



ERAdiate

Enhancing Research and innovAtion dimensions
of the University of Zilina in intelligent transport
systems

The Added Value of COST for a Successful Research Journey

My Personal Experience

Dr. Giuseppe Lugano

Senior Researcher in ITS

ERAdiate Team, University of Žilina (Slovakia)

giuseppe.lugano@uniza.sk

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Research Careers as Personal Journeys

“Writing this dissertation was the longest and most intense journey of my life [...]

it had a truly international dimension and made me feel as part of the scientific community. [...]

I was honoured to meet Prof. Leopoldina Fortunati, who taught me how to create and develop a successful research community in which members feel like at home”

(Giuseppe Lugano, 2010). Doctoral Thesis Acknowledgments, University of Jyväskylä, Finland.

JYVÄSKYLÄ STUDIES IN COMPUTING
114

Giuseppe Lugano

Digital Community Design

Exploring the Role of Mobile Social Software
in the Process of Digital Convergence



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COST Action 298 “Participation in the Broadband Society” (2006 – 2010)

- **COST Action conference** “The Good, the Bad and the Challenging: *the user and the future of ICT*” (Copenhagen, 13-15 May 2009)
 - Nomination for best paper among early stage researchers
- **Community:** met many scholars cited in my research work, had the chance to present my ideas and ongoing work in a informal and supportive atmosphere



Science Officer at the COST Association (2011-2016)

- After my PhD, opportunity to learn more about the European research and innovation policy landscape and to support scientific communities involved in trans-disciplinary collaborations
- My excellent experience from the COST Action in which I participated as a PhD student was a strong motivation to apply and, when hired, to contribute to the COST mission and values



COST Action participant (2016 -)

- **The experience gained at COST as a Science Officer was key to succeed in R&I activities, particularly in H2020**
 - 2017: granting of H2020 “Mobility and Time Value” (MoTiV), the first RIA coordinated by a Slovak academic institution
- **COST “ambassador”: strengthened participation in COST**
 - COST Open Call
 - as COST Expert to review proposals
 - as Proposer to prepare proposals (5 so far, 1 approved)
 - MC Member in 3 Actions: TU1305 (ended), CA16222 and CA15212 (ongoing)
 - Joint events (ITS conference in 2016, Widening event in May 2019 in Zilina)
 - Promoting COST whenever possible (e.g. today!)



Engagement Strongly supported within the ERAdiate team at UNIZA



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Focus on COST Action WISE-ACT – “Wider Impacts of Automated and Connected Transport”

1. **Getting involved and contributing to the proposal: ITS Conference 2016 (Zilina, SK),** jointly organised by ERAdiate and COST as part of Slovak EU Presidency 2016



Tip: *“Be proactive: don’t wait for opportunities – create them!”*



Focus on COST Action WISE-ACT

2. Action approved: nomination into MC

- Following national procedure
- Creating synergies with existing projects in the area of the Action



3. 1st MC Meeting (Brussels, October 2017)

- Leadership position: in the Core Group (as Science Communication Manager)
- Active from Day 1:
 - Inviting Action to 2nd MC Meeting in Bratislava
 - Promoting the Action on social media



Focus on COST Action WISE-ACT



4. Active participation

- 2nd MC meeting organization (Bratislava, March 2018)
- Attending meetings and WG contributions
- Growing the WISE-ACT network in Slovakia (STSM, Training School) via professional networks and the ERAdiate web-site
- Network opportunities: publications (example of abstract submitted to Elsevier book) and projects (DT-ART-03-2019)

UNIZA Researcher of the Year 2018



Recognition by UNIZA Rector for the contribution to increase international visibility and success of the institution in EU projects in the context of sustainable and multi-modal mobility
(December 2018)



Conclusions

- **COST boosts research careers:** much depends on individual initiative and Action members' attitude to openly share and co-create knowledge and opportunities
 - Platform for contributing to shape your research area
 - Opportunity to develop a wide set of soft skills
 - Opening up job opportunities across Europe and beyond**Even more to gain for ECIs from COST ITCs!**
- **Wider impact of COST also dependent on:**
 - *Degree of institutional support:* support for working time in COST Action, alignment with institution strategy and activities
 - *Collaboration and dissemination at a national level to*
 - increase awareness and spread good practice
 - motivate researchers to pursue internationally-oriented research careers, also via active involvement in COST Actions





Thank you for your
attention!

Be part of the COST community!
– get in touch 😊

Giuseppe Lugano
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