



## **Subject | Minutes of the 20/06/2018 Management Committee Meeting of COST Action CA16108 “Vector Boson Scattering Coordination and Action Network”**

**THESSALONIKI  
20/06/2018**

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

The participants were welcomed by Dr. Pietro Govoni, Chair of the VBSCan Action, who also chaired the meeting.

### **2. Establishment of quorum**

The quorum (2/3 of COST Countries participating in the Action) was not reached, therefore no decisions are taken in this meeting, which is used to discuss and prepare eVOTES about subjects concerning the second grant period.

Belgium Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia, Turkey, UK were represented.

MC members are required by the Action Chair to modify or enlarge the number of MC members and substitutes, to grant that for the next MC meeting the quorum will be reached.

### **3. Discussion on the inclusiveness policies implementation**

The inclusiveness report happened during the WG4+5 session shows in detail the Action performances in terms of the three inclusiveness directions of gender, early career investigators and ITC. While the first two are addressed by the Action in a way which is considered effective, the third one still requires special attention, since the number of ITC participating in the Action is not large, therefore it is envisaged to put in action specific measures.

### **4. Discussion on the inclusion of new participants in the Action**

Austria and Serbia are joining the Action, while contacts have been established with Hungarian members of the CMS collaboration.

Two candidate NNC might be joining Morocco (within the ATLAS experiment) and Iran (within the CMS experiment). Chara Petridou will contact Morocco colleagues, while Claude Charlot will contact the Iranian ones, who might be interested in EFT studies. Michal Szeleper asks whether India qualifies as NNC, which is not the case, as it is a possible IPC. Jürgen Reuter offers to contact Russian colleagues.

### **5. Discussion of the Action budget**

The budget spent in the first Grant Period has been presented. The first GP one was in fact not enough for our activities, since the Action overspent for about 3000 E, which have been paid by the Milano-Bicocca University and will be recovered from the FSAC of first and second year.

The budget planned for the second Grant Period has been presented. One notable difference with respect to the first GP is that STSM will not be used for Kickoff Meetings. The Action participants are encouraged in starting STSMs soon, in particular ITC members, so that the result of their activities can then be showed at conferences, to make good use of the budget allocated for ITC conference grants.

Also in light of the first year overspending, after the official inclusion of Austria and Serbia, an increase of the budget for the second GP will be asked by Pietro to the Action Science Officer.



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**COST Association**  
Avenue Louise 149 | 1050 Brussels, Belgium  
t: +32 (0)2 533 3800 | f: +32 (0)2 533 3890  
office@cost.eu | www.cost.eu

## 6. Discussion of the Longitudinal Polarization Kickoff Meeting

The event will involve interested parties with a format similar to the Amsterdam meeting held during the first GP. A first part, organised with an eCOST meeting, will focus on developments that can be attained thanks to the coordinated work of Action members, boosted by the fact of being all gathered physically in the same location, and it is expected to last about 3 days. The second part will be a description of the obtained results, a discussion of them with a larger audience, and the comparison to the non-covered aspects of the field. This also will be implemented as an eCOST meeting. The first part will probably be mostly theoretical, while the second will also compare to experiments.

The meeting will happen on the last week of September, at the Ecole Polytechnique in Paris. Claude Charlot will coordinate the activity, Giovanni Pelliccioli is suggested as co-coordinator (Pietro will contact him to ask for his availability). A preliminary telematic meeting will be called by the organisers in mid-July to prepare the event from the scientific point of view.

It has been pointed out that the event might not be fully financed with COST funds, since the number of participants might exceed the budget available.

## 7. Discussion of the Physics Object Reconstruction Meeting

With the same format of the Longitudinal Polarisation Kickoff Meeting, another event focussing on the physics objects reconstruction will be organised in Krakow, with as main subjects, for example, quark/gluon tagging, jet reconstruction, use of Machine Learning, central jet veto, polarisation tagging. A preliminary telematic meeting will be called by Senka Duric in mid-July to prepare the event from the scientific point of view, to fix the date of the event, and to appoint the organisers.

It has been pointed out that the event might not be fully financed with COST funds, since the number of participants might exceed the budget available.

## 8. Discussion of the second in-person meeting during the second Grant Period, as well as on the Training Event

The assembly suggests that the two events happen in parallel, to reduce costs for those who decide to attend both of them. The second in-person meeting during the second GP will last two days, most probably one day and a half, followed by a three-day training event. The period suggested for the event is the first week of February, since it falls in the Spring break and it is far enough from major conferences (notably the Winter ones, happening in March). The event will be organised by a Organising Committee composed by Senka Duric (chair), Fotis Ptochos, Ivica Puljak, Borut Kersevan, Daniela Rebutzi, Marco Zaro, Predrag Milenovic.

The training event will have each day dedicated to a specific subject; the subjects identified as relevant for the Action are Effective Field Theory (including unitarisation, as pointed out by Rafael Delgado), MC generators and Machine Learning. Daniela Rebutzi and Borut Kersevan propose Quantum Computing, leveraging on the knowledge of Pavia University, where a connection with IBM (through a PhD student working there, Michele Grossi, and thanks to an Excellence Project won by the Physics Department of the Pavia University). Even if scientifically appealing, Quantum Computing has not been chosen as subject, since the period identified for this event is in overlap to a dedicated school on Quantum Computing organised at the Pavia University. The subject will be proposed for the school of the third GP, to leverage on the privileged connection of the Action with the local activities in Pavia.

Three candidacies have been presented for the location: Ljubljana, Dresden and München. The three locations will present a proposal to the Organising Committee, including an overview of the following parameters:

- availability of a conference room for the second in-person meeting

- availability of a room with good internet connection for the school
- ease and cost of connection of the proposed location
- average cost of lodging and food in the proposed location, for 50 people for a week

The MC will be called to decide about the location with an eVOTE. Pietro points out that having the event in an ITC country is a parameter to be considered in the decision: since for the second GP the annual workshop happened in a non-ITC country (Greece) and the two Kickoff Events planned are happening in one ITC country and one non-ITC country, for the time being the second GP is unbalanced towards non-ITC countries.

Concerning the content of the training event, the Organising Committee will ask the hosting candidates for a proposal to be presented within the 9th of July, so that a vote can be casted right after. At the same time, it will identify the speakers for the event.

It has been pointed out that the second in-person event might not be fully financed with COST funds, since the number of participants might exceed the budget available.

## 9. Discussion of the Third Grant Period school

The training school planned for the third GP will most probably be still one week long, with a less dense program with respect to the Maratea school, will contain more advanced content that will be spread over a slightly longer period. The COST Action Particleface is interested in organising the school with us, keeping a topic selection similar to the Maratea one. The period and location are not chosen yet; for administration reasons, the school will not happen during the last month of the GP. The Organising Committee of the Training Event, joint by the Action Chair and possibly by observers from the COST Action Particleface, will also organise this training school. A call for proposals for the host will be issued, with deadline for proposal at the end of September 2018. The proponents will provide details concerning:

- availability of a room for the school, with good internet connection
- ease and cost of connection of the proposed location
- average cost of lodging and food in the proposed location, for about 70 people (55 students and 15 teachers). It is important that all students will be hosted in the same location as teachers, to allow for fruitful discussions.
- the proposal should cover the 1-week and 2-week option

Cyprus already mentions that it will send a candidacy. Other discussed options are Benasque and Hamburg. Hamburg might be not viable if the school is jointly organised with the COST Action Particleface, since they already have a school planned there. Xavier Jannsen asks whether, in case of joint organisation, the location should be in a country which is member of both COST Actions. In paragraph 6.1 of the COST Vademecum this is in fact requested: "A Training School must be held in a Participating COST Full Member / COST Cooperating Member or in an Approved NNC Institution".

## 10. Discussion on the turn-over of WG leaders

Joany Manjarres and Matthias Mozer, members of the enlarged Core Group as WG2 leaders, expressed their will to be replaced because they have been appointed to new responsibilities in their own experiment. Therefore, a procedure to replace them has to be implemented. It is suggested that the MC nominates a Search Committee which is balanced in the ITC and gender inclusiveness targets, and it is composed by senior members of the Action, to leave ECI the possibility of being selected as WG leaders. The proposed Selection Committee is composed by Pietro Govoni, Chariclia Petridou, Fotis Photchios, Daniela Rebuzzi, Michal Szleper. A call for nomination will be issued soon, to be closed by the end of August, so that the new WG leaders will be appointed at the beginning of October. Self-nominations, as well as nominations by someone else than the nominee will be allowed, as well as nominations of people who already are WG leaders. Among the criteria that the Search Committee will consider in the choice, COST Inclusiveness targets will be used, as well as seniority in the Action.

## **11. Discussion on WG leaders swap**

The WG leaders that constitute the Core Group of the Action include the WG leaders appearing in the COST interface, as well as one additional leader per WG. It is proposed that, if they wish, within each WG leaders can swap. WG1 leaders are asking for the swap to be performed.

## **12. Discussion of the third annual meeting**

The third annual meeting will be an important event for the Action, as it will coincide with the Mid Term Scientific Meeting, and will happen on the 25th month of the Action, which is the moment where the scientific evaluation of the Action will be performed by COST. The event will happen during the end of June 2019, as it still is the best compromise between distance from major conferences, minimal overlap with teaching periods, and being at the beginning of a GP, so to allow for an effective organisation of the Action activities.

Turkey officially presented its candidacy, with a clear presentation of their facilities.

Security concerns for French and German nationals have been raised by some MC members, and it has then been pointed out that the French foreign affairs ministry classifies the country in the “vigilance renforcé” status, which does not prevent any visits in the region, nor any scientific activity on the site, since for example the CNRS does not forbid travels there. Also for the German case, laboratories are not forbidding their personnel to travel to Turkey. The German foreign affair ministry discourages travels to specific regions close to the Syrian border, which is not where the meeting has been proposed to happen, and there are no indications from German laboratories not to travel to Turkey. The Spanish foreign ministry also recommends to avoid specific areas at the southern border of Turkey, as well as to avoid manifestations.

Comments on the political situation in the country have been made as well, considered by Mathieu Pellen as a concern regarding the organisation of a meeting in Turkey. It has also been pointed out by other participants that COST, and consequently VBSCan, targets science and cooperation, so should not be conditioned by political issues.

Anyways, since the discussion about the location started only recently, a call for nomination will be issued, with deadline at the end of September, to check whether other candidacies will be presented. The format of the event is expected to be similar to the Thessaloniki one. Candidates are expected to provide details about:

- availability of a room for the event, with good internet and stable video connection
- ease and cost of connection of the proposed location
- average cost of lodging and food in the proposed location, for about 70 people.

## **13. Discussion on the publication of the Thessaloniki meeting report**

As for the Split meeting report, all participants in the Action will be offered the option to sign the document, which will contain a report from each speaker, with the presenter mentioned in the text as a footnote. Differently with respect to the Split case, each VBSCan participant will have to proactively sign up for signing the document. The first draft for the contributions will be asked for the end of September to each speaker. Each WG leader will have the responsibility of collecting contributions for their corresponding session. The report will be made public on the arXiv. The Core Group will take care of the publication of the report on an open-access journal, with preference for a free one. In case of publication, the content will be adapted by the Core Group.

## **14. report of eVOTES happened after the previous MC meeting**

All eVOTES of the MC and CG, from the last MC meeting, are reported here below.

*MC10: Cyprus joining the Action, approved, 18/02/2018*

*The Management Committee approves the participation to the Action of Dr. Fotios Ptochos, from Cyprus University.*

*MC11: plans for future trainings, approved, 27/03/2018*

*During the second grant period, the Action will organise a more specific training with respect to the EWSBSS18 school, dedicated to the tools developed in the first period of scientific activity of the Network. The public will be in primis the participants to the Action and the audience will be limited, to allow for an effective deployment of hands-on sessions.*

*During the third grant period, it is envisaged to organise again a larger event, possibly in collaboration with other COST Actions, covering similar subjects.*

*MC12: second in-person meeting during the second grant period, approved, 27/03/2018*

*It is recognised that the mid-term in person event has been very useful, therefore the Action will organise it also for the second grant period. It will be merged with the training event of MC11 decision, to contain costs. The event will happen in an ITC country, yet to be identified.*

*MC13: additional meetings in the second grant period, approved, 27/03/2018*

*The MC approves the organisation of two events in the second grant period:*

*kickoff meeting on longitudinal scattering studies, to be held in Fall 2018, interesting for WG1, 2, and 3*

*kickoff meeting on physics object reconstruction dedicated to VBS in Winter 2019, interesting for WG2 and 3*

*The two events are placed in time to match the manpower availability of the Action and the expected scientific advancement of the activities and will be adequately prepared in advance by the WGs.*

*MC14: additional meeting in the first grant period, approved, 27/03/2018*

*One additional event will be organised for the first grant period:*

*meeting on EFT in Milano-Bicocca, in the second half of March 2018, interesting for WG1*

*The first meeting is in the line of the ongoing activities of WG1 on EFT, and well matches the STSM by dr. Ilaria Brivio in the Milano-Bicocca premises.*

*MC15: publication of the Split report, approved, 27/03/2018*

*The Split report has been published on the ArXiv database. Since it is recognised that the publication of the report in an open-access journal would give more visibility to the Action and to the COST agency, and would boost the CV of ECI of the Action, it will also be submitted to the open-access journal Review in Physics, by Elsevier, at the cost of about 1500 E.*

*MC16: Participation of the Institute for High Energy Physics of the Chinese Academy of Science to the Action, approved, 27/03/2018*

*The MC approves the participation of dr. Efe Yazgan, from the Institute for High Energy Physics of the Chinese Academy of Science to the Action.*

*MC17: Thessaloniki meeting: flat rate values, approved, 24/04/2018*

*The MC approves the proposal of the local organisers of the Thessaloniki meeting of 19-21st of June 2018, to grant a daily allowance of 120E/day in the COST reimbursement, where 80E/day cover the hotel expenses, while 40E/day in total cover the two meals (lunch and dinner).*

*MC18: Dissemination meeting for Raquel Gomez, approved, 05/04/2018*

*The MC approves to finance the participation of Raquel Gomez at the LHCP conference in Bologna in the EW parallel session, with title "EFT for VBS", for an expected amount of 1100 Euro, including registration fee, trip and meals.*

*MC19: Austria participation in the Action, approved, 21/05/2018*

*The MC approves the participation of Simon Plätzer, from the University of Vienna, in VBSCan, as representative for Austria.*

*MC20: Dissemination meeting for Marco Zaro, approved, 30/05/2018*

*The MC agrees to support Marco Zaro in attending the MBI conference, hosted in Michigan, where he has been invited for a plenary talk about deliver on results obtained within our Action. The budget is of 2000 E.*

*MC21: technical schedule change in the Thessaloniki agenda, approved, 06/06/2018*

*The MC approves that the Thessaloniki meeting will start on the 19th in the evening, with an outreach event, therefore the meeting agenda is extended accordingly in the eCOST website, to include also this event officially. At the same time, since the outreach event will happen after 7 PM, the number of nights for which one can ask for a reimbursement will remain 3.*