



Management Committee Meeting

COST Action no. IS1002

Action Title: Modernet, a network for development of new techniques for discovering trends in occupational and work-related diseases and tracing new and emerging risks

Venue ANSES, Paris, France during meeting from 16 to 18 October 2013

MC meeting on 17 October 2013 14.00 – 16.00

1. Welcome to participants (Raymond Agius)

2. Adoption of agenda and approval of minutes and matters arising of last meeting (Raymond Agius/Annet Lenderink)

3. Update from the Action Chair

a. Status of Action, including participating countries

- Australia is no more a COST-partner country (due to budget COSTS) but MONASH university (Malcolm Sim's Institution) remains a Modernet Partner.
- Malta and Switzerland join the action in 2013.

b. Action budget status (See annexe 1 and point 8 c.)

c. STSM status and new applications (Lode Godderis)

- 2012: 3 STSMs; 2013: budget for 6 (short + long), 7 applications, 6 approved, one was cancelled for personal reason, one has been postponed. There's still a place before the end of November. A report will be done and available for each STSM.
- Information about SSTM are available on the website.
- 2014: 2 long and 2 short STSM would be possible.
- It is possible to introduce a new promising researcher within STSM and it's not reserved only to people who attended previous Modernet meetings.

4. Promotion of gender balance and of Early Stage Researchers (ESR)

- Gender balance is OK, as well as Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) involvement (ESRs: PhD + 8 years).
- Grant opportunity is available to attend a conference for ESR. There are 3 options of funding (3 x 3000 €). Informations are available on Modernet website.

5. Update from the Grant Holder, COST office and DC Rapporteur (Annet Lenderink and Rita Zukauskine)

- Every administrative duties should be done on line later, but for this time, we still have to send our receipts (travels) by mail to Annet Lenderink.
- The new COST Office officers were invited but couldn't come. It is possible that our administrative officer change, which Annet Lenderink, our Grant Holder representative, regrets a lot.
- Rita Zukaskainen, our domain controller attended the meeting. She added notably that STSM are not limited to COST countries. She also added that additional fundings can be received for publishing a book. Annet highlighted that would be interesting if other virtual means of dissemination could be funded.

6. Annual Progress Conference (preparation and/or feedback from DC) (Raymond Agius)

- Domain meeting (Malta, Tallin, June 2013) : One of the problem highlighted was the fact that there were sometimes more members in MC than in WG (less people active than expected). But this is not a problem anymore from our 2nd year. There are less and less people in management comity and not in WG.
- Final conference (BOLOGNA 13, 14 Octobre 2014) : An extra budget of 3 000 € would probably be provided to organized this final meeting ? For the final conference, there will be more external expert invited. Evaluators should come from another budget than our action budget (to be checked). Concern is expressed that there might be some repetition, due to the fact that we will have to summarise what has been achieved for evaluators. The objectives will be to satisfy evaluators but also clarify new ideas for the future, as Modernet started before and will continue after COST funding. Annet already proposed a plan for this 2 days meeting :
 - Give each WG one half day (two blocks : one specific objective, one showing collaboration)
 - Presentation of things achieved, presentation from an expert outside of Modernet
 - Perspectives : How we take Modernet forward, beyond COST
 - Last half day (or several hours before opening of ICOH congress: SC.OM and SC.H Services Research): Dissemination. Especially, virtually dissemination is more important than printing book. Panel discussion; Nice closing lecture.
 - Involve other persons than WG leaders.
- Raymond heard a nice definition of a “joint publication” from another COST action: “Publication in which Cost-action is improved in term of value, publication where COST-action was a source of substantial added value (conceptual, etc).”

7. Progress report of working groups

- WG1:
 - Regarding Cochrane review, draft was sent on time to Cochrane collaboration. Final version should be presented in Zaragoza.
 - Systems for recording: results are obtained,
 - Repository of search strings (new one regarding agricultural workers disease published in American Journal of Industrial Medicine).
 - Level of evidence to know if a disease is occupational or not : one paper will be submitted and common work is in progress with WG3.
 - Thesaurus (next step).

- WG2:
 - Key topic 1 - interventions :
 - ✓ evaluation of impact of directives etc at national level/EU level on short latency diseases, eg asthma associated with exposure to flour retrospective/prospective
 - ✓ prospective implementation of a preventative workplace measure and prospective evaluation, eg focus on certain industries with intent to prevent occupational allergic diseases in EU
 - Key topic 2: Develop new tools to detect 'signals' from routine surveillance data
 - Key topic 3: Estimate trends of WR mental health problems (& others) in EU countries
 - Key topic 4: improvement in surveillance systems from epidemiological perspective
 - Publications are in progress. Almost everything was done

- WG3: Progress is made:
 - There are new members and new interesting interaction with WG1,
 - OccWatch was developed by Serge Faye,
 - Next step is to organise things in a comprehensive way for new steps and grant application.

- WG4: "Find the way to participate not just disseminate"
 - Main recent topic is the special issue but also, the website. One objective is to be present in social networks, and newsletter.
 - Claudio asked for contributions and he highlighted that on the website, we can use mapping tools and interactive maps to display the institutes and existing systems to report OC.

8. Scientific planning

a. Scientific and strategy (Raymond Agius) - (ahead Friday presentation)

We're doing very well in delivering on our current objectives. We have achieved most of our objectives and we have exceeded our targets in a number of our objectives. We have formed good links and networks, between ourselves. Some of the Modernet partners have got excellent publications, and joint publications are underway. But not all Modernet partners equally strong in terms of ongoing research, publication record, funding; staff and other resources or national environment and local support. The strategy is :

- Do what we are doing well
- Make sure it is seen by others to be done well (disseminate as WG4 activities),
- Involve more partners, stakeholders and external speakers as Elke Schneider from EU-OSHA or Jorge Costa-David and other disciplines (data mining, health economic, exposure assessment, other COST actions).
- Evolve to respond to change / re-evaluate objectives
- Succeed with funded proposals: look other sources of founding (Marie-Cury for example). See how to best answer what the commission or its directory wants to finance and largely addressed. To be able to ensure we will get funding beyond COST.

b. Dissemination planning (Publications and outreach activities)

Claudio Colosio said that we have to introduce our activities to several stakeholders as WHO on Occupational Health (interested in new WRD). Claudio also proposed to introduce Modernet next week during organisation meeting for ILO- ICOH 2015 congress in Korea. Some possible sources of fundings could also be Marie Curie actions, PhD programs between our universities etc.

Roseanne McNamee added that we also have to make links with other Health agencies as EUROFUND or General EU Public Health Indicators.

c. Action Budget Planning (Annet Lenderink)

See her power-point is annexe 1.

For the final conference, usually a budget increase of 50%, but might be more (cf examples presented in Domain Committee in Tallin).

We also discussed to see how to increase the budget for publications.

d. Long-term planning (including anticipated locations and dates of future activities) (Annet Lenderink)

• Training school

- Proposal by Gert Van der Laan. This subject was discussed in Bucharest (advantages and disadvantages). There were a couple of proposal but it's still in discussion. Training schools is one of the COST networking tools. The objective is also to develop future primary collaborations and our network.
- Public: young researchers from our network, national institutes in EU countries dealing with OD statistics (targeted call for application among our contacts).

- Discussion of Scientific ideas :
 - o Is it already taught by other teaching group operating yet. According Gert, small overlap with what is done in Brescia (Source of inspiration?). Surveillance rarely included in these kind of courses.
 - o Look also at what is presented for the School of Epidemiology in Florence.
 - o Focus more on methodologies rather than results.
 - o Also add the level evidence of new things.
 - o Proposition to do things online too.
 - o Prefer a mixt approach but nice to be involved in one subject for 3 days.
- Financial aspects
 - o Budget: 30,000 €
 - o 3 days minimum - might be reduced for a 3 days courses
 - o Probably ask students to contribute, stakeholders can come by their own
 - o Teachers stays?
 - o Find a nice combination between lectures, working-group, home work... Ex of NIVA courses. Teacher stay the whole day
- We could launch a call of proposals within Modernet to study who could host it

9. AOB (Raymond Agius)

- Local audience
 - o Rome
 - o Bucharest for local Romanien doctors
 - o Raymond presented in French Institute of Public Health InVS
- 2015: World Congress on Rural Health

10. Location and date of next meeting

- Proposition of joint meeting WG1-WG3: Meeting of IARC colleagues (not on COST budget) + extra-meeting (if possible in Oslo, otherwise elsewhere).
- Zaragoza (presentation of Begona Martinez), (7 to 9 or 9-11 April)

Zaragoza is a roman city with an islamic and jewish heritage.

New digital centre has been opened for sciences and technologies, in front of the railway. There are some flights to Paris, London, Germany, some low coast but not every day.

Sometimes it's more convenient to take a high speed train from Madrid or Barcelona airports (same distance, identical connections).

11.Requests for new members (Raymond Agius)

Turkey was a clever applicant but stopped by its national level (which asked for research fundings). We add a discussion to know if it still worth to include new countries in the last year or if it might depend on future plans.

12.Closing (Raymond Agius)

Annexe 1

Action Budget Planning



Report from the COST Office

- New Science Officer since March 2013:
Dr Luule Mizera (luule.mizera@cost.eu) from Estonia
- Participating countries: Malta and Switzerland join the Action in 2013
- New MC members:
 - For Malta Neville Callega and Julian Mamo as MC members
 - For Switzerland David Meidinger as MC members
- Top-up for Paris meeting 10,000 euro



Budget status over reporting year 2013

Activity	Date	Place	Costs
MC/WGs Meeting	29–31 May	Bucharest	€ 41,434
WG1 Meeting	5–7 February	Tampere	€ 3,590
MC/WGs Meeting	16–18 October	Paris	± € 54,000
STSMs	5		
Natasa Janev	4–8 March	Helsinki/ Kuopio	€ 1,200
Stefania Curti	1–14 September	Manchester	€ 1,600
Stefan Mandic	October	Grenoble	€ 2,500
Gaia Varischi	4–10 November	Amsterdam	€ 1,360
Lynda Bensefa	November	Manchester	€ 1,400
Website			€ 1,500
Total Science Expenditure			€108,584
Total Budget		Approx.	€107,000





Plans for Work Plan 2014

- Meeting in Zaragoza April 2014 1.5 or 2 or 3 days (tbd)
- Extension of meeting with combined meeting of WG1 and WG3 on level of evidence in Ods 0.5 or 1 day (tbd)
- Training school 1 week
- Final meeting Bologna 13–14 October 2014 (back to back with ICOH midterm meeting of SCs on Occupational Medicine and Health Services Research 15–16–17 October 2014)
- Website maintenance
- OccWatch change to other computer system (Drupal)



WBP 2014

Activity	Date	Place	Costs
MC/WGs Meeting	April 2014	Zaragoza	€ 46,000
Final Meeting	13–14 October	Bologna	€ 54,000
STSMs	5		€ 9,000
Training school	August	Grenoble?	€ 31,000
Website			€ 1,500
Occwatch			€ 4,500
Publications			€ 2,000
Total Science Expenditure			€ 148,000
Total Budget		Approx.	€ 124,000

