

**COST ACTION A34: GENDER AND WELL-BEING  
FIRST MEETING OF THE CORE GROUP 1  
24<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MODENA, MODENA**

*Present members:* Antonella Picchio (Italy), Bernard Harris (United Kingdom) Helena Machado (Portugal) and Lina Gálvez (Spain).

The meeting started at 9:30 a.m. with the circulation of papers photocopies and the handing of travel's expenses to Antonella Picchio to be sent to the COST office. The Working Group (Picchio chair person) agreed that three main topics needed to be covered:

1. The financial
2. The organisation
3. The academic aspects

The Committee started by discussing the financial constraints for the meeting. Helena Machado and Bernard Harris, noted that the project has 70.000€ per year and that, being Modena the only conference in year 2006, its great part can be made available for the Modena Symposium. To be sure of our information we contacted The Chair Cristina Borderias who confirmed the issue and informed us of the MC and WG meetings needed in 2006.

The Management Committee should meet at Modena, as well as the Working Group of the second conference, but we might think the second conference Working Group will possibly need to meet before the Modena conference one more time as well as the first conference Working Group.

Cristina Borderías also reminded us that the per-person budget for attending the conference is around 800 € and that only a maximum of six people for country can be reimbursed, including the members of the Management Committee. This means that only four papers by country can be paid. However, it is possible for country management groups to look for extra funds in order to subsidize the attendance of other members of the national groups. She also called attention to the necessity of having a balanced representation of all country groups taking part in the project.



In order to know the real financial needs, the Committee moved on to the organisation aspects. The main problems discussed were: how many nights the participants would stay in Modena; how many sessions would we have; how many papers by session; how many experts and how much time was needed by the Management Committee. Going to lunch A. Picchio showed the rooms in which the conference will take place and we all agreed that it was an excellent location.

The proposal made by Harris was to have a three days and two night's conference, giving time to arrive on Monday morning, start the conference in the early afternoon, a full day on Tuesday, and closing on the 28th morning. The Committee started to work on this proposal. Lina Gálvez noted that there were more abstracts than the ones we could include given the time constraint. The discussion was open on a possible plan for three days-two nights conference taking into consideration that we have to accommodate from three to four experts and the Management Committee meeting. The whole group agreed that it was necessary to leave plenty of time for discussion. The discussion ended up with a consensus on five sessions of two hours with four papers each (15 minutes presentation for four papers and one hour discussion for session). That meant only twenty papers. Lina Gálvez insisted again that we possibly should go through the abstracts since we had more than thirty abstracts compared with the twenty possible papers we should accept.

Before starting to discuss the abstracts we ended the organisation of the meeting including lunch and coffee breaks. For maintaining the three days-two nights conference we were obliged to save as more time as possible on coffee and lunch breaks. Antonella Picchio proposed to have a caterer for coffee and lunch breaks in order to save time. Only by having a caterer we will be able to have only one hour for lunch break. However, Helena Machado reminded us that COST pays 20€ for lunch for each person but it does it directly to each member. Antonella Picchio again phoned Cristina Borderías and she confirmed what Helena Machado and Bernard Harris were saying. Lina Gálvez said that we need to convince COST

to pay that money to Modena committee instead to each member in order to be able to contract a caterer, otherwise we will need more time for lunch break and the gap between the number of abstracts received and the number of papers which can be accommodated will grow. Helena Machado and Bernard Harris thought that the possibility of having a caterer had already been discussed in Brussels without success. Lina Gálvez said that considering one hour lunch break the planning stays as follows:

Day 1		Day 2		Day 3	
		9:00-11:00	2 <sup>nd</sup> session	9:00-11:00	5 <sup>th</sup> session
		11:00-11:30	Coffee break	11:00-11:30	Coffee break
		11:30-13:30	3 <sup>rd</sup> session	11:30-13:30	2 <sup>nd</sup> general discussion and conclusion
		13:30-14:30	Lunch break	13:30-14:30	Lunch break
14:30-15:00	Presentation			14:30-17:30	Management Committee Meeting
15:00-16:00	Two experts	14:30-16:30	4 <sup>th</sup> session		
16:00-16:30	Introduction to the group	16:30-17:00	Coffee break		
16:30-17:00	Coffee break	17:00-18:00	Two experts		
17:00-19:00	1 <sup>st</sup> session	18:00-20:00	Core Groups Meetings		

The Working Committee decided to work with this planning, considering each session a four paper session. Helena Machado proposed to go through the papers in the order Bernard Harris had sent them before the dead line, and then to include the rest of the papers arrived to the different members of the Committee between the same September 15<sup>th</sup> and the following days. Her proposal was accepted and the Committee started to go through the papers. Lina Gálvez reminded the rest of what Cristina Borderías had told her about the balanced representation of country members in the abstracts presentation.

We went through all the abstracts and selected twenty five. Special attention was paid to abstracts being the only ones coming for different countries. The final list will be 25 papers (experts and International Institutions non included) It was decided to have a five sessions of five papers instead of four, leaving 45 minutes of discussion for each session instead of 60 minutes.

At the end of the abstracts selection, the Committee went through the expert selection and few names were considered such as Martha Nussbaum, Ingrid Robeyns, Massimo Livi-Bacci, Jane Humphries, Lourdes Benería, or J.Miguel Martínez Carrión. The possibility of having Martha Nussbaum was very welcome by the members of the committee, however Antonella Picchio was not hundred per cent sure she will come from the US, although she had already contacted her at the Capability and Human Development Conference in Paris. Lina Gálvez says that Lourdes Benería will be on sabbatical in Barcelona for a whole academic year and it will be easier to bring her to Italy from Barcelona than from the US. By that time it was after 7:30 in the evening and the final selection of the experts was left for e-mail exchange.

Finally, Lina Gálvez told the rest of the Committee she was organising together with the Spanish Management Committee a pre-conference for the Spanish group in Seville at the end of March. The idea of the workshop was to bring together the Spanish people presenting papers for the first conference, other members of the network, politicians and responsible for statistical construction in public administration. She proposed that if the Committee felt another meeting should be necessary before the Modena conference, which could take place in Seville at the same time of the workshop, where other members of the network would meet and Cristina Borderías will also be present.

At 8 pm the Committee closed the session.