



Biosafety of forest transgenic trees

improving the scientific basis for safe tree development and implementation of EU policy directives

**Working Groups meeting
of COST ACTION FP0905**

**Biosafety of transgenic trees: improving the
scientific basis for safe tree development and
implementation of EU policy directives**

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- Remember to sign the attendance list every day**
- The 9th of September, Ms Simonetta Bianchi (Grant Holder administrative) collect the reimbursement form filled together with the receipt or copy of the plain/train/bus ticket, any additional receipt and declaration form**
- The 10th of September, the MC meeting (9.00 – 12.00) is restricted to the official MC members or if not present by their MC substitute**

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- **MC committee:**

propose new WG3 Leader

Define data for successive meetings:

February 2011 (1 day meeting) Malaga (ES)

Extended Steering Board (Chair, Vice Chair, WG Leaders and Vice Leaders and Task Groups from each WG, and the financial representative enclosed) = 21 people

April 2011 (1 day meeting) Florence (IT) (may be to be moved in Malaga as 2nd day)

Steering Board meeting to plan the activities of the following Grant Period (max 5 reimbursements as Florence-based people don't need reimbursement)

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- MC committee:

Define data for successive meetings/activity:

2 MC meetings with WGs for the 2nd year of the Action: period (April/May 2011 and September/October 2011), place, organiser

1 Training school: period (July? 2011), place, organiser, Training School Scientific Management Team (Chair, Vice Chair, organiser, and 4 experts from the MC) will be appointed

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WG1: Biological characterization of GMTs

Leader: *Gilles Pilate*

Vice Leader: *Hely Haeggman*

WG2: Environmental impact assessment and monitoring of GMTs in the whole production chain from plantation to final products

Leader: *Fernando Gallardo*

Vice Leader: *Lucia Ionita*

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WG3: Socio-economic implications of and recommendations for the use of GMTs

Leader: **To be defined**

Vice Leader: **Mirjana Sijacic-Nikolic**

WG4: Management of intranet - internet websites and dissemination

Leader: **Fabio Migliacci**

Vice Leader: **Francesca Donnarumma**

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WG Leaders:

- **Scientific coordination of the activities, specification of research directions**
- **Information about scientific progress to MC**
- **Semester internal report to the Chair**
- **Organisation of WG meetings**
- **.....**

Each WG Leader has to nominate the Task group: identify 3 persons within the participants to the WG (preferentially ESR)

Task Group:

- **Support the WG Leader/Vice Leader**
- **Elaborate emergency plan**
- **Suggest any new needs**
- **.....**



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Each WG has to discuss the organisation of the scientific activity and plan the collection of the information:

Task group: help the Leader and Vice leader in collecting the information from the participants etc.

Coordination within each Nation

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Relations to other COST Actions

E36 “Modelling and simulation in the pulp and paper industry”: possible contact and information exchanges with additional end-users (2003-2008) (Chair: Johannes Kappen)

E51 “Integrating Innovation and Development Policies for the Forest Sector”: possible information exchanges for the development of policies directives in relation to GMTs (2005-2010) (Chair: Gerhard Weiss)

FP0603 “Forest models for research and decision support in sustainable forest management”: exchanges similar to E51. (2006-2011) (Chair: Margarida Tome)

FP0804 “Forest management decision support systems”: exchanges similar to E51. (2008-2013) (Chair: Ola Eriksson)

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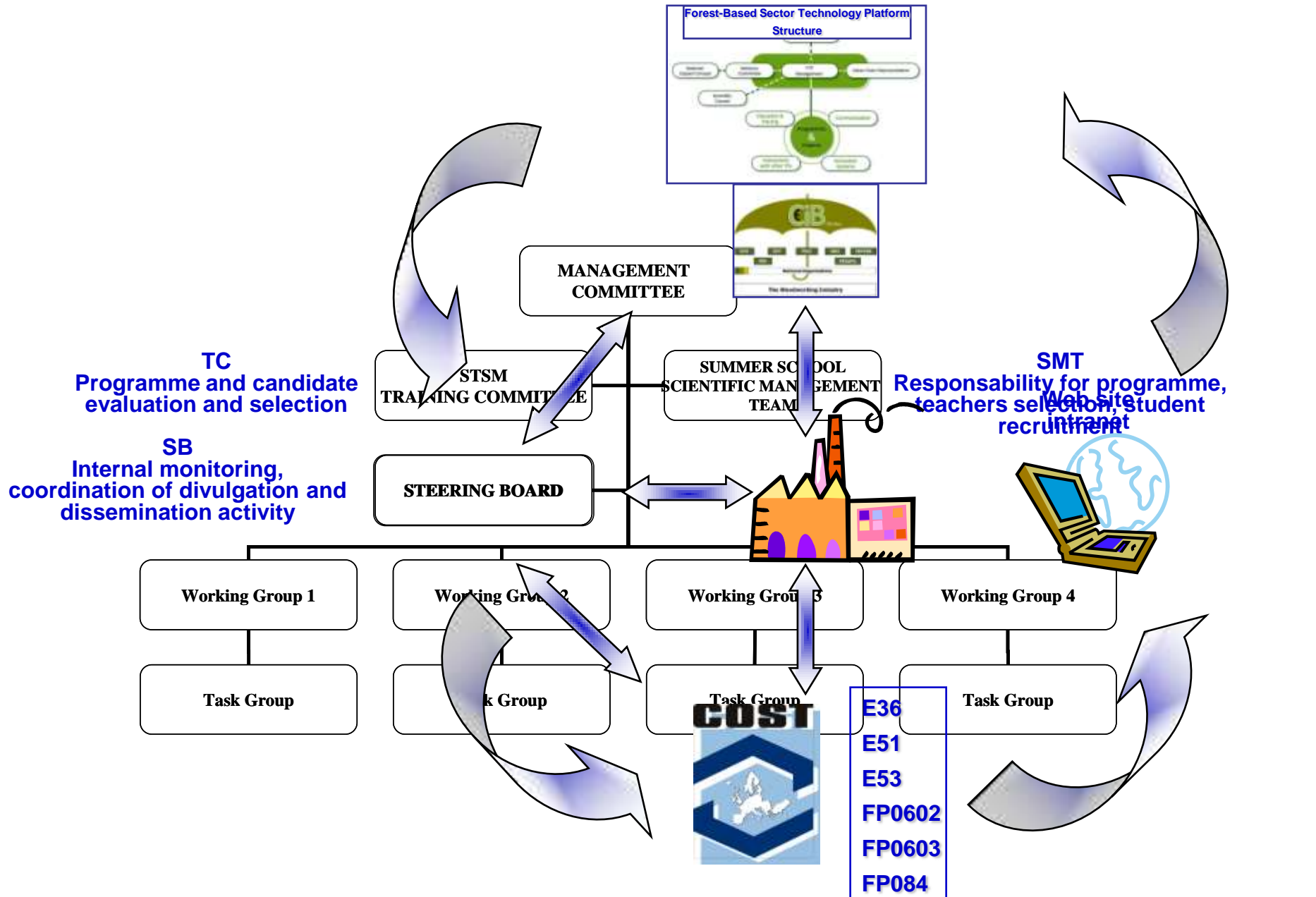
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Relations to other COST Actions

Actions in other domains

FA 864 “Combining Traditional and Advanced Strategies for Plant Protection in Pome Fruit Growing”: possible scientific and experience exchange in relation to strategy for protection of woody plants (WG4: Biotechnology approaches for Pome Fruit Trees) (Domain: Food and Agriculture) (2005-2011) (Chair: Carl Stich)

Preliminary Proposal oc-2010-1-6870: “Establishment of an EU research network on genetic modification of vegetatively propagated crops for improved food quality and safety” (Proponent: Giovanni Broggin, CH; Domain: Food and Agriculture). *Data from this possible ACTION to implement GMP database*





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9th of September (09.00-12.30): Separate meetings of the WGs

WG1 together WG4

WG2 together WG3

10th of September (08.30-09.00): Separate meetings of the WGs

To prepare a summary to be presented at the MC committed

10th of September at 09.00: END OF THE WG Meetings

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WG 1 Biological characterization of GMTs

Characterize the GMTs in respect to their genetic and phenotypic features relevant for gene flow, gene containment and gene targeting

Workplan

- **Literature and methods developed on gene flow and containment strategies**
- **Information available on the constructs used for GMTs: name of the construct, name of the trait, donor organism, and function of the gene introduced**
- **Main information on GMTs: taxonomic status, centre/s of origin, and any other additional information available and related to biosafety (i.e., biological cycle, type of pollination, type of pollen and seed dispersal method, etc.)**

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Deliverables

- **protocols for the control of transgene flow and gene containment**
- **Progress in gene targeting strategies for site specific integration of transgenes**
- **Information on the construct and the inserted gene(s) used in the GMT**
- **Provide the main information on forest GMTs for the database (WG4)**
- **information sharing, workshops/meetings/journals**

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Output

to improve data of the Biosafety Clearing House, OECD and EU databases

to develop a clear factual overview of the status of GMTs in European and non-European countries

To provide data for risk assessment (WG2)

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WG 2: Environmental impact assessment and monitoring of GMTs in the whole production chain from plantation to final products

Study environmental risk assessment strategies and monitoring the GMTs along the whole production chain

This WG foresees a recognition of existent strategies and studies concerning the environmental risk assessment and the monitoring systems (used or proposed).

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Workplan

- **Study of impact assessments for crops and other GMOs and from different countries for comparison with GMTs dealt with in this Action;**
- **Impact of genetic transformation on the plant's "omics";**
- **Fate of the recombinant DNA plant material and effects of the GMTs on exposed ecosystems,**
- **The possibility of monitoring tools of the transgene from the production of the GMTs to the final products (wood, pulp, paper, etc.);**
- **Persistence, integration, and biological activity of the foreign genetic material in the environment**

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Deliverables

- **Providing base for further environmental impacts assessment and monitoring**
- **Provide the main information on forest GMTs for the database (WG4)**
- **Providing opportunities for research groups to develop joint research programmes**
- **information sharing, workshops/meetings/journals**



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Output

The results of this work will permit to have a view of the environmental impact of the GMTs already produced and to evaluate if the actual containment strategies need to be improved. These findings will be useful to better support policy strategies (WG3).

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WG 3 Socio-economic implications of and recommendations for the use of GMTs

Make socio-economics analyses of the use of GMTs considering the concerns and acceptance by the public, the economic potential for GMTs and R&D efforts to be invested, as well as cost/benefit analyses, and propose recommendations for the use of GMTs

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Workplan

- **Evaluation of existing of cost/benefits analyses for entire region and for specific localities**
- **Socio - economic analyses of the impacts on European society, which will be compared with impacts in USA and other countries**
- **Awareness and acceptance of GMTs by the society**
- **Developments of biosafety standards for GMTs**

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Deliverables

- **Socio-economic/environmental and cost/benefit analyses, e.g. for GMTs used for the pulp and paper and other industries in the Europe**
- **Comparison between Europe, USA, China and other countries on regulation and public awareness of GMTs**
- **Biosafety recommendations to assist EU policies on GMTs, forests, their products, and services**
- **Providing opportunities for research groups to develop joint research programs**
- **information sharing, workshops/meetings/journals**

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Output

The information provided will be useful for the National and International organizations who has to deliberate and make decision for the safeguard of the environment and of the society. This will permit to these organization to make the more correct and adequate policy decision.

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WG 4 Management of intranet - internet websites and dissemination

Through a website, provide science-based information and increase public awareness in the utilization of GMTs in forest plantation and at the same time safeguarding the environment

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Workplan

- **promote a public debate on this theme involving different organisations in favour (i.e, EUROPABIO-European Association for Bioindustries; ISAAA-International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications) or contrary (i.e., IFOAM-associazione internazionale degli agricoltori biologici; NGOs-Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, GENET) to GMTs**
- **Dissemination of the results**
- **GMP database**

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Deliverables

- **Providing a database with the main information on forest GMTs, available to the scientific community and Europe organisations**
- **Providing opportunities for research groups to develop joint research programmes**
- **information sharing, workshops/meetings/journals**

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Output

Provide scientific information on GMT through the database for the scientific community, and for those organisation/authorities involved in risk assessment analyses and in risk management