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**COST Action CA18126**

**Core group meeting**

*12.02.2021*

**Present**: Mickael Pero (COST), Kinga, Klaske, Jorge, Susana, Luis, Slobodan, Angeliki, Sonja, Lorin, Carlos, Willie (minutes).

**Absent**: Marcel (ITC grants)

1. **Update from COST -Cost Actions in times of covid-19 by Mickael Pero**

Mickael shares some information about how differetn COST Actions have found alternatives for the meetings in times of Covid-19:

* Online meetings and webinars
* Online training schools, or training schools in small local hubs
* Recordings in YouTube
* Small local face to face meetings
* Hybrid meetings with local sub-meetings

Because of this year’s underspending due to COVID-19, there is a bit of money available on top of the current budget, so you could think about some additional projects.

1. **Reflection of the 29/1 webinar ‘Fieldwork in the Network. Mapping, Performing, Sharing’**

**Luis+Slobodan:**

The webinar was to test some hypotheses in terms of the field work: the themes of Mapping, Performing, Sharing in relation to the key themes of the Action, as well as the connection between all working groups in relation to the fieldwork.

The webinar, it went very well! The dynamics were really good.

The relation with reality was the main issue of the webinar and that was addressed very nicely.

The projects and the possibilities with the themes were quite interesting.

In terms of the objectives of the webinar we’re happy with the results.

In the final discussion there were open strings for the follow up of this Action.

Regarding the role of fielwork at the Mid-term conference: if the conference takes place in September we have enough time to figure out what the role field work is in the Action, and how to present this in physically.

**Lorin:** enjoyed the webinar very well.

**Susana:** refers to “hackatons”, which are intensive 24 working session; in terms of intensity, it felt we were very close to such an event.

Responding also to Mickael’s notes on hybrid meetings: another option for a moment when the situation does not improve > one part physical and one part online.

**Practicalities:**

-Report has been uploaded to e-cost

-Participant certificates are on the way.

-Slobodan and Luis are preparing a booklet with the content of the webinar, with the same graphics as that of the WG2 webinar last November. Willie will assist with the graphic design and editing.

What to do with Emilio’s presentation will be included in the booklet although he didn’t present due to illness. >include because it is relevant material, and the response of Nevena Dakovic did address his presentation.

**Mickael**: really liked the work. The presentation of Fatma Tanis about Izmir was really captivating, making clear how narratives can make us experience urban places.

Other question to the webinar organisers: did you have any expenses?

> no invoices but many hours of preparation and intense email contact with participants. This also counts for the organisers of the Nov 17 webinar (WG2 leaders)

What it was very time consuming?

> preparations, intense email contact.

What is the booklet about? Is it a series? About dissemination?

> The pdf booklet is an outcome of webinar, following the example of the one the resulted from WG2. Just a pdf, so that also beyond the network there is a work to be distributed. It was initiated ad hoc, to mitigate the covid-19 conditions, but it became now something structural, as a series of booklets coming forth of discussions in the network.

1. **Preparations for the next webinar March 3: Lorin, Carlos**

**The Form:** Pecha Kucha to make it visual and dynamic. And consideration to assign assignments > the application of a certain methods. The WG3 leaders conceive the webinar as a response to the webinars offered by WG4 and WG2. Each assignment presents briefly the theory behind the method and the outcome of the method.

Currently made a tentative structure of the webinar > 1 day in 3 parts, following the structure of the previous two webinars

**Currently there is a 2 folds action**

* Reacting to the 60 entries of the ‘repository of methods’. Direct invitation to the most interesting ones.
* Also, there will be an email to all members of the Action to join the WG3 webinar.

It would be nice to send it to everyone, but for now it has only been sent to WG3 members. No responses yet, only to the direct invitations.

**Jorge** > yes, you can send emails to all the members (official by Salma, or the unofficial by mailchim through Jorge )

Note: You need to use the e-cost registration for the invitations to the webinars, for the cost administration.

**Lorin:** Postcard assignment

> the assignment abstract. These could circulate as interesting practices > merging, combining, giving birth to something new.

Sounds good > it really works with the narrative topic!

**Date:** WG3 leaders propose to take a bit more time for the praprations and schedule the webinar late March-early April.

This is possible, we are flexible and there are not many events planned in Spring.

a Good rhythm is a major event each 2 months:

WG2/Theory webinar November 2020

WG4/Fieldwork webinar January 2021

WG3/Methods webinar March/April 2021

(WG1/Communication webinar May 2021??)

**Carlos:** Question: Where are the methods for? Reflection, to act and transform, to start thinking?

The memorandum states that one of the aims of the Action is to influence city makers. Top-down approach: looking at what we have assembled now, some approaches are quite the opposite: unconventional and activist. So, it is more a bottom-up approach rather than a top-down idea we are looking for?

**Jorge:** integrative. Not top down or bottom up. > more transversal. The integration allows to bring together different kinds of ‘places/structures’ (institutions, governments, etc.).

What is important for communication is integration. It is strategic to see what kind of information is needed form the different groups.

The fieldwork is giving the context. Now you can categorise and tweak where needed in order to talk ‘*about’, ‘with’ and ‘to’*.

**Luis:** if we look at the field work done in WG4> how can we use without being restricted to the midsize cities. The national groups are fundamental in order to communicate.

**Klaske:** What if there would be a 4th webinar hosted by wg1 about this later in spring?

1. **Updates from the WG’s**

WG2

* Booklet finalisation
* Writingplace Journal call is out everyone!

WG1

* No particular updates
* Susana: there are many individual things and projects going on. But they are not really present within the network. How to invite people to share their news?

**Mickael:** Anecdote > participated in a guided walk through Brussels with historical stories. Got to know another layer of the city! This seems close to the narrative approach of this COST Action.

Could such initiatives be developed in the Action? Especially for all the travellers this might be of interest

(Note: we did organise such tours in Almada with the Literary Atlas, and the guided walk in Limerick. Could such initiatives be further explored as part of the network? -in relation to the local cities and fieldwork?)

Please note the interest in EU in “City engagement” , perhaps this Action could connect to that.

**Sonja**: WG2: proposal from Michael Kelly for a translation project within the Action: translation of local short stories. Could we use COST budget for this translation?

**Mickael:** A translation not. But an “Annotation of text” they translate and additional work of interpretation. This is something that can be eligible.

Internal use/academic only.

**Jorge:** the translation would be something done by the members, as there is an interpretation needed.

1. **Action list**

April webinar WG3

May webinar WG1

June/July Tallinn summer school

September Midterm conference