

## Cost Action ES1305 (ENRAM): Minutes of MC meeting

19<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Corinthia Palace Hotel and Spa, De Paule Avenue, San Anton BZN9023, Malta

### 1.2.3. Welcome, Adoption of Agenda and Approval of minutes

By 09:10 Dr. Jason Chapman (JC, Action chair) welcomes all MC representatives which briefly state name and country of origin to check for quorum. With 19 countries represented, the meeting agenda is adopted and the minutes of the previous MC meeting (Israel, February 2016) are accepted, namely by Dr. Felix Lechti (FL) and Dr. Judy Shamoun-Baranes (JSB). JC also indicates that one of the main aims of this meeting is to outline a list of actions that WGs will undertake in the near future.

### 4a. Status of the action

JC indicates that our action is about 2/3 of the way with 18 months remaining until completion in October 2017. Since the previous MC meeting, Croatia has joined the action which currently totals 24 countries, making it one of the larger Actions. Although some areas have been hard to move forward, in general, the action progress has been very good.

### 4b. Budget (and 6. Update from Grant Holder - JC)

JC indicates that the current grant year ends in April 2016 and that the budget is well underway with no major underspend or overspend foreseen. However, the costs of the present meeting are yet to be quantified and although estimated costs are within plans, claims should be presented as soon as possible. New budget year will start on the 1st of May 2016 and COST action has moved grant periods quite a bit since the beginning of the action, so successive budgets have been hard to reorganize accordingly.

### 4.c STSM

Dr. Silke Bauer (SB) presented a short overview of the STSMs with 15 being completed last year and another 9 planned for this year. Several were connected to the field calibration campaigns and for the WG 3 workshop.

JC highlights that STSM are the best research tool within our action and these tend to be most efficient when longer than the minimum required period and when combined with several members moving to the same host institution. Also, priority should be given to STSM applications that have a clear plan towards producing a specific output, most importantly, a scientific publication. JSB reinforced this point indicating that the end of the action is approaching and now is the time to organize its outcomes

and make the research come to fruition. Dr Hidde Leijnse (HL) asks if there is a given expectation for scientific productivity and associated consequences and it was agreed that independent of potential consequences it would be important to materialize our past work into scientific outputs, as much as possible. Dr. Yossi Leshem asks how outreach activities can be included as action outputs and JSB states that as long as ENRAM is clearly highlighted (for example at a scientific presentation) this can then be considered output and should be brought to her attention so that it can be updated in ENRAM's website and annual reports.

#### **5. Promotion of gender balance and ESR, Inclusive countries**

Our action continues to have a poor gender ratio, although some progress has been made in this area as a consequence of the promotion of female scientist to participate on STSMs. JSB highlighted that this tool should continue to be used for this purpose and whenever possible, all should encourage female colleagues and students to apply for STSMs and for conference attendance. ESR numbers are quite positive and all should strive to keep promoting the participation of PhD and MSc students on action events. JC indicates that ca. 15-20% of the action's budgets is allocated to "Inclusive countries" whereas this would ideally be about 60%. This should be tackled by promoting more STSMs and participation in action events (e.g. next year Training Course) by members of those countries.

#### **7, 8 & 9. COST Office, DC Rapporteur & Annual Conference**

No COST Representative was present and annual conferences are no longer organized by COST. Reporting is done through the annual report at the end of the grant year. Currently, there is no date for the report referring to the current grant year and when this is known JC will inform MC members.

#### **10 & 11a. MoU objectives and Scientific planning (WG leaders' reports)**

JC suggest both WG reports and scientific output are discussed together, to which all members agree.

9:34 **Adriaan Dokter (AD) leader of WG1** presents a brief overview of the meteorological data centres and indicates that the bird algorithm is installed on BALTRAD. However, data extraction varies greatly among countries as in some case clutter filters are already set too high at the moment of data collection. An ENRAM MoU has been written for countries to sign, towards facilitating OPERA-ENRAM data exchange, but at present it is hard to preview which countries will sign it. The WG following steps are to explore dual polarization data, attain a retrieval and biodata repositories (in coordination with WG3), improve algorithms - which requires a good validation dataset with birds and insects recorded at the same time. AD finalizes with a question to the floor regarding what could ENRAM become in

the sense of having a legal status, which would likely help in establishing formal relations with meteorological institutes.

SB states that perhaps ENRAM could legally have the same status as OPERA. Mr. Jarno Koistinen (JK) indicates that we need pragmatic examples and results to demonstrate the value of our work to the meteorological community making them more likely to sign the MoU, as most currently believe that weather radar is a “rain radar” and are therefore hard to convince of its other capabilities. FL asks if showing US examples would suffice, but JK insists that compelling cases and examples from Europe would be more convincing, for example, flight safety and wind measurements produced by insect targets. HL reports that he was the only voice in the latest OPERA meeting pushing for low filtering, but the reaction was that meteorology is the only aim and the rest is not relevant. JSB suggested that an action plan should be drafted to convince meteorologists of the biological data value, and perhaps biologists at the national level should present this information at their countries meteorological institutions. Furthermore, JK and HL will submit abstracts for presentations at the forthcoming ERAD meeting (October 2016 in Turkey) to highlight ENRAM and the issue with too much filtering. Dr. Don Reynolds (DR) suggested sending an official ENRAM letter to Met. institutes/office's leaders highlighting the value and importance of ENRAM. The above points were further discussed resulting in two main action points:

1. Promote contact with Met institutes/offices whenever possible, by means of presenting biological data extracted from weather radar data. Highlight that too much filtering is likely to remove valuable data (e.g. wind data as measured by insect reflectivity); Also indicate that by extracting biological clutter the meteorological products become cleaner;
2. Add a document to the MoU showing a composite or product (e.g. how insect movements could be interesting for pest control); - to be done by AD with possible coordination with head of OPERA.

**10:20 Felix Liechti WG 2 leader** presents a short overview of calibration campaign in Sweden, last Autumn (September/October 2015) where weather radar (by AD), bird radar (FL), insect radar (JC) and tracking radar (Dr. Cecilia Nilsson, CN) datasets were combined. The data collected was good but there was no insect movement to be recorded. This was planned to be supplemented by a calibration campaign in Hungary in 2016, but given the filters are too high on these radars, other options should be considered – this topic will be revisited at a future meeting of WG2. This working group has also established contacts with Met. institutes in Germany and France towards assessing their weather radar data which has been successful, but less so in Switzerland.

JC raises the point on how useful is it now to plan further calibrations campaigns or if time should go into analysing the data already collected. It became clear that within the remaining time of the action it will be impossible to attain weather radar data from all ENRAM countries and therefore a prioritizing decision should be made towards which countries should be targeted for access to weather radar data. The proposed focus was to tackle two European flyways for which data from several countries is already accessible:

1. East European Flyway: Baltic countries (via BALTRAD), Bulgaria, Turkey and Israel;
2. West European Flyway: Sweden, UK, Belgium, the Netherlands, France, Spain and Portugal.

Dr. Ommo Huppopp (OH) mentions that there is currently no list regarding data that is already available for publication and this could be important towards calling in people to lead papers. Together with HL, they suggest that participants from distinct WG's should get together and think on outputs across WGs. JSB supports this idea and indicates that participants should use coffee breaks to plan how WG breakdown could be more focused in papers and outputs.

**10:47 Hans presents WG 3** update mentioning the progress done with visualizations, namely with the visualization paper where data from US radars has been inputted to previously created visualization. Adding the following action points for the WG:

1. Evaluation of infrastructure - efficient storage and retrieval of biological data from weather radars – proceeding with the contribution of Peter Desmet (PD);
2. Collaboration of scientists and biologists - achieved though the “2015 Hackathon”, several Workshop and STSMs;
3. Mapping animal movement across multiple radars - most progress here has been with the already created visualization's which are outputs of the action;
4. Evaluation of statistical models – this is yet to be achieved as no big dataset is yet available;
5. Spatio-temporal correlation between radar sites - AD is currently leading a project on this subject using the only dataset currently available for the Netherlands and Belgium.

**10:53 Ommo presents an update on WG 4** indicating that the last WG's meeting in November was good and dissemination is planned for September 2016's with the participation on EBCC meeting in Germany. During the current meeting, WG 4 will start planning publications with three options already brought forward: 1. Dr. Nir Sapir (NS) and Mr. Paolo Beccui (PB); 2. OH to lead a review on conservation and environmental impact; 3. Mr. Jan Blew indicates that there is a radar methodologies idea for a

paper but that is currently open for someone to lead. It became very clear to all that action members must take the lead on papers in order to boost the action's publication output.

11:00     *Coffee Break*

11:34 - Resume MC meeting

**11b. Action Budget Planning**

11:34 JC presents a draft budget for the period 1<sup>st</sup> May 2016 - 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017 which has to be concluded by the end of April 2016. In this is budget for a Training School and International Symposium to be held in Rome in February 2017. It was decided that a MC meeting would be attached to these two events. Organizing committee for the Symposium was formed by (SB, JSB, NS, JC, Dr. Giacomo Dell'Omo – GO and Dr. José Alves - JA) and followed by discussions on the number of participants (which must be from ENRAM countries), keynote speakers, registration fee and other Symposium related issues. It was also decided that invitations should be send to ESR, participants from Inclusive countries, and invite female speakers whenever possible.

YL suggested ENRAM should also organize a dissemination conference and JC indicated that there will be a final ENRAM conference up to 3 months after the action end. It was noted that such event should consider other meetings to avoid overlap e.g. German Ornithologist meeting (end of Sep.-early Oct. 2017); EOU in Finland (18-22 August 2017), Bio-logging meeting in Germany (25-29 September 2017). JC also highlights that members planning to participate in conferences for the next grant period need to come forward now.

An organising team for the training school was formed (AD and HL) and other trainers should be considered by inviting others besides AD and HL. Aims of training school are:

1. Explain bird algorithm applied to weather radar data and the biodata extracted;
2. Associate several radars with spatial detail to create one combined dataset;

Regarding STSM, there are only 2 planned at the moment so WGs need to plan more of these to be included on the budget, as well as, deciding if a WG meeting is required during the forthcoming grant period.

**11c. Long term planning**

(see above WG discussion)

Where does ENRAM go in terms of funding for future activities? JC poses the question and also points towards a possible International training network, e.g. EU PhD Program. PD mentions that LifeWatch is looking to organize a network of research centres and JSB says that ENRAM could potentially join the European Bird Portal which mostly deals with data exploration and visualization.

#### **11d. Dissemination**

WGs (as well as informal groups) to discuss and propose publications arising in the coming year. International symposium and training school (as discussed earlier) will be good opportunities to disseminate the action's outputs.

#### **12, 13 & 14. Request from new members, non-COST applications & AOB**

Nothing to add on these topics.

#### **15. Next MC meeting**

February 2017 (following the Training School and International Symposium), Rome

#### **16, 17. Summary and Closing**

JC summarizes the decisions taken and closes the meeting at 12:51 thanking all participants.

*Minutes compiled by José Alves (09.06.2016)*