

**COST ACTION TD0804**  
**'Soundscape of European Cities and Landscapes'**

Minutes of WG4 Meeting

16 March 2010 (9.00'-12.00'am)

Venue: Room B 501 in Building Gauß  
Beuth Hochschule für Technik in Berlin

Local Host: Beuth Hochschule für Technik in Berlin

## **AGENDA**

1. WG3 workshop in Ghent / IOA/ABAV 2010 Meeting (27-30 April 2010)
2. Euroregio 2010, EAA/AAAA(SDA) Regional Conference on Sound and Vibration in Ljubljana, 15-18 September 2010
3. STSMs
4. Conference in Stockholm (European Green Capital of 2010), 30 September-1 October 2010.
5. End of Meeting

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

Andringa Tjeerd

Axelsson Östen

Bento Coelho Jose Luis

Botteldooren Dick

Chourmouziadou Kalliopi

Dubois Daniele

Lavia Lisa

Maffei Luigi

Sakantamis Konstantinos

Siebein Gary W.

## **Welcome**

Prof. Luigi Maffei welcomed the participants.

## **Adoption of the agenda**

Prof. Maffei introduced the issues to be discussed and ask Prof. Botteldooren to provide information on the 1<sup>st</sup> topic.

### **1. WG1 workshop in Ghent**

Prof. Botteldooren informed the participants about the joint with ENNAH Workshop on Understanding, Modelling and Measuring Soundscapes. About 20 ENNAH participants will attend the workshop on Tuesday 27 April.

There will be funding for the members of WG1 and three invited experts (with a possible addition of a fourth). Also, some of the participants have been replaced. In total there will be 35 paid participants. The workshop will focus on theoretical schemes and will include three prepared discussions and questionnaires for the participants. In ABAV meeting there will be three structured sessions, one of which is on soundscape. Therefore, people of ABAV can also join the workshop.

People interested in the workshop can use the link for registration in the website. Some problems of the website design were also stressed, especially for the confusion created between Ghent's workshop and ABAV meeting, and need immediate attention.

Prof. Maffei indicated the importance of having invited experts for the workshop and Prof. Botteldooren pointed out the difficulty of experts agreeing on travelling only to attend a small workshop. Mr Andringa asked if the workshop is also addressed to young researchers and Prof. Maffei indicated the fact that there will be young researchers attending the summer school.

### **2. Euroregio 2010, EAA/AAA(SDA) Regional Conference on Sound and Vibration in Ljubljana, 15-18 September 2010**

Prof. Maffei provided information on the training course, as part of Euroregio.

Each course is organised by a different organisation. The programme of the Summer School will include several courses with the following topics:

- Topic 1: Soundscape \* (Monday, September 13 - full day)
- Topic 2: Voice/Musical Acoustics \* (Monday, September 13 - full day)
- Topic 3: Building Acoustics \* (Tuesday, September 14 - full day)
- Topic 4: Hydroacoustics (Tuesday, September 14 - afternoon)
- Topic 5: Numerical Methods (Wednesday, September 15 - morning)
- Topic 6: Psychoacoustics (Wednesday, September 15 - morning)
- Topic 7: Ultrasound (Wednesday, September 15 - morning)

Prof. Schulte-Fortkamp will provide a speech for topic 1. Due to the fact that people are not aware of soundscape, initially there will be discussion on noise annoyance evaluation, noise control techniques, soundscape approach. The courses of the next day will include phychoacoustics, numerical acoustics and building acoustics. Klaus Genuit will be the keynote speaker. On Saturday 18 September there will be exams, where 2 credits with at least two courses are needed for each young researcher.

The number of applications that have reached the organising committee is 25 up to now, especially from Italy and Germany. The deadline for registration when applying for an EAA grant is 30 May.

A priority in Ghent should be to invite people to Ljubljana. COST will pay the mobility and EAA will provide grants. The budget is 16.000 Euros that need to cover the expenses of 15 people and some of the expenses of the students of the training school. Prof. Botteldooren indicated

that there are some difficulties in applying for EAA grants. Prof. Maffei indicated that all presidents of EAA have already received the information and have uploaded it on their national website or a University's website.

Prof. Botteldooren explained that the problem is that grants can only be found at the bottom of the website. Prof. Maffei suggested that this information can also be added to the COST website, although few people visit it and Prof. Coelho stressed the need of redesigning it. Prof. Botteldooren suggested that it would be useful to remind MC members to inform students.

Ms Lavia referred to young researchers from the UK, appropriate for the course and Mr Andringa suggested the need to invite researchers from other disciplines, like doctors, psychologists etc. Dr Chourmouziadou stressed the difficulty of inviting master and Phd students from those disciplines, since they have already focused on different research topics and suggested to attract graduate/5<sup>th</sup> year students. Prof. Maffei pointed out that the idea was to have people that are already aware of soundscape, not students and Mr Andringa suggested that we can think about it for the future.

Prof. Maffei referred to the future training schools, and Dr Dubois indicated that soundscape is a conceptual topic and people from music can also attend. Prof. Maffei reminded the limited number of participants (max 60) and Prof. Botteldooren stressed the need to announce it to more people.

### **3. STSM**

Prof. Maffei discussed the Short Term Scientific Mission. In the past year 8 STSM applications have been approved, 6 of which for a duration of one week. The work of these STSMs is similar to a training school. The other two positions have duration of three months. The first young researcher from the University of Helsinki is going to the University of York and the second from the University of Osaka to the University of Torino. The budget spent up to now is 8.000 out of 12.000 euros.

Prof. Maffei expressed the interest of people in Italy to go to the department of Daniele Dubois. He stressed the fact that applicants will need to register with COST, apply until May and send a CV to Prof. Kang and Prof. Maffei. Once this information reaches them, Prof. Maffei will contact the COST Office.

### **4. Conference in Stockholm (European Green Capital of 2010), 30 September-1 October 2010.**

The conference webpage, <http://www.soundscape-conference.eu/>, was presented by Mr Axelsson. Just before the conference, a meeting of the European Cities Policy Group will take place. The MC will meet on Thursday 30 September in the morning and the conference will start after lunch. The programme can be found on the website. Mr Axelsson has applied for a grant of 60.000 euros. The aim is to attract as many planners and architects as possible.

Mr Axelsson presented detailed information on the conference. According to the presentation, the objectives of the conference are to:

- promote soundscape management
- investigate how soundscape management can be implemented
- attract architects
- inspire policy makers to promote soundscape of high quality.

Also, it needs to be stressed out to architects and urban designers that soundscape:

- is a resource
- needs careful management
- provides design opportunities and
- promotes quality of life, health and wellbeing.

Mr Andringa suggested that the direction should be public health. Ms Lavia stressed that the health impact needs to be understood and managed, for policy makers to confront it, and to

be more articulated to the general public. Also, there is little interest in soundscape among architects and planners and in topics outside current practice among public users. Noise control engineering is well established, unlike soundscape management. The strategy would be a) to develop and promote successful soundscape cases in various areas and b) to principally focus on the implementation of soundscape management at quiet areas. Mr Andringa added that what is needed is theory and common theme.

Prof. Maffei referred to TD0804 memorandum of understanding and especially to the two important outcomes, the awareness day for soundscape and urban design and the 'listen to your city'. It was suggested that, regarding Stockholm's conference, the American Institute of Architects and the American Institute of Planners might be interested, and that it would be more convenient for COST members to present soundscape at their conferences. Additionally, the fact that architects are more interested in theory and psychology rather than technical details and are visually sophisticated should be considered. Soundscape language should be translated into design.

Keynote speeches are planned for the first day of the conference, where locations should also be presented and discussed. Exhibitions and sound installations are discussed. Five workshops, with duration of one hour each are planned in three sessions. Prof. Maffei suggested that case studies and examples should underline simplicity and cost reduction, and attention should be paid to the message given to urban planners.

Dr Chourmouziadou asked Mr Axelsson how architects will be invited and if there is provision for space for exhibitions from different countries and universities. She referred to the workshop on Soundscape that the Schools of Architecture and Cinematography of Democritus University of Thrace and Aristotle University of Thessaloniki respectively are interested in planning for summer 2010. This workshop's outcomes can be presented in Stockholm. Dr Sakantamis suggested that another workshop on Landscape and Urban Planning, organised by the School of Architecture of Democritus University of Thrace for summer 2010, could integrate soundscape in the design, while the best student project can be presented in Stockholm.

Mr Axelsson stressed that the number of conference participants is restricted to one hundred and fifty. This number is reached with COST MC members, the European Cities Policy Group, network (like UIA) representatives and some local architects and planners. Prof. Maffei added that it is important to invite representatives from organisations, to receive future invitations for their conferences.

Ms Lavia suggested that there are plans for a future soundscape exhibition in England, where artists, musicians and curators can participate. This could involve soundscape installations regarding the impact of sound on the human body, aiming to put sound into context, and will be exhibited in several areas. The University of Santiago is also interested.

Prof. Maffei stressed that in order to attract architects, it might be appropriate to alter the website of the conference and its title, paying attention not to confuse soundscape with building acoustics and noise control. Prof. Siebein suggested inviting a well known architect to attract other architects. Dr Dubois indicated that there should be a soundscape approach to urban planners and that we should move from noise annoyance and noise control to soundscape.

Some discussion on the title of the conference followed. Suggested conference titles were 'Soundscape support to urban design and sustainable development' and 'Designing the soundscape of sustainable towns'. Mr Axelsson committed to publishing the conference's website under a new title.

## **5. End of Meeting**