

COST

Domain Committee “Information & Communication Technologies”

COST Action IC1205

Start Date: 30 November 2012

Computational Social Choice

MONITORING PROGRESS REPORT

Reporting Period: 30 November 2012 to 30 April 2013

This Report is presented to the relevant Domain Committee.

It contains three parts:

- I. Management Report:** prepared by the COST Office/Grant Holder
- II. Scientific Report:** prepared by the Chair of the Management Committee of the Action
- III. Previous versions of the Scientific Report:** PART II of past reporting periods

Executive summary:

The Action has made a promising start. Its first major meeting, held in Oxford in April 2013, was characterised by exchanges between different disciplines and between academia and industry, as well as by contacts made with previous COST Actions. The visibility of the Action is already high, as is evident from the very large number of applications received for the Action’s first training school and its STSM programme.

I. Management Report

I.A. COST Action Factsheet

COST Action IC1205 on Computational Social Choice

Domain: Information & Communication Technologies

Action details:

- **CSO Approval:** 7 June 2012
- **End date:** 29 November 2016
- **Entry into force:** 26 June 2012
- **Extension:** n/a

Objectives: The COST Action on Computational Social Choice will address the fundamental new challenges in the design and analysis of methods for collective decision making raised by recent technological advances in areas such as social networks, electronic commerce, webpage ranking, and e-governance. Computational Social Choice is a novel and innovative research trend that is now gathering substantial momentum, especially in the European research arena. It combines methods from Computer Science with insights from Economic Theory. The Action will provide a much needed framework for coordinating research efforts in this important new field at the European level. The scientific programme will focus on four thematic areas: (1) voting and elections, (2) fair division, (3) information merging, and (4) matching mechanisms. In organisational terms, the Action will particularly emphasise the close involvement of Early-Stage Researchers.

Parties:

Austria (07/08/2012)	Greece (25/06/2012)	Portugal (14/08/2012)
Belgium (21/09/2012)	Hungary (28/06/2012)	Romania (14/08/2012)
Czech Republic (16/08/2012)	Ireland (05/07/2012)	Serbia (13/03/2013)
Croatia (27/08/2012)	Israel (25/06/2012)	Slovakia (17/10/2012)
Cyprus (21/01/2013)	Italy (17/10/2012)	Slovenia (12/03/2013)
Denmark (16/01/2013)	Luxembourg (21/09/2012)	Spain (14/06/2012)
Estonia (31/01/2013)	Malta (18/09/2012)	Sweden (07/02/2013)
Finland (14/06/2012)	Netherlands (26/06/2012)	Switzerland (16/07/2012)
France (30/10/2012)	Norway (28/02/2013)	FYR of Macedonia (11/07/2012)
Germany (05/07/2012)	Poland (31/08/2012)	United Kingdom (26/06/2012)

Intentions to accept: none at this point

Other participants:

Australia	NICTA / University of New South Wales
New Zealand	University of Auckland
Russian Federation	National Research University Higher School of Economics
Singapore	Nanyang Technological University
South Africa	University of Cape Town
United States	Carnegie Mellon University
United States	Duke University
United States	Rice University
United States	Rochester Institute of Technology
United States	Union College
United States	University of Rochester

Chair: Ulle Endriss, ILLC, University of Amsterdam, Postbus 94242, 1090 GE Amsterdam, The Netherlands, +31-20-5256511, ulle.endriss@uva.nl

DC Rapporteur: Sjouke Mauw, University of Luxembourg, 6 rue Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi, L-1359 Luxembourg, Luxembourg, +352-4666445480, sjouke.mauw@uni.lu

Science Officer: Ralph Stübner, ralph.stuebner@cost.eu

Administrative Officer: Philippe Callens, philippe.callens@cost.eu

Action Website: <http://www/illc.uva.nl/COST-IC1205/> (under construction)

Working Groups:

- WG1: Voting and Elections (chair: Annick Laruelle)
- WG2: Fair Division (chair: Nioclas Maudet)
- WG3: Information Merging (chair Jérôme Lang))
- WG4: Matching Mechanisms (chair: Péter Biró)

I.B. Management Committee

- Austria: Christian Klamler (christian.klamler@uni-graz.at)
- Belgium: Thierry Marchant (thierry.marchant@ugent.be)
- Croatia: Vedran Podobnik (vedran.podobnik@fer.hr)
- Croatia: Kresimir Pripuzic (kresimir.pripuzic@fer.hr)
- Cyprus: Aimilia Tzanavari (tzanavari.a@unic.ac.cy)
- Czech Republic: Frantisek Turnovec (turnovec@fsv.cuni.cz)
- Denmark: Carsten Schürmann (carsten@itu.dk)
- Estonia: Helger Lipmaa (helger.lipmaa@gmail.com)

- Finland: Hannu Salonen (hansal@utu.fi)
- Finland: Hannu Vartiainen (hannu.vartiainen@helsinki.fi)
- France: Vincent Merlin (vincent.merlin@unicaen.fr)
- France: Jérôme Lang (jerome.lang@lamsade.dauphine.fr)
- Germany: Britta Dorn (britta.dorn@uni-tuebingen.de)
- Germany: Jörg Rothe (britta.dorn@uni-tuebingen.de)
- Greece: Ioannis Caragiannis (caragian@ceid.upatras.gr)
- Greece: Evangelos Markakis (markakis@gmail.com)
- Hungary: László A. Kóczy (koczy@krtk.mta.hu)
- Hungary: Péter Biró (biro.peter@krtk.mta.hu)
- Ireland: Diane Payne (diane.payne@ucd.ie)
- Ireland: Nic Wilson (n.wilson@4c.ucc.ie)
- Israel: Ronen Brafman (brafman@cs.bgu.ac.il)
- Italy: Francesca Rossi (frossi@math.unipd.it)
- Luxembourg: Leon van der Torre (leon.vandertorre@uni.lu)
- Malta: Ernest Cachia (ernest.cachia@um.edu.mt)
- Malta: Patrick J. Camilleri (patrick.camilleri@um.edu.mt)
- Netherlands: Ulle Endriss (ulle.endriss@uva.nl)
- Netherlands: Hans Peters (h.peters@maastrichtuniversity.nl)
- Norway: Thomas Ågotnes (thomas.agotnes@infomedia.uib.no)
- Poland: Piotr Faliszewski (faliszew@agh.edu.pl)
- Poland: Katarzyna Paluch (abraka@cs.uni.wroc.pl)
- Portugal: Paulo Melo (pmelo@fe.uc.pt)
- Portugal: Joana Pais (jpais@iseg.utl.pt)
- Romania: Luminita Duta (duta@valahia.ro)
- Romania: Constantin Zamfirescu (zbc@acm.org)
- Serbia: Bojan Srdjevic (bojans@polj.uns.ac.rs)
- Slovakia: Katarina Cechlarova (katarina.cechlarova@upjs.sk)
- Slovenia: Denis Trcek (denis.trcek@guest.arnes.si)
- Spain: Annick Laruelle (a.laruelle@ikerbasque.org)
- Spain: Flip Klijn (flip.klijn@iae.csic.es)
- Sweden: Tommy Andersson (tommy.andersson@nek.lu.se)
- Switzerland: Bettina Klaus (bettina.klaus@unil.ch)
- FYR of Macedonia: Toni Stojanovski (toni.stojanovski@ieee.org)
- FYR of Macedonia: Ana Madevska-Bogdanova (ana.madevska.bogdanova@finki.ukim.mk)
- United Kingdom: Maria Polukarov (mp3@ecs.soton.ac.uk)
- United Kingdom: Paul Goldberg (p.w.goldberg@liverpool.ac.uk)

I.C. Overview of Activities and Expenditure

Total Action Budget for 2013: 163,300€

Note: No funds had been spent by 30 April 2013. Reimbursement of travel expenses for the MC/WG Meeting in Oxford (15–17 April 2013) will take place in May 2013.

II. Scientific Report

The Action was launched in November 2012 and its first grant was awarded in March 2013. The scientific activities of the Action started with a major MC/WG Meeting in Oxford in April 2013, focussing on topics represented by WG1 and WG2.

II.A. Innovative Networking

The work of the Action has only just started and there are not yet any innovative scientific results that could be directly attributed to the activities of the Action.

II.B. Interdisciplinary Networking

The work of the Action is inherently interdisciplinary and requires the contribution of a number of disciplines. Specifically, the active participants of the Action include researchers from theoretical computer science, artificial intelligence, microeconomics, and political science.

II.C. New Networking

- Seven new members have joined the Action since 30 November 2012: Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Norway, Serbia, Slovenia, and Sweden.
- A total of 87 individuals have so far been involved in the work of the Action, be it as MC members or substitutes, meeting attendees, or STSM applicants (21% are female and 32% are Early Stage Researchers).
- Early Stage Researchers are heavily involved in the activities of the Action. At the first MC/WG Meeting of the Action in Oxford in April 2013, several of the speakers have been young researchers. In the summer of 2013 several young researchers will embark on an STSM (these grants have already been awarded, but not yet taken up). The planned *Summer School on Matching Problems, Markets and Mechanisms* in

Budapest in June 2013 will see a very large number of young researchers participating (most of them will be new to the Action and are not part of the total cited above).

- Currently, 11 researchers from non-COST countries are actively involved in the Action (as non-voting MC members). 27% of them are from countries with reciprocal agreements.
- The Action has actively pursued contacts with the rest of the COST network and invited the chairs of the (former) COST Action IC0701 and IC0801 to give presentations at the first MC/WG Meeting in Oxford in April 2013.

II.D. Self-Evaluation

The Action has had a very good start. The first MC/WG Meeting in Oxford in April 2013 has been a success, with a good number of participants representing a wide range of scientific disciplines. Highlights of this meeting included two talks by participants from industry: Dr. Ian Kash from Microsoft Research, Cambridge (UK) talked about a new model of dynamic fair division with applications in distributed computing, and Dr. Onno Zoeter from Xerox Research, Grenoble (France) talked about a large-scale project on demand-based pricing for parking spaces in Los Angeles.

There is a great interest in the activities of the Action as witnessed most clearly by the exceptionally large number of applicants (a total of 87 individuals) to the *Summer School on Matching Problems, Markets and Mechanisms* to be organised by WG4 in June 2013 in Budapest. The interest in the Action's STSM programme has also been high, with 10 strong applications for normal STSM's and one for an RSTSM received in April 2013.

III. Previous Scientific Reports

Not applicable.