

COST Action CA16121

Action Title: From Sharing to Caring: Examining Socio-Technical Aspects of the Collaborative Economy

Minutes of the 7th Management Committee Meeting – “Taking Stock”

Online (replacing the Limerick Meeting)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88456348859?pwd=b1hZNTkvd21hVno1VCt4REhDWXBqZz09>

19 May 2020, 12pm – 3pm

1. Welcome to participants

The chair of the Action, Dr. Gabriela Avram, welcomed the participants, expressing her regrets that she could not welcome all the participants in Limerick, Ireland, as planned. She introduced Dr. Mónica Pérez Cabero, the COST Science Officer in charge with our action, and Mariana Clohessy, the administrative assistant responsible for the action on behalf of the GH, the University of Limerick.

2. Verification of the presence of two-thirds of the Participating COST Countries or, if applicable, a quorum

The Sharing and Caring COST action has at the moment 37 member countries, and 31 countries were represented in the online meeting. The countries not represented were BA, FI, IL, ME, MT, NL, + AU(IPC), GE(NNC). So, we have the necessary quorum.

The meeting started as planned at 12pm Limerick time - point 1 and 2 of the agenda are addressed in the first 15 minutes.

3. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was approved unanimously, all 31 country representatives voted for.

4. Approval of minutes and matters arising of last meeting

The minutes of the 6th MC meeting that took place in Edinburgh, UK in October 2019 were approved unanimously. No decisions were made through e-vote since that last meeting.

5. Update from the Action Chair

a) Status of Action: start and end dates of Action, participating COST countries, participating NNC/ IPC institutions and Specific Organisations.

- **Status of Action:**
 - Start of the Action: 24/ 03 /2017
 - End of Action: 23/ 03 /2021
- **participating COST countries:**
 - Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Iceland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, The Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Slovenia, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK (37)
- **participating NNC/ IPC institutions**
 - QUT Brisbane, Australia
 - Economic Development Office, Tbilisi City Council, Georgia

The Action chair, Dr. Avram, mentioned that the Work and Budget Plan for Grant Year 4 that started on 1 May 2020 has been drafted and will be discussed during the meeting.

b) Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM): review of completed reports and new applications :

Dr Aleksandar Petrovski	2019-07-03	2019-07-28	26 days	2 500.00
Dr Mijalche Santa	2019-07-06	2019-07-13	8 days	1 580.00
Mr Alexandros Pazaitis	2019-08-22	2019-08-29	8 days	1 580.00
Prof Berna KIRKULAK-ULUDAG	2019-09-07	2019-09-15	9 days	1 740.00
Prof Julijana Angelovska	2020-01-30	2020-02-12	14 days	2 020.00
Dr Chiara Rossitto	2020-02-23	2020-02-27	5 days	980.00
Ms Fani Efthymiadoy	2020-03-02	2020-03-11	10 days	1 400.00

Luigina Ciolfi, STSM chair: two missions funded in last call have been cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Prof Luigina Ciolfi	l.ciolfi@shu.ac.uk	1050	2020-03-22	2020-03-27
Dr Filip Majetić	filip.majetic@pilar.hr	1900	2020-04-20	2020-04-29

The two STSMs that were cancelled will be funded in Grant Year 4 with priority, as soon as travel becomes safe again.

We will see how many calls we will be able to issue in the upcoming grant year. The STSM steering committee may draft a call to emphasize that applicants have to check the travel requirements and regulations in their home/host countries.

Ann Light: It is important we provide general guidelines to people about if/when/how to travel. we need to take a less passive approach to this, in ethical terms, not just defaulting to whatever is easier.

In any case, at the moment, COST is not allowing any STSMs to take place.

c) ITC grants - Kosjenka Dumancic

Five ITC grants were approved. There were other requests from people who approached us informally, but the topics had no connection to the collaborative economy.

Dr Mijalche Santa	2019-06-16	2019-06-19	4 days	EUR 1 300.00
Dr Mihai Lisetchi	2019-06-24	2019-06-27	4 days	EUR 1 515.00
Ms Giulia Piora	2019-08-25	2019-08-28	4 days	EUR 1 610.00
Dr Brano Glumac	2019-08-27	2019-08-30	4 days	EUR 1 500.00
Dr ANDREJA PIRC BARCIC	2019-09-11	2019-09-13	3 days	EUR 860.00

6. Update from the Grant Holder: Action budget status

Gabriela gave an update on the budget expenditure, pointing out to the cancellations of travels due to the COVID-19 pandemic. 12,000€ were earmarked to the WG2&WG3 meeting in Athens on 3-4 March 2020. This meeting had to be cancelled as the epidemic in Italy emerged and several selected participants expressed their worries in relation to travel. All participants were asked to cancel hotels and flights to minimise their losses. On 28 February, we received a letter from the host organisation in Athens, recommending cancelling the meeting. The meeting was moved on line. Following the meeting, the participants were reimbursed by the GH, but the reimbursement was not approved by the COST Association, as it was not considered force majeure. The GH will cover the amount (~4200€) from the FSAC.

Also, 2 STSMs had to be cancelled.

As a result, almost 23,000€ remained unspent.

Financial Period: AGA-CA16121-3

From 01/05/2019 to 30/04/2020

	Grant budget (a)	Expenditure					Delta (g=f-a)
		Actuals (b)	Accruals (c)	Total (d=b+c)	Forecast (e)	Total (f=d+e)	
Total Meeting	96 650.00	95 040.00	0.00	95 040.00	0.00	95 040.00	-1 610.00
Total Training School	28 000.00	16 135.34	0.00	16 135.34	0.00	16 135.34	-11 864.66
Total Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM)	17 500.00	11 800.00	0.00	11 800.00	0.00	11 800.00	-5 700.00
Total Inclusiveness Target Countries Conference Grant (ITC CG)	8 000.00	6 785.00	0.00	6 785.00	0.00	6 785.00	-1 215.00
Total Action Dissemination	4 902.00	2 979.00	0.00	2 979.00	0.00	2 979.00	-1 923.00
Total Other Expenses Related to Scientific Activities (OERSA)	600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-600.00
Total Networking expenditure	155 652.00	132 739.34	0.00	132 739.34	0.00	132 739.34	-22 912.66
Total Eligible Networking expenditure	155 652.00	132 739.34	0.00	132 739.34	0.00	132 739.34	-22 912.66
Total FSAC 15% of Eligible Networking expenditure	23 347.80	19 910.90	0.00	19 910.90	0.00	19 910.90	-3 436.90
Total Eligible Costs	178 999.80	152 650.24	0.00	152 650.24	0.00	152 650.24	-26 349.56

7. Update from the COST Association

The Science Officer, Dr. Mónica Pérez Cabero, made remarks on the current pandemic situation putting a strain on all COST actions.

8. Monitoring of the Action

- The SO presented an Action Dashboard document (based on data up to March 2020), on:
 - Budget distribution per country is very well balanced, homogenous participation;
 - The same goes for meetings participants and STSM grantees distribution in terms of nationality;
 - Very good balance between ITC countries and non-ITC countries;
 - Gender balance VERY good (57% women);
 - Participation in networking, especially in terms of age, good balanced as well
- The SO congratulated the Action for these results.

9. Implementation of COST policies on:

- a) Promotion of gender balance and Early Career Investigators (ECI)
 - 74 MC members
 - 40 women(54%)
 - 14 ECIs(19%)
- a) Inclusiveness and Excellence (see below list of Inclusiveness Target Countries)
 - 40 members of the MC are from ITCs (54%)

10. Follow-up of MoU objectives: progress report of working groups

WG1 (Penny Travlou and Airi Lampinen): The theoretical framework deliverable (D1.2) is under way with two independent lines of work. Now we have opened a call for short stories concerning sharing initiatives related to COVID-19 (<https://forms.gle/QWtg9PEMk3gubxE69>) & regular short stories continue to be welcome as well (form here <https://goo.gl/forms/EcFe5O2gaNrqwDL12>); also open another call for ethnographic research case studies with deadline in early July (see email with details from Airi).

WG2: (Myriam Lewkowicz) The toolkit online; Collaboration with WG3 for D3.2: analysis of catalog and list of main functionalities and mechanisms with examples, as each of the already identified functionality can be implemented in different ways (this is what WG2 calls mechanisms); paper on catalog submitted to NordiCHI, other publication planned (see slides for a list); **workshop** submitted and accepted for **ECSCW 2020 (June 15th, online)**, who wants to contribute **may send abstract by June 8th**, papers will be shared online but there is no planned publication other than one on the workshop in general.

WG3 (Venere Sanna and Laura Michelini): exploration of impact, they are identifying areas of impact and developing methodologies to assess those; next month will bring guidelines for designing platforms with particular attention to social impact (the first deliverable, D3.1, <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1ss5YiS2if3zlON0jvLXdZGEgPMgjlInNU>, will be online today as white paper) -- please **have a look and provide feedback for improvement**; Athens meeting took place online, went nicely, especially in terms of cooperation between WG2 and WG3; next steps: every WG member will be asked to develop a small case study focused on impact (will go in annex to D3.2), the goal being to cover different domains (food, mobility, etc.).

WG4 (Maurizio Telli and Chiara Bassetti): meeting for mutual feedback on contributions for edited book (D4.1) on June 30 (sign in to attend here: <https://tinyurl.com/y7glcqht>), draft papers due by June 15; further contribution will be accepted until early September (call for chapters here: <https://tinyurl.com/ycdnrzt6>); another feedback meeting will be in the fall; D4.2 will be based on inductive analysis from edited book chapters.

- **Task forces**

Country reports 2019 will be collected in an e-book (possibly to be published in the EUSSET digital library). Selected country reports (NL, FR, AT, IT, AL, UK, PO) will enter a book proposal as exemplars, the book will have further more general chapters -- **co-authoring of chapters is still open, please see preliminary table of contents (in slides) and, if interested, write to the chapter responsible** of your interest to propose your contribution.

Bibliography task force has not met, but new references have been added. People are still encouraged to go onto Zotero and add their contributions to the bibliography. Tags should be added on the papers so that we could produce an annotated bibliography structured around various topics.

Directory of People and Organisations: credentials for adding oneself must be checked because several people added themselves but it was not clear if they should have done. Also, there is a GDPR issue: we'll need to ask permission from people to list their names in the directory. It will not be updated after the end of the action, but we'll keep it online.

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11. Scientific planning

a) Scientific strategy (MoU objectives, GP Goals, WG tasks and deliverables)

- Continuing the work ; special focus on reaching out to communities and talking to policy makers; these two objectives were considered insufficiently developed by the rapporteur in the Intermediary Report:
 - To articulate a **European research perspective** on the collaborative economy based on EU values of social innovation.
 - **To formulate a European research agenda for the socio-technical aspects of the collaborative economy**, including [specifically] the design of future technological platforms, the technical infrastructure, the legal, ethical and financial implications.
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b) Action Budget Planning

There is a plan to allocate funding to a MC meeting in the Autumn and ITC grants to go to conferences, we are waiting for guidelines from COST on travel or remote attendance support. Monica confirms that remote conference attendance can be supported.

Also funds planned for dissemination, particularly books and publications

Funds added to STSM (hypothetically supporting 8). STSMs in the same country is considered in the form of an open letter from COST Chairs to COST

Possibilities: if not all funds are spent, request an external (follow-on) grant request, which will have to be applied for; another possibility is to move funding to dissemination in other forms, but this is an issue as participation of researchers is paramount for a COST Action. Think of ways for people to come together for joint activities (e.g. a virtual training school? Although none was planned for Year 4). Some universities in some countries are re-opening so it could be that STSMs will be possible, but because they are down to personal agreement it is hard to predict if people will commit to travel. Best thing would be to wait to launch the next STSM call, or to do it with a warning.

Fee for online conferences will be allowed.

Extensions for COST actions are exceptional (in normal circumstances), by approval by COST exec board. Budget extensions are even rarer. The COST Association has not made definite decisions yet. It might be wise to focus on reporting and on strengthening some areas of weakness while travel is not taking place (for example collecting material for final report and addressing the impact on policymakers)

Another idea is to organise regular online talks series. E.g., 15 min + Q&A from different localities.

These could also be recorded and kept available through our website. The idea received quite some enthusiasm from the participants. This could be seen as yet another contribution.

c) **Grant year 4 budget: 139,220 € (+10,000€ FAD)**, allocated to:

- 8th MC meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia, WGs 1, 2, 3, 4, and Symposium
- Core Group meeting in March in Brussels
- STSMs – 8 x 2500 = 20,000€
- ITC conference grants 2 x 1500 = 3,000€
- Dissemination – website, publications; 3 books +Country Reports

d) Long-term planning (including anticipated locations and dates of future activities)

- in Ireland no international travelling until Fall 2020
- Tentatively next MC Meeting + a symposium planned for October 14-16 in Ljubljana, Slovenia. TBC. Organizers also offers some flexibility to do a meeting in Jan/Feb 2021, if needed
- Core Group meeting in Brussels on 11 March 2021 to disseminate Action results to policy makers
- Otherwise in Limerick but in Feb./March 2021

d) Dissemination planning (Publications and outreach activities)

1) *A Comparative Perspective on the Evolution of the Collaborative Economy in Europe*

Due: 28.02.2021

Amount: 12,000€

Lead Editors:

Dr. Andrzej Klimczuk, Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Assoc. Prof. Vida Česnuitytė, Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania

Publisher: Palgrave

2) *Ethnographies of Collaborative Economies*

Due: 10.03.2021

Amount: 12,000€

Editors:

Prof. Luigina Ciolfi – Sheffield Hallam University, UK

Dr. Penny Travlou – University of Edinburgh, UK

Publisher: Manchester University Press

3) *On Becoming a Platform in Europe, or on the Governance of the Collaborative Economy*
(FAD)

Due: 10.03. 2021

Amount: 10,000€

Editors:

Prof. Maurizio Teli, Aalborg University, Denmark

Dr. Chiara Bassetti, University of Trento, Italy

Publisher: Aalborg University Press

12. Requests to join the Action

There were no new requests.

13. AOB

14. Location and date of next meeting

Ljubljana, Slovenia, 14-16 October 2020
Hosted by Prof. Dr. Aleš Završnik & Katja Simončič, Faculty of Law

15. Summary of MC decisions

The minutes of the previous MC meeting were approved

The following decisions were made:

The Work and Budget Plan for Grant Year 4 has been approved

16. Closing

