

# **COST**

Domain Committee ESSEM

## **COST Action ES1103**

**Start Date 28/10/2011**

*Microbial ecology & the earth system: collaborating for insight and success with the new generation of sequencing tools*

## **MONITORING PROGRESS REPORT**

***Reporting Period: from 28/10/2011 – 01/05/2012***

This Report is presented to the relevant Domain Committee.  
It contains three parts:

- I. Management Report*** prepared by the COST Office/Grant Holder
- II. Scientific Report*** prepared by the Chair of the Management Committee of the Action
- III. Previous versions of the Scientific Report; i.e., part II of past reporting periods***

The report is a “cumulative” report, i.e. it is updated annually and covers the entire period of the Action.

Confidentiality: the documents will be made available to the public via the COST Action web page except for chapter *II.D. Self evaluation*.

Based on the monitoring results, the COST Office will decide on the following year’s budget allocation.

**Executive summary (max.250 words):**

## I. Management Report prepared by the COST Office/Grant Holder



### I.A. COST Action Fact Sheet

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<b>Details</b>	
Draft Mou: oc-2010-2-8674	Mou: 4123/11
Start of Action: 28/10/2011	Entry into force: 13/07/2011
End of Action: 27/10/2015	CSO approval date: 17/05/2011

<b>Parties</b>							
Country	Date	Country	Date	Country	Date	Country	Date
Belgium	23/11/2011	Croatia	06/02/2012	Czech Republic	15/08/2011	Denmark	04/10/2011
Estonia	01/07/2011	Finland	08/09/2011	France	12/08/2011	Germany	27/06/2011
Greece	23/02/2012	Ireland	11/08/2011	Israel	21/11/2011	Malta	22/07/2011
Netherlands	10/11/2011	Norway	21/09/2011	Romania	01/08/2011	Serbia	13/07/2011
Spain	07/07/2011	Sweden	16/09/2011	Switzerland	05/10/2011	United Kingdom	16/06/2011

Total: 20

<b>Intentions to accept the MoU</b>							
Country	Date	Country	Date	Country	Date	Country	Date
Total: 0							

<b>Working Groups</b>
Working Group 1: Data Generation Protocols Leader: Renzo Cottman
Working Group 2: The analysis of raw data for diversity estimates Leader: Chris Quince
Working Group 3: The analysis of raw data for metagenomics, RNA expression and beyond Leader: Alice McHardy
Working Group 4: Data comparison pooling and exploration Leaders: Eva Lindstrom & Dana Ofiteru
Working Group 5: Towards a systematic survey Leader: George Kowalchuk

<b>Website</b>
Under Development. Web mistress appointed and undergoing training

### I.B. Management Committee member list

<b>Management Committee</b>	
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***I.C. Overview activities and expenditure***

Instrument		Event					Total
Type	Action	Start Date	End Date	City	Cntr.	Title	Total
MEETING	ES1103	28/10/2011	28/10/2011	Brussels	Belgium	Kick Off	13274,19
MEETING	ES1103	28/02/2012	29/02/2012	Newcastle upon Tyne	UK	Plenary MC and WG meeting	28478,54

## **II. Scientific Report**

This action is in its earliest days. But a solid foundation has been laid for a most successful action. A very wide variety of countries have joined the action. This is an essential pre-requisite for the execution of our vision of a Europe wide network of technically adept and excellent researchers sharing common protocols to pool data to garner synergistic insights (ie the whole will be more than the sum of the parts). The Working group leaders have been appointed and have laid out their respective visions in the Newcastle Plenary, which we envisage being an annual occasion. The leaders are keen to execute their respective programmes, elements of the work packets four and five have been brought forward. The program itself is a mixture of traditional training workshops and working group meeting and short intensive problem solving “hackathons” to solve topical bioinformatics problems.

A suite of meetings and training events have been agreed and timetabled for the year. STSMs are “bottom up” and one has proposed a further 5 are planned.

### **II.A. Innovative networking**

- *One of the key aims of the program is to underpin and catalyse national research programs by ensuring that members have the knowledge of, and access to, the most appropriate National Programme proposals/projects. We have been asked to support national bids in:*
  - *Switzerland ('Exploring patterns of microbial diversities and functions in changing environments using high-throughput DNA sequencing' submitted to SER) and*
  - *Norway (A Fulbright Arctic Chair).*

### **II.B. Inter-disciplinary networking**

- *It is still early days for the network. However, we have through our early career leader of WG1 (Renzo Kottman) identified a significant synergy between work and the work of The Genome Consortium. WG1 and The Consortium will have a joint meeting in Oxford in September.*
- *Many of the problems in our field are at the interface of microbial ecology and bioinformatics. The Early Career leaders of WG4 and WG5 (Alice McHardy, and Chris Quince) have proposed small intensive computer based workshops to for a collective solution to topical problems at this interface. This will involve intensive collective programming with specimen datasets.*

### **II.C. New networking**

- *All our 38 members are new, 14 are women. We omitted to take a record of the early career researchers, an oversight we will correct in future reports. However we are proud to announce that 4 of the 5 WG are led by early career researchers and 3 out of 5 are lead by women. The training schools and STSM give priority to early career researchers.*
- *We are pleased to report that Australia has elected to join the COST action. It is too early in the day to report on their contribution.*