

BIOMOT in Makari

Interview meeting September 2013, Italy



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The third week of September 2013 a BIOMOT meeting had been devoted to check the ongoing work for WP2's and WP3's interviews. From Monday to Friday, one to three persons from each team took part in the activities organized by the Italian team in order to reciprocally feedback on the first months of field work based on WP2's and WP3's protocols. The five days helped to compare all teams' field experiences, to fine tune the common procedures, to solve common problems emerged during the first phase of the empirical work, and therefore to better align the teams in carrying out the data gathering across the different seven countries and languages.

The meeting's venue and formula was a residential place with a full immersion programme: in fact, all participants were staying at Pocho (www.pocho.it), a small resort in Makari which is a tiny village on the West Sicilian coast nearby the town of San Vito Lo Capo within Trapani's province. The area is surrounded by two major natural reserve areas, namely the Zingaro one and the Monte Cofano one. Daily schedule was organized around both indoor and outdoor activities.

The indoor activities focused on presentations with long and deep discussions about the protocols' experiences and the relative problem solving: this teamwork resulted in detailed protocols' check lists of instructions synthesized in a series of slides locally created and approved. The outdoor activities improved the teambuilding process already started in previous BIOMOT meetings, via both natural reserve areas visits and a visit to the important historical site of Segesta.

Moreover, the residential food and wine catering, strictly linked to the local traditions, contributed to both team building and the knowledge of the local biodiversity embedded with local cultural and historical roots.

The main results, therefore, had been to create a more homogeneous EU working group, acting on both the task and the relationship level. In fact, in terms of task the sharing of all WP2 and WP3 procedural issues across the seven country teams resulted in a list of agreed further procedural details which helped in aligning the seven groups in their empirical works each one's national case studies list.

A powerpoint file has been created to summarize the outcome of the meeting regarding specifications about WP2's and WP3's: state of the art for the empirical work; criteria for case studies and persons selection; procedure and tools; preliminary data treatment. In terms of relations, those more involved with the empirical work in each team became much more acquainted with each other after 5 days spent working together all day long, exploring and experiencing the places, enjoying the local beauty.