23/09/2022

# Subject │ Minutes of the Sixth Management Committee Meeting of COST Action CA18221: “PEsticide RIsk AssessMent for Amphibians and Reptiles”

1. **Welcome to participants**

The participants (**Annex 1**) were welcomed by Manuel Ortiz Santaliestra, Chair of the Action.

1. **Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda (**Annex 2**) for the 6th Management Committee (MC) meeting was adopted.

1. **Verification of the presence of two-thirds of the Participating COST Countries**

Total number of COST Countries having accepted the MoU: 32

Total number of COST Countries intending to accept the MoU: 0

Number of parties present at the meeting: 13

The quorum (2/3 of COST Countries participating in the Action) was not reached: 13 COST Countries out of 32 attended the meeting (COST doc. “Annotated Rules for COST Actions” V1.2, Article 3.8). No MC decisions can be taken by simple majority at the meeting.

1. **Approval of minutes and matters arising of and after last meeting**

The MC approved the minutes of the 5th MC meeting held online on January 20th 2022 without modifications.

The following decisions were taken by the MC by written procedure after last meeting:

* Reduction of daily allowance for the fourth Working Group 2 meeting and the Training School “The 3Rs in amphibian ecotoxicology”, to be celebrated in Portugal, to 150 euros. Approved by unanimity on 04 February 2022.
* Amendment of the budget of Grant Period 3 as follows:

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| **Activity** | **Previous budget (€)** | **Amended budget (€)** | **Description** |
| Meetings | 91,026 | 95,070.82 | Expenses were updated considering the actual expenses of the meetings that already took place, changes in the daily allowance and revision of the expected number of attendants and grant support |
| Training School | 21,180 | 16,635.18 | Expenses were updated in accordance with actual expenses of the Training School |
| STSM | 20,000 | 31,000 | The number and duration of the received applications was higher than expected. Budget was increased to support as many applications as possible |
| ITC Grant | 4,000 | 4,000 |  |
| Dissemination Grant | 2,000 | 0 | The dissemination grant was removed to favour STSMs. Their planned goals were anyway addressed by other activities. |
| Dissemination | 12,000 | 3,500 | The planned videos were postponed to the next GP, once activities have been fully resumed. Publication costs can be in part covered by institutional support. |

Approved by unanimity on 11 May 2022

* Reduction of daily allowance for the Second Working Group 1 and 3, and Third Working Group 4 meeting, to be celebrated in Germany, to 190 euros. Approved by unanimity on 08 June 2022.
* Election of Emily McVey as WG4 co-leader. Approved by unanimity on 27 June 2022.

Matters arising at last meeting, which needed further action from the MC were:

* Liaise with the webmaster for incorporating all necessary changes to the website, including new organizational structure and core group, and update of activities. The changes resulting from the new organizational rules associated with the entrance into Horizon Europe Framework Programme were progressively incorporated to the website during the weeks following the MCM5.
* Send proposals/topics for STSM that could be hosted at everyone’s institution. Several participants offered to host STSMs, and so it was included in the call for STSM applications that was launched on February 7th 2022.
* Liaise for possibly organising a symposium on PERIAMAR-related topics during the SEH congress and a PERIAMAR WG meeting on those dates in Belgrade. After debating with SEH congress organisers, a WG2 meeting was celebrated in Belgrade at the same time as the congress, on September 6th 2022.

1. **Update from the Action Chair**

The Chair presented an overview of the activities that took place during the Grant Period, including the nine STSMs, the three Working Group Meetings celebrated in Vairão (Portugal), Hirschberg (Germany) and Belgrade (Serbia) and the Training School celebrated in Aveiro (Portugal). A reference is made to the dissemination activities, which were presented by the Science Communication Coordinator, Anamarija Zagar, during the General Meeting. The SC Coordinator explained that there are two videos that have been elaborated on some of the Action activities and that will be ready for dissemination within the next days. A preliminary version of one of these videos, about the STSM conducted by Miruna Vizireanu at CIBIO-University of Porto (Portugal), was played.

The Chair presented the list of Working Group membership applications that were received since the tool was implemented in e-cost at the beginning of the current Grant Period. It was explained that some of the applicants were directly accepted because they were already WG members before the new application tool was implemented, but because they had not participated in any presential activity yet, they were not included in the list by WG members generated by default in e-cost. The rest of the applications were reviewed by the Core Group according to the criteria approved during MCM5. In total, 12 applications were received, 10 of which were approved. The two rejected applications corresponded to persons that has a profile clearly separated from any of the areas of interest of the Action.

1. **Action budget status**

The Chair, acting also as Grant Holder Scientific Representative, presented the details on the budget status of the current Grant Period. The estimated expenses in meeting, pending on checkout of the General Meeting, will be approximately of 66,000 euros. The expenses in the Training School were 16,635 euros, in STSMs 30,500 euros, and in dissemination these will be 8,000 euros for the videos. Consequently, there is a remanent of more than 30,000 euros excluding FSAC. It is decided to generate some additional dissemination materials and to celebrate a Core Group meeting before the end of the Grant Period to progress with the organization of the mind map-based paper and of the proposal for risk assessment that were presented and discussed during the general meeting.

1. **Planning of activities for Grant Period 4**

The Chair informs that the allocated budget for the next Grant Period (GP4, from 01/11/2022 to 31/10/2023) is 159,500 euros, which means 138,695 euros excluding FSAC. The list of proposed activities generated by the Working Groups during the general meeting was reviewed and the total costs of these activities were estimated. After some discussion about the necessity of adjusting the activities to the available budget, an agreement is reached to include the following activities in the Work Budget Plan to be submitted to COST Association within the next few days:

* Joint meeting of Working Groups 3 and 4 to review the information generated by three of the proposed STSMs about calibration factors for toxicological sensitivity. This meeting will presumably be celebrated in Zurich (Switzerland) in June and will be organized by Marion Junghans and Annette Aldrich.
* Special Meeting on Monitoring of Amphibians and Reptiles as part of Risk Assessment. This meeting will presumably be celebrated in Osijek (Croatia) in January or February and will be organized by Olga Jovanovic Glavas.
* Workshop on the incorporation of Modelling to Risk Assessment for Amphibians and Reptiles. This meeting will presumably be celebrated in Ljubljana (Slovenia) in May organized by Anamarija Zagar and David Stankovic or in Osnabrück (Germany) in summer organized by Andreas Focks.
* Third General Meeting, with a similar structure of the Second General Meeting (including presentations of STSM holders, Science Communication and transversal scientific aspects), as well as a joint meeting of Working Groups 1 and 4 to feedback on data gaps necessary to refine assessment factor calculations after the output of the joint meeting of WGs 3 and 4 referred above. The General Meeting will presumably be celebrated in Florence (Italy) in September and will be organized by Marta Biaggini.
* 13 STSMs with the following topics and proposed hosts:
  + Update the database on amphibian ecotoxicological literature and review information on chronic endpoints indicative of reproductive effects, including quality assessment. Potential hosts: Olga Jovanovic Glavas (Osijek University, HR), Emily McVey (CTGB, NL), Isabel Lopes (University of Aveiro, PT).
  + Extract information on ecotoxicology of the different substances to different taxa from dossier data. Potential hosts: Olga Jovanovic Glavas (Osijek University, HR), Emily McVey (CTGB, NL), Isabel Lopes (University of Aveiro, PT).
  + Identify endpoints potentially useful for extrapolation and calculation of assessment factors. Potential hosts: Olga Jovanovic Glavas (Osijek University, HR), Emily McVey (CTGB, NL), Isabel Lopes (University of Aveiro, PT).
  + Make the alligator model developed by Peter Vermeiren useful for sand lizards. Potential hosts: Jan-Dieter Ludwigs and Oliver Jakoby (RIFCON, DE).
  + Progress in ALMaSS modelling for the crested newt. Potential host: Chris Topping (Aarhus University, DK).
  + Fate modelling, combining aquatic and terrestrial environments. Potential hosts: Wim Beltman and Paulien Adriansee (Wageningen Environmental Research, NL).
  + Internal exposure to combine different exposure routes combined with statistical modelling. Potential hosts: Valentin Mingo (Corteva, DE), Andreas Focks (University of Osnabrück, DE).
  + Linking currently developed databases on life history, occupancy and toxicological sensitivity and identify focal species. Potential hosts: Emily McVey (CTGB, NL), Silvia Pieper (UBA, DE).
  + Application of animal ecology to implement risk mitigation measures. Potential host: Silvia Pieper (UBA, DE).
  + Implementation of risk mitigation measures from a legal perspective to amphibians and reptiles. Potential host: Silvia Pieper (UBA, DE).
  + Analysis of spatial data on European amphibians and reptiles. Potential host: Neftalí Sillero (University of Porto, PT).
  + Implement the use of mesocosms. Potential host: Miguel Carretero (CIBIO-University of Porto, PT).
  + Metanalysis of the data on toxicological sensitivity of reptiles. Potential host: Anamarija Zagar (NIB, SI).
* An ITC Conference Grant to support the attendance and presentation of results of an ITC-coming young researcher at the 33rd Annual Meeting of SETAC Europe, that will take place in Dublin on April 30-May 4 2023.
* A virtual mobility grant for the grantee to gain communication skills necessary to address farmers, the most important stakeholders that is not directly involved in the action.
* A brochure, that can eventually be elaborated in several languages, to disseminate information to relevant stakeholders.

The budget will be elaborated considering the following figures:

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| --- | --- |
| Activity type | Budget |
| Meetings and workshops | 93,000 € (48,000 € for the 3rdGM+MCM, 15,000 € for the WGM, the special meeting and the Workshop) |
| STSM | 41,600 € (average 3,200 € / STSM) |
| ITC Conference Grant | 1,000 € |
| Virtual mobility Grant | 1,500 € |
| Dissemination | 2,000 € (for brochures) |

1. **AOB**

There were no any other business.

1. **Closing**

The Chair acknowledges the work of Katarzyna Kurek as organiser of the Second General Meeting, and thanks the Institute for Nature Conservation for providing the necessary structure to host the meeting. In addition, the contribution of all participants having attended the meeting was acknowledged.

## LIST OF ANNEXES

**Annex 1 – List of Participants**

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**Annex 2 – Agenda**

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