

**Minutes  
Management Committee Meeting**

**COST Action IS0804  
Language Impairment in a Multilingual Society:  
Linguistic Patterns and the Road to Assessment**

**Newcastle, 27 May 2010**

**Present:** Sharon Armon Lotem (Chair), Jan de Jong (Vice-Chair, NL), Francesca Boscolo (COST Officer), Johanne Paradis (non-COST MC, CA), Natalia Gagarina (WG2 Leader, DE), Cornelia Hamann (MC Sub, DE), Petra Schulz (DE), Kristine Jensen de Lopez (DK), Anna Alguero Gavarro (ES), Dolors Massana Girbau (ES), Nevena Padovan (MC Sub, CR), Maria Kambanaros (CY), Sari Kunnari (FI), Philippe Prevost (FR), Laurie Tuller (FR), Ianthi Maria Tsimpli (GR), Gordana Hrzica (MC Sub HR), Bence Kas (HU), Ágnes Lukács (HU), Elin Thordardottir (IS), Ciara O'Toole (IE), Naama Friedmann (IL), Joel Walters (IL), Adriana Belletti (IT), Camille Messarra (LB), Laura Kamandulyte (LT), Anne E. Baker (NL), Arve Asbjørnsen (NO), Kirsten Meyer Bjerkan (NO), Ewa Haman (PO), Zofia Wodniecka (PO), Jasmina Vuksanovic (RS), Gisela Håkansson (SE), Natasha Ringblom (SE), Eva-Kristina Salameh (MC Sub, SE), Belma Haznedar (TR), Seyhun S. Topbas (TR), Carolyn Letts (UK), Theo Marinis (UK) Kathryn Kohnert (non-COST MC, US), Frenette Southwood (non-COST MC, ZA)

**1. Welcome to participants**

**2. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda is adopted.

**3. Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes are approved.

**4. Report from the Scientific Officer**

Francesca Boscolo (our COST officer) is present. Ms. Boscolo took over the Action, but assured the Action that Dr. Julia Stamm, who was previously taking care of the Action, is still in charge of the domain and might help with the Action coordination. Ms. Boscolo informs the MC that New Guidelines for Actions submission were introduced and adopted in June, 2010. Researchers who are interested to submit a proposal for a new Action should get acquainted with the New Guidelines that are available on the COST website. The New Vademecum is available which contains all the reimbursement guidelines.

Ms. Boscolo assures the MC that the COST office is aware of the tight budget of the Action. She explains that the financial year for COST starts in June and adds that the Seventh Framework Programme conducted a mid-term evaluation of the COST activities but the COST office has not received the results of the evaluation yet. Ms. Boscolo notes that while COST has increased the number of Actions, the budget remains the same. Ms. Boscolo promises that the COST office will try to help with the funding but COST cannot be committed to it yet since they have not yet finalized their budget.

Upon the closure of the fiscal year, COST will estimate its current balance. Ms. Boscolo brings to the participants` attention that there are more Actions who have tight budgets this year.

It has been noted that our Action has increased its number of members: At the kick-off meeting there were 28 MC members from 15 countries, at the present meeting there are 44 MC members from 26 countries. Action IS0804 is one of the largest Actions and it is at the top of the list of Actions awaiting reassessment of the 2<sup>nd</sup> payment.

Ms. Boscolo requests MC members from Luxembourg, Malta and Serbia to check with their CNC their status with the Council of Europe.

## **5. Annual Budget planning under the Grant System (starting January 2010, 12 months)**

Sharon Armon-Lotem (MC Chair) presents the budget:

### Planned budget

Meetings	60,000 EUR
STSM	15,000 EUR
Subtotal Science Expenditure	75,000 EUR
Secretarial Support	10,000 EUR
Total Expenditure	85,000 EUR

### Budget report

Newcastle meeting (estimate)	45,000 EUR
STSMs (estimate)	7,386 EUR (4 STSMs)
Secretarial support (estimate)	3,600 EUR
Total used (based on estimate)	55,986 EUR
Total left (based on estimate)	29,124 EUR

54 participants are reimbursed for the Meeting in Newcastle. The cuts, which were agreed on in Amsterdam, reduced the accommodation & meals budget from maximally 640 EUR per person to at most 420 EUR per person (from 4 nights & 8 meal to 3 nights and 6 meals, and from 120 EUR to 100 EUR per night), saving a total of 11,160 EUR.

Nonetheless, even with the cuts we made in Amsterdam, we are not able to reimburse WG members and thus to fulfill our obligation to support early stage researchers.

With the current balance (of 22,724 EUR left for scientific expenditure), it is not feasible to hold a second meeting in 2010 as was planned. With one meeting a year it will be extremely difficult for the Action members to collaborate and ensure the advancement towards the objectives of the Action. One meeting a year will harm the continuity of the Action and will have a negative effect on our ability to increase scientific and societal impact. The Action will not be able to accomplish its goals (both scientific and assessment related) and we will be forced to revisit the vision of the Action and revise the MoU. In order to operate and advance towards the set aims the Action (including another meeting this year), the budget should be revised. We urgently request the COST office to try and provide us with the additional necessary funding.

We shall need at least:

Cyprus meeting	additional 22,276 EUR
STSMs	additional 10,000 EUR

The Action has proved to be highly successful. The meeting in Newcastle attracted 75 participants: 2/3 eligible for reimbursement and a 1/3 (who are WG members) had to cover the transportation and accommodation at their own expense. Their willingness to pay their own expenses further shows the importance of such meetings in promoting collaborative networking and achieving our aims.

In response to questions from the MC, Ms Boscolo confirms that the budget cannot be transferred to the next year. If the remaining sum cannot be spent on a second meeting, it has to be spent by the Action in different ways before the end of the year. Ms. Boscolo announces that the COST office cannot allocate the requested addition funding of over 30,000 EUR. It is the first year for the Action and many countries have joined the Action, thus in future (although funding falls short now) the funding will be estimated based on the number of countries that signed the MoU.

Ms. Boscolo assures the MC that the 3rd meeting should be planned and discussed, and we should wait for the decision on additional funding that might come within the next 2-3 weeks.

## 6. STSM status, first and second calls

Last Name	First Name	Title	Status	Affiliation	Host Institute	Dates
Miskovic Larsen	Pero	Mr.	MA student	University of Aalborg	U. of Zagreb	Dec 2009
Grohmann	Kleanthes	Dr.	Faculty	University of Cyprus	U.A. de Barcelona	Dec 2009
Leivada	Evangelia	Ms.	BA student	University of Cyprus	U.A. de Barcelona	Dec 2009
Oz	Hadar	Ms.	SLT	Bar Ilan University	ZAS, Berlin	Feb 2010
Freidmann	Naama	Prof.	Faculty	Tel Aviv University	U. Siena	March 2010
Miekisz	Aneta	Ms.	PhD student	U. of Warsaw	U. of Cambridge	May 2010
Scheidnes	Maureen	Ms.	PhD student	U. of Tours	U. of Reading	May 2010

STSM applications should follow the general guidelines of this Action: the cheapest transportation and the cheapest accommodation available. STSM applicants are urged to make realistic estimations.

No STSMs deadline is set due to the unknown situation of the budget.

## **7. Publications**

The guidelines for publication policy as approved in Brussels are supported by the MC:

- 54 publications which are related to the action and aim at advancement and promotion of scientific knowledge in the field of Bilingual SLI were published by Action members since the Action was approved (based on members' reports). Some of these publications reflect previous collaborations of Action members, while others reflect new individual initiatives. Numerous papers were presented at conferences and other public events.
- LiMoBis conference/graduate school organized by Kristine Jensen de Lopez and the Cognitive Psychology Unit (DK) in September 2010, in Aalborg, Denmark (<http://limobis.aau.dk>). It includes a two-day course on SLI and BiSLI for PhD students and an event for national practitioners to raise awareness of the topic and the Action. Though it is not directly supported by the Action, it will give early stage researchers, as well as practitioners an opportunity to learn about bilingual SLI from experienced members of the Action, who are among the invited speakers in this event.
- If your institution is planning / organizing a conference / workshop / summer school for 2011 which is related to the Action's aims, please let us know and the MC can decide to apply for the funding (within 2011 budget) to support such an event.

## **8. Request for new members**

The following members were approved by the MC:

MC Members

Jasmina Vuksanovic (RS) - MC Member

WG Members:

WG1            Fernanda Pratas (PT)  
                  Maria Lobo (PT)  
                  Maria Kaltsa (GR)  
                  Esther Ruigendijk (DE)  
                  Anja Muller (DE)

WG2            Andrea Anahi Junyent (IT)  
                  Daleen Klop (ZA) –non-cost  
                  Janet Laugharne (UK)  
                  Julia Puzanova (RU) – non-COST

WG3 Monique Visser (ZA)- non-COST  
Penny Roy (UK)  
Shula Chiat (UK)  
Tanja Rinker (DE)  
Olga Nenonen (FI)  
Kamila Polisenska (UK)

WG4 Gary Morgan (UK)

New applications to be approved in Cyprus can be sent to Natalia, the action secretary, at [bisli.org@gmail.com](mailto:bisli.org@gmail.com).

## **9. Non-COST participations**

In addition to participants from Canada, South Africa and the USA, who have already been approved by the previous meeting, new Non-COST MC members are:

Camille Messarra, Lebanon – Approved by COST

Alexandr Kornev, Russia – Approved by COST

Laida Restrepo, USA, University of Arizona – Approved by the MC, awaiting COST approval

Expressed interest:

Australia: Willem van Steenbrugge, Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology, Flinders University of South Australia

Malaysia: Rogayah A Razak, Dept. of Audiology & Speech Sciences, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

The MC will be asked to approve them by e-mail once they apply officially.

## **10. Promotion of gender balance and of Early Stage Researchers (ESR)**

- Constant efforts will be made to achieve gender balance in recruitment of early-stage researchers. Gender balance will be considered in approving STSM applications.
- The Action will encourage the involvement of early-stage researchers (MA/MSc students, PhD students, postdoctoral fellows)
- Michaela Nerantzini (GR) was nominated by the MC for COST Conference Grant for Early Stage Researchers to go to LiMoBiS.

## **11. Web news**

Our website [www.bi-sli.org](http://www.bi-sli.org) is constantly updated with useful information. This includes:

- lists of MC members and WG members with links to individual homepages
- updates for meetings
- Presentations from the Amsterdam meetings are in the closed section; titles of the presentations are in the open section, the same procedure will be followed for the Newcastle meeting. Please make sure to send your presentation to [bisli.org@gmail.com](mailto:bisli.org@gmail.com).
- Background questionnaires are in the closed section. Members are invited to send in more questionnaires to be published online. The questionnaires already available have already generated key elements of a future core questionnaire.
- FAQs for parents and clinicians. Many thanks to Johanne Paradis for all her hard work on it, and to those who helped behind the scenes. We suggest to translate the FAQ into other COST languages as well and make them available to the public. Volunteers are welcome.
- We would like to add a webpage hit-counter that enables to count visitors by country.
- Articles can be shared in the closed section organized according to WG:
  - pre-print versions of articles written by the Action members
  - articles by other authors should be published with their obtained consent and the journal guidelines should be followed

## **12. Time and place of next meeting**

### The 3<sup>rd</sup> MC and WG Meeting:

Larnaca (Cyprus), 27-29 October 2010. In Kleanthes Grohmann's absence, the venue is presented by Maria Kambanaros.

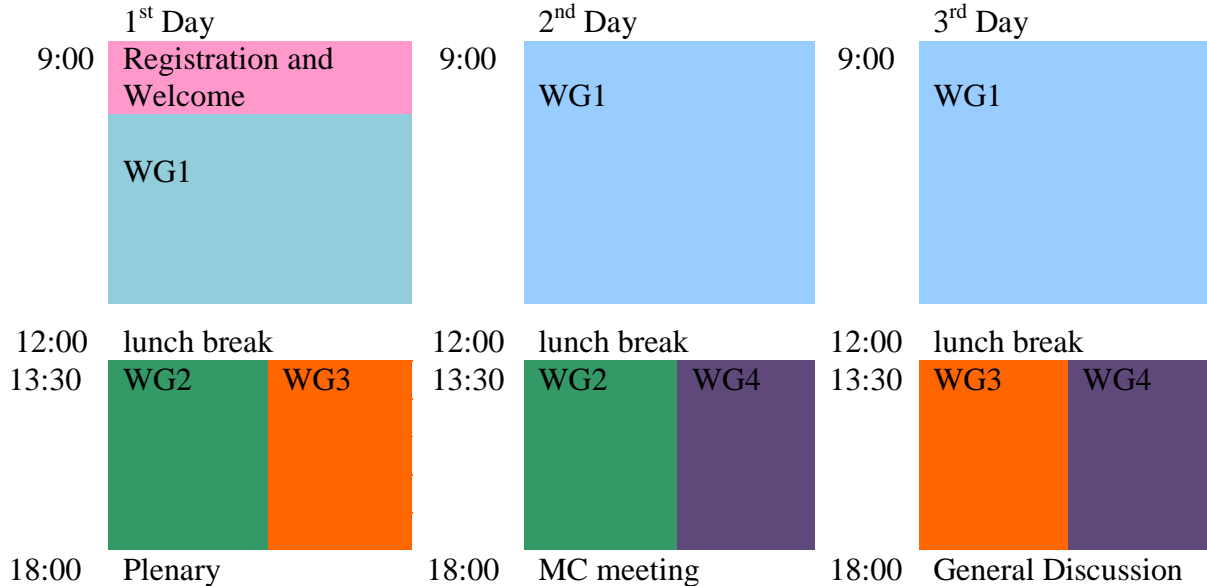
Again, the Chair expresses doubts about whether the meeting in Cyprus should be planned, since the current balance does not allow to hold another meeting in 2010, but Ms. Boscolo suggests that the meeting should be discussed and planned and the COST office will inform the Grant Holder if an extra funding will be allocated as soon as the COST annual budget is finalized.

Three options for the meeting venue are presented. The MC members vote and decide that the one option is too expensive, 13 MC members vote for the second (cheapest) option, 21 MC members vote for the third option. Consequently, the third option is agreed on. Due to the financial restraints that the Action experience, the MC members reach full consensus about the following steps

#### A. Organization of the meeting in Cyprus:

- Length: 3 full days (4 nights). The cheaper accommodation makes this possible (the accommodation that is chosen is 60 Euro per night)
- Longer breaks (so the participants can share knowledge and do networking)
- Parallel sessions
- WG1 to split into subgroups

B. The following preliminary schedule will be the guideline



Participants' accommodation will be reimbursed based on the tariff negotiated by the local organizer.

### 13. Locations for future meetings

The 4<sup>th</sup> MC and WG Meeting will take be held at Anadolu University, Eskisehir Turkey. Seyhun Topbas presented the venue of the meeting. There is a beautiful Guest House with all the necessary facilities at 20-30 Euro per night. The university facilities will be available for the meeting. The venue is approved of by the MC members.

Other candidates are:

Fall 2011 – Italy (Padua), Malta

Spring 2012 – Poland (Krakow)

A vote on these meetings will take place in Cyprus.

### 14. AOB

14.1 The Assessment committee is approved: Elin Thordardottir (Chair), Helen Grech, Maria Kambanaros, Seyhun Saime Topbas, Carolyn Letts

Other MC members who want to be part of this committee are welcome to contact Elin. The first task of the Assessment committee is to reach an agreement on a core background questionnaire.

14.2 It is suggested that local organizers can arrange poster-sessions adjacent to MC/WG Meetings for young researchers to present their studies. Some universities fund the presentation of research done by their students.