

Affect-Evo COST action Training school
**Co-learning through multiple perspectives:
Communication about animal affect in educational
contexts**

Where: University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary
Medicine Cluj-Napoca, Romania
When: April 20-21 2026



The vibrant city of Cluj-Napoca; photo credit Faraway Worlds

- ✓ **informative lectures**
- ✓ **hands-on activities & workshops**
- ✓ **networking opportunities**
- ✓ **funded spaces for travel, stay and participation** (limited number)

Coordinators:

Dr. Alina S. Rusu [USAMV Cluj-Napoca, Romania](#)

Dr. Helen Lewis, [Swansea University, UK](#)

Dr. Rebecca Nordquist, [Utrecht University, the Netherlands](#)

More information and application:
affect.evo@gmail.com

**Application
deadline
January 23,
2026**



AFFECT-EVO

Phylogenetic Analysis of Affective States

Co-learning through multiple perspectives: Communication about animal affects in educational contexts

[Affect-Evo COST action](#) Training school

Where: University of Agricultural Sciences and
Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca, Romania

When: Monday April 20- Tuesday April 21 2026

Dear colleagues,

As part of our work in the Affect-Evo COST action, we are very pleased to organize a Two - day training school on communication about animal affects in educational contexts (Co-learning through multiple perspectives), in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, from Monday April 19, 2026 – Tuesday April 20, 2026.

We will have informative lectures on how to communicate on complex or sensitive topics with categories of persons involved in educational contexts, interactive lectures on insightful topics coming from various perspectives (ethology, philosophy, veterinary medicine, psychology, animal-assisted education) and hands-on activities to practice these skills. This TS will give you tools to take on or improve your communication skills, and help expand your scientific network in the field.

A limited number of funded spaces are available to attend this training school for [participants with affiliations in COST countries](#), with a preference to young researchers (defined by COST as <40 years of age) and [inclusiveness target country](#) participants. Funding is based on [COST rules for travel and daily allowances](#) for Training Schools. Please note that you can only apply for reimbursement for costs which are not covered by another source (i.e. your travel cannot be reimbursed twice).

If you would like to apply for participation in the training school, please fill in the form found at the following link: [Application TS2](#)

The deadline for applications for participation in this Training School is January 23, 2026.

We look forward to welcoming you in Cluj-Napoca!

Kind regards from the organizers,

[Alina S. Rusu](#) (USAMV Cluj-Napoca, Romania, local organizer), [Rebecca Nordquist](#) (Utrecht University, the Netherlands) and [Helen Lewis](#) (Swansea University, UK)

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Evaluation criteria for Training School applications:

1. Alignment of motivation with the Training School (TS) and COST Action objectives (5points):
The Grant Awarding Team (GAT) and the specific TS coordinators (TSC) will assess how well the application aligns with the goals of the specific TS and the COST Action in general, as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Considerations include whether the expertise either brought to the TS by the applicant, or desired to learn by the applicant, directly contributes to the TS learning goals or supports the inclusion of underrepresented stakeholder groups.
2. Budgetary issue (5 points):
The applicant's financial need to be given the grant will be evaluated by the GAT+TSC based on the statement by the applicant and the available budget.
3. Expected benefits (5 points):
The GAT+TSC will consider what the applicant stands to gain from TS participation and how it will contribute to their research and professional development (e.g. does the TS help the applicant develop new skills or collaborations?).
4. Previous engagement (5 points):
When applicable, the applicant's prior involvement and contributions to this COST Action will be taken into account.
5. Tie-breaking criteria:
In the event of a tie, preference will be given in the following order:
 - o Applicants that have not been given grants before from this Action (not applicable for the first TS of this action).
 - o YRI applicants are prioritized over established researchers for TS participation.
 - o Applicants from unrepresented countries in this Action are given priority.
 - o Applicants from the gender underrepresented in the Action are given priority.
 - o Applicants from underrepresented stakeholder groups within this Action are given priority.