



Introducing a new COST Action: ES1306: Connecting European Connectivity Research

Saskia Keesstra (1), Artemi Cerdà (2), Tony Parsons (3), Damià Vericat (4), John Wainwright (5), Tobias Heckmann (6), Eva Mueller (7), Ronald Poepli (8), Richard Brazier (9), Joao Nunes (10), Francesco Brardinoni (11), and Maria Jose Marques (12)

(1) Soil Physics and Land Management Group, Wageningen University, Wageningen, Netherlands, (saskia.keesstra@wur.nl), (2) Department of Geography, University of Valencia, Valencia, Spain, (3) Department of Geography, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK, (4) of Environment and Soil Sciences, University of Lleida, Lleida, Spain, (5) Department of Geography, University of Durham, Durham, UK, (6) Department of physical Geography, Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, Eichstätt, Germany, (7) Hydrology and Climatology Group, University of Potsdam, Potsdam, Germany, (8) Department of Geography and Regional Research, University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria, (9) Geography, College of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Exeter, Exeter, UK, (10) Environmental Planning, University of Aveiro, Aveiro, Portugal, (11) Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Milano-Bicocca, Milano, Italy, (12) Department of Geology, Autonomous University of Madrid, Madrid, Spain

In November 2013 a new COST Action entitled 'Connecting European Connectivity Research' was approved by the European Union. This Action aims to connect researchers across Europe (and beyond) that study the concept of water and sediment connectivity. Successful prediction of pathways of storm runoff generation and associated soil erosion is of considerable societal importance, including off-site impacts such as water quality and the provision of related ecosystem services. Recently, the role of connectivity in controlling runoff and erosion has received significant and increasing scientific attention, though in a disparate and uncoordinated way. There is a wealth of experience and expertise in connectivity across Europe that could be harnessed to ensure that the potential already demonstrated in key studies can be more widely fulfilled; to move forward along agreed lines and identify emerging goals, and to benefit from cross-fertilization of ideas from the fields of Hydrology, Soil Science, Geomorphology and Ecology. The key benefit of this Action will be to establish connectivity as a research paradigm. The Action will then permit transfer of current understanding into useable science, by developing its conceptual basis and transferring it into a series of monitoring and modelling tools that will provide the platform for indices that will inform holistic management of catchment systems. In this presentation we want to show you the planned actions of this new COST Action.