A short outline of COST Action IE0601
“Wood Science for Conservation of Cultural Heritage (WoodCultHer)”

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COST = European COoperation in Science and Technology

COST is an intergovernmental framework for European Cooperation in Science and Technology, allowing the coordination of nationally-funded research on a European level. COST contributes to reducing the fragmentation in European research investments and opening the European Research Area to cooperation worldwide.

www.cost.esf.org
The COST mission

Strengthen Europe in scientific and technological research for peaceful purposes through the support of cooperation and interaction between European researchers.

The COST programme, based on an inter-governmental agreement, is a long-running, economical and highly successful way to spread awareness and build networks between Europe’s researchers. It reflects the human dimension of science, helping researchers to share not only the results of their work but also their aims and methods.
COST Countries

◆ The 27 EU Member States
◆ EFTA Member States
  ‣ Iceland
  ‣ Norway
  ‣ Switzerland
◆ Acceding & Candidate Countries
  ‣ Croatia
  ‣ FYR of Macedonia (FYROM)
  ‣ Turkey
◆ Potential Candidate Countries
  ‣ Republic of Serbia
◆ COST Co-operating States
  ‣ Israel
COST and the Neighbouring Countries

- Special budget line in the COST system to facilitate collaborations
- Specific exchange activities (Short Term Scientific Missions, focus on Early Stage Researchers)

In 2008: 90 participations in 45 Actions
What is funded by COST?

COST Actions: A network of (nationally) funded projects (min. 5 participating countries) receive a financial contribution based on a joint work programme (4 years) for:

- Science management / working group meetings
- Scientific workshops and seminars
- Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs)
- Training Schools and Research Conferences
- Dissemination

- Average funding about 100,000 € per year per Action

Exploratory/Strategic Workshops: to explore future scientific or societal needs, support policy developments or stimulate new activities
Where is a COST Action placed, in COST structure?

COST is supported by the EU RTD Framework Programme.

ESF provides the COST Office through an EC contract.
COST scientific & technical Domains

- Biomedicine and Molecular Biosciences (BMBS)
- Chemistry and Molecular Sciences & Technologies (CMST)
- Earth System Science & Environmental Management (ESSEM)
- Food & Agriculture (FA)
- Forests, their Products and Services (FPS)
- Individuals, Society, Culture & Health (ISCH)
- Information & Communication Technologies (ICT)
- Materials, Physical & Nanosciences (MPNS)
- Transport & Urban Development (TUD)
COST Action IE0601 WoodCultHer
“Wood Science for Conservation of Cultural Heritage”
Start date: 18/04/2007    End date: 17/04/2011 + ...
Presently in its 3rd year (from April 2009 to April 2010)

Management Committee (the decision-making Group): 2 Delegates each from 26 European Countries + 1 each from Albania, Japan, New Zealand

Steering Committee (the “hard-working” group):
Luca UZIELLI (IT), Joseph GRIL (FR) Chairman & Vice Chairman
Thomas NILSSON (SE), George JERONIMIDIS (UK) WG1
Roman KOZLOWSKI (PL), Eberhart LEHMANN (CH) WG2
Helena CRUZ (PT), Tone Marie OLSTAD (NO) WG3
Marco FIORAVANTI (IT) Webmaster

Rapporteur (to Domain Committee) Zsolt KAJCSOS (HU)
Science Officer (COST Office) Caroline WHELAN
Administrative Officer (COST Office) Milena STOYANOVA
Working groups

WG1 “Wood Properties” – Mechanisms and characterisation of wood ageing, degradation and transformation processes, focussing on changes of properties and behaviour of wood and wooden artworks. Properties would include ultra-structural, physical and mechanical, chemical, rheological, biological, etc., including ageing processes of archaeological and water-logged wood.

WG2 “Assessment & Diagnosis” – Evaluation of destructive, non-destructive and non-invasive methods and equipments for in-situ and ex-situ assessments and diagnosis and study of Wooden Cultural Heritage Objects (WCHO’s). Analysis of agents and causes of deterioration.

WG3 “Conservation & Restoration” – Evaluation of existing and new procedures, methods, techniques and products for interventions on wooden WCHO’s (“acceptable, respectful and compatible”).

Note: WGs are useful for several organizational aspects, however the Action’s activities – due to their interdisciplinary nature – are mainly carried out through Plenary or Focused (thematic) meetings.
Scientific context and objectives (1/2)

This Action is interdisciplinary:

- **core research area**: Wood Science (including: wood anatomy, degradation, physical & mechanical properties, timber structures ...)
- **other research areas** involved (up to now): non-destructive imaging, imaging and [micro]-tomography with several radiation types, deformometry, surface analysis, laser cleaning, restoration techniques, structural engineering ...

Unusual interdisciplinarity (whose value is more and more recognized) between Scientists and Conservators

Brief reminder of MoU objectives:

- To improve the conservation (including study, preventive conservation and restoration) of European Wooden Cultural Heritage Objects (WCHOs), by fostering targeted research and multidisciplinary interaction between researchers in various fields of wood science, conservators of wooden artworks, other scientists from related fields.
Scientific context and objectives (2/2)

Action IE0601 deals basically with Wood, however it belongs to the MPNS Domain (IE = Interdisciplinary Exploratory).

In order to reach its objectives, this Action:

- organizes Plenary meetings aiming to bring together Scientists and Conservators, so that the State of the Art on wide themes is known and diffused
- organizes Focused meetings aiming to bring together interested Specialists, so that the State of the Art on specific issues is discussed, updated, and developments are proposed
- promotes and supports STSMs (Short Term Scientific Missions), dealing with subjects falling within its interest area
- promotes and supports Training Schools on specific subjects
- promotes synergies with other Actions
- makes available scientific information by means of its website ([www.WoodCultHer.org](http://www.WoodCultHer.org)), Proceedings, etc.
Our Action’s past and future activities include:

Meetings and International Conferences (~ 80-100 participants)


Focused meetings (~ 10-15 participants)

- Metz, 29-31 May 2008 “Preservation-Restoration of Wooden structures”;

Short Term Scientific Missions (between Institutions of 2 Countries)

- 25 STSMs financed up to now ... more to be submitted ...

Publications

- Reports, papers downloadable (website) - Conference Proceedings, printed ...

Training Schools (~ 15-25 trainees)

Thank you All for your attention!

Thank you, Tone and Roman and all others, for your activity and dedication!

www.cost.esf.org

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