

# COST e43 – WG1

## Task force – Minutes

### Publications about IFN definitions

Nogent-sur-Vernisson – September 21 and 22

#### **Participants:**

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Thomas Gschwantner (AT)

Klemens Schadauer (AT)

Lucio di Cosmo (IT)

Claude Vidal (FR)

Nicolas Robert (FR)

Adrian Lanz (CH)

The aim of the taskforce was to support the scientific work of the STSM staff (Thomas Gschwantner, Lucio di Cosmo and Nicolas Robert). During this taskforce, the further work and the programme of the WG1 meeting in Thessaloniki were discussed.

#### **1. WORKING PAPER ABOUT THE QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS**

To present the results of WG1 questionnaires, a working paper is to be compiled by Adrian Lanz. First, the STSM participants have to check of the content of the database (during the end of the mission or before 10 October). Then, they will have to prepare a structure for the questions, and to put priorities on the results of the questionnaire (put each question in “drop”, “to be answered summarised”, “to be presented at its full extent”).

Adrian Lanz will compile the results according to the priorities mentioned. This report is expected to have 20 to 25 pages per part. It will be an internal paper without exhaustive analysis, and that could be published on the Internet or as working paper.

The objective is to use this document for completion of results. A first draft will be presented in Thessaloniki for discussion.

This paper can be the basis for a peer-reviewed scientific article on status of practices and definitions in European NFIs.

NB: Country reports are postponed. The opportunity will be discussed and decided during the last year of the Action.

#### **2. WORKING PROGRAMME PROPOSALS FOR THE THESSALONIKI MEETING**

The next Cost e43 meeting will be held in Thessaloniki on 16 and 17 November 2006. The working programme is proposed as follows:

- 1) Information about the paper on reference definitions;
- 2) Presentation of the reference definitions;
- 3) Presentation of the paper on the state of NFIs (see 1);
- 4) Discussion about bridges

- Creation of a meta-information “card” to have information about deviations from national definitions to the references (including rough estimation of the result divergence due to each difference according to expert proposals).
- Presentation of the tasks to accomplish to create bridges and discussion to find some voluntary countries to make some tests (*To be discussed: nb of bridge examples to be built*).

Institutes able to provide work have to be determined. For each variable (growing stock, forest area...) the contributors might be different.

Some countries could be interested in preparing a proposal: GB, SE, FI, IT, CZ...

### 3. GLOSSARY

The glossary might be a side issue of the Cost Action E43. The work on that topic is suspended.

### 4. HINTS FOR THE REPORT OF THE STSM AND PRESENTATION

After the STSM in Nogent-sur-Vernisson (11-30 September 2006) a report must be presented. This report will highlight the major progresses out of the whole programme: database enhancements and the preparation of the article about reference definitions. It will present the major points of the article (framework and main items discussed).

A presentation of the publication will be prepared for the Thessaloniki meeting (see 2).

### 5. WORK PLAN OF THE NEXT STSM AT WSL IN BIRMENS DORF (CH)

It is proposed to organise a new STSM at WSL in Birmensdorf to finalise the status of NFIs in Europe and to prepare a proposal for a publication on that topic. => The major task will be to write a new article comparing NFIs.

This STSM will last 2 to 3 weeks in December 2006. A Steering Committee Meeting will take place during the STSM at WSL: 14 and 15 December 2006. SC members will be informed of the work done and make suggestions.

The programme of the STSM will be prepared before 30 September 2006. Then STSM participants will register on the Internet.

### 6. DISCUSSION ABOUT THE REFERENCE DRAFT PUBLICATION

#### 6.1. The internal paper about references as an input for the reviewing of the first draft

The internal paper about reference definitions was updated by Adrian Lanz. It was presented as a key element for preparing the publication.

#### 6.2. General comments about the draft and guidelines

Some general comments were made on the first draft:

- It is necessary to be strict in the definition (prevent from using “generally”, “more or less”).
- The use of the term “components” is preferred while talking about the decomposition of trees.
- Every subject (tree, forest, growing stock, biomass) should be introduced from the NFI point of view.
- Even if a reference definition must independent from the measurement tool, measurement aspects can be involved.

- We should avoid focussing too much on details.

### 6.3. Content of the publication

The content was redesigned in adding on part on tree definition before forest and growing stock/biomass parts. The new framework of the publication is as follows:

- Introduction: background information on harmonisation process; purposes of a reference definition
- Part 1: material and methods
- Part 2: reference definition of a tree (necessary to define a forest and wood volume)
- Part 3: reference definition for forest
- Part 4: reference definitions of growing stock and biomass
- Conclusion

Some comments about the introduction and the first part were made.

**Introduction** should introduce the aim of the article and be shortened. It will be rewritten by Erkki.

**Part 2** “Material and methods” is an important part. However, it must be more concrete. The part 2.1 (Review of existing definitions) could be integrated in the introduction in ‘setting the problem’.

NB: The term “criteria” has to be used carefully because of the specific sense it takes in international processes.

### 6.4. Work in small groups

The taskforce group was split into 3 subgroups to start rewriting the publication:

- Erkki Tomppo, Claude Vidal and Nicolas Robert for the methodological part (part 2);
- Klemens Schadauer and Thomas Gschwantner for the tree definition (part 3) and growing stock/biomass (part 5);
- Adrian Lanz and Lucio di Cosmo for forest definition (part 4).

Improvements were made during the whole Friday afternoon.

## 7. FURTHER WORK

WG1 proposes to publish several articles:

- 2 internal papers (Reference definitions; status of NFIs in Europe);
- 2 scientific publications: Establishing reference definitions (submission expected in few weeks); global status of NFIs).

To work deeper on bridges, time is required. The time left by Cost Action E43 will not be enough to cover all possibilities. A continuation of the Cost Action e43 could be asked. The other solution could be to start a new action.