

1st LIAISE COST ACTION TRAINING SCHOOL

17-19 March 2025

Tirana, Albania

Call for Trainees

Date & Location: Tirana, Albania, 17-19 March (3 working days)

Local host: European University of Tirana

Venue: Kompleksi Xhura, Rruga Xhanfize Keko, Tiranë 1000, Albania

LIAISE COST ACTION

The LIAISE COST Action (Cooperation, development and cross-border transfer of Industrial Symbiosis) is a collaborative initiative under the COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) framework.

The primary objective of LIAISE is to ensure an inclusive and holistic Industrial Symbiosis approach by generating relevant synergies among different actors from the q-helix stakeholders' model and by setting the groundwork for increased and robust development of knowledge, apart from promoting future results-oriented R&D. By fostering interdisciplinary cooperation and facilitating the exchange of knowledge, LIAISE aims to improve the quality and relevance of Industrial symbiosis implementation, ensuring that they better address environmental, social, and economic challenges.

Through its activities, LIAISE seeks to contribute to informed decision-making processes by promoting advanced methodologies and tools for assessing the potential impacts of Industrial Symbiosis. These efforts are aligned with broader goals of sustainable governance, green transitions, and inclusive development across Europe.

LIAISE brings together researchers, academics, companies, policymakers, and practitioners, providing a platform for collaborative research, capacity-building, and knowledge-sharing.

ABOUT THIS TRAINING SCHOOL

The LIAISE COST Action Training School brings together Ph.D. students, early-career researchers, and professionals working on Industrial symbiosis (IS) and sustainable policy development. The training school offers a comprehensive program aimed at expanding participants' knowledge of Industrial Symbiosis from multiple angles, including environmental, economic, and social perspectives.

The school is delivered by leading experts in the field of Industrial Symbiosis from across Europe. Each session will be led by specialists who will introduce the core concepts and applications of IS, guiding participants through key theoretical and practical issues. The program is designed to foster discussion and interactive learning, with opportunities to engage in hands-on exercises and analyze real-world case studies.

The program overview is detailed below¹:

Day 1: Introduction to Industrial Symbiosis

- What is Industrial Symbiosis? An introduction to the concept and its role in fostering sustainable practices.
- The Circular Economy and its Connection to IS: Understanding how industrial symbiosis fits within the broader framework of circular economy principles.
- The Growing Importance of IS in Achieving SDGs: Exploring the role of industrial symbiosis in supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those related to sustainable production and consumption.

Day 2: Economic and Environmental Benefits of Industrial Symbiosis

- Cost Savings Through Shared Resources and Reduced Waste Disposal: Analyzing the financial benefits of industrial symbiosis for businesses and communities.
- Reduction in Carbon Footprint and Other Environmental Impacts: Examining the environmental advantages of implementing IS networks, including reduced waste, energy efficiency, and resource optimization. It will also include material and energy flow analysis and carbon footprint calculation sessions.
- Long-Term Sustainability Benefits for Companies and Communities: Understanding the lasting impact of industrial symbiosis on business models, local economies, and community resilience.

Day 3: Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration in Industrial Symbiosis and Final Project.

- Identifying Stakeholders: Businesses, Local Governments, Communities, and NGOs: A detailed look at the key players in industrial symbiosis networks and their roles.
- Building Trust and Cooperation Between Stakeholders: Strategies for fostering collaboration among diverse stakeholders to ensure successful implementation of IS projects.
- The Role of Policy, Regulation, and Digital Transformation in Facilitating IS Networks: Investigating how policy frameworks, regulations, and digital tools can support the development and expansion of industrial symbiosis initiatives.
- Are you ready to implement Industrial Symbiosis?. Start developing a comprehensive IS model (for that purpose, it might be beneficial to require participants to conduct some preliminary research and identify at least one IS opportunity from their local region as part of their application)

Throughout the training school, participants will be encouraged to discuss the challenges and opportunities of Industrial Symbiosis in their own research contexts. They will also have the opportunity to present their research, receive feedback from experts, and engage with a network of professionals and peers working in sustainability and circular economy fields.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the LIAISE COST Action Training School, participants will be able to:

- Define industrial symbiosis and its role in promoting sustainability within the context of the circular economy.
- Evaluate the Economic and Environmental Benefits of IS.

¹ Changes could be done to the program according to the trainers requirements

- Assess the financial advantages of industrial symbiosis for businesses, including cost savings through resource sharing and waste reduction.
- Analyze the environmental impact of IS networks, including their role in reducing carbon footprints and optimizing resource use.
- Recognize the long-term sustainability benefits of IS for organizations and communities.
- Identify the primary stakeholders in industrial symbiosis, including businesses, local governments, communities, and NGOs.
- Understand the dynamics of collaboration and trust-building among diverse stakeholders to ensure the success of IS initiatives.
- Investigate the role of policies and regulations in facilitating industrial symbiosis, focusing on regulatory frameworks that support resource sharing and waste management.
- Understand the influence of digital transformation and technology in optimizing IS networks and fostering cooperation among stakeholders.
- Use case studies and practical exercises to apply theoretical knowledge of industrial symbiosis to real-world situations.
- Develop strategies for overcoming challenges in implementing IS projects, including stakeholder engagement and resource management.

All trainees will receive a certificate of participation.

PRACTICAL DETAILS

- The duration of this training school is three working days.
- Grants will be provided for around 15 participants.
- A contribution for travel costs (up to 400 € in total), as well as accommodation and subsistence costs (daily allowance of 185 €).
- Expenses are reimbursed 30 days after the event has taken place and the reimbursement claim is correctly submitted.
- There are no registration fees.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Eligible to apply to the training school are:

- Graduate and Ph.D. students, .
- Researchers and Postdoctoral researchers
- Workers in any industrial company (holds at least a graduate degree) interested in applying IS.
- Cluster Managers
- Academics
- Any other person interested on IS topic

APPLICATIONS PROCEDURE

Applicants to the training school should:

- Have an [e-cost profile](#);
- [Apply](#) to join one of the WGs of the action;
- Submit a motivation letter, not exceeding 300-500 words, which must include a rationale of why you are interested in the training school and how you envisage the training school to contribute to your learning and research objectives of LIAISE COST Action; an indication of whether you would like to be considered for funding;

- Submit a short CV (2 pages maximum);

Please send your application to this email: liaisecostaction@gmail.com

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 31st January 2025

The applicants will be informed about the result of their application via e-mail by February 15th 2025. Applicants who will not receive a grant but do receive an invitation can participate with their own or their institution's funding or join the Training School online.

Accepted participants (trainees) will be required to provide the following documents along with their grant reimbursement claim:

1. A full-colour scan of your passport's main page exhibits your name, surname and passport number.
2. Scanned copies of invoices, receipts, bills, tickets and other proofs of payments for all types of costs, including hotel accommodation, travel, meals, etc.