

Manchester meeting February 2013

The BIOMOT meeting in Manchester, from February 19 until February 27, was crucial for BIOMOT as a whole. The purpose of the meeting was to finalize the protocols of workpackage 1, and to train the researchers in the research methods developed for workpackages 1 and 2, during the Koli meeting of December 2012, and afterwards. The outcome of the plenary meetings and the training sessions in Manchester would determine the quality of the data and consequently also the analyses.



Training, especially interview training was essential, since we had decided during the Koli meeting in Finland to also collect qualitative data, focussed on narratives or life



stories. Qualitative interview training is, however, very labour intensive, and requires a great dedication of both trainers and trainees. The training session in Manchester took three complete days, and was partly planned in the weekend, to ensure full attention and restrict distraction. It was hard work, but the outcome was that even the most shy or retained researchers became convinced of the necessity and utility to collect extensive qualitative data,

and appeared equipped to do so: to do life story interviews.

Another, perhaps even more remarkable outcome of this Manchester meeting, greatly enjoyed by all the partners, was that the teambuilding process, started up in Koli, was visibly deepened. All partners showed great willingness to narrow down and overcome disciplinary or cultural gaps or obstacles, if necessary and possible. The Manchester meeting, indeed was, again, a good example of the way trans-disciplinary and trans-border cooperation in the EU could be organized.

