



European Science Foundation

## **COST Office**

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### **Draft Minutes Management Committee Meeting**

#### **COST Action C21 *Urban Ontologies for an improved communication in urban civil engineering projects* Florence, 7-8 of November 2005**

**Palazzo di San Clemente – Via Micheli 2**

Dipartimento di Urbanistica - Università degli Studi di Firenze

**Participants:** Jacques Teller, Catherine Roussey, Giovanni Rabino, Beniamino Murgante, F. Rotondo, Maria Ioannilli, Guri Krigsvoll, Enrique Calderón, X Fernandez Javier Nogueras, Claudine Metral, Gilles Falquet, Chris Tweed, John Lee, Anne-Françoise Cutting Decelle, Catarina Ferreira Da Silva, Stefan Trausan-Matu, Paolo Ventura, Chantal Berdier, Miguel Bernabé, Anssi Joustiniemi, Roland Billen, Giulio Giovannoni, Carlo Carbone, Sabina Sabatini (lodging and secretariat), Sylvie Calabretto.

#### **14:00 – 15:30 Management Committee Meeting**

##### **1. Welcome to participants**

Welcome greetings were addressed by Paolo Ventura, local organiser, and Jacques Teller, MC chairman

##### **2. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda has been adopted without modification

##### **3. Minutes of last meeting**

The last meetings minutes were approved, Chantal Berdier and Monique Zimmerman should be added to the list of participants.

##### **4. Report from the Scientific Officer**

The information were done by Jacques Teller.

News from the COST Office: COST domain restructuring. Following a CSO decision in 2002, an ad-hoc WG chaired by Prof. Andersson has been settled. The WG has proposed to merge some TC. UCE TC will merge with Transport TC and named Transport & urban development. The decision will be taken by November CSO meeting. The following new UCE & Transport actions have been approved: C22 urban flood management, C23 strategies for low carbon built environment, 357 accident prevention options with motorcycle helmets, 356 environmentally sustainable transport.

The Budget 2005 seems tense. The Budget 2006 foresees:

- CSO/Panel/EC approved € +29M = total € 80M



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- Preliminary allocation: € 50k / Action in average
- STSM and Training Course funding through Action/Domain budget
- Final amount to be announced before 12/2005
  
- **Status of Action and number of Signatories**

There are no new signatures of MoU.

### **5. Year Budget status and planning**

The C21 year budget is supposed to get to 60 000 EUR with no specific budget for STSMs.

Therefore two general meetings and one single meeting (WG3) shall be organised.

**Note: the final budget has since been communicated by the COST Office. The budget for the year 2006 is 49.300 euro from which 4300 have been allocated exclusively to STSM.**

### **6. STSM status, applications**

The evaluation criteria have been drafted by an evaluation committee (Jacques Teller, Guri Krigsvoll, Giuseppe Las Casas) All STSMs proposals will be evaluated once a year, at the last MC preceding the concerned period. Applicants should clearly establish how the STSM will constitute a benefit for the Action. The assessment will further seek to establish a balance between the three WGs of the Action.

Priority will be given to young researchers engaged in a PhD or a post-doctoral thesis. Good value for money will be taken into consideration so as maximise the number of STSMs.

After discussion the following STSM have been approved:

- STSM APPLICATION 1 Applicant: Anssi Joutsiniemi, Host Giovanni Rabino, Subjet: Ontologies for urban sprawl -Budget: 1.700 EUR - WG: 1 –
- STSM APPLICATION 2 - Applicant: Matteo Caglioni - Host Anssi Joutsiniemi - Subjet: Ontologies for urban sprawl - Budget: 1.700 EUR - WG: 1

### **7. Publications, annual report**

See next item

### **8. 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.

Therefore WG leaders are asked to prepare a brief summary of the work done. This summary should be sent to Jacques Teller by the end of November. Jacques Teller will then send a consolidated version of the report for comment to all partners.



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### **9. Request for new members**

There are the following request for new members:

- France: Chantal Berdier (WGs2&3), Anne-Françoise Cuttig Decelle (WG1), Catarina Ferreira Da Silva (WG1), Sylvie Calabretto (WG2 )
- Belgium: Roland Billen (WG1), Bernard Cornelis (WG3)
- Greece: Asteris Masouras (WG1)
- Spain: Javier Nogueras substitutes Pedro Muro (WG1).
- Romania: Stefan Trausan-Matu (WG1)
- Giulio Giovannoni and Carlo Carbone will take part as deputy members of the WG2.

The requests have been approved.

### **10. Non-COST participations**

The MC approves the following possible non-COST participations:

- WG2 - Suggested participation of David M. Mark, Department of Geography at the State University of New York at Buffalo (cultural differences in geographic concepts).
- WG 3 - Confirmed interest from Lew Hopkins & Nikhil Kaza, Dept. of Urban & Regional Planning, University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign.

### **11. Updates of Co-ordinates MC / WGs etc.**

### **12. Web update**

The Web site is accessible at this address: [www.towntology.net](http://www.towntology.net). All the participants are requested to create links to this page from their website. The management page has to be updated by all MC members. A brief summary of each WG has to be provided by WG leaders, including objectives, progress to date, WG members, links, reports, articles. MC decided that a private area is required in the website.

### **13. Progress report of working groups**

This item was discussed on Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>

### **14. Long-term planning**

This item was discussed on Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>

### **15. Time and place of next meeting**

WG1 meeting has been confirmed in Brussels (COST Office) next December 12, 13<sup>th</sup>  
The following MC general meeting will be held in Belfast on the 8 and 9 of May. The following meeting will be organised in Geneva on the 6 and 7<sup>th</sup> of November. The meeting in Geneva could be coupled with a first Towntology conference (to be confirmed by C. Metral).



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### **16. AOB**

No other business

### **15:30 – 16:00 Coffee Break**

### **16:00 – 18:00 Presentation of new experts research**

Roland Billen, Javier Nogueras, Stefan Trausan-Matu briefly present their research center and interest in C21.

### **Meeting was adjourned to next morning**

**9:00 – 9:30 Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>**

### **Ontological groupware – progress of the work**

Catherine Roussey

**The rest of the morning has been dedicated to the WG meeting, that were held in separate rooms.**

### **15:00 – 17:00 - General discussion**

WG1-2-3 topics and tasks were summarized. All the WGs will prepare deliverables to be discussed in the next MC meeting in Belfast.

**WG1 Ontologies and Information Systems** (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)

The main task of WG1 is to identify methods and tools for developing an ontology

WG1 topics are the following:

- State of the art on the web and bibliography:
- Anssi Joustiniemi presents a translation of the French traffic ontology in English. He point out the difficulties to browse an ontology and to get lost. He propose to define central points of an ontology. He discuss different aspects of relation types and their usages.
- G Rabino presents an ontology dedicated to the urban sprawl. He point out the great interest to use images to define some concept. Images are very useful to visualize the different types of urban sprawl.
- AF Cutting Decelle presents a tool called semantic atlas available at [dico.isc.cnrs.fr/en/index](http://dico.isc.cnrs.fr/en/index). This tool displays a map of similar terms. All examples are in French because the similarity distance is based on French dictionary definition. The main question is: does this tool can help to define an ontology? Each WG1



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member should send his questions concerning this tool to AF Cutting Decelle. She will synthesise these questions and try to contact the semantic atlas team. C Roussey could help in this task.

- C Roussey presents a short description of ontology engineering and its goals. A number of tools, methodologies, ontology language already exists. How are we going to use them, or evaluate them ? There are different types of ontology and ontology component. Which type of ontologies should we try to develop?
- JT will prepare a specific page of the website in order to host the links and bibliography proposed by the different participants to the action.
- Next meeting, others participants will present already existing ontologies or top ontologies in order to see if we could use them to facilitate the construction of urban civil ontologies and develop guidelines.

**WG2 Multilingual Ontologies** (Members of WG2 are : E Calderon, Guri Krigsvoll, Besio (it), , P.Ventura, Giulio Giovannoni (deputy member), Carlo Carbone (deputy member))

WG2 topics are the following:

- State of the art on the web and bibliography. Information will be filed according instructions by Jacques Teller.
- The Italian-Spain glossary research will be completed. Concepts will be classified. A broader research on planning tools in other European Countries will be carried on to focus diverging and converging trends.
- Case-Studies on Urban renewal will be selected and specific terms analysed.

**WG3– Ontologies and communication in UCE** (Members of WG3 are: C Tweed (UK), J Lee (UK), MA Barnabe (SP), J Teller (BE), Kostas Karatzas (GR), Jarmo Laitinen (FI), Maria Ioannilli (IT), F Rotondo (IT), G Falquet (CH))

WG3 topics are the following:

- State-of-the-art review of existing studies of ontologies in use, mainly in the domain of urban infrastructure and design, but including other areas;
- Case studies on ontologies in use by individuals and within different organisations.

These will include:

- the English Heritage thesaurus of monuments(C Tweed)
- a ‘pre-ontology’ to aid communication in the construction industry (J Lee)
- a glossary based on Italian-Belgian planning regulations (F Rotondo)
- the existing glossary based on Italian-Spanish planning legislation (E Calderon / P Ventura)
- a study of the evolution of WordNet (G Falquet)
- examples of ontologies in use within the Norwegian construction industry (G Krigsvoll)



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**Organisation of the first Towntology conference**

A first Towntology Seminar will be organised in next Fall, probably in Geneva.

The Scientific Committee will include all members of the MC. The organising committee will include the following representatives: Jacques Teller, Catherine Roussey, Claudine Metral, Gilles Falquet, Anne-Françoise Cutting-Decelle, John Lee, Giulio Giovannoni

Five experts will be invited. 50 participants will be expected to attend the seminar. A call-for-paper will be prepared during Brussels meeting.



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