



**European Cooperation
in Science and Technology
- COST -**

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Secretariat

COST 4138/12

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Subject : Memorandum of Understanding for the implementation of a European Concerted
 Research Action designated as COST Action IS1203: In search of transcultural
 memory in Europe (ISTME)

Delegations will find attached the Memorandum of Understanding for COST Action as approved by the COST Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) at its 185th meeting on 6 June 2012.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
For the implementation of a European Concerted Research Action designated as
COST Action IS1203
IN SEARCH OF TRANSCULTURAL MEMORY IN EUROPE (ISTME)

The Parties to this Memorandum of Understanding, declaring their common intention to participate in the concerted Action referred to above and described in the technical Annex to the Memorandum, have reached the following understanding:

1. The Action will be carried out in accordance with the provisions of document COST 4154/11 “Rules and Procedures for Implementing COST Actions”, or in any new document amending or replacing it, the contents of which the Parties are fully aware of.
2. The main objective of the Action is to investigate how memories of the twentieth century work as a transcultural dynamic in Europe today by comparing a selection of case studies of transmission and reception of such memories across Europe’s cultural and political borders .
3. The economic dimension of the activities carried out under the Action has been estimated, on the basis of information available during the planning of the Action, at EUR 80 million in 2012 prices.
4. The Memorandum of Understanding will take effect on being accepted by at least five Parties.
5. The Memorandum of Understanding will remain in force for a period of 4 years, calculated from the date of the first meeting of the Management Committee, unless the duration of the Action is modified according to the provisions of Chapter V of the document referred to in Point 1 above.

A. ABSTRACT AND KEYWORDS

This Action aims to go beyond the nationally oriented memory studies that tend to reify the bond between culture, nation and memory. Instead it will investigate the transcultural dynamics of memory in Europe today. Studying how memories of the troubled twentieth century are transmitted and received across Europe, the Action will explore the tension between attempts to create a common European memory, or a unitary memory ethics, on the one hand and numerous memory conflicts stemming from Europe's fragmentation into countless memory communities on the other.

Drawing on recent theoretical insights that point to the importance of memory migration, mediation and new media the Action seeks to develop new methods for studying and comparing effects of memory transmission over cultural borders. The Action aims to develop European memory studies theoretically and methodologically by focusing on transculturality, agency and reception - and to contribute to finding ways of accommodating memory conflicts.

Keywords: Memory conflicts; transcultural memory; migration; reception; Europe

B. BACKGROUND

B.1 General background

In contemporary Europe, social memories in the widest sense of the concept, including history and popular representations of the past, remain a source of dispute. Memory conflicts caused by contested and divisive memories of wars, dictatorship, genocide, mass expulsion and colonialism challenge the continent's stability and pan-European and sub-regional integration processes. Understanding the conflict-provoking potential of such memories constitutes a challenge. Due to amplified mobility and communication as well as Europe's changing institutional structures, such memories become increasingly transcultural, crossing cultural and political borders.

This Action aims to investigate the transcultural dynamics of memory in Europe today. Studying and comparing how memories of events in the twentieth century are mediated and received across regional, cultural and political boundaries, the Action explores the tension between attempts by European elites to create some form of common European memory or a unitary memory ethos on the one hand and numerous memory conflicts, founded in Europe's cultural fragmentation into countless national, regional, political and other memory communities on the other. By collecting a large number of in-depth researched case studies from across Europe and creating a network of scholars from various disciplines the Action will enable closely coordinated and systematic comparisons across different cultural contexts.

Drawing on recent theoretical insights that point to the importance of memory migration and mediation, the influence of new media, changing cultural contexts and memory as a source of transcultural ethics, the Action will study memory as a transcultural dynamic, mainly but not solely in Europe. By inviting memory scholars from other parts of the world to participate in its activities, the Action will add a broader international perspective to its study of memory in Europe.

The Action will address the following research questions:

- How do memories of twentieth century conflicts and injustices migrate, and how are they re-mediated and received in different cultural contexts in Europe ?
- Which transcultural actors participate in memory transmission?
- What makes transcultural memory mediations reconciliatory or inflammatory?

In order to answer the questions posed, this Action will gather an international team of researchers with broad linguistic, cultural and multidisciplinary competences to perform large scale comparisons based on their previous and current research. To enable such comparisons, close cooperation and coordination of case studies is needed.

One main aim of the Action is to conduct large scale comparative studies across Europe. A very large amount of empirical research must be gathered before these comparisons can be realized. None of the other research frameworks within the ESF or the EU Framework make such vast resources available for projects within humanities and social sciences. Thus a COST Action network is ideally suited for this purpose. Moreover, a COST Action fits the aims for the following reasons:

- The Action draws on a rich and varied, but fragmented research, done in all parts of Europe. Rather than initiating completely new research, the Action will contribute to consolidating and developing interdisciplinary memory studies in Europe;
- The Action allows us to establish a large network, bringing together more than 40 researchers and combining their insights and experience;
- The Action enables us to cover a wide range of regions, including over 20 European countries;
- The Action enables us to include a substantial representation of the different scientific disciplines involved in memory studies today (e.g. history, sociology, political sciences, cultural studies, literature, film and media studies)
- The activities of the Action make a closely coordinated and focused effort, ensuring the comparability of the case studies.

B.2 Current state of knowledge

Since the 1980s memory studies have developed intensively as a vibrant field of research that includes numerous disciplines within the humanities and social sciences. It is widely recognized that social memory (or collective/cultural memory), understood as emotionally loaded and somehow durable representations of the past, is used by and within social groups in the present, playing an important role for group identity, expectations and actions. While much emphasis has been on static memory manifestations, memory is increasingly understood as dynamic processes, created by specific actors with certain aims, and moving between different types of representation and different moments in time.

Whereas most existing memory research focuses on national frameworks, we pay attention to the workings of memory across borders and cultures, reflecting the mobility and international importance of memory conflicts. Recently attempts have been made to study memory beyond the national level, as a variable in international relations, part of the globalization trend, or as local sites of memory with transnational value. Yet, truly comparative studies that go beyond parallel descriptions of national cases remain few.

The field of memory studies in Europe remains fragmented into national and disciplinary environments. There is now a need to consolidate and develop the field, to move beyond the study of memory as manifestations in national contexts and to turn focus to agency, mediation and reception across borders and cultures.

Within EU frameworks, attempts have been made to take up the challenge of memory disputes. The 2010 report *Study on how the memory of crimes committed by totalitarian regimes in Europe is dealt with in the Member States*, commissioned by the European Commission is one example of this. Several research initiatives address specific aspects of the problem of disputed memory: The *Memory at War* project investigates memory conflicts in Poland, Ukraine and Russia. Financed by the HERA programme, this project involves five European universities and runs from 2010-2013. The large scale research project *MYSPLACE* focus on youth culture and investigates how shadows of totalitarianism and populism shape young people's social participation. This project involves 16 research institutions, runs from 2011-2015 and is financed by the EU's seventh framework programme.

Also outside Europe research initiatives are dealing with memory conflicts around the world (e.g. in South Africa, Australia and Argentina). One aim of this Action will be to include memory researchers from these and other parts of the world.

The Action aims to make substantial, innovative empirical, theoretical and methodological contributions:

Empirical contribution: The Action will gather a large number of case studies dealing with the legacy of divisive history and memory conflicts from Europe East and West, North and South and make a large scale comparison. The aim of the comparison is to investigate what happens when memory travels, how transcultural memory works and if it may be helpful in overcoming memory disputes. The ambition is to go beyond nationally oriented memory studies and tendencies to reify the bond between culture, nation and memory, in order to show the dynamics of memory.

Theoretical contribution: The empirical outcomes will help us answer questions about the existence of transcultural patterns of memory communication, leading eventually to the formulation of theoretical propositions about the nature, goals and interactions of transcultural memory communities in European public spheres. Theoretically the Action will explore the idea of 'European Memory'. What is it? How does it relate to the concept of a European public sphere and to memories of nations, regions, migrant communities and the world outside Europe? By focusing on transculturality, the Action seeks to emphasise that memory cultures, like cultures in general, are not homogenous unified entities. Memory communities cross traditional cultural borders and are characterised by internal differentiation and external interconnectedness. The concept of transculturality encompasses both the cosmopolitan and the local, the universalistic and the particularistic.

Methodological Contribution: The Action will apply a multidisciplinary approach to the study of memory conflicts, bringing together scholars with expertise in humanities, cultural studies and communication as well as political scientists, sociologists and specialists in peace and conflict resolution. Methodologically the Action aims to develop methods for cross-cultural comparison. In order to deepen our understanding of the relationship between agency and power in memory studies, the Action will facilitate methodological cooperation between scholars of political science and cultural studies. Through cooperation between scholars of sociology and literary studies, the Action will contribute to refining old and developing new ambitious qualitative methods for analysing reception of various types of memory mediation.

The Action elaborates on several key concepts within the study of the legacy of divisive history: collective memory in post-totalitarian and post-colonial (including post-Soviet) environments, politics of memory, transnational circulation of historical narratives, populism and democracy. To these we add increased focus on the issues of transculturality, agency and reception.

B.3 Reasons for the Action

Investigating the problem of divided and disputed memories on a general European scale demands the coordinated cooperation of a large network of experts with a wide selection of disciplinary, cultural and geographical competencies.

This Action aims both at a societal need and at a scientific impact. Addressing issues of great scientific interest, political significance and public concern the Action will expand our knowledge and activate debate about problems connected to memory conflicts and attempts to shape a common European memory culture. It will contribute to finding ways of accommodating memory conflicts. It has as its scientific objective also to develop European memory studies theoretically and methodologically by focusing on transculturality, agency and reception.

The Action will obtain its aims by pooling together a large number of excellent European scholars and existing research resources and through close cooperation and coordination, creating conditions for high-quality multifaceted comparisons across cultural and political contexts.

The Action will work for maximally productive outcomes in several ways:

- intense cooperation between the organisers of the Action will ensure coherent, comparable and focused research activities
- closely coordinated efforts, measuring results in relation to the Action's declared Milestones
- a system of internal evaluation and monitoring, ensuring that the Action keeps up with targets and milestones
- representation of non-academic stakeholders (policy-makers, NGOs working with memory conflicts) in Action activities
- disseminating the results of the Action widely and in differentiated ways, including open-access, aimed at the various target groups (see dissemination plan, section H).

B.4 Complementarity with other research programmes

Not applicable

C. OBJECTIVES AND BENEFITS

C.1 Aim

The main objective of this Action is to investigate how memories of the troubled twentieth century work as a transcultural dynamic in Europe today. It will do so by coordinating and comparing a wide and interdisciplinary selection of case studies of the ways in which such memories are transmitted and received across Europe's cultural and political borders. Taking as its point of departure new theoretical insights that emphasise the importance of memory migration, mediation and new media this Action aims to go beyond nationally oriented memory studies that tend to reify the bond between culture, nation and memory. The Action will focus instead on the questions of transculturality, agency and reception. It will seek to develop new methods for studying and comparing effects of memory transmission over cultural borders. In doing so, the Action will contribute to consolidating, developing and setting new agendas for the creative but fragmented field of interdisciplinary memory studies in Europe.

C.2 Objectives

The Action's objectives are to:

- deepen theoretical reflection on the concepts of transcultural memory and European memory
- expand the scope of memory studies to include a stronger focus on agency, mediation and reception
- develop new methods to compare memory migration and reception across cultures
- study patterns of cross-border, transnational and transcultural communication of memory and discuss if they can be useful in overcoming memory conflicts and promote reconciliation
- analyse the role of transcultural actors in the processes of transmitting and negotiating memories
- consolidate and develop interdisciplinary memory studies in Europe
- establish a strong point of departure for one large inter-European and several regional research projects.
- secure greater international visibility of European research within Memory Studies

C.3 How networking within the Action will yield the objectives?

The Action networking will allow the involved scientist to set a clear agenda for the network's research activities, to closely coordinate the network's research to focus on the three theoretical challenges of transculturality, mediation and reception, to ensure the comparability of the case studies produced within the three Working Groups, and to produce a series of theoretically innovative and truly comparative studies of the workings of transcultural memory across Europe.

Each of the network meetings are to produce a written outcome in the form of a working paper by each speaker to be uploaded on the Action webpage, thus ensuring that accumulated insights are included in the further research process.

C.4 Potential impact of the Action

Scientific impact:

By bringing together excellent researchers from different parts of European memory studies, the Action will contribute to combining insights from different research traditions and thus to consolidation of the field of interdisciplinary memory studies in Europe

The Action will have significant impact due to its strong empirical anchoring in a wide range of European cases, its cross-cultural comparative perspective, its methodological innovativeness and its advancement of theoretical reflection on the concept of transcultural memory. On this basis, the Action will contribute to developing interdisciplinary memory studies theoretically and methodologically. Thus, the Action will play an important role in setting the agenda for memory studies in the future.

The Action addresses issues of great scientific interest, political significance and public concern. It will activate debate about problems connected to memory conflicts and attempts to shape a common European memory culture.

Among the benefits of the Action will be:

- enhanced understanding of how transcultural memory works and if and how it could be helpful for accommodating divisive memories in Europe, thus promoting reconciliation and integration
- dissemination of these insights to both academic and non-academic stakeholders
- theoretical and methodological development of memory studies in Europe by creating conditions for truly comparative studies of memory conflicts and transcultural memory dynamics
- bringing together young and experienced researchers, securing international exposure of young scholars, strengthening international cooperation in the future
- cooperation with research environments outside Europe, thus obtaining external perspectives on the idea of 'European memory' and increasing the international visibility of memory studies in Europe

C.5 Target groups/end users

The results of this Action will be of both scientific and societal relevance. By consolidating and developing the field of memory studies in Europe, and by developing new methods for studying and comparing mediation and reception as well as relationships between agency and power in memory communication, the Action will play an important role in enhancing the scientific understanding of the workings of memory dynamics in a contemporary transcultural Europe. By deepening our knowledge of the ways in which memory disputes and transcultural memory mediation influence politics and societies, the Action will be a major contribution to future attempts to reconcile divided memory and negotiate the forces of transcultural memory in practice.

Stakeholders outside academia will include different kinds of opinion makers and practitioners:

- NGOs working with intercultural dialogue and think-tanks working with conflict resolution
- School teachers
- Journalists
- Politicians at the local, national and European levels

Non-academic stakeholders will be invited to participate in Action activities. Contacts to such stakeholders are already established. Moreover, the Action aspires to involve a large network of non-academic stakeholders through various types of activities and communication (see dissemination plan, section H)

D. SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

D.1 Scientific focus

The most important research task of the Action will be to collect a substantial selection of in-depth case studies of disputed and troubled memories of Europe's twentieth century and make them truly comparable, focusing especially on the three theoretical challenges of transculturality, agency and reception. Plenum conferences and meetings for all Action members will discuss and clarify the Action's theoretical challenges and approaches, and subsequently researchers within the Working Groups (WGs) will pursue these challenges through the selected case studies, while a Steering Committee consisting of a Main Coordinator and two leaders from each of the three WGs will ensure close coordination of research activities within the Action.

The Action will run for four years. In the beginning of its first year, the Action starts with a kick-off conference for all network members, where scientific objectives as well as theoretical and methodological challenges are discussed and clarified. Subsequently, all Action members will join their respective WGs and start work on the case studies.

Research activities will be coordinated within three cross-national interdisciplinary WGs, focusing on the issues of Politics of memory (WG1), Memory in mass communication (WG2) and Memory and migration (WG3). WGs meet for annual workshops. At the first Workshop, case studies are selected, presented and discussed in order to ensure true comparability of case studies throughout the Action's activities.

At the beginning of each Action year, all Action members will gather at thematic plenum meetings focusing on the common research themes: transculturality (first thematic meeting), agency (second thematic meeting) and reception (third thematic meeting), ensuring coordination and comparability of research across WGs. In the second half of each year, WGs will meet for workshops, discussing the implication of the theoretical theme in connection to each case study. By enabling constant dynamic relations between theoretical themes raised at plenum meetings and the empirically focused research taking place within the WGs, the Action will ensure that research activities remain focused and that case studies are coordinated and comparable. Moreover, through its oscillation between theoretical themes and in-depth researched case studies, the Action will enable examination and validation of theoretical and methodological propositions and the development of new methods for studying and comparing memory dynamics.

The plenum meetings will also function as planning and coordination sessions, where the main coordinators of the Action can take stock of the results obtained, make plans for the coming Action events and, if necessary, introduce minor changes to the Action work plan. In connection to plenum meetings, the Management Committee meets to assess the progress of the Action on the basis of evaluation reports submitted by the evaluation task force (section E).

The Action concludes with a conference for all network members, open also to the public and to NGOs and practitioners.

Each event will result in a selection of working papers and progress reports, published on the Action Webpage, thus ensuring that every Action member has access to information about Action activities and the development of the Action's research.

The means needed to achieve the Action's objectives (as described in section C) are the following:

- pooling together of a wide selection of European resources and expertise within the field of memory studies
- regular meetings and on-going communication on an organised basis
- closely coordinated case studies and comparisons
- support for younger scholars within the field

D.2 Scientific work plan methods and means

The main research activities of the Action will be coordinated within three large cross-national and interdisciplinary Working Groups (WGs), each focusing on a central issue within the study of memory dynamics. Members of the WGs will supply a wide selection of disciplinary backgrounds and cultural and linguistic competencies. This will enable the WGs to collect a number of case studies of memory transmission and reception from different national, regional and supranational contexts, and, through careful coordination and common theoretical and methodological approaches, to facilitate multifaceted comparisons of these cases.

Working Group 1 (WG1): Politics of memory.

WG1 will take stock of the demands and claims on memory raised by national actors targeting international (i.e. Council of Europe) and supranational (i.e. EU) institutions. It will seek to identify patterns of behaviour among actors and map out the eventual emerging structure of international and supranational policies of memory. It will also discuss whether these policies and actions have constructed a politically guided common memory within Europe.

Work plan for WG1:

Workshop 1: Case studies in the Politics of Memory: Collection, presentation and discussion of case studies to be researched within the WG.

Workshop 2: Politics and transcultural memory: This Workshop will focus on the idea of transcultural memory politics and how disputed memory travels across political cultures. It will look at the ways in which national politics of memory react to transcultural memory issues (for instance French parliamentary laws against negationism as for instance the “Gayssot law” or the “Armenian genocide law” or Polish official injunctions to punish newspapers calling Nazi camps “Polish” camps etc) but also at processes and interactions between states, international institutions in charge of normative memory policies, and interventions from various transcultural groups of memory (victims or persecutors).

Workshop 3: Agency in politics of memory: This workshop will investigate different positions of power and agency within politics of memory. It will look at the influence of transnational and European institutions vis-à-vis national parliaments and various national and regional organisations; at the roles of different interest groups and lobbies at European, national and regional levels; and at the importance of judicial systems and law-making.

Workshop 4: Memory politics and reception: This workshop will attempt to study the impact and reception of transcultural memory transmission within the political sphere. It will look at reactions to political interference in memory mediation (e.g. European Parliament resolutions on Holocaust (January 2005) and on totalitarianism (April 2009); debates on the Armenian genocide across various European parliaments) and examine reactions to such interference across different states and communities and at various levels of the political sphere.

Working group 2 (WG2): Memory in mass communication

This WG takes a broad interdisciplinary approach to the question of media and memory.

Research has shown that mediation is a crucial factor in the formation of collective memory. It is only through media representation (orality, writing, image, for example) that ideas about the past are shaped, disseminated, and shared. The interplay of a wide range of media genres (reports, photographs, memoirs, novels) and the operation of different media platforms (print, television, internet) play a key role. What has been studied less, but what seems to be crucial for the understanding of the ‘travelling’ of memory within the European cultural space, is the role played by mediation in the transfer and translation of images and stories about the past across national and cultural-linguistic borders. This working group addresses these questions focussing on the transmission of memory images and narratives across cultures in Europe and the (inter-)medial processes of translation, adaptation and appropriation involved.

Work plan for WG2:

Workshop 1: Case Studies in the Mediation of Memory: Collection, presentation and discussion of case studies to be researched within the WG

Workshop 2: Media and transcultural memory: Transcultural memory, the sharing of images and narratives about the past across linguistic, ethnic, and territorial borders, can only be effected via mediation. This workshop will investigate how the different 'new' media of the twentieth century (film, radio, TV, the internet) as well as processes of remediation (transpositions into new media) have been involved in the travel of memory across Europe. Are there media formats and socio-political constellations which have lent themselves particularly well to memory translation? Case studies involve, for example, the uses and exchanges of early cinema for the representation of the First World War among the European allies; the travel of televisual news footage about national uprisings and violence across Europe

Workshop 3: Media and agency in memory culture: Different media of memory imply different forms of agency and power. The age of new interactive media has brought about a major shift in the agency of memory-making. Elites as gatekeepers of memory, the selective canon, the impenetrable archive seem to have disappeared in the age of interactive memory platforms and of online archives, and made way for a new form of 'participative memory'. However, it is by no means clear if this implies a true 'democratisation' of memory. This Workshop will investigate new forms of mnemonic agency connected to the new media and ask how agency is generated, transformed, or inhibited through the interplay of new media and transcultural memory

Workshop 4: Concepts of media reception in memory culture: How can the crucial question of the reception of memory be modelled from an interdisciplinary perspective on media? How can we best conceptualise the way particular memory images and narratives are adapted and used to generate new meanings in different contexts and within different social frames? By bringing together expertise from memory and from media studies, it is the aim of this workshop to examine innovative concepts of reception developed in cultural and media research and assess their potential for memory research (Bolter and Grusin's remediation, Hutcheon's adaptation, Apter's translation).

Working Group 3 (WG3): Memory and migration

This WG studies memory transmittance and patterns of memory communication and remediation in connection to migrating memory communities spread across several cultures (e.g. Bosniak emigrant networks; Roma and Sinti travelling communities; Turkish and Kurdish diaspora across Europe). An essential aspect of this is the ways in which such communities employ practices of ‘cultural translation’ in memory transmission. The Working Group will explore the strategies of inclusion and exclusion that various national/ethnic groups or diasporas and their leaders employ: who is silenced, who is incited to speak; what kind of collective memories are remembered and told; how are a given group’s ethnic/national culture battles and/or political struggle rendered to others.

Work plan for WG3:

Workshop 1: Case Studies in Memory and migration: Collection, presentation and discussion of case studies to be researched within the WG

Workshop 2: Migration and transcultural memory: This workshop focuses on the ways in which migrating/diaspora communities transmit group memories across borders and cultures. How can such memories be culturally translated to fit new cultural and political settings?

Workshop 3: Agency and migration in memory culture: This Workshop investigates different types of agency in relation to memory and migration. Who within a migrant community can decide which memories to foreground and which to forget, and how? Which speech positions can members of diaspora/migrant communities occupy within their new places and countries of residence, and in which way may a status as witness and victim influence these? What kinds of agency can the existence of regional or Europe-wide networks of migrant memory communities create?

Workshop 4: Memory migration and reception:

This Workshop aims to study both reception of memory transmission within migrant memory communities and the roles of migrant memory communities in influencing and facilitating a wider reception of memory transmissions. It will investigate how migrant/diaspora communities react to memory transmission from their original homeland or from members of their migrant group residing in different European (or other) countries, what is being received or rejected, and if receptions confirm or question the existence of a transcultural memory community. Moreover, the workshop will study if migrant/diaspora communities influence or facilitate receptions of memory transmission within their new cultures of residence, acting as “cultural ambassadors” translating memory interventions for new context.

E. ORGANISATION

E.1 Coordination and organisation

The activities of the Action will be organized by a Steering Committee and by National Representatives from the involved COST countries. The Steering Committee, consisting of a Main Coordinator and the heads of the three Working Groups, will coordinate the scientific and networking activities of the Action. The Steering Committee will arrange the kick-off conference, the three thematic plenum meetings and the concluding conference. The Steering Committee will also ensure the coordination and comparability of the work taking place in the Working Groups. The Steering Committee is responsible for organising the dissemination of Action results in accordance with the Action's dissemination plan. Practical work may be delegated to Working Group members.

The National Representatives will ensure that the activities of the Action are communicated widely in their national research environments. A special responsibility of the National Representatives will be to ensure the substantial participation of doctoral students and early career researchers in the Action's activities. Moreover, the National Representatives will contribute ideas and advice to the Steering Committee on the work within Action.

Milestones for the Action activities will be:

1. year 1, first half: establishment of Action Website
2. year 1, first half: kick-off conference
3. year 1, first half: theoretical and methodological course for doctoral students
4. end of year 1: selection of 14 high quality and in depth researched case studies within each WG. Publication of working papers presenting each case study on the Action Website.
5. year 2, first half: plenum meeting on transculturality
6. end of year 2: progress reports on each case study published on the Action Website.
7. year 3, first half: plenum meeting on agency
8. end of year 3: publication of edited volume on transculturality and memory
9. end of year 3: collection of working papers in the form of comparative studies of transcultural agency in memory transmission from each WG published on the Action Website.
10. year 4, first half: plenum meeting on reception
11. year 4, first half: preparation of Working paper setting a new agenda for interdisciplinary memory studies in Europe, based on new insights and questions, published on Action Website.
12. end of year 4: preparation of one large and several smaller common research projects
13. end of year 4: collection of working papers in the form of comparative studies of transcultural memory transmission and reception from each WG published on Action Website.
14. end of year 4: preparation of edited volume of case studies from each WG
15. end of year 4: publication of edited volume on transcultural memory transmission and reception
16. end of year 4: concluding conference

Coordination of national research

Most of the work within the Action will take place in the cross-national and interdisciplinary Working Groups. Coordination of research within national environments will be the obligation of the National Representatives who will also ensure the dissemination of information on the activities of the Action.

Website

Detailed descriptions of the Action and its management and coordination will be made freely accessible on the Action webpage. The Action webpage will also contain elaborate information on the Action's activities and progress, both for Action members and for the public. In general, the webpage will constitute the main hub of information and dissemination of the Action's work and results. Papers from the kick-off conference, from thematic plenum meetings and from the concluding conference will be made available for downloading from the webpage, and every Working Group Work shop will result in a series of working papers, also accessible on the webpage.

After each Action conference or plenum meeting, presentations and papers will be uploaded and made freely accessible on the webpage. Moreover, the webpage will contain a presentation of each case study with background information and annual updates on the research progress.

Editing, updating and maintaining the Action webpage will be the responsibility of the Action's Webpage Editor, who will work in close collaboration with the Main Coordinator and the Steering Committee. A substantial amount of the means necessary for the realisation of this Action will fund this work

E.2 Working Groups

The Action's main research activities will be coordinated within three interdisciplinary and transnational Working Groups (WGs), each headed by two leaders. In between conferences and thematic plenum meetings for all Action members, the WGs will meet for four annual workshops. At the first of these, case studies will be selected and further activities coordinated with the aim of ensuring that the cases will be truly comparable. At the following WG Workshops, WG leaders will ensure that each of the common thematic focus points of the Action, transculturality, agency and reception, which are all addressed at thematic plenum meetings, will be thoroughly implemented in connection to each of the selected cases studied within the WGs.

E.3 Liaison and interaction with other research programmes

The Action intends to cooperate with existing research initiatives under European Research Programmes, especially the The Memory at War project which investigates memory conflicts in Poland, Ukraine and Russia (HERA) and the research project MYSPACE (FP7). This cooperation will consist both in exchange of information and in invitations to participate in the Action's conferences and Plenum Meetings.

Contacts are already established with memory scholars in the USA, Canada Australia and Argentina. Experts from these environments will be invited to participate in the Action's theoretically focused plenum meetings and at the conferences, in order to provide a wider international perspective on the question of transcultural memory dynamics in Europe

E.4 Gender balance and involvement of early-stage researchers

This COST Action will respect an appropriate gender balance in all its activities and the Management Committee (MC) will place this as a standard item on all its MC agendas. The Action will also be committed to considerably involve early-stage researchers. This item will also be placed as a standard item on all MC agendas.

The Action has as its ambition that at least one third of its members are to be doctoral students and early career researchers. It is the responsibility of each of the National Representatives to ensure that doctoral students and young scholars from their country working within the field are invited to participate in the Action and that they are attached to desired and relevant Working Groups. Moreover, an essential part of the Action's activities will be a theoretical and methodological course for doctoral students and young scholars immediately subsequent to the Action's initiating conference, thus preparing them for participation in Working Groups and plenum meetings.

The Action will retain a focus on working to contribute to an appropriate gender balance within the field of science in Europe. One place where an extra effort is worthwhile is in the transmission from Ph.D.-level / early career stage, where the representation of women is fairly strong, to the stage of experienced and established researcher, where the gender balance is less appropriate. Already dedicated to the inclusion of young scholars, this Action will pay particular attention to the need to support early career researchers of the lesser represented gender, as support in this stage may be of crucial importance to later inclusion in the scientific world.

In order to ensure a permanent focus on maintaining an appropriate gender balance, the Action establishes a gender balance task force, consisting of a representative from each Working Group. The gender balance task force is constituted in connection to the Action's kick-off event. The gender balance task force monitors the balance of gender at each of the Action's events, calculating the representation of each gender in panels, among invited speakers, keynotes, and participants in conferences, in the Management Committee etc. The gender balance task force will submit an annual report to the Management Committee, who is obliged to act in order to prevent developments towards an inappropriate gender balance

F. TIMETABLE

This COST Action will run for four years, starting each year with a conference or plenum meeting, followed by a Workshop for each Working Group in the second half of the Year. At the very end of year 4, the Action will conclude with a major conference for all Action members and open to the public

Time Schedule:

	Year 1:	Year 2:	Year 3:	Year 4:
First half	Kick-off conference: clarifying aims and theoretical approach, followed by Course for doctoral students	Thematic meeting for all Action Members: Theoretical focus on Transculturality	Thematic meeting for all Action Members: Theoretical focus on Agency	Thematic meeting for all Action Members: Theoretical focus on Reception
Second half	WG Workshops 1: selection of case studies	WG Workshops 2: Implementation of theoretical focus on Transculturality	WG Workshops 3: Implementation of theoretical focus on Agency	WG Workshops 4: Implementation of theoretical focus on Reception
End of year				Concluding conference: <i>Transcultural memory in Europe</i>

G. ECONOMIC DIMENSION

The following COST countries have actively participated in the preparation of the Action or otherwise indicated their interest: AT, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, LT, NL, NO, PL, RS, SE, SI, SK, TR, UK. On the basis of national estimates, the economic dimension of the activities to be carried out under the Action has been estimated at 80 Million € for the total duration of the Action. This estimate is valid under the assumption that all the countries mentioned above but no other countries will participate in the Action. Any departure from this will change the total cost accordingly.

H. DISSEMINATION PLAN

H.1 Who?

The target audience for the dissemination of the results of this Action falls in two groups: the first group includes researchers working within the field of memory studies or related fields, for whom issues of memory are of relevance (e.g. contemporary history, heritage studies, anthropology, politology). The other group includes policy makers on European, national and regional levels, journalists, NGOs and other practitioners (e.g. history teachers, museum curators, artists) working with problems related to memory disputes, as well as the general public.

For researchers, both the theoretical and methodological innovations of the Action, the detailed and in depth researched case studies and the general insights and knowledge generated by the Action's research will be highly relevant. For policy makers, practitioners and the public, especially the general background information, presentations of case studies, reports of progress, general knowledge and insights generated, and policy recommendations will be relevant.

H.2 What?

This wide and varied target audience requires a differentiated dissemination plan.

For researchers, the results will be disseminated in several forms

- articles in peer reviewed scientific journals
- edited volumes of comparative studies
- edited volume on transcultural memory transmission
- edited volume on memory transmission and reception
- the Action's concluding conference, which will be open to other researchers and to the public
- freely accessible papers on the Action webpage
- freely accessible presentations of case studies on the Action webpage

Especially for young scholars and research students, the dissemination of the Action's result will also take place at courses and theoretical and methodological workshops:

- PhD course in connection to the kick-off conference (within the Action itself)
- participation of doctoral students and young scholars in Action activities
- contribution of Action members to research education programmes at the involved universities, drawing on the extensive material made available both on the Action webpage and in books and journals.

For policy makers, practitioners and the public, the Action's results will be disseminated and made easily accessible in several ways:

- distribution of information about the Action's activities through a special mailing list of practitioners (journalists, NGO-activists, teachers, politicians) with a declared interest in the issue of memory conflicts
- special invitations to practitioners to participate in the Action's concluding conference
- workshops for practitioners in connection to the Action's concluding conference
- The Action's website
- background information
- presentations of case studies
- reports of work in progress
- summaries of results
- policy recommendations
- Broadcasting and podcasting of keynote lectures on the Action Website
- news articles to open access internet journals such as *Eurozine* or investigative reporting networks

H.3 How?

Each Working Group will produce an edited volume of outstanding quality comparing the selected case studies, including background information and implementing the theoretical and methodological focus points of the Action. The Action's innovative theoretical propositions and methodological advances will generate a number of important articles in peer reviewed scientific journals.

The Action's webpage will take the form a well indexed, searchable and carefully edited hub of information, combining clarity and user friendliness with scientifically valid information. Every Action event will result in new inputs to the webpage. The webpage will be carefully maintained and edited on a weekly basis throughout the running period of the Action.

On the Action webpage, background information, presentations of case studies, reports of work in progress, and results and recommendation will be made freely available, to be read online or downloaded in formats for printing or reading on different types of e-readers (kindle, tablets). When the Action concludes, material from the Action activities will be edited and made permanently available in the form of e-books that can be freely downloaded from the Action webpage as well as from the websites of involved universities and research and university libraries.

The substantial material made available by the Action will be brought to the attention of researchers, policy makers, practitioners and the public in several ways:

- through the participation of Action members in activities outside the Action, e.g. conferences, workshops, research programs
- through the committed contribution of Action members to research education programmes at the involved universities, drawing on the extensive material made available both on the Action webpage and in books and journals.
- through news releases and news articles in open access internet journals