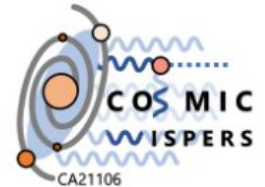


Grant Awarding Committee review

Venelin Kozhuharov
for the
Faculty of Physics, Sofia University

Management Committee Meeting of COST Action COSMIC WISPers (CA21106)
6 September 2024

Istinye University, Istanbul, Türkiye



Structure

- María Benito Castaño, Estonia, young scientist (ITC)
- Serkant Cetin, Türkiye, (ITC)
- Venelin Kozhuharov, Grant Awarding Coordinator, Bulgaria (ITC)

All from Inclusive Target Countries

- Notes to take care of:
- Decisions based on voting (not on agreement), equal weight of the vote of each member
 - GAC organizes the process, does not decide (alone) on grant allocations
- Only 3 active members of the Grant Awarding Committee
 - **Looking for 2 volunteers to join**

Grant types

- Short-Term Scientific Mission grant
 - Support the mobility of scientists, evaluated on quantized basis
 - Evaluations on quantized basis
- ITC Conference grant
 - Participation of members from ITC in events
 - Evaluated continuously
- Dissemination Conference grant
 - Represent the action activities at high profile conferences
 - Prerogative of Action Chair approval – i.e. not reviewed by Grant Awarding Committee
- Virtual Networking Support
- Virtual Mobility grant

Apply for grants: <https://e-services.cost.eu/activity/grants/add>

Allocated funds for 2024: 13 000 euro

Decision policy

- Aimed for transparent decision policy, documented as much as possible
 - The policy was not much used in 2023 due to limited interest
 - Increased interest and evaluation work in 2024
- Limited budget – i.e. priorities are set
 - Young scientists
 - No permanent position
 - Lower number of successful grants within the action
- Fill up to the in-advance decided budget

STSM

- Three calls for STSM during the accounting period

	Application deadline	Number of applications	Selected candidates	Requested budget €	Approved funds €
I	January	11	6	16350	5900
II	March	11	7	16016	5500
III	May	6	3	10020	2000
		28	16	42386	13400

- Usually the successful candidates are approved for a support of ~500 euros/week
 - Many requests had to undergo a reduction

Applications: summary

- Short-Term Scientific Mission grant
 - Success rate: 57 %, ~ 1/3 of the requested funds were granted
 - **Funds allocated: 13400**
- ITC Conference grants
 - 2 applications towards the end of the accounting period for conferences in September
 - Total requested funds – 2700
 - **Funds allocated – 2000**
 - Conference taxes increased: 400-500 euro
 - 1000 per conference per participant
- Total amount awarded by the Grant Awarding Committee: **15400** (out of 13000 foreseen)

School participation

- Part of the grant awarding to individual participants
 - Undergoes evaluation by the Grant Awarding Committee
 - Proper evaluation took place in 2024 due to increased interest in the school
 - GAC provides recommendation
 - the final decision for support is made by the school organization committee
 - Respecting the allocated budget

III. Impact		
4. Capacity of school to impact the applicant's career	0 - 5 points	
5. Quality of the motivation letter	0 - 10 points	
6. CV of the candidate	0 - 10 points	
7. Plan for scientific contribution of the applicant to the school, when applicable (oral presentation - 5 points, poster - 3 points, no contribution - 0 points; other forms of contribution - judged by the Grant Evaluation Committee)	0 - 5 points	

- Justification why certain candidates were not selected provided to the school organizers
 - 27 candidates for 2nd Cosmic WISPer school
 - 24 selected (divided into two priority classes, i.e. ordering proposed)

Conclusions: Grant procedure

- The second year of the COST action was successful in terms of Grant Awarding Procedures and interest
 - Thanks to all the scientists who used the Cosmic WISPer funds to facilitate their work and cooperation on enlightening the physics of the dark sector
- Looking forward for two new collaborators
 - Young and interested in contributing/learning
- Hopefully the high interest in the Cosmic WISPer grants will continue

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