

news

from the  **COST OFFICE**

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Back in Action

Now that the summer is over, the COST team is back at the office refreshed and raring to go. July was an active month for many of us. In this newsletter, we report on our participation to the European Open Science Forum (ESOF) which took place in sunny Barcelona. It was a very successful week. Everybody from COST, including our Early Stage Researchers, was busy promoting our Actions to the science community. An interactive exhibition stand, fruitful debate and lots of networking have already motivated us to join the next edition in 2010.

After last issue's feature on the reciprocal agreements with Australia and New Zealand, Short-Term Missions Long-Lasting Results focuses on the achievements of COST's Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSMs). These missions encourage collaboration between Europe's scientists and further strengthen existing networks. They give scientists the opportunity to visit an institution or laboratory in another COST country to help them develop their research. This concept is particularly interesting for young scientists.

In Action news, COST Action FA0605 has established an "International Network of Plant Abiotic Stress" (INPAS) between systems biology, whole-plant physiology, agronomy and crop breeding specialists, stimulating collaboration between experts working in various fields of stress biology. We report on their aims and objectives.

COST Action E34 Bonding Timber recently ended on a positive note. Read about how this Action specifically focused on evaluating and examining the technical potential of bonding wood and timber. Last but not least, in this edition's agenda and recent activities, catch up on the other events COST has participated in over the summer and find out which activities COST will be involved in the coming months.

I hope you enjoy reading this autumn edition of the COST Newsletter.

Martin Grabert,
Director of the COST Office



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Portrait

**Axel Ewald Kranzmann - DC Chair
for COST Domain Material, Physical
and Nanosciences (MPNS)**

COST Activities

ESOF2008 Spells Success for COST
COST participates to this year's
edition of the European Open Science
Forum (ESOF)

Short-Term Missions – Long-Lasting Results
Participants to COST's Short-Term
Scientific Missions (STSM) share their
experiences

Safeguarding the Future of Europe's Biological Data

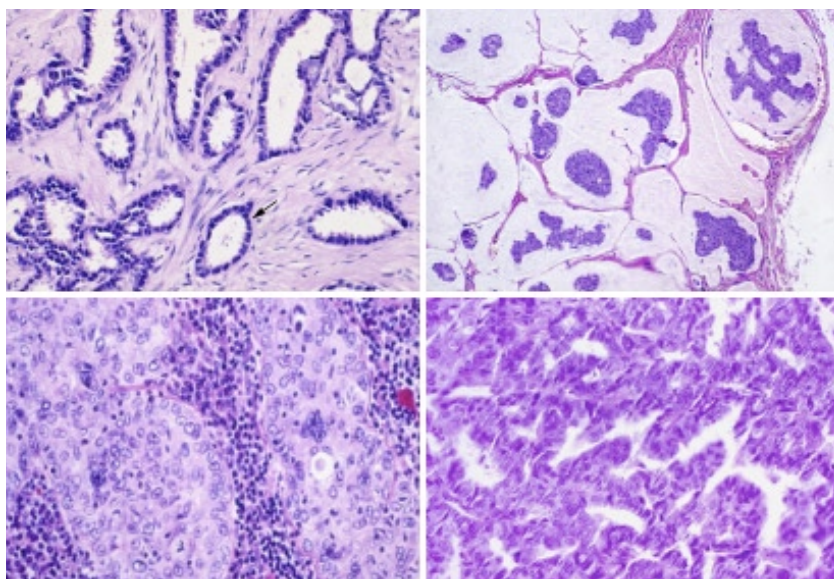
COST and EUREKA recently joined forces with the mission to standardise, validate and harmonise technologies in life sciences. Towards a European Action on Life Science Technologies hopes to start a COST Action on the topic and also assess the possibility of a COST supported-initiative combined with a Life Science Cluster Project within EUREKA, the European network for market-oriented R&D.

"This meeting addressed a complex question in which different communities have different needs and requirements. The meeting was very instructive in what these needs are and hopefully a first step to resolve some of the issues," stated Dr Lukas Mueller of Cornell University. It is definitively a starting-point for further collaboration and initiatives to devise the necessary standards for biological and biomedical sciences.

The one-day event, with contributions from academia and industry, showed that the two sectors are facing the same problems and that many possibilities for collaboration between them exist.

The event attracted experts from Europe, the United States and China. Participants found that the most valuable aspect of the brainstorming activity was the networking and the information about other initiatives, such as the European initiative ELIXIR.

Very recently, ELIXIR was granted 4.5 million euro to decide the best way to unite Europe's biological data resources into a sustainable and integrative bioinformatics network for life sciences. Any future COST-EUREKA initiatives in the field of standardisation, validation and harmonisation of life sciences technologies will be in coordination with ELIXIR WP7 activities so as to maximise synergy by avoiding any overlap.



News from staff

Francesca Boscolo has accepted the position of Junior Science Officer for Science in Society.

Julia Stamm has accepted the position of Science Officer ISCH in the Science in Society Cluster starting 1 July 2008.

Felicitas Ambrosius has accepted the temporary position of Administrative Officer starting 29 September 2008. Felicitas will provide the administrative support to the ISCH Domain following **Sebastien Chopin's** departure on 31 October 2008.

In addition to her current job responsibilities as Administrative Officer, **Svetlana Voinova** has accepted the challenge to further support the Balkan related COST activities in follow up to Guenter Siegel's initiatives. The special support to the near-neighbouring countries, however, continues to be dealt with in the normal Action administration.

Axel Ewald Kranzmann

DC Chair for COST Domain Material, Physical and Nanosciences (MPNS)



Name: Axel Ewald Kranzmann
 Year and place of birth: 1957, Bad Bibra
 Nationality: German
 Country where I currently live: Germany
 Languages: German, English
 Education: Dipl. Phys. and PhD in Chemistry
 Current profession: Head of division "Composition and Microstructure of Engineering Materials" in BAM, Berlin
 Research experience: Heat transport in dielectric polycrystalline materials, Corrosion of ceramics and metals, ceramic coatings, high-temperature brazing.

When did you join COST?

I joined COST for the first time in 1997. I never participated personally in a COST Action although members of my research team were active in COST Actions.

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

I was motivated by a personal interest in the future development of COST and the fun of discussing with representatives from all over Europe.

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

The future is the bottom-up approach. If this idea disappears COST will disappear. Politically driven funding programmes are not able to absorb new unsolved questions. The same can be said with industry-driven projects. Therefore, I believe in the idea of basic research which promotes, at the end, revolutionary steps in science. Politically and economically steered programmes

stand for evolution albeit sometimes very slow evolution.

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

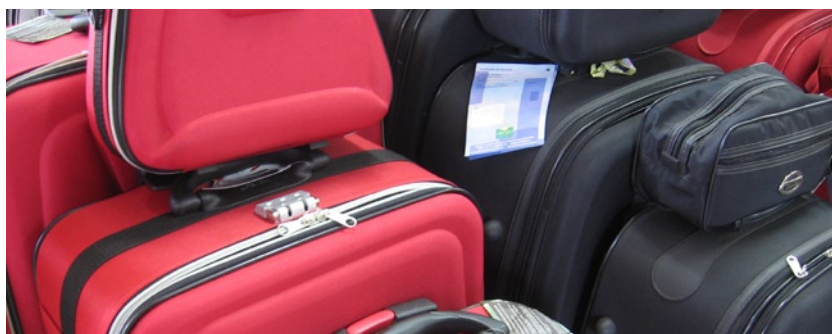
My vision and hope is a more democratic European system. The principle of unanimity will be transformed into the principle of majority. The EU parliament should get more power and influence. A European Prime Minister will be established. The system of Commissioners disappears. The national countries transmit the responsibility for energy, foreign affairs and defence to the European government. The European nations start to trust each other. The snatching of benefits from Europe by each individual nation should run off.

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

I like to visit historical places or museums with my family and I also like photography.

Revised COST Travel Reimbursement Request

The revised version of the COST Travel Reimbursement Request has now been released. This version aims to clarify and simplify the rules for reimbursement of expenses for experts attending COST Meetings, such as travel to meetings and accommodation. It also takes into account recommendations from audits.



More information: <http://www.cost.esf.org/index.php?id=guidelines>

ESOF2008 Spells Success for COST

The sun was shining for COST at this year's edition of the EuroScience Open Forum 2008 (ESOF2008), which took place in Barcelona from 18 to 22 July 2008. Three Early Stage Researcher workshops, a scientific session on preserving cultural heritage and an interactive exhibition stand made COST participation a great success. It also gave COST's Early Stage Researchers the chance to network with scientists in their field and communicate their experiences.



"COST Early Stage Researcher's took centre stage and became COST ambassadors during their time at ESOF2008. Wearing little blue lights, they clearly stood out in the crowd, helping them make contacts and promote COST activities to others in their field," explained Professor Dr Francesco Fedi, President of the COST Committee of Senior Officials (CSO).

Follow the Blue Light

Blue light activity was particularly high at the COST exhibition stand, located in between the European Science Foundation and EUREKA, close neighbours in the European Research Area. Messages were exchanged through the notice board and information was available on the Open Call, Domains and Actions. There were many positive comments about COST and the way it supports scientists in their networking activities. About 200 visitors signed up for the COST database.

One of the messages read: "I have been a participant in a COST programme (D37) for 2 years and have

been able to make contacts and do collaborative work that would not have been easy otherwise".

An interactive multimedia booth attracted the crowds showing clips about COST and its activities. Guided by a little yellow duck, users could travel through the virtual world and even take part in a small competition. Every afternoon, COST organised a prize draw to give visitors the opportunity to network and hear more about COST activities while enjoying a glass of sangria. Professor Dr Fedi and Dr John Bartzis, Vice-President of the CSO led the proceedings by handing over the prize to the lucky winner.

Early Stage Researchers

COST also organised three workshops involving Early Stage Researchers. These focused on topics that affect our lifestyles. Fat: the Good, the Bad and the Ugly looked at the positive and negative aspects of fat consumption, generating fruitful discussions between scientists from different generations, countries and fields.

"Participating in the COST Workshop was very useful for me. New ideas came out. The way fat is perceived today is not the same as before, it has changed in an unexpected way. This event will have an influence on my work in the future," said Tomislava Lovaković from University of J.J Strossmayer in Osijek, Croatia.

Digital Television: Users, Markets and Policies generated discussions on changes in viewing practices, business models and challenges for policy making in the digital era. Finally, Decision Analysis for a Better and Safer World focused on topics such as promoting e-democracy and decision-making for counter-terrorism, natural catastrophes, water distribution problems and energy planning.



Acting as COST ambassadors the Early Stage researchers were clearly visible thanks to the little blue lights they wore

“The workshop was inspiring and challenging and the group was very dynamic with a rich brainstorming,” said Pantelis Makris, an Early Stage Researcher from CNTI in Cyprus.

Crossing Disciplines

Former COST Science Officer Piotr Swiatek had invited Cristina Sabbioni from the Italian National Research Council CNR, Mark Dowsett from University of Warwick and Hannelore Roemich from University of New York to present a scientific session on Science and the Preservation of Cultural Heritage. They discussed the role each discipline plays in

helping preserve our history and shared views on how scientists, conservators and curators can work together effectively.

“All countries have a different approach to cultural heritage and finding specialists is difficult. COST is the ideal instrument to provide a platform for these two societies [scientists and conservators] involved in preservation,” explained Piotr Swiatek.

Debates and networking opportunities went hand in hand with the sunny and welcoming atmosphere of Barcelona. The experience has



COST's scientific session on the preservation of cultural heritage

definitively sparked enthusiasm for the COST team to re-create the atmosphere at the next edition of ESOF, taking place in 2010 in Turin, Italy.



Professor Dr Francesco Fedi, President of the COST Committee of Senior Officials (CSO), talks about COST activities

One of the lucky winners with her prize.

STARTING COST ACTION FA0605 – WORKING TO CONTROL PLANT STRESS

Developing tools to control abiotic stress tolerance in plants is essential for coping with the growing negative effects of climate change on plant breeding, agriculture and environmental protection. COST Action FA0605 has established an “International Network of Plant Abiotic Stress” (INPAS) between systems biology, whole-plant physiology, agronomy and crop breeding specialists. It hopes to stimulate collaboration between experts working in various fields of stress biology.



Cold, salinity and drought are among the major stresses that adversely affect plant growth and productivity. In fact, these abiotic stresses represent the main cause of crop failure world-

wide, dipping average yields for major crops by more than 50%. Since the world population is increasing at an alarming rate, minimising these

losses is also a major concern for all nations coping with the increasing food demand.

INPAS's scientific programme embraces four major areas, corresponding to four Working Groups (WG) within the Action:

WG1: Functional characterisation of protein kinases involved in abiotic stress signalling focuses on understanding the regulatory roles of two major classes of protein kinases (SnRKs and MAPK), the activities of which are differentially controlled by specific abiotic stress stimuli.

WG2: Genetic identification of signalling factors controlling ABA, salt, osmotic, drought and cold regulated transcription looks at the use of novel genetic approaches for identifying and analysing unknown

factors that control ABA and stress-mediated regulation of transcription, using Arabidopsis and stress tolerant plants.

WG3: Expression of genes involved in the production of osmo-protectants. mainly concentrates on dissecting stress-associated signalling cascades that control the accumulation of protective compounds. Different sugars, glutamate-derived amino acids, such as proline or amino acids belonging to the aspartate family, and chaperonins are important components of abiotic stress responses and contribute to the maintenance of cellular homeostasis and redox balance.

WG4: Integrated molecular analysis of the polyamine metabolic pathway in response to abiotic stress looks at the integrated (systems biology) analysis of functional relationships among genes involved in PA metabolism and cross-talks with ABA and stress-signalling pathways, as well as interactions with other metabolic networks in Arabidopsis and stress tolerant plants.

During the development of the Action, interactions with breeding companies will hopefully lead to the creation of a fifth WG dedicated to knowledge transfer in crop plants.

Although plant tolerance to several abiotic stresses has been achieved in some model plants, transferring this technology to valuable crops needs additional efforts which cannot be undertaken by isolated research groups. Interdisciplinary collaborative research leading to scientific inter-

actions among molecular genetists, biochemists, plant physiologists and breeders is therefore needed to improve plant tolerance traits.

INPAS currently includes 43 group leaders from 23 COST Countries. Additionally, 8 experts from non-

COST countries, such as Argentina, China, Japan, India and US, are participating or have expressed their interest to join the Action. The first Science Workshop was organised by Dr Rina Iannaccone last April in the Italian town of Matera. Scientists from 23 countries attended the meeting and all 35 Action participants had the opportunity to present their contribution to their respective Working Group (WG). In addition, two invited lectures were scheduled and the INPAS website was presented.

More information: <http://cost-inpas.org/>

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ViceChair: Csaba Koncz from MPI-Cologne, Germany.
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Main aim of INPAS (drawings by Gerard Fernández)

Ending Action – Better Use of European Wood Resources

Over four years, COST Action E34 Bonding Timber set out to improve timber and wood bonding and the use of wood resources in Europe. The Action was made up of three Working Groups and two Task Groups, each dealing with a separate topic. COST Action E34 focused on specific issues such as evaluating and examining the technical potential of bonding wood and timber. But also looked at the quality of European technical, economical and statistical databases and promoting the development of appropriate systems.



“For the work in WG1, it was a very strong advantage that several group members had already been partners in the Craft Project LICONs,” explains Manfred Dunky, appointed as Chair of the Actions. “In total four Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) helped to initialise new R&D co-operation between individuals and institutes. And, a national (Swiss) research project on site was created and carried out successfully under the auspices of WG1”.

New Technology

One of the main objectives of WG2 was to bring green gluing successfully to the market. There is a growing interest to apply this new technology and make full use of

the European grown-wood resources. Wet gluing systems offer advantages when using the lower-grade portion of wood by re-engineering and enhancing the quality of soft-wood and making more efficient use of a valuable and renewable natural resource.

An international E34 conference on green gluing covered the latest scientific and industrial development. A state-of-the-art document was prepared and formed the basis for supporting European Technical Ap-



provals (ETA) in green glued products. WG2 activities have led to contacts between most active parties in the green gluing area in Europe, a network of private companies in several countries aiming to introduce green-glued load bearing products to the market.

Improving Processes

Throughout the Action, members of the Working Group also looked at gelling and hardening processes

while analysing methods for resins and adhesives. The Core Document summarised bonding techniques for various materials with wood. These included chapters on the use of dielectric analysis to measure adhesive cure, the use of FT-NIR for the structural characterisation of formaldehyde-based resins and Confocal Laser Scanning Microscopy (CLSM) to examine fibre-adhesive interactions, structural timber-glass adhesive bonding, bonding of chemically and thermally modified wood, and modelling of the hot pressing process.

But, the workshop also covered current and future trends in the European market for wood adhesives. Two topics with “green touch” were adhesives from renewable resources and environmental challenges in the applications of adhesives in the wood industry.

More information:

http://www.cost.esf.org/index.php?id=143&action_number=e34

Short-Term Missions – Long-Lasting Results

COST has developed many ways of supporting European scientists in their networking activities. Over the years, they have learnt a new technique or made measurements using instruments and/or methods unavailable in their laboratories. Short-term Scientific Missions (STSMs) aim to strengthen existing networks by allowing scientists to visit an institution or laboratory in another COST country. This concept is particularly interesting for young scientists.

“Short-Term Scientific Missions are the best instrument COST has. We had three exchange visits which resulted in three papers. STSMs help research and support integration and collaboration,” explains Prof. Dr Jaap Keijer from Wageningen University in the Netherlands.

Exchanging Knowledge

Mirosław Klinkowski, from UPC in Barcelona, was one of many researchers who took part in an STSM for COST Action 293 Graphs and Algorithms in Communication Networks. He visited the Warsaw University of Technology with a goal to clearly define the network scenario. “In particular, we needed to recognise the physical effects of

transmission performance and specify optimisation objectives,” he says.

Ignasi Sau, from INRIA Sophia-Antipolis in France, and his host Shmuel Zaks, from the Computer Science Department of Technion in Israel, are both active researchers in traffic grooming. This is the process of grouping many small telecommunications flows into larger units, which are then processed as single entities.

Professor Sau gave a seminar on his current research in the Computer Science department of Technion. “The aim of the visit was to follow the study of grooming problems, combining both graph theoretical and algorithmic approaches,” he adds. “During the first days, it was valuable to exchange latest results with respective research groups and discuss problems”.

STSMs can vary from one week to 3 months and up to 6 months for Early Stage Researchers. Applicants must be engaged in a research programme in a COST Member State institution and must have accepted the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of the Action concerned. Both home and host institution should be

in a COST Member State which has accepted the MoU and has participated in the COST Action. The average contribution for a mission is a fixed grant based on the applicant’s budget request and the decision from the relevant assessment committee. It will normally not exceed EUR 2500 (EUR 3500 for Early Stage Researchers).

Working Together

Enhancing further collaboration is also an important aspect of these short-term missions. Vincenzo Boni-



faci, from the University of Rome La Sapienza, was invited to the Technical University in Eindhoven to investigate the problem of gathering data in a packet radio network. The results were more prosperous than expected. “As well as making a single journal version by unifying the results, we also discussed possible future collaboration on related problems with another partner involved in the project,” said the researcher.

More information:

http://www.cost.esf.org/fileadmin/cost_documents/guidelines/Financial_Instruments/3-STSM.pdf



Opening the Gate to the Needs of Researchers

These days, networking has taken on a new dimension with many social networking sites popping up from all corners of the internet. ResearchGATE is a new free of charge Science 2.0 platform designed for the needs of researchers. It aims to change the world of science by providing a global and powerful scientific web-based environment in which scientists can interact, exchange knowledge and collaborate with researchers from different fields.

By signing up scientists can present their research projects, exchange know-how and expertise, and broaden their science network globally. ResearchGATE collaborates with various international research institutions and organisations which form a strong mutually-beneficial support system. It is the joint belief in the benefits of collaborative research work that fuels these partnerships.



More information:
<https://www.researchgate.net>

Recent events and activities

□ Call for papers - Human and Organisational Factors in Planning and Scheduling Conference

8 to 9 September 2008, Lausanne, Switzerland

The first international conference on human and organisational factors in planning and scheduling (HOPS 2008) was sponsored by the European Science Foundation and the COST office. It was hosted by the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology at Lausanne (EPFL) with the joint support of Eindhoven University of Technology (TUE) and the University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland (FHNW).

HOPS 2008 aimed to provide an international forum for researchers and practitioners from different multidisciplinary areas to present their results, exchange information and develop new ideas regarding the position of humans and the organisational aspects in planning and scheduling systems within challenging contexts.

□ COST at the Transport Research Arena Conference

21 to 24 April 2008, Ljubljana, Slovenia

The 2nd biannual Transport Research Arena (TRA) conference in Ljubljana welcomed more than 4 000 participants. This time around, it focused on efficient mobility. Janez Potocnik, European Commissioner for Science & Research, opened the conference and stressed that efficient mobility is a key issue for policy makers.

In addition to the contribution to the strategic session, COST ran a stand to promote its programme and provide more information on COST-TUD activities. Members from COST Action 351 Water Movement in Road Pavements and Embankments (WATEMOVE) organised a specific session to present the final results after four years of collaboration. COST Action 354 Performance Indicators for Road Pavements also held its final meeting there.

□ **COST-ESF High Level Research Conference on Natural Products Chemistry, Biology and Medicine**

18 to 23 May 2008, Acquafredda di Maratea, Italy

This conference brought together some of the current and future leaders in the field of natural products and related areas. They discussed latest developments and exchanged ideas, fostered collaboration and promoted the education and training of young students. It mainly focused on the synthesis, biology and medicine of naturally-occurring substances and their designed analogues as well as related areas, such as chemical synthesis technologies and isolation.

□ **First Myelinet Workshop on News and Perspectives in Leukodystrophies**

6 to 8 June 2008, Super-Besse, Clermond Ferrand, France

The objective of the Action is to better understand and fight diseases affecting the CNS nerve-insulating myelin such as inherited leukodystrophies and white matter diseases of the premature. This Action aimed to combine a number of recognised European research groups for a coordinated approach to fight these diseases.

□ **COST Strategic Workshop: Improving Energy Efficiency in Papermaking**

9 to 11 June 2008, Amsterdam Airport-Hoofddorp, The Netherlands

This COST Strategic Workshop brought together senior paper industry representatives, scientists and high-profile speakers to discuss the challenges the European paper industry has to address. The greatest challenge of the future is possibly the fact that saving energy has become one of the most crucial issues for the European pulp and paper industry. The necessity to install better or even the best available technologies is now greater than ever.

□ **ESOF 2008**

18 to 22 July, Barcelona, Spain

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 subscribed to this mission and actively supported ESOF2008 by organising three workshops involving Early Stage Researchers and focusing on topics that affect our lifestyle. Fat: the Good, the Bad and the Ugly looked at the positive and negative aspects of fat consumption, generating fruitful discussions between scientists from different generations, countries and fields. Digital Television: Users, Markets and Policies generated discussions on changes in viewing practices, business models and challenges for policy making in the digital era. Decision Analysis for a Better and Safer World focused on topics such as promoting e-democracy and decision-making for counterterrorism, natural catastrophes, water distribution problems and energy planning.

□ **COST Seminar: Potential Participation of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) in COST Actions**

9 September, Brussels, Belgium

September's edition of the COST seminar focused on the Joint Research Institute (JRC). Krzysztof Maruszewski, Director of Programmes and Stakeholders Relations, presented the Institute's structure, priorities and its relations with Member Countries. He also explained how to collaborate on projects with the JRC. COST Office director, Martin Grabert joined the discussions emphasising the existing cooperation with COST and initiated a Questions & Answers session.

□ **Joint International Summer School – 10th Conference Advanced Materials and Technologies**

27-31 August, Palanga, Lithuania

The Conference-School was intended for young scientists and Ph.D. students interested in Materials Science and Condensed Matter Physics. This year it was devoted to the advanced methods of spectroscopy and microscopy; UV optoelectronics; computational modelling of materials; nano-technologies and nanomaterials, fluctuation techniques and terahertz photonics.

Lectures, poster presentations, round table discussions with industry representatives were organised. A COST information day also took place on the 29 August and a session was chaired by the MPNS science officer.

Mark your calendar

□ **COST-ESF High Level Research Conference “Systems Chemistry”**

3 to 8 October 2008, Acquafredda di Maratea, Italy

Systems Chemistry is the joint effort of prebiotic and supramolecular chemistry together with theoretical biology and complex systems research to address problems relating to the origin and synthesis of life. A major focus is placed on the study of autocatalytic reaction systems, such as chemical self-replicating, self-reproducing and chiral symmetry breaking systems. The conference will convene internationally leading experts from various relevant areas to elucidate where we stand in 2008. Facets from this intriguing and truly interdisciplinary endeavour come from fields as diverse as geochemistry and organocatalysis, biomolecular chemistry and liposome technology, metal-organic chemistry and the theory of networks and evolution. Joining these facets together, by the unifying principle of autocatalysis, leads to a new view which may be especially attractive for the next generation of chemists. Time will be allotted to poster presentations.

More information: <http://www.esf.org/activities/esf-conferences/details/confdetail267.html?conf=267&year=2008>

□ **4th HERA Annual Conference “European Diversities – European Identities” and 1st European Conference for Collaborative Humanities Research (ECCHR)**

8-9 October 2008, Strasbourg, France

The 4th HERA conference will unite some 200 researchers supported by all major supra- and transnational public research funders for the humanities in Europe, including COST. Focusing on emerging trends in humanities research and the growing demand for insights from human sciences, this conference will discuss the necessary links between policy-related and blue-sky research. Scholars and policy-makers will explore to what extent support for curiosity-driven research is needed, so that advances in applicable knowledge can be made.

More information: <http://www.heranet.info/Default.aspx?ID=283>

□ **Final Conference of COST Action E46 “Improvements in the Understanding and Use of De-inking Technology”**

22 to 23 October 2008, Bordeaux, France

This conference will include representatives of the printing and paper industries. The objective will be to review de-inking difficulties related to different print types and the solutions proposed. The international association of paper mills operating de-inking plants (INGEDE) will be involved in this conference.

More information: <http://www.cost-e46.eu.org/>

□ **COST Strategic Workshop: Exchange of Best practices on Environment and Transport**

27 to 28 October 2008, Ghardaia, Algeria

This workshop will deal with the environmental issues related to transport in different areas with a particular focus on southern countries. It hopes to generate a discussion forum for researchers from different backgrounds, capitalise the best practice and share north-south and south-south experiences. Furthermore, the workshop will try to contribute to a state-of-the-art scientific knowledge in southern countries, initiate research topics towards solutions adapted to specific situations in developing countries and make tools for policy makers and environmental managers available in order to support them in decision-making.

More information: <http://www.inrets.fr/services/manif/ghardaia-oct08/>

□ **What is the Role for GM Technology in the Future Competitiveness of European Agri-Food Sector?**

5 November 2008, Ljubljana, Slovenia

The overall goal of this Exploratory Workshop is to provide an overview of international and EU developments in the use of GM technology in the agri-food sector. An analysis of EU status and strategy in relation to GM in the agri-food sector, including the benefits and risks assessment in a global context, will be the basis for identifying networking activities that will strengthen the EU agri-food sector and prevent it from losing its competitiveness in the global market.

More information: events@cost.esf.org

□ **The European Forest-Based Sector: Bio-Responses to Address New Climate and Energy Challenges?**

6 to 8 November 2008, Nancy, France

The forest-based sector is involved in two major crises, one related to climate and the other to energy. During its EU Council presidency, France wishes to contribute to the debate on the roles of forests and their products in a post-2012 climate regime. This international conference will focus on the roles of the forestry sector and its perspectives. It will look at forests as carbon sinks, wood-based products: carbon pools and energy conservation as well as the forest-based sector as a source of renewable energy.

350 participants are expected to attend including scientists from research centres and universities, professionals from the European forest-based sector, delegates from European Member States and the European Commission. A selection of the papers presented at the conference will be published as a special issue of the French forest review (*Revue forestière française*).

More information: http://www.gipecofor.org/publi/page.php?id=3&rang=0&domain=34&lang=en_GB

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Permission is granted to copy and disseminate these materials for non-commercial purposes provided the COST Office is acknowledged as the source.

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 may occur.

For up-to-date information on COST Events please also visit
<http://www.cost.esf.org/events>

COST is an intergovernmental European framework for international co-operation between nationally funded research activities. COST creates scientific networks and enables scientists to collaborate in a wide spectrum of activities in research and technology.

For further information please visit:
<http://www.cost.esf.org>



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ESF provides the COST Office through an EC contract

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

COST Foresight 2030

COST Foresight 2030 focuses on the effect of the digital revolution on the world beyond 2030. A series of events will present a long-term perspective in many fields. The exact dates for these workshops are still to be decided.

□ Strategic Workshop ICT/CCST

The first workshop will include about 20 experts in the field of CCST. The aim of this workshop is to set the scene by presenting state-of-the-art and future technologies developed by 2030 in this field.

□ Four Parallel Strategic Workshops Energy, Food Security, Environmental Management and Life Enhancement

Based on the outcome of the first workshop, keynote speakers in the four fields of interest will submit papers. They will describe the expected developments in various areas affected by progress in ICST. Each three-day workshop will involve about 20 experts and the participants will be split into three working groups counting six to seven people each. All workshops should end with a plenary session that summarises the main ideas.

□ Strategic Workshop Societal Organisation

Based on the conclusions from the previous five workshops, about 20 experts will try to envisage the society of 2030, especially focusing on future cities, health, education, business, impact on human behaviour.

□ Wrap up

A committee made up of one rapporteur from each of the six workshops will analyse the various conclusions and elaborate this information to prepare for a final conference.

□ International Dissemination Conference

The international conference will be a major dissemination event. It will last for three days and will involve experts from academia, industry, and policy. It will serve to gather all major outcomes of the six workshops and present them to the members of today's society.