



**European Cooperation
in the field of Scientific
and Technical Research
- COST -**

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COST 107/14

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Subject : Memorandum of Understanding for the implementation of a European Concerted Research Action designated as COST Action IS1407: Ancient European languages and writings (AELAW)

Delegations will find attached the Memorandum of Understanding for COST Action IS1407 as approved by the COST Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) at its 191th meeting on 12-13 November 2014.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

For the implementation of a European Concerted Research Action designated as

COST Action IS1407

ANCIENT EUROPEAN LANGUAGES AND WRITINGS (AELAW)

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 4114/13 “COST Action Management” and document 4112/13 “Rules for Participation in and Implementation of COST Activities”, or in any new document amending or replacing them, the contents of which the Parties are fully aware of.
2. The main objective of the Action is to co-ordinate researchers dedicated to the study of the ancient European languages and writings, and create an ample work team capable of establishing the foundations for an online databank which will permit the cataloguing of all the known documents in this type of languages.
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 36 million in 2014 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 Section 2. *Changes to a COST Action* in the document COST 4114/13.

A. ABSTRACT AND KEYWORDS

There is written evidence of about twenty fragmentary ancient European languages. Of these some 20,000 documents are conserved on stone, metal or pottery in diverse systems of writing, some of which have not been completely deciphered yet.

Research into them requires specialists in historical and philological-linguistic matters and these suffer from a pronounced geographical dispersion according to their geographical field of study (Gaul, Hispania Italy, the North of Africa) or to their corresponding linguistic family (Latin, Celtic, Italic, other minor Indo-European branches, Basque, ...).

The main objective of the Action is the co-ordination of researchers dedicated to the study of the different ancient languages and writings with the aim of creating an ample work team capable of establishing the foundations for the creation, for the first time, of a large online data bank which will permit the cataloguing of all the currently known documents in this type of languages, thus introducing this important part of the European cultural heritage into the 21st century.

Keywords: Ancient Languages, Ancient Writings, Epigraphy, Linguistic Contact, Cultural Heritage, European Identity, Online Data Bank.

B. BACKGROUND

B.1 General background

The construction of the Roman Empire generated a complex dialectic between local and global tendencies which presents more than a few points of contact with the world today. In the field of languages and written culture it supposed, on one hand, the affirmation of a society with an elevated literacy rate, a noteworthy literary culture and a growing use of public writing as an instrument of communications, social affirmation and commemoration; and, on the other, a long process of coexistence between languages of general use (Latin and Greek) and many other local ones which gave rise to phenomena of bilingualism and multilingualism in a context in which the language did not play the identitarian role it has developed in the Europe of nations. The result of this coexistence in western Europe was the triumph of the Latin language and alphabet with varied results for the local languages: in some cases extinct at the beginning of our Era (Etruscan or Iberian) and in other cases conserved until the end of the Ancient period (Gallic or Punic) or, exceptionally until today (Basque).

Today, evidence is known of about a score of these ancient European languages. The best attested are Etruscan, Iberian, Osco-Umbrian, Gallic and Celtiberian. Their study is based on texts written on hard supports (stone, metal or pottery). Preliminary calculations reveal there are some 20,000 of these. These inscriptions use various writing systems, some of which have not yet been completely deciphered.

Their study requires the multidisciplinary collaboration of experts in historical fields (epigraphists, numismatists, archaeologists, ancient historians, proto-historians) and philological fields (linguists, classical philologists, indo-europeanists) which has not been constituted as an autonomous field of knowledge and which, moreover, suffers a great functional dispersion of a geographical nature (Gaul, Hispania, Italy, North Africa) or relating to the linguistic family (Latin, Celtic, Italic, Indo-European, Basque, etc.).

This is why there are no academic spaces for the integral training of young researchers and there are scarce forums where the specialist may meet, even though they face common problems. Neither is there an exhaustive census of the documentation, dispersed in printed catalogues which were prepared under diverse criteria. Such circumstances impede the study of material of such potential.

On one hand, these languages constitute an insufficiently valued element of the immaterial European heritage, whose written evidence deserves specific protection and evaluation. This, furthermore, performed from a scientific perspective, would prevent the not infrequent interested manipulation of an important legacy which attracts wide sectors of European society.

On the other hand, the Roman Empire offers a setting in which language and identity are related very differently to the way generated by modern European nationalist movements since Latin was basically linked to a civic identity which was perfectly compatible with different cultural roots and diverse languages. This offers a comparative perspective of great interest for the current process of European construction.

The essential requirement to advance in these fields is to count on an exhaustive cataloguing with homogeneous scientific criteria of all the existing documentation in the form of a large online databank with photographs, internal links and permanent updating. This requires the collaboration of many researchers.

In this way, the main aim of this Action will be the integration of the scholars of the different fragmentary ancient languages in order to set up a large and stable interdisciplinary and international work team capable of creating this large databank. The work team would thus become a world reference in the study of ancient languages of fragmentary conservation and would be able to obtain research financing in national and EU calls.

The networking tools offered by the COST programme are the best option for overcoming the

current limitations of research into the ancient European languages and writings. The COST Action will permit: (1) the establishment of co-operation channels between researchers belonging to different disciplines and countries, thanks to which it will be possible (2) to make commonly available the results of research developed autonomously by different researchers and research teams. In turn, this will lay the foundations for: (3) making an up to date census of all the epigraphic documentation related to the ancient European languages and writings, (4) establishing standard criteria for the edition of this type of documents and (5) pave the way for the creation of a large online databank which will include all these materials in such a way that they are accessible for researchers, managers of cultural heritage, educators and the public in general.

All this is a necessary starting point if we wish to guarantee the adequate conservation and diffusion of this important part of the European Cultural Heritage.

At the same time, the COST Action offers sufficient tools for the interdisciplinary training of young researchers in all the necessary epigraphic, linguistic and historical fields for the study of the ancient European languages and writings, incorporating, furthermore, training in Information and Communications Technology (ICT), which will allow a new generation of scholars to face the multiple challenges presented by this field of study.

B.2 Current state of knowledge

From the beginning of the 20th Century, a remarkable development has been produced in studies dedicated to ancient European languages and writings. In this period, various scientific journals have been introduced which are directly related to those studies, such as the Italian *Studi Etruschi* or the Spanish, *Palaeohispanica*. In addition, numerous catalogues of materials have been published, among which we should highlight, for example, the *Monumenta Linguarum Hispanicarum*, which brings together the inscriptions of the Iberian Peninsula, *Imagines Italicae: A Corpus of Italic Inscriptions*, a collection of the Italian documents in the Osco-Umbrian languages, *Recueil des inscriptions Gauloises*, dedicated to Gaulish documentation, *Texts and Contexts of the Oldest Runic Inscriptions*, which includes a catalogue of the runic documentation of the ancient period, or *Etruskische Texte*, concerned with the Etruscan materials.

Nevertheless, research performed until now has been characterised by hyperspecialisation and the lack of communication between researchers dedicated to the study of this type of materials, either because they belong to different disciplines, or because they are dedicated to the study of documents in different languages.

The lack of communication has meant that the work of cataloguing has not responded to

homogenous and standardised criteria and that the effort spent has not been systematic, in such a way that some document sets are well studied and catalogued while others have practically not had any attention paid to them.

The paper publication of the catalogues is, furthermore, a clear limitation. It reduces the visibility of the work performed and often prevents it from being easily accessible for other researchers of those people interested in the matter. At the same time, it makes updating more difficult, since new epigraphic findings or new interpretations of known documents cannot easily be incorporated in the reference catalogues.

These difficulties are the same as those which have faced specialists in other ancient epigraphies, such as Latin, Greek and Phoenician, which, in recent years, have begun to create large international work networks and to develop tools of online cataloguing. The most notable example is perhaps the *Electronic Archive of Greek and Latin Epigraphy (EAGLE)*, which co-ordinates the activity of different Italian, German and Spanish databanks. We should also remember the co-ordinated Italian and Spanish project *Corpus Inscriptionum Phoenicarum necque Poenicarum*, dedicated to the Phoenician epigraphy. Outside Europe is the noteworthy project *Searchable Greek Inscriptions*, in which different North American institutions participate.

No comparable initiative has been carried out with regard to the inscriptions in ancient European languages. In this field we can only mention some smaller scale initiatives such as *Hesperia. Palaeohispanic Languages Data-bank*, which is still under construction and which covers documentation only from the Iberian Peninsula, or the Italian project *MNAMON. Ancient Writing Systems in the Mediterranean*, of great use, but in which no epigraphic databank has been included. This is the context in which the COST Action proposes to intervene, in order to overcome the current limitations on the study of the ancient European languages and writings, by means of the creation of an international and interdisciplinary study network, the creation of new standards of document edition and the use of new cataloguing tools, taking advantage of the opportunities provided by ICT.

B.3 Reasons for the Action

Tackling the challenges of the integral study of the ancient European languages and writings requires the establishment of a wide interdisciplinary network on a European scale. This is why it is necessary (1) to create channels of communication and stable and periodical forums of debate which will allow research to be coordinated and the necessary agreements to be reached for progress to be made, (2) to develop online IT tools which will facilitate the development of

collective work and (3) to train a new generation of researchers which will allow the research to be taken to its next level.

For the first of these points, the development of Meetings, Workshops, Conferences and Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) will be fundamental in agreement with the parameters defined in the Scientific Work Programme (I.D.2). The results of these activities will take the form of working documents, of specific use for those researchers who are members of the network, but will also be published in the form of proceedings or scientific papers so that dialogue may also be established with the rest of the scientific community.

The aims of these activities will be (I) a census of documents and (II) the establishment of edition criteria and protocols for these documents which respond to the highest scientific standards and which adapt to the needs of computer databanks. These objectives will be the main scientific benefit of the COST Action.

Regarding the second point, the activity of the COST Action will be focused on the design of an IT tool which will permit the collaborative work of the different researchers in the network to catalogue and study the documents. This tool will facilitate the exchange of information between them. It will also make immediate online publication of results possible thus permitting their rapid diffusion as well as the participation in the process of other researchers from outside the network. The design of this IT tool will be the main technological benefit of the COST Action, which will also constitute a valuable starting point for the development of research in coming years.

In relation to the third point, the development of Training Schools will be fundamental. These will be dedicated to the training of young researchers in the different disciplines which come together in the study of the ancient European languages and writings and the use of IT tools applied to their study. All this will increase the future possibilities of employment of these young researchers.

Insofar as the Action helps to improve our knowledge of the Ancient European Languages and Writings, it will also contribute to the design of adequate strategies for the necessary protection and diffusion of this important part of the European Cultural Heritage, which may come into practice in the mid- and long-term.

B.4 Complementarity with other research programmes

The aim of this Action has not received funding in the past programmes of EU, FP6 y FP7, but it is directly related to the specific challenge referred in Reflective-2-2015 “Emergence and Transmission of European Cultural Heritage and Europeisation”, which is included in work programme 2014-2015 defined by the European Commission for Horizon 2020, which will allow

the establishment of beneficial future synergies.

C. OBJECTIVES AND BENEFITS

C.1 Aim

The main objective of the Action is the co-ordination of researchers dedicated to the study of the different ancient European languages and writings with the aim of creating an ample work team capable of establishing the foundations for the creation, for the first time, of a large online databank which will permit the cataloguing of all the currently known documents in this type of languages, thus introducing this important part of the European cultural heritage into the 21st century.

C.2 Objectives

In relation to the main aim of the Action, a series of different academic, scientific and technological objectives may be set out.

- (1) The first academic aim is to create an interdisciplinary study network of researchers and research teams who are working on the ancient European languages and writings. From the beginning, this network will represent 9 countries and a total of 28 researchers belonging to 20 different institutions
- (2) The second academic aim is the multidisciplinary training of a new generation of researchers interested in the study of the ancient European languages and writings. The training activity is expected to involve about 200 graduate students and young doctors.
- (3) The first scientific aim is to contribute to the establishment of a census of all the inscriptions currently known in the ancient European languages and writings, which are preliminarily calculated to be in the range of 20,000, on different supports.
- (4) The second scientific aim is to establish agreed criteria and protocols of edition so that all the inscriptions in the ancient European languages and writings conform to the highest scientific standards and are adapted to their use in IT databanks.
- (5) The technological aim is to contribute to the creation of an IT tool which will permit the co-ordination of the efforts of the different teams and researchers who are members of the network so as to begin to set up a systematic online catalogue of the inscriptions in ancient European languages and writings. This databank will adapt to the necessities of including about 20,000 documents in at least 20 languages and 10 different types of writing. In the same way, it will also have to permit

complex searches, map creation, and to incorporate graphic material of different kinds (tracings, drawing, photographs, etc.).

(6) The social aim is to contribute to the development of protocols and initiatives dedicated to the protection of the ancient European languages and writings as an especially important part of the *European Cultural Heritage*.

Finally (7) the COST Action also aims to diffuse the work carried out by the network at two levels:

(I) Academic and (II) Social.

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

The following means are foreseen in order to achieve the Action's aims (I.C.2):

(1) For the creation of the work net (aim 1), it will be of use to set up coordination Meetings as well as Working Groups (*cf.* I.E2). Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) will also be useful to allow the movement of researchers between the different teams which are part of the network.

(2) The training of young researchers (aim 2) will be carried out by setting up Training Schools and STSMs. In addition, as their training progresses, the young researchers will have the opportunity of acquiring greater levels of responsibility within the activity of the Working Groups.

(3) The scientific aims (aims 3 and 4) will be achieved within the Working Groups, as indicated in the Scientific Work Plan (I.D.2). Workshops, conferences in which researchers from outside the network participate and STSMs will also be fundamental.

(4) The technological aim (aim 5) will be developed in the Working Groups. Furthermore, it must be taken into account that the design of the online IT tool is both an end and, in the future, a means which will potentiate the researchers' networking capacities.

(5) The social aim (aim 6) will be tackled in the Working Groups and will be based on the elaboration of protocols and work documents. These documents will be used to counsel those European and national authorities responsible for the management of Cultural Heritage with regard to the putting into practice of general policies and specific means for the protection and evaluation of the ancient European languages and writings.

(6) The dissemination of the activity developed within the COST Action (aim 7) will be carried out by publishing the results of the Workshops and Conferences in the form of Proceedings or Scientific Papers so that the rest of the scientific community may have rapid access to them. Special attention will also be paid to the dissemination of the results for the general public. With this in mind, a dissemination strategy is expected which will include audiovisual materials, dissemination publications and didactic material adapted for use in museums, high schools and

universities, as well as the participation of researchers who are members of the network in events of scientific dissemination such as *'Researchers' Night'*.

An easily accessible multilingual webpage will play an important role in the dissemination activities. It will inform of the activity of the COST Action and will make publically available different scientific and communicative materials related to the ancient European languages and writings. To guarantee the dissemination of the activities there will also be a blog, and different available online tools such as Facebook and Twitter will be used.

C.4 Potential impact of the Action

The COST Action will provide the following benefits:

- (1) It will permit the consolidation of a large, well-coordinated, international, interdisciplinary and flexible workgroup capable of becoming a world reference in the field of studies on languages of fragmentary conservation. This work team will be the starting point for the development of future scientific projects and initiatives, with both state and private funding.
- (2) It will mean a turning point in the field of studies into the ancient European languages and writings since it will make available an updated census of documents, but will also allow profound revision, from a new perspective, of the questions they raise, thus opening new lines of research.
- (3) It will provide standardised criteria for the edition of epigraphic documents in ancient European languages, which will facilitate the exchange of information and will mean that editions of inscriptions in those languages will be more accessible for laymen in the material. These criteria will be applicable, moreover, to other epigraphic sets referring to languages of fragmentary conservation.
- (4) It will make it possible to pave the way for the creation of an online IT tool for the cataloguing of inscriptions in the ancient European languages which could be used both by Action participants as by other researchers. Moreover, this tool will give greater visibility and accessibility to this group of documents.
- (5) It will contribute decisively to the recovery of the ancient European languages and writings as a substantial part of the immaterial European heritage, which is a key part of the configuration of the cultural diversity of EU member countries. In addition, it will enable the opening of spaces of reflection around some of the main challenges currently facing the EU, such as the management of linguistic diversity or the complex relationships between identity and language.
- (6) It will contribute to the training of a new generation of researchers in an interdisciplinary and transnational context, which will not only increase their employment possibilities, but will also

guarantee the continuity of studies into ancient European languages and writings in the near future, definitively overcoming the limits which have hampered these studies since the 20th Century.

C.5 Target groups/end users

The end users of the COST Action can be divided in four groups:

(1) Scholars. Especially all those interested in the study of the ancient European languages and writings, but also those of other ancient languages of fragmentary conservation or of other ancient epigraphic cultures. The activity of the COST Action will also be of use to those researchers interested in the history of writing and of written culture, the phenomena of bilingualism and linguistic contact or the relationships between language and identity, both in ancient and contemporary societies. The participation of scholars interested in all of these question will be encouraged in the Workshops and Conferences of COST Action as will, when feasible, their integration in the Working Groups.

(2) Cultural heritage managers. The work of COST Action will be of use for those responsible for the management of the cultural heritage, especially for museum curators who safeguard material related to ancient European languages and writings. In the same way, they will be encouraged to participate in the activity of the Action, since their point of view will be of great use in order to tackle the problems related to the design of strategies of cataloguing epigraphic material.

(3) European and national authorities with competence in the protection of Cultural Heritage. The results of the Action will be of use in the design of future policies of a general character or concrete interventions to protect the documents in the ancient European languages as an important part of the European Cultural Heritage.

(4) Teachers. The products generated by the COST Action may be used by teaching staff in high schools and universities as well as by those professionals involved in activities related to the diffusion of the cultural heritage. It is of key importance to encourage the involvement of these professionals in the Action since this is the best way to guarantee the dissemination of the results of the work performed among European citizens.

D. SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

D.1 Scientific focus

The scientific activity of the COST Action is articulated around three areas. These areas are

designed in response to the scientific and technological aims as defined in I.C.2. The three areas are conceived in a flexible way, taking into account that the progressive incorporation of new members into the network will contribute new perspectives which will need to be considered.

Area 1. Setting up a census of the inscriptions in ancient European languages.

This area is directly connected to aim 3 (I.C.2). Work within this area will be carried out in the framework of Working Groups 1 and 2. The activity to be performed will be to dispose of an approximate calculation of the quantity of documents in ancient European languages which are currently conserved. For this it will be fundamental to share the results of the research performed by the different researchers and research groups who form part of the network and who have been working for years in the cataloguing and study of this type of document

Within this area there are various problems to be faced: (1) Distinguishing between the inscriptions written entirely in fragmentary languages and those written in Latin or Greek which include terms of a fragmentary language. In addition, in order to be able to compare the results from the different territories and linguistic areas it will be fundamental (2) to define standardised criteria of periodisation as well as (3) the typological characterisation of the documents.

All this will permit (I) the reliable calculation of the number of known documents, which, in addition (II) will be organised in standardised chronological periods and (III) broken down in well-defined document types.

Once the first preliminary results are available, they may be used by the work teams dedicated to axes 2 and 3. They will also be of use to reflect on some of the main questions which have to do with this type of documents, especially with those related to phenomena of linguistic contact, bilingualism and the function of writing as a means of communication in ancient societies.

Area 2. Edition criteria and protocols in ancient European languages.

This thematic area is directly connected with aim 4 (I.C.2). Work within this area will be performed in the framework of Working Group 3. The activity of this area will set out to reach a consensus regarding general criteria to be used for the publication of texts in the different ancient European languages and writings. The edition criteria will need to consider those used in the publication of other ancient documents and will be susceptible to being applied in the publication of ancient inscriptions in other languages of fragmentary conservation.

The edition criteria will have to satisfy the following requirements: (1) they will be uniform for all types of documents, independent of their support, language or writing, (2) they will be clear and accessible to laymen, (3) they will use highly compatible typography and diacritic signs and (4) they must adapt to the needs of IT databanks.

Area 3. Design of an online IT tool for the cataloguing of the inscriptions in ancient European

languages.

This thematic area will be directly connected to aim 5 (I.C.2). Work within this area will be performed in the framework of Working Group 4. The activity in the area will set out to coordinate the efforts of the different researchers and research teams participating in the Action in relation to the creation of an online databank adapted to the needs of the total cataloguing of inscriptions in ancient European languages.

This tool must adapt to the following needs: (1) allowing the different researchers to work simultaneously with it, (2) allowing complex searches, (3) permitting the generation of maps, (4) incorporating photographs and other graphic elements, (5) being easily accessible online, (6) it allowing communication with users external to the research team and (7) as far as possible, coordinating with other currently available online epigraphic databanks (*cf.* I.B2).

The human and technical resources needed for the development of the scientific activity will be those of the researchers and research teams themselves who form part of the Action, including early stage researchers. Given the technical requirements of some of the aims indicated, personnel specialised in CIT, databank management and webpage design may be required on specific occasions.

D.2 Scientific work plan methods and means

The work programme will be specified during the first meeting in which the Management Committee (MC), the Steering Group (SG), the Working Groups (WG) and the calendar of meetings to co-ordinate the activity of the network will be established. All this will be open to adjustment taking into consideration that during the development of the Action, new members may be incorporated into the different WG.

The execution of the Scientific Programme will have, as corner stone, the activity of the four WG: WG1 Census of Inscriptions in Italy, WG2, Census of Inscriptions in Western Europe, WG3, Scientific Criteria and Protocols for the Edition of Inscriptions, WG4, Design and Technical Aspects of the Online Databank.

The activity of the Working Groups will be articulated through regular Workshops. In the Workshops, each of the researchers and research groups which form part of the WG will present their advances in relation to the scientific and technological aims indicated.

The success of the Action depends on efficient communication between the different WGs. Participation will be encouraged in the Workshops of members of different WGs. The results of the Workshops will lead to working documents for the internal use of Action members or may be

published in Proceedings.

It is expected, moreover, to hold periodical coordination Meetings at least once a year in which representatives of the different WGs participate.

A webpage and the progressive development of an online IT tool for the cataloguing of documents will guarantee communication between the Action research members and will potentiate networking. The STSMs will be another tool used for the development of the scientific activity of the WGs.

At the same time, it is expected to organize two Conferences: *Ancient European Languages and Writings, state of the art and future challenges* (year II) and *Linguistic Contact, Bilingualism and Epigraphy in Ancient Europe* (year IV). These Conferences will be open to researchers from outside the network by means of a call for papers. These Conferences will present the scientific findings of the Action and will permit an advantageous dialogue with the rest of the scientific community.

E. ORGANISATION

E.1 Coordination and organisation

This Action permits the coordination of the activity of researchers and previously existing research teams with their own sources of national funding. Therefore, direct funding is not required for the development of the research activity.

According to the indications of the COST programme, described in “Rules and Procedures for Implementing COST Actions” (doc. COST 4112/13) and in “COST Action Management” (doc. COST 4114/13), the Action is managed by the Management Committee (MC), made up of representatives of all the countries participating in the Action.

The Steering Group (SG) is made up of the Management Committee (MC) Chair and Vice-Chair as well as the Working Group (WG) Leaders and Deputies, the Heads of organization of the Short-term Scientific Missions (STSMs), and the organizers of the Conferences, in addition to a certain number of researchers in order to reach the necessary gender balance.

The Steering Group (SG) will be responsible for supervising the activity of the Working Groups (WG), coordinating all the activities of the Action (Meetings, Workshops, Conferences, STSMs) and applying the decisions of the Management Committee (MC).

In agreement with the MC, the SG will designate an Editorial Board, responsible for supervising and guaranteeing the scientific quality of publications coming from the activity of the COST Action, in paper or digital format.

In agreement with the MC, the SG will set up the administrative team, which will be responsible for budget management, will provide technical support in the organization of all the Action activities, will be responsible for the maintenance of the webpage as well as for the updating of the blog, the presence in social networks (Facebook, Twitter) and will provide support to the process of publication of the work derived from the activity of the Action.

Finally, the four Working Groups will be the corner stones of the activity of the Action. Their organization will be the responsibility of the first Meeting of the Action. In agreement with the Steering Group (SG), the Working Groups will be responsible for organizing the workshops, conferences, STSMs, Training Schools and seminars.

Milestones

Milestone 1 – Setting up the Action, including MC, SG, WG, Editorial Board and administrative team.

Milestone 2 – Creation of the website.

Milestone 3 – Celebration of the first workshop of each of the WG.

Milestone 4 – First General Coordination Meeting. Evaluation of the first year. Incorporation of new members. Design of the work programme for the second year.

Milestone 5 – 1st Summer School on Ancient European Languages and Writings.

Milestone 6 – Organization of the Conference: *Ancient European Languages and Writings, state of the art and future challenges*.

Milestone 7 – Second General Coordination Meeting. Evaluation of the second year. Incorporation of new members. Design of the work programme for the third year.

Milestone 8 – Celebration of the second workshop of each of the WG.

Milestone 9 – 2nd Summer School on Ancient European Languages and Writings.

Milestone 10 – Third General Coordination Meeting. Evaluation of the third year. Incorporation of new members. Design of the work programme for the fourth year.

Milestone 11 – Organization of the Conference: *Linguistic Contact, Bilingualism and Epigraphy in Ancient Europe*.

Milestone 12 – Fourth General Coordination Meeting. General evaluation of the Action. Design of future strategies of scientific cooperation and funding.

The STSMs will be held throughout the four years of the Action.

E.2 Working Groups

The work will be carried out by four Working Groups.

WG1. Census of Inscriptions of Italy.

WG2. Census of Inscriptions of Western Europe.

The activity of WG1-2 will be performed within Area 1, "Setting up a census of the inscriptions in ancient European languages", as defined in the Scientific Programme (I.D.1). The size of this work area makes it advisable to divide it into two WG, which, nevertheless, will develop their activity in a coordinated manner.

WG3. Scientific Criteria and Protocols for the Edition of Inscriptions. Its activity will be within Area 2, " Criteria and Protocols for the Edition of Documents in ancient European languages", as defined in the Scientific Programme (I.D.1).

WG4 - Design and Technical Aspects of the Online Databank. Its activity will be within Area 3, "Design of an online IT tool for cataloguing inscriptions in ancient European languages", as defined in the Scientific Programme (I.D.1).

E.3 Liaison and interaction with other research programmes

COST Action will coordinate the activity of teams and networks financed by different national research programmes.

The Action will also develop coordination strategies by means of information exchange and, in their case, joint seminars and meetings with other European research groups who are working in similar fields.

Furthermore, the existence of a specific challenge as seen in Reflective-2-2015, "Emergence and Transmission of European Cultural Heritage and Europeisation", included in the 2014-15 work programme defined by the European Commission for Horizon 2020, will permit the establishment of advantageous synergies in the future.

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

This COST Action is firmly committed to gender balance. The incorporation of women will be encouraged in the MC, SG, in the leadership of the WG as well as on the Editorial Board.

The presence of women in the network is almost 30% despite the prevalence in the studies of ancient European languages and writings of male researchers, above all among the more veteran scholars: in contrast, parity has been achieved among the younger researchers.

The network has more than 25 % early stage researchers among its participants. Besides them there

are also several researchers who got their Ph. D. since 2000: this means 40 % of the network altogether. In the following phases the number of ESRs is expected to increase and, indeed, some of the network's activities are especially designed for them and even for pre-doctoral researchers (see I.C.2). The ESRs will participate actively in the WG.

The involvement of ESRs is considered fundamental for the success of the Action. Indeed, the training of ESRs is one of the main aims of the Action (I.C2). It is expected to run several Summer Schools to this end, in which the participation of graduate students will be encouraged. The training of the ESRs will be completed by their participation in the STSMs.

As far as possible, it is expected that the ESR will progressively be incorporated into the scientific activity of the Action, collaborating in the WG and participating in the Workshops and Conferences. In addition, their participation will be key to the strategy of dissemination of the results of the Action through the web and the social networks.

F. TIMETABLE

Given the nature of the COST programme, this timetable should be considered indicative since it will be the responsibility of the SG to adjust it according to the developmental needs of the scientific activity as well as to the incorporation of new members.

Year I, Months 1-4 – Setting up of the Action, including MC, SG, WG, Editorial Board and administrative team.

Year I, Month 6 – Creation of the website.

Year I, Month 8 – Celebration of the first workshop of each of the WG.

Year I, Month 12 – First General Coordination Meeting.

Year II, Months 1-6 – Design of the Online Databank.

Year II, Month 6 – 1st Summer School on Ancient European Languages and Writings.

Year II, Month 8 – Organization of the Conference: *Ancient European Languages and Writings, state of the art and future challenges*.

Year II, Month 12 – Second General Coordination Meeting.

Year III, Month 3 – Publication of the proceedings of the Conference: *Ancient European Languages and Writings, state of the art and future challenges*.

Year III, Months 1-6 – Celebration of the second workshop of each of the WG.

Year III, Month 6 – 2nd Summer School on Ancient European Languages and Writings.

Year III, Month 12 – Third General Coordination Meeting.

Year IV, Month 4 – Organization of the Conference: *Linguistic Contact, Bilingualism and Epigraphy in Ancient Europe*.

Year IV, Month 10 – Publication of the proceedings of the Conference: *Linguistic Contact, Bilingualism and Epigraphy in Ancient Europe*.

Year IV, Month 11 – Fourth General Coordination Meeting.

The STSMs will be held throughout the four years of the Action.

G. ECONOMIC DIMENSION

The following COST countries have actively participated in the preparation of the Action or otherwise indicated their interest: BE, DE, ES, FR, IT, PL, PT, SI, UK. On the basis of national estimates, the economic dimension of the activities to be carried out under the Action has been estimated at 36 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 audiences for whom this Action is dedicated are:

- (1) Scholars interested in the study of ancient European languages and writings, but also of other ancient languages of fragmentary conservation and in all those questions related to the history of writing and of written culture, the phenomena of bilingualism and linguistic contact or the relations between language and identity, both in ancient and contemporary societies.
- (2) Managers of cultural heritage. Especially museum curators who safeguard materials related to the ancient European languages and writings.
- (3) Teachers. Teachers of high schools and universities, as well as those professionals involved in activities related to activities related to the diffusion of the cultural heritage.
- (4) European citizens in general.

H.2 What?

According to the different characteristics of the target public for the activity of the Action, the dissemination strategy will be articulated through different media.

(1) Website. The website will be a basic piece in the dissemination strategy. It will be updated continuously with the Action's activities. Different scientific and informative contents generated by the Action will be available. There will also be a blog.

(2) Social networks. The action will have an active presence in the social networks, especially in Facebook and Twitter as well as in others that may appear. This will be a means to inform about the activity of the Action, but also for establishing paths of dialogue with those people who may be interested.

(3) Mass media. Special attention will be paid to informing of the Action's activity through the conventional means of communication, especially in the written press but also on the radio and on television, above all in those regions most closely related to the AELAW.

(4) Conferences and Workshops. The Conferences will be a mechanism of presenting the results of the scientific activity of the Action to the academic community. Researchers from outside the network may participate in the conferences by means of the call for papers procedure. The Workshops are considered to be a tool of work for the WG, but their celebration will be made public and they will be open for the participation of researchers who are not members of the network.

(5) Scholarly Articles and Books. The results of the Action's activity will be published in books, which will collect the conference proceedings, or scientific articles presented in peer-reviewed journals. As far as possible the scientific results of the Action will be published in open access journals.

(6) Popular and Non-Technical Publications. In order to guarantee the maximum dissemination of the results of the Action, publications will be prepared in different formats, both on paper as well as audiovisuals. These materials can be used as didactic resources in both high school and university education.

(7) Participation in activities of scientific dissemination. The researchers who are members of the Action will participate in different events of scientific dissemination, such as, for example, *'Researchers' Night'*.

H.3 How?

The organization of the dissemination plan will be the responsibility of the first Meeting of the Action. Its development will be supervised constantly by the SG and may be modified in the annual

coordination Meetings to adapt them to new necessities. It should be remembered, moreover, that dissemination is considered to be among the main aims of this Action (*cf.* I.C.2 and I.C.3).

All the organizing structures which make up the Action will be involved in the application of the dissemination plan. Two of them, however, will play a decisive role.

The Editorial Board will be responsible for supervising all the publications derived from the Action, both scientific and informative, so as to guarantee the standards of quality.

The coordination of the information activity will be under the responsibility of the administrative team, which will also be in charge of website maintenance and the presence in the social networks.

It will also be responsible for relations with the means of communication, as well as for publicising all the activities of the group by means of flyers, posters, mailing or by means which it may consider to be suitable.