



What are we linking?

The 1st annual meeting of Cost Action FP1305
Biolink

COST Action FP1305 BioLink:
Linking belowground biodiversity and ecosystem function in
European forests

Dear participants,

welcome to the first meeting of COST Action FP1305 Biolink. One of the main aims of the Action is to establish a vibrant community of scientists interested in relating the many forms of belowground biodiversity found in European forests and tree plantations to the functioning of the whole ecosystem. The Action is organised around the following working Groups:

WG 1 Linking belowground biodiversity to ecosystem function.

WG 2 Microbial and faunal functional biodiversity in belowground food-webs.

WG 3 Belowground biodiversity in plantations and tree crops.

WG 4 Functional diversity in forest models.

It is natural that research interests of many people span more than one Working Group, however they do have to run in parallel. We will try to make sure that all participants can follow activities of Working Groups they did not choose at the beginning.

As the title of the meeting suggests, we need to clarify (to ourselves, as much as to anyone else) what is the underlying mechanism connecting soil biodiversity to the myriad of its functions, how do we study its strength and why does soil biodiversity matter. Alongside addressing these issues, the aim of the meeting is to set the Action up: to establish a partnerships and collaborations, to identify promising avenues of future research, to help starting researchers find contacts, identify and target suitable research funding streams and, most of all, discuss an interesting topic with a group of friends!

To help us achieve all these goals, we have put together a two-day programme which includes exciting speakers, a brainstorming session, a poster session where starting researchers will present their work and, hopefully, a lot of space and time to talk to colleagues old and new.

I do hope you will enjoy the meeting and find it stimulating.

Martin Lukac