



Ten Key Features of COST Action IS1406

1. What is COST Action IS1406?

COST Action IS1406 is a research network covering Europe and beyond, focusing on intervention for children and young people aged 0-18 years with language impairment.

2. What is language impairment?

Language Impairment (LI) occurs when the child's language skills are judged to be significantly delayed relative to those of children of the same age. This judgement is usually made by means of a combination of formal assessment, observations of linguistic performance and professional judgement. LI is often described as being either *primary* or *secondary*. By Primary Language Impairment we mean that the cause of the language problem is unexplained (although there may be other comorbid conditions such as a behaviour, conductive hearing loss etc.). Secondary Language impairment occurs when the child's difficulty is associated with a broader condition (eg. cerebral palsy, autism etc.). The main focus of COST Action IS1406 is the child with Primary Language Impairment.

3. What do we mean by intervention?

Intervention for children identified as having Language Impairment (LI) is a set of practices which are specifically designed to promote language development and/or to remove barriers to participation in society which arise from a child's LI. It is provided by a range of different professionals but this usually involves input from language specialists such as speech and language therapists. For an expanded definition, please see <http://research.ncl.ac.uk/costis1406/abouttheaction/definitions>.

4. Which countries are involved?

We currently have over 34 COST Countries involved in the Action, including: Austria, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, FYR Macedonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom. PLUS two Near Neighbour countries (Lebanon and Albania) and four International Partner Countries (US, Canada, Australia and South Africa).

5. Who is it for?

The Action is open to all people with an interest in children with Language Impairment. The main professional groups involved so far are speech and language therapists/pathologist, linguists and psychologists.

6. How is it run?

The Action comprises a Management Committee made up of two representatives from each of the countries involved (plus two substitutes) which meets at six monthly intervals. There is a Core Group which meets every month to direct activities, a Training Committee to oversee all the training activities, and an Editorial Board. There are also three Working Groups that drive and focus the activity of the Action.



7. What are the Working Groups?

The Action's three working groups are:-

- The linguistic and psychological underpinnings of interventions for Language Impairment;
- The delivery of interventions for Language Impairment
- The social and cultural context of intervention for children with Language Impairment.

Working groups are open to anyone who is interested in the topic.

8. What opportunities does the Action offer to researchers?

The Action will provide opportunities for researchers through two main "instruments" namely Training Schools and Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM). These are opportunities for researchers to work at different universities across Europe, develop key skills, and strengthen their professional network internationally.

9. What will members of the Action be doing?

Members of the Action will be:

- Providing literature about Language Impairment for members across different countries.
- Surveying practice for children with Language Impairment in countries involved in the action.
- Contributing to international conferences at regular intervals
- Carrying out research and writing peer reviewed publications highlighting best practice across the countries involved in the action and beyond.

10. How long will COST Action IS1406 run for?

The Action will run from 2015 to 2019 providing many opportunities for researchers and practitioners to become involved.

Find out more:

You can find out more about the Action on the main COST website http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/isch/IS1406 or on the Action's own website <http://research.ncl.ac.uk/costis1406> (launching early 2016).

You can also find us via twitter: @COSTIS1406 or use the hashtag: #COSTIS1406, or for more details please contact our Action administrator on Frances.Hardcastle@newcastle.ac.uk



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