

COST ACTION CA16215 – EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR THE PROMOTION OF PORTABLE, AFFORDABLE AND SIMPLE ANALYTICAL PLATFORMS.

NEWSLETTER #1

20/11/2017

“The opportunity for science lies in creating an unlimited space where crossovers between ideas and people can change the world for the better.”

Dear Members,

One month since the kick-off meeting, it is time for a first newsletter. In the past month, we have been working hard to better define the Action, discuss some tools and events, contact new members and fight the bureaucratic monster. The Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto (FEUP), the Grant Holder, received today the first half of the funding for the first Grant Period. I have to thank everyone within FEUP and the COST Association that made this happen. I also really need to thank everyone within the Core Group that supported and helped me. We already had two teleconference meetings and there will be more. This is the first of our unscheduled newsletters that I will use to keep you informed.

Regards

Guillaume Erny

CURRENT SIZE OF THE ACTION

The portASAP COST Action is growing fast: 27 countries are participating in the Action at the moment, with 68 MC participants. Additionally,

twenty people are registered members of the Action.

The Action has a very good geographic distribution as well as strong interdisciplinary representation. This is our strength, and we need to know each other better to benefit from this diversity.

GRANT PROPOSALS AND ITN

You may recall a few weeks ago asking for proposals for Innovative Training Networks (ITNs). The number of responses was not overwhelming, but again the deadline is very short, and we need to know each other better. We need an open space discussion where we can discuss and draft common proposals. A winning consortium for such competitive grants should be built before the opening of the call, and this will be initiated for the present or future calls. This will likely take the form of a forum, either in LinkedIn or within the portASAP website. A provisory website has been created, so please feel free to post or comment: <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/itn-for-portasap>

WORK GROUPS

With the agreement of all Work Group Leaders, it has been decided to go forward with the formation of the work groups. I am aware that many of you already sent me your preferences for the WG integration; however, I cannot centralise all the information. Please contact your work group leader. You can apply (MC or regular members) to one or two of WGs 1 to 5; everyone is assumed to belong to WG6 (Exploitation of Results). Please contact directly the work group leader, if possible before the 15th of December.

WG1: Validation and dissemination of open-source hardware (Dr Krisjanis Smits [smits\(at\)cfi.lu.lv](mailto:smits(at)cfi.lu.lv)).

WG2: Information and communication technology and software development (Prof Massimo Panella [massimo.panella\(at\)uniroma1.it](mailto:massimo.panella(at)uniroma1.it))

WG3: Field tests and applications (Dr Christian Degrigny [christian.degrigny\(at\)he-arc.ch](mailto:christian.degrigny(at)he-arc.ch))

WG4: Sample treatment and microfluidic (Prof Elefteria Psillakis [elia\(at\)enveng.tuc.gr](mailto:elia(at)enveng.tuc.gr))

WG5: New instrumentation (Prof Rita Asquini - [rita.asquini\(at\)uniroma1.it](mailto:rita.asquini(at)uniroma1.it))

STSMs

Three Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) have been authorised for this Grant Period. The total funding per STSM is 1200€ (including trip, food and accommodation). STSMs are exchange visits between researchers involved in a COST Action, allowing scientists to visit an institution or laboratory in another COST country. They are aimed at fostering collaborations and sharing of new techniques and infrastructures that may not be available in other participants' institutions or laboratories. For this special period, the deadline for application is the **4th of December**. If you are interested in an STSM, please send the following documents:

1. Obtain the written agreement of the host institution;
2. Complete the online EU application form(<https://e-services.cost.eu/stsm>);
3. Send the following files by **e-mail** to the Chair of the MC ([guillaume\(at\)fe.up.pt](mailto:guillaume(at)fe.up.pt))
 - the completed online application form;
 - a concise (~1 page) work plan that specifies clearly what you aim to achieve in the STSM visit;
 - a letter of agreement for your visit from the host institution.

In the future, a "Marketplace" will be accessible in the website, allowing people interested in hosting or participating in a STSM to exchange information. For the moment, however, if you are interested in hosting, please contact me and I will circulate the information.

WHAT LIES AHEAD



- The 1st portASAP conference will take place from the **7th to the 9th of March 2018**, in **Porto**, Portugal. More information coming soon!
- The website is being developed and should be accessible within a month.

SOCIAL MEDIA

While waiting for the website, you can follow portASAP in the following social media:

Mendeley

(<https://www.mendeley.com/community/portasap/>), **ResearchGate**

(<https://www.researchgate.net/project/COST-Action-CA16215-European-network-for-the-promotion-of-portable-affordable-and-simple-analytical-platforms>) and **LinkedIn**

(<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13563008>)