



Dear fans of soil biodiversity,

Back in the depths of November last year, during our first encounter in Reading, we started to deliver on several of the goals of the Action. One of the main goals, as we promised in the Memorandum of Understanding, is to establish a community of scientists interested in looking at soil biodiversity found in tree ecosystems all over Europe and get them to talk to each other. From the feedback that you gave us so far, we are well on our way on this, but obviously can do a lot better. This is where the second meeting of the Action comes in. Piotr and his colleagues allocated significant time to research presentations by Action participants and also to Working Group discussions. Our hope is that the work we outlined in Reading will be given significant boost and will make participation in the Action worthwhile for all of us.

The website of the Action should be online by the time you read this, but just to have all the information at your fingertips, the Action has the following Working Groups and WG leaders:

WG 1 Linking belowground biodiversity to ecosystem function.

Leader Douglas.L Godbold (douglas.godbold@boku.ac.at)

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

Leader Johannes Rousk (johannes.rousk@gmail.com)

WG 3 Belowground biodiversity in plantations and tree crops.

Leader Mauro Gamboni (mauro.gamboni@cnr.it)

WG 4 Functional diversity in forest models.

Leader Gaby Deckmyn (gaby.deckmyn@uantwerpen.be)

Alongside listening to formal presentations and working hard during the WG sessions, we hope that you will find the time for informal discussions and chats about all things biodiverse. Speaking of which, do not forget that we have a fair few young scientists attending the meeting. Do talk to them even if they seem a little shy (the two of us were at any rate), we all have an interest in integrating them in the science community – they will write our future papers!

We do hope you will find the meeting fruitful and enjoyable,

Martin and Piotr