

COST

Domain Committee "Individuals, Societies, Cultures and Health (ISCH)"

COST Action IS0904

Start Date (10-05-2010)

European Architecture beyond Europe: Sharing Research and Knowledge on Dissemination Processes, Historical Data and Material Legacy (19th-20th centuries)

MONITORING PROGRESS REPORT

Reporting Period: 01-07-2010 to 27-04-2011

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):

The Action is in its first year and is working well, with planned activities undertaken as scheduled and no deviation from the work plan. The 4 WGs forecasted have been set up (each met twice), their outcome has been planned and the network is enlarging its partnership. 48 scholars participated in the Action's activities (21 women and 27 men), among them 11 ESR. A survey of IT capacities and needs within the membership is underway. The website of the Action was launched in July 2010, and online content, either visual or textual, is being continuously released (www.architecturebeyond.eu). The Action held on 19-20 April 2011 its 1st Annual Workshop on "Cosmopolitanism, diasporas and the transnational dissemination of European architecture"; the event raised rich discussions and helped share and disseminate research results within the network. Plans for an electronic journal devoted to the topics of the Action are in progress.

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

I.A. COST Action Fact Sheet

• **COST Action IS0904** *European Architecture beyond Europe: Sharing Research and Knowledge on Dissemination Processes, Historical Data and Material Legacy (19th-20th centuries)*

• **Domain** :Individuals, Societies, Cultures and Health (ISCH)

• **Action details:**

CSO Approval: 02/12/2009

End date: 09/05/2014

Entry into force: 25/01/2010

Extension: (day/month/year)

• **Objectives** This Action aims to produce a broader understanding of the worldwide spread of European architecture across empires during the 19th and 20th c. by focusing on its vectors, connections, semantics and materiality in a large range of geographic and linguistic contexts engaging both Western and non-Western environments. It posits that the bilateral colonial channel (e.g. French architecture in Algeria or British architecture in India), represented but one aspect of a larger multifaceted history. By combining architectural history with area studies' knowledge, the intention is to map and analyze more complex dissemination patterns and border-crossing relationships. Beyond architecture, the challenge is to contribute to the writing of a global history of modern European culture, including overseas expansions and transnational dynamics in its scope. To that end, this Action proposes joining efforts at the European level in collaboration with non-European researchers. A major outcome will be the development of accurate digital resources on the topic, as a first step towards the building of a research infrastructure.

• **Parties:**

Austria (15/03/2010)	Greece (25/01/2010)	Portugal (20/04/2010)
Belgium (03/02/2010)	Israel (02/08/2010)	Spain (03/02/2010)
Denmark (11/06/2010)	Italy (25/01/2010)	Switzerland (25/01/2010)
France (09/02/2010)	Netherlands (10/05/2010)	United Kingdom(25/01/2010)
Germany (25/01/2010)		

• **Intentions to accept:**

• **Other participants:** University Ferhat Abbas (Setif) Algeria

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• **Action Web site:** <http://www.architecturebeyond.eu/>.

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Working Groups :

- WG 1 Actors and networks of expertise : Leila El-Wakil (Université de Genève), Regina Gödecke (Brandenburgische Technische Universität Cottbus), Johan Lagae (Ghent University), Diego Caltana (Architekturzentrum Wien), Alex Bremner (School of Arts, Culture and Environment, University of Edinburgh), Madalena Cunha Matos (Faculdade de Arquitectura Universidade Técnica de Lisboa), Ola Uduku (School of Architecture Edinburgh College of Art), Alexandra Yerolympos (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)
- WG 2 The printed media and the construction of a canon : Ezio Godoli (Faculty of Architecture Florence University), Tom Avermaete (Department of Architecture TU Delft), Antonio Bravo Nieto (Centro Asociado UNED de Melilla), Tzafrir Fainholtz (Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning, Technion Haifa), Thierry Lochard (Ecole Nationale d'Architecture de Marseille), Eliana Perotti (Institute of History and Theory of Architecture, Department of Architecture, ETH Zurich), Mercedes Volait (CNRS/INHA, Paris), Nadia Radwan (Université de Genève)
- WG 3 Documenting transnational architecture : Claudine Piaton (CNRS/INHA), Ralph Bodenstern (Deutsches Archäologisches Institut Kairo), Peter Bjerrum (The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts), Vittoria Capresi (Vienna University of Technology), Vassilis Colonas (Dept. of Architecture University of Thessaly), Vilma Fasoli (Politecnico of Turin), Assia Samai Bouadjeda (University Ferhat Abbas)
- WG 4 Conceptualizing an infrastructure for collaborative research : Juliette Hueber (CNRS/INHA), Thierry Lochard (Ecole Nationale d'Architecture de Marseille), Antonio Mendes da Silva (CNRS/INHA), René Pelfresne (CNRS/INHA), Dov Winer (National Library of Israel)

I.B. Management Committee member list

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I.C. Overview activities and expenditure

2010 Budget

Total Action Budget: 60 900€

Remaining Action Commitment:

Meetings

Meeting Type	Date	Place							Cost	Total
General WGM	13-14/09/10	Marseille/FR							13569.8	14920.80
WG 2	17-18/01/11	Delft/NL							5011.01	5491.01
WG3	31-01/02/11	Vienne/AU							3083.16	3143.16
WG1	31-01/02/11	Ghent/BE							3032.1	3392.1
WG4	04/02/11	Paris/FR							1665.1	1942.10

STSM

Beneficiary	Date	Place							Cost	Total
V.Capresi	07/01/11	Rome/IT							145.5	145.5
P.Van Rosemalen	10/01/11	Leicester/UK							1955	1955
A.Kaasa	28/03/11	Delft/NL							1900	1900
T.Sengupta	01/04/11	Heidelberg/DE							2100	2100

Workshops

Title	Date	Place							Cost	Total
First annual thematic workshop (and 2d MC meeting)	18/04/11-21/04/11	Turin/IT							23900	24380
Local organizer grant									1 495€	3815

General Support Grants

Beneficiary	Date								Cost	Total
										0

Schools

Title	Date	Place							Cost	Total
										0

Dissemination

Title	Date	Place							Cost	Total
Creation of website	01/07/10								1500	1500
Flyers	01/06/10								120	120
Postcard	30/03/11								320	320

Others

Working dinner	18/01/11								537	537
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Action Total : 0

II. Scientific Report prepared by the Chair of the Management Committee of the Action, describing results achieved during the Action operation in this period, in no more than 3 pages (the report is “cumulative”). All items listed in Sections A, B, and C, below, must be addressed.

The first year of IS0904 has been used, firstly, to organize the activity of the network along the plan developed in the proposal, which included: organizing Working Groups and a Core group, setting-up communication means, convening an Annual Workshop.

Working groups

4 Working groups have been set up, numbering 6 to 9 members each. Each group have met twice in the past year, and has established its roadmap and operational mode (see separate reports in Annex 1). Working groups are scheduled to meet once per year separately, and in conjunction with all Working groups for the other meeting, in order to foster collaboration and integration within the network. Methodological issues form an important dimension of the discussions within WG1 and WG2, while the activities of WG3 and WG4 are of a more experimental nature.

WG1: Actors and networks of expertise

The aim is to map the distinct professional networks at play in the dissemination of European architecture overseas, based on education, socio-religious identity or corporate activity, and their possible intersections. The group had worked at its structuring and has devoted attention to the methodologies applicable to its research topic. Discussions on 'social network analysis' and 'prosopography' have been held. An expected outcome of the WG1 will be the development and experimentation of a theoretical and methodological framework to analyze the mechanisms and flows of circulation of experts and expertise in the field of architecture. Plans for an online biographical database were reassessed, with a template that external contributors can work on.

WG2: The printed media and the construction of a canon

The group aims at documenting European architecture overseas through little-studied printed material such as local periodicals, and to question the interplay of canonical designs and mainstream architecture. The group decided to focus on building journals produced locally during the 1930s-1960s (e.g. *Techniques et travaux* in French Morocco) as well as on the architectural section of general journals (e.g. *Africa* in Spain). The goal is to have an inventory of alternative vectors (publications) and an annotated bibliography, and to produce an anthology of texts offering alternative viewpoints on European architecture overseas. The group intends as well to develop a critical framework on the canonical and the non-canonical.

WG3: Documenting transnational architecture

The group was created with the aim of approaching European architecture beyond Europe through the built environment, and to confront material culture with archival evidence. Datasheets will be developed with strategic data fields on the buildings, actors and archival resources. The concern is

to keep the database as 'shallow' as possible to prevent an overly complicated approach to the management and accessibility of the data. Difficulties to overcome regard data input (unequal capacities of manpower within the group), copyright, and the asymmetric nature of the data. The meetings of the group served to identify research subjects in which several WG members can directly collaborate (architecture in colonial Congo; archives of contracting firms active in the Mediterranean). The ultimate aim is to produce a framework for data sharing, using a platform (Halimede, a CMS using Alfresco) being developed by InVisu (FR).

WG4: Conceptualizing an infrastructure for collaborative research

The aim of this transversal group is to support research and allow for data sharing within the network, while considering the sustainability and interoperability of the digital data produced. As a first step, the WG has set to apprehend the working IT environment within the Action. A significant digital divide was identified. A redefinition of the WG's activity will ensue. The group will concentrate on disseminating standards, best practices (i.e. producing searchable pdf documents), and appropriate tools within the network. More interaction with the other WGs in the future is requested. One expected outcome is the preparation of the "Training school" forecasted in the Action's proposal and to be devoted to issues such as the state of the art regarding copyright of images, the managing of digital bibliographies, standards for digital visual data, etc...

The Action has set a Core group, gathering the coordinators and co-coordinators of Working groups, and the Financial rapporteurs. The Core group met 3 times in the year, and served to elaborate proposals of decisions, to be submitted thereafter to the Management Committee.

Dissemination channels

In addition to the organizing of the WGs, the Action has started establishing its own communication means and channels to disseminate its activity. A website was designed for the Action and launched in July 2010 (www.architecturebeyond.eu); online content, either visual or textual, is being continuously released (60 screens currently). The website's features are a publications vault, a member bibliography (20 received so far), and a treasury of images, copyright-free, provided by Action members. A password-protected area serves to share the Action's documents within the network (presentations, minutes of Management Committee meeting, Working groups reports, practical information). Plans for an electronic journal devoted to the topics of the Action are in progress. A scheme of the proposed journal, for which the title adopted is *Architecture beyond Europe*, was presented and fully discussed at the 2d Management Committee of the Action, held in Turin, 18-19 April 2011 (see Annex 2).

1st Annual Workshop

The Action held on 19-20 April 2011 its 1st Annual Workshop on "Cosmopolitanism, diasporas and the transnational dissemination of European architecture". The event focused on the impact of

extra-colonial agency in the making of “colonial” architecture, through 3 sub-themes highlighting mechanisms and vectors of the transnational transfer of knowledge, expertise and practice that are not necessarily linked to those engendered by the colonial enterprise:

- “Nomadic experts and émigré architects” (complex and unexpected trajectories of individuals across the globe, forced migrations or the globalization of the profession of architecture and urban planning)
- “Cosmopolitan encounters” through education (schools instrumental in the transnational dissemination of ideas, models and practices, beyond the big examples, such as the Paris Ecole des Beaux Arts, Bauhaus, Architectural Association School in London, etc.)
- “Diasporic communities” (intra-continental migrations in Africa and the Middle East and their inscription in the urban landscape through architecture)

The event raised rich discussions and in particular helped sharing existing research results within the network.

II.A. Innovative networking

A prime result emerging from the Action 1st year of activity is that common knowledge assumes that the circulation of information, methodologies, and resources in the Internet age is far greater than it actually is, in particular at European level. The main scientific frameworks of European scholars remain either national forums or international arenas (through American learned societies in particular). In the field of architectural history and related disciplines (architecture, art history, cultural studies), one result of little collaboration at EU level is duplication of research and of digitized information. The Action posits that a better integration of research and information management at European level could benefit all stakeholders, and stem significant gains in the production of research. Possibilities of collaboration are being discussed within the network. A new 5-year National programme proposal spinning off from the Action has been submitted in February 2011 to IFAO, a French Institution based in Egypt, under the title “Architectures cosmopolites” (the proposal associates French, Italian and Greek members of the Action). Another proposal at national level for a doctoral seminar on the topics of the Action is being elaborated by an Italian member of the Action. The Action might be involved in an Erasmus Mundus to be submitted by the Belgian member.

II.B. Inter-disciplinary networking

Interdisciplinary networking is at the core of the Action since its outset. The very objective of the Action is to combine area studies knowledge (Middle Eastern studies, African studies) with discipline-based research (architectural history) in order to produce new knowledge on dissemination patterns and border-crossing relationships. The Action aims also at benefiting from research being done in information science and IT, regarding in particular data sharing and interoperability. Since some of the participants in the Action do have in-depth expertise in IT, it is

expected to impact the activities of the working groups. Other disciplines represented indeed in the Action are philosophy and geography. Finally, the Action is also considering to borrow from historical research methods such as social network analysis, for the WG1 on Actors and networks of expertise. Links to migration studies are being developed. Since the practice of inter-disciplinarity is a demanding one, the exposure of the Action to the above mentioned methods and disciplines is considered sufficient to potentially provide new research results. The Training school forecasted for year 3 will offer a forum to discuss achievements and perspectives on this issue.

II.C. New networking

13 COST member states (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GR, IS, IT, NL, PT, UK) have joined the Action during year 1. A total of 48 scholars is currently involved in the Action work (27 men and 21 women, i.e. 37%), among them 11 ESR (22%) and 7 doctoral candidates. One non-COST country institution was approved by the CSO during the year: University of Ferhat Abbas, Algeria, represented by Assia Samai Bouadjeda. Scholars from a country with reciprocal agreement (Australia) have applied; the application was approved by the MC of the Action, at its 2^d annual meeting. 4 STSMs have been granted and 2 of them carried out during the year (2 others are to be carried in the coming weeks).

A main outreach activity achieved during the year is the design and launching of the Action's website, www.architecturebeyond.eu (60 screens released). A scheme for an electronic journal has been worked out (see Annex 2).

Activities and projects with the Action's colleagues during the year have included a double round-table organized at the 1st European architectural history network in June 2010 (Guimaraes); common field work of French and Greek colleagues in Egypt in September 2010 through additional funding obtained at national level (Agence nationale de la Recherche, FR); a seminar with the Italian members of the Action within an EC project ("Arching", within Culture 2007 programme) in March 2011 in Istanbul. Working out a possible sequel to the current Arching project, with an enlarged partnership, is being discussed.

II.D. Self evaluation

As a whole, the Action is working in very satisfying manner, with no deviation from the work plan, significant involvement of members in the activities developed, and interest in fostering collaborative research.

Planned activities have been undertaken (one General Working Groups meeting, separate Working Groups meetings and an Annual Workshop combined with the MC meeting were convened during Year 1). Some objectives are being readjusted. Significant involvement of Early Stage Researchers is being achieved. A careful attention has been given to gender balance, in order to ensure that scientific responsibilities in particular are equally distributed.

The main problem encountered is at administrative level, i.e. dealing with discrepancies between

the rules applied by COST and those applicable to the Grant Holder administration (CNRS, FR). The necessity to combine both systems has generated much paperwork, and some incomprehension from Action members. Copyright issues represent a significant area where much is still to be achieved.

III. Previous scientific report(s)

Part II of past periods' reports are to be found here.