

**Draft Minutes
8th Management Committee (MC) Meeting**

**COST Action TU0601
Robustness of Structures
Copenhagen, Denmark, the 4th and 5th of October 2010**

0. Welcome to participants

The local organiser of the meeting warmly welcomed all the participants. A list of participants can be found in Annex A of this document.

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda of the meeting was approved without any amendment.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the previous MC meeting in Brussels were approved without any amendment.

3. Approval of Conference/Workshop Grant

The workshop grant for the meeting was approved in principle; the local organiser would receive a fixed grant based on the actual number of participants.

4. Report from the COST Office

– News from the COST Office

The MC Chair of the Action Michael Faber announced that the request for a time extension of six months for the Action was approved by the Domain Committee (DC) of the COST Transport and Urban Development (TUD) domain; however no additional budget was allocated. This was in response to a letter sent to the COST Office by the MC Chair on behalf of the MC requesting for an extension and allocation of additional budget for organising the training school of the Action.

The extended end date of the Action would hence be the 10th of October 2011.

5. Cooperation with related COST Actions

It was noted that the scientific collaboration with Action E55 was ongoing and technical factsheets on selected topics were being developed. Contributions from members of the Action would feature in the final conference of Action E55, increasing the visibility of the Action.

Further it was announced that several members of the Action actively participated in the final conference of Action C26 held in September 2010 with presentations.

6. Progress report of working groups

The leaders (or their representatives) of the 3 Working Groups made presentations about the current state and progress of work as well as the action plan for future work in their Working Groups. Further details can be found in the minutes of the 3 Working Group meetings.

7. Action planning – organization of final conference

It was decided that the final conference of the Action would be held in Prague on the 30th and 31st of May 2011. A conference organising committee consisting of the MC Chair, the leaders of the 3 WGs and the local organisers in Prague was formed. It was decided that the contributions to the final conference would be from the members of the Action and possibly some invited external experts. No other external submissions or presentations would be possible. However participation in the conference would be open to all and special efforts would be made to elicit external participation in order to better disseminate and improve the visibility of work of the Action.

The following time plan and deadlines were decided for the final conference.

Confirmation of deadlines for the conference and sending out the preliminary flyer	15 th of December 2010
Submission of papers	31 st of January 2011
Registration of external participants	28 th of February 2011
Editing of submissions and finalisation of conference program	31 st of March 2011
Publication of proceedings	1 st of May 2011

For wider dissemination, it was decided to publish selected papers from the final conference in a special issue of a scientific journal relevant to the work of the Action.

8. Action planning – organisation of training school

Following the recommendation of the COST TUD DC not to allocate additional budget for the Action (Item 4 above), it was noted that it would not be possible to organise and conduct a training school within the Action. However in line with the scientific programme described in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of the Action, it was decided that all the educational material for the training school in the form of lecture notes, lecture presentations and exercises would be prepared and made available for dissemination.

The program for the training school showing the different lectures and allocation of work to the different Working Groups was presented by the coordinator Niels Peter Hoj. The required templates and information about deadlines for the training school would be sent out by Niels Peter Hoj. It was decided to explore the possibility of awarding ECTS points for the students participating in the training school.

9. STSM status, applications

It was noted that several applications for the use of STSMs within the Action were now being submitted, reflecting the strong involvement of Early Stage Researchers in the Action.

All details about STSM are available at:

http://www.cost.esf.org/fileadmin/cost_documents/guidelines/Financial_Instruments/3-STSM.pdf or http://www.cost.esf.org/?id=38&print_doc=4 .

10. Publications, dissemination and outreach activities – visibility of the Action

The following deliverables of the Action:

- proceedings of the final conference of the Action
- publication of selected papers from the final conference in a special issue of a scientific journal
- educational material from the training school of the Action
- guideline document on robust structural design for practicing engineers (Activity 10 in the scientific programme of the Action MoU)
- document on theoretical framework on structural robustness (Activity 11 in the scientific programme of the Action MoU – contribution to the Joint Committee on Structural Safety (JCSS) Probabilistic Model Code)

will serve to disseminate the work of the Action and also successfully achieve the objectives of the Action in line with the scientific programme described in the MoU of the Action.

It was announced that several contributions had been received from members of the Action for a mini-symposium on robustness of structures at the 11th

International Conference on Applications of Statistics and Probability in Civil Engineering (ICASP 11) to be held in Zurich from the 1st to the 4th of August 2011. Harikrishna Narasimhan, Ton Vrouwenvelder, John Dalsgaard Sorensen and Michael Faber will be the organizers of this mini-symposium. For wider visibility of the Action, an offer for being a non-financial sponsor at the mini-symposium would be made to the COST Office by the ICASP 11 conference organisers.

In order to better disseminate the work of the Action at other forums, it was also decided to present the work of the Action in a special technical session at the 35th International Symposium on Bridge and Structural Engineering organised by the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering (IABSE) in September 2011. This session would feature a keynote presentation and about 5 to 6 presentations from the 3 Working Groups of the Action.

Members of the Action were asked to disseminate information about the activities of the Action as much as possible. The possibility of organizing Action related sessions at conferences and workshops was strongly encouraged.

11. Any other business – final evaluation of the Action

The Rapporteur of the Action Kiril Gramatikov noted that this was the last meeting before the final conference of the Action. For the benefit of the members of the Action, he briefly described the latest COST guidelines for the final evaluation of Actions.

12. Closing

The MC Chair thanked all the participants and the local organisers and closed the meeting.

Annex A – Attendance

The following were present during the meeting:

1. Jitendra Agarwal (UK)
2. Traian Badea (RO)
3. Radu Bancila (RO)
4. Carmen Bucur (RO)
5. Gerard Canisius (UK)
6. Sara Casciati (IT)
7. Eduardo Cavaco (PT)
8. Dimitris Charmpis (CY)
9. Marios Chryssanthopoulos (UK)
10. Krzysztof Cichocki (PL)
11. Dean Cizmar (HR)
12. Geoffrey Decan (BE)
13. Dimitris Dimantidis (DE)
14. Vanessa Diamantidis (UK)
15. Zenon Drabowicz (PL)
16. Michael Faber (CH)
17. Rina Farhat (IL)
18. Simos Gerasimidis (GR)
19. Kiril Gramatikov (MK)
20. Max Gundel (DE)
21. Marco Haberland (DE)
22. Niels Peter Hoj (CH)
23. Daniel Honfi (HU)
24. Boulent Imam (UK)
25. Mehmet Inel (TR)
26. Bassam Izzuddin (UK)
27. Victoria Janssens (IE)
28. Inger Birgitte Kroon (DK)
29. Leslaw Kwasniewski (PL)
30. Bernt Leira (NO)
31. Shalva Marjanishvili (USA) – Invited expert
32. Jana Markova (CZ)
33. Harikrishna Narasimhan (CH)
34. Luis Canhoto Neves (PT)
35. Luis Costa Neves (PT)
36. Miguel Pereira (UK)
37. Enrico Rizzuto (IT)
38. Lars Rölle (DE)
39. Silvia Rominu (RO)
40. John Dalsgaard Sorensen (DK)
41. Alexander Taushanov (BG)
42. Sven Thelandersson (SE)
43. Selcuk Toprak (TR)
44. Goran Turk (SI)