



**European Network on Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome**  
**COST Action - CA15111**

**WG 5 on conferences, seminars and training schools**

## ***INFORMATION ON FIRST TRAINING SCHOOL***

**Evelina Shikova & Enrica Capelli.**

***Management Committee meeting and Work Group No 1 meeting  
on synchronisation***

***7 September 2017/Hotel Park, Belgrade, Serbia***



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#### **“OMICS TECHNOLOGIES AND BIOINFORMATICS APPLICATIONS IN ME/CFS RESEARCH”**

- **Organizer:** UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PAVIA, Pavia (Italy), Prof Enrica Capelli and Dr Lorenzo Lorusso
- **Dates:** July, 17-22 (2017)
- **Purpose of training school:** Disseminating knowledge on the latest generation technologies to increase the skills of Early Career Investigators (ECI) involved in ME/CFS research for biomarker discovery.

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- **Topics included in the training:**
  - Nextgen technologies
  - miRNA identification and quantitation
  - Microbiota characterization
  - Bioinformatics
- **Theoretical and practical sessions**

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#### **TRAINEES**

- **Maximum number of trainees** to be accepted for reimbursement: **12**
- **Eligibility criteria:**
  - Trainees from COST Full Members/COST Cooperating Member, from approved NNC institutions; from approved European RTD Organisations
  - Early Career Investigators (PhD students, PhD + 5 years)
  - Knowledge on basic molecular methods
  - Preference to scientists working in the field of ME/CFS, but others are not excluded



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**IMPORTANT DATES**

- **MAY 19:** call for the Training School published on the EUROMENE web-site
- **JUNE 10:** Deadline for applications
- **JUNE 15:** Selection results
- **JULY 17-22:** Training school in Pavia

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**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

Evaluation and selection of applicants, assessed and approved costs and amount of grant for each trainee

**Members of SC:** Enrica Capelli, Lorenzo Lorusso, Evelina Shikova, Modra Murovska, Carmen Scheibenbogen



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#### **APPLICANTS BY COUNTRY**

| Country  | Number of applicants |
|----------|----------------------|
| Latvia   | 4                    |
| Spain    | 3                    |
| Italy    | 2                    |
| Germany  | 2                    |
| Romania  | 2                    |
| Belarus  | 1                    |
| Bulgaria | 1                    |
| All      | 15                   |

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#### **SELECTION OF APPLICANTS**

- All the candidates applied by submitting CV and motivation letter. All of them were from COST Full Members/COST Cooperating Member, from approved NNC institutions.
- Seven of applicants (Latvia/3, Spain/2, Italy/1, Belarus/1) fulfilled all of requirements listed in the Call. They were included in the list of participants first.
- Selection of remaining 5 (from 8) participants could be based on two principles: as many EUROMENE countries as possible have participants in the training school or priority based on the date of submission.





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**APPROVAL FROM THE COST OFFICE TO ACCEPT ALL 15  
PARTICIPANT**

- Total expenditures for grants of all 15 trainees (12254 euro) fit within the planned sum for trainees

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#### ***Evaluation Questioners Summary***

- **Innovation:** only 2 students have attended previously similar courses
- **Relevance** for ME/CFS research:  
14: relevant    6 excellent  
                    8 good  
                    1 poor
- **Logistic/facility**  
12: satisfaction    6: excellent  
                            6: good  
                            3: poor



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***Evaluation Questioners Summary***

- **Most appreciated (usefull) topics:**
  - 11: new methods/new informations
  - (5: bioinformatics; 4: metagenomics/microbiota 2: miRNAs)
  - 3: exchanging/share experiences
  - 1: pitfalls in ME/CFS research

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## ***Evaluation Questioners Summary*** **Comments**

### **General : N.2**

1: everything is excellent

1: slides difficult to read

### **Comments/suggestions: N. 10**

3: more informatic modules with practical sessions

2: more practice (analysis of miRNAs)

1: improve the course with the shot-gun sequencing method

1: modules too general and topics not related

1: prepare program in time

1: more lecturers with experience in ME/CFS

1: more training school like that and with more practice



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**Conclusions and problems to consider when organizing  
next school**

- Efficient instrument for disseminating knowledge to increase capacity of ME/CFS research by involving Early Career Investigators (ECI), including from new EU member states
- High interest from ECIs site in this activity (15/12)
- Allmost 47% (7/15) involvement of ECIs from the new EU member states

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## **Conclusions and problems to consider when organizing next school**

- The Program of training school should be published on the EUROMENE Website
- More time is needed for selection of applicants (between deadline for applications and selection results)
- Better coordination between Scientific Committee members is needed
- More practical sessions
- Trainers substitutes should be indicated

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**MEETINGS PLANNED IN YEAR 2**

- Belgrade/September 7, 2017: MC meeting and WG1 meeting on synchronisation
- Sofia/February 8, 2018: MC meeting and WG2 meeting on synchronisation

