

**Subject | Minutes of the Fourth Management Committee (MC4) and Third WGs 1-4 Meeting of the COST Action TD1407 - NOTICE: Network on technology-critical elements - from environmental processes to human health threats**

**Belgrade, Serbia, 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> May 2016**  
**University of Belgrade**

Main administrative building of the University of Belgrade (Rektorat). Captain Miša's Mansion  
Studentski trg 1 (former Vasina street)

## **MC4 Meeting**

### **1. Welcome to participants**

The participants were welcomed and the meeting was started and chaired by Antonio Cobelo-García (Action Chair) and Montserrat Filella (Action Vice-chair).

### **2. Approval of minutes of MC2**

The minutes of the third Management Committee meeting (Faro, Portugal, May 2016) are approved (**Annex I**)

### **3. Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda for the MC4 and the Third WGs 1-4 meeting is adopted (**Annex II**)

### **4. Status of the Action. Participation of NNC and IPC**

The chair informs that there are currently 22 countries involved in the Action, and 15 countries are represented in this MC meeting by their respective MC members (RS, PL, FR, EL, AT, PT, DE, SE, UK, MK, RO, CH, IT, ES, IL). Therefore, decisions made during this MC meeting can be adopted. Participants list in **Annex III**

The chair gives a description of the list of near-neighbour countries (NNC) and international partner countries (IPC) and what type of involvement researchers from those countries can carry out under the COST framework (including reimbursement restrictions for meetings, training schools, STSMs, etc.).

### **5. COST Vademecum Update. Relevant Changes**

The Chair informs that a new COST Vademecum entered into force on 01/05/2017 (<http://www.cost.eu/Vademecum>). The main change is the insertion of a new section concerning the Conference Grants; Conference Grants are aimed at supporting PhD students and ECI researchers from Participating ITC to attend international science and technology related conferences not specifically organised by the COST Action (as detailed in the Section 8 of the Vademecum). From the current list of countries involved in the COST Action TD1407, the following are included as ITCs: Estonia, Croatia, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Macedonia and Serbia

### **6. Action Budget for the New Grant Period 3 (01/05/2017 – 30/04/2018)**

The Chair presents a brief overview on the budget for the new Grant Period 3 (01/05/2017-30/04/2018), which was approved by the MC few days before the meeting (**Annex IV**).

### **7. Report of the Training School and Workshop in Rehovot (Israel, January 2017)**

A brief report on the Training School and Workshop is given. It is indicated that all relevant information regarding these two events can be found at the Action's website ([www.costnotice.net](http://www.costnotice.net)), including the book of abstract (Workshop) and the presentations at the Training School. It is also informed that a special issue at the journal *Science of the Total Environment* from selected communications presented at the Workshop is currently under progress. All the MC members that were involved in the preparation or participated in the Workshop and/or Training School considered that these two events and the expected outputs were successfully attained. Special thanks are given to Ishai Dror (MC, IL) for his great help taking the responsibility of the local organization logistics.

#### **8. Progress Report of the Action (Month 24). Achievement of Objectives. Facing the Next Two Years. Project Proposals (H2020)**

The Chair informs that the Progress Report of the Action at month 24 was prepared and submitted to the COST Office, and was currently under evaluation by the designated rapporteur of this Action. There was a common agreement that, in general, the objectives of the Action were fairly achieved at this stage. However, there were a couple of points that needed to be improved as to fulfil the objectives agreed during the Action kick-off meeting, as follows:

- a) So far there has been little emphasis on the preparation of project proposals (H2020) arising from the network around this Action. There was some initial tentative work for building a consortium for an ITN call, but this has been unfruitful so far. Therefore, it was understood by the MC members that a proactive work needs to be done to this respect. The interaction with other COST Actions with overlapping interests was raised as a good starting point for this.

Accordingly, the Action vice chair will contact the COST Action ES1407 (ReCreew) concerning two issues: the preparation of common research projects (Horizon 2020) and the possibility of a common end-of-Action meeting in 2019. It is also decided that this last meeting should search the participation of a maximum number of stakeholders and that the conference should be oriented such as to communicate them the results of the action. All MC members will be asked to look for stakeholders in their own countries.

- b) Some concern about reaching the objectives of WG1 is indicated. This was mainly attributed to an accumulation of several factors, e.g., the leave of the previous co-leader, the current unavailability of the current co-leader, the unavailable time of the current WG1 leader due to his involvement in oceanographic cruises, etc. Therefore, it was agreed that a new person takes the responsibility of the coordination of the WG1 activities. Ishaï Dror (MC, IL) is proposed for this; he accepts this role and the MC adopts this decision. The Chair will communicate this decision to the concerned parties as soon as possible.

#### **9. Selection of the Communication Representative for the Action**

The chair informs that the selection of a communication representative for the Action is needed. Following the COST instructions, a network of communications representatives from each running Action is going to be set up and Actions need to select its representative for this role. Once the network is set up, trainings on media relations and science communications will be organized. Ideally, the person should have a basic understanding of digital communications channels/be active on social media, and have a general interest in science communication and/or science journalism. S/He should be nominated by an MC decision. Given that Natalia Ospina-Alvarez (MC, PL) is the person that is managing the twitter, website and facebook of the Action, the MC agrees that she would be the ideal candidate for this; she accepts this role and the MC adopts this decision.

#### **10. Website and Twitter**

Natalia Ospina-Alvarez (MC, PL) will continue with the management of the Action's Facebook and Twitter; the website will continue to be managed by Natalia Ospina-Alvarez (MC, PL) and Montserrat Filella (MC, Vice-chair, CH).

#### **11. Location and Date of Next MC and WG meeting**

The MC decides to hold the next MC and WGs meeting in Athens (Greece) during the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of May 2018, with Christos Michalakelis (MC, EL) and Roido Mitoula (MC, EL) acting as hosts.

#### **12.Promotion of gender balance and of early career investigators (ECIs)**

MC composition is more or less balanced. With respect to the Action's activities (e.g. workshops, STSMs) the committee will pay attention to gender balance (to avoid that any gender is underrepresented) and to foster the active involvement of early career researchers.

#### **13.AOB**

No matters arising

#### **14.Closing**

The MC Chair thanks the participation of all the MC members and closes the meeting.

#### **List of Annexes**

- Annex I:** MC3 Minutes
- Annex II:** MC4 and Third WGs1-4 meeting Agenda
- Annex III:** List of Participants
- Annex IV:** WBP for GP3

#### **List of MC Decisions**

- MC DECISION 1:** Approval of minutes of the MC3 meeting
- MC DECISION 2:** Ishai Dror (MC, IL) designated as the new WG1 leader
- MC DECISION 3:** Natalia Ospina-Alvarez (MC, PL) designated as the Communication Representative of the Action
- MC DECISION 4:** Next MC and WGs meeting to be held in Athens (Greece) during 29-30 May 2018

## WGs 1-4 Meeting

The meeting starts with an overview of the objectives and tasks that were included in the MoU of the Action and the level of achievement of each. Then the discussion is focused on the following items:

1. Change of the WG1 leader, as discussed above in the MC4 meeting minutes
2. Start with the intercalibration exercise; Jörg Schäfer and his group at the University of Bordeaux will prepare sediment material from the Gironde Estuary to be used for intercalibration purposes. He will also prepare the time-table (sampling, sample dissemination, analysis), and will start sending out a questionnaire to the interested participants by mid-late June.
3. A critical review paper on voltammetric methods for the determination of TCEs in environmental samples by Antonio Cobelo-García and Montserrat Filella has been already submitted for publication in 'Current Opinion in Electrochemistry'. If accepted, it will be published in the open-access form using the dissemination budget of the Action.
3. Preparation of critical review papers; the following papers are committed to be prepared or already in the process of writing:
  - (a) REEs in food, in preparation with Alina Magdas as the coordinator
  - (b) ICP-MS for the determination of the 'less-studied' (e.g. Nb, Ta, Te) TCEs, being written by Montserrat Filella and Ilia Rodushkin
  - (c) Critical review on analytical methodologies for the determination of TCEs, with Antonio Cobelo and Ishai Dror as coordinators
  - (d) Review paper on the current gaps on the knowledge of the PGEs in the environment; will be prepared by Antonio Cobelo, Jörg Schäfer, Miguel Caetano, Sebastien Rauch and Sonja Zimmermann
  - (e) Article on REEs in the marine environment, coordinated by Nelia Mestre
4. Next Training School and Workshop on ecotoxicological aspects and human exposure of TCEs in Tallin (Estonia) during April 2018. The preparation of these events, which will be coordinated by Chiara Frazzoli and Sonja Zimmermann in cooperation with the group of Anne Kahru and Irina Blinova (who will be the local organizers), will start by early June.
5. Planning of H2020 project proposals. Montserrat Filella (Vice chair) will contact the COST Action ES1407 (ReCreew), also interested in the elements of concern for this Action but from a technical-industrial perspective, where significant synergies can be established, for their interest in the preparation of common research projects.