

European architecture beyond Europe: Sharing Research and Knowledge on Dissemination Processes, Historical Data and Material Legacy (19th-20th centuries)

Action IS0904

Start date: 10/05/2010 –

End date: 09/05/2014

Year 1

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Chair

CNRS/ FRANCE

architecture beyond

EUROPEAN ARCHITECTURE BEYOND EUROPE

Action Parties



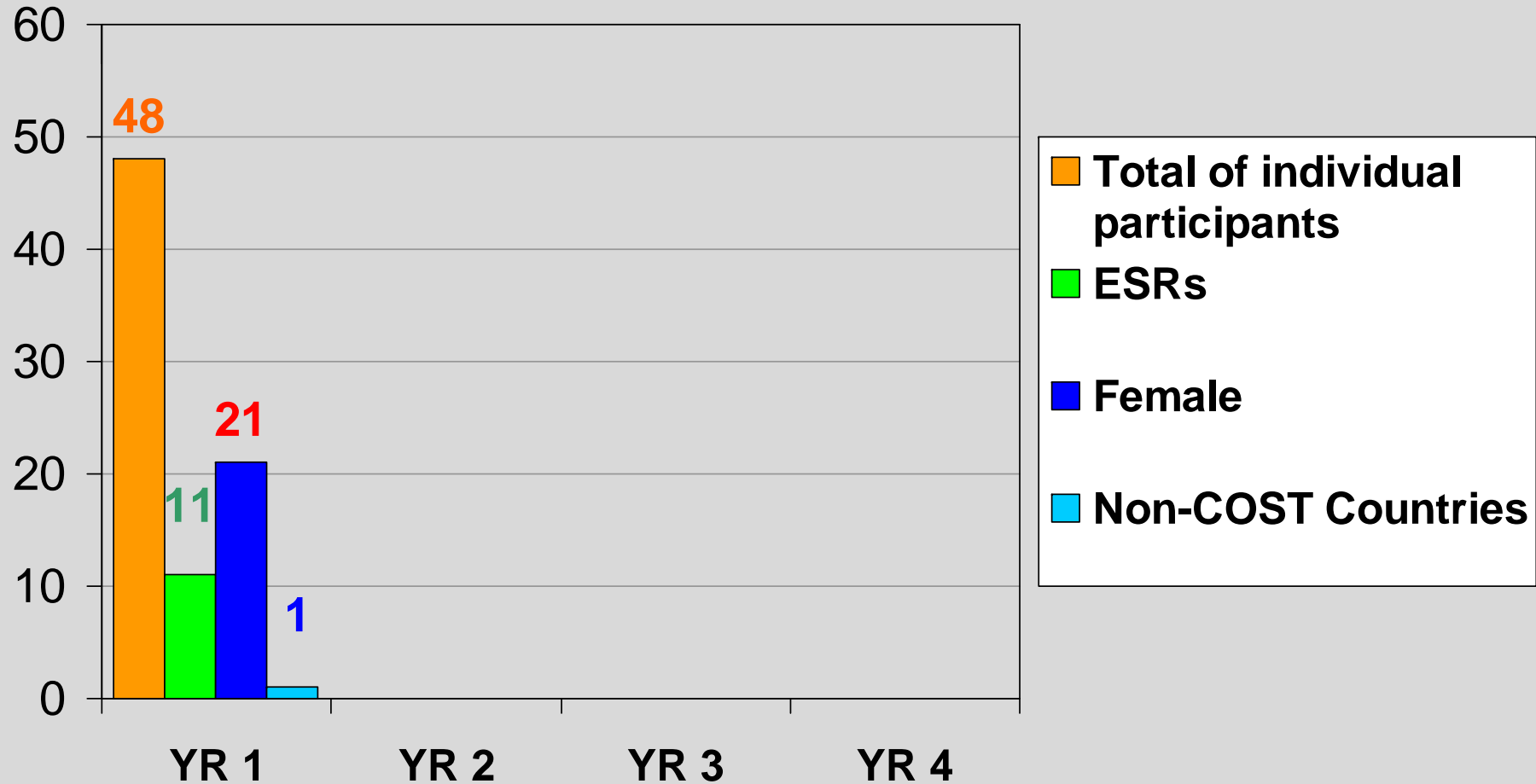
Grant Holder:

Centre national de la
recherche scientifique
CNRS – Regional
Delegation no. 1
(Paris A)

M. Alain MANGEOL

France

Action participants



Use of COST instruments

	YR 1	YR 2	YR 3	YR 4
No. of MC / WG meetings	6			
No. of STSMs	4			
No. of workshops / conferences	1			
No. of joint publications	0			
No. of training schools	0			
GASG (activities)	Flyers, website	Website	Website	Website

Scientific context and objectives (1/2)

Background/Problem statement

European architecture outside Europe represents an emerging and fragmented field of research, where there is a need :

- to explore “neglected geographies” (e.g. indigenous modernities) and move beyond binary dichotomies (East/West, tradition/modernity, etc.),
- to foster collaborative work among European researchers in dialog with researchers based in non-COST countries, in order to produce innovative and accurate knowledge and avoid duplication of research and information.

Brief reminder of MoU objectives

The Action aims to produce a new and broader understanding of the worldwide spread and appropriation of European architecture across empires in the 19th and 20th c.

The target is the development of accurate and innovative digital resources on the topic, as a first step towards the building of a specialized research infrastructure for the study of European and Westernized architecture in the Mediterranean, Middle East, Africa, Latin America and Asia.

Scientific context and objectives (2/2)

Research directions:

The Action proposes to combine **architectural history with area studies' knowledge**, and **connect** European research and resources, in order to map and analyze more complex dissemination patterns and border-crossing relationships.

Three themes have been identified as research priorities to understand mechanisms and vectors of dissemination . Although interrelated, each of these themes is explored in detail within a separate research track. A transversal track explores methodological issues and addresses a technological challenge : how to share heterogeneous data, without being too normative ?

Innovative work :

The Action represents a unique arena where to bring together research done within different national scientific frameworks and specific disciplinary approaches at European level. It posits that a better integration of research and of digitized information can have a significant leverage impact on the production of knowledge.

Working groups

WG1 : Actors and networks of expertise

Looking at the multiplicity of actors that shaped the transfer of European architecture overseas.

Coordinator

Johann Lagae, **Belgium**

Co-responsible

Madalena Cunha Matos, **Portugal**

WG2 : The printed media and the construction of a canon

The architectural press, canonical designs, mainstream European architecture and alternative modernities overseas

Coordinator

Ezio Godoli, **Italy**

Co-responsible

Tom Avermaete, **Netherlands**

WG3 : Documenting transnational architecture

Confronting the built environment to periodical literature and archive material

Coordinator

Claudine Piaton, **France**

Co-responsible

Ralph Bodenstein, **Germany**

WG4: Conceptualizing an infrastructure for collaborative research

Sharing information already available in digital format, despite its little-structured nature

Coordinator

Thierry Lochard, **France**

Co-responsible

(to be announced)

Annual Progress of the Action

Results vs. Objectives

The 1st year of the Action has been used to organize the WGs, establish communication means, create channels to discuss and disseminate activity, and convey the forecasted Annual workshop. Plans for a peer-review, multilingual electronic journal devoted to the Action's topics have made significant progress. Planned activities have been undertaken as scheduled. Initiatives for collaborative projects are being discussed.

An important result emerging from the network's activity is that the circulation of information, methodologies, and resources in the Internet age is far less than expected, in particular at European level. A major challenge for the network is to find means to counter this situation, and allow for a greater integration of European research and digitized information within the network.

The dissemination of standards for producing interoperable and sustainable digital data represents another major challenge, for which additional input is needed.

Significant highlights (1/2)

1st Annual workshop

Held on 19-20 April 2011, the event discussed “Cosmopolitanism, diasporas and the transnational dissemination of European architecture”, focusing on the impact of extra-colonial agency in the making of “colonial” architecture, through 3 sub-themes highlighting:

- complex and unexpected trajectories of individuals across the globe, forced migrations and the globalization of the profession of architecture and urban planning
- European architectural schools as locales of “Cosmopolitan encounters” (beyond the big examples, such as the Paris Ecole des Beaux Arts, or the Architectural Association School in London)
- intra-continental and intra-regional mobility in Africa and the Middle East and its inscription in the urban landscape through architecture.

The 14 papers presented raised rich discussions, and helped to share existing research results within the network. It underlined the importance of connecting research when dealing with transnational topics.

Significant highlights (2/2)

Communication and dissemination means

Another significant achievement of Year 1 has been in the field of communication, both internal and external.

The Action designed and launched a website (July 2010), serving both as a communication channel within the network (with a password-protected members area) and as a dissemination tool. The website comprises currently 60 screens, and additional information, either visual or textual, is being regularly released.

A detailed proposal for an electronic journal, multi-lingual and peer-reviewed and to be hosted by the platform www.revues.org (300 periodicals, 1 million visits /month), has also been elaborated, circulated and fully discussed at the Action's Second Management Committee meeting, 18-19 April 2011. It is expected that a first issue could be released in the fall of 2011.

Challenges

Deviation from the work plan

There has been no deviation for the work plan of Year 1, but one new issue has emerged as a new direction for joint efforts : dealing with visual material in the digital age. Images in digital format represent crucial data for research in architectural history. Their use is being limited by new copyright laws, with national variations. Research with visual data is an area where collaborative input, and training, is much needed, in order to help scholars adopt appropriate responses to disparate situations.

Future critical phases

The Training school envisioned for Year 2 has been rescheduled to Year 3. A major concern in the coming months will be the careful elaboration of its program, according to the methodological and IT demands identified within the network.