



COST

COST ACTION FA1301

A network for improvement of cephalopod welfare and husbandry in research, aquaculture and fisheries (CephInAction)

Minutes of the 1st Management Committee Meeting

**COST Office
Brussels, Belgium
14 October 2013**

1 Welcome to participants

The participants of the inaugural meeting of COST Action FA1301 were welcomed by Dr. Ioanna Stavridou, the Science Officer for this Action.

Dr. Ioanna Stavridou chaired the meeting until the MC committee had elected a chairperson for the Action (item 6 of the agenda)

2 Adoption of the agenda

The draft agenda was adopted.

3 Presentation of the delegations

The COST Office was represented by the Science Officer of the COST Domain on Food and Agriculture, Dr. Ioanna Stavridou. All the participants introduced themselves, among them was the proponent of the Action, Dr. Giovanna Ponte. The list of officially nominated delegates and the participants of the meeting with their contact information is presented in annex.

4 General information on the COST mechanism and on the funding of co-ordination

Dr. Ioanna Stavridou gave a briefing on the COST history and mechanism, presenting the general framework for the programme created to promote scientific and technical co-operation in Europe. Relevant information can be found on the COST website at http://www.cost.eu/about_cost

The Science Officer also informed the delegates about the principles and procedures related to the COST Actions, and about the possibilities of getting activities funded from the COST budget. The relevant documents can be found at the official website of COST: <http://www.cost.eu/participate>



The MC adopted as its rules of procedure the Rules of Procedure for Management Committee (COST 4154/11 Annex II).

5 Status of the Action

Dr. Ioanna Stavridou informed all the participants that, at the time of the meeting, 10 COST member states (DE, EL, ES, FR, IE, IT, NL, NO, PT, UK) and one Cooperating State (IL) had accepted the FA1301 Action's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). All the member states were represented at the meeting achieving the necessary quorum.

The Action is open to other COST countries to join unconditionally until 15 May 2014 (one year after the Action's approval by the CSO), after which new members can join only after the approval of the MC. The Action will end four years after the 1st MC meeting, i.e. on 13 October 2017.

Dr. Ioanna Stavridou informed the MC that the Action's budget for the 1st year will cover period from 1st January 2014 until 31st December 2014. The Science Officer also suggested to include more COST Countries in the Action, MC Members agreed.

6 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

The Management Committee elected Dr. Giovanna Ponte (IT) as Chair of COST Action FA1301; Prof. Daniel Osorio (UK) was elected Vice-Chair.

The new Action Chair took over the chair of the meeting from this item onwards.

7 Election of the Grant Holder Institution & 2 Financial Rapporteurs

Grant-holder: the institutes/universities of the Chair and Vice-Chair volunteered to become Grant Holder. The Grant Holder will be confirmed by e-mail later.

Sarah Culloty (IE) and Tore Kristiansen (NO) volunteered for the role of Action Financial Rapporteurs.

8 Working plan for implementing the Action

8.1 Objectives and working programme

The objectives of the Action FA1301 are outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) http://www.cost.eu/domains_actions/fa/Actions/FA1301

The newly elected Chair, Dr. Giovanna PONTE presented a summary of the Action.

The aim of the Action is to provide the scientific basis for advancing knowledge about cephalopod welfare in research, aquaculture and public displays and promote their conservation. The main objective is to establish an interdisciplinary network of professionals including researchers, veterinarians, NGOs, authorities and others, joined in the common effort to integrate, increase and disseminate knowledge about cephalopod welfare and experimentation and to promote cephalopod research and conservation. This will include experts from non-COST countries and European researchers working with cephalopods and other marine species who will complement each other in the scientific area of expertise, experience with different species, and scientific-technical perspectives.

CephInAction will foster multi-disciplinary and inter-species scientific exchanges to integrate knowledge on welfare practices. A network of experts and users will collect, refine, distribute and improve knowledge that is currently distributed between research groups and available only to them. This will allow development of new experimental practices, actions for reduction, refinement and reuse principles when applied to cephalopods..

Main objectives of this action are:

- to implement existing general guidelines and experimental practices and accumulate data to improve and refine codes of practice for the use of Cephalopods to advance Cephalopod welfare in research
- to coordinate on-going national research projects and facilitate new proposals
- to provide proper training on newly established cephalopod husbandry guidelines and experimental practices including the establishment of non-invasive techniques

8.2 Working method - organisation and management

It was decided that the Action will be carried out mainly through five Working Groups: Research needs in cephalopods welfare (**WG1**), Stress and diseases (**WG2**), Neurophysiology, Anaesthesia and Humane end-points (**WG3**), Development of a Welfare Index (**WG4**), Education and Training (**WG5**).

Also the Action will function through Short Term Scientific Missions (**STMS**). All five Working Groups should address the relevant key areas as described in the MoU.

Working Groups have been invited by the Management Committee to cooperate as closely as possible and to ensure the necessary flow of information.

Regarding the grant system the Chair Giovanna PONTE expressed the readiness of her institution, Cephalopod Research ONLUS to deal with. It has been agreed that maximum 15% of the budget will be allocated to the grant holder for the necessary administration.

After a comprehensive discussion the following structures and responsibilities were agreed upon:

8.2.1 Working Group 1: Research needs in cephalopods welfare

Leader: Michael Kuba (DE)
Vice-Leader: Antonio Sykes (PT)

8.2.2 Working Group 2: Stress and diseases

Leader: Camino Gestal (ES)
Vice-Leader: Sarah Cullotty (IE)

8.2.3 Working Group 3: Neurophysiology, Anaesthesia and Humane end-points

Leader: Binyamin Hochner (IL)
Vice-Leader: Panagiotis Grigoriou (GR)

8.2.4 Working Group 4: Development of a Welfare Index

Leader: Lars Helge Stien (NO)
Vice-Leader: Benjamin Costas (PT)

8.2.5 Working Group 5: Education and training

Leader: Nadav Shashar (IL)
Vice-Leader: Ludovic Dickel (FR)

8.2.6 STSM coordinator:

Leader: Hans-Joachim Pflueger (DE)
Vice-Leader: Eduardo Almansa (ES)



8.2.7 Executive Committee

In accordance with the existing COST rules the MC has set up an Executive Committee (EC) consisting of the Chair, Vice-Chair, the five Working Group Leaders and the STSM Leader.

8.2.8 STSM

All MC members have been invited to encourage young scientists to participate in the scheme. It has been agreed during the MC meeting that the application for STSM should be at the moment continuous and welcomes any proposals.

Applications can only be submitted by using the on-line registration tool (www.cost.eu/stsm) described in the relevant guidelines.

8.2.9 Website

To facilitate communication between the members of the Action and to promote distribution of information on the research activities going on in the field of COST Action FA1301 Giovanna Ponte (IT) expressed the readiness of her institute, Cephalopod Research ONLUS, to host and maintain a website for this Action on its server. The offer of the Cephalopod Research ONLUS has been welcomed by the Management Committee.

8.2.10 DC Rapporteur of the Action

The Domain Committee on Food and Agriculture (DC FA) nominated Anders Kiessling (SE) as Rapporteur for COST Action FA1301, whose task will be to report about the activities of this COST Action to DC FA.

8.3 Distribution of tasks

MC members have been invited to support the Action Chair in building up a more detailed plan of action for the next four years as far as to provide adequate information for dissemination and repository of data through the website.

9 Place and date of future meetings

The date of the next meeting will be on 13-16, March, 2014. The MC encouraged the Chair to explore Barcelona as place for the next meeting

10 Budget plan for the first period

Following suggestions of the Science Officer, the Executive Committee discussed the budget plan for the first year. The Grant Period is scheduled from 1st January 2014 to 31st December 2014. The expenditures include the costs for joint MC and WG meetings, short-term scientific missions, training schools and for dissemination (website). For more details see annex.

Dr. Ioanna Stavridou confirmed that the budget for the first year will be € 100,000.

After the EC meeting, the Chair presented all the points to all MC participants. The plan has been agreed.

11 Non-COST countries

No request

12 Any Other Business





None.

13 Closing of the meeting

Giovanna Ponte expressed her gratitude to the members of the Management Committee for their active participation in the meeting and the Science Officer for her enthusiasm for this Action.

Ioanna Stavridou
14 October 2013



List of participants

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