

news

from the  **COST OFFICE**

Issue No 8 • April 2008

COST Bustling with energy!

Was it the lack of well-deserved winter break, the mild winter here in Belgium or simply the commitment of all those involved in COST? Regardless, the fact remains that 2008 was off to a flying start, as you will see from the activities described in this newsletter.

The Strategic Workshop on forest ecosystems recently held in Istanbul and the contribution to the Transport Research Board Conference in Washington DC are just a few examples of how COST has spread its wings to involve European and international researchers around the world.

The worldwide interest towards COST was also confirmed by the COST Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) at its latest meeting in Athens on 12 and 13 March 2008, where new participants in ongoing Actions from Armenia, Australia, Canada, Georgia, Japan, New Zealand, Russia and the USA were welcomed.

Other landmark decisions taken by the CSO include the approval of the Guidelines with a Standing Assessment Body for the evaluation of Trans-Domain Proposals, which created a new dimension for future interdisciplinary networks to strike across the nine scientific domains currently offered. In addition, the sequence of two collection dates annually was confirmed and the COST outreach strategy approved.

Our contribution to ESOF2008 described in this newsletter is an example of how an outreach activity benefits scientists – in this case Early Stage Researchers – involved in COST directly, while increasing COST's visibility at the same time.

I am convinced that the approximately 400 Preliminary Proposals received by 28 March 2008 and the numerous activities listed in the Agenda section are an excellent indication of the exciting times ahead for COST!

Martin Grabert,
Director of the COST Office

PS Please note that the next collection date is **26 September 2008**.



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ESF provides the COST Office
through an EC contract



Portrait

**Hans Stødkilde-Jørgensen - DC Chair
for COST Domain Biomedicine and
Molecular Biosciences (BMBS)**

COST Actions

219ter: Vision in Action – Accessibility to next generation networks

Transport Research: COST at the Transport Research Board Conference in Washington DC

A COST Early Stage Researcher in Focus

COST Activities for FP7 focus upon a series of decisions from the COST Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) to stimulate the involvement of early stage researchers¹ in COST Actions.

The focus of this testimonial, the second of a series, is

Peter Fibiger Bang, b. 1973, Associate professor at the Saxo Institute of University of Copenhagen and Chair of COST Action A36 "Tributary Empires Compared".

How did you become involved in COST?

During the final stages of my post-graduate research I organised a workshop together with some more senior colleagues in Cambridge, C. A. Bayly and Metin Kunt. This workshop became the start of the future research network. Afterwards, when I began using the contacts established in Cambridge to develop and expand the network, I was made aware of COST by the European Science Foundation and was told that COST was now attempting to include the arts as well. This made COST an attractive funding opportunity for us.

Did COST help you launch your career? If so, how?

When I had completed my PhD where I had explored Mughal India as a potential comparison for Roman history, I faced the problem that I had a "novel" approach but few "followers" or "interlocutors", as it were. Because it needs to

cross disciplinary and departmental boundaries, comparative research often lacks firm institutional foundations and supports. This is where COST came into the picture. If there was no established discipline for comparing Romans, Ottomans and Mughals, COST funding has enabled me and my colleagues to compensate by creating an exten-



sive network where people from a very wide number of backgrounds are now meeting across well-established departmental boundaries and traditional demarcations of subjects. In that respect, COST has helped us to create a wholly new scholarly forum.

Why would you recommend other early stage researchers to become involved in COST?

Because COST provides funds sufficiently extensive and long-running to enable researchers to build up more wide-ranging networks than usual and at the time allows a higher and more continuous meeting

frequency than is often possible. My own experience also proves that COST is willing to take a chance and include things which do

not always fit into pre-established disciplinary patterns.

What will your future bring?

Well, hopefully a lot more comparative research. In the near future, I hope to use the experience from the network to organise a small research group in Copenhagen studying classical empires in comparative fashion.

More information:

Network website:
<http://www.tec.saxo.ku.dk>

¹ defined as researchers with less than 10 years of experience since the date of their PhD/doctorate (or similar experience)

Hans Stødkilde-Jørgensen

DC Chair for COST Domain Biomedicine and Molecular Biosciences (BMBS)



Name: Hans Stødkilde-Jørgensen

Year of Birth: 1950

Nationality: Danish

Country where I currently live:
Denmark

Languages: Danish, English

Education: Doctor, DMSc

Current profession: Research
Director

Research experience: Surgery,
Magnetic Resonance, Cancer,
Neuro-functionality, Psychology

Why did you join COST?

I saw the potential of COST in opening for enhanced European Networking for the benefit of research activities.

I participate (d) in the following COST Actions: B11, B21

You were nominated as a COST Domain Committee member by your country. What was your motivation to stand for election as DC Chair?

To continue the work of expanding European cooperation within research, to generate enhanced research results and development with implications not only for the research community but also for society in general.

How do you see the future and further evolution of COST?

COST has proved its capacity in integrating former eastern and western European researchers. In the future I would like to COST to be

not only a bottom-up organisation but also one which stimulates major shared European research programmes.

What is your vision of Europe for the next 10 years?

Within biomedicine, special emphasis on translational research will provide a number of new diagnostics and therapeutics. For Europe, I expect that the present balance between national self determination and the idea of a European Union will come. Within research I expect an increased budget will be transferred from the national research councils to shared European research programmes.

When you have one free moment in your busy schedule, what is your preferred leisure activity?

Fishing, painting, workshop construction.



Professor Marja Makarow new CEO for ESF

Professor Marja Makarow joined the European Science Foundation (ESF) as the new chief executive in January 2008. Professor Makarow, Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and former Vice-Rector for Research of the University of Helsinki, will be featured in a future issue.

Meanwhile, more information on her profile and vision can be found on the ESF website: <http://www.esf.org>

COST Action 219ter ends on an Innovative Note

The use of live theatre to show the potential of future ambient intelligent technologies for older people and people with disabilities was an original and innovative feature of the final Conference of COST Action 219ter “Vision in Action – Accessibility to next generation networks” that was held at the Centre Borschette in Brussels, on 7 February 2008. This session will be remembered for the effective and entertaining way that it showed the potential of these technologies, whilst stimulating a highly instructive and interactive discussion.

to include people with disabilities. These adapted scenarios (published in COST Action 219ter book “Towards an Inclusive Future”) served as a basis for the writing of the scripts. The live enactment of the scenarios proved a very useful extension in raising all the issues with the various stakeholders who include users, research community, industry and policy makers.



be of real benefit to people with disabilities and older people.



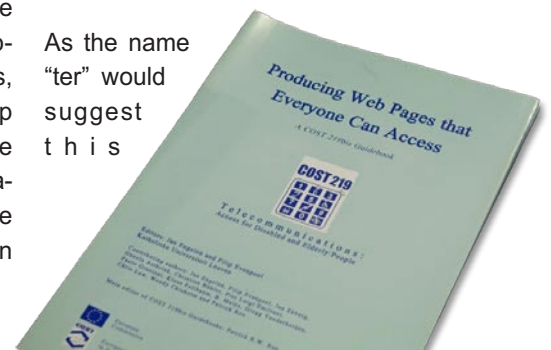
Patrick Roe, Chairman COST Action 219ter

The main aim of the Action has been to increase the accessibility of next generation telecommunication network services and equipment to elderly people and people with disabilities, by design, or by adaptation when required. One of the main outputs of the Action has been the adaptation of the ISTAG (IST Advisory Group) scenarios

Another of the main outputs of the Action has been the production of a roadmap, using the Interactive Management workshop or co-laboratory methodology (A. Christakis, & K. Bausch, 2006). This roadmap shows the factors that need to be addressed if more practical applications of broadband technologies are to appear on the market which can

One of the main findings is that there is a need to develop a methodology for specifying design requirements from a statement of user needs. Another important issue is that accessibility be considered at all stages in the design process and that the testing of accessibility features should be carried out with an appropriate cross-section of potential users. Through a series of Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs), the Action addressed the issue of evaluation of accessibility and developed an accessibility toolkit for assessing the accessibility of mobile handsets. Some initial interest for this toolkit has been shown by the industry.

As the name “ter” would suggest this





Dr Eva Klaper, COST National Coordinator in Switzerland and member of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO)

of standardisation where a global approach is essential. The main highlights of the Action over the last 22 years have been carrying out the ground work and being instrumental in creating the EU-TIDE programme (1991-1999), collaborating with the ITU for the “one in 10” stand at the Telecom 95 Exhibition in Geneva as well as the numerous publications over the years.

More information:
<http://www.tiresias.org/cost219ter>

Action has been the third phase of the Action which began back in 1986. It is not by chance that such a project should have appeared within the COST framework. It took a group of enlightened scientists back in the 1980s to realise that a whole section of society was being left out of the benefits coming from current and future technologies. The bottom-up approach of COST enabled this group of researchers to start up the original Action. Another important feature of COST is its flexibility, both in

terms of being able to accommodate a multidisciplinary approach and include people from outside Europe, which is particularly important in the area



Most of the major findings of this latest phase of the Action can be found in the five COST Action 219ter publications listed below:

Ambient Intelligence – Paving the way... How integrated services can deliver a more inclusive society, John Gill (Ed.). COST 219ter 2008, ISBN: 1 86048 035 7.

Involving People with Disabilities in the Standardisation Process, John Gill. COST 219ter 2007, ISBN: 1 86048 034 9.

Towards an Inclusive Future – Impact and wider potential of information Communication technologies, Patrick R.W. Roe, (Ed)., COST 219ter 2007, ISBN: 92.898-0027.

Equal Measures: Closing the Accessibility Gap, Tony Shipley and John Gill (Eds), COST 219ter 2005, ISBN: 1 86048 032 2.

Making Life Easier – How new telecommunications services could benefit people with disabilities, John Gill (Ed), COST 219ter 2005, ISBN: 1 86048 031 3.

HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE FORESTS MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE

COST Strategic Workshop provides recommendations on forest ecosystem monitoring and research in Europe

Forests cover around one third of Europe's surface. They provide a multitude of economic and social functions and play a major role in nature conservation and environmental protection.

The COST Strategic workshop on the role of "Forest Ecosystems in a Changing Environment" brought together nearly 180 scientists from around 30 countries in Istanbul, Turkey, to identify future monitoring and research needs. The conference was opened in the presence of Prof. Dr. Hasan Zuhuri Sarikaya, Under-secretary of the Turkish Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

The workshop specifically tackled

the fields of climate change and forests, ozone, atmospheric deposition and critical loads, biodiversity, as well as quality assurance in forest monitoring. Experts agreed that increased and joint efforts are necessary to understand combined climate change and air pollution effects on forests and to develop strategies for mitigation and adaptation.

Biological effects of climate change need to be studied in more detail

Increased support is necessary to study the biological response of forest ecosystems to climate change, including annual tree growth, mortality and its causes, tree condition,

phenology, regeneration, and species composition. In addition, water budget models and techniques for interpolating meteorological data need to be further developed, harmonised and applied on a larger number of monitoring and research sites.

Ozone risk assessment has to be improved

It needs to be ensured that ozone impacts on vegetation are on the future agenda both in research and monitoring as well as in the field of clean air policies. This is urgently necessary, because ground level ozone can be directly toxic for humans, plants, and animals. In addition it is one of the most important



greenhouse gases. Future risk assessment needs to be based on the ozone flux into the plants rather than solely on the ambient ozone concentrations.

A much more integrated view on different atmospheric pollutants is necessary

Instead of focussing on single pollutants, support is needed for research activities, teasing out combined effects of pollutants and their interactions in the atmosphere and within the forest ecosystems. Dynamic modelling needs to be further developed to assess combined effects of air pollution and climate change on soils and vegetation. Effects of nitrogen deposition on carbon sequestration and on biological diversity need to remain on the monitoring and research agenda.

A multifunctional European forest monitoring system needs to be sustained and further developed

The scientists agreed that the monitoring data collected under the UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and the EU are today one of the

most important bases for evaluating results of environmental policy and to predict future responses of forests to climate change. Therefore, forest monitoring needs continuous financial and political support by the responsible authorities. At the same time it needs to be ensured that existing long-term monitoring is further developed and adapted specifically in the fields of climate change and biodiversity. A detailed programme for quality assurance needs to be further developed and implemented within the monitoring programme to ensure high quality data. Research programmes need to take much more benefit from the existing long term monitoring data. Scientists claimed that access to these data needs to be considerably simplified.

Basic research, forest monitoring and modelling urgently need to be linked and integrated

The workshop provided excellent opportunities to establish links between basic research, forest monitoring and modelling. Such links need to be supported and intensified in the future because basic understanding of ecosystem processes, data provision as well as data extrapolation and

evaluation rely on each other. The creation of well distributed core sites with a still larger number of parameters measured was recommended. These sites should ideally build on existing monitoring plots which need to be upgraded for intensified research and model development. Research and monitoring programmes should jointly use these sites.

The Strategic Workshop took place from 11 to 13 March in Istanbul, Turkey with COST Support. It was organised by the Institute for World Forestry (www.worldforestry.de) in Hamburg, the Turkish Ministry of Environment and Forestry (www.ogm.gov.tr), the International Union of Forest Research Organisations (www.iufro.org), the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (<http://forest.jrc.it>) and the European Environment Agency (www.eea.eu.int).

More information:

<http://www.cost.esf.org/events>

or

<http://www.costforest2008.org>

Recent events and activities

Special Issue of Journal of Molecular Catalysis B: Enzymatic devoted to COST Action D25

1 February 2008 - Volume 50 – ISSN 1381-1177

A special issue of this prestigious journal was devoted to contributions from COST Action D25 “Applied Biocatalysis: Stereoselective and Environmentally-friendly Reactions Catalysed by Enzymes” with Professor Thorleif Anthonsen, Chair of the Action, as the Guest Editor.

More information: www.elsevier.com/locate/molcatb.

COST Action E49 “Processes and Performance of Wood-Based Panels”

14 to 15 February 2008, Bled, Slovenia

The Action met to prepare a report that covers the many aspects of testing and assuring the quality of wood-based panels (WBP). The report will be of great value to researchers, students and technical managers who work with or manufacture WBP.

COST at the Transport Research Board Conference in Washington DC

The 87th Annual Meeting of the Transport Research Board (TRB) in Washington DC focussed on international activities. When the organisers invited COST and other contributors to the ERA to showcase their activities, COST gladly accepted! The event gathered 11 000 transport researchers for nearly 1 000 sessions from 13 to 17 January 2008.



Cristina Pronello, Chair for the COST Domain Transport and Urban Development (TUD) and Thierry Goger, COST Office TUD Science Officer, coordinated their presentations at different sessions with Louisa Prista, Head of Unit - Surface Transport and Maria Cristina Marolda, Transport Safety Programme Officer - Unit Surface Transport from the European Commission's DG Research-Directorate Transport. They attended sessions on a variety of topics, including climate change, environment impact assessment, presentations on pavements, presentations on traffic simulation, multimodal transport policy and planning, transport safety and intelligent transport systems and air pollution.

The COST presentations introduced COST, its characteristics and instruments before focussing upon the TUD Domain and its success stories from COST Actions. During the session dedicated to Innovative Research Partnerships: Charting New Territory, COST and the European Commission showed the complementarities of their activities as well as the close connection with different European platforms on transport, such as the European Conference of Transport Research Institutes (ECTRI) and the Forum of European National Highway Research Laboratories (FEHRL).

On the final day of the conference, COST Activities were presented during the annual meeting of The International Committee of TRB's Technical Activities Division. The COST presentation focussed on COST mechanisms and also presented running COST Actions dealing with both transport and climate change, which will be the main topic of the next TRB Annual Meeting in January 2009. As with the first presentation, COST promoted the Open Call in view of the 28 March 2008 collection date.

Overall, the response to COST information was extremely positive. Around sixty people showed their interest to participate in COST Actions and were invited by the COST Office to prepare a pre-proposal for the next collection date. A number of planned activities

in Europe are a direct follow-up of the participation in this conference.

For example, Louisa Prista invited COST to attend the session on European Trans-National Joint Research Collaboration, to emphasise the complementarities between EU and COST activities during the upcoming Transport Research Arena (TRA) conference to be held in



Ljubljana in May 2008. This important transport event will feature Cristina Pronello and Thierry Goger and a COST exhibition stand.

COST was also invited by FEHRL, based in Brussels, to present COST activities at one of their international conferences and other means for cooperation are currently being investigated.

Finally, the TRB expressed its interest in intensifying collaboration with COST with the aim to allow the permanent exchange of researchers involved in the complementary COST and TRB projects.

More information:
[Thierry Goger \(tgoger@cost.esf.org\)](mailto:tgoger@cost.esf.org)

COST Actions showcased at the event included

COST Action 352 Influence of Modern In-vehicle Information Systems on Road Safety Requirements

COST Action 353 Winter Service Strategies for Increased European Road Safety

COST Action 354 Performance Indicators for Road Pavements

COST Action 355 Changing Behaviour towards a more Sustainable Transport System

COST Action 356 Towards the Definition of a Measurable Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST)

COST Action 358 Pedestrians' Quality Needs (PQN)

More information: <http://www.cost.esf.org/tud>

Mark your calendar! ESOF2008 – COST Involvement

The EuroScience Open Forum will be held in Barcelona from 18 to 22 July 2008. The mission of ESOF2008 is to provide both European and international science communities with an open platform for debate and communication and in doing so influence the future of science in Europe.

COST subscribes to this mission and actively supports ESOF2008.

You are kindly invited to visit the **COST Scientific Session**

The COST Scientific Session “Science and Preservation of Cultural Heritage”, currently scheduled for **20 July 2008 at 16:00**, considers the fact that heritage tourism contributes more to European GNP and provides employment for more people than the whole automotive sector and that, therefore, conserving artefacts is both culturally essential and an economic imperative.

The Session addresses such questions as:

- Has this process been seriously impeded by EU funding structures?
- How can scientists, conservators and curators work together effectively?

and

- How can we train the experts of the future to embrace the multidisciplinary approach required?



COST Exhibition Stand

The interactive COST Exhibition stand, located next to EUREKA and the European Science Foundation, will give an overview of COST activities.

In parallel, COST is organising three **Early Stage Researchers'**

Workshops. COST Early Stage Researchers are given the opportunity to visit ESOF2008 and participate in the public activities including the career programme.

Through a competitive procedure, the following three interdisciplinary workshops were selected and are currently under preparation:

More information:
<http://www.cost.esf.org/events>

ESOF2008 has a number of travel grants available (e.g. for Eastern Europe attendees).

More information:
 Please visit the Grants section on the ESOF2008 website.

Workshop I	Workshop II	Workshop III
<p>FAT: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly 19.07.2008</p>	<p>Digital Television: Users, Markets and Policies 20.07.2008</p>	<p>Decision Analysis for a Better and Safer World 21.07.2008</p>
<p>The workshop is planning to discuss the intricate network of neural, humoral and hormonal factors that control appetite and food intake, the damaging roles of lipids and free radicals causing life threatening diseases and finally the role of food and endogenous antioxidants in prevention of pathological process. This will provide interdisciplinary scientific overview on positive and negative aspects of the fat consumption given in popular presentation that will form the basis for intense exchange between ESR and experienced researchers.</p>	<p>The fact that digital television is an important development of the last decade in European countries and that it has several market and business implications, as well as some regulatory/policy questions, this workshop will mainly focus on changing viewing practices, business models in a changing business environment and challenges for policy making. The workshop is expected to foster communication between ESRs and experienced researchers.</p>	<p>The aim of the workshop is to share experiences in developing new decision making methods and tools to support a better world. Topics to be included are; the promotion of e-democracy, decision making for counterterrorism, decision making in the face of natural catastrophes, water distribution problems and energy planning. The workshop will allow ESRs to discuss their latest work in a first-class environment and to be exposed to a variety of real complex applications.</p>

COST quotes the organisers

As an ESOF2008 participant you are welcome to:

More information and registration:
<http://www.esof2008.org>

<p>Discover</p> <p>new trends and directions in research, business, science policy and funding</p>	<p>Communicate</p> <p>your research and ideas to an international audience</p>	<p>Meet and talk</p> <p>to scientific journalists from Europe and around the world</p>
<p>Network</p> <p>with leaders of the international science community</p>	<p>Participate</p> <p>in the debate, discussion and excitement of European science and technology</p>	<p>Develop</p> <p>your career, your future projects, your horizons and your contacts</p>

Recent events and activities

- **COST Strategic Workshop: Forest Ecosystems in a Changing Environment: Identifying Future Monitoring and Research Needs** (see article)

11 to 13 March 2008, Istanbul, Turkey

This strategic workshop aimed at identifying monitoring related research needs in the field of climate change and air pollution effects on forest ecosystems. Plenary and parallel sessions dealt with climate change effects on forests, on the development of ozone monitoring and critical loads for eutrophication and acidification. Effects on biodiversity were tackled as well.

More information: <http://www.costforest2008.org/>

- **First European Workshop on Biotechnology for Lignocellulose Biorefineries**

27 to 28 March 2008, Copenhagen, Denmark

There is an increased interest to develop environmentally sound and cost-effective biotechnical tools and production technologies to be exploited in the production of fibres, chemicals and bio fuels from lignocellulosic biomass. The workshop was part of the COST Action FP0602 "Biotechnology for Lignocellulose Biorefineries (BIOBIO)", and brought some of the best researchers from European and international research communities together. Topics presented included: Improved Enzymes and Microorganisms for Biomass Processing, Enzymatic Modification and Breakdown of Fibres and Carbohydrates and finally, Biotechnological Processing of Chemical and Wood Derivatives.

More information: <http://en.sl.life.ku.dk/KurserOgEfteruddannelse/BioBio.aspx>

Claus Felby (cf@life.ku.dk) and Liisa Viikari (liisa.viikari@helsinki.fi)

- **Final Conference of COST Action A25 "European Small Arms and the Perpetuation of Violence"**

17 to 19 March, Brussels, Belgium

Since its inception in 2004, the Action stimulated cooperation among researchers on small arms and armed violence, both from Europe and further afield. The final conference critically reviewed some of the key developments in research that have occurred since 2004, as well as discussing future research priorities and their relevance for EU policy.

More information: <http://www.prio.no/projects/a25cost/conferences.htm>

News from staff

Gian Mario Maggio accepted the position as Senior Science Officer for the Science in Society Cluster and the Domain ICT in January 2008.

Magali Poinot accepted the position of Grant Agreements Manager in January 2008.

Lucia Forzi accepted the position of Junior Science Officer in the Natural Sciences Cluster in February 2008.

Ruslan Rakhmatullin accepted the temporary position of Administrator CGS in January 2008.

Francesca Boscolo accepted the temporary position of Junior Science Officer in Science in Society in January 2008, as a maternity leave replacement for Julia Stamm.

Gyula Szabo accepted the temporary position of IT Development Assistant in January 2008.

Burcu Dagurkuden accepted the position of Conference Officer on a temporary basis in January 2008.

Jonathan Newman started working on the COST online strategy in March 2008 on a temporary assignment.

□ **COST Open Call—Most recent collection date 28 March 2008**

The first collection date in 2008 of COST's Open Call for Proposals received a total of 400 Preliminary Proposals that hope to become full-fledged COST Actions. As always, researchers were invited to locate their topic within one of the nine scientific Domains or, alternatively, to submit interdisciplinary proposals which would not readily fit into a single Domain. The latter category, called Trans-Domain Proposals (TDPs) was placed at the centre of attention through the establishment of a Standing Assessment Body (SAB) which will review submitted TDPs. The TDP-SAB will be composed of the Chairs of the nine COST Domain Committees, as well as two additional scientific experts per Domain, and will be led by a neutral coordinator directly appointed by the CSO President. The COST Office's own Science Officers may also serve as experts with the SAB.

More information: <http://www.cost.esf.org/opencall>

The next collection date for Preliminary Proposals is 26 September 2008.

□ **The Fourth International Symposium of COST Action E38 “Physiological Processes in Roots of Woody Plants”**

16 to 19 September 2008, Bangor, United Kingdom

The meeting was attended by 202 delegates from 28 countries. Invited speakers came from Europe, Australia, Japan and the USA. The symposium covered the function of roots of woody plants from molecular biology to ecology. COST action E38 presented three synthesis papers at the meeting summarising seven synthesis papers published in *Plant Biosystems*.

Agenda

□ **COST Strategic workshop: Global Change and Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions**

7 to 9 April 2008, Innsbruck, Austria

The objective of this strategic workshop is to identify future research needs in the context of the sustainable development in mountain regions. The outcome will provide rationales and guidelines for researchers, research managers, policy makers as well as funding agencies. This strategic workshop aims to put research topics on mountain ecosystem services on the political agenda and identify the implications of climate and socioeconomic change for current and future forms of land use. The workshop assesses the impact on selected ecosystem services such as hazard protection, recreation and natural resources. Furthermore, scenarios of change and its implication for societies depending on these ecosystem services will be appraised. Although special emphasis is given to the Alps, other mountain systems will be reflected on.

More information: Robert Jandl (robert.jandl@bfw.gv.at) Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape (BFW)

□ **European Geosciences Union General Assembly**

13 to 18 April 2008, Vienna, Austria

The EGU General Assembly will bring together geoscientists from all over Europe and the rest of the world in one meeting covering all disciplines of Earth, Planetary and Space Sciences. Especially for young scientists the EGU appeals to provide a forum to present their work and discuss their ideas with experts in all fields of geosciences. The event will feature the COST ESSEM domain.

More information: <http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2008/>

□ **COST Action E46—13th PTS-CTP De-inking Symposium**

15 to 17 April, Leipzig, Germany

COST Action E46 “Improvements in the Understanding and Use of De-inking Technology” will feature 14 presentations from its participants during this symposium which is the top event worldwide related to de-inking. These presentations include a collection of results of fundamental research and their application in de-inking plants.

More information: http://www.deinkingsymposium.de/index_en.htm

□ **COST/EUREKA Twin Event on Aquaculture**

20 to 22 April 2008, Enkhuizen, the Netherlands

COST and EUREKA joined forces in June 2007, combining a COST strategic workshop with a EUREKA project brokerage event within the area of aquaculture. Recognising the success of this event, the Municipality of the Dutch City of Enkhuizen and the Province of Northern Holland decided to organise a second COST/EUREKA Twin Event, in an approach best characterised as “Business meets Science”. The main issue will be establishing international collaborative projects to be triggered by pilot projects set up under the EUREKA Umbrella Project “Innofisk”. Pilot Projects will be defined in three areas: Specific novel fish species; Sustainability and installations and Feed and Health, all recommended by the COST preparatory Committee on Aquaculture. The Enkhuizen Twin Event will last for two days with an opening address from Gerda Verburg, Dutch Minister for Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and closing remarks from Joe Borg, EU Commissioner for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs.

□ **Transport Research Arena Research (see article)**

21 to 24 April 2008, Ljubljana, Slovenia

The second in a series of major EU-sponsored road transport events, TRA 2008 will cover all aspects of road transport, promoting the strategic alignment of research around a shared Strategic Research Agenda (SRA), as defined by the European Road Transport Research Council (ERTRAC). Organisers include ERTRAC, the Conference of European Road Directors (CEDR), the European Commission and Slovenia’s Ministry of Transport. The COST TUD domain will be represented at this event.

More information: https://www.cd-cc.si/ei/getdemo.ei?id=175&s=_1JS0UE6RM

□ **Joint COST-ESF Interdisciplinary Science Initiative “New Perspectives on Landscapes”**

COST and the European Science Foundation are joining forces to establish a European “network of networks” in the field of landscape studies. Management of landscapes is of major importance for the well-being of European citizens, our cultural heritage and environmental sustainability. Four initial thematic workshops will take place in the first half of 2008: “Exploring New Territories in Landscape Studies”; “Landscapes: Perceptions, Values and Meanings” and “Landscapes: Social relations and environmental resources” and “Landscapes: Imagining the future”. The series will be concluded by a Synthesis Workshop towards the end of 2008.

More information: [Professor Tom Bloemers \(j.h.f.bloemers@wanadoo.nl\)](mailto:j.h.f.bloemers@wanadoo.nl)

□ **Final Conference of COST Action E34 on the topic of “Enhancing Bond Line Performance”**

6 to 7 May 2008, Sopron, Hungary

The aim of the Final Conference is the improvement of existing knowledge in the many aspects of timber bonding by being as broad as possible and allowing researchers to present new results in five main topics: Bond Line Durability, Fiber Reinforced Polymer Applications, Bond Line Assessment, Green Gluing and Novel Products and Techniques. The Final Conference will demonstrate the Core Document of COST Action E34 “Bonding of Timber” with the synthesis of actual knowledge on the topic and future perspectives towards a higher common technical, economic and environmental standard.

More information: <http://www1.uni-hamburg.de/cost/e34/>

□ **Annual meeting of COST Action B27 “Electric Neuronal Oscillations and Cognition (ENOC)”**

The meeting is held in conjunction with the 2008 Biennial Meeting of the Society of Applied Neuroscience, titled “From Basic Neuroscience to Outcome” and will cover a wide range of applied neuroscience fields, like neurofeedback, peripheral biofeedback, brain-computer interfaces, neuro-rehabilitation, and neuronal reorganisation through behavioural methods, transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS), and real-time self-regulation procedures using fMRI and MEG.

More information: <http://www.applied-neuroscience.org>.

□ **Final Conference of COST Action E36 “Modelling and Simulation in the Pulp and Paper Industry”**

12 to 14 May 2008, Madrid, Spain

This final conference will provide an insight into the current use of simulation technology in the paper industry. The current market situation and the criteria for the selection of suitable software programmes for simulation and process analysis will be discussed. Case studies on profitability improvement will show how modelling and simulation contribute to the sustainability of the paper industry. Practical examples of process simulations for design and optimisation purposes will be given and tools to enhance the control of processes will be presented. Finally, the conference will address the chances and limits of mastering of paper products properties.

More information: <http://www.ucm.es/info/iqpapel/Conference2008>

□ **Transdisciplinary Workshop of COST Action 298 “Participation in the Broadband Society”**

15 May 2008, Budapest, Hungary

The introduction of digital television is an important development of the last decade in European countries. It has several market and business aspects, and some regulatory/policy questions also arose. By 2015, all European countries will have to switch off their analogue terrestrial TV-signal. This will have considerable implications for viewers, TV markets and policy. The main goal of this workshop is to analyse in-depth the implications of (interactive) digital television for users, markets and policy. The output will serve as concrete guidance for public policy and technological development strategies.

More information: <http://www.cost298.org>

- **Final meeting of COST Action E38 “Woody Roots and Ecosystem Services”**
16 to 19 May 2008, Lisbon, Portugal

Mankind has utilised the ecosystem services of woody plant ecosystems such as wood and clean water for millennia. Climate change may threaten many of these. This meeting will address the importance of roots of woody plants for ecosystem services, such as carbon sequestration, slope stability and maintenance of biodiversity.

More information: <http://www.bangor.ac.uk/~afsa0e/cost38/futuremeetings4.htm>

- **COST-ESF High Level Research Conference “Natural Products Chemistry, Biology and Medicine”**
18 to 23 May 2008, Acquafredda di Maratea, Italy

This COST-ESF High Level conference will primarily focus on the synthesis, biology and medicine of naturally occurring substances and their designed analogues as well as related areas. The meeting will serve to bring researchers together from several parts of the EU and from around the world in order to discuss the latest developments in the field and to provide opportunities for young students to advance their education and training. The closing date for applications (as well as for abstract submission) is 24 February 2008.

More information: <http://www.esf.org/conferences/08266>

- **COST Action E53 “Quality Control for Wood and Wood Products”**
19 to 20 May 2008, Oslo, Norway

COST Action E53 will organise separate Work Group seminars combined with a wood drying seminar. The seminars will cover the following subjects: scanning for wood properties, moisture content and distortion and, finally, strength, stiffness and appearance grading. The target audience includes representatives from the wood industries, producers of timber products and academia.

More information: <http://www.coste53.net/index.php>

- **Seminar “Towards Understanding Wood, Fibre, and Paper--deeper knowledge through modern analytical tools”**
19 to 21 May 2008, Turku/Åbo, Finland

The seminar will bring academic and industrial experts together on modern analytical tools for wood, fibre and paper. The seminar will include invited internationally recognised key-note lecturers, outstanding presentations from COST Actions E41 and E50, poster sessions with short presentations and contacts with industrial representatives.

More information: <http://www.abo.fi/fak/tkf/spk/>

- **Final Conference of COST Action A23 “The Evaluation of European Labour Market Programmes”**
27 to 30 May 2008, Paris, France

Leading European research centres in the field of applied micro econometrics and labour economics have joined forces in a COST network. The research has focused on the adequate design and the evaluation of policy interventions, to deal effectively with a variety of social and economic issues, in particular labour market programmes. The final conference will include a Training School for Early-Stage Researchers.

More information: <http://www.tinbergen.nl/cost/>

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Website links were correct at time
of publication, but may since have
changed.

To the best of our knowledge,
Agenda information was correct at
the time of writing although changes
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For up-to-date information on COST
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p 6 contains a photo collage

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Domain abbreviations used:

BMBS - Biomedicine and Molecular Biosciences
CMST - Chemistry and Molecular Sciences and Technologies
ESSEM - Earth System Science and Environmental Management
FA - Food and Agriculture
FPS - Forests, their Products and Services
ISCH - Individuals, Societies, Cultures and Health
ICT - Information and Communication Technologies
MPNS - Materials, Physical and Nanosciences
TUD - Transport and Urban Development

Agenda (continued)

- **Final Conference of Cost Action E33 “Forest Recreation and Tourism Serving Urbanised Societies”**
28 to 31 May 2008, Hämeenlinna, Finland

The main objective of this COST Action, which started in January 2004 and finishes in June 2008, is to improve the quality of information available to policy makers and forest managers on the recreation and tourism benefits of forestry, as well as to increase the cost-effectiveness of techniques for delivering recreation and tourism benefits from forestry.

The conference will launch a number of outputs from the Action and the main results will be presented. There will be plenary sessions, parallel sessions, round table discussions and field trips.

This conference will be jointly held with the 11th European Forum on Urban Forestry (EFUF) and is supported by the METLA, Mestahallitus and the City of Hämeenlinna.

More information: www.metla.fi/tapahtumat/2008/recreation-tourism/

- **Final Conference of COST Action A24 “The Evolving Social Construction of Threats”**
5 to 6 June 2008, Brussels, Belgium

With the end of the Cold War, defining and prioritising threats became a more open field and the object of intense struggles between various players. The events of 11 September 2001, catapulted the question of a changing relation between liberty and security onto the political agenda. The conference will focus on policy issues such as counter-terrorism, privatisation of security, insurance and risk, migration and borders, and foreign policy of and within the EU. It will bring together COST Action A24 and the research project CHALLENGE funded by the Framework Programme of the European Commission.

More information: <http://www.cost-a24.info>

- **COST Strategic Workshop: Improving Energy Efficiency in Papermaking - improving energy utilisation - reducing carbon emissions - finding energy solutions**
9 to 11 June 2008, Amsterdam Airport Hoofddorp, The Netherlands

This COST Strategic Workshop will bring together senior Paper Industry representatives, scientists and high profile speakers to discuss the options the paper industry in Europe has to address its possibly greatest challenge of the future: the fact that saving energy has become the most crucial issue for the European Pulp & Paper Industry and that the necessity to install better or even Best Available Technologies is greater than ever.

More information: <http://www.cost-ieep.net>