



Sustainable Construction in Public and Private Works through IPP approach

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of SUSCON Partners
held in Nicosia on the 18th of May 2006



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1 Introduction

In the context of the implementation of the SUSCON programme, the second meeting of partners was held in Nicosia on the 18th of May 2006.

The meeting was co-organised by the Scientific, Technical Chamber of Cyprus (ETEK) and the University of Cyprus (UCY) and took place in the conference room of ETEK building.

The main objectives of the meeting were to:

- Review the work completed up to date
- Assess the implementation progress
- Discuss the problems encountered and foreseen
- Plan future actions

2 Participants

Organisation	Participants
Scientific Technical Chamber of Cyprus (ETEK)	Mr. L. Chrysostomou
National Technical University of Athens (NTUA)	Dr. C. Koroneos
University of Cyprus (UCY)	Dr. D. Fatta Dr. I. Ioannou Mr. M. Avraamides Ms. M. Vatyliotou
Cybarco	Mr. T. Palekythritis
EPTA	Ms. A. Bourka Mr. A. Mountouris

3 Meeting Agenda

- 10:30 – 10:40 Welcome Speech
Mr. L. Chrysostomou, ETEK
- 10:40 – 11:10 Topic 1: Task Management and Reporting to the EC (task 1)
- Presentations: *Prof. Loizidou*, NTUA*
Mr. A. Mountouris, EPTA
Mr. M. Avraamides, UCY
- Discussion
- 11:10 – 11:40 Topic 2: Analysis and Documentation of the construction sector in Greece, Cyprus and EU (task 2)
- Presentation: *Mr. A. Mountouris, EPTA*
- Discussion
- 11:40 – 12:00 Break
- 12:00 -12:30 Topic 3: LCA of two construction activities (task 3)
- Presentation: *Dr. C. Koroneos, NTUA*
- Discussion
- 12:30 – 13:00 Topic 4: Online Database for the Construction Industry (task 6)
- Presentation: *Mr. M. Avraamides, UCY*
- Discussion
- 13:00 – 13:30 Topic 5: Dissemination activities and planning of future actions
- Presentation: *Ms. A. Bourka, EPTA*
- Discussion

**Due to unforeseen circumstances, Prof. Loizidou did not manage to attend the meeting thus Prof. Loizidou's topic was presented by Dr. C. Koroneos*

4 Topic Presentation and Discussion

4.1 Topic 1: Task Management and Reporting to the EC (task 1)

1. Dr. Koroneos (NTUA) presented the main issues related to management and reporting to the EC. A general reference on the objectives and management of each task was made and then Dr. Koroneos focused on the implementation schedule for current and future actions.
2. Attention was given to the overall timely and efficient coordination of the programme, with special reference to the first Progress Report due at the end of May 2006.
3. Dr. Koroneos (NTUA) and Mr. Mountouris (EPTA) referred to the organisation of the Advisory Board in Greece, presented the composition of the Board and provided a brief overview of the 1st meeting of the Board that was held in Athens on the 15th of May 2006.
4. Mr. Avraamides (UCY) explained the process of the formation and organisation of the Advisory Board in Cyprus and presented the composition of the Board. He then referred to the 1st meeting of the board that was held in Nicosia on the 13th of April 2006 and outlined the main issues discussed during the meeting.
5. All participants pointed out that the interest for participation in the Board was satisfactory in both countries and agreed that the interest of the members of the Board to exchange their knowledge and experience should be utilised to the highest degree.

4.2 Topic 2 – Analysis of the Construction Sector in Greece and Cyprus (task 2)

6. Mr. Mountouris (EPTA) presented the first issue of the three deliverables prepared within the context of the task.
7. In regards to the analysis of the construction sector in Greece and Cyprus, Mr. Mountouris (EPTA) explained the findings and conclusions drawn based on the information collected.
8. Mr. Chrysostomou (E TEK) highlighted that many of the construction activity indices in Cyprus in the last few years, have been greatly affected by the large flow of people from north European countries buying houses in Cyprus.

9. All the participants agreed that many of the parameters related to the construction activity in Greece and Cyprus should be expressed as per inhabitant in order to be comparable.
10. Mr. Mountouris (EPTA) noted that data concerning the surface area of the buildings in Cyprus were not available, thus the surface area of the buildings could only be roughly estimated. It was agreed that the Cyprus partners should provide more data to EPTA, in order to have a more accurate estimation (see also point 17).
11. Ms. Bourka (EPTA) highlighted that concerning road construction, water works and other public construction works, more data were available in Cyprus than in Greece.
12. Dr. Ioannou (UCY) highlighted the large use of stone as a main construction material in Greece and questioned the method, with which these material distributions have been calculated.
13. Dr. Fatta (UCY) commented on the deliverable report and highlighted the need for consistent referencing of the data sources.
14. Mr. Avraamides (UCY) highlighted the need to investigate the reduction of the percentage contribution of construction to GDP in Cyprus over the last decade as this is likely to be due to the high increase of GDP rather than to a decrease in construction spending.
15. Mr. Mountouris (EPTA) presented the methodology and the findings of the environmental impact assessment of the construction activities in Greece and Cyprus, with particular reference to the assumptions made in order to calculate the environmental impact from buildings and roads. In regards to buildings: material consumption, energy consumption during construction and operation and waste generation during construction and demolition were estimated, whereas in regards to roads the estimation covered material and energy consumption as well as carbon dioxide emissions from construction, operation and maintenance.
16. Mr. Mountouris (EPTA) noted that the average building surface area in Cyprus was assumed to be equal to the one estimated in Greece, as no local data were available. Mr Palekythritis (Cybarco) indicated that this might be underestimated, especially for the domestic sector, as houses and apartments in Cyprus tend to be larger than those in Greece.
17. In regards to the calculation of demolition waste in Cyprus, Ms Bourka (EPTA) indicated that it was based on the number of demolition licenses issued per year in Cyprus. Mr Chrysostomou (E TEK) noted that this appears rather underestimated. Ms Vatyliotou (UCY) agreed and explained that for a number of demolitions in Cyprus, licences are not issued, especially when the

demolition is followed by the construction of a new building and agreed to research the issue further.

18. A list of the overall comments from the UCY on the deliverable reports was given to EPTA.

4.3 Topic 3 – LCA of two Construction Activities (task 3)

19. Dr. Koroneos (NTUA) presented the two case studies chosen for the implementation of the LCA:

- An office block with underground parking space in Athens, which is currently constructed by the construction company Edrasis
- A rural road in Cyprus constructed by Cybarco

20. Dr. Koroneos noted that data collection is almost complete. The two construction companies participating in the project (Edrasis and Cybarco) are responsible for providing data for each of the two construction activities. Data from other sources and databases will also be used. Gabi LCA software developed by PE Europe GmbH will be used for modeling the two case studies.

21. In regards to maintenance requirements, Mr. Chrysostomou (ETEK) highlighted that apart from regular maintenance of materials, special maintenance requirements related to the location of the projects should be considered. As an example reference was made to maintenance against corrosion in buildings located near the sea.

22. Ms Bourka (EPTA) expressed the opinion that LCA modeling could be correlated with commercial software packages used for building or interior design as this could aid to an integrated approach of building design.

23. Ms. Bourka (EPTA) questioned whether alternative scenarios (e.g. alternative materials, heating/cooling systems) could be considered in the LCA. Mr. Chrysostomou (ETEK) indicated that such an example could be the insulation material. Although all the participants agreed that the results of such an analysis would be useful, it was finally agreed that at this stage is very important to have the results of the basic scenarios concerning the as-built situation. Dr. Koroneos (NTUA) expressed the opinion that on the basis of the LCA results, different scenarios could be considered during a future programme.

24. Mr. Avraamides (UCY) noted that the UCY could be involved in the LCA of the two construction activities to assist NTUA. Dr. Koroneos (NTUA) replied that NTUA will be in close contact with UCY for this issue.

4.4 Topic 4 - Online Database for the Construction Industry (task 6)

25. Mr. Avraamides (UCY) presented the progress made concerning the development of the general specifications and functional requirements for the creation of an online information portal, supported by a database and he referred to the report already circulated to partners for comments.
26. Ms. Bourka (EPTA) questioned whether, concerning the exact content of the web site, the general guidelines provided in the general specifications and functional requirements report could be more specific. Mr. Avraamides and Ms. Vatyliotou (UCY) explained that the general specifications and functional requirements report aims at guiding the implementation of the portal and that the exact content of each subject in the information portal will be developed progressively after the development.
27. It was agreed that the UCY should contact the NTUA in order to discuss the issues related to subcontracting the development of the database.

4.5 Topic 5 – Dissemination activities and planning of future actions

28. Dissemination activities undertaken up to date include:
- The development and updating of the web site
 - The publication of the 1st issue of the programme newsletter
 - Various press releases in Cyprus newspapers
 - News bulletins in newsletters
 - Live radio interview (1st programme of Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation)
 - Planned presentation in forthcoming exhibition in Athens
29. The partners agreed that the up-to-date dissemination activities were successful but highlighted the need to continue the efforts.
30. Dr. Fatta (UCY) suggested that NTUA, EPTA and UCY should start planning the actions for the implementation of Task 4 (development of eco-design criteria) so that its implementation can start immediately after the completion of the LCA case studies.
31. Dr. Fatta (UCY) questioned the possibility of a modification of the UCY budget since it appears that personnel costs have been underestimated, considering the workload involved. Dr. Fatta suggested that the extra personnel costs

could be deducted from the UCY budget for consumables, for which savings could be made without affecting the quality of the work done. Ms. Bourka (EPTA) replied that she will consider the issue of budget modification and inform the UCY soon.