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COST Action TU1401 RELY: Fall Meeting 2015 in Dresden

From 15th to 18th September 2015, the Management Committee and Working Group Meeting of the COST Action TU 1401 Renewable Energy and Landscape Quality (<http://cost-rely.eu/>) took place in Dresden, Germany. Organized by Nuertingen-Geislingen University and in cooperation with the European Conference 'Energy Landscapes' of the Landscape Research Group, the meeting also served as a status conference in the first year of the Action.

After the kick-off-meeting in October 2014 in Brussels and the second meeting in Lisbon in March 2015, this was the third Management Committee Meeting of COST TU 1401 RELY. The four Working Groups had formed during the kick-off meeting in Brussels, consolidated during the meeting in Lisbon and remarkably advanced their work over the last months.

So on Tuesday, September 15th, about 60 Action participants from 30 countries met for the Management Committee Meeting and Working Group sessions at the Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (IÖR) in Dresden, which had kindly offered to provide rooms for the meeting.



Figure 1. Management Committee Meeting at the IÖR, 15th of September, 2015 (Photo: Michael Roth)



Figure 2. Members of WG3 during the Working Group Session, 15th of September, 2015 (Photo: Michael Roth)

During the MC Meeting, an update from the Action Chair (Michael Roth, Nuertingen-Geislingen University, Germany) and Grant Holder as well as from the COST Association was given to provide an overview of the current status of the Action, regarding aspects such as, for example, participating and inclusiveness countries, budget planning or publications. So far, about 130 participants from more than 70 institutions in 33 European countries plus Canada and Israel had joined the COST Action RELY. More than one third of the participants come from inclusiveness countries, as well as all four WG Co-chairs.

The Working Group Chairs and Co-Chairs presented the comprehensive results their groups already achieved in their specific area of research. They also provided information on how they plan to proceed during the next months and proved that the cooperation and coordination between the four Working Groups works very well. After four successful and productive Short Term Scientific Missions in 2015, the STSM coordinator Serge Schmitz (University of Liège, Belgium) announced that up to 10 STSMs could be granted for 2016 to contribute to the goals of the Action. As venue for the

next meeting in spring 2016, Ljubljana was approved by the Management Committee, and a short presentation about the venue, the Biotechnical Faculty of the University of Ljubljana, was given by the local organizers (Naja Marot and Mojca Golobič, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia) already including potential destinations for field trips.

Following the Management Committee Session, the participants split up into the four Working Groups to discuss their particular subjects in more depth and specify the next tasks. For the evening, the restaurant ‘Brauhaus am Waldschlösschen’ had been chosen for a networking dinner with typical German food.

From Wednesday, September 16th, to Friday, September 18th, the COST Action RELY joined the European Conference of the Landscape Research Group with the title ‘Energy Landscapes’ as a co-organizer. Several Action members gave presentations in one of the four sessions ‘Perception, Planning, Participation and Power’, and also the two keynotes on Wednesday were given by members of COST Action RELY, Patrick Devine-Wright (University of Exeter, United Kingdom) and Maria-José Prados Velasco (University of Sevilla, Spain). During the special session of RELY on Thursday morning, the Action Chair and the Working Group Chairs gave presentations about the aims and the status of the Action in general and the different working groups in particular. A great number of interested conference participants attended this session and, after the presentations, made use of the possibility to discuss their questions with the Action chair and the WG chairs. Also, during the COST RELY special session, the STSM call for 2016 was announced.



Figure 3. Action member María-José Prados was giving one of the keynotes at the Energy Landscapes Conference, 16th of September, 2015 (Photo: Michael Roth)



Figure 4. Alexandra Kruse (WG4), Bohumil Frantal (WG2), Michael Roth (Action Chair), Matthias Buchecker (WG3), Marina Frolova (WG1) and Serge Schmitz (STSM Coordinator) (from left to right) during the Special Session of RELY, 17th of September, 2015 (Photo: Sina Röhner)

The COST TU 1401 RELY fall meeting 2015 ended with the field trips on Friday, September 18th. Two different trips were offered, one to Lusatia, dealing with old and new energy landscapes, and one to Leipzig, focusing on energy and landscape in urban and peri-urban areas.



Figure 5: Impressions from the field trip to Lusatia, 18th of September, 2015: New energy landscapes with wind turbines (Photo: Michael Roth)



Figure 6: Impressions from the field trip to Lusatia, 18th of September, 2015: Old energy landscapes with open cast coal mining (Photo: Michael Roth)

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