



Newsletter

Nov 25' - Apr 26'

New Look Update

We've just updated our page logo and banner, refreshing the visual identity of PanEuCOPT.

Also, we have just launched our website, find out more news and collaboration opportunities at

<https://paneucopt.eu/>

Biofilm Webinar Recap

10/December/2025

The ESGB webinar featured Helena Bujdaková, Joanna Nakonieczna, and Paula Bourke, highlighting new strategies for biofilm eradication, including photodynamic inactivation and cold plasma therapies.

PanEuCOPT Congress Preparation Begins

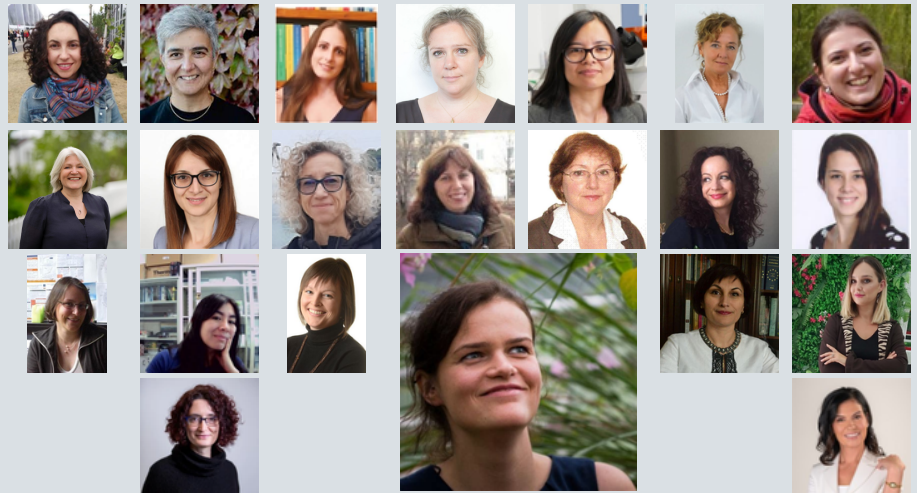
The PanEuCOPT conference in Aveiro is about to begin, opening its sessions online and free of charge to showcase European advances in PDI and photoantimicrobial technologies while connecting researchers across countries.



Women in PanEuCOPT

11/February/2026

On the occasion of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, PanEuCOPT highlighted the vital role of women in advancing light-based solutions to antimicrobial resistance. Women represent 56% of participants and hold 44% of leadership roles, with recognition for Action Chair Prof. Bianka Siewert. The initiative also aligns with SDG5 on gender equality.



Seminar in Grenoble

27/January/2026

Nidia Maldonado-Carmona delivered an engaging seminar at the IAB in Grenoble, hosted by Anne-Laure Bulin, presenting light-driven strategies for pathogen disinfection. The talk also highlighted the PanEuCOPT initiative and its efforts to advance PACT research across Europe.

PanEuCOPT on the Move

PanEuCOPT continues to gain visibility through international engagement and upcoming outreach activities:

- **Bianka Siewert promoted the Action in Punta Arenas, Chile (6/March/2026)**
- **Santi Nonell presented PanEuCOPT in Chile (12/March/2026)**
- **Martina Mušković Lukić showcased the initiative at the 2nd Junior ESP Meeting (27/March/2026)**

Further opportunities to expand our reach and strengthen collaborations are expected in the coming months.



PanEuCOPT at Aveiro

15/January/2026

Amparo Faustino presented at the "Workshop of Nanomaterials and Advanced Photonics: Biological and Environmental Applications" at the Universidade de Aveiro, introducing porphyrin-based photosensitizers as light-activated strategies against antimicrobial resistance. Her talk highlighted antimicrobial photodynamic therapy and the impact of the PanEuCOPT COST Action.

WG3 Meeting in Salzburg

19/February/2026

The first WG3 Guidelines Meeting for COST Action CA24127 was successfully held at the University of Salzburg. The full-day session focused on developing standardized protocols and draft guidelines for key microorganisms, including model organisms and BSL-1 surrogates. Sub-workgroups covered bacteria, biofilms, fungi, and viruses, supported by expert leaders and contributors. The meeting marked an important step toward harmonized microbiological research within PanEuCOPT.

1st Action Conference

Let's take a look at the events of our first great event, open to fellow researchers and organized at the University of Aveiro!

Agenda

Thursday April 9th, 2026

- 10 h Core Group Meeting
- 14 h Action Conference
- 15 h "aPDT, PACT, PDI — Many Voices, One Bright Future"
- 19 h WG Program Pitch and sign up

Friday April 10th, 2026

- 09 h WG meetings
- 16 h MC meeting

Core Group Meeting

The Core Group -consisted of the Chair, Vice-Chair, the five Working Group leaders, the Horizontal leaders and our very own Grant Holder Manager- worked together, defining the working plans and the expectations of the upcoming event!

They defined the philosophy of the Action:



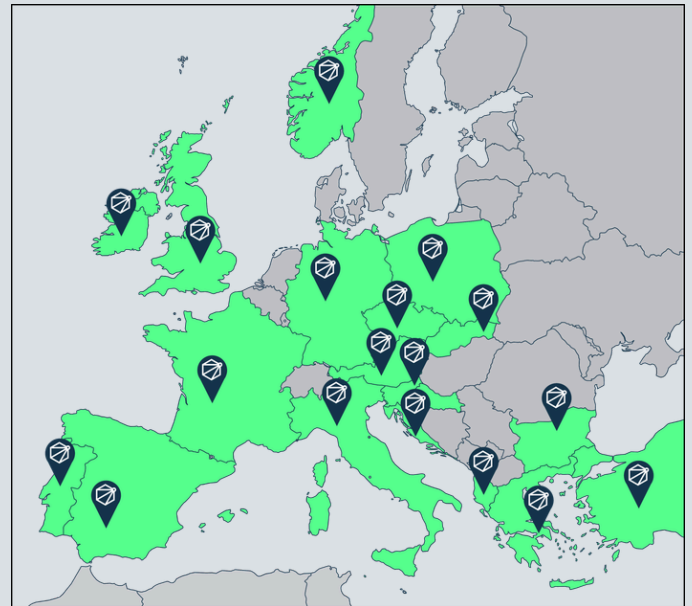
Unify, align and educate to advance implementation of {photoantimicrobials}



Action Conference

During our first Action Conference, MC members of 18 countries presented the current state of research and innovation on {photoantimicrobials}. It highlighted the already established collaborations within national partners, helping PanEuCOPT and our collaborators to identify potential national and international partners. This is the basis for long-term new collaborations and the foundation basis for a database of {photoantimicrobials} stakeholders.

- Albania
- Austria
- Bulgaria
- Czech Republic
- Croatia
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Ireland
- Italy
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Serbia
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Turkey
- UK



WG feedback!

The WG leaders held a parallel discussion about the direction of their WG for the next six months, always keeping in mind the needs for the future.

WG1 - Terminology Francesca Giuntini



“The aim was to bring all the attendees up to speed on the work of the group, and to organise the logistic to enable the **remote participation** of the WG members to the work. During the meeting, we familiarised with the parallel IUPAC PhotoTERM project (covering the terms related to the broader field of photodynamic therapy), we decided on a shared document to which all the members and participant of the COST action can contribute, and we attempted the definition of a couple of acronyms. We also sent out a request for reporters from other work groups to help us identifying terms relevant to the educational, protocols and illumination aspects of this project.”

“Identification of target groups: PhD & MSc students, free learners (e.g., professionals newcomers to the field), Lab technicians. The pros and cons of various educational techniques were discussed. Potential syllabi of **{photoantimicrobial}** courses were discussed for each identified learning community. Irrespective of the level, it was agreed to organise the learning materials into four broad groups. Then, a non-final, open list of learning units was compiled and the WG2 members committed to provide an example video for discussion in a next meeting. Finally, it was agreed to devote the next WG2 meeting (Brixen, June 2026) to liaise with the leaders of the other WGs”

WG2 - Education Santi Nonell



WG3 - Guidelines Kristjan Plaetzer

“The WG3 meeting in frame of the 1st PanEuCOPT Conference in Aveiro, PT, constituted a significant step forward in the development of harmonised and scientifically robust guidelines for **{Photodynamic Inactivation}**. At the session opening I provided a comprehensive overview of the objectives, key milestones, and planned deliverables of WG3. This presentation established a clear strategic context and underscored the importance of coordinated efforts in advancing guideline standardisation across the respective domains.

A central component of the meeting was the presentation and in-depth discussion of three guideline templates with different layout. The discussion was led by **Prof. Adelaide Almeida (Sub-WG 3.1: Bacteria)**, **Prof. Joanna Nakonieczna (Sub-WG 3.2: Biofilms)**, **Dr. Angelika Bauer and Dr. Linda Jernej (Sub-WG 3.3: Fungi and Yeasts)**, and **Prof. Anzhela Galstyan (Sub-WG 3.4: Viruses)**. The expert participants of the meeting engaged in a highly constructive exchange, providing detailed and practice-oriented feedback based on their laboratory experience. This input is instrumental in further refining and strengthening the proposed templates.

It was agreed that the templates will now be subjected to validation under laboratory conditions within the participating institutions. The findings from these evaluations will be reviewed in a follow-up online meeting scheduled for September, during which one template will be selected for subsequent advancement and consolidation.

In continuation of these efforts, a further WG3 meeting is planned for 2027, most likely to be hosted in Slovakia, with the aim of developing the first protocols for application of **{Photodynamic Inactivation}** to fight microbes in the One Health framework.

Overall, the meeting was highly productive and marked by a strong spirit of collaboration, scientific excellence, and shared commitment. I extend my sincere appreciation to all participants for their dedication, expertise and valuable contributions.”



WG feedback!

The WG leaders held a parallel discussion about the direction of their WG for the next six months, always keeping in mind the needs for the future.

WG4 - Illumination Giovanni Romano

“We aimed at: **i)** discussing the next activities to be carried on for Task 4.1; **ii)** discussing how to define the survey, as recalled in Task 4.2; **iii)** define the next WG4 online meeting and in person meeting. We actually could finish point **i)** and part of point **ii)**. For point **iii)** we discussed only the online meeting definition.

We obtained: **i)** a methodology to analyze valuable data for us from the literature, to obtain info on the illumination sources and parameters appearing in peer reviewed works in the last 5 years; **ii)** a definition of the application fields (on which basis we classify devices and parameters); **iii)** a task sub-division for previous points **i)** and **ii)** among WG4 participants; **iv)** having defined the different application fields for medical illuminating devices, light sources and illumination parameters, we implicitly set the basis for the definition of the survey to be eventually distributed among scientists and companies, which will include questions relative to the research field, device used, parameters used; **v)** the definition of **(i)** an online meeting first and **(ii)** in presence meeting and the calendar for the online meeting”



WG5 - Dissemination Nidia Maldonado-Carmona

“During the WG5 meeting we had the chance to meet for the first time in person, although we had already had several meetings online and we have a chat communication channel where we discuss the most urgent day-to-day activities. I was able to show the results of our Dissemination activities so far, and started planning for future activities and how to make dissemination more efficient towards other stakeholders than fellow researchers. Several tasks and deliverables were distributed among the WG5 members, including collecting the data obtained from the 1st Action Conference held on April 9th. Also, fellows from WG2 and WG4 had the chance to discuss a bit of what they may need from us in the future! Lots of work ahead, but we have a fantastic and dynamic team that will help us fulfill the Action objectives!”



1st Action Conference Final Remarks

Current PanEuCOPT members

130 members

27 countries

3 continents

Assistants

Members joining face-to-face: 53

Members Online: 10 (5 MCs)

Locals (PT): 8

Cost

Estimated costs: 50538 €

Local Organizer: 3000 €

Average travel cost 409 €

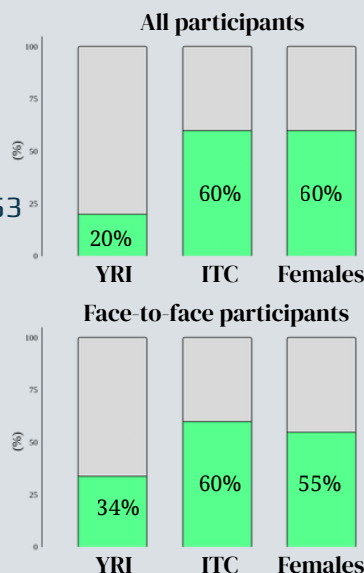
Average Daily Allowance: 612 €

Statistics

MC-Members joining: 29

24 non-MC members invited!

21 countries represented (of 27)



MC meeting: conclusions and decisions

Within the MC it was voted that:

1. The SDG Coordinator was voted to be **Fabienne Dumoulin** and it was voted for her to be part of the Core Group.
2. A Scientific Steering Committee will be established.
3. Rules R0.V1 (General Reimbursement Rules) and R5.V1 (Dissemination Grant Rules) are accepted with some changes, discussed during the session.
4. **Webpage can be officialy launched!**
5. The Contest “**PanEuCOPT Shining Through!**” will be launched and a monetary prize was agreed.
6. The newsletter #2 can be sent out.

1st Action Conference

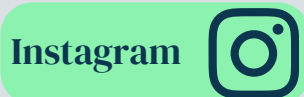


Thank you all!



PanEuCOPT

Unify, align and educate to advance
implementation of
{photoantimicrobials}



Newsletter design

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Newsletter curation

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Newsletter edition

Daniel Ziental

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Newsletter revision and proofreading

WG5 - Dissemination | Core Group

1st Action Conference photographies

Jose M. G. Pereira

Photos available at [this repository](#).



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