



European Science Foundation

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R.P.M.861.794.916 – Tribunal de Commerce de Bruxelles

‘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

Minutes Management Committee Meeting COST Action 634

‘On- and Off-site Environmental Impacts of Runoff and Erosion’
Samos, Greece 27th May 2006

1 Welcome to participants, adoption of agenda.

Anne-Véronique AUZET, chair of the Cost Action 634, welcomed the delegations. The agenda was adopted.

2 Recent changes in the COST Technical committees (Emil Fulajtar reported)

- COST634 is now included in a wider grouping under the heading of “Earth Science and Environmental Management”
- In future there will be more emphasis on the evaluation of results from each Action. Calls may be supported through a grant system, requiring better financial pre-planning and continued funding dependent on satisfactory progress.
- Calls for new Actions will be more coordinated and more widely advertised. This is likely to make acceptance of new proposals drop from its present acceptance rate of about 70%. Calls will in future be made for specific dates, the first on 31st May 06, and the second probably in March ’07.

3 Short reports:

TCE meeting (october 6th 2005)

- All decisions have to wait until budget for FP7 is adopted (probably early summer 2006)
- Current budget will be reserved to ensure continuation of ongoing actions (same budget for all actions despite of the size)
- They want to actions to manage their budget themselves
- John Williams is current (interim) scientific officer for COST 634. He is generally in charge for the agricultural domain.
- COST 634 presentation during this meeting

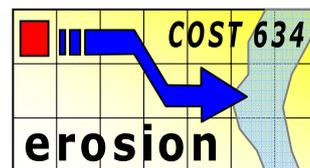
Lublin COST 634 Conference (Sept 2005)

- Summary given by A-V. Auzet. 70 participants, 19 countries. 17 oral presentations, 30 posters. The Main points of discussion:
 - involving farmers and other relevant actors at each stage in preparing conservation management schemes. Successful implementation, or subsequent maintenance ?



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- Good and bad practice : guidance for the future ? Solutions to be tailored to each situation and because the policy framework is ever-changing.
 - Understanding of larger areas and longer periods ?
 - scenarios for changing land use must involve the human dimension
 - Reliance on model forecasts : inappropriate, because of the uncertainty
- Publications, they are not many journals who accept these papers and they don't want a special issue. Journal of Land management and degradation has agreed to publish a special issue but too few contributions. Rouen and Lublin list of contributors should allow to provide a number of papers sufficient for a grouped publication.

SGM of the socio-economic group, Strasbourg (April 2006)

- 23 participants from 4 countries. 9 oral papers + discussants. Report is being written. Main aspects were on Effects of agricultural policies, Economic impacts for farms, Farmer’s soil knowledge, Networks to manage soil erosion, prevention and compensation of muddy flows. Main points of discussion:
- On the contribution of social sciences to soil conservation
 - Increasing efficiency by extension and participation
 - Evaluation, Communication / Concertation
 - What can go wrong ?
 - Incentives questions

Oral paper will be presented as contribution to the Wageningen WG1 & 2 meeting.

4 Future conferences planning

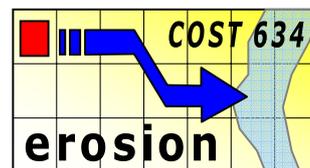
Topic	Organisers	Date	Location
Short term responses to changes in land use, critical assessment based on modeling	Dino Torri	May 2007	Firenze
Offsite effects of sediment transport (muddy floods, chemicals/pollution, siltation etc).	Toma Dostal	October 2007	Prague

The Firenze Meeting is expected to include all three Working groups as well as a Management Committee meeting. The preferred topic of the organiser, Dino Torri, was reported to be on short term responses to changes in land use, for example in changing from arable crops to vineyards, with the accompanying increases in erosion until the new systems are fully established.



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In discussion, it was felt that a wider topic was needed, to better fulfil the outstanding objectives of the Action, although probably within the broader theme of land use impacts. It may be possible to focus better on a suitable topic or topics after analysing achievements of the Action that are currently being collated for the mid-term report.

The Prague Meeting. A provisional topic of offsite effects of sediment transport (muddy floods, chemicals/pollution, siltation etc) was discussed, but again deferring a final decision until the mid-term report had been completed.

MC approved the 2 conferences proposed for May and October respectively 2007. Organisers are asked to interact with WG chairs for the preparation..

5 Budget:

average 800 €/per person / meeting. For Wageningen 25-30 persons approved.

SGM in Strasbourg: 9 persons reimbursed.

SC Brussels: 8 persons reimbursed.

Samos: travel was more expensive, hosting is much less expensive. Suggestion of the COST bureau: reimburse one overnight less than asked.

MC approved that one night is reimbursed so more money will be left for the budget

Suggestion: 2 are reimbursed if 3 are coming? But it seems too complicated

A suggestion was made that the country representative gives a priority list, the first is taken and the organizers decides on the rest. This suggestion has first to be discussed with the scientific officer to check if the COST rules allow it's approval.

If there is money at the end of the year for whatever reason, MC approved the idea to held an SGM on muddy floods, and the next SC meeting at the end of the year in spite of beginning 2007.

6 Future COST actions:

The topic for a future action is proposed: risk and hazard assessment ?
During the next months we will start on a proposal. Pre-proposal March 2007 Start with idea development in January (SC meeting).



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7 AOB

Radio-nuclides topic: Emil Fulajtar asks for cooperation with atomic energy agency and send a COST representative to the final meeting. Or, organize a summer school in cooperation with Andreas Klik, Vienna. Summer school support could be obtained from ESF through different funds.

Anne-Véronique Auzet, Chair of the action



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