



## Management Board Meeting, 4th May 2021, 1 pm (UTC)

### Held by Zoom videoconference

#### Minutes

Meeting attended by Laura Turnbull-Lloyd (Chair, i-CONN Co-ordinator), Thomas Hein, Christian Kimmich, Andreas Ioannides, Ronald Pöppl, Christina Prell, Marc Hütt, Christian Kerschner, Tony Parsons (Chair of Supervisory Board), Jennifer King (Project Manager), John Wainwright (Training Manager, in attendance)

#### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Vicky Papadopoulou Lesta & Demian Battaglia.

#### 2. Minutes of the last Management Board Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting, held by videoconference on March 3rd, 2021, were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

#### 3. Matters Arising

The following actions from the previous Management Board meeting were discussed:

*Action: JW to approach a Social Media trainer*

Social Media Training was delivered on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

*Action: Board to consider the use of GitHub and to contact either LT or JK with any comments.*

No comments were received, so a GitHub Team will be set up. We will start with the free account and upgrade as need be.

*Action: JW to finalise the Paper Authorship policy document and distribute to the Board.*

The Paper Authorship policy was distributed.

*Action: Everyone to prioritise attending the Survey session on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March and to encourage their ESR(s)/colleagues to attend.*

LT reported that most people completed the survey. CP confirmed a response rate of 95 % and thanked everyone for contributing.

*Action: JK to send details of the ESRs' training (in the second Cyprus week) to the PI's.*

This was sent by email.

**Action: JK to set up a GitHub account.**

#### 4. Chair's Update

LT reported that the Advanced Course and Network Event held in March were very successful and thanked VP for organising and all those who contributed.

LT reported that the EDP Science Writing Course was of a high quality and was well received by the ESRs.

LT reported that the Resilience Seminar went well and generated external interest. The eight external attendees included the Head of Global Disaster Risk Reduction from Public Health England, and a representative of the Ministry of Agriculture in Indonesia. LT thanked the contributors and the Board for distributing the information about the seminar. A videorecording of the seminar is publicly available on the website.

RP asked for clarification about how widely the seminars can be advertised. JK explained that all speakers are asked in advance if they are happy to have their seminar open to external attendees. If a flyer is sent out to the consortium to distribute then it can be extended to any colleague, students or contacts who might be interested.

LT reminded the Board that the Communication Strategy made a commitment to include a report from each Work Package about dissemination in their WP at each MB meeting. This will be included as an agenda item at all future Board meetings.

**Action: JK to include WP Dissemination as an agenda item for future meetings.**

LT reported that she had contacted two people to ask if they would be prepared to join the Advisory Board. Dr Sam Johnson accepted the invitation. He is as a physicist and lecturer in applied mathematics at the University of Birmingham. He has agreed to give a seminar over the summer.

LT asked the Board whether we should continue you to search for an additional AB member. It was agreed that this would be desirable, as this would maximise the chance of a good turn out of Board members at the Network events. A non-UK based Advisory board member would be preferable.

**Action: LT to approach another Board member.**

LT reported her concern that the ESRs were pursuing their own PhD projects in isolation and not always keeping sight of the wider i-CONN/Work Package context and objectives. She reminded the Board of the proposal to hold specific Work Package seminars so that the Consortium could discuss progress. The Board agreed that such focussed seminars should be arranged.

The Board agreed that joint publications and presentation are an excellent way to progress but acknowledged that although productive these activities are demanding and places extra pressure on network members when they run concurrently.

**Action: JK to arrange Work Package Seminars.**

LT reminded the Board that the issue of ESR workload was discussed at the last meeting. It had been agreed at that meeting that the Durham Management Team would offer to produce the first newsletter and not expect the ESRs to take responsibility for Social Media until later this year. However, when approached, the ESRs said they had already organised the production of the first newsletter and were also happy to take responsibility for social media.

LT reported that a meeting of the Transdisciplinary Management Board will be organised shortly.

**Action: JK to organise Doodle Poll for the TMB.**

## 5. Supervisory Board

AP reported that the Supervisory Board met on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March at the close of the network meeting.

At that meeting:

- i) The SB approved the requested secondment changes.
- ii) The SB approved the idea of hosting an additional meeting of the network to compensate for the lack of in-person events due to the pandemic. This could either take the form of extending a scheduled event or adding a completely new event.
- iii) The Advisory Board Chair gave an oral report to the Board in addition to the formal written report that was sent out with the meeting papers. She reported that she had held a conversation with Professor Martin Everett about the network. They emphasised the challenge of making such a broad consortium effective. This would rely on communication and the rapid establishment of a toolbox of approaches that would ensure that the network remains unified. The longer this is delayed the harder it will be to implement.

The Advisory Board Chair also reported that the the Advisory Board members were not optimally integrated into the network. It was agreed that there should be a discussion to improve the situation.

- iv) The ESR representative, Deborah Priß, gave a positive report on the ESRs' progress and their appreciation of the network activities and training. She said that many ESRs were concerned about the issue of workload and the variation of expectations across the Beneficiaries. Several institutions require PhD students to gain a certain number of ECTS credits.

Since the meeting AP reported that the following actions were pursued:

- i) AP discussed the integration of the Advisory Board with Jacky Croke. The Advisory Board would like to meet with the ESRs to establish an on-going dialogue.

**Action: JK to organises a meeting between the Advisory board and the ESRs.**

- ii) PhD regulations across the Beneficiaries were ascertained. Although some i-CONN institutions require no additional ECTS credits, between 12 and 48 credits are required by several Beneficiaries.

The Training Manager (JW) accepted that it would be useful if i-CONN courses could be accredited by Durham University. Durham University does not engage with the ECTS scheme but

could award UK credits that are generally recognised as being convertible to ECTS (2 Durham Units = 1 ECTS).

Some form of assessment would be necessary, but this would be optional so that ESRs could chose whether to gain credits from i-CONN courses or not.

**Action: Beneficiaries to confirm if their institution would accept UK credits.**

**Action: Durham to apply for accreditation of the i-CONN course and activities. This could potentially include training courses, secondments and contributions to Work Package activities. Accreditation will be sought as a matter of urgency.**

## 6. Deliverables and Milestones

LT explained that i-CONN is up to date with all deliverables and milestones.

### Upcoming Deliverables

D1.1, SC/FC correlations. MH leading, due 1<sup>st</sup> March.

*The REA approved an extension until June 15<sup>th</sup>.*

D2.1, Report with description of existing methods. VP leading, due 1<sup>st</sup> June.

*The REA approved an extension until 1<sup>st</sup> October.*

D6.7, Final Dissemination and Exploitation Plan, due 1<sup>st</sup> June.

*LT offered to draft a version in Durham that could then be sent to the Board for comment. This was accepted.*

**Action: Durham Management team to draft a 'Final Dissemination and Exploitation Plan' and distribute to the Consortium for comment.**

D4.5, Datathon and M4, Populating the database with disciplinary data, DB leading

*The REA approved an extension until 1<sup>st</sup> November.*

*The Datathon will be held in the week starting 20<sup>th</sup> September.*

M5, Evaluation of common methods, VP leading, due 1<sup>st</sup> August.

M6, Evaluation of cross-disciplinary application of methods, CKi leading, due 1<sup>st</sup> August.

D4.6, Brno Training Course, CKi leading – on track. Due 1<sup>st</sup> September

D3.1, Report detailing potential for cross-disciplinary application of methods. CKi leading, due 1<sup>st</sup> September.

M7, Network-wide overview of initial results, due 1<sup>st</sup> September.

D1.2, Minimal Models, MH leading, due 1<sup>st</sup> December.

The Board also noted that discussion within the network is already generating new ideas for research that could not be pursued with the remaining i-CONN action. The Board should start to consider the potential for both an 'i-CONN 2.0' and smaller projects involved sub-groups of the i-CONN partners.

**Action: JK to establish a Slack channel to act as a depository of ideas.**

## 7. Network & Training Events 2021

- i) 'Networks, Teams, Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Research Impact' training

This was postponed due to illness and will now be delivered in several short sessions.

- ii) Datathon

The Doodle Poll to determine if this event could be extended into a Network Meeting revealed that an inadequate number of PIs would be available.

- iii) Advanced Course 3 on Socio-ecological Systems & Network Analysis in Brno, scheduled for August 18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>.

A decision will be made at six weeks prior to this date about whether it will be possible to hold this meeting in person due to the COVID situation.

- iv) Advanced Course 4 – Connectivity in Environmental Sciences, Vienna, February 2022.

February 1 -4<sup>th</sup> 2022. This meeting may be extended into a whole network event.

- v) Enterprise Skills and Workshop 2, due Jan 2022

The Enterprise Course will be postponed until a later date. However, there will still be a Network Workshop.

- vi) Advanced Course 5 - Novel approaches to collecting high resolution data, March 2022.

**Action: JK to organise a meeting to discuss the fieldwork component of Advanced Course 5.**

## 8. Outreach

LT reported that, largely due to the impact of COVID, the network is behind in delivering outreach. It is therefore important that the ESRs contribute to their journals, i-CONN social media and the newsletter.

**Action: Everyone to encourage their ESRs to contribute to their journals, the newsletter and i-CONN social media.**

## 9. Date of next meeting

A meeting will be held by videoconference in late June 2021.

**Action: Project Manager to arrange a Doodle Poll.**

## **10. Any Other Business**

LT reminded the Board that the delayed “Mid-Term Review” will now take place after the Periodic Report is submitted. The Project Officer in Brussels wishes to discuss this in early summer. This will involve a two-day meeting for the whole network, probably in Brussels in late 2021.