COST Action CA16123  
Safety Culture and Risk Management in Agriculture (SACURIMA)  
MC Meeting Minutes

Time: Friday, March 22, 2019  
Place: Novi Sad, Serbia

1. Welcome to participants

This was performed by Action Chair Prof. Risto Rautiainen (RR). New members introduced themselves: Serbia, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Poland, Latvia, and Turkey (2).

2. Verification of the presence of two-thirds of the Participating COST Countries or, if applicable, a quorum

Attendance: 2/3 of the MC participant countries plus USA present (available in attendance records). Scientific Representative Jarkko Leppala (JL) advised that if quorum would not be reached then eVoting will have to take place.

3. Adoption of agenda

Agenda approved. ITC conference visits were added in 5b.

4. Approval of minutes and matters arising of last meeting

Minutes of previous MC meeting unanimously approved. RR brought to attention that dates of next meeting in Milan, Italy have been changed. Next MC meeting dates in Milan are September 19 and 20, 2019.

5. Update from the Action Chair

Action Chair reported that Action is now approaching the end of year 2. In year 3 is critical to focus on outputs e.g. production of papers, completion of surveys, media coverage etc. Year 4 is a shorter period as action ends on March 16th and the year which should be reserved for final completion of outputs and outstanding issues.

   a) Status of Action: start and end dates of Action, participating COST countries, participating NNC/ IPC institutions and Specific Organisations.

An Overview of EU COST Action structures was provided for new members. It was pointed out that second Leaders are not stated in COST documents.

MC Meeting attendance by category at the meeting was as follows:
Early Career 11; ITC Countries 20; female 17.

b) Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) and ITC visits: review of completed reports and new applications

STSM Grant Manager Prof Claudio Colosio (CC) reported that 2 STSM’s had taken place as follows:

- Ms Madalina Coman had completed STSM in November 2018 with Professor Van den Broucke in UCL Belgium. STSM title was “The effectiveness of farm safety education interventions for agricultural workers that have the improvement of health and/or safety literacy as an outcome” for the working group 2.

- Dr. Brankica Kartalović STSM from Novi Sad to Milan in January 2019 “Approaches to pesticide exposure and risk assessment in agriculture”.

- RR stated that the funds are available to undertake STSM’s but applicants are few.

- CC gave update on operation of STSM as follows: Countries willing to host STSM should advise CC and state what expertise can be offered and this is then put on Web list. Currently USA, Finland, Italy, Slovenia are willing to host. Ireland intends to apply to offer hosting in the area of Agricultural Extension in OSH. A wide range of persons can apply for a STSM which has the aim of seeking to learn new expertise. Informal contact should be made with CC and then an application is made through filling a form in eCOST. A Report of a completed STSM Visit must be provided in eCOST. Action Chair (RR) must approve the Report.

ITC Conference Grants are available for early stage researchers from Inclusive Target Countries (ITC) to attend scientific conferences. A presentation has to be made at conference. Half of the funds can be made available in the first day of travelling but the payment process and transferring the money may take at least a week. Currently €15,000 budgeted for ITC with a maximum of €2500 per visit.

A list of Conferences has been compiled by Professor Peter Lundqvist, which is to be updated and placed on the SACURIMA Web site. This list is a non-exclusive list.

ITC conference grant manager Natasa Janev was not in the meeting. Jarkko presented that we had two ITC conference grants in this period:

- Diana Lupulovic, Serbia has been in Vienna August 2018, presenting her study of “Hepatitis E in Serbia- an epidemiological overview and associated risk factors for humans and animals”.

- Madalina Coman, Romania presented her STSM work in Dublin March 2019.

These visits and reports were approved.

6. Update from the Grant Holder: Action budget status

Budget Period 2.

JL informed that there is at least 30 000 euros left in the budget. Data was presented which indicated that for Period 2 the total budget is €173,173.41. Therefore we had an eVote for the WG3 meeting to take place in Lithuania on 25-26th April. Invitations for MC members and substitutes to attend was considered. In addition to the 11 already nominated to attend the following 9 indicated that they could attend this meeting and are to be invited:
Experts who are non Sacurima members can be invited to present and participate. Altogether we can invite 25 participants to the Lithuania WG3 meeting. Two invited speakers are coming from USA. The budget for this meeting is 20 000. New participants and speakers to Lithuania WG3 meeting were approved.

The question was raise (José Rato Nunes) re. reimbursement as the event is close to the end of the grant period. Jarkko indicated to send your reimbursements right after the meeting. However, there are still 30 days for handling the claims in Luke. Financial reports for COST Actions have to be ready in June.

WG5 manager Anne Marie Heiberg suggested that we also buy Sacurima flashlights for marketing safety culture in agriculture and our Sacurima Action. We can use max 5000 euros to the flashlights.

Jarkko proposed a safety culture poster and flyers 1000 euros for farmer education and for the work in WG2 in English.

7. Update from the COST Association, if a representative is present

Ms Aranzazu Sanchez is back to work for our administrative officer in COST Association office, Brussels.

8. Monitoring of the Action

Period 2 financial reports so far were approved.

9. Implementation of COST policies on:

   a) Promotion of gender balance and Early Career Investigators (ECI)

MC Meeting attendance by category at the meeting was as follows:
Early Career 11; female 17.

   b) Inclusiveness and Excellence (see below list of Inclusiveness Target Countries)

MC Meeting attendance was as follows:
ITC Countries 20; altogether 69 % of the MC countries are ITC countries.

10. Follow-up of MoU objectives: progress report of working groups

The overall description of SACURIMA objectives includes:
WG 1) Identify and evaluate health and safety programmes in agriculture
WG 2) Identify knowledge, attitudes, behaviours and priorities
WG 3) Identify effective models for training vulnerable populations
WG 4) Develop means and for monitoring progress and evaluating impact
WG 5) Dissemination

Working Group 1

- No new STSM planned at the moment
- Plan to get further country members to complete questionnaires. However, answers in Questionnaires difficult to analyse.
• Plan to produce report for SACURIMA Web site

Working Group 2

• Working group 2 had workshop presentation about agriculture safety culture in Hurdal, Norway.
• Organized WG 2 workshop and a meeting in Brussels in January 2019 about safety culture definitions in agriculture
• STSM visit in November, from Romania to UCL, Belgium about literature review work
• ITC conference presentation - Farm safety education: chance to improve safety and health literacy among agriculture workers by Madalina Coman in March 2019.
• Participating in an article, working with WG 1 and 4
• Poster about WG 2 work and safety culture
• Currently a questionnaire has been prepared by Professor Stephan Van den Broucke and the working group with 150 questions. This needs to be reduced to circa 50 questions.
• Conduct Delphi rounds with WG groups to refine survey
• Professor Dov Zohar participated in this WG2. He indicated that his previous work is related to businesses where an employer – employee relationship exists and not for self-employed situations
• Test Questionnaire will be prepared for 5 countries including: Finland, Ireland, Portugal, Turkey plus one more.
• Protocols etc. were outlined in notes from WG2 meeting in Brussels on 1st Feb.

Working Group 3

• WG 3 meeting will be held in Lithuania with the title: How to improve safety culture and risk management in vulnerable populations in agriculture?
• Detailed analysis of scientific literature sources has been made in order to identify main problems in agricultural workforce and to identify effective models for training and integration of vulnerable populations into the agricultural workforce. Primary results were presented in international scientific conference: 23rd EBES CONFERENCE – MADRID.
• Article “Human Risk in Agriculture: Problems and Perspectives” is accepted for publication in the 23rd EBES Conference Proceedings.

Working Group 4

• Aim in WG4 is to develop means and indicators for monitoring progress and evaluating impact of interventions on injuries and illnesses in agriculture.
• Decided to separate Work Accidents and Occupational and Work-related Diseases
• Decided to focus on NACE A1 sector: Animal and Crop Production
• Decided to focus on trend analysis and critical reviews for both Work Accidents and Occupational and Work-related Diseases
• First article has been submitted to a journal and corrected. Waiting for approval.
• One STSM has been done, Dr. Brankica Kartalović visited in Milan at January 2019 “Approaches to pesticide exposure and risk assessment in agriculture”.

Working Group 5

• Website is up. Some snags in adding info, which are currently being sorted out.
• Content needed from all members for site. Send short information after any event, conference etc. to Anne Marie Heiberg who is primary contact for website.
• Produced two Videos – in Norway & Ireland; third planned to be done in Lithuania.
• Produced a Communication Plan for Action
Working group reports were approved.

11. Scientific planning

**Working Group 1 tasks in Grant Period 3**

- Plan to produce report for Web and prepare 2 papers from survey material: One on OHS Initiatives and 2 on OSH Structure heterogeneity across countries surveyed. One working group meeting might be arranged for WG1 after the Milan MC meeting. It depends on budget too.
- A Doctoral student from Norway may be available
- Plan to get further country members to complete questionnaires.
- Professor Peter Lundqvist have presentation about WG1 programs in ISSA meeting Spain, May 2019.

WG 1 plan was approved.

**Working Group 2 tasks in Grant Period 3**

- Implement developed Survey
- Professor Van den Broucke invited to be speaker in a Turkish Occupational Health conference in Izmir on November 2019.
- Two article drafts written. Literature survey by Madalina Coman and one for survey results. One article draft submitted
- Two STSM's, one about survey analysing, one for article writing
- One ITC grant about the survey results
- Survey tool to farmers and farm workers
- Poster
- Workshop presentation in Milan, preliminary survey results

WG 2 plan approved.

**Working Group 3 tasks in Grant Period 3**

- Policy survey was discussed. WG3 participants have to fill survey with their country data till 2019 04 10
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) questionnaire was discussed. WG3 participants have to conduct a survey and provide their country data till 2019 04 19. Results from this study will be submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. Required funding for the publication is 1000 Eur. WG3 is also planning to submit an abstract to the 2019 European Public Health Conference in Marseille, France and another abstract to the 2019 International Occupational Health and Safety Congress in Adana, Turkey.
- WG 3 workshop agenda was discussed. Main issues: 1) scenario preparation for WG3 video that will be filmed in Lithuania/Slovenia (5000 euros); 2) discussion on the draft of the article; 3) discussion on press release draft.

WG 3 plan was approved.

**Working Group 4 tasks in Grant Period 3**

- First versions of 2 articles on trend analysis and critical reviews for (1) Work Accidents and (2) Occupational and Work-related Diseases to be available for Milan MC
• Funds will be needed for article publication (1000 – 1500 euros)
• A workshop will be organized in Milano beginning of June 2019
• Objectives of the WG4 June meeting: Discuss the existing data of the 5 selected diseases, verify Eurostat statistics, discuss limitations of data gathering and suggestions to improve data accuracy
• E-survey on WAs and ODs in EU countries will be executed. To obtain WA incidences from national statistics (more accurate) from an e-survey and compare with Eurostat data.

WG 4 plan was approved

**Working Group 5 tasks in Grant Period 3**

• To Produce two further Videos – Portugal and Lithuania
• In preparation – a common Press Release that can be used nationally/locally.
• The WG welcomed Ms Petya Stavreva, Chair of Balkan Agrarian Chamber, Bulgaria.
  - Workshop for Policy Makers (MEPs; Policy Makers; Agricultural and Rural Development commission staff; COPA, Representative from EU Rural Parliament (NGO).
  - Seek separate meetings with legislators
  - Hold at end of September coinciding with New CAP programme.
  - Estimated Cost €10,000, with circa 5 persons from SACURIMA present.
• SACURIMA Message:
  - We need to be very clear on what we ask for.
  - How the work we started in SACURIMA can be continued. Included Research, Farmer Education and Extension.
  - Need line in H2020 where OSH experts can apply for funding
  - Need an agency in EU with staff resources to promote Agr OSH
  - Advocate some form of Education and Quality Assurance for Farmers. e.g. one day training per year, CPD etc.
  - Circulate proposals in advance to SACURIMA members.
  - CAP and One Health do not mention agricultural OSH – ‘find a way in’.
  - The drafting of the Proposals will be challenging but when complete every SACURIMA organisation needs to support the approach.
• Use the 5 Golden Rules of Communication.
• How do we improve Information/Data collection on OSH in Europe
  - Need to work with Eurostat, EU Agricultural Census; etc.
• Establish a SACURIMA Twitter account.
• Ms Petya Stavreva strongly advocated working on ‘Public Opinion’ as well as Politicians, Officials and Farming Organisations.
• Funds Needed €10,000. Estimated cost for Brochure Production. €1,000.

WG 5 plan was approved.

**Period 2 budget**

- Forecoming costs added in the of Period 2:
- Lithuania WG 3 workshop and meeting ~ 20 000
- Sacurima dissemination, flashlights - 5000
- Posters, flyers - 1000

Table for Period 2:

| Date      | 22.3.2019 |
Table for Period 3 W&B plan:

Financial table | Grant Period number | III
---|---|---
Date | 22.3.2019 | 

Activity | Plan | Budget
---|---|---
MC Meetings | | 78000
WG meetings/Workshops | | 30000
Core Group Meetings | | 10000
Dissemination meetings (Conference grant) | | 3000
Other meetings | | 

STSM | 7500 | 
ITC Grants | 3000 | 
Training Schools | | 
Action Dissemination | 22000 | 
OERSA | | 
Total networking | 150500 | 
FSAC | 22575 | 
Total Sacurima COSTS | | 173075

**Long term planning and dissemination:**

RR indicated that original idea regarding Article (also referred to as ‘Paper’ or ‘Manuscript’ publication was to seek a Journal that would produce a special SACURIMA issue but the following issues have arisen in the meantime:

- Members wish to publish in Journals that they are associated with, may have limited material left for final year and one publication.
- Some SACURIMA members wish to publish own work’ with some support from Action which would be recognised in some way.
- Potentially 10 papers could be published by SACURIMA.
- May be difficult to get a Journal to publish a special issue. Journal of Agromedicine is unavailable. Discussion took place regarding a European Journal e.g. Polish Journal of Environmental and Occupational Medicine. A pecking order of Journals for publication to be prepared (RR).
- The question of how to review papers was raised. The point was made that internal review by Consortium members is a standard protocol on trend analysis and critical reviews for both work accidents and occupational and work diseases (Prof Eleni Petridou). Also cross sectional collaboration is expected (CC). It was agreed that Policy and Protocol for Article Publication be prepared and circulated for comment.

Action dissemination plan for expected expenditures is (Summary for WG outputs):
- Article dissemination 2500
- Posters and flyers 1500
- Website 1000
- Video 5000 (WG 3 collaboration - Lithuania and Slovenia)

Next meetings; proposed plan:
- WG 4 meeting in June in Milan.
- WG 5 meeting in June in Brussels.
- MC meeting in Milan in September.
- WG1/Core Group meeting in winter 2019-2020 in some ITC country
- Discussed about the Spring 2020 MC meeting location and the options were that the rest of the meetings should be in ITC countries as we have two WG meetings and a MC meeting already in non-ITC countries. Poland/Krakow was approved to have MC meeting in Spring 2020.

Budget plan was approved.

12. Requests to join the Action from:
   a) COST countries
   - Still waiting for MoU approval from Czech and Pavel Kic contacts. It was already approved in Hurdal 2018 MC meeting. Also one Austrian scientist has interest in Sacurima and Jarkko will ask her opinion and contact for Austrian national coordinator, if needed. Dr. Benal Yurtlu Öztekin and Dr. Hakan Baydur from Turkey has been asked to join MC Substitutes from Turkey.

   b) Institutions in Near Neighbouring Countries, International Partner Countries, and/or Specific Organisations: EU agencies, European RTD Organisation, International Organisations
   - None

13. AOB
   - None

14. Location and date of next meeting

   Prof Claudio Colosio provided an update on arrangements for 6th MC Meeting to take place at University of Milan on 19-20th September. The MC Meeting agreed with the proposed meeting plans.

15. Summary of MC decisions

   We did not have time for doing summary as we had to go to the farm visit. MC decisions are presented in these minutes.
16. Closing

Minutes written by Dr John McNamara, Ireland