

COST Action CA24164

Sensing Europe's Court Spaces at the Crossroads of Past, Present and Future (SENSES)

Continuous call for applications for dissemination conference grants

1. About SENSES

SENSES brings together researchers and professionals to combine knowledge and find novel ways of presenting the European court residence, seen as the locus of multiple sensorial experiences. At the crossroads of court studies, sensory history and digital humanities, SENSES focuses on the “court residence” of late mediaeval and early modern Europe. This means the material and spatial environment of the courts in Europe from 1300 to 1800 within their social context, at all spatial scales from the single building (or part) to the landscape created around it and the supra-territorial residence network it belongs to. We will explore the full gamut of sensory experiences linked with the court residence and its life throughout history until today: from essential human activities, such as preparing food and crafting things, to the grandest and most complex, such as perceiving performances of music and dance in dedicated spaces and dining rituals.

Our goal is to build a better understanding of this complex cultural phenomenon and thus to support its survival as European heritage. To achieve this, SENSES will be multi-disciplinary and trans-sectoral, building bridges between academic disciplines on the one hand, and between academia and the cultural heritage sector on the other. We want to offer a sound research-based platform for developing novel, sensory-based interactions between the public (consumer), and the heritage (art, architecture, music) of the past. By exploring new ways of making and keeping this artistic heritage relevant for audiences of the future, we will contribute actively to European identity-building.

SENSES brings together researchers, heritage professionals, and digital specialists to advance a shared understanding of the multisensory dimensions of Europe's court residences. Its objectives fall into three interconnected areas:

1. Aims to deepen knowledge of court residences as multisensory environments by studying how sight, sound, smell, touch, taste, and movement shaped palace life between 1300 and 1800. The Action supports innovative research that investigates sensory experience in relation to architecture, material culture, ritual, and daily practice. It also promotes the use and critical evaluation of digital tools — from 3D and acoustic modelling to VR/AR — to explore past environments and reconstruct sensory phenomena that are otherwise difficult to access.

2. The Action strengthens collaboration across disciplines and sectors by creating a shared platform for historians, art and architectural historians, musicologists, archaeologists, heritage curators, and digital experts. Through conferences, workshops, and joint activities, SENSES encourages dialogue on methods, sources, and best practices for studying and communicating sensory heritage. This includes developing a common language and clearer “academic specifications” for digital reconstructions, ensuring that new digital outputs are both historically grounded and publicly meaningful.
3. Works to reduce disparities in knowledge, access, and technical resources across Europe. It provides training opportunities for early-career researchers, supports the exchange of expertise between academia and the heritage sector, and fosters inclusive participation throughout the network. By encouraging collaborative projects and linking research with museum practice, the Action aims to strengthen the long-term preservation, interpretation, and public relevance of palace heritage. Ultimately, SENSES seeks to raise awareness of the rich sensory dimensions of court residences and to contribute to a stronger shared European cultural identity.

Four working groups (WG) focus on work as follows:

WG1 SACRED

Explores the multiple sensorial experiences involved in the religious acts taking place in medieval and early modern European court residences 1300-1800.

WG2 DINING

Addresses the multiple sensorial experiences involved in the dining ceremonies of the medieval and early modern European court residences 1300-1800.

WG3 FABRIC

Addresses all the sensory experiences linked with a particularly rich and varied range of objects in the medieval and early modern European court residences 1300-1800: textile fabrics.

WG4 BODY looks at the multiple bodily experiences which are part of daily life at the medieval and early modern European court residences 1300-1800.

2. What is a Young Researcher and Innovator Conference Grant

The COST Action CA24164 “Sensing Europe’s Court Spaces at the Crossroads of Past, Present and Future (SENSES)” invites applications for the Young Researcher and Innovator (YRI) Grants to fund early-career researchers and innovators attending conferences. They may present a poster/oral presentation of their own work within the scope of the Action. YRI grants provide opportunities for professional development through networking, collaboration, and knowledge exchange. Grants cover up to EUR 2,500 per grant for face-to-face conferences or EUR 500.00 for online conferences.

YRI grants can cover:

- **Travel**
Covers transportation to and from conferences.
- **Accommodation**
Covers lodging during the approved activity.
- **Subsistence expenses**
Covers meals, local transport, and minor expenses.
- **Conference Fees (if applicable)**
Covers registration fees for relevant conferences and printing of scientific poster.

3. Eligibility criteria

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be a doctoral candidate, postdoctoral researcher, or other researcher.
- Be under 40 years of age at the time of application.
- Be affiliated with an institution in a COST Full or Near Neighbour Country.
- Be an active participant in SENSES COST Action.
- Demonstrate relevance of their participation to the objectives and Working Groups of the COST Action.
- The high-level conference should be fully organized by a third party, i.e. not organized or co-organized by the COST Action.

4. Selection criteria

Applications will be evaluated by Working Group leaders or their representatives considering:

- **The contribution to the COST Action's objectives and deliverables.**
Presentation and participation must clearly support and contribute to the scientific goals and expected outcomes of the COST Action.
- **The scientific relevance of the proposed presentation.**
The plan to present (oral or poster) should be scientifically strong and highly relevant to the conference and to the Action's research theme.

- **Geographical inclusiveness**

Efforts are made to ensure broad geographic representation across COST countries. Some Actions explicitly consider *Inclusiveness Target Country* status when ranking applications.

5. Application procedure

Applicants must have an e-COST profile and applications must be submitted online in e-COST.

Documents that cannot be uploaded via the e-COST interface should be sent directly to the Grant Awarding Coordinator (Bernardo J. García García bjgarcia@ucm.es) and the Chair of COST action (Konrad Ottenheim k.a.ottenheim@uu.nl).

Applicants, needs to provide:

- Acceptance letter from conference
- Letter of recommendation (only in the case of Master or PhD students)
- Short CV
- Application form. The application can be downloaded using the links below:

Application form: <https://www.cost.eu/YRICG-application-template>

6. Submission of the reports and payment

After the completion of the face-to-face presentation or the virtual activity, grantees are required to submit their presentations (PPT or Poster in PDF format), tickets and accommodation booking and payments proofs within 15 days of the completion of the attendance using e-COST platform. The reporting forms can be downloaded using the links below:

Reporting form: <https://www.cost.eu/YRICG-report-template>

Notes:

Each publication produced with support of a dissemination conference support grant should acknowledge the support of the COST Action and whenever possible use the COST and SENSES logos (on slides and posters).

Acknowledgement text:

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