

Statement of Local Organizers and Chair and Vice-Chair on CA17112 Kaunas Meeting

Dear Cost Action 17112 Management Committee members, Core Group Members and participants,

The coronavirus global emergency is imposing barriers to our CA 17112 members to attend the scheduled Working Groups, CG and MC meeting to be held on March 26th and 27th 2020 in Kaunas, Lithuania.

After a thorough reflection on the situation with the CA Governing Board, the Cost Officers and the Local Organizers and knowing that this is a dynamic and unpredictable process, we consider that we must carry on as originally planned and we must hold the meeting in Kaunas.

We need to decide on the activities and deliverables to be provided in the 3rd Grant Period (1st May 2020 to 30th April 2021) and these actions need to be approved by the MC.

For now, there are no sanctions limiting travel to Lithuania and so far, only one case of the disease has been identified. Anyone, who will come to Lithuania having visited the following countries (as per data for March 10th) will have to isolate themselves for 14 days:

-China (any province), -Northern Italy (Lombardy, Veneto, Piemonte, Emilia-Romana regions), -Hong Kong, -Iran, -Japan, -South Korea, -Singapore

Please follow further instructions for travel on your **national authorities' websites** (i.e. Ministries of Health and Ministry of Foreign affairs) and the information provided by the WHO and ECDC.

Of course, if the situation changes then we naturally would have to adapt in accordance with the Cost Officers suggestions and will inform you if there are any changes.

The position of the COST on handling the coronavirus crisis and solving any financial burden imposed to some of the participants who finally might not be able to attend is provided in the following link: www.cost.eu/coronavirus

Raul J Andrade, Guruprasad P Aithal, Chair and Vice-Chair Cost Action 17112

Simona Stankevičiūtė, Vaidotas Gal Local Organizers