



WORCK Newsletter N° 1

Aalborg/Vienna, 13 December 2019

Dear COST Action Participants, dear Management Committee Members,

welcome to the COST Action “Worlds of Related Coercions in Work” (WORCK). Our network has now officially taken up its work. The first grant period started on 1 November. Only last week, two more countries have joined in: Moldavia and Turkey. We welcome the Moldavian and Turkish Management Committee members and all other colleagues that have registered for participating in our discussions.

Let us take this opportunity and explain the main idea of a COST Action to all new (and more experienced) WORCK participants. COST is a European funding program that does not fund research in itself but gives money for people to connect and develop ideas for collaboration. The Memorandum of Understanding builds the starting point for this endeavor, but discussions may take new and unexpected directions as new countries and new people come in. In that sense, COST is a funding instrument that gives a maximum of liberty to its participants. Basically, it is a tool that enables us to meet on a regular basis over the next four years and helps us advancing on questions of “labour and coercion” we are interested in.

Formally, there are two different modes of participation within COST: WORCK participants may either represent the country they are based in as Management Committee (MC) members or just participate as members of one of the working groups. While two MC representatives of each country are entitled for reimbursement for each WORCK event implying an MC meeting according to the COST guidelines, other participants may be funded according to our budget capacities and the role they take within the working groups.

In this sense, we are already in the midst of our planning for 2020.

On **27–29 February 2020**, Claude Chevaleyre will host **the first WORCK Meeting** at the **ENS in Lyon (France)**. This is the starting point for the working group discussion. There will be no classical paper presentation but a lot of space to brainstorm and exchange ideas on what we would like to do together in the upcoming four years. The working group leaders will prepare short inputs or send along a reader with relevant texts or sources to discuss. And you might submit ideas either before or during that meeting yourself. Just contact the working group leader of the group you are most interested in.



If you would like to attend this meeting, please **sign up on our website (until 15 January at the very latest)**. All relevant information on the event (including accommodation in Lyon) can be found here:
<https://www.worck.eu/activities/meetings/>

We will try to reimburse as many of you as we can. Apart from the MC representatives, funding will be given preferentially to those who have no or only little access to other forms of financial support. You will receive the official notification on 20 January.

You can help us with the calculations by

- (a) informing us about the actual costs of your journey to Lyon upon registration before 15 January,
- (b) looking for alternative funding just in case that we can't reimburse your travel expenses.

Also, please read the **COST Vademecum** and its reimbursement rules carefully. COST usually only funds travels from your home institution to the COST event and back home.

On **16–20 September 2020**, Susan Zimmermann and Isidora Grubacki invite us to the **CEU Budapest**, where the **first WORCK Conference** will take place. The topic of this conference will be: **“Reconceptualising Wage Labour”**, seeking to discuss the ambiguities of contracts and wages in a long-term and global perspective. Paper proposals dealing with this issue in a certain time period or world region and shedding new light on the concept of wage labour from a (pre)capitalist, (post)socialist or (post)colonial perspective are most welcome. Please do circulate the Call for Papers among your networks or send us your proposal until 15 February.

All information concerning the WORCK Conference in Budapest can be found here:
<https://www.worck.eu/activities/conferences/>

Last but not least a quick reminder for all MC members: Please don't forget to register on our website: <https://www.worck.eu/contact/#registration> and send us a picture of yours, your institutional affiliation, your research interests (3 key words), your working group affiliation(s) and up to three most relevant publications of yours.

We wish you all a relaxing Christmas break and are looking forward to new year of lively discussions in 2020!

With warm wishes,

Johan Heinsen and Juliane Schiel