



UNESCO/Flanders Funds-in-Trust

for the Support of UNESCO's activities in the Field of Science

12th Meeting of the Steering Committee

11 December 2006 at Ostend

Minutes

The 12th meeting of the Steering Committee (SC) of the UNESCO/Flanders Trust Fund for the support of UNESCO's activities in the Field of Science (FUST) took place on 11 December 2006 at IODE Office in Ostend. The Agenda and list of participants is enclosed as Annex 1

I. Introduction and general policy discussion.

Mr. Arata officially opened the meeting thanking Dr. Herman, the Flemish representative, for the unique and stimulating support provided by Flanders to the activities of UNESCO in the field of science.

Evaluation of FUST Phase II

The Flemish authorities informed the SC members that, as foreseen in the FUST agreement signed with UNESCO, they would like to launch a joint evaluation of FUST Phase II (2004-2008) during the year 2007. The Steering Committee members agreed that the Terms of Reference (ToRs) used for the evaluation of the Phase I should be used as a basic document with which SC and ERC/CFS would discuss with IOS to finalize the ToRs. Both UNESCO and Flanders will propose names of possible evaluators (a team of 3 persons is envisaged) with his/her CV's. The costs will be shared between the present Trust Fund (cumulative interest some \$ 50,000), and the Flemish authorities who will cover the Brussels portion of the evaluation mission. Possible evaluation mission period for May/June 2007 with the submission of the report by mid September 2007 at the latest was agreed.

Flemish 2007 contribution

The Flemish representative Mr. Rudy Herman announced the amount of € 1,437,000 as the expected 2007 contribution to FUST. The contribution may be transferred to UNESCO during the month of February as the Flemish authority will start their internal procedures early January 2007. With this amount, all the budget of the approved projects till 2008 may be covered, leaving most of the expected 2008 contribution (roughly the same amount) available for eventual new proposals to be considered after the evaluation results are known later 2007.

Support Costs

Dr. Rudy Herman raised the voice of concern once again from the donor's point of view over the reality that the programme sector and the field offices implementing the projects under

FUST seem not receiving appropriate share of the support costs (10 %) which the donor pays to UNESCO and meant to be used in support of the implementation of those projects. He went on to say that the Flemish authorities would put the distribution of adequate share of the support costs to the implementing projects officers as one of the conditions attached to the eventual agreement on the Phase III of FUST. As the other members of the secretariat from SC echoed the same concern, Mr Arata explained the new support costs policy based on 175 EX/35 which was by and large endorsed by the Executive Board. The Flemish representative, while showing his understanding of the concept behind, reserved his authorities position until they see how UNESCO utilizes such support cost income for the support of their projects.

II. Report on the Phase I and II on-going projects

The committee rapidly reviewed the status of all the on-going large-scale projects as well as small-scale projects and found them satisfactory in general.

The following decisions were taken by the SC on the projects below:

- 513RAB2001: this project will continue until end of March 2007, it is expected that a proposal to be submitted to the European Commission will be developed.
- 513RAB2041: a request for the extension of this project until the end of 2007 was submitted to the SC. The Flemish representative confirmed the smoothly implementation of this project as presented by the UNESCO concerned services, and agreed to the request of extension until December 2007.
- 513RAB2042 : this project being operationally finalized, the SC decided to transfer the savings into the Phase 2 of the project already in implementation under the UNESCO budget code 513RAB2003.
- 513GLO2002 : the SC members acknowledge the good evolution of this on-going project for which a budget revision was announced by the project coordinator and will be submitted to the Flemish representative for approval by e-mail exchange. The extension of this project until August 2008 was also approved by the SC.
- 513RAF2004 : the project officer provided an overview of the on-going activities and requested the approval of the Flemish representative and the SC to utilise the remaining balance until February 2007. The approval was given by the Flanders and the SC.
- 513RAF2005 : the Flemish representative, who had visited the project, confirmed that land-based activities were well developed in northern Morocco with participants coming from North Africa. However, he was surprised to be informed that this specific activity Training-through-Research towards Third World was taken out of UNESCO/IOC Regular Programme. The Flanders representative would therefore like to seek more clarifications from IOC about the future of this activity as an IOC programme.
- 513GLO2005: following the presentation of the UNESCO concerned representative, the SC acknowledged the finalization and the closure of this project.
- 513MOR2000: following the presentation of the UNESCO concerned representative, the SC acknowledged the finalization and the closure of this project.

New approved Large scale projects

- Project “**Support to Flow regimes from International Experimental and Network data Nile Project FRIEND/NILE project Phase II**” was introduced by UNESCO. This project, which is the second phase of the project 513RAB2042, has already been approved by the Flemish authorities and registered under the UNESCO budget code 513RAB2003. The full starting of the activities is pending to the receipt of the Flanders contribution for 2007, which should be received beginning of 2007.
- Project “**Water Centre for Arid Semi Arid Regions of Latin America and Caribbean CAZALAC project Phase II**”. The documents concerning this new project registered under the UNESCO budgeted code 513RLA2000, were not available.
- Project “**FET-WATER project Phase II**”, the progress report of this new project, which has started in June 2006, was presented to the SC who acknowledged the status of the project. The new project has been register under the UNESCO budget code 513SAF2000.
- Project “**FET-RESENS: Remote Sensing Application in the framework of FETWATER SIMDAS and GOOS-AFRICA Programmes**” The SC acknowledged that implementation of this new project, registered under the budget code 513RAF2008, has started in June 2006. The Flemish representative was informed on the organization of some workshops in South Africa. The project officer will report on the outcomes of these activities in a later stage. The Flemish representative requested that this project should also contribute to FET-Water and GOOS-Africa.
- The following Outreach projects were also discussed,
 1. **The Pedagogical kits for Drylands and Highlands (PEDKITS)**
 2. **Participation of SUMAMAD Project Participants in international scientific conference “The Future of Drylands**
 3. **(a) Internet Course on Rainwater Harvesting for Professionals (b) Internet Course on Water Resources for Primary School Teachers**
 4. **Water Education and Awareness for Egypt’s new Generation during year 2006**
 5. **International Interdisciplinary Course on Children’s Rights (IIC)**

Small Scale Approved Projects

The following SSAs were also reviewed by the SC:

- Project **Mapping Applications and Integrated Information Systems for Coastal Area Management**
- Project SPINCAM - Integrated Service Platforms and Information Networks for Ocean and Coastal Area Management

- Project "Support to the UN regular process for global reporting and the assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects. At the request of the project officer the end date was postponed to December 2007.
- Project "Development of an African repository for electronic publication" newly approved will be administratively created in January 2007.

IV. Others business

The members of the Steering Committee suggested that the next meeting of the Steering Committee should take place around June 2007 in Paris.