



COST Action TU1401 Training School – Call for Applications

Theme: Renewable energy and landscape quality

2nd TRAINING SCHOOL

***Questions of Power and Participation:  
Renewable Energy and Landscape in Policy and Planning***

Iceland, 22–26 May 2017

HOST: University of Iceland  
Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences  
Askja, Sturlugata 7  
Reykjavík, Iceland

**Call for applications to participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Training School of COST Action TU1401**

This Action investigates the inter-relationships between renewable energy production and landscape quality, and the role of public participation for the acceptance of renewable energy systems. The Action will develop a better understanding of how landscape protection and management, and renewable energy deployment can be reconciled to contribute socio-environmentally to the sustainable transformation of energy systems. This Action will consolidate and extend knowledge from a pan-European perspective using a modular methodological framework. This Action will enhance the science base for decision-making, and develop guidelines for public participation in planning renewable energy systems. The potential of sustainable landscape development, with innovative land uses producing synergies for landscape quality and renewable energy, will be revealed.

Early Stage Researchers, PhD students and MSc students in geography, landscape, environmental science and ecology are eligible to apply for a grant as trainee in order to participate to the 2nd Training School of RELY (COST Action TU1401).

The duration of the 2nd Training School is five working days, including a one-day field excursion. The Grant of up to 800 EURO will partially cover the travelling costs, accommodation and subsistence during the Training School.

Participating COST Countries in COST Action TU1401 are:

Austria, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, FYR Macedonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom.

## **Application process:**

Applicants to the training school do so with:

1. A motivation letter, one page. *NB:* Must include a clear indication of preferences regarding group work (see below).
2. A short CV.

Email these to the Action Coordinator of Training Schools and Action Chair (see contact data below). The applicant will be informed on the candidature for grant by means of an official email via the e-COST tool (<https://e-services.cost.eu/>).

**Closing date for applications is 28th February, 2017**

## **Short description of the Training School:**

A successful transition to renewable energy systems requires thoughtful policy making, as well as sensitive yet robust planning processes that are applicable to diverse geographical scales. The training school will focus on these issues. An ongoing strategic planning process in Iceland will provide empirical examples for analysis. First-hand experiences of the landscapes of Iceland will thus be an important component of the training school.

In preparation, participants will be placed into groups of four that will work together during the project part of the training school. They are encouraged to contact each other before coming to Iceland. Some key readings will also be provided, which participants will be expected to have read beforehand.

The training school itself will start with a day in Reykjavík, with a series of lectures, presentations and discussions covering the state of the art in planning theory as well as providing an overview of energy policies and planning practices in Europe. Iceland's energy situation and the Master Plan for Nature Protection and Energy Utilization ([www.ramma.is](http://www.ramma.is)) will also be presented. Energy projects to be used for case studies by the groups will be introduced, as well as specific questions for the groups to address (see below).

The second day will consist of a field excursion with short visits to several case study sites, direct observations, and discussions with municipal leaders and others. The trip ends a small rural settlement in Southern Iceland, where the course will be located for the next two days.

During the third and fourth day, the groups will work on the questions allocated to them, using a particular method, under the guidance of a mentor. Towards the end, each group will prepare a presentation and a short abstract of its findings.

On the morning of the fifth and final day, the course moves back to Reykjavík, where the groups will present the results of their analyses and discussions in a workshop at the University of Iceland. This concluding workshop will be open to a wider audience.

## Learning outcomes:

Having completed the training school, the participants should:

- understand the importance of strategic and spatial planning for renewable energy.
- realise the complexities involved in taking local views and subjective landscape values into consideration in planning processes.
- recognise the possible contradictions between expert-based planning and political decisions.
- have experimented with methods that can be used in energy planning and policy making.
- be able to critically analyse particular cases of renewable energy planning proposals at different levels of planning.

## Central questions for group projects:

- a. Which energy scenarios will be relevant for landscape-related policy and planning for the next decades? Which impacts, costs and benefits do follow from these scenarios? How can such scenarios be communicated to decision-makers and the general public?  
*Mentor: Karl Benediktsson, University of Iceland (IS)*
- b. How can strategic planning best serve the purpose of achieving economically, socially and environmentally sound decisions about development and conservation? How can the Icelandic Master Plan be evaluated against different planning theories and paradigms?  
*Mentor: Tim Richardson, Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NO)*
- c. How can local actors and the general public be motivated to participate in planning of renewable energy projects at different scales?  
*Mentor: Yves Michelin, VetAgro Sup (FR)*
- d. What are the main perspectives of different stakeholders towards renewable energy? How can planners understand and integrate these multiple perspectives in a well-informed planning process? How can planning simulation games be used as a tool to train planners for these challenges?  
*Mentor: Michael Roth, Nürtingen-Geislingen University (DE)*
- e. From the perspective of individuals, which factors contribute to the perception of landscape and subjective attitudes towards renewable energy? How can such perceptions be analysed and mapped?  
*Mentor: Bohumil Frantál, Institute of Geonics (CZ)*
- f. What is/should be the relationship between expert analyses, public views and political decisions at different scales of planning? Which ethical issues need to be considered when balancing different forms of knowledge in the decision-making process?  
*Mentor: Finn Arler, Aalborg University (DK)*

*Please note:* Successful applicants will be allocated to one of the groups before the start of the programme. In the application, please identify at least two groups that you would be willing to participate in.

**Basic rules:**

- Maximum number of participants: 24
- The reimbursement rate per day is EUR 160 maximum
- Up to EUR 300 may be attributed for the travel expenses
- A maximum grant of EUR 800 can be awarded
- Grant for trainees can vary depending on the country of the trainees (e.g. domestic, near countries, far countries)
- Prior to attending the Training School, the trainees must register on e-COST: <https://eservices.cost.eu>.
- Registration: The granted Applicant must use the on-line e-COST registration tool (<https://e-services.cost.eu>)
- Selection of the Grants: The Action's Training School Coordinator, supported by the Core Group Committee, will assess the received applications and will communicate approval for grants. The granted Applicant will be informed by Grant Holder by email via eCOST system (<https://e-services.cost.eu/>).
- Trainees must book their own airplane tickets and make arrangements for travel. Accommodation for trainees will be in guesthouses, in shared 2-person rooms. Details on how to book accommodation will be circulated to trainees.

**For further information please contact:**

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