



COST Office

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E-mail enquiries: office@cost.esf.org • Website: <http://cost.cordis.lu>
R.P.M.861.794.916 – Tribunal de Commerce de Bruxelles



Management Committee Meeting

COST Action C21, *Urban Ontologies for an improved communication in urban civil engineering projects*

Lyon, June 13 2005, Science and Technological Park of la Doua in Villeurbanne. INSA, 20, Albert Einstein 69621 Lyon-Villeurbanne Cedex

Participants: Isabel Silva, Jacques Teller, Anssi Joustiniemi, Catherine Roussey, Robert Laurini, Giovanni Rabino, Giuseppe Las Casas, Beniamino Murgante, F Rotondo, Maria Ioannilli, Guri Krigsvoll, Enrique Calderón, P Muro, X Fernandez, Claudine Metral, Gilles Falquet, Chris Tweed, John Lee, Anne-Françoise Cutting Decelle, Catarina Ferreira Da Silva, Paolo Ventura, Monique Zimmermann, Chantal Berdier

Adoption of agenda and approval of the Minutes of the last meeting

News from the COST Office

The Cost Office is waiting for his budget for the year 2006. The budget of each action can decrease because the COST budget is stable and the number of COST action increases.

Status of Action

The Cost Secretariat of Action C21 is composed of Jan Spousta and Isabel Silva.

The Action is composed of a Management Committee (MC) and 3 Working Groups (WG) managed by WG leaders. The MC has to nominate WG leaders. Any change in the Working Group has to be approved by the WG leader. New WG members have to be proposed by the WG leader and approved by the MC.

The Cost Office informs the Action about its budget, reimbursements, new rules and works in close relationship with the Action's Chairpersons. The action should follow the workplan settled in its MoU and copy the COST Office on all exchange of documents. All papers, rapports, documents related to the Action C21 have to be sent to the Cost Office. For example, if a paper is published containing a description of the Cost Action C21, a version of this paper should be sent to the CO.

The Technical Committee on UCE appointed Mr Paolo Ventura as TC Rapporteur for this Action.

MC delegates decided that:

- ❑ The language chosen for the action is English.
- ❑ All information will be exchanged by emails
- ❑ Jacques Teller has been nominated Chairman of the Action for the full duration of the Action.
- ❑ Catherine Roussey is the Vice Chairman.
- ❑ Catherine Roussey is the leader of the WG1





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- ❑ Paolo Ventura is the leader of the WG2 (for one year)
- ❑ Chris Tweed is the leader of the WG3
- ❑ The evaluation committee for STSM is composed of Jacques Teller, Giuseppe Las Casas and Guri Krigsvoll.
- ❑ Members of WG1 are: G. Rabino (It), P Muro (SP), X Fernandez (SP), G Falquet (ZW), C Metral (ZW), Beniamino Murgante (IT), Anssi Joustiemi (FI), Kostas Karatzas (GR)
- ❑ Members of WG2 are : E Calderon (Sp), Guri Krigsvoll (NO), Besio (it), C Roussey (FR)
- ❑ Members of WG3 are: J Lee (UK), MA Barnabe (SP), J Teller (BE), Kostas Karatzas (GR), Jarmo (FI), Maria Ioannilli (IT), F Rotondo IT, G Falquet, C Metral

Number of Signatories

Nine Cost countries have signed the Memorandum of Understanding of Action COST C21: Belgium, France, Greece, Finland, Norway, Romania, Spain, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

Every country is free to join the Action within a year from its approval from the CSO. After a year, the Management Committee (MC) has to approve the request for a country to join, either during its session or by written procedure. Each country can have up to two members in the MC, and up to two members in each Working Group refunded by COST.

Budget Status, budget allocation process

The budget available for the year 2005 is 55 000 Euro.

The number of meetings will depend of the budget. We have to decide the number of meetings and their location according to the available budget. The cost of a meeting depends of the location, the number of delegates, and the number of invited experts. For example, the cost of the MC meeting at Brussels was of 5.900 Euro for 10 persons. The budget for the meeting in Lyon has been estimated at 18.000 Euros. It should be possible to organise another MC+WG meeting in 2005 as well as a WG meeting later on.

STSM status, applications

The Short-Term Scientific Mission (STSM) scheme of the COST Programme provides financial means to support young scientist participating in a national research programme linked to a COST Action. The budget of STSMs is part of a general budget line, nevertheless that budget is now completely spent and all STSM requests for 2005 will have to be funded from the Action's budget.

The Guideline for the implementation of Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSM) (Exchange visits) in the COST Framework .





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These Missions (Exchange Visits) are aimed at strengthening the existing networks by allowing young scientists to go to an institution or laboratory in another COST country to learn a new technique or to make measurements using instruments and/or methods not available in their own institution/laboratory.

The applicant must normally be engaged in a programme of research as a post graduate student or postdoctoral fellow and be employed in an institution of a COST Member State having signed the Action concerned. This institution should be actively participating in the COST Action.

The COST Office offers the possibility of an on-line registration (details see http://cost.cordis.lu/src/cost_office_documents.cfm and look for COST Office Documents – 4 STSM). The completed form containing a work programme, a budget plan as well as the confirmation of the hosting institute has to be sent to the Action Chair and the evaluation committee for approval being subject to the availability of financial means.

The grant for STSM is fixed to a maximum of 2.500 EUR. A mission can last between one week and three months.

Building on the submitted budget plan the financial means will be provided in the form of a grant which will be transferred to the indicated account after the mission report has been approved by the Action Chair and the evaluation committee. The evaluation committee for the STSM is composed of Jacques Teller, Giuseppe Las Casas and Guri Krigsvoll. It is agreed that proposals for STSM mission will be introduced before the next meeting. Jacques Teller and Guri Krigsvoll will establish and circulate a protocol for evaluating such missions.

Publications, annual report

The Cost Office can also give support for Publications. This support will not affect the budget of the Action. Requests for publications should be sent to the COST Secretariat at least 3 months in advance. (See document http://cost.cordis.lu/src/cost_office_documents.cfm and look for 3 Dissemination, Publications under COST Office documents).

Facilities

COST Office offers support for organising meetings: a maximum of 70% of the total cost for organising meetings can be reimbursed by COST. Up to 3.000 EUR no bill is needed for funding. Up to 10.000 EUR, all bills are requested to be reimbursed. In both cases a financial breakdown and a programme is needed at least 6 weeks before the meeting is planned and 3 months if the funding is for a Workshop or a Conference.





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Evaluations

Each year, the Action is evaluated. An annual report containing the number of meetings, the description of the budget and scientific report has to be produced. At the end of the Action life, a final report should be made as well as an evaluation by an external evaluator. The TC Rapporteur is also to report during TC meetings of the work and progress of the Action.

Request for new members

All new requests have to be addressed to the COST National Coordinator. Their contacts can be found on the COST Office Website: <http://cost.cordis.lu/src/contacts.cfm>

Non-COST participation

Non COST countries can select an Institution to be a Member of the Action and to participate to all meetings. The Institution has therefore to send a letter of request to the Chair of the Action. The participation has to be approved by the MC then submitted to the TC and to the CSO for approval. Once approved by the CSO, the Institution is considered as a participating member and can send an expert to attend COST meetings at his/her own cost.

Web update

A web site for the COST Action C21 will be developed by Jacques Teller in collaboration with Kostas Karatzas. The Cost Office can support the web site hosting and maintaining (2000 Euro) by the new tool “General Action Support Grant”. A private part will be developed protected by a password. The address will be communicated as soon as possible.

Time and place of next meeting

7-8 November 2005 , MC meeting and Working Groups meetings in Florence (IT).
12-13 December 2005 WG1 meeting in Brussels (COST Office).

Miscellaneous

Rules for preparing a meeting:

The Chairpersons should send to the Cost Office a detailed draft agenda and a list of participants. Then, the Cost Office can send an official invitation to all invited participants. No one else can send an official invitation. Each participant has to wait for the official invitation in order to book his journey.





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For a meeting, we can invite as many experts as we want from COST countries, but we can only invite 5 experts from non COST countries.

To help the meeting organizer, the Cost Office can give support for coffee break, room rental and technical equipment but this should only be in very exceptional circumstances as this support is taken from the Action total budget.

Recall of reimburse rules.

Travel costs are refunded on the principle of the most economical overall expenditure.

So you have to find the cheapest way to join the meeting place. Moreover you should justify your cost expenses if you stay in a city more than one day before and after the meeting.

For the next meeting the reimbursement document will change, the first page consists of filling in the travel expenses according to COST rules and the second page is the Experts Registration form to be filled in just once or every time the expert changes bank accounts.

Reimbursement rules are to be found at http://cost.cordis.lu/src/cost_office_documents.cfm look under item 1 Travel and subsistence.

Presentation of Research Teams

Each member of the MC briefly presents his laboratory and ongoing researches in the field of ontology development.





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Lyon, June 14 2005

Presentation of research work on ontologies

Towntology software Tool: a tool for the development of urban planning, Kader Keita LIRIS

Presentation of the TOWNTODOLOGY Software. The software is composed of an ontology browser and editor. They are dedicated to the development of non formal ontology where the consensus is not yet reached. This tool is developed in Java language and it seems that it works well on Macintosh. Giovanni Rabino and Anssi Joutsiniemi have detected some little problems but the overall application works well. The ontology is stored in an XML file where tag names are in English. Users can add new relation types and new concepts thanks to the editor. There is no limitation about the language, definition can be written in English or Spanish or whatever. A concept can have several definitions: for example a French one and an English one.

Towntology concept integration and software assessment, Nicolas Simonnot, Rémy Rascol EDU

Different ontologies have been build using the Towntology tool suite. The experience highlighted that building an ontology is quite a difficult task. Can we manage different understanding of complexity in the ontology? A collection of ontologies can model different domains with different complexities. An ontology model a common layer of understanding, but each concept belong to a domain (a user viewpoint). Relationship can model interaction between different viewpoints on a same group of objects. These interactions will be useful for political decision-makers to point out the impact of a concept change on others concepts.

The knowledge is easy to understand thanks to semantic net which is a graph not a tree. In other ontology tool suite, concept hierarchy is defined in a tree hierarchy, but main concepts are difficult to identify in the semantic net. Maybe a specialization hierarchy (like a tree) should be added in order to filter the concepts thanks to their specialization level. For example, user can see only general concepts or only specialize concepts.

The browser doesn't display relations definitions.

EDU Ontologies were developed one by one. Jacques Teller ask whether they tried to ask different groups to develop an ontology in parallel and to confront the ontologies proposed by these groups. It has not yet been the case, but it could be done next year.

Methodological issues in developing ontologies, John Lee HCRC.

This presentation points out the fact that ontology are relative, multimodal. The ontology development should be flexible and adaptative.





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COST UCE Experience in Italian/Spanish Glossary, *Paolo Ventura.*

Description of an integrated action of Italy and Spain programs to develop a mutual better knowledge of the 2 different planning systems. The starting point of the action is a preliminary work done by Albert Dupagne. The first aim of this collaboration was a review of existing technical literature and glossary. The result is a glossary of terms in different languages and their translation, stored in an excel file. The glossary is a term classification thanks to different characteristics: domains, groups etc... These characteristics are useful to rationalise terms classification.

Translations of some urban planning terms are not easy to find. In some cases, there is not exact equivalence, but different kind of equivalences. For example, a term can have several translations. The interesting point is what are the differences between all these translations. This work also highlight terms which have no equivalence.

The Spanish team were composed of 3 or 5 urban planners + 1 lawyer. The Spanish team worked on 5 glossaries. They try to find the Italian translation of these terms. The Italian team was composed of PHD students + 1 lawyer. One of the main difficulty were that laws changed during the course of the project.

It would be useful to build an ontology for each urban planning system in order to model the difference between the terms.

Ontology storage and management & integration of ontologies in 3D city models, *Claudine Métral and Gilles Falquet.*

The term equivalence is based on characteristics. What about non physical characteristics? The formalisation is based on description logic language equivalent to classic or Loom. Objects are different from their usages. For example, national speed limits are different from one another even if it is the same concept.

Cross-disciplinary communication approaches and ontologies : from the industrial product to the construction works, *Anne-Françoise Cutting-Decelle.*

There is approximately 4 pages to fill in to find the appropriate concept in PSL. PSL models discrete processes. PSL is used as a pivot language to manage process interoperability. A possible application of PSL would be to use it in order to compare urban processes. PSL can be an interface for software application.

Application of ontologies in the construction sector, *Catarina Ferreira Da Silva CSTB.*

CSTB works on multilingual ontology. The English vocabulary is the reference to link other vocabularies.





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Groupware for research organization

Organization of the Ontological Groupware, Robert Laurini

Robert Laurini presents a web interface to share and store ontologies within the research group. Old versions of an ontology are available on the groupware site. Context regarding a sub domain ontology has to be delimited. For example, the application domain should be defined, the queries that the ontology answer should be listed. Regarding multilingual issue: an ontology is defined in one language only, because there is not exact correspondence between terms of different languages.

Action plan

Action C21 could start with a set of small domain ontologies. A domain ontology could start with 20 concepts. First of all, each member of the COST C21 action has to define a set of domain where to develop an ontology.

There are different problem in the ontology construction. A guideline has to be circulated by LIRIS and EDU in order to build the ontology with the software tool.

30/6	circulate address of TOWNTOLOGY website	JT
30/6	put PPTs on the website	JT
1/9	make link from Website to TOWNTOLOGY website	All
15/7	send minutes to ESF	JT
30/9	send proposed list of WG members	MC members
1/9	circulate a draft evaluation procedure	JT+GK
30/6	send 5 lines of presentation + URL to LEMA	All
30/9	propose STSM to evaluation committee	MC members
30/6	circulate last version of italian/spanish glossary	PV
30/7	circulate guidelines on how to develop a domain ontology	CR
30/9	identify domain(s) for developing an ontology	All

