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Year 1 Mission Report

Geraint A. Wiggins
Queen Mary University of London
Geraint.wiggins@qmul.ac.uk



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Table of Contents

1. Executive Summary	3
2. Mission Reports (Summary Overview)	4
3. Guidance for Travel Missions (Terms & Conditions)	5
4. Individual Mission Reports (filed after travel)	7

1. Executive Summary

PROSECCO aims to consolidate research efforts within the CC community, broadly construed, by growing the community in an organic fashion (through e.g. the fostering of new students, as well the cultivation of new research links). Though not a direct funder of research in its own right, PROSECCO will also facilitate the creation of new, or stronger, research connections *within*-discipline, between existing CC researchers, and *cross*-discipline, between existing and new CC researchers.

PROSECCO *travel missions* are designed to achieve this last goal. PROSECCO partners may use a travel mission to visit each other, and thus use the opportunity to explore collaborative possibilities; or they may use a travel mission to visit a CC-relevant non-PROSECCO partner and thereby bring that researcher closer into the CC fold; or they may use a travel mission to invite a CC-relevant non-PROSECCO researcher (academic or student) to visit them. This last option should prove particularly attractive to the new researchers reached via contact fora and to the new students reached via Autumn/Summer schools.

PROSECCO partners have engaged in a range of travel missions – **18 in total** – in year one. Most of these missions in year 1 have been focused on providing mobility to young PhD researchers, in particular so that they may attend PROSECCO events such as the Autumn School in Computational Creativity in Porvoo, Helsinki.

This first year has seen a ramping up of the PROSECCO project, and this ramping-up effort is reflected in the number and the kind of travel missions that have taken place in year one. Though EC funding was delivered on schedule, the re-distribution of funds to partner institutions took longer than anticipated, and the situation was complicated somewhat by the need to amend the original grant agreement to exclude Imperial College London and to allow Goldsmiths College London to accede in its place. Partners understandably delayed their decisions regarding travel missions until all partners were fully on-board, and until all funds were fully secured by their institutions and credited to the corresponding research accounts. In addition to the amendment that allowed for a change of beneficiaries (Goldsmiths College London for Imperial College London, necessitated by the move of PROSECCO partner Simon Colton from the latter to the former), the European Commission kindly extended the lifetime of the project from 36 months to 42 months, in part to better align the project with the additional projects described below. This increase in the duration of the project (but not to the funds of the project) motivated PROSECCO members to spread their planned missions move evenly across the 42 months, with fewer then taking place in year 1.

2013 was also a year of notable funding success for computational creativity as a field and for PROSECCO partners as individual researchers. A range of exciting new CC projects has been selected for funding by the European Commission, such as e.g. the **WHIM** project, a STREP that aims to build a functional, on-line generator of novel hypothetical ideas called ***The What-If Machine***. In addition to the new responsibilities that come with these projects (which involve collaboration and travel commitments of their own), PROSECCO members have also undertaken some travel missions under the PROSECCO banner, though not as many as predicted in the original proposal for year 1. As PROSECCO partners learn to juggle these new CC commitments, they can better integrate PROSECCO travel missions with the goals of these other EC projects. We thus look forward to a much greater and more diverse use of PROSECCO travel funds for targeted missions in years 2 and 3.

2. Mission Reports (Overview)

The following table offers a high-level summary of the 18 targeted travel missions that were funded in the first year of the PROSECCO project.

<i>Host Institution</i>	<i>Funding Institution</i>	<i>Traveling/Funded Delegate</i>
Jozef Stefan Institute	University College Dublin	<i>Dr. Tony Veale, University College Dublin</i>
Universidade Complutense de Madrid	University College Dublin	<i>Dr. Tony Veale, University College Dublin</i>
University of Helsinki	University College Dublin	<i>Dr. Tony Veale, University College Dublin</i>
University of Helsinki	University of Coimbra	<i>F. Amilcar Cardoso, Professor, University of Coimbra</i>
University of Helsinki	Jozef Stefan Institute	<i>Dr. Bojan Cestnik, Senior Researcher, Jozef Stefan Inst.</i>
University of Helsinki	Jozef Stefan Institute	<i>Dr. Darko Cherepnalkoski, Jozef Stefan Institute</i>
University of Helsinki	Jozef Stefan Institute	<i>Dr. Dragana Miljkovic, Jozef Stefan Institute</i>
University of Helsinki	Jozef Stefan Institute	<i>Jan Kralj, PhD Student, Jozef Stefan Institute</i>
University of Helsinki	Jozef Stefan Institute	<i>Jasmina Smailovic, PhD Student, Jozef Stefan Institute</i>
University of Helsinki	Jozef Stefan Institute	<i>Dr. Martin Znidarsic, Researcher, Jozef Stefan Inst.</i>
University of Helsinki	Jozef Stefan Institute	<i>Prof. dr. Nada Lavrac, Head of Dept. for Knowledge Technologies, Jozef Stefan Inst.</i>
University of Helsinki	Jozef Stefan Institute	<i>Senja Pollak, Researcher, Jozef Stefan Institute</i>
University of Helsinki	Goldsmiths University of London	<i>Prof. Simon Colton, Goldsmiths University of London</i>
University of Helsinki	Queen Mary University of London	<i>Stephen McGregor, PhD Student, Queen Mary University</i>
University of Helsinki	Queen Mary University of London	<i>Mariano McGinity, PhD student, Queen Mary University</i>
Universidade Complutense de Madrid	Universidade Complutense de Madrid	<i>Hugo Gonçalo Oliveira, Asst. Prof., University of Coimbra</i>
Universidade Complutense de Madrid	Universidade Complutense de Madrid	<i>Prof. Dan Ventura, Brigham Young University</i>
University College Dublin	University College Dublin	<i>Michael Cook, PhD Researcher, Imperial College London</i>

3. Guidance for Travel Missions

The following guidance is given to prospective users of PROSECCO travel funds before any targeted travel mission is planned or conducted.

PROSECCO SHORT TERM MISSIONS GUIDELINES AND CONDITIONS

PROSECCO aims at increasing cross-fertilization of research activities between computational creativity (CC) researchers working in different genres and modalities (e.g., word and image, music and word, etc.) and between CC researchers and researchers in different disciplines (Cognitive Science, Philosophy, Psychology, Musicology, Art Theory, etc., who are performing relevant research in creativity).

To achieve this objective, PROSECCO has secured funding for selected applicants to go on short-term missions between October 2013 and January 2016.

Who can apply for a PROSECCO short-term mission funding?

The missions are open to any CC researcher and professionals doing relevant research in creativity, based in the European Union.

If the applicant is not a citizen of the European Union (EU)/European Economic Area (EEA) and is subjected to travel restrictions in the EU/EEA or the destination of the short-term mission, he/she must mention it in the application form (contact details section)

Where can I go on a PROSECCO short-term mission?

If you are based in a PROSECCO partner organization, you can request to visit any other PROSECCO partner organization. Alternatively, you can also visit any relevant but non-PROSECCO partner organization ready to host you and collaborate within the frame of the short-term mission.

If you are not based in or employed by any of the PROSECCO partner organization, you can apply to visit a PROSECCO partner organization ONLY.

What are the selection criteria?

The motivations and the goal of the mission the applicant proposes should advance the goals of computational creativity, foster new research or strengthen the community.

Application process

The applicant should identify a potential host organization for their short-term mission and make initial contacts to discuss their project and goals. Once an agreement has been reached, the applicant should formalize it by completing the application form, following the PROSECCO application guidelines for participation. The host organization will always make sure that the goals of the applicant match the goals of the PROSECCO project.

When can I apply?

You can apply any time between October 2013 and December 2015. Funding awards are subjected to budget availability but it is estimated that an average of 6 missions will take place every year. Once your

application form submitted, the PROSECCO team aims to answer the applicant with their final decision within two weeks.

How much funding can I get to go on a PROSECCO short-term mission and what costs are eligible for funding?

PROSECCO will not pay a salary for the successful applicants to go on a short-term mission. However the PROSECCO grant will reimburse the following expenses:

- Travel expenses:
 - o return ticket (flight or train) to the short-term mission destination (economy class only)
 - o travel expenses to the airport or train station, in connection with your flight/train return ticket to the short-term mission destination
 - o Local travel card for the duration of the mission
 - o Visa expenses if necessary
- Living expenses
 - o Best value hotel (3 or 4 stars are usually the norm)
 - o If the short term mission is more than a 5-nights stay, the applicant is required to consider more economic options such as short-let accommodation.
 - o For other living expenses such as meals, the applicant should contact the funder of their mission for information as this will be subjected to the normal practice of the funding organization.

The applicant must estimate her/his expenses in the application form and should always consider economy tickets and best value for money accommodation expenses. In order to claim for their expenses, the applicant will have to submit their ORIGINAL receipts, along with an expenses form appropriate to the institution that is funding the visit. In some cases, 80% will be reimbursed ASAP once the expense form is received by the funder. The remaining 20% will be paid after satisfactory completion of a mission report. It is a requirement of the grant agreement that a mission report is submitted otherwise the EU may refuse to reimburse the cost of the mission.

Applicants who foresee difficulties in advancing the total cost of their mission should raise the issue at the time of selection. The PROSECCO team will do its best to see if there are financial solutions available to facilitate the participation of the applicant.

PROSECCO won't be able to reimburse expenses when the original receipts are not provided.

Who will reimburse the expenses?

If the delegate is from a PROSECCO partner, visiting another PROSECCO partner, expenses will be reimbursed either by the host or the sender organisation, by agreement.

If the delegate is from a PROSECCO partner, visiting a non-PROSECCO partner, the partner employing the delegate will reimburse the expenses.

If the delegate is a non-partner, visiting a PROSECCO partner, the host will reimburse the expenses.

What is expected from me?

Mission report: Delegates to a PROSECCO short-term mission will have to submit a mission report within 30 working days of their return (template provided). The report will include items such as mission agenda of activities, summary of the mission goals, outcome, and evaluation of the mission success. It is a requirement of the grant agreement that a mission report is submitted otherwise the EU may refuse to reimburse the cost of the mission.

4. Individual Mission Reports

What follows is a copy of the submitted mission report for each individual travel mission, as filed by the researcher involved in each mission. It is an express requirement of travel funding under the PROSECCO umbrella that all researchers who avail of this funding must submit such a final report before any expense claim can be made.