



## CORE GROUP

### MINUTES OF SKYPE MEETING

**Meeting date:** 25<sup>th</sup> August 2017 (15 am CET)

**Purpose of meeting (Agenda sent in advance):**

1. Extra budget/budget changes for Y3
2. Ensuring agreed tasks from Rome meeting (and others) are on track
3. Rapporteur's comments on midway Progress Report
4. AOB

**Invitees:**

Lucy Robertson (Chair – called and organized meeting), Relja Beck (Deputy Chair), Joke van der Giessen (WG1 Leader), Christian Kapel (WG1 Deputy Leader), Christian Klotz (WG2 leader), Miha Skvarc (WG2 Deputy Leader) Cédric Gérard (WG3 Leader), Peter Paulsen (WG3 Deputy Leader), Paul Torgerson (WG4 Leader), Chiara Trevisan (WG4 Deputy Leader), Gunita Deksne (TS responsible), Ricardo Santos (STSM responsible) Kristoffer Tysnes (Grant manager and leader of ESR forum).

**Attendance:**

- People present: Lucy Robertson (Chair), Joke van der Giessen (WG1 Leader), Cédric Gérard (WG3 Leader), Peter Paulsen (WG3 Deputy Leader), Paul Torgerson (WG4 Leader), Gunita Deksne (TS responsible), Kristoffer Tysnes (Grant manager and leader of ESR forum).
- Relja Beck (Deputy Chair) and Christian Kapel (WG1 Deputy Leader) had agreed to join (accepted invitation in outlook), but did not
- Christian Klotz (WG2 Leader) was unable to make the meeting, but had sent comments in advance
- Ricardo Santos (STSM responsible) had an emergency at the last minute and was unable to join.
- Chiara Trevisan tried to join meeting but could not, due to technical issues
- Miha Skvarc (WG2 Deputy Leader) had not responded to any of the invitations nor the Doodle poll to find a suitable date.

**1. Y3 WBP - Budget changes**

As had already been described to the MC, the budget allocation for Y3 from COST has been increased by 14000 Euros – so we now have a budget of 165000 €.

However, it had not previously been clear that this extra budget (all of it, some of it??) is earmarked as an ITC Conference Grant by COST. This money is therefore meant to be (all or



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partly) spent on this new activity. Information about this activity can be found here:

[http://www.cost.eu/media/cost\\_stories/conference-grants-new-vademecum-2017](http://www.cost.eu/media/cost_stories/conference-grants-new-vademecum-2017)

In brief, this grant is to help PhD students and EPI from participating ITC to attend international science and technology related conferences that are not specifically organised by a COST Action.

However, COST has not only added this amount to our budget, but has also DECREASED the size of budget for other activities.

Currently the ITC Conference grant budget is at over 27300 Euro, but the agreed meetings budget has been reduced from 89150 to 74350 and the TS budget has been decreased from 23500 to 23100.

This seems very strange. LJR (Chair) tried to contact the SO (Ioanna Stavridou) and AO (Cassia Azevedo) at COST, but both are out of office.

Action points:

1. LJR will contact COST for clarification, and explain that we need our meetings and TS budget restored, and, if possible, we would like to use some of this additional budget on other activities.
2. If there is budget we can use for other activities, then LJR will inform JvdG (leader WG1) and CKI (leader WG2) for outline budgets for their proposed additional activities (task force meeting for WG1 regional leaders and task force meeting for those involved with guideline work in WG2).
3. Also, as the meeting planned for WG4 (social cost benefit analyses) had budget constraints, we would request to COST to increase this budget.

#### **2. Ensuring agreed tasks from Rome meeting (and others) are on track**

- LJR (Chair) informed that the write up from the Slovenia meeting has now been completed by CKI (leader WG2) along with Sarah Gabriel (Cystinet Chair) and is due to be submitted; the output from the risk-ranking meeting is now accepted for publication; an output from the Berlin meeting is published; and LJR (Chair) and Simone Caccio (LO) for the Rome meeting are working on a report from that. This leaves our initial meeting in Zagreb. Suggestions were requested on how to move



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this forward as this has been with RB (Deputy Chair and LO) for a long time with no advance. It is almost becoming too late – but LJR will give a final push.

- Other tasks allocated from the Rome meeting included the SR and the model (WG1 and WG4) – there has been some progress on this, but LJR urged that this is communicated around all involved and people reminded of their duties. In addition, some tasks from WG2 and WG3 were allocated. LJR urged all WG leaders and deputies to communicate this further and remind those people who may have forgotten their agreements during the summer.
- KT (ESR think-tank coordinator) was reminded to contact those eligible in the group with respect to the planned meeting in November (more than likely in Portugal).

### 3. Rapporteur's comments on midway Progress Report

- LJR (Chair) had distributed the rapporteur's comments to all in the MC as soon as they were received. Some in the MC had reacted that the rapporteur had been harsh, but, in the opinion of LJR they were not unfair. At this relatively early stage, outputs could not be expected to be very large.
- LJR noted that in the report form, there was only a place to report on STSM that were from or to institutions from countries other than Participating COST countries – this meant that there was no place to inform the rapporteur properly about the successful STSM between participating COST countries.
- CG (WG3 leader) noted that the rapporteur had commented somewhat negatively on the database being held in a Nestle sharepoint. CG felt it should be clarified that as soon as the publication(s) emanating are completed, the database can be transferred to the Action's homepage member section, and the current location is for ease of access.
- LJR noted that some in the MC had said that the rapporteur's comments of Crypto as being a waterborne parasite (rather than foodborne) indicated the need for the Action.
- LJR noted that one comment of the rapporteur – that is integration across the parasite groups – seems not to be successful. JvdG indicated that with the specific work on different parasites in WG1 and WG4 this was being addressed (to some extent).



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- JvdG (WG1 leader) recommended that an Action plan on how to address the comments of the rapporteur is developed and sent to COST loaded to the Euro-FBP homepage.
- This was agreed.

#### 4. AOB

It was noted that application for STSM was rather slow. RS (STSM coordinator) should be requested to send out a reminder to the Action (preferably prior to the TS which he is hosting).

#### Follow up

- LJR to contact COST and seek clarification on the budget changes (specifically that the agreed activities cannot have less budget, and that we would like to use some of the additional budget for other activities) and communicate this.
- Based on the clarification, other actions from WG leaders may be necessary.
- LJR to follow-up (by phone) with RB regarding any output from the Zagreb meeting.
- WG leaders to follow-up on tasks allocated during the Rome meeting, as participants may have forgotten about them.
- LJR to draft an Action Plan on how we intend to address the concerns of the rapporteur for the Progress Report.
- LJR to ask RS (STSM coordinator) to send out an Action-wide reminder.
- KRT to follow up on ESR-meeting in Lisbon.