

COST Action E43  
Harmonisation of National Inventories in Europe:  
Techniques for Common Reporting

Minutes of the 8th Steering Committee meeting  
14-15 December 2006  
WSL, Birmensdorf, Switzerland

**PARTICIPANTS:**

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Klemens Schadauer (AT)  
Göran Ståhl (SE)  
Erkki Tomppo (FI), chair  
Claude Vidal (FR)

## **1 Opening and Welcome**

Adrian Lanz introduced Hans Peter Schaffer, representative from Swiss Ministry  
Chairman Erkki Tomppo welcomed participants to the meeting and especially director Hans Peter Schaffer.

Peter Brassel gave a brief introduction about WSL and welcomed everybody.

Erkki Tomppo gave a thank speech and declared open the meeting.

## **2 Adoption of the agenda**

To allocate more time fore Task Force work, Erkki Tomppo suggested to shorten the Steering Committee Meeting from 2 days to 1 day (afternoon the 14th and morning the 15th). Some other minor changes were also made by the group member to make the meeting more efficient.

## **3 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting was accepted without any critical comment.

## **4 Status of the Action**

Erkki Tomppo welcomed the participant and made a short summarise about the status of the Action. After that the committee discussed about the agenda for the day and decided to spend the afternoon to discuss about the reference definition. Erkki Tomppo also reminded each work group to send the information to complete the annual report for 2006 and the deadline to send the information was 19 December 2006.

In general, the status of the action was not changing so much since the last MC meeting which was held in Thessaloniki in the beginning of November 2006. Each work group had worked on reference definitions of the core variables and the related articles. There is one and half years left for the Action. The remaining work was: scientific report, reference definition, building bridges and country report. The work of the action has been widely recognised in Europe and also in internationally. Several presentations of the E43 had been given.

#### **4.1 Status of WG1**

Since the last meeting in Thessaloniki, the group had continued the work with the two reports and the Status of NFI. The report would be sent out by the end of year 2006. WG1 was responsible for the technical report on inventory section, forest definition, tree definition and also part of the reference definition. All material for the Reference was ready and the Reference definitions would serve as the basis to build bridge. The Reference definitions could be written during the STSM in Birmensdorf and finalise afterwards. WG1 had completed the draft for the two scientific reports though some material was still need to be finalised, the description of tree volume was acceptable for publication. By the end of 2006 WG1 would make an outline what was needed. WG1 would concentrate on bridge building and the country report.

#### **4.2 Status of WG2**

Göran Ståhl presented the work of WG2. It was in the same line with WG1 in the current state regarding about carbon stage in EU. WG2 had submitted the questionnaire and during the Thessaloniki meeting they had reached the conclusion to harmonise the Reference Definition with other workgroup. There were number of issues still remain and needed to be solved during the task force meeting connected to the STSM and Steering Committee meeting such as: forest definition, biomass, deadwood, etc. In the current state, WG2 was able to write the final technical report on Reference definition by February 2007. WG2 has started also to build the bridges and has consulted the members in this matter. The Kyoto issue would be a part of Carbon reporting.

At this stage, Adrian Lanz suggested that 7 countries would have presentation about bridge building (what was available eventually) for the next meeting. Klemens Schadauer suggested that the Reference should give freedom for countries, it was not a tight definition and it needed to be harmonised at the EU level. The IPCC 2006 guidance has been accepted so that they could be used as a basis references and bridge building.

#### **4.3 Status of WG3**

WG3 had completed the first questionnaire and sent out two scientific paper from the result of this questionnaire. The group started to conduct the second questionnaire which acquired the method from each country for necessary information. The group had co-operated with other groups to create common reference definitions. Furthermore, WG3 would like to exclude some concepts which were difficult to include in the reference. WG3 works also with some other international projects. For the year 2007, WG3 strongly requested to have a taskforce meeting to test the reference in the real data and found out how to manage the possibility.

Erkki Tomppo concluded that there should be the harmonisation between work group to identify the variable and to create the common accepted definition which mean the reference, the current practice of country should be taken in consider as well.

## **5 Issues related to forest monitoring of Europe**

Klemens Schadauer gave some general information about the current situation of European Union. He said that a proposal of the Finnish government had failed. The Finnish government in favour of centralise funding of forest monitoring which means 20% of the total money remain to the Commission and 80% will go to countries. However, the parliament proposes for the opposite side (decentralised approach): the commission keep 80% of the funding and the country can make proposal to ask for the money. The situation is unclear and still open regarding which approach could be used, Centralised or Decentralised approach. The discussion would continue in the next meeting held in December 2006, the countries could give feedback. Therefore, there would be no funding for the Life+ for 2007. The discussion about Forest life+ would be continue in 2007 and would be approved by September 2007. There could be some comment from the country and the final situation couldn't be seen yet. The forest database centre issue was under discussion and the Biosoil would be continue in 2007. There are 3 tender of Action link to Life + which are: Management of forest, Harmonisation of NFI and Social Economic.

The questions came from the situation were that: Whether the tender would continue if in 2007 the country would have no funding? The country might do the minimum what they can do since the situation was open. Nevertheless this situation would have less impact to the Cost Action E43 since the harmonise work independently. To get funding for 2007, different funding sources should be identified.

There was a recommendation about having small consortium with NFIs as uses in the frame work programme 7. Adrian Lanz stated that it's difficult to get people together, he wondered how to continue with the link between NFI and E43 and what would be the cooperate between NFI and future knowledge changes. It was the strategic question on how to continue. The highlight question are:

- Should we expand the work outside EU and what is the goal of expansion and resources?
- Our mandate is to put the work together with Montreal process so Who would be the author to put the process together?

Claude Vidal said that the possibility of enlargement of the work to non European countries was an important signal that our work is good. Though, do we have enough people to put on that enlargement? About the Montreal process, the NFI data is important for political process and the scientific community have voice in political discussion so we would have more visibility in our input data if we involve in the process. Erkki Tomppo pointed out that it's more difficult when cooperate with non-EU countries, but the outside Europe part of harmonising is becoming more and more important. Thus, the Steering Committee supports the visibility and spreading the information from our work.

The last meeting of Cost E43 in spring 2008 will be large with the media involved. This could be one forum to discuss about the dissemination of the results. Göran Ståhl pointed out that a strategic meeting for continuation of E43 work could be a good idea. Concerning about the connection to Montreal process, the question about how to connect to the Montreal process and MCPFE was

discussed? The recommendation was: continue with the process, contact with people involved in Montreal process like Canada and America, discuss and try to have support from the processes.

## 6 Activity Plan for 2007:

The work to be done in 2007 was evaluated. In general, the Reference Definition had come to the final stage with between workgroup harmonisation soon after this meeting. Thus each WG will complete its part in Reference Definition and start the building bridge phase.

WG1 will complete the draft of the Reference Definition part by Christmas 2006. A questionnaire will be sent out to all members by the end of January 2007 (through email). For publication, the outline paper of NFI system in Europe would also be completed by the end of January or in the beginning of February 2007. Thus in order to accomplish those tasks WG1 need two meetings. The first meeting would be in March - April, the group would work with two topics: volume function and tree compartments.

Countries in WG1 that volunteered for giving a presentation in Helsinki meeting in building bridge are: Italy, Finland, Lithuania, Austria, Sweden, Switzerland and Germany. Some of the countries had already had the plot data. A draft letter would be sent to the countries to ask for cooperation in building bridge.

WG2 decided to have two taskforce meeting to discuss about the reference definition and building bridge. They will concentrate on carbon pool estimation in the case countries are: Germany, Sweden, Finland, Italy and France. A task force meeting will be organised in April in Eberswalde, Germany.

WG3 would have one Task Force meeting in March.

The whole group agreed to have a join task force in February to agree upon the reference definition draft and then start the building bridge session. In addition, during the meeting the group would also introduce the template for the country report.

### AGREED MEETINGS IN 2007:

THEME	DATES	PLACE of the meeting
WG1	STSM: 19 Mar. - 7 Apr. TF: 26 - 30 Mar.	Trento, Italy, was postponed later on Trento, Italy, was moved to 11-12 April in Vienna
WG2	TF: 12 - 13 Feb. TF: 16 - 20 Apr.	Finland, was cancelled later on Eberswalde, Germany
WG3	TF: 20 - 24 Mar.	Florence, Italy
Joint Taskforce	22 - 23 Feb.	Vienna, Austria
Steering Committee	9 May 13 - 14 Sep. 22 - 23 Nov.	Brussels, Belgium ISPRA, Italy Florence, Italy
MC Meeting	7 - 9 Jun. 4 - 6 Oct.	Helsinki, Finland Bucharest, Romania

## **7 Other business:**

A co-operation with a JRC harmonisation tender, E43 not involved, was proposed by Dr. Jesús San-Miguel Ayanz. A common opinion was that a copy of technical proposal is needed in order to make the decision. The project plan would be sent E43 chair. The status of Life + was also discussed.

## **8 Closing of the meeting**

The chair and vice-chair thank the participants for active discussions. The meeting was closed at 12:22 on Friday, 15th December 2006.