



COST Action C23

Strategies for Low Carbon Built Environment

MC Meeting No. 7 and WG Meeting

10-11 / September / 2007

Venue:

University of Geneva Unimail, 40 rue du pont-de-l'Arve, Geneva

Local host:

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News from COST OFFICE

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1. Strategic Workshops

Strategic Workshops are an important new element in the positioning of COST. The aim is to bring researchers and decision makers together to discuss forefront topics, principally of an inter-disciplinary nature, which can be used in the future development of the topic and which may form the basis of future proposals, not only to COST, but also to the framework programme and to other European organisations responsible for research networking.

Possibilities with ESF (Research Conferences), INTAS, EUREKA as well as NATO Research programme are also available.

The Science Officer has submitted two projects of Strategic Workshop to COST OFFICE direction:

- “How to assess risk”
- “Environment & Transport: a challenge for experienced and non-experienced countries”

The direction is examining these proposals at the moment.

The MC is welcome to submit any comments and suggestions to Thierry Goger regarding these projects. All interest to be involved in this activity is also very welcome.

2. Open Call

2.1. Second collection date on 30 March 2007

The general COST Open Call was published on 3 April 2006, with a second collection date on 30 March 2007. As communicated by the TUD Science Officer to all DC members in May 2007, 406 (27 for TUD) were eligible and submitted to assessment. After the first stage of the assessment process (preliminary proposals), four proposals for TUD were accepted for the second stage of the selection process. They were assessed by an external expert panel on the 5th September 2007. The panel ranked the full proposals as showed in the table 1.

Rank	Ref	Title	
1	OC-2007-912	Improving the Quality of Suburban Building Stocks	UK
2	OC-2007-1068	Concrete Historical Buildings Assessment and Repair	IT
3	OC-2007-1115	Measuring urban vulnerability	CH
4	OC-2007-1319	Real-time monitoring, surveillance and control of road networks under adverse weather conditions	UK NL

Table 1: Ranking list of the four invited full proposals

All DC Chairs will meet on 27 September in order to agree on a cross-cluster consensus list of proposals. The Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) will then approve the selected Action proposals on 15-16 November, and will decide when the Actions will be launched. The first Actions should have the first MC meeting and be paid before the end of May and the second one at the beginning of September. They will

all apply the CGS (Cost Grant System) after having identified a grant holder during the first MC meetings.

2.2. Third collection on 30 September 2007

A 3rd collection date was decided during the last CSO meeting and published afterwards. The deadline is 30 September 2007.

The MC is encouraged to disseminate this information among all participants of the Action as well as the scientific community.

3. COST Grant System

The implementation of the COST Grant System has been delayed due to IT technicalities. COST OFFICE is seeking to launch the implementation by Autumn 2007. After a period of test, all Actions ending after December 2007 will have to migrate to the COST Grant System.

The SO has already started to prepare the migration gathering the requested documents (name of the Grant holder, work & budget plan until 2008) for all running and starting Actions.

The implementation of the new system within TUD is waiting for the availability of the IT tool and the official starter signal from COST OFFICE direction.

The SO will keep the MC inform as soon as he gets more information.

4. Status of the Action

➤ Action details

- CSO approval: 15/03/2005
- Entry into force: 09/06/2005
- End of the Action: 12/10/2009

➤ Objectives

The main objective of this Action is to investigate how carbon reductions can be achieved through appropriate design and management of the urban built environment. This will involve:

- minimising energy use and associated emissions from buildings,
- examining the indirect energy impacts of infrastructure developments.

➤ Signatures

- Already signed: 19 countries
-

Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom

- Chair: Prof. Philip John Jones
- Rapporteur: Luis Braganca

- Working Groups:2
- Non COST-Institutions: none
- Action Website: <http://www.lcube.eu.com>

5. Year Budget Status and Planning

5.1. Year Budget Status: 1 January 2007 until 31 May 2007

- Budget Status

The total Action Budget was 66 100 €.

- Budget Allocation

The overview of activities and and expenditures is presented in Table1.

2007 Budget

Total Action Budget

66100.00

Remaining Action Commitment

19947.69

Meetings

Meeting Type	Date	Place		Cost	Total
Joint MC and WG	1/02/2007	Athens (GR)		22801.03	
MC in Conjunction with Workshop	16/04/2007	Vienna (AT)		35591.29	
					58392.32

STSM

Beneficiary	Date	From	To	Cost	Total
Vesna Kosoric	01/04/2007	Belgrade (RS)	CH	2500	
					2500.00

Workshops

Title	Date	Place		Cost	Total
Joint MC and WG	01/02/2007	Athens		3000.00	
MC in Conjunction with Workshop	16/04/2007	Vienna		600.00	
					3600.00

General Support Grants

Title	Date			Cost	Total

Schools

Title	Date	Place		Cost	Total
					0

64492.32

Table1 : Budget activities between 1 January 2007 until 31 May 2007

5.2. Year Budget Status and Planning: 1 June 2007 until 31 May 2008

➤ Budget Allocation

The total Action Budget is 89 000 €.

2008 Budget

Total Action Budget

89000.00

Remaining Action Commitment

7000.00

Meetings

Meeting Type	Date	Place	Paid part	Cost	Total
Joint MC and WG	10/09/2007	Geneva (CH)		28800.00	
Joint MC and WG	4/12/2007	Madrid (ES)		25600.00	
Joint MC and WG	24/04/2008	Rzeszow (PL)		25600.00	
					80000.00

STSM

Beneficiary	Date	From	To	Cost	Total
					0

Workshops

Title	Date	Place		Cost	Total
					0

General Support Grants

Title	Date			Cost	Total
Website	4/05/2007			2000.00	
					2000.00

Schools

Title	Date	Place		Cost	Total
					0

82000.00

Table 2: Budget planning between 1 June 2007 until 31 May 2008

6. STSM Status & applications

Researchers applying for STSMs have to use the relevant on-line registration tool (<http://www.cost.esf.org/stsm>).(detail see http://www.cost.esf.org/fileadmin/cost_documents/guidelines/2-financial_instruments/2.3-STSM.pdf).

The Management Committee should be informed that the revised guidelines offer also the possibility of Group STSMs (two – three experts (each from a different signatory country) visiting one host institute at the same time).

There is an STSM application from Mr. Budimir Sudimac from Serbia to visit Stefan Behling in Germany from 01October 2007-15 November 2007 with the amount of 2400.00 €.

The MC is invited to examine the STSM application.

7. Publications & annual report

Each Action has also to submit a Progress Report before the end of a calendar year. A template can be found in the annex of the COST Document 222/03 ‘Guidelines for assessment, monitoring and evaluation of COST Actions’ approved by the CSO on 6-7 February 2003.

The MC is also invited to elaborate a publication strategy; the emerging responsibilities should be allocated as well as the necessary deadlines should be determined.

8. Monitoring

COST Document 271/05 contains information on the evaluation process implemented by Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) and adequately adapted by the Domain Committee on Transport and Urban Development..

The main objective of the evaluation is to assist the Management Committee (MC) of the Action to achieve their objectives and to allow the COST Administration to judge the effectiveness of the Action so far. The outcome of that process will also be used to evaluate the necessity of a prolongation of the Action or proposals to initiate follow-up Actions by the MC.

A mid-term evaluation was held on 19-21 September 2007 in Brussels.

The SO will inform the MC on the result of the mid-term assessment as soon as he gets the final comments from the DC.

9. Request for new members

The period within which COST member states can join this Action without any conditions being imposed runs for twelve months from the date of approval of the Committee of COST Senior Officials and expired on 15/03/2006. Any request of a COST member state for accession to COST Action C23 which will be submitted after this date will have to be approved by its MC.

Since the last MC meeting there are no new requests for membership.

10. Non-COST Participation

Since the last MC meeting the COST Office has not received any request from a Non COST institution.

11. Web News

The Management Committee is invited to discuss the necessary updates as well as further improvements of COST Web Site.

12. Long-term planning

The establishment of a long-term planning until the end of the Action may help considerably the management of the Action.

All activities which have a financial implication have to be approved by the MC (meetings, subventions, trainings courses, publications) and recorded in the minutes.

A draft work plan and budget plan was sent to COST OFFICE by the chairman. They cover the period from 1 June 2007 until 31 December 2008.

The DC is invited to discuss and approve a work plan and a budget plan. The DC is also encouraged to fix definitively some eventual missing details as date (with potential alternative dates), venue, local organiser, meeting objectives, reports, questionnaires, country contributions, Steering Committee meetings, etc..).

In addition, the DC is invited to extend already the work plan until 31 December 2009 and even more if possible.

13. Date and place of the next meeting

The DC is invited to fix definitively all meeting details regarding the next MC meeting, as date (with potential alternative dates), venue, local organiser, meeting objectives, reports, questionnaires, country contributions, Steering Committee meetings, etc..).