

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

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

Evelina Shikova

MC/WGs meeting (Zoom platform)
29 - 30 Sept. 2020, Rīga Stradiņš University, Riga, Latvia

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Objective: Capacity increase in ME/CFS research, career pathway visualization for ECIs

Task 1: To organize two training schools “Summer school on -omics and bioinformatics in ME/CFS research”, and “Summer school for translational research in ME/CFS”

Task 2: To organize final global conference “Common strategy on research of ME/CFS”

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MEETINGS

- **Number of all meetings for the GP: 13 meetings**
(MC/8, CG/4, WG/11)
- **Number of meetings in ITCs: 7 (54%)**

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MEETINGS – Grant Period 1 (01.05.2016 – 30.04.2017)

- **Brussels** 21th April 2016: First MC meeting
- **Riga** 29-30 Sept. 2016: MC/CG/WG1-6 meetings
- **Berlin** 27th Jan. 2017: WG1-4 meetings about synchronization progress
- **Barcelona** 16-17 March, 2017: CG/WG meetings, First Workshop

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MEETINGS – Grant Period 2 (01.05.2017 – 30.04.2018)

- **Belgrade** 7th Sept. 2017: MC/WG1 meetings
- **Sofia** 8th Feb. 2018: MC/WG2 meetings
- **Paris** 13th April 2018: WG3&4 meeting

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MEETINGS –Grant Period 3 (01.05.2018 – 30.04.2019)

- **London** 14th Sept. 2018: CG/WG3 meeting
- **Bucharest** 8th Feb. 2019: MC/WG2&4 meetings

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MEETINGS – Grant Period 4 (01.05.2019 – 30.04.2020/Oct. 2020)

- **Warsaw** 27th June 2019: CG/WG1, 3 and 6 meetings
- **Berlin** 20 - 21 November 2019: MC/WG2, 4 and 5 meetings
- **Riga** 12 - 13 March 2020: Final global conference
“Common strategy on research of ME/CFS”, MC meeting
- **Riga** 29 - 30 Sept. 2020: MC/WGs meetings (Zoom platform)

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Final global conference “Common strategy on research of ME/CFS”

Riga 12 - 13 March 2020

The conference was transmitted online via scheduled zoom meeting

Goal: to disseminate and exchange scientific knowledge on ME/CFS and provide opportunity to expand collaborations

Scientific programme covered the research agenda of EUROMENE:

- ME/CFS epidemiology
- ME/CFS biomarkers
- ME/CFS socio-economics
- ME/CFS clinical research

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MEETINGS

Deliverables

- **Programme book/abstract book and overview of final global conference “Common strategy on research of ME/CFS”**
- Minutes and presentations of the meetings are available on the EUROMENE website

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TRAINING SCHOOLS

- Training school in Pavia**
- Training school in Berlin**

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TRAINEES/SELECTION OF APPLICANTS

- **Maximum number of trainees** to be accepted for reimbursement: **12** (each training school)
- **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
- **Selection followed an open and merit based approach**

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***FIRST TRAINING SCHOOL: “OMICS TECHNOLOGIES AND
BIOINFORMATICS APPLICATIONS IN ME/CFS RESEARCH”***

- **Organizer:** UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PAVIA, Pavia (Italy), Prof Enrica Capelli and Dr Lorenzo Lorusso
- **Venue:** UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PAVIA, Pavia (Italy)
- **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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FIRST TRAINING SCHOOL

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

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FIRST TRAINING SCHOOL

TRAINERS

- **Laboratory methods:** Enrica Capelli (Italy), Simona Panelli (Italy)
- **Bioinformatics and Statistics:** Laura Baldo (Spain), Simone Marini (Italy), Simona Panelli (Italy)

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FIRST TRAINING SCHOOL

APPLICANTS BY COUNTRY

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

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

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FIRST TRAINING SCHOOL

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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FIRST TRAINING SCHOOL

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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FIRST TRAINING SCHOOL

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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SECOND TRAINING SCHOOL

**“SUMMER SCHOOL FOR TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH IN
ME/CFS”**

- **Organizer:** Institute Medical Immunology, Charité Campus Virchow Klinikum, Berlin, Germany Prof., Dr. med. Carmen Scheibenbogen
- **Venue:** Institute Medical Immunology, Charité Campus Virchow Klinikum, Berlin, Germany
- **Dates:** 24 – 29 June 2018
- **Purpose of training school:** Disseminating knowledge on translational research in ME/CFS

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SECOND TRAINING SCHOOL

- **Topics included in the training:**
 - Clinical approach to ME/CFS (pathomechanism, clinical picture and diagnosis, assessing symptoms and diagnostic tools)
 - Biobanking, data management
 - Biomarkers
- **Theoretical and practical sessions**

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SECOND TRAINING SCHOOL

TRAINERS

Prof. Carmen Scheibenbogen/Pathomechanisms of fatigue

Dr. Eliana Lacerda/ Assessing symptoms and diagnostic tools in ME/CFS; Biobanking, data management, ethics

Dr. Luis Nacul/ Clinical and socio-demographic data

Dr. Bhupesh Prusty/ Metabolic and Infection biomarkers in CFS

Dr. Patricia Grabowski/ Clinical picture and diagnosis of ME/CFS

Dr. Franziska Sotzny/ Soluble biomarker in CFS

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SECOND TRAINING SCHOOL

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

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

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SECOND TRAINING SCHOOL/APPLICANTS BY COUNTRY

Country	Number of applicants
Latvia	1
Germany	2
Bulgaria	2
Serbia	2
Norway	1
Poland	1
Netherlands	1
UK	1
Belarus	1
All	12

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SECOND TRAINING SCHOOL

Evaluation Questioners Summary

	Very good	Good	Moderate	Learned little	Learned nothing
Day 1 Clinical approach to ME/CFS	11/11	-	-	-	-
Day 2 Biobanking, data management	10/11	1/11	-	-	-
Day 3 Antibodies and soluble biomarkers	9/11	2/11	-	-	-
Day 4 Metabolic biomarker	9/11	2/11	-	-	-
Day 5 Infection biomarker	7/11	3/11	-	-	-
Organisation	9/10		-	-	-

- **Training school was marked as relevant by most of participants**
- **Most participants gained valuable knowledge in ME/CFS**

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TRAINING SCHOOLS

Deliverables

- Description and programme book of training schools and training events:
 - Training school in Pavia
 - Training school in Berlin

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TRAINING SCHOOLS
CONCLUSIONS

- Efficient instrument for disseminating knowledge to increase capacity in ME/CFS research by involving ECIs, including from ITCs
- High interest from ECIs (27/24)
- More than 48% (13/27) involvement of ECIs from ITC – *Latvia (5), Bulgaria(3), Romania (2), Serbia (2), Poland (1)*
- Most participants gained valuable knowledge in ME/CFS

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Outcomes

- **ECIs** received a special training package built on training schools, training workshops, STSMs
- **Researchers** from other areas enriched their scientific focus
- **ITCs** got special supportive measures, as many of them lack streamlined research agendas on ME/CFS

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Thank You

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