

COST-Conference in Witzenhausen

on Green Care in Agriculture

First Announcement

From 24.- 26.08.2010 the final conference of the COST Action 866 Green Care in Agriculture will take place in Witzenhausen/ Germany. The main objective of the Action is to increase the scientific knowledge on the best practices for implementing green care in agriculture with the aim of improving human mental and physical health and the quality of life. The management committee consists of experts from more than 20 European countries. www.umb.no/greencare

After conferences and meetings in Brussels, Vienna, Thessaloniki and Antalya the last and final conference will be in Witzenhausen/Germany late August this summer. The program of speakers is going to be set up by the Conference Planning Committee.

The participants of the COST Action have been informed by a previous letter in February this year already.

Structure of the Conference:

MONDAY 23-08-2010 PRE-CONFERENCE

There will be an additional conference day before the COST-conference itself will start. To this one-day-conference I would like some MC-members of several countries will be invited to tell and discuss aspects from their research and their country's situation of green care to the audience. As participants we want to invite especially stakeholders from Germany in order to inform them about green care in other European countries. This additional conference day will be supported by the DVS www.netzwerk-laendlicher-raum.de/ and simultaneous translation shall be provided. People from abroad participating into this "pre-conference" will arrive SUN 22-08-2010; the event itself will be MON 23-08-2010.

TUE 24-08-2010 to THU 26-08-2010 FINAL COST CONFERENCE

The final COST-conference shall happen from TUE 24-08-2010 to THU 26-08-2010. The program of speakers will be set up by the Conference Planning Committee. We will try to organize a one day's excursion to two or three social farms within the conference. In case of more than 50 participants there will be two parallel groups/busses. There will be time for reflection/ discussion on what we experience/ perceive. The field trip will take place at Wednesday; Thursday will close with the conference dinner.

Arrival of participants shall be MON 23-08-2010, as the conference will start at Tuesday morning. The conference will end at Thursday 26-08-2010 late at night with the conference dinner, departure will be FRI 27-08-2010 (=4 nights).

FRI 27-08-2010 to SAT 28-08-2010 POST CONFERENCE TOUR

We will try to organize a post-conference tour to 2-3 social farms from FRI 27-08-2010 to SAT 28-08-2010 presumably to Northern Germany. This activity cannot be reimbursed by COST.

General information

Information about the venue

The conference will take place at the Faculty of Organic Agricultural Sciences <http://www.uni-kassel.de/agrар/?c=25&language=en> in Witzenhausen.

Witzenhausen is a small town of 15.000 inhabitants right in the center of Germany <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Witzenhausen>. "The University of Kassel maintains a satellite campus in Witzenhausen at which is offered the organic agricultural sciences programme, which is unique in the country. This also puts Witzenhausen among Germany's smallest university towns."

Witzenhausen can be reached by train www.uni-kassel.de/agrар/?c=65&language=en. Arriving by plane in Hannover or Frankfurt, you will have to go by ICE (high speed train) to Goettingen or Kassel and then take the local train to Witzenhausen (train connections: www.bahn.de).

Conditions

The conference will take place at the university location (the semester starts in October, so there will be only few students and the rooms are not used for lectures and courses during that time). Availability of internet for participants has to be clarified.

Accommodation

We have already pre-booked rooms in local hotels; some offer reduced prices. Rooms will be available from 20 € to 110 € (average: 50 €) per night; furthermore there is a camping-site available (which might be a nice option in August) and also bed & breakfast facilities (www.kirschenland.de). We will provide a list of hotels and the participants will be asked to book their accommodation themselves. If there will be lots of participants, accommodation could cause a bottleneck, because then local transport has to be organized.

Options for meals

Presumably meals will be offered by a local catering service. The costs will be charged within the conference fee and will be covered by the daily reimbursement rate of 40 € for lunch and dinner for members of the COST action.

Budget

Like at former conferences, we will have to charge a conference fee to cover the costs for local organization, excursions at Wednesday, conference dinner etc. This fee will not be reimbursed by COST.

The MC-members getting reimbursed will cover these costs indirectly by the daily reimbursement rate of 40 € for meals and also by the possibility saving costs for accommodation.

Local Organization Committee

A local organization team for preparing the conference has started to work. It consists of Anne Jaenichen, Verena Gardowsky, Thomas van Elsen, Marie Kalisch and others. The second German MC-member Konrad Neuberger is also involved.

Website information

Updates of these announcements will be found here on our website www.soziale-landwirtschaft.de/index.php/veranstaltungen/cost-conference-2010.

Details about the program will be elaborated by the Conference Planning Committee and be provided as soon as possible.