

Management Committee (Kick-off) Meeting

COST Action ES1305

European Network for the Radar surveillance of Animal Movement (ENRAM)

Brussels (Belgium), 21/10/2013

Attended the meeting:

COST officials: Deniz Karaca, Carmencita Malimban (in place of Tania Gonzalez-Ovin)

DC rapporteur: Teresa Abrantes (Portugal)

MC members: Peter Desmet, Eric Stienen (Belgium; *provisional MC members*); Mark Desholm (Denmark); Matti Leskinen, Jarmo Koistinen (Finland); Ommo Huppop, Jan Blew (Germany); Yossi Leshem, Amit Dolev (Israel); Carlo Cattoni, Giacomo Dell'omo (Italy); Judy Shamoun-Baranes, Hidde Leijnse (Netherlands); Przemyslaw Jacewicz, Michal Ciach (Poland); Jose Alves (Portugal); Gonzalo Munoz Arroyo (Spain); Lars Pettersson, Johan Backman (Sweden); Felix Liechti, Silke Bauer (Switzerland); Jason Chapman, Don Reynolds (United Kingdom).

Apologies from non-attending MC members: Joris Everaert (Belgium); Benjamin Metzger, Natalino Fenech (Malta); Roel May (Norway); Maria Mateos-Rodriguez (Spain); Susanne Akesson (Sweden)

Minutes: Jose Alves

Dr. Deniz Karaca, the Science Officer of ENRAM Action, opened the meeting at 9:40 welcoming all participants and presenting an overview of the COST program. The agenda of the meeting was adopted and the status of the Action was indicated. The issue of Belgium being a participant member of ENRAM was raised, but upon checking this country's status, it was declared that this was not the case (*Note: Belgium is now provisionally on the list subject to acceptance of the MoU, as of 4 November 2013*).

The election for several roles for ENRAM was executed with the following outcome (all by majority of votes):

Chair: Dr. Jason Chapman

Vice-chair: Dr. Judy Shamoun-Baranes

Grant Holder: Dr. Jason Chapman; Institution: Rothamsted Research, Harpenden, UK

Financial Rapporteurs: Dr. Jan Blew & Mr. Jarmo Koistinen

Training School Coordinator: Dr. Judy Shamoun-Baranes

STSM coordinator: Dr. Silke Bauer

At 13:06 Dr. Jason Chapman gave a presentation of ENRAM, including the early stages of the group and the first ideas which lead to the COST application. This presentation covered specific issues regarding the working groups to be organized and the time table for this action, and also approached scientific issues, namely the list of European flyways already covered by the member parties and those that currently lack coverage. After this presentation, the floor was open for discussion in which the need to involve more countries, namely France and Eastern European countries during the first year of the action was highlighted, with recommendations of potential Institutions or individuals to be invited having to be delivered to the Chair and/or vice-Chair within a month (until the 21.11.2013).

At 13:40 the election of leaders and deputy leaders to each of the four working groups was voted resulting in the following outcome (all by majority of votes):

WG 1 – Classification and Retrieval of Biological Data from European Weather Radars.

Leader: Dr. Hidde Leijnse; Deputy Leader: Mr. Jarmo Koistinen.

WG 2 – Improvement of Weather Radar Data Quality and Validation of Biological-classification Algorithms.

Leader: Dr. Felix Liechti; Deputy Leader: Dr. Johan Backman.

WG 3 – Visualizing Spatio-temporal Patterns of Animal Movement.

Leader: Dr. Hans van Gasteren; Deputy Leader: Dr. José Alves.

WG 4 – Significance and potential of Animal Movement Research.

Leader: Ommo Huppog; Deputy Leader: Don Reynolds.

Jarmo asked if the title of WG 2 could be changed, to which the MC was informed by COST SO that such change was no longer possible.

Each WG leader went on to explained their vision and working direction of the respective WG. Given the absence of Mr. Hans van Gasteren, Dr. Judy Shamoun-Baranes spoke for him on WG 3.

General discussion was again open focusing on preparing the work-plan and budget for the first grant year, due to start in 01.01.2014. Besides the aforementioned need to recruit more countries, several other general decisions were made. It was agreed that each WG will target individuals on interest from signing countries, by identifying and contacting them before the 01.01.2014 at which stage a status of recruitment and list of WG members should be delivered to the Chair. The addition of MC Substitutes via the CNC for each of the parties (2 per party) was highlighted as currently Sweden is the only party that has named one MC Substitute. It was also agreed that the MC and WGs will meet at least twice annually during a 2-2.5 day meetings. These will be hosted in the same venue and encompass meetings of the four WGs and a MC meeting, thus taking advantage of having people involved on several WG as well as the MC members at the same place and at the same time. The meetings will be held in February (before the Annual report is due on 31 March) and September/October each year.

The provisional schedule and location of the initial 3 meetings was settled as follow:

February 2014 at the Swiss Ornithological Institute, Sempach, Switzerland, hosted by Dr. Felix Liechti

September/October 2014, provisionally at the University of Cadiz, Spain, hosted by Prof. Gonzalo Munoz Arroyo and Dr Maria Mateos-Rodriguez (dates & location TBC)

February 2015 in Israel, hosted by Prof. Yossi Leshem (dates & venue TBC)

The discussion was then WG oriented with each group proposing the work-plan objectives and actions for the duration of first grant year:

WG 1

- Establish contact with meteorological institutions of participating and signatory countries and inviting them to join the WG using a standard invitation email (to be done within a month as mentioned above);
- Make a presentation of ENRAM at the forthcoming OPERA meeting and include the *bird algorithm* into the OPERA network. Ask for OPERA radar volume data for a given period (to be established);
- Organize a workshop aimed at formulating an *insect algorithm* (which is currently non-existent), held in Helsinki in June 2014 (subjected to final confirmation).

WG 2

- Organize a calibration experiment of weather radars using other taxon specific radars. Location is to be determined and this experiment is anticipated to require up to four STSMs;
- Organize a workshop to analyze radar data signals hosted by Dr. Felix Liechti, with the participation of international experts;
- Group specific meeting to be scheduled for the end of the year.

WG 3

- Organize a workshop mainly aimed at Early Stage Researchers on visualization of large scale animal movement patterns throughout Europe (details to be planned during the February 2014 meeting);
- Promote a minimum of two STSMs in the Netherlands, one for an Israeli PhD student and another for postdoctoral researcher.

WG 4

- Host a workshop in October/November in Germany to allow for general discussion and brainstorming, a year since the kick-off meeting.

Dr. Judy Shamoun-Baranes proposed several actions aimed to promote ENRAM, which were agreed to be integrated in the work-plan and budget:

- Submit an abstract for an oral presentation co-authored by several MC members on ENRAM's scientific aims, current status and future work to the forthcoming IOC (International Ornithological Congress) to be held in Tokyo, Japan in August 2014. If accepted by the congress' scientific committee, one MC member will be asked to give this presentation and his/her participation in this congress will be supported by the action;
- Produce a scientific paper to present ENRAM as a case study on international cooperation towards the understanding of continent wide animal movement, led by Dr. Judy Shamoun-Baranes;
- The University of Amsterdam will develop and maintain a website dedicated to ENRAM, which will serve as a primary outlet for the wide broadcast of activities, developments and results. This will serve both the scientific community and the general public, building on the advances made by WG 3.
- Organize a 5 day Training school at University of Amsterdam on "Animal Movement" in future years.

Having agreed on the planned actions for the first grant year, Dr. Deniz Karaca made a short presentation on how to fill the COST GRANT work-plan and budget form (15:30-15:40), which is to be delivered to COST by 15 November 2013.

Dr. Jason Chapman opened the floor to discussion of any remaining issues:

Dr. Giacomo Dell'Omo noted that Italy is currently in an unusual position as sharing of weather data from this party is not always straightforward. Dr. Hidde Leijnse confirmed this was the case as Italy has recently stepped out of the OPERA network. Dr. Giacomo asked for support from ENRAM in order to approach and invite regional authorities, rather than the national meteorological office, towards this action.

Mr. JarMo Koistinen suggested that X-band radars could also be of use to ENRAM and operators of these equipment's should be invited to join specific WGS. Furthermore, it was also agreed that every MC member should be part of at least one WG and should express their intentions of participating to the WG leaders by email within a week (before the 28.10.2013).

The contact amongst WG members will be primarily via email, with the WG leader maintaining and updating when needed a WG specific mailing list. Dr. Michal Ciach proposed that emails can have specific keywords on the subject field so that irrelevant messages can be promptly deleted from each individual email. For instances, an email aimed at members of WG 1 will display in the subject field: "WG 1 – ...".

At 15:55 the Chair of the ENRAM Action, Dr. Jason Chapman, thanked all participants for their attendance and contributions and closed the meeting.

Dr Jose Alves, 21/10/2013