Training Board Meeting, Monday March 1st, 2021

12 pm UK, **1 pm CET**, 2 pm EET

Held by Zoom video-conference

Minutes of the Meeting

In Attendance: John Wainwright (Chair & Training Manager), Laura Turnbull-Lloyd (i-CONN Co-ordinator), Selim Haj Ali (ESR Representative), Andreas Ioannides, Thomas Hein, Jennifer King (Project Manager).

Invited attendee: Christian Kimmich (invited to discuss the Advanced Course training scheduled for August 2021)

Apologies: No apologies were received

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on December 1st, 2020.

The minutes of the meeting held on December 1st, 2020 were approved.

2. Matters Arising

The Chair reported the following matters arising:

a) that he was still pursuing the issues of ECTS accreditation but that it is not straightforward.
b) that the Training Best Practice document has now been uploaded to the i-CONN website. Additionally, the website has now been re-built and upgraded and is fully functional.
c) that the possibility of attending the 'Networks2021' conference in July 2021 as an additional network event was discussed with the consortium. There was a mixed response and given the concern about whether the ESRs would be ready to submit abstracts, the problem of potential COVID restrictions and the carbon footprint it was decided to not pursue this as a network meeting. JW reported that we will continue to be alert for the possibilities of meeting at other events particularly as the network has yet to meet in person.
d) that following the discussion of the training needs identified in the Training Needs Analyses, centrally provided training was provided in outreach and engagement and there are plans to organise social media training. Additionally, a list of training resources was provided to the ESRs (e.g. links to a Python training course).

e) that a sample completed secondment agreement was distributed. JW reminded everyone to ensure that a secondment agreement is completed and signed before every secondment.

f) that there had been no progress on advancing the activities associated with the Datathon. A date has yet to be agreed.

g) that there has been an increasing use of Slack by the network but that it would be good if PIs could encourage its further use.

Action: If anyone has any additional training resources to suggest please contact the Project Manager.

3. Chair's Introduction

The Chair reported that Christian Kimmich was in attendance to discuss the Brno training and that he hoped Vicky Papadopoulou Lesta would be able to join before the end of the meeting to report on the 'Cyprus' event.

4. Training Best Practice

The Chair asked if there were any questions/comments on Best Practice or the Best Practice document but no issues were raised.

5. Upcoming Training Events

a) Advanced Course, Network Event and Transferable Skills training, Cyprus, March 2021

Vicky Papadopoulou Lesta was unable to join the meeting in time.

The Project Manager reported that the timetables for the Advanced Course and Workshop had been sent out. Additionally, flyers advertising those parts of the course and workshop that are open to a wider audience have been sent out and PIs are invited to distribute them to colleagues/students.

The training arranged for the ESRs on 18th and 19th March has been cancelled due to illness. It will be re-arranged.

b) Datathon

There is no further update on the Datathon.

c) Brno (Advanced Course in Socio-ecological Systems & Network Analysis)

Christian Kimmich confirmed that the schedule is almost finalised. Final selection of an appropriate venue and accommodation will be made in conjunction with the Project Manager.

Action: JK to discuss location, accommodation and finances with Christian Kimmich

    d)   Vienna, Advanced Course 4 – Connectivity in Environmental Sciences, December 2021

         Louise Bracken and Ronny Pöppl have arranged a meeting in late March to discuss the planning of this event.

    e)   Bremen (Enterprise Skills and Workshop 2) January 2022

         JW reported that he had some initial discussion with Marc Hütt about this meeting. The Enterprise training will probably be delayed to a later date and separated from the Workshop.

    f)   Nicosia (Advanced Course 5 - Novel approaches to collecting high resolution data) February 2022

         Andy Ioannides suggested that March 2022 would be a more suitable date for this meeting and asked whether it would be appropriate to attach an international Neuroscience Workshop to the event. LT agreed that this could be beneficial to the i-CONN ESRs who work in this field.

6.   Changes to Secondments

The Board discussed the proposed changes to the secondment. The secondments were agreed although an academic justification for the significant changes to Harald Waxenecker's secondments need to be requested.

Action: JK to discuss with Harald Waxenecker.

Action: JK to send the approved changes to the Supervisory Board for final approval.

7.   Date of next meeting

It was agreed to hold the next meeting in late May/early June 2021

Action: JK to set up a Doodle Poll in May.

8.   Any Other Business

There was no other business.