

# UniDive MC meeting 3

2 November 2023, 9:00-11:00, online

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## Agenda/minutes

1. Welcome to participants, verification of the quorum and adoption of agenda
  - a. The quorum is 2/3 of COST Full and Cooperating Members
  - b. [Attendance list](#) - check, confirm the quorum: 30/36 countries represented (83%)
  - c. MC vote rule: if two representatives of the same country cast different votes (approved vs. objected), the vote for this country is considered void
2. Information to the MC
  - a. Recap of the [minutes](#) of the MC meeting on 22 March 2023, e-votes and matters arising since the last meeting
    - i. 1 vote: including Beata Wójtowicz, the Grant Holder Manager, in the Core Group
    - ii. We had 10 (Extended) Core Group meetings so far. All past and upcoming [CG meetings](#) are documented at the Action's website.
    - iii. The MC delegated the following powers to the CG:
      1. Approving/refusing WG applications - see below
      2. Selecting event participants who will be reimbursed - see below
      3. Adjusting the location and dates of activities (in close consultation with the Local Organizer) - see below
3. Action Membership:
  - a. New COST Members represented in the MC
    - i. 36 countries were represented in the MC in March 2023 (out of all 43 COST, Cooperating and Partner Members - see the [list](#))
    - ii. 23 of those (64%) are Inclusiveness Target Countries
    - iii. No new country joined since then
  - b. [DANIEL ZEMAN] Action Participation: WG membership and applications
    - i. Current results (as of 2023-10-06)
      1. 292 applications so far (+ 4 MC members who have not applied for WG membership)
      2. 283 people approved, 9 in the queue
      3. Approved by working group:

- a. WG1: 176
      - b. WG2: 141
      - c. WG3: 176
      - d. WG4: 112
      - e. all four WGs: 29
    - 4. Approved by other criteria:
      - a. Young researchers: 118 (42%)
      - b. From ITC countries: 160 (57%)
  - ii. Requests to the MC members:
    - 1. MC representatives could communicate with participants from their country and build national level networking
    - 2. Think about the people who would bring us closer to science policy making, also at the national level, and how they could be involved in UniDive.
  - c. No questions or comments from the MC
4. [NURIT MELNIK] Grant Awarding by the Action - update on granted STSMs in year 1:
  - a. 2 regular calls (for participants and for hosting institutions), 1 last minute call at the end of the budget year
  - b. 2 ITC conference grants awarded (from Croatia and Ukraine)
  - c. 15 STSMs: from Greece\*2, Finland, Lithuania, Germany\*2, Spain, Netherlands, Georgia, France, Israel\*2, Ireland, Moldova (ITC countries underlined)
  - d. Part of the grant budget spent for ITC countries: 30%. This percentage should be enhanced; we need more applications from ITC countries.
  - e. New STSM/ITC calls are upcoming
  - f. Comments or questions from the MC:
    - i. Could the STSM reports be uploaded on the UniDive website?
    - ii. They will; in the meantime these reports are also visible on e-cost
5. [BEATA WÓJTOWICZ] Budget status: summary from the Grant Holder
  - a. Summary of year 1 budget:
    - Meetings: 95 747.70
    - STSM: 33 200.00
    - Conference grants: 970.00
    - Dissemination: 1000 (logo), 6500 (website)
    - OERSA (bank fees): 80
    - Funds year 1 (without FSAC): 143 478 Expenses: 137 500
    - Underspending: 5 978 EUR
  - b. No comments or questions from the MC
6. Draft of the Work and Budget Plan for Grant Period 2
  - a. Presenting the [WBP](#) figures
  - b. History:
    - i. Call for Local Organizers on 9 June 2023
    - ii. Proposals received
      - 1. 3 for the 2nd general meeting in February 2024: Jerusalem, Naples, Malta

- 2. 3 for the training school in summer 2024: Budapest, Jerusalem, Tbilisi
- iii. Initial selection (by the Core Group): 2 general meeting in Jerusalem, training school in Budapest
- iv. [Measures from COST](#) on 4 July 2023 about suspending cooperation with the Hungarian legal entities implied by [the Council Decision 2022/2056](#)
- v. [Advice from Giuseppe Lugano](#), our COST Officer, to consider a different host for the 2024 training school and keep Budapest as an option for the following grant periods.
- vi. Change of plans by the Core Group: 2nd general meeting in Naples, training school in Jerusalem
- vii. Tragical events in Israel and Palestine since 7 October 2024
- viii. Discussion with the Local Organizer in Jerusalem, the Core Group and Giuseppe Lugano. Decision to maintain the Jerusalem venue while also thinking of a backup plan. Summary of the arguments:
  - 1. The Local Organiser (Chaya Liebeskind) would prefer to go on with our plans of the Training School in Jerusalem in July 2024, hoping that things will calm down by then.
  - 2. The other MC member from Israel (Nurit Melnik), thinks that changing the venue now could be interpreted as a message of non-support (which is a sensitive issue).
  - 3. The UniDive vice-chair (Daniel Zeman) also prefers to go on with the Jerusalem plans for the moment.
  - 4. The Core Group voted that if the Local Organiser wishes to go on as planned (which is the case), we will follow these plans, while also looking for a backup plan.
  - 5. We already changed the Training School location from Budapest to Jerusalem (following the COST recommendation). We have no other proposal to host this event. Looking for a new venue is possible but would take time.
  - 6. In a previous action (IC1207 PARSEME), which included good part of the UniDive community, we also went through a painful change of venue from Haifa to Frankfurt in 2014.
- c. **General Meeting in Naples 7-9 February 2024**
  - i. 1 day of WG1 meeting, 1 day workshop, 1 day parallel WG sessions
  - ii. PC chairs nominated for the workshop: Victoria Bobicev (Moldova), Johanna Monti (Italy), Ranka Stanković (Serbia)
  - iii. Daily allowance
    - 1. Lowering applied so far: Paris-Saclay: from 195 to 160; Istanbul: from 191 to 160
    - 2. Proposed lowering of the daily allowance for Naples (from 201 EUR to 160 EUR)
  - iv. Comments from the MC

1. [STELLA MARKANTONATOU]: Accommodation in Naples should be checked with the Local Organizers before the vote
- d. Joint **UD/MWE workshop** [LREC/COLING 2024](#), **20-25 May 2024** in Turin
  - i. Workshop proposal submitted in October 2023
  - ii. 1,5 day event
  - iii. Co-organized by UniDive: the Organizing/Program Committee chairs belong UniDive
  - iv. Co-funded by UniDive (funding for an invited speaker, if needed, and for about 10 participants)
- e. **Training School in Jerusalem on 8-12 July 2024**
  - i. First ideas of topics to teach
    1. Annotating a UD treebank and a PARSEME corpus for a new language
    2. UD and PARSEME infrastructure (Grew-match, Arborator-grew, Git, ...) tools for newcomers
    3. Transfer learning for low-resourced languages
- f. Current state of the WBP:
  - i. First version submitted to COST last week
  - ii. Comments from Giuseppe Lugano received on 1 Nov
  - iii. Enhanced version to re-submit next week
  - iv. MC vote on e-cost
- g. Comments or questions from the MC:
  - i. [OLESEA] Consider inviting a professional for a promotional video to one of the events. Maybe one of the Action members has professional video skills?
7. Follow up and discussion
  - a. Implementation of the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy
    - i. [JOAKIM NIVRE/GULSEN ERYIGIT: 5 min.] Policy for selecting the participants of the WG3 meeting in Istanbul
      1. Selection in 3 steps: including people with clear functions; information from the EoI and call for volunteers; balance criteria
      2. Difficult process since we do not know the people → keep some statistics about who was included in the past

<b>Invitees distribution for Istanbul Meeting</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>
Volunteers	23	47,92
MC members	22	45,83
Female	25	52,08
Male	16	33,33
YRI	16	33,33
Inclusiveness Countries	17	35,42
Self-funded Internationals	3	6,25
Locals	4	8,33
Total with self-funded	48	
To reimburse	41	

- ii. [NURIT MELNIK/STELLA MARKANTONATOU: 5 min.] Statistics from STSMs - among the accepted STSM applications
  - 1. Women (10/15)
  - 2. Inclusiveness target countries (3/15)
  - 3. Early-stage Researchers and Investigators (10/15)
- iii. No questions or comments from the MC
- b. Progress of each working group
  - i. [BRUNO GUILLAUME/KAJA DOBROVOLJC: 5 min.] WG1
    - 1. Ongoing activities: 4 tasks are running:
      - a. Task 1.1: Linguistic typology and multilingual corpus annotation
      - b. Task 1.2: Extensions and updates to MWE annotation guidelines & Convergence between PARSEME and UD
      - c. Task 1.3: Extensions and updates to morphosyntactic annotation guidelines
      - d. Task 1.4: Sharing tools, formats, and infrastructure
    - 2. Next steps
  - ii. [VERGINICA MITITELU/VOULA GIOULI: 5 min.] WG2
    - 1. Ongoing activities: 3 tasks running in parallel: T2.1: a survey on the notion of syntactic word across UD treebanks (20+ langs); T2.2: extend the ELEXIS-WSD Parallel Sense-Annotated Corpus with new languages + MWE annotation: preliminary phase: locating an open sense inventory, corpus translation and correction, corpus processing; T2.3: a survey on MWE lexicons, aim: define a proof-of-concept for lexical encoding of idiosyncratic properties in MWEs, with an eye to lexicon-corpus interlinking
    - 2. Next steps: developing recommendations for future annotation projects wrt the notion of syntactic word; designing a

- lexicon-corpus interface for interlinking MWE lexicon entries with their occurrences in corpora
- iii. [JOAKIM NIVRE/GULSEN ERYIGIT: 5 min.] WG3
    1. Ongoing activities:
      - a. Documentation of multilingual LT tools. Subtask group led by A. Seza Dođruöz, Kristina Kocijan and Teresa Lynn.
      - b. Multilingual evaluation campaign. Subtask group coordinated by Omer Goldman.
    2. Next steps:
      - a. Define the scope of the documentation task and invite members to contribute.
      - b. Work out proposal for a first evaluation campaign.
      - c. Online meetings starting November 20.
  - iv. [AGATA SAVARY on behalf of MARIE-CATHERINE DE MARNEFFE] WG4
    1. Ongoing activities:
      - a. 2 online meetings so far
      - b. Designing measures for inter-linguistic diversity, to be used
        - i.a. in the shared task organized by WG3
    2. Next steps: selecting the subset of past shared tasks whose results will be looked at for the design of the diversity measure
  - v. No comments from the MC
8. [5 min.] Communication
  - a. [AGATA SAVARY] Website - it is online, all minutes/events are systematically uploaded, latest news are at the head of the home page
  - b. [ALINA WRÓBLEWSKA] Logo contest: several proposals submitted, 2-stage vote, the selected proposal is online - to be used in presentation of work related to the action
  - c. [OLESEA CAFTANATOV: 5 min.] Communication channels (mailing lists, Telegram), social media, Science Communication Plan
    - i. Mailing list - regularly are updated with new applicants.
    - ii. Telegram - till the end of this week (November 5), will send the guideline to install and join Telegram Channel.
    - iii. Social media - we have accounts on several social media platforms. Some information regarding each platform's characteristics will be presented on the UniDive website.
    - iv. More people in the scientific communication team are welcome.
    - v. Science Communication Plan - finalized till the end of December 2023.
    - vi. Next week we'll have a meeting with the Science Communication Team and the minutes will be posted on the UniDive webpage.
  - d. Comments or questions from the MC
9. [ALINA WRÓBLEWSKA] Progress on MoU Objectives, WG tasks, deliverables, and goals for the current GP. GP goals:

- a. Establishing working relationships and structuring the community around the Working Groups - accomplished
  - b. Planning the activity of each Working Group - accomplished (at least for year 2)
  - c. Establishing internal and external communication means - accomplished
  - d. Extending the Action to new potential countries, languages and dialects - ongoing
    - i. 1 new country since September 2022
    - ii. COST/Partner Member countries not yet represented in the UniDive MC: Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Iceland, Luxembourg, Montenegro, South Africa
    - iii. Statistics about languages covered by UniDive - see [graphics](#) from the LREC/COLING submission
  - e. Understanding the state of the art for the work program of each WG - ongoing
    - i. A reference paper for UniDive, including the SOA, submitted to LREC/COLING 2024
    - ii. Ongoing SOA work in WGs
  - f. Defining the strategy for the development of language resources and tools for under-resourced languages - ongoing
    - i. The webinar in June dedicated to UD/PARSEME newcomers
    - ii. Training School in summer 2024 - preference for representatives of under-resourced languages
    - iii. [Release 2.11](#) of the Universal Dependencies Treebank: 243 treebanks, 138 languages, released November 15, 2022.
    - iv. [Release 2.12](#) of the Universal Dependencies Treebank: 245 treebanks, 141 languages, released May 15, 2023.
    - v. [Release 1.3](#) of the PARSEME treebank: 26 languages and as many corpora, released May 10, 2023
  - g. Questions or comments from the MC
    - i. What is the process of including a new dialect rather than a new language?
    - ii. No case in PARSEME so far; in UD - if a separate ISO code, then this is a new language in UD; otherwise clustered with the treebanks of the language
10. AOB
- a. For better visibility, please, link the UniDive Wiki website (<https://unidive.lisn.upsaclay.fr/>) from your personal websites
11. Next MC meetings
- a. **Wednesday 24 April 10:00-12:00 CET** (before the intended UD-MWE workshop)
  - b. **Thursday 24 October 10:00-12:00 CET**
12. Summary of MC decisions - no vote in this meeting took place

## TODO

- [ALL] Link the UniDive Wiki website (<https://unidive.lisn.upsaclay.fr/>) from your personal websites
- [AGATA] Publish and advertise these MC minutes
- [AGATA] Discuss the Naples daily allowance with the local organizers; organize an MC vote
- [AGATA] Enhance and resubmit the WBP to COST
- ~~[AGATA] Contact the MC members who are not WG members~~
- [NURIT, STELLA] Publish STSM reports on the website
- [ALL] If you have professional video skills, and are willing to make a promotional video about UniDive, contact Olesea Caftanator
- [OLESEA] Add the social media accounts to the website - Done

## COST EMAIL ABOUT MEASURES CONCERNING HUNGARY

Dear MC Chairs,

COST is committed to building and maintaining bridges in the European Research Area. Nevertheless, being funded by the EU Horizon Europe Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, and bound by its contractual arrangement, COST shall suspend cooperation with the Hungarian legal entities implied by [the Council Decision 2022/2056](#).

Please note that, as of 4 July 2023 and until further notice:

- Participation and eligibility of COST Action participants affiliated to Hungarian legal entities implied by the Council Decision shall be suspended for all COST Actions and COST activities. Therefore, these COST Action participants shall not be invited to participate in any type of Action activities;
- Management Committee and Working Group participants affiliated to Hungarian legal entities implied by the Council Decision are suspended from this role ( the CNC and the COST Administration is in charge of denominating). In case Actions receive new MC or WG membership applications from the affected Hungarian legal entities, please note that the request(s) cannot be approved;
- No Action activity is allowed to take place in any of these concerned Hungarian institutions;
- These participants shall not be invited or reimbursed for attending any Action activity. Any such reimbursement will be removed from e-COST.

In this regard the [Annex I of Level A Country and Organisations](#) table has been updated to include these measures.

[List of institutions affected by Council Implementing Decision 2022/2056](#)



We understand the concern that this situation is creating amongst our community. The COST Association is dissatisfied with this development.

Kindest regards,

**Dr Anusha Panjwani** | Head of Science Department

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## EMAIL FROM GIUSEPPE LUGANO ABOUT UNIDIVE PLAN FOR THE TRAINING SCHOOL IN 2024

Dear Agata,

Thank you for your message. First of all, let me share with you a practical FAQ on the issue. Note that this FAQ is updated based on the evolving situation (e.g. new questions not yet addressed). Second, I personally think that the participants affiliated with Hungarian institutions should discuss with their COST National Coordinator in case of doubts/questions, rather than asking a clarification to Action Chair / Grant Holder. Among others, as mentioned in the FAQ answer 1. the list of 21 affected Hungarian legal entities mentioned here (<https://www.cost.eu/institutions-affected-by-council-implementing-decision-2022-2056>) is non-exhaustive as there are additional affected ones mentioned in the Hungarian Act IX of 2021 (available in Hungarian <https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2021-9-00-00>). Generally, as this is a quite exceptional situation I would advise – especially during these very first days since the measure came into force - to proceed step-by-step and to take the time to properly assess each case before moving ahead.

Let me provide additional feedback on your specific questions:

1. I assume that the training school proposal is for 2024, not 2023. Even in the case the specific institution would not be affected, there may be several practical challenges such as how to avoid that any participant (even not reimbursed) would participate in the event. On the basis of the information known today (we do not know how this issue will evolve in the coming months), I would rather suggest considering a different training school host for the 2024 training school and keep the Budapest option for the following grant period. This would give time to assess the evolution of the situation, hopefully towards a scenario where the current measures no longer apply. If, after an accurate investigation, the Grant Holder, you and the local host are in the position to confirm that all the measures listed in the communication will be respected, then you may go ahead with the initial training school proposal.
2. As mentioned above, the first step is the MC Member discussing with the CNC about it. MC Members from affected institutions will be denominated. From our side, e-COST supports the specification of multiple affiliations, and it is up to the participant to define which one is the 'primary one'. A participant shall be ready to provide evidence demonstrating the affiliation selected on e-COST, if requested to.
3. I think that it would be appropriate to share the communication received from COST with the Action MC for general awareness. In practice the Action MC will have to deal with WG Membership of participants affected by the measures. New WG applications from persons from the affected institution should be 'rejected' and the WG membership of participants from affected

institutions should be 'suspended' (not terminated). In practice, on e-COST this would require unassigning the WGs on which a person is currently active. After the unassignment, the resulting WG status would be 'orphan'. If, at some point, the measures will be removed, this approach would allow to re-admit the WG members simply by assigning them again on e-COST. On the contrary, if the WG membership was terminated this would require re-applying again and going through the whole WG approval process.

As it is today my last day of work before summer vacation, should you need further assistance please consult Andrea (cc).

Best regards,

Giuseppe

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## UNIDIVE LANGUAGES

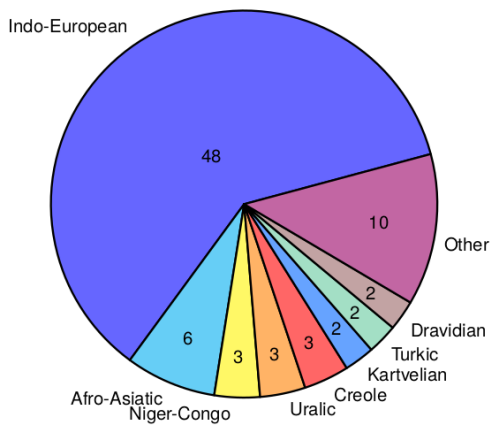


Figure 1: Number of languages in PLHD per language family. *Other* comprises Sumerian, Mongolic, Korean, Sino-Tibetan, Austro-Asiatic, Austronesian, Pama-Nyungan, Uto-Aztecan, Mayan, and Constructed languages.



Figure 2: Number of languages in PLHD per Indo-European genus. *Other* comprises Celtic, Italic, Albanian, and Armenian.

...tice, obviously, the work is done by *people* who enter one or more WGs; this community speaks for