



# INTERACT

Lisbon, Portugal, 22-25 January 2024

**SUBJECT** | Minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> Management Committee Meeting of COST Action CA20120 “The Intelligence-Enabling Radio Communications for Seamless Inclusive Interactions (INTERACT)”

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**TUESDAY, 23 JANUARY 2024, 9:00 AM**

## **Welcome to participants**

Prof. Laurent Clavier, Action Chair of the Action, opened the meeting on January 23, 2024, at 9.00 am. As Local Organizer, Prof. Luis Correia 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 7<sup>th</sup> MCM.

## **Adoption of agenda**

The Action Chair presented the agenda of the 7<sup>th</sup> MCM, which had been previously circulated online. The agenda was adopted. The Minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> MC Meeting and 6<sup>th</sup> Technical Meeting were approved.

The Action Chair and the Local Organizer 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.

## **Status of the Action and of the current meeting**

The Action 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**

COST full members: 36 (ITC: 20)  
COST Cooperating Member: 1  
COST Partner: 1  
International: 5  
Near Neighbour Countries: 3

**Number of WG members registered on the website**



574

**Young Researchers** 56%  
**Gender balance** 19.5% / 79.5%

**Number of MC Members**



- 65 (+2)
- 43 (+9 substitutes) attending the meeting

**People attending the meeting**



• 153

**Number of TDs**



• 85

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The Action Chair informed that the mid-term report had been approved and he was waiting for feedback from the COST Office.

The Action Chair presented the status of deliverables:

- Deliverable 4 to be delivered on Month 32 (WG2) – mid-June 2024
- Deliverable 5 to be delivered on Month 36 (All WGs and verticals) – mid-October 2024

Prof. Slawomir Ambroziak informed he sent an e-mail to all WG mailing lists, asking for contributions.

Prof. Conception Garcia Pardo updated the Members on the next workshops.

## Dataset Challenge (HA1)

Since the HA1 Co-Action Chair Mr Marco Skocaj was absent, the Action Chair presented the outcome of the two Machine Learning Competitions held online from August 28th to August 30th, 2023.

The two competitions were:

1. PHY: ML-based direct indoor localization using Massive MIMO CSI Measurements
2. NET: Calibrated regression of 5G KPI Measurements

For the first competition, four teams were the winners out of twelve total participants:

- 1° Jiteng Ma, Liang Qiao (Bristol);
- 2° Mounssif Krouka, Sabbir Ahmed, Yazid Bounab (Oulu);
- 3° Artan Salihu, Stefan Schwarz (Wien);



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- 4° Praneeth Susarla, Krishna Bulusu, Pravallika Katragunta, Anirban Mukherjee (Oulu).

For the second competition, one team was the winner out of two total participants:

- 1° Jiteng Ma, Liang Qiao (Bristol).

Jiteng Ma and Liang Qiao, the winners of the two challenges, introduced themselves.

## Report from the Grant Holder

The Grant Holder Scientific Representative (GHSR), Prof. Chiara Buratti, presented the New Grant Holder Manager, Natascia De Fenzo, who was attending the meeting.

Prof Chiara Buratti showed the **Work and Budget Plan (WBP) for Year 2** updated with the expenses of Y2 for each item, and the WBP for Year 3 with the expected expenses.

Prof. Chiara Buratti explained the reason for the delay in the release of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> instalments, which was related to the approval of the Final Financial Report of Y2.



Budget Y2	Work and Budget Plan	Budget
	Meetings	€ 166,499.35
	Training Schools	€ 25,098.00
	Short-Term Scientific Mission Grant (STSM)	€ 16,090.00
	Inclusiveness Target Countries Conference Grant (ITCG)	€ 3,850.00
	Dissemination Conference Grant (VBG)	€ 5,000.00
	Dissemination and Communication Products	€ 2,710.00
	Other Expenses Related to Scientific Activities (OERSA)	€ 993.00
	<b>Total Science Expenditure</b>	<b>220.240,35</b>
	FSAC	33.036,05
	<b>Total Grant</b>	<b>253.276,40</b>

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The GHSR notified the MC Members about the **Status of the expenditures** at the end of the GP2:

- Three MC and Technical Meetings in Dubrovnik, Barcelona, and Poznan;
- Two Training Schools in Campitello di Fassa and Cesenatico, Italy;
- Thirteen STSMs;
- One ITCG;
- Two VBGs;



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- Dissemination expenses including the website maintenance and the production of the promotional video;
- Bank charges accounted in the OERSA.

The GHSR then showed the budget allocated for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grant Period



Budget Y3	Work and Budget Plan	Budget
	Meetings	153.000,00
	Training Schools	19.500,00
	Short-Term Scientific Mission Grant	12.865,00
	Inclusiveness Target Countries Conference Grant	1.000,00
	Dissemination Conference Grant (VBG)	2.000,00
	Dissemination	700,00
	Other Expenses Related to Scientific Activities (OERSA)	500,00
	<b>Total Science Expenditure</b>	<b>189.565,00</b>
	FSAC	28.434,75
	<b>Total Grant</b>	<b>217 999,75</b>

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The GHSR presented the expected expenses to the MC Members for the third Grand Period, including the Meeting in Lisbon and two STSMs already approved.



Lisbon Meeting	Work and Budget Plan	Expected
	Meetings	61,875,00
	Training Schools	
	STSM	
	ITCG	
	VBG	
	Dissemination	
	Other (OERSA)	
	<b>Total Science Expenditure</b>	

4500 € LOS

50 x 1.100 € Reimbursement MCM and WGC

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## STSMs

Work and Budget Plan	Expected
Meetings	
Training Schools	
STSM	2,400.00 €
ITCG	
VBG	
Dissemination	
Other (OERSA)	
<b>Total Science Expenditure</b>	

A red arrow points from the 2,400.00 € value in the STSM row to a callout box containing the text "2 x 1200€ STSMs".

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## Training School Activities summary

Prof. Luis M. Correia, the Training Coordinator (TC), reminded the audience of the selection process for a training school proposal.

Dr. Krzysztof Cichon presented the Training program and the Training Schools that have been organized in 2023: DoCom and ESoA.

The TC invited the audience to apply to the call for proposals for future Training activities.

Dr. Krzysztof Cichon announced that there is a sufficient budget to organize two Training Schools in 2024.

## STSM & more

The Grant Award Coordinator (GAC) Prof. Carles Anton-Haro presented the status of the STSMs awarded in Y2 (14), and the ones already approved for Y3 (2).

The Action Chair explained and repeated the criteria for the evaluation of an STSM proposal.

The Action Chair 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. He also listed the criteria, requirements, priorities, and the selection and awarding process.

The Grant Award Coordinator invited the attendees to apply as soon as possible for new networking activities.



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## Dissemination

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

The SCC announced the Newsletter meeting would be held Wednesday afternoon, January 24<sup>th</sup>, at 6 pm.

The SCC informed the MC Members and all the attendees of the publication and distribution of the promo video on both INTERACT and COST channels.

The SCC announced that the 6<sup>th</sup> issue was the last from Dr. Agnieszka Czapiewska, who finished her period as Young Researcher Representative (YRR).

The SCC showed the promo video shown in Barcelona and the special edition of the newsletter (40YA).

## EURACON General Assembly

The EURACON Delegates Assembly and General Assembly started at 10 am local time.

Prof. Luis Correia introduced EURACON, a non-profit association registered in Belgium. Luis presented the state of the association, the agenda and the participants of the general assembly, who attended both in presence and online.

Prof. Luis Correia proceeded with the approval of the agenda. No objections, no abstentions.

No approval of the minutes was pending, the last EURACON meeting was held in Dubrovnik.

Prof. Luis Correia presented the status of the association and the account in 2023. No objections.

Prof. Luis Correia presented the activities planned for 2024, no objections, no abstentions.

Approval of the budget for 2024. No objections, no abstentions.

The meeting ended at 10:23 local time.

## Next Meetings

The Action Chair announced the upcoming 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting had already been accepted and approved to be held in Helsinki, Finland, from 17 to 20 June 2024. The day prior to the 8<sup>th</sup> MC and Technical meeting would be dedicated to a joint workshop. Prof. Haneda Katsuyuki would be the Local Organizer.



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The 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting has already been accepted and approved to be in Linz, Austria, from 16 to 19 September 2024. Dr. Raheeb Muzaffar would be the Local Organizer.

The Action Chair presented the program for the Helsinki and Linz Meeting.

Dr. Ali Kourani and Dr. Raheeb Muzaffar presented the local information of the two destinations.

The Action Chair announced that the destination for the 10<sup>th</sup> MC Meeting is still to be decided. He 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.

The Action Chair announced the next Core Group Meeting that will take place on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> February at 14:00 CET.

## Plenary Talks

Two plenary talks were programmed:

- Bruno Clerckx, *Beyond Diagonal Reconfigurable Intelligent Surfaces: The/A Next Frontier for Smart Radio Environment*
- Mário A. T. Figueiredo, *Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Past, Present, and Future*

The Action Chair proceeded with the important discussions:



This meeting

### IMPORTANT DISCUSSIONS

WIRS Meeting (Today 5:30pm)  
Newsletter Meeting (Tomorrow 6pm)

VT specificities to be discussed ; structuration for end year report  
WG2 White paper  
WG3 structuration for end year report  
Training schools – Training days (Linz?)  
STSM





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## Elections

The Action Chair explained to the Members the procedure for the three programmed elections for the following positions and reminded that other elections were programmed after the Meeting:

- Training Coordinator
- Young Researcher Representative
- HA1 Datasets co-Chair

Prof. Laurent Clavier explained the task of the Training Manager and introduced the two candidates:

- Dr. Krzysztof Cichon
- Dr. Hamed Ahmadi

The Action Chair asked if there were any other candidates in the room.

Dr. Hamed Ahmadi was not present and introduced himself through a video.

Dr. Krzysztof Cichon introduced himself.

Before the election of the new YRR, Dr. Agnieszka Czapiewska gave a short speech to thank everyone.

Prof. Laurent Clavier introduced two candidates, Dr. Manjola Zeneli and Dr. Uendi Çerma, who were not present. Prof. Narcis Cardona asked for candidates of Institutions which were active in the Action.

Two new candidates introduced themselves in presence: Dr. Silvi Kodra and Dr. Jiteng Ma.

The election of the HA1 Datasets co-chair saw only one candidate: Francesco Linsalata. There was no need to vote. No objections, no abstentions.

After the coffee break, the Action Chair announced the results of the elections, the winners were Dr. Krzysztof Cichon and Dr. Silvi Kodra. No objections and no abstentions were expressed.

**THURSDAY, 25 JANUARY 2024, 11:00 AM**

**RALPH STÜBNER**



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The Science Officer at COST Action, Ralph Stübner, provided updates on the state of the Action Counties: 41 members, 1 cooperating member, 1 partner member.

The Science Officer highlighted the eligibility criteria which can be found on COST website and reminded COST members to keep their e-COST profile updated.

Furthermore, Ralph Stübner updated on the status of the Members: 65 + 2 MCM, 574 WG Members.

The Action Chair presented the last figures on gender balance and opened a discussion on the importance of women in science.

## Feedback from Working Group Action Chairs

The WGs Co-Action Chairs presented their feedback on the Technical Meeting. You can find their contributions in Annex 5.

## Feedback from Liaisons

The WGs Co-Action Chairs presented the progress of the INTERACT Liaisons with other projects.



- EU-ITN MINTS – Fredrik Tufvesson
- 5G DU-Volution – Alister Burr
- 5G YO-RAN – Alister Burr
- 6G-IA (SNS) – Carles Anton
- 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
- 6G-SHINE – Mario Vittucci, Silvi Kodra

## Action Points

The Action Chair updated the participants on the upcoming action points and their



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respective deadlines.



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**TBD. Action Points**

AP	WHAT	WHO	WHOM	WHEN
1	Submit <b>reimbursement</b> forms	Those entitled to	<b>e-cost</b>	Before 09/02
2	Send Minutes of Group Meetings	Group Chairs	Chair + Secretary	Before 09/02
3	Send Liaisons summaries	Liaison rapporteurs	Dissemination chair (M. Deruyck)	Before 09/02
4	Publications (Joint)	Authors	Secretary / on-line sheet	When accepted
5	Liaisons, special sessions/workshops	Organizers	Dissemination chair (M. Deruyck)	When done with short summary
6	Send STSM / ITCG / VBG applications	Those interested	e-cost +Grant Chair (C. Anton)	Open call
7	WG2 White papers	All WG2 members	Contribute and help the co-chairs	Before mid-June 24
8	3 <sup>rd</sup> GP report	All members	Contribute to help the co-chairs	Before mid-June 24
9	VT2 and other elections	All interested	Candidate for the positions	Check emails
10	CORE Group meeting	SC members + WG chairs	Remote meeting	06/02, 2pm CET

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No AOB.