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Grant Awarding Committee review

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Management Committee Meeting of COST Action COSMIC WISPERs (CA21106)

Structure

- María Benito Castaño, Estonia, young scientist (ITC)
- Elena-Mirela Babalic, Romania, (ITC)
- Arturo de Georgi, young scientists
- Serkant Cetin, Türkiye, (ITC)
- Venelin Kozhuharov, Grant Awarding Coordinator, Bulgaria (ITC)

- 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

Grant types

- Short-Term Scientific Mission grant
 - Support the mobility of scientists, evaluated on quantized basis
 - Evaluations on quantized basis
- ITC and YRIC Conference grant,
 - Participation of young researchers at conferences, etc. (we do stick to “Young Researchers”, even if ITC allows for seniors)
 - Evaluated continuously
- Dissemination Conference grant
 - Represent the action activities at high profile conferences
 - Prerogative of Action Chair approval

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

Decision policy

- Aimed for transparent decision policy, documented as much as possible

Evaluation criteria and scoring table for STSM

Guiding principles for the procedure and application for
grants and schools
within
COST action CA21106

COSMIC WISPerS in the Dark Universe

Grant Evaluation Committee

- So far we considered voting which was the basis of Grant Awarding Committee decision

Criteria	Range	Score
I. Eligibility		
1. Is the scientific topic of the application within the scope of the action?	Yes/No	
2. Is the applicant a member of a working group from 1 to 4?	Yes/No	
II. Reference letters		
3. Evaluation of the reference letter	0 - 5 points	
III. Scientific quality		
4. Capacity of the proposed activity to enlarge the research group potential	0 - 5 points	
5. Quality of the research proposal	0 - 5 points	
6. CV of the candidate	0 - 5 points	
IV. Budget		
7. Is the budget prepared with detailed expenses breakout?	0 - 5 points	
8. Are all foreseen expenses justified?	0 - 5 points	

Applications

- Short-Term Scientific Mission grant

Session	Number of applications	Approved	Requested budget	Approved budget
I	7	6	7000	4300
II	15	7	21850	6000
III	13	8	18460	8000

- ITC/YRIC Conference grant

- 9 applications, 4 successful

Success rate: 58 %

ITCG funds: 3200

STSM funds: 15 100

DCG funds: 0

Funds requested: 47 310 euro; Total awarded: 18 300 euro; 38,7 % fulfillment rate

School participation

- Considered also as part of the grant awarding to individual participants
- A selection procedure developed to choose the successful candidates
- School participation was also based on voting by the individual members of the Grant Awarding Committee
 - democratic, with open discussion on the applicants
- 40 applications, 25 participants approved by GAC
 - Additional participants selected by the local organizers based on the extra funds availability
 - No preferences expressed by the GAC to influence the decision of the LOC

Addendum 3

Evaluation criteria and scoring table for schools

Criteria	Range	Score
I. Eligibility		
1. Is the scientific topic of the application within the scope of the action?	YES/NO	
2. Does the applicant come from an eligible country?	YES/NO	
II. Reference letters		
3. Evaluation of the reference letter	0 - 10 points	
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	

Conclusions: Grant procedure

- Insufficient interest during the first year
 - Information distribution?
 - Pushing young scientists to apply?
 - Selection of conferences to suggest to young researchers from ITC?
 - something else?
 - The more the applicants, the more the work :)
- A working procedure for grant evaluations established
 - open vote, but will not disclose the individual votes outside the committee
 - the vote is final and is not changed by the Grant Awarding Coordinator
- Evaluation of the school applicants

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