



COST Actions and case-studies in times of covid-19

By Giuseppe Pace

At the time of the last newsletter, May 2020, we imagined that possible limitations for in-presence meetings would be a great opportunity for developing our digital approach and repository. With that goal, we started to imagine different ways of running the Action. The planned meetings have had a drastic re-programming: the Lisbon meeting have been postponed to 2021, first to April and then to end of June. The Murcia meetings have been moved from an in-presence event, at the Murcia University, to online through the ZOOM platform and held November 18-20th with the impressive participation of 93 Action members, welcoming also the new members from Mexico, Tunisia, and Switzerland. But this is another story, to which we will dedicate the entire next issue of the Newsletter. Thus, we really tried to deal with the pandemics in the most positive way. However, there are things that cannot be done at distance, such as assessing case-studies, by visiting UBH places, getting in touch with local stake-

holders, and participating to the living lab experience. Therefore, we decided to launch a Short-Term Scientific Mission call (deadline: September 30th), which collected a good number of candidatures, especially from the first U4V Training School's trainees. At the end of the evaluation process, middle October, the second pandemics wave was growing and the situation in some countries, Italy and Portugal in particular, seemed very difficult. Nonetheless, during November, three STSMs have been successfully performed. María Murillo Romero (ES) in Camerano (IT), and María del Carmen Solano Baez (ES) and Chao Wang (IE) in Aveiro (PT), accomplished their missions, thanks to the full support of the Host Institutions, municipality of Camerano and University of Aveiro, and their responsible, Ilaria Fioretti and Alice Tavares Costa. On site, researchers had unique experiences, living the sanitary emergency and witnessing all direct and indirect effects on the community and

Continue to page 2

One step further

by Renata Salvarani

U4V is getting its crucial step: we are at the heart of the Action. After having defined strategies, object and focuses, now we are looking forward the achievement of specific research results and a complete operational framework. A new Communication Plan will be set, dealing with new needs both on dissemination and networking side. More interactive tools are required: in particular a set of multimedia instruments will ensure an effective enhancement of the various activities carried out by research group, such as in field surveys, short term scientific missions, training schools, meeting, management activities. Furthermore, the case studies are emerging as the core of the Action: their exemplar character as well as their direct connection with stake holders and decision makers imply dynamic forms of communication which can encourage participation. The situation created by covid-19 spread makes evident our need to stay in touch with each other and to disseminate research results in a wide range of recipients. For all these reasons our Newsletter must be empowered and enhanced to become an easy interactive tool fitting the necessity to share contents, programs and ideas quickly and efficiently. The first step in this direction is the establishment of a wider Editorial Board: new entries from different countries and various scientific competences will enrich contents, structure and potential development of this tool. They and their work are warmly welcome.

Editor: Renata Salvarani

Editorial Board: Idamaria Fusco, Ermelinda Kordha, Klodiana Gorica, Olga Lo Presti, Susana Martinez-Rodriguez, Giuseppe Pace, Tatiana Pivac, Naci Polat.

IN THIS ISSUE: Info and updating on the Cost Action; introduction to Case Studies 2020-21 based on preliminary surveys and on Short Term Scientific Missions; abstracts and updating about book on Underground Built Heritage and related topics.