



COST Action CA18114  
European Non-Territorial Autonomy Network

Fifth Management Committee Meeting  
Minutes

Date: 12 May 2022

Ovidus University of Constanța, Aleea Universității, no. 1, A Building  
Constanta, Romania

The meeting started at 9:00 CET and ended at 15:00 CET

1. Welcome to participants  
The Action Chair opened the meeting, thanked everyone for joining, including those attending online. Adrian Stoica Constantin as a one of the local hosts in Constanța welcomed all the participants.
2. Verification of the presence of two-thirds of the participating COST countries or, if applicable, a quorum  
The quorum was reached with representatives from 31 COST countries, 18 present on-site and 13 present online.
3. Adoption of agenda  
The MC adopted the agenda unanimously.
4. Approval of minutes and matters arising of last meeting  
The MC adopted the Minutes of the Fourth MC Meeting.
5. Update from the COST Association, if a representative is present  
Representative was not present.
6. Update from the Action Chair: Second Annual Action Report  
The Action Chair Ivan Dodovski presented the ENTAN activities conducted during the



second Grant Period (May 2020 – October 2021).

- The action has managed to produce six publications:
  - Thematic issue of journal *Philosophy and Society* (October 2020) edited by Ephraim Nimni & Aleksandar Pavlović entitled *Non-Territorial Autonomy as an Enrichment to Representative Democracy*,
  - Book of Abstracts of the Second ENTAN conference (September 2021),
  - Second ENTAN conference proceedings volume (September 2021) edited by Balázs Vizi, Balázs Dobos and Natalija Shikova entitled *Non-Territorial Autonomy as an Instrument for Effective Participation of Minorities*,
  - First ENTAN Policy Paper (August 2021) authored by Joanna Kurowska – Pysz & Andrius Puksas entitled *The national minority as a driver of cultural cross-border cooperation and local development: Evidence from the Polish-Lithuanian borderland*,
  - Second ENTAN Policy Paper (September 2021) authored by Christina Flora entitled *Preserving and Revitalising Endangered Minority Languages*,
  - Third ENTAN Policy Paper (October 2021) authored by Triin Tark, Timo Aava & David Smith entitled “*One size fits all*”? *Challenges of ethnic categorisation when implementing non- territorial autonomy*.
  
- The Action organised several meetings, both online and onsite during the second grant period:
  - The Third MC meeting was held online on 22 May 2020.
  - The First ENTAN Training School was held in Flensburg & Sønderborg, 8-11 September 2020.
  - The Third ENTAN Conference was held in Budapest, 24 & 25 September 2021 co-located with the Third AC meeting.
  - The Fourth ENTAN MC meeting held online on 28 October 2021.
  
- The Action managed to realise a number of grant awards:
  - 14 STSM grants
  - 2 ITC grants
  - 6 VM grants
  - 1 VNS grant



- The Action produced four educational videos based on scripts by ENTAN's members and facilitated the recording of the Second ENTAN Conference.
  1. "Borderland minorities: The Case of Punszk" – script by Joanna Kurowska-Pysz & Andrius Puksas (September 2021)
  2. "What is NTA?" – script by Ephraim Nimni (October 2021)
  3. "Karl Renner's model of NCA" – script by Bernhard Aigner and Bőrries Kuzmany (October 2021)
  4. "Endangered minority languages" – script by Christina Flora (October 2021)
  5. Second ENTAN Conference promotional video
  6. Second ENTAN Conference presentations recordings.

The Action Chair presented the Rapporteur's Comments on ENTAN's progress review at 24 Months conducted by COST. He explained the Action Core's response and welcomed all MC members to comment or add on to the update.

The MC unanimously adopted the specific responses to the Rapporteur's report, including the clarifications on the 'mobile application'; the plan to improve reporting on, and dissemination of results from STSM, VM and other grants; the plan to encourage the publication of more policy papers; the readjusting of the long-term goals of the Action; as well as on measuring of Action's impact (especially, of STSMs) on ENTAN members by organising a survey of grantees.

Zerrin Savaşan suggested that the planned survey should be concise, short, and to the point, as to maximise the responses.

David Smith suggested that ENTAN might consider encouraging digital networking, and also short term internships in policy institutions of the EU or individual countries so as to maximise the NTA policy impact.

Martin Klatt mentioned that he could work on a policy paper on digital media for minorities.

Marina Andeva suggested that the Action should invigorate public administration involvement by inviting more participants from public bodies in future ENTAN activities.



Tove Malloy proposed that the Action's twitter account ([twitter.com/entan\\_org](https://twitter.com/entan_org)) be used more proactively by opening threads and participating in online discussions. She also suggested that short country-specific policy briefs could be (co)authored by MC members from each COST participating country; these briefs would focus on relevant issues for the country and include up to five recommendations; template can be provided in advance.

Mitja Zagar followed this up by proposing that the Action should open discussions directed to minorities via its online media outlets as a useful tool to spread the word.

Tomasz Studzieniecki suggested that the Baltic Sea Region Forum to be held in September 2022 could be a good place for dissemination of the ENTAN achievements.

Konstantinos Tsitselikis suggested that MC members should in near future think of registering ENTAN as a legal entity so as to protect its brand and secure its continuation beyond the end date of the COST Action. David Smith seconded the idea, and suggested that a comparative research on practices in sustainable societies in the Black Sea and Baltic Sea regions might be one of the ideas to explore in future and possibly get EU funding.

## 7. Update on GP3 activities

The Action Chair presented a brief overview of the activities and invited the chairs of each event to update the MC on its organisation and planning.

### a) 3rd ENTAN conference

David Smith as chair of the Third ENTAN Conference provided an update on the Conference Proceedings Volume, with 11 papers accepted by the peer-reviewers with minor or major revisions. The publisher of the book will be determined after the authors complete their revisions.

### b) 2nd ENTAN training school

Branko Bošković as the local organiser of the Second ENTAN Training School provided detailed information to the MC. The training school is to be held in Bar, Montenegro on 6-9 June 2022, with 20 students and international team of trainers, with guests from amongst representatives working on minority rights in Bar and Podgorica, Montenegro.



c) 4th ENTAN conference (co-organised event)

Ivan Dodovski explained that delays and budget do not allow for the organisation of a regular 4<sup>th</sup> ENTAN conference in Grant period 4. However, a possibility has arisen to co-organise a conference in GP3 with the Department of East European History at Vienna University, whose employees are affiliates to the ERC StG project no. 758015 “Non-Territorial Autonomy as Minority Protection in Europe: An Intellectual and Political History of a Travelling Idea, 1850–2000” (N-T-Autonomy) and also participate as members of ENTAN. Börries Kuzmany, as main organiser, was invited to provide more information on the proposal. He presented the idea of the conference to be held in Vienna in September 2022, entitled ‘The Theory and Practice of Non-Territorial Autonomy in Europe – A Historical Perspective’. The conference committee includes several ENTAN members; David Smith (Leader of ENTAN WG2) is being invited as a keynote speaker; and other ENTAN members are contributing their papers. After a brief discussion on the possibility of expanding the conference programme by a new call for additional contributions, Börries Kuzmany explained that a consent by the Vienna team would be needed for this considering the carefully designed criteria and the general concept of the conference. The Action Chair explained that ENTAN is invited to join as a second partner in this co-organised event, which is fully in line with ENTAN’s goals and will also give ENTAN more visibility. Also, he clarified that the COST rules for co-organised events have been met, and there are unspent funds (from the Third ENTAN conference) to be re-allocated for the proposed co-organised conference. The allocation would include funds for up to 8 conference participants, LOS of 500 Euro, and 1410 Euro for video recording of the conference sessions. Eventually, a vote of the MC was called to approve the co-organisation of the conference: with six abstentions and nobody against, the proposal was adopted.

d) STSM & ITC grants

Noémia Bessa Vilela, ENTAN’s Grants Awarding Coordinator, informed the committee that thus far six STSM grants have been awarded in GP3 with the possibility and funds to award a few more, and encouraged MC



- members to apply.
- e) VNS & VM grants

Ivan Dodovski suggested to the MC to open a call for VM and VNS grants and gave some ideas on how they could be utilised. Also, he explained that dissemination grant could be activated upon proposal by MC members or invitation by the Action Chair. The MC voted unanimously to open a VM and VNS grant calls, as well as to have an internal dissemination grants call.
  - f) NTA textbook

Marina Andeva, leader of the NTA textbook editorial board, informed the MC on the status of the textbook. After four authors answered the open call for contributors, the NTA board directly contacted several individuals to contribute to the textbook. All confirmed and the textbook is currently being drafted. The board will organise workshops and person to person meetings to flesh out the draft textbook. A publishing house is yet to be selected with discussions ongoing.
  - g) Policy papers & publications

Ivan Dodovski explained the need for more policy papers (a total of 15 is the set target) and encouraged the MC to contact their WG leaders and work on new policy papers. ENTAN will take care of the proof-reading and publishing process.

The Action Chair also informed the MC that the Action has several publications planned including the NTA textbook, the Third Conference proceedings volume, and possibly a book on NTA and human rights to be edited by Ephraim Nimni. There are also possibilities to consider covering the open-access publication fees for journal issues which include at least 3 authors from 3 different COST member countries; interested authors can contact the Action Chair.
  - h) Action videos

Balázs Dobos is currently working on a video script on NTA registers. MC members are encouraged to propose ideas for ENTAN educational videos and contact the Action Chair on this.
  - i) Dissemination strategy for GP3 and GP4

The Action Chair informed the MC that the Action's Communication



manager Branko Bošković is currently drafting a new Dissemination Strategy for GP3 & GP4 and invited him to present his work. Branko informed the MC about the stakeholders and targeted audience of ENTAN, he also presented the statistics of ENTAN's social media outlets. He invited the MC to share ideas on how to improve the Action's dissemination.

#### 8. Scientific planning for GP4

The Fourth and Final Grant Period ends on 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2023, giving little time to organise anything. Hence, the Action Core together with several other COST Actions sharing similar fate, requested the COST association to grant an extension of six months and provide extra funding for the last GP. The Action Chair asked the MC to support the initiative to receive an extension of six months.

For the Final GP the Action Chair proposed that the MC focus on the following goals:

- Publish the NTA Textbook
- Publish more policy papers
- Organise a third ENTAN training school - place and committee to be decided additionally by e-vote, all interested should contact the Action Chair with proposals by end May 2022;
- Organise a final event and MC meeting in Zürich, to be hosted by MC member Rico Valär with the support by an organising committee consisting of the Action Chair and the WG leaders: Balázs Vizi, David Smith, Tove Malloy and Marina Andeva.

Börries Kuzmany and Aleksandar Pavlović reminded the MC that the STSM has been a very successful tool, and proposed that the Action should offer new STSM grants in the final GP, provided that budget is available. The idea will be revisited when drafting the Work and Budget Plan for GP4.

The MC unanimously voted to request a time and budget extension from COST. The MC unanimously adopted the proposal for the organising committee of the Final event.

#### 9. AOB

The MC divided into three groups to brainstorm for ideas on how to improve ENTAN's dissemination and concluded with these final ideas:



#### WG1:

- Contact and organise events with MEPs
- Draft short NTA policy recommendations/briefs (rather than longer policy papers)
- Involve younger generations via Twitter and short surveys
- Develop an interactive map of Europe with links to NTA organisations
- Develop short policy statements on specific NTA issues to spur debate
- Involve public opinion polls and surveys on the website or social media

#### WG2:

- Draft two new policy papers
- Aleksandar Pavlović to consider NTA presentation or panel at a conference in Kosovo
- Consider organising a webinar on Serbian NTA Minority Councils involving minority representatives and policy makers
- Small (or virtual) exhibitions on NTA cases (possibly one for the final event in GP4)
- Develop podcasts, including lectures and interviews with NTA stakeholders
- Promotional video interviews with trainees of the next TS
- Contact EU institutions such as the Commission and the Parliament to inform them about ENTAN publications and other results
- Utilise twitter more proactively

#### WG3&4:

- Develop an NTA stakeholder database by designing a fill-out form
- Contact and work with civil society organisations
- Produce country specific policy papers
- Develop a glossary of NTA terms
- Discuss sustainability of ENTAN beyond the COST grant
- Draft a joint Horizon Europe application

The Action Chair concluded that the proposed ideas are feasible and might be prioritised and supported in the new round of STSM and VM calls, i.e. when considering new grant applications.

#### 10. Location and date of next meeting

- To be decided.

#### 11. Closing



- The Action Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting, thanked the local organisers Flavia Ghencea and Adrian Florain Constantin, and closed the Fifth ENTAN Management Committee meeting.

*Summary of MC5 decisions:*

**Decision 1:** The MC adopted the specific responses to the Rapporteur’s report on ENTAN’s progress review at 24 Months conducted by the COST association, including the clarifications on the ‘mobile application’; the plan to improve reporting on, and dissemination of results from STSM, VM and other grants; the plan to encourage the publication of more policy papers; the readjusting of the long-term goals of the Action; as well as on measuring of Action’s impact (especially, of STSMs) on ENTAN members by organising a survey of grantees.

**Decision 2:** The MC decided to co-organise a conference in Vienna in September 2022, entitled ‘The Theory and Practice of Non-Territorial Autonomy in Europe – A Historical Perspective’, chaired by Börries Kuzmany, in partnership with the Department of East European History at Vienna University. The allocation of unspent funds from the Third ENTAN conference to the proposed co-organised Vienna conference includes: participation costs for up to 8 conference participants as per COST rules; LOS of 500 Euro; and 1410 Euro for video recording of the conference sessions.

**Decision 3:** The MC decided to open a call for ten Virtual Mobility Grants and one Virtual Networking Support Grant.

**Decision 4:** The MC decided to open an internal call for dissemination grants for dissemination initiatives proposed by MC members or upon invitation by the Action Chair.

**Decision 5:** The MC decided to request from COST an extension of the end date of the Action for six months and extra budget for networking events in GP4.



**Decision 6:** The MC decided to organise a Final Event in Zürich in 2023 provided that requested extra budget and time extension for GP4 is granted by COST; the organising committee consisting of: Rico Valär - local host, Ivan Dodovski – chair, Balázs Vizi, David Smith, Tove Malloy, and Marina Andeva - WG leaders, is mandated to decide on all matters related to this event.