

COST ACTION TD0804  
'Soundscape of European Cities and Landscapes'

## **Joint MC/WG Meeting**

### **Minutes**

25 June 2009 (14.00'-18.00')

26 June 2009 (9.30'-12.30')

Venue: COST OFFICE  
149 Avenue Louise  
1050 Brussels  
Belgium

Local Host: COST OFFICE  
Thierry Goger & Sylvia Liteanu

## **AGENDA**

1. MC opening welcome to participants and information
2. Adoption of agenda
3. Minutes of the kick-off meeting
4. Report from the COST Officer
5. Progress report by MC Chair
6. Report by WG leaders
7. MC and WG memberships
8. Discussion and WG activities
9. WG meetings.  
Report by WG leaders
10. WG meetings.  
Discussion of activities
11. Report back from WG leaders to MC
12. MC Decisions and discussions
13. Activities for Euro-noise (next meeting)
14. Time and place for future meetings and long term plan
15. AOB
16. Closure of MC meeting

## **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

Andringa Tjeerd  
Aspuru Soloaga Itziar  
Axelsson Osten  
Banuelos Irusta Alberto  
Bento Coelho Jose Luis  
Berglung Brigitta  
Botteldooren Dick  
Brambilla Giovanni  
Chourmouziadou Kalliopi  
Dixon Max  
Dubois Daniele  
Genuit Klaus  
Gjestland Truls  
Jambrosic Kristian  
Kalivoda Manfred  
Kang Jian  
Lavandier Katherine  
Lercher Peter  
Leus Maria  
Lokki Tapio  
Maffei Luigi  
Preis Anna  
Pronello Christina  
Schulte-Fortkamp Brigitte

## **1. Welcome**

The Chair of the management committee (MC), Prof. Jian Kang welcomed the participants and the introduction of the MC members followed.

## **2. Adoption of the agenda**

Jian Kang introduced issues to be discussed, namely the objectives, including management issues (budget), the academic research and the Action List (Short/long term Plan). The (WGs) meetings were planned for a duration of two hours (16.00'-18.00') after the agreement of all MC members.

Brigitte Schulte-Fortkamp, Vice-Chair, suggested the WG meetings to be followed by a collaboration of the WGs.

Daniele Dubois indicated that there are overlaps in WGs and the tasks are not clarified.

Brigitte Schulte-Fortkamp suggested separate WG meetings and then WG(1-5) meeting.

Dick Botteldooren discussed the usefulness of the individual WG meetings, since some are members of two groups.

Jian Kang suggested that the MC is involved with the management and more time is needed for academic discussion.

## **3. Minutes and kick-off meeting,**

## **4. Report from the COST Officer and**

## **5. Progress report by MC Chair**

### Issues arising

#### *Budget*

Jian Kang invited COST Officer Thierry Goger for a report.

The budget allocated is 70.000euros from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2009 until 31<sup>st</sup> May 2010.

The COST Officer encouraged the MC members to follow their plan.

Jian Kang asked whether the budget would be altered if more countries sign in and received a positive answer by Thierry Goger. It was mentioned that Croatia and Norway intend to sign, hence the participating countries will reach seventeen, while Australia and Hong-Kong, as non-COST countries, cannot be counted for the budget. These countries will be contacted for official signatures, although the process will be fairly long, as stated by Thierry Goger.

Jian Kang raised the subject about the number of people to be involved in the Action. Tjeerd Andringa then commented on the budget (70.000 euros), which would not be sufficient for the meetings' usual expenses (3/4 of the year's budget) and other activities. Thierry Goger indicated that the amount cannot be changed, almost all actions do not spend the whole amount and that the priority should be running the STSMs. It was suggested that in December the amount would be checked and updated.

Jian Kang indicated that the amount was reduced from 94.000 to 70.000 euros.

After Luigi Mafei stated that some priorities should be fixed, Mr Goger suggested STSM as the first priority and Prof. Kang added that this meeting would clarify STSM proposals.

#### *Initial plans*

- workshop on soundscape modelling between WG1 and WG3, scheduled for autumn 2009.
- workshop of WG2 and WG3 on landscape documentation in 2010
- workshop in Berlin with invited experts for WG3
- 2 STSM, of about 2.000 euros each
- training school for WG5 with 3 speakers and about 7 attendees, excluding the ones from the host institution, estimated at about 12.000 euros.
- dissemination/publications.

## **6. Report by WG leader (after WG meetings)**

## 7. Membership

A priority would be to invite more countries to join the action, so that the budget would be increased and soundscape would be introduced to more people. Below the list of people that will contact acquaintances from COST countries is presented:

Luigi Mafei	–	Bulgaria Hungary
Tapio Lokki	–	Iceland
Jian Kang	–	Ireland
J. L. Bento Coehlo	–	Romania
Kristian Jambrosic	–	Slovakia Slovenia
Brigitte Schulte-Fortkamp	–	Switzerland [ <i>JK note: already in</i> ]
Brigitta Berglund	–	Israel South Africa

It was indicated that there is a reciprocal agreement between the COST Office and Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. However, special budget is allocated for STSM.

In general, early stage researchers are needed, particularly from different disciplines (background in anthropology, geography, psychology etc.). These people should not belong to the same university. Also there must be some flexibility and there should be two levels of membership.

Another topic of discussion was the website of the action. There was discussion about the format, the content, the budget and the domain. Jian Kang showed an example of a recently created website, by 'NoiseFutures Network' in U.K. The website should include a short description (200 words) of the members and the WGs. There was discussion about whether the databases should be included in the website. Truls Gjestland indicated the complexity of the format and Dick Botteldooren stressed the cost of the website and the COST Officer indicated that by the end of the Action COST Office will integrate the website to the COST website.

Peter Lercher raised the question of work involved because of the size of the database, Daniele Dubois stressed the importance of comparative studies, different languages and definitions and Jian Kang proposed a STSM to organise all this work.

## 8. Discussion and WG activities

Luigi Mafei asked for more details about STSMs (exchange of young scientists or people outside COST) and Thierry Goger provided information on the exchange of young researchers (and maybe PhD students) between countries/universities. The applicants must be linked with a MC member and must go to an institution of another MC member.

A discussion on a proposal to organise a symposium in Stockholm (European Green Capital of 2010) was also carried out.

The plans were further discussed by the MC committee.

- a. Luigi Mafei suggested parallel MC/WG meetings to be organised in Edinburgh on 28-29 October 2009. Then reimbursement issues were raised because of the Eurnoise09 conference, which will be carried out in Edinburgh at the same period, so some of the attendees of the meeting will be already at the conference. Thierry Goger clarified that one night before the meeting can be reimbursed.

- b. Brigitte Schulte-Fortkamp referred to DAGA 2010 acoustic conference in Berlin on 15-18 March 2010.
- c. The joined IOA/ABAV 2010 Meeting held in Gent on 27-30 April 2010 was also referred to as the venue of the workshop of WG3.
- d. Euroregio 2010, the EAA/AAAA(SDA) Regional Conference on Sound and Vibration, held in Ljubljana from 15 to 18 September 2010 was also proposed as a venue of a training course.
- e. A conference/symposium in Stockholm (European Green Capital of 2010) was also suggested.

In general it was suggested that the MC should aim to invite other fields rather than acoustics, such as architecture and environmental design.

Thierry Goger indicated that the dates of DAGA 2010 and IOA/ABAV 2010 are very close, so it would be better to choose one, having defined the objectives and probably organized a joined MC/WG meeting.

The connection between the contexts of the WGs, the definitions (like 'meeting', 'workshop' etc.) was also briefly discussed.

## **9. WG meetings (Thursday 25 June 2009)**

### **Report by WG leaders**

#### *Report from WG1:*

- Position of WG1 in the action
- Mission statement
  - Relationship physics – effect (perception)
  - Psycho-physics
  - Modelling/Simulation as a tool
  - Analysis, measurement equipment
  - Interaction with other WGs
- Soundscape
  - Better description
  - Acquire knowledge on perception
  - Acquire knowledge on health effects
- Sound source recognition
  - Role of attention
  - Cognition, emotion
  - Listeners as active participants

#### *Report from WG2:*

Database (knowledge base)

Entries with articles, reports, papers in conferences (relevant to soundscape study)

- Languages in Europe – Soundscape definition
- Knowledge on soundscape
- Variation of knowledge
- Sound quality of sources
- Knowledge collection and process by STSMs

#### *Report from WG3:*

- Sound perception – Effects on people
- Origin of sound, physiological issues, geography
- Descriptors of effect
- Implementation of soundscape vision (WG4 and 5)

*Report from WG4 and 5:*

- Feedback from WG 1 and 2
- Soundscape creation and improvement
- Symposium in Stockholm
- Awareness day (workshop, exhibition)
- STSM exchange
- Training school in Ljubljana (September 2010)

**10. WG meetings (Thursday 25 June 2009).**

Discussion of activities

**11. Report back from WG leaders to MC**

*Report from WG1*

WG1 referred to its role and tasks, the flexibility and the change of the target along the way. The activities are:

- a. Student competition: an STSM is needed to prepare the material and there is a low level of technical support. The subject will be source recognition, and there will be a prize for the winner. The aim will be to motivate young people to the field. There was discussion about i) the use of a mechanical device, ii) the time needed for preparation for the conference in Edinburgh, iii) the fact that this seems like research and iv) the training the users should have.
- b. Workshop in Edinburgh
- c. Workshop in Gent in April 2010 on Cognitive Science and Auditory perception. The MC members discussed reimbursement issues for the invited experts, disciplines the workshop is addressed to etc.
- d. WG1 needs to have two STSMs

*Report from WG2*

WG2 reported on the following issues:

- Content
- Definition of Soundscape
- Preliminary investigation to be sent to the MC and questionnaire
- Appropriate words for soundscape
- Translation of soundscape in different European Languages
- Personal definition of soundscape
- Types of soundscape (urban, recreational etc.)
- Properties of soundscapes
- Literature and Papers identified from keywords

Also:

- a. Definitions of soundscape
- b. Semantic space of the related words and concepts (audiovisual/natural sources)
- c. Compilation from available written information, relevant to soundscape issues

The above would be addressed to the MC members of the action via questionnaires, aiming to the experts' vocabulary/ common sense vocabulary and to PhD students starting their thesis (involved in the working group). There is a possibility that some STSMs could help process the questionnaires.

### *Report from WG3*

WG3 plans to organise two events:

Workshop in Edinburgh in October 2009

- Definitions on Soundscape
- Input from several sessions

The number of observers depends on the room's capacity. Conference attendees related to soundscape could contribute. Information on the workshop should be added to the website, ensuring the number of attendees is limited. There must be collaboration between WG1 And WG3, as well as with the ISO group.

Workshop at Berlin DAGA in March 2010

- Selective people to bring ideas
- Link to DAGA website
- Related activities:
- Lecture series with experts from Berlin
- Social, environmental quality of life and planning.

### *Report from WG4*

Workshop on Soundscape in Stockholm (Green Capital of Europe for 2010) in October 2010, followed by an exhibition/installation and the awareness week.

- Four-six themes, involving at least five speakers, mostly practitioners
- Two lecture sessions
- Exhibition session with posters, sculpture, virtual reality, films related to soundscape
- Input from architects and artists

WG4 plans on an exhibition that will be repeated in two more regions in Europe, combined with different workshops at every destination. Initial thoughts on the subject of the workshops are architectural heritage and new tendencies in design. Municipalities, universities, consultant companies and architectural associations should be involved.

The flyer for the first workshop should be ready for the next MC meeting in October 2009.

### *Report from WG5*

- Training School in Ljubljana, in parallel with Euroregio 2010, EAA/AAAA(SDA) Regional Conference on Sound and Vibration, 15-18 September 2010.

Topics will include soundscape and auralisation.

EAA will support some of the expenses for the 20 young researcher/student (postgraduate level) that will participate. The participants should be up to 35 years old or have up to five years from their PhD research. They should send a short CV and description of their work, together with a letter of motivation to WG4.

There should be balance between countries and universities.

The lecturers can be MC members or researchers attending the EAA conference.

By the end of the training school the participants can produce a 2000 word document

## **12. MC Decisions and discussions**

There was discussion on the 'rules' of attendance and new members in WGs. WG1 needs to have permanent members. WG2 had not discussed about it. WG3, 4 and 5 need occasional members. Jian Kang suggested limiting the number of members of the WGs unless somebody is really necessary.

It was stressed that this is a network project, so the priorities are to provide opportunities to young researchers and to invite experts from other disciplines, like architecture. There was discussion about experts bringing new ideas but at the same time the same things are repeating (soundscape definitions etc.). Also, the fact that although WGs are separated for the initial ideas and plans, they should be combined and collaborate.