

# The COST Action IC1208 Integrating Devices and Materials: A Challenge for New Instrumentation in ICT

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The COST Action Integrating Devices and Materials (IDEM) celebrated its closing meeting on 16-17 March 2017, nearly four years after its kick-off in May 2013. During this time, the numbers of participant groups and countries has been steadily increasing, from the original 6 countries and 10 groups to the latest numbers, 212 participants belonging to 60 groups of 29 countries. These include most EU countries and several COST and near-neighbor countries such as Turkey, Switzerland, Serbia, Israel, and Russia.

The Action was conceived as a transversal tool intended to look for the creation of devices based on non-standard materials for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). As usual in COST Actions, funding was not intended to be employed in research realizations, but rather in promoting interchanges of ideas and persons among participating groups, with especial attention to young researchers. Therefore, the main activities of the Action have been the organization of meetings of the Management Committee and the Working Groups, Short-term Scientific Missions (STSMs, 1-8 weeks stays of researchers in other laboratories), realization or co-sponsoring of Workshops and Summer Schools, and Dissemination activities in webpages, conferences and journals.

Such transversal character of the Action has brought groups from dissimilar areas like multiferroics, ceramics, acoustic biosensors or liquid crystals, to name a few. This is not considered an issue but rather an advantage, since participants have had the opportunity of gathering ideas, procedures and findings from groups that could not interact elsewhere, e.g. in scientific journals or symposia usually focused on much more specific topics. Working Groups meetings have intentionally organized in joint sessions to promote such interdisciplinary character, while collateral activities such as Workshops and Summer Schools have been dedicated to less extensive, yet transversal topics.

Within this context, and taking into account that somewhat 60% of the Action members work in fields directly or indirectly related to Photonics, it seemed appropriate to gather photonic activities of our partners into a collection of research works, to be jointly published in a photonic journal. Photonics Letters of Poland, that has been collaborating with the Action for some time, agreed to prepare an issue dedicated to IC1208 COST Action.

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