



**CA22112**

**Call for applicants: 1st Training School of EU-LI-PHE  
“Phenotyping technologies in animals”**

**Announcement**

**We are excited to announce that the first Training School of EU-LI-PHE (Phenotyping technologies in animals) will be held from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> of June 2024, hosted by ILVO (Merelbeke, Belgium).**

**The training school will be onsite. The hybrid mode will be activated only if more applications than those that could be accommodated onsite will arrive.**

**Trainees can be eligible for reimbursement only if they come from COST countries.**

High-throughput phenotyping technologies are growing in importance in livestock systems, due to their ability to generate real-time, non-invasive, and accurate animal-level information. However, to-date, relatively few clear commercial applications have been recognized in animals, mainly due to i) the fragmentation of the livestock production sector and the heterogeneity of the production systems, ii) the large differences between species, iii) the technical complications associated with high-throughput phenotyping of moving animals, and iv) the need for further scientific advancements and knowledge to enhance the current state-of-the-art.

A major goal of the EU-LI-PHE COST Action is to generate and disseminate knowledge about emerging and innovative animal phenotyping technologies and approaches to dissecting, cataloguing, and understanding animal phenomes. Meanwhile we also aim prepare the next generation of animal scientists for the advent of phenomics as a big data discipline. To achieve this goal, the researchers involved in EU-LI-PHE network will be giving to opportunity for training on ways of identifying and visualising the state-of-the art phenotyping solutions and communicating these is in an accurate scientific manner to a scholars, practitioners and policy-makers.

**This first training school, associated with WG1 “Phenotyping technologies” will be held in ILVO, which is located in the Merelbeke (close to Ghent) in the Flemish region of Belgium.**

**The training school will be in hybrid mode in case it would be needed to accommodate a larger number of applications than those that could be possible on site. However, in presence trainees will benefit from a more complete training programme.**

A field visit will be done on the afternoon of the first day (only for physical participants) after a registration and introductory presentation about the COST action. Day 2 and 3 will combine classical presentations with group work. For the group work, the physical participants will be grouped in the room following their expertise in a specific livestock species. The online participants will be also grouped following their expertise in a specific livestock species and a virtual room will be created for all online groups to allow interactions between them.

The output of this meeting per group will be a report presenting the phenotyping technologies used for their chosen livestock species, to be presented at day 4. This report will be the fruit of their participation to the tech event organized by ILVO and the given courses related to the literature research combining usual literature search and AI tools like Perplexity, the consultation of the WG1 table already created by WG1 members as well as the dynamic reporting offered by using Power BI.

## **General information**

The rules of the COST Action apply. Applicants should consult the relevant information on the following pages:

[COST | European Cooperation in Science and Technology](#)

[COST-094-21-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C-V1.4-Final-.pdf](#)

at page 74

### **Eligibility of candidates:**

Young researchers engaged in research in the field of or closely related to “Livestock Phenomics” are eligible.

#### 1. Trainees eligible for reimbursement:

- a. Trainees who will attend physically
- b. Trainees from either COST Full Member, Cooperating Member, or COST Member ITC countries.

#### 2. Trainees not eligible for the reimbursement:

- a. Trainees that will attend online.
- b. Trainees from non-COST countries
- c. Trainees that are fully supported by other funds to attend the training school.

To check if you are eligible for financial support please check [page 59](#) of the annotated COST rules

## Training school application

EU-LI-PHE requires applicants to provide an application letter, including the motivation a letter of motivation (no template provided; this just half a page motivation letter prepared and signed by the candidate trainee who is interested to apply to participate to the training school), CV (in European format), the tutor/academic lead letter of support (no template; this is basically just a letter signed by the responsible person confirming that he/she is aware of the applicant's submission and supports his/ her travel, in case of additional expenses not covered by the Training School).

Training School Application Guidelines:

- Prepare the application and motivation letter.
- Prepare a CV.
- Prepare a letter of support from the applicant's institution (tutor/academic lead, for young researchers without any own funds, in case of additional costs not covered by the training school).

Please send the application together with all supporting documents to Prof. Tomas Norton: [tomas.norton@kuleuven.be](mailto:tomas.norton@kuleuven.be) and Prof. Hélène Soyeurt [hsoyeurt@uliege.be](mailto:hsoyeurt@uliege.be)

Please note that the application coming from eligible countries will be for the onsite training programme. The online programme will be activated only if a larger number of applications than those that could be accommodated onsite will arrive.

Deadline for submission of the application for the onsite training programme will be:

**30<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

**Decisions will be communicated by the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2024.**

## Review of the application

Firstly, the applications are assessed based on their relevance to the EU-LI-PHE. If the application is relevant, a further evaluation is carried out. Non-relevant applications will not be evaluated.

**Selection criteria are applied when selecting the candidates for the trainings school:**

- Applicant is an active member of one or more Working Groups of EU-LI-PHE;
- Applicant conducts research linked to the objectives of WG1;
- Age of applicant;
- Gender of applicant to have a balanced distribution;
- Team with limited resources and from ICT countries.

### *Review panel composition:*

Training School Coordinator (President), WG1 leader and vice-leader, Chair of the Action.

Results of the evaluation of the application will be communicated to the applicants within the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2024.

## **Claim for payment**

### *Approval and payment*

If the report is approved, the Grant Holder will arrange the payment of the reimbursement.

Participants who have been approved to attend the training school will only be reimbursed for travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses according to the following rules:

- Participants must have received the invitation from e-COST and accepted it within 2 weeks of receipt;
- Master and PhD students must provide a certificate of enrolment from their university.
- Participants must book their flight/train/bus and accommodation as early as possible in order to get affordable prices and cancellation insurance. They must choose the most economical means of transport. First class tickets are not allowed. Taxi fares are not reimbursable. The reimbursement of travelling expenses is limited to 1.000,00 euros.
- Participants may use their own car if this is less expensive than travelling by flight/train/bus, especially for a group. The reimbursement is approximately 0.35 Euro/km for the driver (ask the Grant Holder for a precise amount). It is a flat-rate amount, i.e., additional costs for parking, petrol, tolls and rental cars will not be reimbursed.
- Participants must provide the Grant Holder with tickets and invoices for their travel and accommodation (on their name and address) and receipts for their meals (lunch and dinner). A per diem will be reimbursed for accommodation, meals and local transport, to be determined by the Grant Holder depending on the host country. Receipts are necessary to ensure that the reimbursement is justified, but the amount of the reimbursement is a fixed daily allowance. Please note: In the case of a shared hotel room, the person whose name appears on the bill will receive the full daily allowance, the other persons will receive 40% of the daily allowance.

Claims for payments also apply for the trainers.

### **Before the activity:**

Please save the screenshots of the plane/train/bus search – this will serve as proof for choosing the most economical means of transport. Please note that final price of your ticket should not be significantly higher (>10%) than the one given in your proposal. In case of significant increase, you should ask confirmation from the Chair whether you should proceed.

### **During the activity:**

Bank card receipts without tickets will NOT be accepted.

Keep all receipts and tickets in order to be reimbursed for transport, accommodation and meals. If you prefer to buy food in a supermarket, keep the tickets (date and time must be visible).

### **After the activity:**

In order to be reimbursed as soon as possible, please send all the required documents via the e-COST platform. Documents should be sent no later than 15 days after the end of the training school.

In the meantime, to speed up the procedure, please send all travel documents and proof of payment as soon as possible also to [tomas.norton@uleuven.be](mailto:tomas.norton@uleuven.be) and [luca.fontanesi@unibo.it](mailto:luca.fontanesi@unibo.it)

For more information on the process of application, awarding and reporting in the e-COST system together with templates please read the [Grant Awarding user guide \(cost.eu\)](#) the [Claim submission quick guide | Rise 360 \(articulate.com\)](#)

### **Other information**

If you have any questions you can contact Prof. Tomas Norton: [tomas.norton@kuleuven.be](mailto:tomas.norton@kuleuven.be) and Prof. H  l  ne Soyeurt [hsoyeurt@uliege.be](mailto:hsoyeurt@uliege.be)

For logistic questions related to the onsite participation, you can contact: Shanida Mullatahiri: [Shanida.Mullatahiri@ilvo.vlaanderen.be](mailto:Shanida.Mullatahiri@ilvo.vlaanderen.be) (local organizer manager).



**Funded by  
the European Union**