



China in Europe Research Network (CHERN) - CA 18215

Training school GUIDE

AIMS

Training Schools should be aimed at the delivery of intensive training on an emerging subject, offer familiarisation with a novel or unique techniques, methods, or expertise. They relate to the [Cost Action 18215 China in Europe Research Network](#) (CHERN) and its five Working Groups (WGs):

- WG 1: [Strategic sectors and infrastructure development](#)
- WG 2: [High-technology and innovation](#)
- WG 3: [Financial investments, real estate, and services](#)
- WG 4: [Public diplomacy and knowledge production](#)
- WG 5: [Labour and migration](#)

Particularly, the Training School aims to:

- transfer the knowledge created by the CHERN network with academic and practitioner audiences;
- provide training to make an impact on research (e.g. new theories or conceptualizations, methodology, academic work evaluation), teaching or practice (e.g. writing policy papers, communicating research findings to a non-academic audience, such as entrepreneurs or other European stakeholders, enable interactions with various players in business);
- facilitate exchange on interdisciplinary research methodologies, transferable skills, evaluation, and best practices throughout Europe (i.e. translation of research findings into societally relevant output);
- train younger researchers (including Ph.D. students and post-docs);
- typically, although not exclusively, support career advancement for the benefit of early-career investigators and Ph.D. students;
- include external visits and interviews with stakeholder organizations relating to the training objectives when adequate.

GENERAL RULES

- The CHERN COST Action Training School Committee is composed of the Grant Holder Manager, leaders of the 5 WGs and the Training School Coordinator. The Committee is responsible for evaluating Training School proposals, selection of the participants and post-Training School evaluation.
- Proposals for Training Schools will be solicited primarily through the WGs and the CHERN Action MC.
- The CHERN Training School Committee may also decide to issue Training School calls.
- The Training School is organized by experts from different disciplines or non-academic members of the network; the recommended length is 3 days with a recommended ratio of at least 3 trainees per trainer.
- The Training School must be held in a CHERN Participating COST Full/Cooperating Member¹ or in an institution with which an NNC² Action Participant is affiliated (in the latter case, pre-approval from the COST Association is mandatory).
- The Training Schools can be organized and delivered online, using the Grant Holder's Zoom account.
- The CHERN COST Action has to be one of the primary organizers of the Training School; for co-organized Training Schools, the same conditions should be fulfilled as the ones for co-organized meetings (see [COST Vademecum](#), section 6),
- The CHERN COST Action Training School Committee will select trainers and trainees eligible for reimbursement based on well-defined criteria and considering COST Policy and Rules, in particular the Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy (see [COST Vademecum](#), Section 5).

TRAINING SCHOOL PROPOSAL

The proposal will include:

- objectives of the Training School;
- description of the topic (research, teaching, or practice);
- relevance and innovativeness of the topic: both theoretical and practical components need to be incorporated – a participant discussion session alone is not sufficient; if relevant, also include visits, interviews with stakeholder organizations etc;
- description of the audience and their benefits; the proposal should demonstrate, for example:
 - how it fosters the development of new generations of scholars to work on China-in-Europe;
 - how it supports their career development through e.g. interdisciplinary research methods and/or evaluation, and increases research mobility of these young scholars and/or practitioners;
 - its added value for teaching, professional development, European innovation capabilities;
- links to the [CHERN COST Action goals](#);
- program, detailed schedule;
- timing, venue (online, or on-site), budget estimate;
- indication of a communication plan beyond the CHERN network (e.g. website, press, social media);
- trainers, guest speakers and their relevant expertise (including max. 3-page CVs).

¹ COST Full, Cooperating or Partner Member that has accepted the CHERN MoU. For list of countries, see [CHERN Partner country members](#).

² The full list of NNC is as follows: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Kosovo*, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine**, Russia, Syria, Tunisia, and Ukraine.

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

**This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

In case of a co-located Training School, with an event co-organized by the CHERN Action, please indicate:

- How and why the CHERN COST Action benefits from this co-location?
- How the CHERN COST Action activity relates to the other event in terms of scheduling (e.g. session, adjacent event before or after the event not organized by the CHERN COST Action)?
- How and why the CHERN COST Action benefits from the co-organization and how the CHERN COST Action is involved in the set-up of this joint activity (e.g. share of CHERN COST Action Participants in steering and/or scientific committee)?

c.f. [Training School Application form](#)

**Training School proposals can be sent to Anna Lupina-Wegener,
CHERN Training School Coordinator: anna.lupina-wegener@heig-vd.ch**

Deadline: proposals can be submitted anytime during the year, but the latest by 15 November. Proposals should be submitted preferably at least 4 months in advance in order to allow sufficient time for the proposal evaluation, the announcement of the call, and participant selection. Grant period (1 May-31 April) needs to be respected: training shall take place the latest in mid-March, i.e. 6 weeks before the grant period ends.

SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS

- The CHERN Training School Committee will select the participants.
- The committee will evaluate the expected impact and value of the training for the candidate's research, teaching, policy or business practice, or career/ network development.
- Selection will be based on the applicant's CV and motivation letter.
- A reasonable balance concerning trainee participation will be respected in terms of career stage, gender balance and geographical spread (c.f. Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC)³), in line with COST policy.

REIMBURSEMENT RULES

- The Action MC decides on the total budget for Training Schools per grant period.
- The COST Action budget cannot be used to provide honoraria/fees to trainers.
- The total grant for each eligible trainee cannot exceed 1500 EUR, including a daily allowance of max. 160 EUR. The grant should be calculated in accordance with the living expenses of the Training School's location.
- The detailed eligibility for receiving travel reimbursements for trainers and trainees is outlined below.

³ The full list of ITC is as follows: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Croatia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Republic of North Macedonia, Republic of Serbia and Turkey. Read more about [COST's inclusiveness objectives](#).

Travel reimbursement	ELIGIBLE	NOT ELIGIBLE
Trainers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ from CHERN participating COST Full / Cooperating / Partner Members ✓ Action MC observers from NNCs, Action MC observers from IPCs ✓ from approved international organizations⁴, and approved European RTD organizations⁵ ✓ up to four Invited Speakers⁶ whose primary affiliation is with an institution located in a non-CHERN Participating COST Full / Cooperating Member (which also includes COST Full / Cooperating Members listed as being under intention and/or individuals who have not yet obtained Action MC approval to participate in a given Action), individuals in non-approved NNC Institutions and individuals located in non-approved IPC Institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ from EU Commission, Bodies, Offices and Agencies ✗ other Trainers not specifically mentioned as being eligible
Trainees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ engaged in an official research program as a Ph.D. student or postdoctoral fellow (bachelor or master students are not included) or employed by, or affiliated to, an institution, organisation or legal entity which has within its remit a clear association with performing research <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ from COST Full / Cooperating Member countries ✓ Action MC Observer from NNCs ✓ trainees from Approved European RTD Organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ from COST Partner Members ✗ Action MC Observers from IPCc ✗ from Approved IOs, EU Commission, Bodies, Offices and Agencies ✗ other Trainees not specifically mentioned as being eligible

CONTACT

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⁴ An International Organisation: The intergovernmental scientific research organisations whose members are States, the majority of which are COST members, e.g. ILO or Interpol. It may be any Intergovernmental Organisation governed by international law and not qualifying under the Rules for Participation in and Implementation of COST Activities as European RTD Organisations or EU bodies, offices or agencies.

⁵ The intergovernmental scientific research organisations whose members are States, the majority of which are COST Full Members.

⁶ Invited Speakers are specialists who are not Action Participants but can participate and be reimbursed for their attendance in one COST Action meeting and/or Training School throughout the lifetime of the Action following the same reimbursement rules as for any other eligible participant. Invited Speakers shall be listed as a speaker on the program/agenda of the relevant Training School.