



Growing
ideas
through
networks

COST CONVERGES – MC meeting

13th February 2020



Welcome, before we start

- Quorum (presence of two-thirds of the Participating COST Countries)
- Attendance list



Adoption of the Agenda (VOTE)

1. New participants and Evote (vote)
2. Work and Budget Plan 3 (WBP3) achievement
3. Second progress report and adaptation of outputs (deliverables, etc.) (vote)
4. Next Work and Budget Plan (05/20 to 04/21)
5. Final conference
6. Questions, comments ?



1. New participants and e-vote (since last MC)

Moldavia

- Veaceslav GHENDOV (MC member) ; Nina CIOCÂRLAN (MC Member); Aliona MIRON (MC Substitute) and Olga IONITA (MC Substitute), from the Botanical Garden (Institute) of the Academy of Sciences of Moldavia

Cyprus

- Ioannis VOGIATZAKIS (MC member), from the Open University of Cyprus



1. New participants and e-vote (since last MC)

Work and Budget Plan 3 (ongoing 05/19 to 04/20)

Management Committee minutes (Pruhonice, 04/19)

Dissemination Meeting Grant:

- Dejan Mandžukovski, EVS Congress (<http://evs2019madrid.es>), Madrid from 2 to 6 sept. 2019
- Marta González del Tánago, ISRS Congress (<http://isrs2019.info/cms/index.php/home-235.html>), Vienna from 8 to 13 Sept. 2019

Leading positions

- ITC Coordinator: Dr Daniel Bruno
- Leader of WG2: Dr Roland Jansson and Dr Ragnhildur Sigurdardottir as co-leader



2. Work and Budget Plan 3 (WBP3) achievement

All expected activities : done

Action budget status

- Annual meeting
- Provision for Tartu meeting
- All the rest => open call for STSM (apply before 15th February, to be performed before 30th April 2020)



2. Work and Budget Plan 3 (WBP3) achievement

Meetings (96 000 / 142 000 euros)


- Annual + MC Meeting
- Working group's meeting (n = 3)
 - Sept. 2019 : Belgrade, Riparian restoration and genetic conservation (WG2)
 - January 2020 : Madrid, Riparian vegetation and global changes (WG1)
 - March 2020 : Tartu, Riparian vegetation and social dimensions (legislation, social awareness, management practices) (WG2)
- Dissemination meeting (n = 2)



2. Work and Budget Plan 3 (WBP3) achievement

STSM (17 000 / 142 000 euros)

- 2 types : open / dedicated to WG activities



Participant	Home Country	Host Country	Gender	ECI?	Topic
Pástor	Slovakia	Czech Republic	M	Y	Riparian habitat quality evaluation – development and implementation of a new methodological approach
Manolaki	Denmark	Portugal	F	Y	Interaction between riparian-marginal vegetation and stream ecosystem processes and functions
Garófano Gómez	France	Spain	F	Y	Assessment protocol for river vegetation status and quality in Europe
Alimpić	Serbia	Portugal	M	Y	Status and needs on genetic resources conservation across European riparian ecosystems: Country reports
Külvik	Estonia	France	M	N	Implementation framework for the Converges' stakeholder component



2. Work and Budget Plan 3 (WBP3) achievement

Training School (n = 1 ; 15 000 / 142 000 euros)

Title : Development of phytocoenological databases and methods for analysis of riparian vegetation data

Location : Sofia (Bulgaria)

Date : October 2019

Number Of Trainers : 4

Number Of Trainees : 14 funded



2. Work and Budget Plan 3 (WBP3) achievement

ITC Conference grants (n = 5)*

Goal : supporting ECI and PhD students from Participating ITC to attend international events that are not organised by the COST Action

N = 3

- Dr Yaşar Selman Gültekin
- Mr Sertac Kaya
- Dr Pınar Gültekin



2. Work and Budget Plan 3 (WBP3) achievement

ITC Conference grants (n = 5 ; 8 000 / 142 000 euros)

Eligibility (Assess by ITC conf. Grant coordinator : DANIEL BRUNO COLLADOS)

- PhD candidates and ECI's from ITC
- an oral/poster presentation at the event AND the main subject must be on the topic of the Action
- must be pre-approved => Encourage to target quite specific conferences

For the next GP : clarify the rules (focus of the conference), put on the web site



2. Work and Budget Plan 3 (WBP3) achievement

Dissemination (5 000 / 142 000 euros)

- Website maintenance (used)
- Videos (used)
- Papers (not fully used)
- => STSM if the demand is high ? (VOTE)



3. Second progress report

Progress Review at 24 months (09/11/2017 to 09/11/2019)

Available on eCOST

COST Action
Progress Report at 24 months
(09/11/2017 to 09/11/2019)

**CA16208: KNOWLEDGE CONVERSION FOR
ENHANCING MANAGEMENT OF EUROPEAN
RIPARIAN ECOSYSTEMS AND SERVICES**

The Action was approved by the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) on 23-6-2017 and has the MoU reference COST 019/17.

This report shows the data entered into e-COST to enable the Action Chair to verify the completeness and accuracy of the report with the MC prior to submitting the report via e-COST in fulfilment of the rules for COST Action Management, Monitoring and Final Assessment.



3. Second progress report

(partially) cover :

- Definition and delineation of riparian zone and riparian vegetation
- scientific knowledge,
- ecosystems services,
- riparian vegetation assessment methods,
- European riparian zone pressures,
- phytoecological synthetic classification,
- riparian vegetation restoration measures,

Emerged topics :

- riparian genetic conservation,
- use of remote sensing tools and products.

Difficult topics :

- riparian stakeholders,
- riparian current management practices and
- legislation related to the riparian zone.



3. Second progress report

General comments

- High pressure on STSM
- High ratio of presence

COST Policies

- STSMs: 52 % of the participants come from ITC. 57 % go to an ITC and 10 % to a NNC
- STSM Gender : F (10) / M (12)
- STSM ECI : 62 %

Since November 2017

- 11 meetings,
- 1 training school,
- 21 STSMs,
- 7 ITC conference grants and
- 3 dissemination meetings
- 1 project(s) and 2 proposal(s) resulting from the Action networking.
- 2 papers
- 1 special issue



3. Second progress report

Positive element for their careers :

- positively considered in the evaluation of their current contract or their research team,
- helped to apply to positions
- substantially increased their ability to establish scientific connections with other European partners
- helped to get other funds

Risks :

- Delay in achieving some goals : (1) the lack of human resources on specific topics and (2) an initial overestimation of the objectives
- Risk of a lack of non-academic participants for the next activities
- BREXIT



3. Second progress report

« *Reasonably covered :*

- *riparian vegetation science,*
- *ecosystem services,*
- *riparian ecology and genetics,*
- *management and restoration,*
- *remote sensing tools and products*

Less covered :

- *involvement of actors from administration and legislation of riparian zones,*
- *incentives to nature-based solutions tools and ecosystem services*
- *more practical and interdisciplinary workshops*
- *citizen science initiatives »*



3. Second progress report

« The training initiatives are robust but they could be more interdisciplinary

The dissemination plan should be improved and local/regional NGO's can be very helpful as many EU countries have community/citizen science projects related to the topic of the Action (e.g. cleaning rivers), and many of them include schools, PME's, municipalities.

The goals of the Action are extremely relevant and timely, and they could benefit from a stronger dissemination plan and certainly from citizen science connected projects »



3. Adpatation of outputs (deliverables, etc.) (vote)

- Some topics are not completely covered in the expected schedule (e.g. exotic species in scientific knowledge, indicators in tools)
- Some topics were not initially identified but emerged (e.g. genetic resources)
- Some topics will be covered but not with the expected deliverables



WG1 (VOTE)

Proposal

Guidance to implement the protocol for the status/pressures assessment

Report about ecosystem services provided RV

Graphic description of relationships between pressures and status

Report about riparian status, pressures and changes in EU

Review paper

Updated version

Synthetic presentation of the European riparian vegetation classification

Report about potential gaps phytosociological knowledge

Formalized classification of riparian forests in southeastern Europe

Guidebook (species, habitats) for alliances of riparian forest

Report about riparian definition/delineation

Questionnaire and note about riparian vegetation assessment

Report about riparian vegetation assessment

Paper about riparian vegetation assessment

Policy brief

series of figures about States/pressures relations

Review paper about ecosystem services



WG2 (VOTE)

Guidance to implement the protocol for the responses assessment

Annotated bibliography of publications

Report of existing management practices by country/region

Synthesis of gaps in scientific knowledge

Synthesis of best illustrative practices

Synthesis of existing tools (indicators, models, etc.)

Report about integration of riparian vegetation in current legislation

Review paper(s)

Current management report

Legislation brief

Scientific knowledge : paper on scientific studies

Annotated list of turkey studies

Restoration measures reviews

Restoration : Toolbox for restoration (by type of degradation and region)

Restoration : Bibliography

Restoration : Gaps in knowledge, need for new methods

Restoration : database of restoration projects (not suggested, but would be useful)

Genetic conservation : directory of experts

Genetic conservation : information about most important riparian species

Genetic conservation : Progress report

Genetic conservation : Review paper on genetic conservation

Remote sensing review

Copernicus data assessment

Public / stakeholders awareness (list and report)



WG3 (VOTE)

User guidance (for science/management relationships)
Manifesto: what to include in teaching programs,
Guidance including effective tools, indicators and legislative propositions
Policy/forum paper (for scientific misalignments)



Collaboration with European Spatial Agency



Bridging science and policy through law

KEY POLICY MESSAGES

- Evidence-based legal reform builds bridges between science and policy.
- Evolving priorities necessitate adaptive, flexible laws.
- Legal rights must, and increasingly do, extend to basic human needs, environment and indigenous practice.

Alana
 © Neil Allison

Water International Policy Brief (blue series) are based on thematic special issues of IWRA's journal and published with the support of Routledge Press. They aim to provide high quality analysis and practical recommendations for policy makers on important development issues.

• Access Water International by becoming a member of IWRA: www.iwra.org

• or subscribe only to the journal at: www.tandfonline.com/doi/10.1080/10702672.2019.1644444

IWRA, as a neutral forum, does not necessarily endorse the views expressed herein.

 **Routledge**
 Taylor & Francis Group



WG4 (VOTE)

Website (access to all reports, documents, etc.)

A series of videos to present the Action and the main findings

Translated version of core documents

Skill database of riparian researchers

Final conference proceedings and videos

Dissemination framework

Website / social media

Video : presentation the the COST Acton CONVERGES

Translated version of core documents

Skill database of riparian researchers

ID Card

Final conference proceedings



4. Next WBG

- Grant Period 3 : May 2020 to April 2021
- Expected budget : 120 000 euros (- **20%**)



4. Next WBG

- MC + annual meeting, 2 days, 70 participants, January/February
=> 1 proposition (Netherlands)
Associated event : Remote Sensing training session/vegetation monitor
- dissemination meetings ?
 - rule/advice : not the same MC member, not at the same conference annually (ex. ISRS and EVS)
 - ESA ? SER ?
- ITC conference grants



4. Next WBG

WG3 ?

- STSMs
- Regional/Local workshops



4. Next WBG

Other demands

- Training school on tools (UAV)
- Workshop Antalia
- STSMs
- Dissemination



4. Next WBG

Training School - Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Applications for Riparian Ecosystems Management

Location: University Federico II, Naples, Italy

Dates: 22nd – 26th of June 2020 (alternative dates: 29th of June – 3rd of July 2020)

Coordination: Antonis Kavvadias (En Agris PC), Dr. Dimitris Stefanakis (UCanDrone PC)

Local Host: Pr. Salvatore Manfreda (University of Naples Federico II)

Scientific Team:

Dr. Dimitris Stefanakis (UCanDrone PC)

Antonis Kavvadias (En Agris PC)

Dr. Spyros Michas (Hydroex SA)

Vasilis Skliros (Hellenic Drones Academy)

Number of Trainees: 16-20 (depending on the COST funding)

Number of Foreign Trainers: 4-5 (depending on the final number of trainees)

Number of Local Trainers: Pr. Manfreda's scientific team (3-4?)



5. Final conference

Proposition :

- last grant period : May 2021 to September 2021
- organizing an international conference on Riparian vegetation
- 2 days - open to a large audience (field trip ?)
- Side events (Art, etc) ?
- disseminate our COST Converges outputs
- try to initiate a regular event



5. Final conference

Proposition :

- last grant period : May 2021 to September 2021
- organizing an international conference on Riparian vegetation
- 2 days - open to a large audience (field trip ?)
- Side events (Art, etc) ?
- disseminate our COST Converges outputs
- try to initiate a regular event

Bratislava, 17/18th May 2021

Other propositions ?

=> send an email and the core group will fix it (end of March)



6. Questions or comments ?