

# Call for Applications FOSTREN<sup>1</sup> Training School 2023 ‘Processing Coercive Events’

19-21 September 2023 in Ghent, Belgium



Museum Dr. Guislain, Ghent. Photography by Karin Borghouts

<sup>1</sup>Fostering and Strengthening Approaches to Reducing Coercion in European Mental Health Services (FOSTREN)

## The FOSTREN Training School 2023

The Training School is hosted by FOSTREN, which is a European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) Action that aims to establish a sustainable, multidisciplinary network of researchers and practitioners focused on reducing the degree to which mental health services use coercion in hospital and community mental health services. You can familiarise yourself with the work of FOSTREN by visiting its webpage: <https://fostren.eu/>

A key strand of FOSTREN's activities is to explore how patients/service users and staff are supported to process coercive events, and to improve both science and practice in this regard. Informed by an ongoing systematic review of existing research and a survey of current practice across participant countries, FOSTREN Action works towards obtaining a consensus regarding best practice in supporting post-incident recovery. This emerging new knowledge will be presented and discussed in the Training School in Ghent.

The Training School is a three day educational event in which eligible early-career researchers (see below) will meet and contribute to this important work. Over the three days you will have the opportunity to work collaboratively with leading international researchers and service users. The program will combine lectures with participative interactive sessions, in order to maximise the exchange of views and to facilitate networking.

The primary focus of the three days will be on exploring how research can inform and improve the processing of coercive events, and how this learning can be translated into practice. Focus is therefore on *what happens after coercive measures have been used*. By this we mean whether and how service users and staff have the opportunity to deal with e.g. involuntary admission, locked doors but also how to process an episode of mechanical or physical restraint, isolation or enforced medication. We will explore the use of debriefing and trauma informed responses, discuss how they work and are experienced, and also how such measures might prevent future use of coercive measures and/or reduce traumatic experience. ***We seek applications from early stage researchers with planned or ongoing projects on these topics, or on related methodological and practice challenges.***

We are delighted to announce that the confirmed panel of internationally acknowledged experts facilitating the school includes Prof. Stijn Vanheule (BE), Dr. Lene Lauge Berring (DK), Dr. Kevin McKenna (IRL), Prof. Sabine Hahn (CH), Dr. Nutmeg Hallett (UK) and Dr. Evi Verbeke (BE).

The training school will be highly participative and both students and scholars will be expected to actively engage. ***Early stage researchers will be expected to present a poster on their own work*** (which can include planned and ongoing research/projects) related to the training school's theme. The venue for this exciting event is the Museum Dr. Guislain, Ghent [see <https://www.museumdrguislain.be/en/home>] and the official language will be English.

## Eligibility: Who can participate?

FOSTREN sponsors 17 places for this event. To be eligible for funding (or for self-financing), **applicants must be:**

- (1) actively engaged in research related to prevent and reduction/elimination of restrictive practices within mental health.
- (2) an early stage researcher (PhD students, post-doc or researchers within 8 years of completing a PhD)
- (3) otherwise affiliated with an organization whose remit is closely related to this field of research within either a COST Full Member or Co-operating Member Country. See: <https://www.cost.eu/who-we-are/members/>.

A scientific committee will select successful candidates based on COST policy and rules [see [Legal-standard-template \(cost.eu\)](#)] Selected participants will be required to deliver a brief oral presentation based on a Poster Session as part of the program. The official language of the training school will be English.

## How to apply?

To apply for this exciting opportunity you are required to submit:

- An expression of interest letter which includes a brief resume of your career and formal qualifications, your interest in this subject area, and your motivation to attend the training school. Your letter should also include your name, contact details, and means of contact (maximum two pages).
- A project poster abstract (max 250 words) describing in detail the purpose of your project in terms of an introduction, design and method and (expected) outcomes.

All correspondence and documentation should be submitted to [debriefing.health@bfh.ch](mailto:debriefing.health@bfh.ch) by **23:59 [CET] on 25th of May 2023**.

The scientific committee will evaluate only fully completed applications using the following criteria:

- Clarity of familiarity and/or engagement with subject area
- Quality of the statement of motivation
- Scientific quality of the poster project abstract
- Relevance of study project to the call
- COST principles of excellence and inclusiveness (see <https://www.cost.eu/about/strategy/excellence-and-inclusiveness/> )

Participants will be notified of selection results by 30th June 2023

### Please note:

- Because of the timelines involved, late submissions will not be considered
- The decisions of the scientific committee are final

## Funding and Refunding

If selected for FOSTREN sponsorship by the scientific committee, the applicant will be eligible to have travel and accommodation costs reimbursed through the FOSTREN Action according to COST rules. These include that reimbursement happens after the event, which means that those who are selected for funding will have to pay travel and accommodation costs upfront. Information on how to pay and reclaim refunds will be communicated to successful candidates following the decision of the scientific committee by email.

## The FOSTREN Training School in Ghent! Do not miss it!

We are looking forward to welcome you in Ghent! All important information about the hotel, social events etc. will follow after participants are enrolled.

If you have any question, do not hesitate to go in contact with us via  
E-Mail [debriefing.health@bfh.ch](mailto:debriefing.health@bfh.ch)

Best wishes,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Hahn".

Prof. Dr. Sabine Hahn  
For the organising workgroup of the FOSTREN COST Action Network