



CliMent

Climate change impacts on
mental health in Europe

<https://cost-climent.eu>



@CliMent COST

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Authorship Guidelines

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1 About this document

The *CliMent* COST Action is expected to generate a substantial number of scientific publications (as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding). Following consultation with the Core Group, a set of authorship guidelines was prepared, pertaining to outputs from work conducted within the Action.

This document is intended to ensure maximum transparency in the process of attributing authorship throughout the *CliMent* COST Action and, where relevant, after its official conclusion.

These guidelines may be updated based on decisions taken by the *CliMent* Core Group and/or the Action Chair or Vice-Chair. Any updates must be formally approved by the Management Committee and will then be communicated to all *CliMent* participants by the Action Chair.

By setting out the procedures and criteria in advance, we aim to provide all *CliMent* participants with a fair opportunity to contribute to publications (where appropriate) and to be recognised accordingly as co-authors, subject to the criteria detailed below.

2 Basis for these guidelines

Rather than creating a new framework, the *CliMent* COST Action will adhere to the well-established recommendations of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) on authorship (<http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/>). These recommendations, which have replaced the former Vancouver Guidelines, are widely recognised as the standard across scientific disciplines.

While the essential principles of the ICMJE recommendations are outlined below, participants are strongly encouraged to consult the full ICMJE document. Should the ICMJE recommendations be updated, this document will be revised accordingly.

3 Authorship criteria

Authorship within the *CliMent* COST Action shall be determined according to adherence to all four ICMJE criteria, as assessed by the relevant Working Group Leader and Co-Leader:

1. Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work, or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work, in accordance with the CRediT taxonomy (McNutt et al, 2018); **AND**
2. Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; **AND**
3. Final approval of the version to be published; **AND**
4. Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work, ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

Meeting the first criterion entitles a contributor to pursue fulfilment of the remaining three. Only individuals who meet **all four** criteria shall be listed as authors.

Contributions that do **not** meet all four criteria fall into two distinct categories:

(a) Acknowledgements (individual, non-author status): Individuals whose contributions are minor, supportive, or administrative (e.g., providing technical assistance, translation, or general feedback) shall be mentioned in the *Acknowledgements* section of the manuscript. They will **not** be listed as authors, either individually or as part of the consortium.

(b) Network authorship (collective, group author status): Members of the *CliMent* network who have made a **substantial contribution to the work** (e.g., significant data collection, provision of materials, or meaningful input to the research process), but who do not meet all four ICMJE criteria, will be included under the group authorship designation "*CliMent (WGx) network*". In such instance, the group name will appear in the author by-line (e.g., "... and the *CliMent (WGx) network*"). A detailed description of each member's contribution will be provided in a supplementary file, appendix, or contribution table, in line with best publication practice.

It is important to note that **acknowledgement and network authorship are mutually exclusive categories**: an individual can either be acknowledged (if their contribution is minor) or be listed under the *CliMent network* (if their contribution is substantial but insufficient to warrant full authorship), but not both. This decision will be evaluated by the Working Group Leader and Co-Leader and confirmed by the Core Group.

A note regarding Core Group members: given their continuous and overarching involvement, as well as comprehensive and integral understanding of in the scientific and strategic direction of the *CliMent* COST Action, it is expected that they will contribute intellectually and critically to most outputs. Therefore, Core Group members should typically be included as co-authors in publications produced during the lifetime of the Action, unless a member explicitly requests not to be included in a specific output.

It is essential to emphasise that participation in the *CliMent* COST Action does **not** confer an automatic right to authorship. Each potential author must actively and demonstrably meet the authorship criteria outlined above.

4 Collaborative research and subsequent publication

The *CliMent* COST Action encourages collaborative research conducted within its Working Groups (WGs), with the aim of producing high-quality deliverables and scientific outputs. The process described below seeks to ensure fairness, transparency, and accountability across all stages of collaboration.

4.1 Initiating the Work

Each deliverable will be proposed and discussed within the relevant Working Group, and in consultation with the Core Group, under the leadership of the WG Leader and Co-

Leader. During this planning phase, the WG Leader will present the tasks required to complete the deliverable, including any potential scientific publications.

WG participants will be invited to express their interest and availability to contribute to specific tasks. These tasks will then be distributed collaboratively, with oversight and coordination by the WG Leader and Co-Leader.

4.2 Development of the Publication

Participants who actively contribute to the development of the manuscript (in line with the authorship criteria outlined above) will be considered as co-authors. WG Leaders and Co-Leaders are responsible for ensuring that contributions are documented and that authorship decisions are made fairly and transparently.

All relevant decisions, including the choice of journal and the timeline for submission, should be discussed and agreed within the Working Group. In cases of disagreement or indecision, the final decision rests with the WG Leader and Co-Leader.

4.3 Author Order and Roles

- The WG participant(s) (which may also be the WG Leader or Co-Leader) making the most substantial contributions to the manuscript shall be designated as the first author(s).
- Where multiple contributors have played equally central roles, they shall be listed as joint first authors, with a footnote stating: *"These authors contributed equally to this work."*
- The WG Leader and Co-Leader will act, alternately, as the corresponding author, responsible for managing the submission process and communication with the journal. This role reflects responsibility for handling the submission but does **not** imply senior authorship.
- The Action Chair and Vice-Chair shall normally be listed, alternately, as the final (senior) author, acknowledging their role in overall coordination and quality assurance of the Action's scientific outputs.
- In recognition of international academic practice, **co-last authorship** may be applied where two or more individuals (e.g., the WG Leader and the Action Chair) have provided equivalent senior input to the work. In such cases, a footnote shall indicate: *"These authors jointly supervised this work."*

4.4 Network as Author

Where applicable, the *ClimMent* network may be credited as a group author. This applies when:

- multiple members have made **substantial but partial** contributions to the work (not meeting all four ICMJE criteria individually); and
- it is desirable to reflect the collaborative nature of the Action.

In such cases:

- the group name “*CliMent network*” will appear in the author list, alongside the individual authors;
- the full membership list and specific contributions will be documented transparently (e.g., in an appendix or supplementary file);
- individuals included under the network authorship will not also appear in the *Acknowledgements* section, in order to avoid duplication or confusion.

4.5 Final Validation and Submission

Before submission, the final draft must be shared with the Action Chair or Vice-Chair for validation. This step ensures alignment with the Action’s goals, coherence of messaging, and compliance with funding acknowledgements and ethical standards.

Once validated, the corresponding author proceeds with submission, ensuring the correct inclusion of funding details and institutional affiliations as provided by the authors.