

## Cost action A35: Progressore

Minutes of the third management committee meeting held at the University of Utrecht, 19-20 October 2007.

Chair: Gérard Beaur; vice chair: Rosa Congost

### **Friday 19 October 2007 at 2.00**

Present:

Daniela Koleva (Bulgaria), Rapporteur

Annie Antoine (France),  
Gérard Beaur (France)  
Nadia Charalambous (Cyprus)  
Rosa Congost (Spain)  
Jaroslaw Dumanowski (Poland)  
Josef Grulich (Czech R)  
Anne-Lise Head-König (Switzerland)  
Richard Hoyle (United Kingdom)  
Ernst Langthaler (Austria)  
Mats Morell (Sweden)  
Socrates Petmezas (Greece)  
Vicente Pinilla (Spain)  
Peter Pozsgai (Hungary)  
Rui Santos (Portugal)  
Phillipp Schofield (United Kingdom)  
Jose Vicente Serrao (Portugal)  
Serge Schmitz (Belgium)  
Patrick Svensson (Sweden)  
Erik Thoen (Belgium)  
Aud Mikkelsen Tretvik (Norway)  
Bas Van Bavel (The Netherlands)  
Nadine Vivier (France)

1. GB welcomed members of the Management Committee (MC) to the meeting. It was noticed that Dr David Gronbaek (Cost Office) was unable to attend.
2. The agenda was adopted.
3. The minutes of the second MC meeting held in Brussels on 25 November 2006 were agreed.
4. Richard Hoyle was nominated to take the minutes.
5. GB welcomed Nadia Charalampous representing Cyprus to the Action.

## **6. Intervention of the rapporteur of the Action**

Daniela Koleva reported on the action domain overview meeting held in Vienna in June where action A35 had been congratulated on the report presented by GB. She regretted that COST was unable to make money available for translation of texts for publication but otherwise the Action had been very highly evaluated.

## **7. ESF-COST Network of Networks: ‘New Perspectives on Landscapes’.**

This network of networks had been launched at meeting in Madrid which both Annie Antoine, Rosa Congost (representing A35) and Erik Thoen had attended. David Gronbaek had reported on this at the Core Group meeting in Paris and a further meeting was to be held in Amsterdam in November. Four workshops had been arranged for 2008, including one on historic landscapes. The MC was asked to endorse the participation of the Action in this Network of Networks. The MC asked to have the papers outlining the initiative circulated and deferred its decision until Saturday.

## **8. Budget for the year 2006-2007**

GB described considerable difficulties with the budget for the previous year. The COST office had changed the final date of the financial year several times. Accordingly three of the four workshops held in the summer of 2007 had fallen outside the financial year and GB had been forced to arrange a borrowing facility with CNRS to the tune of €3k to pay for the workshops. He envisaged similar difficulties in 2008 when not all meetings would fall in the financial year. He hoped that the finances would work themselves out in a satisfactory way in the final year of the Action.

Four workshops had been arranged for the Summer of 2008: in Rome (Thoen, van Bavel), Lund (Svenson), Sárasopatak (Pozsgai) and Bern (Moser). Calls for Papers had been circulated and were posted on the Action’s area of the CNRS website. There would be a final concluding conference for the workshop in 2009.

## **9. Short term scientific missions (STMS)**

Proposals for STMS were tabled for Professor P. Schofield to work with GB in Paris and Dr Noelle Plack to work with Prof. Vivier in Le Mans. Both were agreed by the MC.

## **10. Publications**

GB referred to the decision taken at the previous MC meeting to refer the choice of publisher of the Action’s publications to the core group which was given the power to co-opt additional members for this purpose. Proposals had finally been received from Brepols and the University Press of Rennes (Presse Universitaire de Rennes). Brepols had been selected as the Action’s publisher.

Following further discussions, the arrangement with Brepols is that they will publish 12 volumes of 200-300 pp each, four in 2008 and eight in 2009. The Action will be responsible for the translation and copy-editing of the volumes and will supply camera-ready copy. No subsidy is required by Brepols but the Action has undertaken to purchase 70 copies for circulation at a discount of 40 per cent of the normal sale price. GB said (and the meeting entirely concurred) that only good papers would be published, that papers would have to be directly on the topic of the workshop/volume and that they would have to be presented in correct and fluent English. There would

be an editorial board of seven members who would review the referees' reports on each paper and take responsibility for the final selection.

There was then some discussion of these arrangements. Bas van Bavel emphasised the need for the publications to be of the highest quality. Rui Santos amongst others asked who would undertake the preparation of the camera-ready copy. The processes involved in refereeing were discussed. It was confirmed that the final selection of articles would rest with the overall editorial board, but that the responsibility for preparing the text (including the correction of English should that be necessary) and arranging the preparation of camera-ready copy would rest with the volume editors. It was agreed that these were potentially major costs. It was suggested by Peter Pozsgai that the rates of Hungarian copy-editors were very reasonable. It was also suggested that the UK members of the committee should be invited to review the texts to confirm that the quality of the English was acceptable. GB said that he might be able to make some money for the revision of the English for the production of Camera-ready copy drawing on funds made available by CNRS. It was suggested that Brepols could provide an electronic template available which would ensure an evenness of appearance.

GB then outlined a timetable for publication. For the first four volumes, authors whose papers had been selected for publication would receive reports in the next few weeks and would be required to submit revised papers by the end of February when the selection will be confirmed.

#### **11. Progress report.**

GB referred to the annual report which had been pre-circulated. He asked that any corrections or amendments be sent to him by Friday 26 October.

The meeting then adjourned.

#### **Saturday 20 October at 9.00**

#### **12. ESF-COST Network of Networks: 'New Perspectives on Landscapes'.**

The MC considered its participation in this 'Network of Networks'. It was agreed that the Action should participate in the network, Annie Antoine acting the representative of this Action.

The MC then divided into meetings of its constituent working parties and reconvened about 10.30.

#### **13. Scientific report about the workshops held in 2007.**

The organisers of workshops held in the Summer of 2007 gave oral reports on their workshops. As the written reports are published in full on the Action's website, they are not abstracted here.

The MC noted its thanks to the organisers of the four workshops.

#### **14. Discussion of the subjects of the workshops which will take place in 2008**

Oral reports were received from the organisers of the workshops arranged for 2008. The intellectual purpose of each workshop was outlined in relation to previous workshops. It was clear that some workshops had not yet received an adequate number of proposals and the calls for paper had been extended. Members of the MC

were asked to recirculate calls for papers amongst their own national communities and help identify suitable speakers.

### **15. Preparation of the final conference in 2009.**

GB outlined plans for the final conference in 2009. This would start by identifying contemporary problems and then look to the historical record and the work of the Working Groups for suggestions which may influence the future formulation of policy. It would therefore serve to integrate the work of the working groups. The final conference would need to invite a mix of academic historians, but also those working in rural sociology and rural geography together with 'opinion formers' and those involved in policy formulation.

The Core Group had received a proposal from Rosa Congost that the meeting should be held in Girona. GB identified a number of advantages to this including the easy access to Girona by budget airlines and the availability of an experienced team of conference organisers. The MC accepted this proposal.

GB further said that as the Action ended in June 2009, the meeting needed to be held in April or May. There was some discussion as to the ideal date, which will be fixed and circulated later.

The MC was invited to start thinking about who might be invited and what topics could most usefully be considered in the conference. Anne-Lise Head pointed out that not all topics of current concern had been the subject of workshops and so should be avoided. Bas van Bavel asked who would collate the proposed themes. GB said that he thought that there was a need for four or five only. Peter Pozsgai suggested the need for a clear timetable and guidelines: the next MC meeting would be too late. GB suggested that this might be considered by an augmented core group meeting in February.

It was therefore decided that members of the MC (*including those not present in Utrecht*) should send proposals to GB by 1 December. GB will then draft a paper on the possibilities for the attention of the MC, and comments should be sent to him. A further paper will be prepared for the approval of the Core group at its Spring meeting and then circulated to the MC.

### **16. Time and place of the next MC meeting.**

Offers were invited from members of the MC who were willing to host an MC meeting in October 2008. This would be associated with a joint symposium and therefore a number of meeting rooms will be required. As no offers were immediately forthcoming, GB was asked to circulate the whole MC (*again, including those not present*) to invite suggestions and offers.

### **17. AOB**

Richard Hoyle outlined the initiative of the British Agricultural History Society to convene a European conference in Rural History in 2010. The Society was aware that many people wished to maintain the momentum which had been established by the work of CORN and Progressore. It had therefore decided to take the initiative of launching an open conference to which all were invited. There would be no restrictions on subject area or chronological period. It was hoped that the conference would also attract those working outside Europe. The Society saw this as being the first of a series, but it did not have any opinion on whether future conferences should be sponsored by other national societies or by a European society: it only wished to ensure that the conference became a regular fixture. The British Society would

provide the conference management. It would issue a formal announcement of its intentions early in 2008 and this would include a call for nominations for a broadly-based scientific committee. Speaking on behalf of the Society, Professor Hoyle hoped that he would receive the support of those present and of their national communities.

The initiative of the Society was warmly applauded.

The meeting ended at 13.10 pm.