



INTERACT

Barcelona, Spain, 23-25 May 2023

SUBJECT | Minutes of the 5th Management Committee Meeting of COST Action CA20120 “The Intelligence-Enabling Radio Communications for Seamless Inclusive Interactions (INTERACT)”

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TUESDAY, 23 MAY 2023, 9:00 AM

1. Welcome to participants

Prof. Laurent Clavier, Chair of the Action, opened the meeting on May 23rd, 2023, at 9.00 am. As Local Organizer, Prof. Carles Anton-Haro welcomed the participants and provided information about the local arrangements.

Prof. Laurent Clavier then acknowledged the fulfilment of the quorum, i.e. at least two-thirds of the COST countries participating in the Action were represented at the 5th MCM.

2. Adoption of agenda

The Chair presented the agenda of the 5th MCM, which had been previously circulated online. The Agenda was adopted. The Minutes of the 4th MC Meeting and 4th Technical Meeting were approved.

The Chair took the opportunity to remind all participants to sign the official COST Attendance List for every day of attendance. No reimbursement of travel expenses (for those entitled to) will be processed if the COST attendance list is not duly signed.

3. Status of the Action

The Chair moved on to update the audience on the overall status of the Action.

Here below the main figures presented:



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Status of the Action and of the current meeting

Number of signatory countries

46 (36 out of 40 COST full members, including 21 ITC)



Number of WG members registered on the website

536



Young Researchers 54%
Gender balance 19% / 80%

COST full members: 36 (ITC: 21)
COST Cooperating Member: 1
COST Partner: 1
International: 5
NNC: 3

Number of MC Members



- 66
- 34 (+7 substitutes) attending the meeting (33 on site)

One new MC for Ireland Dr. Avishek Nag

People attending the meeting



- 104 on site
- 25+ remote

Number of TDs



- 69

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4. Report from the Grant Holder

Prof Chiara Buratti, Vice Chair and Grant Holder Scientific Representative (GHSR) of the Action, showed the **Work and Budget Plan (WBP) for Year 2** and the Top-up budget received from COST in April.



Budget Y2	Work and Budget Plan	Budget	Top-up	New Budget
A.	COST Networking Tools EUR			
(1)	Meetings	129.000,00	45.709,35	174.709,35
(2)	Training Schools	14.500,00	3.598,00€	18.098,00
(3)	Mobility of Researchers and Innovators	7.200,00	8.890,00€	16.090,00
(4)	Presentation at Conferences organised by Third Parties (WIRS)	1.350,00	7.500,00€	8.850,00
(5)	Dissemination and Communication Products	0,00	1.500,00€	1.500,00
(6)	Other Expenses Related to Scientific Activities (OERSA)	993,00		993,00
	B. Total Science Expenditure (sum of (1) to (6))	153.043,00	67.197,35	220.240,35
	C. Financial and Scientific Administration and Coordination (FSAC) (max. of 15% of B)	22.956,45	10.079,60	33.036,05
	Total Grant (B+C)	175.999,45	77.276,95	253.276,40

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The GHSR notified the MC Members about the **Status of the expenditures** up to date.



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Dubrovnik Meeting

Work and Budget Plan	Spent	Remaining budget
A. COST Networking Tools EUR		
(1) Meetings	47.649,76	127.059,59
(2) Training Schools		18.098,00
(3) Mobility of Researchers and Innovators		16.090,00
(4) Presentation at Conferences organised by Third Parties (WIRS)		8.850,00
(5) Dissemination and Communication Products		1.500,00
(6) Other Expenses Related to Scientific Activities (OERSA)		993,00
B. Total Science Expenditure (sum of (1) to (6))		172.590,59
C. Financial and Scientific Administration and Coordination (FSAC) (max. of 15% of B)		

4.400 €
LOS

43.250 €
Reimbursement
MCM and
WGC

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STSM

Work and Budget Plan	Spent	Remaining budget
A. COST Networking Tools EUR		
(1) Meetings	47.649,76	127.059,59
(2) Training Schools		18.098,00
(3) Mobility of Researchers and Innovators	4.800,00	11.290,00
(4) Presentation at Conferences organised by Third Parties (WIRS)		8.850,00
(5) Dissemination and Communication Products		1.500,00
(6) Other Expenses Related to Scientific Activities (OERSA)		993,00
B. Total Science Expenditure (sum of (1) to (6))		167.790,59
C. Financial and Scientific Administration and Coordination (FSAC) (max. of 15% of B)		

4 x
1.200 €
STSM

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The GHSR then showed the expected expenses to the MC Members and proposed a reallocation from the Meetings category to other Networking Activities, in particular, Training Schools and Dissemination and Communication Products items.

The abundance of budgets allowed to propose an increased number of students to be reimbursed as first expected in the next Training Schools.

For what concerned the Dissemination category, the reallocation would fund a promotional video of the action to be recorded during the meeting has been proposed.

The proposals were approved unanimously.



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Reallocated Budget	Work and Budget Plan	Remaining budget	Reallocated budget	
	A. COST Networking Tools EUR			
	(1) Meetings	68.759,59	60.739,59	
	(2) Training Schools	98,00	7.098,00	+ 7.000
	(3) Mobility of Researchers and Innovators	7.690,00	7.690,00	
	(4) Presentation at Conferences organised by Third Parties (WIRS)	8.000,00	8.000,00	
	(5) Dissemination and Communication Products	-1.020,00	0,00	+ 1.020
	(6) Other Expenses Related to Scientific Activities (OERSA)	993,00	993,00	
	B. Total Science Expenditure (sum of (1) to (6))	84.520,59	84.520,59	
	C. Financial and Scientific Administration and Coordination (FSAC) (max. of 15% of B)			
	Formal approval from the MC Members			

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5. Training School Activities summary

Prof. Luis Correia, the Training Coordinator (TC), reported the selection process for the training school proposals. The TC invited the audience to apply to the call for proposals for the Training Day in Poznan and future Training Schools.

The TC reported the activities of the training day in the last meetings in Barcelona and Dubrovnik.

The TC notified the MC Members about the planned activities in 2023 for the Training Schools of DoCom and ESoA.

6. STSM & more

Prof Carles Anton-Haro, the Grant Award Coordinator (GAC), presented the status of the nine completed STSMs and invited the attendees to apply for new STSMs grants.

The GAC explained and repeated the criteria for the evaluation of the STSM Proposals and reported the nine grants already awarded.

The GAC explained the aim of ITC Conference Grants and the budget dedicated to them and the new conference dissemination conference grant: Visibility Booster Grants (VBG), with a specific focus on the WIRS activities. Carles listed the criteria, requirements, priorities, and the selection and awarding process.

Call for applications available according to the budget are 6 STSM, 3 ITC, and 5 VBG.



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7. Dissemination

The Science Communication Coordinator, Prof Margot Deruyck, updated the Members on the status of the Dissemination and Communication activities. Specifically, Prof Deruyck presented the outcomes of the Newsletter, the status of the social media, the drafting process of the leaflet, and the production of the podcast of the Action.

She informed the MC Members and all the attendees about the production of INTERACT Podcast and the features in the first new episode published on different distribution platforms.

The SCC announced the Newsletter meeting would be held the same afternoon, 23rd May, at 5.30 pm.

The SCC informed the MC Members and all the attendees of the promo video mentioned in the reallocation of the budget.

Ultimately, the SCC asked for inputs for further dissemination activities undertaken since the start of the Action, joint publication and any useful contribution for the foreseen 40th Anniversary of COST Actions in Telecommunications.

8. Datasets

Mr. Marco Skocaj, Co-Chair of HA1, announced the upcoming INTERACT ML challenge, which is one of the core activities of Horizontal Activity. The upcoming challenge will be split into two sub-challenges, one focused on PHY layer, and the other on NET layer. Some initial information was communicated to the attendees. However, further details will be communicated via email since at the time being, everything is still to be decided.

9. Next Meetings

The Action Chair Prof Laurent Clavier discussed the upcoming meetings.



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Meetings

Upcoming Meetings

Sixth MC meeting and technical meeting

Sep. 11-14, 2023 – Poznan

Seventh MC meeting and technical meeting

Jan. 22-25, 2024 (special one) – Lisbon

Eighth (and following) MC meeting and technical meeting

Open to proposals

5th MC and Technical Meeting, May 23, 24 and 25, 2023, Barcelona, Spain

The 6th Meeting has already been accepted and approved to be in Poznan, Poland, on 11th-14th September 2023. Prof Krzysztof Cichoń would be the local organiser. Prof. Cichoń notified the audience with introductive information about the next Meeting.

The 7th Meeting has already been accepted and approved to be in Lisbon, Portugal, on 22nd-25th January 2024. As mentioned in the previous Meeting in Dubrovnik, the Meeting in Lisbon would follow up the 40th Anniversary COST Action in Mobile Wireless Communication in February 1984. The usual training day, prior to the MC and Technical meeting, would be dedicated to the abovementioned celebration. COST itself would support the event and make available additional funds for:

- Website
- Keynotes

Other key points mentioned during the meeting were that:

- COST officers would attend the meeting as well.
- A discussion on the general history is planned along with more tech-scientific-centred panels.
- A collection of material and memories (photo and video) will be necessary for the webpage.

Participants were invited to submit suggestions, material and proposals for the Meeting activities.

Prof. Clavier opened the call for applications for future meetings notifying the MC Members that the main criteria for being selected as a Local Organiser are that the location would be easily reachable by means of transportation.



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Prof Clavier set some additional information about the meeting in Barcelona, mentioning:

- The programme
- The Keynotes' Speeches
- The video recording for the promo video
- The scheduled activities for WIRS
- The scheduled discussion sessions
- The scheduled database sessions

10. Plenary Talks

Three plenary talks were programmed:

- Richard Rudd, *Propagation modelling in the ITU-R: challenges and evolution*
- Angel Lozano, *Near-Field MIMO: An Old Theory Up to New Trick*
- Carles Anton, *Key Strategies for 6G Networks and Services: the 6G SNS Industry Association's Vision*, which was held on the 25th of May 2023.



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THURSDAY, 25 MAY 2023, 11:00 AM

11. Feedback from Working Group Chairs

The WG Co.-Chairs presented their feedback on the Technical Meeting. Please find their contributions in Annex 5.

12. Feedback from Liaisons

The Action Chair Prof Laurent Clavier closed the Plenary by presenting the list of ongoing projects to be taken into consideration for a liaison with INTERACT Action:

- H2020 Reindeer Fredrik Tufvesson
- EU ITN MINTS Fredrik Tufvesson
- 5G DU Volution Alister Burr
- 6G IA (SNS) Carles Anton-Haro
- TeamUp5G (MSCA ETN/ ITN) Fernando J. Velez and Ana Garcia Armada
- ETSI ISG for Terahertz Communications (THz) Mate Boban, Thomas Kuerner
- DETERMINISTIC6G (SNS) Raheeb Muzaffar
- PEPR 5G (France Plan de relance) – Laurent Clavier