

**WG1 Dynamic Exchange**  
**D1.3 Plan and Report on Educational Activities**  
**Organization of Workshops, Training Schools and Mobility Grants**  
**COST Action CA19104**  
**2020-2024**

## **Executive Summary**

This report documents the educational activities, training schools, and mobility opportunities organized by the a-STEP COST Action to support Early Career Investigators (ECIs) and participants from Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITCs). The Action successfully implemented various support mechanisms to ensure broad participation and capacity building.

### **1. Mobility Grants Implementation**

#### **1.1 Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs)**

Total STSMs awarded: 14

- Duration: 5-90 days (up to 180 days for Young Researchers)
- Maximum funding: 4000 EUR per mission
- 8 of the grantees were Early Career Investigators

Focus areas:

- Capacity building
- Knowledge transfer
- Network strengthening
- New collaboration development

#### **1.2 ITC Conference Grants (ITCGs)**

Total ITCGs awarded: 13

- Target group: Young Researchers and Innovators (YRI)
- Maximum funding: 2000 EUR per grant

Outcomes:

- Oral and poster presentations
- New research contacts
- Future collaboration opportunities

### **2. Training Schools**

#### **2.1 Training School 1: "Building bridges with participatory research"**

Location: Albania Date: July 2023 Trainers:

- Lynn Zimmerman
- Skerdi Zahaj Focus: Research methodology and participatory approaches

#### **2.2 Training School 2: "White paper writing"**

Location: Trabzon, Turkey Trainers:

- László Gábor Lovászy
- Evert-Jan Hoogerwerf Focus: Policy document development and writing skills

### **3. Educational Workshops**

#### **3.1 Methodology Workshops**

1. Systematic Literature Review Workshop
  - Led by: Carla Sousa
  - Participants: 24 members (online and face-to-face)
  - Outcome: Multiple systematic review papers initiated
2. Delphi Study Workshop
  - Led by: Daniel Beiderbeck
  - Participants: Over 40 members
  - Focus: Methodology and implementation

#### **3.2 Specialized Workshops**

1. Co-production and co-writing using Story Dialogue Method
2. ICT and AI as innovative support for learning disabilities

### **4. Virtual Activities**

#### **4.1 Virtual Mobility Grants**

Total VM grants awarded: 7

- Maximum funding: 1500 EUR
- Purpose: Virtual collaboration and knowledge transfer
- Outcomes: Support for deliverable completion

#### **4.2 Dissemination Grants**

Total DCGs awarded: 8

- Maximum funding: 2000 EUR (in-person), 500 EUR (online)
- Purpose: Action visibility and networking
- Results: Increased membership and collaboration

### **5. Impact Assessment**

#### **5.1 Participation Statistics**

- Total ECIs involved: 47
- Female participants: 96
- ITC country participants: 84
- Total Action members: 145

#### **5.2 Achievements**

1. Network expansion through dissemination activities
2. Enhanced support for young researchers
3. Increased Action visibility in academia

4. Knowledge exchange between practitioners and members
5. Collaborative publications
6. New COST Action proposal development

## **6. Success Stories**

### **6.1 Research Outputs**

- Multiple systematic reviews
- Joint publications
- Conference presentations
- Best practices documentation

### **6.2 Career Development**

- New research collaborations
- Enhanced methodological skills
- Publication opportunities
- Network expansion

## **7. Future Recommendations**

1. Continue focus on ECI support through targeted grants
2. Maintain balance between virtual and physical activities
3. Expand training school offerings
4. Enhance industry-academia collaboration opportunities
5. Increase focus on practical skill development

## **8. Conclusion**

The Action successfully implemented a comprehensive program of educational activities and mobility grants that supported the development of ECIs and enhanced participation from ITC countries. The various support mechanisms contributed to both individual career development and the overall objectives of the Action.