

## COST Action 23137

### Print Culture and Public Spheres in Central Europe (1500–1800) | PCPS<sup>CE</sup>

#### Call for Panel Proposals: 18<sup>th</sup> Century World Congress 2027

Zaragoza | 12–16 July 2027

#### Main objective

The 17<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ISECS) will take place in Zaragoza (Spain) from 12–16 July 2027 under the theme “*Enlightenment and (In)equality*” for the long 18<sup>th</sup> century (see the attached Call for Papers).

The COST Action *Print Culture and Public Spheres in Central Europe* (PCPS<sup>CE</sup>) invites Action members to submit proposals for thematic panels that showcase the Action's research and foster collaboration across Working Groups, countries, disciplines, and career stages. The Action intends to support participation in up to **two thematic panels, each consisting of four participants** (normally three speakers and one chair/moderator). Financial support will be provided in accordance with COST rules governing participation in third-party organised conferences and will be subject to the availability of Action resources.

**We particularly encourage proposals that engage with the Congress theme “Enlightenment and (In)equality” through the perspectives of print culture, communication, knowledge circulation, and public spheres in Central Europe and beyond.** We welcome contributions that explore how print and communication networks promoted, negotiated, challenged, or reinforced social, political, cultural, linguistic, confessional, and gendered inequalities during the long eighteenth century.

We would also like to draw particular attention to the **Digital Humanities Wednesday**, which will be held for the first time as part of the Congress programme. Contributions employing Digital Humanities methods, data-driven approaches, or computational perspectives are especially welcome, and we would be delighted to see proposals from members working in this field.

Innovative panel formats that bring together scholars from different disciplines and methodological traditions are also encouraged.

## Procedure

### 1. Submission of Expressions of Interest (Pre-Proposals)

Members interested in organising a panel are invited to submit a brief pre-proposal for internal selection, including:

1. Provisional panel title
2. Short description (max. 300 words)
3. Short CV of the proposed four participants<sup>1</sup>

**Deadline:** 31 August 2026

### 2. Internal Selection

The Core Group will select up to two panels for support on the basis of:

1. Scholarly quality and originality
2. Relevance to the aims of PCPS<sup>CE</sup>
3. Engagement with the Congress theme
4. Geographical and institutional diversity
5. Balance with regard to gender and career stage, including the participation of YRIs

### 3. Submission to ISECS

The two selected panels will be invited to prepare and submit a full proposal to the Congress organisers by 30 September 2026, in accordance with the ISECS submission procedures (see for full details on requirements: <https://www.isecs-zara-goza2027.net/en/calls/>).

Please note that selection by the COST Action does not automatically imply acceptance by the Congress Scientific Committee. According to the Congress timetable, accepted thematic sessions and roundtables will be announced on 30 October 2026.

### Applying for Financial Support (after acceptance by the Congress Scientific Committee)

If the **two selected panels** are **accepted by the Congress Scientific Committee**, **financial support** for the participation of their members **will be guaranteed**, subject to compliance with COST rules and eligibility requirements.

**Panels that had not been not selected through the internal PCPS<sup>CE</sup> procedure** may nevertheless be submitted independently to the Congress organisers. Should such panels be accepted by the Congress Scientific Committee, their participants may also apply for financial support from the COST Action. **However, any such support will**

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<sup>1</sup> Participants who are not yet members of the Action must join the Action before the Congress in order to be eligible for reimbursement.

**depend on the Action's available budget in 2027 and cannot be guaranteed.** Applications will be assessed in accordance with COST rules and the Action's funding priorities at that time.

All applications for financial support must follow the procedures specified on the PCPS<sup>CE</sup> website for Dissemination Conference Grants and YRI Conference Grants under the category "Grants for Presentations at High-Level Conferences Fully Organised by Third Parties": <https://pcps-ce.eu/grants/>

We look forward to receiving your ideas and to showcasing the breadth and diversity of research within PCPS<sup>CE</sup> at the ISECS World Congress 2027.

### **Acknowledgement**

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