

Minutes of the ForestDSS Community of Practice Council and Working Committee (WC) meeting

2015-08-11; 16.00-17.00 CET, *Actions are indicated in italic.*

Organization and Minutes:

José G. Borges (chair)

Ola Eriksson (keeper of the minutes)

1. Opening and report of the Coordinator

Jose Borges opened the meeting. The SSAFR 2015 gathered 19-21 August in Uppsala, Sweden, about 100 researchers on Operations/Systems Analysis in forestry. About 30 of them attended the parallel session of ForestDSS CoP under the chairmanship of Jose Borges.

A short report by the coordinator (Harald Vacik) was provided on the latest activities (see attached ppt) which summarized the latest activities related to the CoP. The CoP website has been relaunched, the SI in Forests based on the contributions to the IUFRO congress was finalized, many of the WC members were involved in the ERASMUS+ proposal "TrainForDSS", some promotional material presenting the CoP (leaflets, presentation slides) was produced.

The requests regarding the CoP webpage raised in the last meetings have been mostly addressed and some modifications are already in place (i) to collect presentations and other material based on results of studies on the wiki on the CoP website, (ii) to link presentations, publications and other material related to cases and lessons on the wiki (iii) to add proceedings / conference contributions as publications to make them appear as "latest publications" on the main CoP page, (iv) to develop the query interface for the wiki with the help of Hungarian students who Laszlo is supervising, (v) to distribute a CoP newsletter 3-4 times per year.

Efforts will be continued to get funding for the CoP network activities, currently all costs for the activities (travelling, programming and maintenance of the CoP website,...) are covered by in-kind contributions from the organizations supporting the CoP.

2. Overview on the activities/status in the workgroups

An overview of each workgroup was made concerning the status of the workplan and activities carried out.

DSS descriptions: There is still need to include more systems as well as securing the quality of the data of those 60 or so systems already in the repository. The semantic wiki should make that work easier compared with the free format wiki of the FORSYS project.

<http://www.forestdss.org/CoP/content/dss-descriptions>

DSS cases and lessons learned: The activity has been limited. Still, there is a valid work program. Sean Gordon (WG leader; reporting by mail) indicated that another WG leader might be more efficient since he, apart from working in the WG of the CoP, is also liaising between SDS and the CoP.

<http://www.forestdss.org/CoP/content/dss-cases-and-lessons-learned>

Architecture and Design and Methods and Models: The activity has been limited and need some impetus to get going.

<http://www.forestdss.org/CoP/content/architecture-and-design>
<http://www.forestdss.org/CoP/content/methods-and-models>

Participatory processes and Knowledge management: Harald is writing a book chapter Eva, Teppo and Esther that might well be included on the homepage.

<http://www.forestdss.org/CoP/content/participatory-processes-and-knowledge-management>

3. Discussion about TrainforDSS proposal

Brady gave a brief report on the status of the proposal and asked for feedback.

From the point of the reviewers the project application and the project idea TrainForDSS for Erasmus + higher education is seen as relevant and well explained in general terms. The selected main priority is always addressed, the innovative aspect of the project is not clearly worked out enough. Evidence of a number of completed projects is given, a clear delineation of these actions is missing, whereby development and added value can be assessed only partially. The project application includes a good description of all the components that are necessary for a successful project implementation. The planned activities also are in line with the project objectives and contribute to the development and testing of the course and the webinars. It is unclear, however, why the work on the design of the courses starts only after six months (or four for the webinars). In general, the scope of the planned outputs intellectual is not clear in all areas. All materials should be available only in English, which can be complicated for its use in professional training. Also in terms of multipliers events it should be taken care that these are used in particular for the dissemination of the developed intellectual outputs. The consortium possesses the skills and capacities to successfully implement the activities described and the partnership has already implemented a number of projects on this subject. The roles of the partners are clearly demonstrated, project management, communication and cooperation are well described. The involvement of the partner from Switzerland brings an added value. Evaluation and quality management are well described. There is also a series of indicators indicated, however, although no concrete target definitions or targets against which the project's success can be measured later (for mobilities and events are targets / number of target participants in the budget, however, included). The impacts of the project are described generally very good. The dissemination of project results are shown in great detail and make it likely that the project results will be carried on even after the termination of the project.

There were several people that spoke up in favor of resubmitting the proposal, and Jose suggested resubmitting as is. Some minor changes could be identified to emphasize the innovative aspects. One suggestion was to get in touch with the Forest Technology Platform to see if they could somehow support the proposal at least informally. Additionally more emphasis should be placed on the connection with EU policies. Another suggestion was to getting in touch with the regional ERASMUS contact to see if there is a way to see an unofficial copy of a funded proposal that we could use as a model. Several people requested a copy of the proposal. *Brady will send out copy to interested partners.*

4. Any other business

Alexandra Marques reported that the Orchestra COST Action is planning to create a wiki as the CoP. Opportunities for cooperation should be noticed but the work in Orchestra has not advanced much yet. Also the work of the Value Chain Optimization (VCO) network seems to be interested in the activities of the CoP *Alexandra will keep Forest CoP updated on that progress.*

Alexandra wanted us to observe the possibilities for capacity building through EU programs to keep the CoP going. A possibility of founding the CoP could be through Coordination and support actions (CSA) actions (https://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/understanding/fp7inbrief/funding-schemes_en.html)

The CoP homepage has a valuable page with relevant conferences and meetings. It would be even easier to use in case a hyperlink that was associated with the event (adding to the added value of visiting and contributing to the pages).

5. Closing

Jose Borges closed the meeting.