS (WG1) with (aspects of) economic valorisation (WG3) (Vladimer); 3) Pollen and other agents in urban forests (Paloma); 4) A topic on modeling (Miranda was suggested as coordinator); 5) cross-cutting case studies over all topics of WG1, but possibly also with the other WGs. In general publications can be translated into a more applied message.
  - The leaders of the single book chapters send Title and short abstracts to Roeland by **Jan 15**, in order to help the steering committee to organize the overall book.
  - Target audience, book outline and chapter structure are important to find an editor / publisher. This information will be delivered by the steering committee.
  - It's important to have multi-authors' chapters and linking WPs.
- **How to spend the money?**
  - There is about € 5.500 available for the WG1. This money might be spend by subworking groups for a meeting in relation to their articles, or for the development of the bookchapters. As it is expected that the need to use this money

will especially arise in the second part of 2015, more specific guidelines/rules will be agreed upon in Nice. One of the possibilities is to reduce on the items eligible for being paid back (e.g., only travel)



Object: **Meeting Minutes WG2**

Chairman: Liz O'Brian

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### **Overview**

WG2 split into its 4 Task Groups (TG) to take forward progress on writing papers. TGs need only run until they have produced an output such as a report/paper. It is possible to dissolve TGs when they have completed their work or to develop new work.

Thanks to Andrej and Theano for giving presentations to the WG2 on other work they are part of.

We had a brief discussion of potential books chapters that WG2 could contribute to the overall book of the COST Action. Ideas include:

- Role of GI in tourism
- Good practice in maximising the benefits of cultural ecosystem services drawing from data from TGs 1 and 2.
- Research evidence and gaps

Each chapter will need a lead author and a small core team to write the text. Further discussions will take place when we learn more about the overall structure of the book.

TG 1,2 and 3 leaders will be to canvas their groups to identify whether a small group meeting is needed to progress their work. This could take place before or after the next COST meeting in Nice in June 2015, or as an extension to the Nice meeting. Theano and Tessa to inform Liz of their TG's decisions.

### **Minutes of TG1 work**

#### **Marcel Hunziker**

Summarising what has been going on so far

- New fundamental discussions about the objectives of TG1, leading to confirmation, refinement and continuation
- Working on the manuscript
  - Detailed description of the objective and research questions
  - First description of the methods

### **Next steps**

- Check what we have written in the manuscript...

- Harmonisation with the paper outline of the Brussels meeting, i.e., re-including the case studies, e.g. with strong link to the practice.
- Further develop the linkage-categories: Meta-categories: data gathering (in situ, survey, observation etc.), data quality (quantitative, qualitative, etc.) model type (regression); test criteria
- Completing the analyses: 10 Papers by Nathan, 10 by Tessa (& Anton, Michael, Sjerp?). To be organised by Tessa. Deadline January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015.
- Refining, supplementing, summarising all the categories and entries
- Writing the results section etc., starting in Nice

## **Socio-cultural services and benefits Task Group 2**

### **Liz O'Brien**

Liz updated TG2 on the meeting in Brussels in September of Rik, Maren and Liz to discuss the writing a paper on the socio-cultural services and benefits of urban cultural ecosystem services in Europe.

The paper is based on the spreadsheet that is being used by Task Group 1 and 2. This spreadsheet includes academic papers and grey literature on the socio-cultural benefits of cultural ecosystem services. The papers/reports are identified through the expertise of members of the COST Action.

Liz O'Brien as leader of Working Group 2 and Task Group 2 will be the keeper of the Master spreadsheet. Task Group 1 is working with a subset of papers from the spreadsheet.

We agreed to use the term urban green infrastructure and urban cultural ecosystem services.

A structure of the paper was outlined as a result of discussions in Brussels (see presentation sent by Liz on the proposed structure of the paper). Comments included the need to include discussion of the differences between services and benefits in the introduction to the paper. We agreed that the discussion section should include an outline of how this paper can help practitioners or policy makers recognise the importance of GI / UF to people. We agreed to look at the Lawrence et al. paper to see the discussion of methods they used i.e. inductive approach based on own expertise.

We agreed to use the conceptual framework developed by Church et al. 2014 from the UK National Ecosystem Assessment which focuses on environmental spaces, cultural practices and cultural benefits.

Some more people suggested that they can add information to the spreadsheet and others outlined that they can contribute data on the social distribution of urban nature visits in their countries.

## Action points

Liz send a blank spreadsheet for new countries to fill in (she will then copy any new entries into full spreadsheet. Those who have agreed to add in data include:

- Israel (Moshie), Latvia (Inger), Katarina (Slovakia), Simon (UK), Theano (Greece).  
**Deadline 30th December 2014.**
- Liz to provide guidance for those who are updating the spreadsheet – English language, scientific papers, can include good quality grey literature, focus on socio-cultural services and benefits, needs to include data that can be fed into the column headings on the spreadsheet.

Liz to send presentation to all WG2 and National Ecosystem Assessment Follow On report chapter 5.

Data on social distribution of visits to urban greenspace/nature taken from national surveys of representative samples of a countries population. To include (if possible) age, gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status. Countries that can potentially be included are (along with surveys already identified from UK, Switzerland and Belgium)

- Netherlands - Sjerp
- Turkey - Erdogan
- Finland - Tuija
- Israel – Moshe (depending on ability to translate from Hebrew).

Liz to send information from Great Britain to show the type of data needed.

Liz to draft letter to request STSM for supporting TG2. All to send to contacts to identify suitable student.

Liz to send round 'doodle poll' to assess desire for small group meeting either before, during or after the next COST meeting in Nice 2015.

Tuija to produce a table of the GI types under the high level categories identified in Rome.

Rik to create a table of grouping the activities/practices into higher level categories.

## TOURISM TASK GROUP 3

### Questionnaire Survey Research Design

Minutes by Task Group Leader: **Theano S. Terkenli**

Selection of Case Studies: Initially, Nordic countries vs. Mediterranean countries, supplemented by additional cases, such as Central European and Balkan countries. Interest has been expressed by 10 partners, the following:

1. Estonia—Simon Bell
2. Finland—Lisa Tyrvaïnen
3. Latvia—Inga Traube
4. Portugal—Thomas Panagopoulos
5. Italy—Elena Berte
6. Greece—Theano S. Terkenli
7. Slovakia/ Czech Republic—Katarina Kristianova
8. Lithuania—Lina
9. Serbia—Nevena Vasiljevic

Standardization of research sampling: in each country one large-size city and one middle-size city (maximum 50 + 50 questionnaires=100). Foreign tourists mainly, but domestic tourists may be added (attention should be paid to sample numbers: about 35 interviewees from each category, for each city/town)

Criteria of selection of cities: 1. Distance between them (small), translated into cost  
2. Tourism destinations (urban tourism), with presence of GI  
3. Population ratio: approximately 1/10 (?), urban nonetheless

Means of carrying out research:

- a) Voluntary basis
- b) STSMs
- c) SPSS analysis—voluntarily (student practical training or other: Thomas volunteers)

Questionnaire survey implementation—at/ towards the end of tourists' stay.

Interview location: port of tourist exit from country (airport, port, train station, other). Strata/ ratios of interview location to be determined on the basis of significance of port of exit/entry in each case study, based on tourist arrival statistics= 1st level of interviewee stratification.

Supplementary interviews to be held, if necessary in hotels, outside museums, archeological sites, etc. Helpful to interview local officials in charge of GI in each municipality, as well as to investigate official tourism websites of each surveyed city, in order to get good understanding of important GIs in each city, of their assets, weaknesses, potentials etc. both before selecting cities as case studies and also in order to discuss findings in their proper perspective.

Sampling process: purposive sampling, random sampling procedure (to be determined on occasion). Further levels of stratification: effort to stratify, at least by sex and age (+other biographical factors?)

Data analysis: SPSS analysis. Data compiled and delivered to data analyst in excel sheet or WORD format document. Decodification of open-ended questions to be done by the group, via skype or

workshop/ meeting, led by Greek team. Funded either in conjunction with data collection or separately—voluntarily (student practical training or other/ Thomas?).

Outcomes—results: explorative study, indicative trends only.

- 1) Research paper—journal publication (compilation of all? case study results), publication in Urban Forestry & Urban Greening (interest already declared). Perhaps also individual/ country-level research articles.
- 2) Book chapter on Tourism and GI/ UF
- 3) Policy/management guidelines to municipalities involved in survey and relevant ministries.

Timelines:

- a) Application for STSMs + allocation of case study surveys, February 2015
- b) Survey implementation – July 2015
- c) Data analysis—subsequently, completed by end of 2015
- d) Article and book chapter writing (by the end of 2016?)
- e) Development of guidelines, by the end of the COST Action, in collaboration with other relevant COST Action IS1204 (TObeWELL).
- f) Development of concept and other sorts of papers, by the end of the COST Action, in collaboration with the above COST Action.

#### OBJECTIVES

1. Development and implementation of cross-cultural questionnaire survey; analysis of data and drawing of results; compilation of report
2. Publication of one joint research article, on the basis of the compilation of all? questionnaire survey results + possible publication of country-level research articles
3. Contribution of one chapter to COST Action book
4. Development of urban tourism policy and GI/UF management guidelines for municipalities involved in survey and relevant ministries
5. Linking our COST Action research and its outcomes with those of other relevant COST Actions

PLANNED MEETING—End of summer (Lesvos/Greece?), beginning of fall 2015, to discuss data analysis and research article compilation/ writing.

#### **Task Group 4**

**Andreji Verlic and Sylvie Nail**

Objectives

- Learning from bad experiences, mistakes, mishaps and unexpected consequences to provide insights for practitioners, policy makers and researchers

- Progress at Lausanne and Rome meetings
  - We analysed the two rounds of survey
  - 11 countries returned 17 answers: Italy (3), Spain (1), Poland (1), Greece (2), Turkey (2), Hungary (1), Netherland (2), Ireland (1), Romania (1), UK (1), Serbia (1)
  - Designed the structure of chapter/guidelines
  - We have identified people / practitioners attending EFUF
  - Is it possible to use the STSM instrument to analyse the stories?
  - Who have been working on the topic: Senka Mutabdžija, Sylvie Nail, Clive Davies and Andrej Verlič

Analyses of the questions, drafting of a paper on the results for publication in an accessible journal or trade magazine.

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**Object: Meeting Minutes WG3**

Chairman: Silvija Krajter

Collaborators: Fabio Salbitano, Ralph Hansmann, Natalie Gulsrud, Nerys Jones

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**SUBGROUP (SG) 1- PHYSICAL RESOURCES** (leader: Anders Busse Nielsen, DK)

Following the small group meeting in September 2014, the group continued to discuss about the content of the survey questionnaire and how to implement it. The questionnaire is designed to help us learn what information about the amount of urban forests is already available in national forest inventories and what other information on green space is available at different levels.

Therefore, three surveys were designed for the national, regional (case study Lombardy in Italy) and the city level (case study Florence). The questionnaire was updated integrating a question on economic valuation prepared in accordance with SG4.

The questionnaire has been already communicated to international organisations- EEA, EFI, and FAO who are supporting it, while contacting the Steering Group of the European National Forest Inventory Network- ENFIN is still in progress.

The group also discussed and worked on approach how to administer these surveys. This included developing a mailing list of national contacts (national representatives who are participating in this COST action) who are going to be approached to help with survey administration. The survey will be also announced on the GreenInUrbs website.

The questionnaire layout was agreed, as well as cover letter.

Next steps:

- Sending out survey questionnaire (December 2014)
- Data collection including reminders for those who has not replied (by March 2015)
- Preliminary data analysis (April-May 2015)
- Presentation of the preliminary results on the next meeting in Nice (June 2015)

The groups also discussed the content of the review paper on knowledge and understanding of urban forest physical resources according to GI approach, that was expected to be finished by the end of the next year. The timeframe of the paper is as follows:

- December 2014- structure of the paper developed
- January 2015- structure of the paper revised and writing tasks assigned
- March 2015- first draft of the paper
- June 2015- working on the paper during the meeting in Nice
- Autumn 2015- second draft
- December 2015- paper manuscript submitted.

**SG2 - COLLABORATIVE PROCESSES/PARTNERSHIPS** (leader: Ralph Hansmann, CH)

It was agreed that Ralph Hansmann will take over the leadership role from Silvija Krajter Ostoić. The rationale for this decision is that Silvija's role as a WG leader is seen as the one integrating work of all subgroups and being a helping hand for all of them which is not very efficient in case she is a leader of one particular subgroup.

The SG discussed on the structure of the paper based on the previous draft produced during small group meeting in Skopje in September 2014.

Topics discussed during the meeting:

- Definition of partnership
- Their topical diversity
- Which (types of) UF/GI partnerships exist in European countries, what are the types of driving forces factors and reasons behind it.
- What types of GI and UF exist?
- What is the purpose of the partnership? (maintaining, creating new space, redevelopment, improving use, information transfer)
- What criteria can be applied to measure the quality and success of the process and outcomes of GI and UF partnerships?
- What kind of land ownerships exist?
- (Question whether and how the landownership influences the partnership)
- Financial models - what models of UF and GI have been applied and implemented
- Initiatives: what kind of initiatives is the basis of the partnerships?
- Time frame of partnerships

The further tasks and deadline are agreed.

Deadline for sending the inputs (according to tasks distributed in Rome) for the second version of the paper to Ralph is January 2015.

### **SG3 – POLICIES** (leader: Natalie Gulsrud, DK)

Based on the discussion during small group meeting in Copenhagen that was held in September 2014, the group continued with working on the common paper. The paper deals with challenges for governance of GI in Europe with the emphasis on green space governance and management. The paper is based on the analysis of relevant UF and GI related policies, literature review and content analysis of proposals for the European Green City Award contest which applicant cities need to provide to explain why they should be awarded according to common set of criteria. The groups agreed on tasks and deadlines by the end of the year that includes Skype meetings and Skype working sessions. Expected deadline for the manuscript is December 2014.

### **SG4 - ECONOMIC VALUATION OF GI BENEFITS** (leader: Nerys Jones, UK)

This is the new SG within this WG for the purpose of enhancing the action through providing an economic perspective of urban forests and GI that would complement ecological, socio-cultural and governance perspectives that have been already covered in this action.

The need for comprehensive studying of economic aspects has been raised also during the small group meeting held in Zagreb in the end of October 2014 that resulted with an implementation plan. The plan proposes several groups of activities that could be implemented within the timeframe of this action:

- Using case studies to exercise economic valuation of GI benefits to show how different valuation models work and what kind of information they provide- it is proposed that the first case study would be the city of London since the information needed as an input for models is already available.
- Involving new people either from participants of this COST action or beyond to continue working on the topic of economic valuation of GI benefits (potential opportunity for STSM in Bulgaria).
- Participating in a session/workshop within the European i-Tree conference in Alnarp, Sweden, 12-13 March 2015 with several presentations:
  - presentation on the valuation of GI benefits based on selected case study (London) by using 2 different valuation models
  - presentation of a range of (e)valuation models and their suitability
  - other presentations.
- Review paper on types of economic models available for different purposes (family tree of models)
- Book chapter on economic valuation of GI benefits
- Exploring possibilities for project proposals (e.g. Horizon 2020 on role of urban vegetation in sustainable architecture).
- Writing articles and publishing these on GreenInUrbs website.