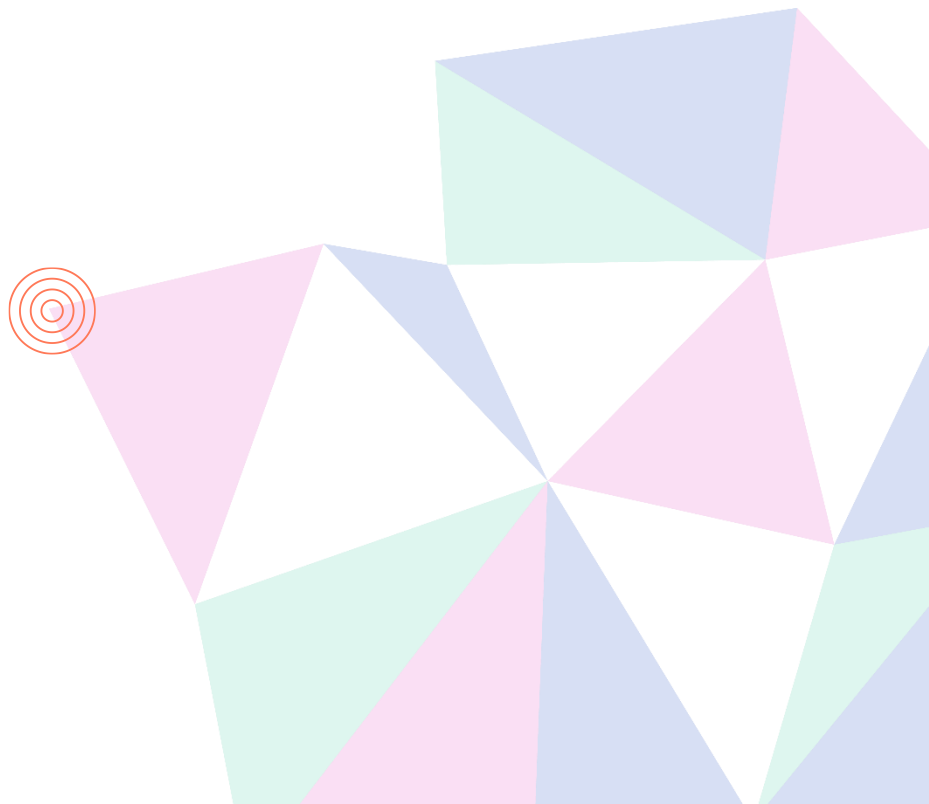


COST Info Day

Belspo, 7 May 2025

Bart Veys – Head of Policy



Specialised Information Session



Overview Presentation



- **Content of a COST Action proposal**
- **Evaluation steps**
- **Eligibility criteria**
- **What makes a good proposal?**

Overview Presentation



- **Content of a COST Action proposal**
- Evaluation steps
- Eligibility criteria
- What makes a good proposal?



Proposals



**GENERAL
FEATURES**



TECHNICAL ANNEX

<https://www.cost.eu/Technical-Annex-Facsimile>)

1. Excellence in S&T and Networking
2. Impact
3. Implementation



**COST EXCELLENCE AND
INCLUSIVENESS POLICY
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**



**NETWORK OF
PROPOSERS**



Proposals



**GENERAL
FEATURES**

Online submission tool (e-COST)*

Overview
General Features
Technical Annex
References
COST Mission and Policies
Network
Documents
« My Proposals

Main Proposer Institution *

Title (Maximum 12 words) *

Acronym *
(max 60 characters)

Keyword 1 *
(max 60 characters)

Keyword 2 *
(max 60 characters)

Keyword 3 *
(max 60 characters)

Keyword 4
(max 60 characters)
Summary: Maximum 250 words

AREAS OF EXPERTISE NEEDED FOR EVALUATION

Science Field: Health Sciences

Research Area: Health Services, Health Care Research

Words: 68

Proposal Reference: OC-

Proposal Status: Draft

Checklist:

- ✓ General Features
- ✗ Technical Annex (1 issue)
- ✓ COST Policies
- ✗ Network (1 issue)

Generate PDF

Ready to submit?

*www.cost.eu/ecost



Proposals



GENERAL
FEATURES



TECHNICAL ANNEX

(<https://www.cost.eu/Technical-Annex-Facsimile>)

1. Excellence in S&T and Networking
2. Impact
3. Implementation

Proposals

GENERAL FEATURES

Funding ▾ COST Actions ▾ Activities

- > How to get funding
 - How to apply
 - Open Call
 - Evaluation, selection and approval
 - Documents and guidelines

TECHNICAL ANNEX

(<https://www.cost.eu/Technical-Annex-Facsimile>)

1. Excellence in S&T and Networking
2. Impact
3. Implementation

Open Call for proposals

TECHNICAL ANNEX



SECTIONS

1. EXCELLENCE in S&T and NETWORKING

SUB-SECTIONS

- A. Main challenge
- B. Objectives
- C. State-of-the-art
- D. Rationale for choosing networking to address the main challenge
- E. Critical mass of the network

2. IMPACT

- A. Impact related to objectives
- B. Involvement of stakeholders
- C. Communication, dissemination and valorisation

3. IMPLEMENTATION

- A. Action Structure
- B. Work plan (tasks, activities and timeframe)
- C. Deliverables
- D. Gantt chart

- Downloadable Word template
- Max. 15 pages
- Diagrams and figures accepted

Excellence in S&T and networking



- Describe to what extent the main scientific, technological and/or societal **challenge** is relevant and timely.
- Explain how the **objectives** are relevant to the main challenge, achievable within the lifetime of the proposed Action, concrete, and ambitious
- Describe to what extent the proposal **builds on the state of the art** and explain to what extent its approach and methodologies will advance the state of the art.
- Describe to what extent the proposal demonstrates that establishing a pan-European **network is the most appropriate approach** in relation to the main challenge and objectives.
- Describe to what extent the proposed network has the **critical mass** and the range of expertise needed to address the main challenge and objectives

Impact

- Describe to what extent the proposal aims to achieve **realistic and innovative impacts**. Impacts can be on science, society, policy, or any other relevant area, and short-, medium- or long-term.
- Describe to what extent the proposal identifies the **relevant stakeholders** and presents a clear and tailored plan to engage them in the Action activities.
- Describe to what extent plans for the **communication, dissemination and valorisation** of the results of the proposed Action are clear, attainable, and targeted to relevant audiences (research community, policymakers, civil society, etc.).

Scores: empty section (0), poor (1), fair (2), good (3), very good (4), excellent (5)

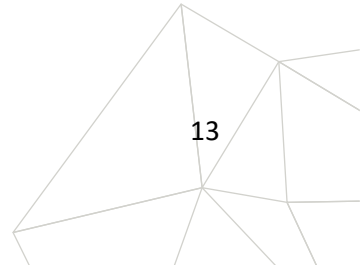
Implementation

- Describe to what extent the **work plan and the structure** of the proposed Action (WGs, leadership structure, tasks, activities, timeframe, deliverables, and internal communication) appropriately address the main challenge and ensures achievement of objectives.



Scores: empty section (0), insufficient (1), standard (2), outstanding (3)

No threshold





Proposals



GENERAL FEATURES



TECHNICAL ANNEX

1. Excellence in S&T and Networking
2. Impact
3. Implementation



COST EXCELLENCE AND INCLUSIVENESS POLICY SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES



COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy

PROMOTING



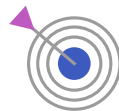
**GEOGRAPHICAL
BALANCE** (ITC)



AGE BALANCE
(young researchers)



GENDER BALANCE
throughout its activities



OBJECTIVES

- 1.** Identifying excellence in science and technology across Europe
- 2.** Increasing research communities' access to funding and infrastructures
- 3.** Triggering structural changes in COST Members' national research systems

Proposals

GENERAL
FEATURES

TECHNICAL
ANNEX

1. Excellence in S&T and Networking
2. Impact
3. Implementation

COST EXCELLENCE AND
INCLUSIVENESS POLICY
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

NETWORK OF
PROPOSERS

Main and secondary proposers

✓ Only one Main Proposer

✓ At least 7 different COST Full or Cooperating Countries (minimum 50% ITC)

Table 1: Eligibility to participate in the Network of Proposers by Affiliation

Proposers affiliated in	Eligible as	
	Main Proposer	Secondary Proposer
A legal entity in a COST Full/Cooperating member	✓	✓
A legal entity in a COST Partner Member	✗	✓
A legal entity in a Near Neighbour Country (NNC)	✗	✓
A legal entity in a Third State (IPC)	✗	✓
EU Institutions, Bodies, Offices and Agencies (EC/EU)	✓	✓
European RTD	✓	✓
International Organisations	✗	✓

✓ = Yes

✗ = No

Independent workers are ineligible as Main or Secondary Proposer.

Table 9: Required minimum number of COST Inclusiveness Target Countries per number of COST Full or Cooperating Members represented in a proposal.

Number of COST Full or Cooperating Members	Minimum number of ITC
7	4
8	4
9	5
10	5
11	6
12	6
13	7
14	7
15	8
16	8
17	9
18	9
19	10
20	10
21	11
22	11
23	12
24	12
25	13
26	13
27	14
28	14
29	15
30	15
31	16
32	16
33	17
34	17
35	18
36	18
37	19
38	19
39	20
40	20
41	21
42	21

Budget

Proposal stage:

- No budget draft/information is needed in the proposal

After approval:

- Start of the Action = **MC1**
- Grant Periods:

GP	Duration	Budget
1	1 November 2025 - 30 October 2026	125,000 EUR
2	1 November 2026- 30 October 2027	Depending on <ul style="list-style-type: none">- COST countries in the WG's- Action performance- Availability of budget
3	1 November 2027- 30 October 2028	
4	1 November 2028- 30 October 2029	

Use of AI

- Proposers must be human beings
- Proposers are fully and solely responsible for all content in the submitted proposal independently of how it was authored



Overview Presentation



- Content of a COST Action proposal
- **Evaluation steps**
- Eligibility criteria
- What makes a good proposal?

Evaluation

SESA



ELIGIBILITY

- Anonymous
- Minimum 50% ITC
- Peaceful purpose
- Format
- English

STEP



EXTERNAL REMOTE EVALUATION

- 3 Independent External Experts
- Technical Annex

STEP



REVISION AND QUALITY CHECK BY REVIEW PANELS

STEP



SELECTION BY THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

COST policy and objectives

STEP



APPROVAL BY COST COMMITTEE OF SENIOR OFFICIALS

Results 7-8 months after submission

Overview Presentation



- Content of a COST Action proposal
- Evaluation steps
- **Eligibility criteria**
- What makes a good proposal?

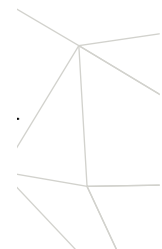


Is the technical annex of the proposal longer than 15 pages?
For this criterion, only the length of the Technical Annex is to be considered. In the proposal, the Technical Annex starts after the keywords of the proposal overview and ends before the page titled "References".
Yes/No
Justification (not mandatory)
Is any part of the proposal not written in English?
Yes/No
Justification (not mandatory)
Does the proposal address a challenge not destined solely for peaceful purposes?
Please note that only the content of the proposal should be considered.
Yes/No
Justification (mandatory in case of Yes). Please provide the explanation why the proposal does not comply with this criterion and indicate the text excerpts and/or the page numbers where this can be identified.
Is there in the proposal a direct reference to a name and/or institutions of affiliation of any of the proposers (main and secondary)?
Yes/No
Justification (mandatory in case of Yes). Please provide the explanation why the proposal does not comply with this criterion and indicate the text excerpts and/or the page(s) numbers where this can be identified.
Is a proposer identifiable through a direct reference to previous or ongoing grants, grant applications, EU projects, Networks, etc.?
Yes/No
Justification (mandatory in case of Yes). Please provide the explanation why the proposal does not comply with this criterion and indicate the text excerpts and/or the page numbers where this can be identified.
Is there a clear self-citation?
Self-citation: cited bibliography that is explicitly attributed to the participants in the Network of Proposers.
Yes/No
Justification (mandatory in case of Yes). Please provide the explanation why the proposal does not comply with this criterion and indicate the text excerpts and/or the page numbers where this can be identified.
From the information in the proposal, can you clearly identify one or more participants in the network of proposers?
Yes/No
Justification (mandatory). Please provide the explanation why the proposal does not comply with this criterion and indicate the text excerpts and/or the page numbers where this can be identified.



95% of the non-eligible proposals: anonymity

Statements resulting in ineligibility	Eligible statements
"Prof. Smith" will coordinate the Action activities within WG5 (direct reference)	"The coordinator of WG5 activities will be appointed by the Action's Management Committee."
"Several members of the proposers' network have been involved in previous FP7 projects, like ATTPS and ADAPTIWALL, and institutions/organisations/networks/COST Actions, such as FP0901" (indirect reference)	"The Action will seek contact with / reach out to / draw on the expertise of / build on / ... previous FP7 projects, like ATTPS and ADAPTIWALL, and institutions/organisations/networks/COST Actions/..., such as FP0901."
"Among government-run public services we have the Department of Health of Catalonia on board" (direct reference)	"The Network of Proposers already includes a / several government-run public service(s)."
"The Network of Proposers has already generated some output", with in the footnote a link to a YouTube video or webpage in which Secondary Proposers can be identified (indirect reference, potentially identifiable)	"The Network of Proposers has already generated some output", without links to a YouTube video or webpage in which Secondary Proposers can be identified



Overview Presentation



- Content of a COST Action proposal
- Evaluation steps
- Eligibility criteria
- **What makes a good proposal?**

Criteria	Good Evaluation	Poor Evaluation
Clarity of Objectives	Well-defined, SMART objectives (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound).	Objectives are vague , lack specificity, and are not measurable.
Understanding of the Field	Demonstrates a strong grasp of the state of the art, incorporating interdisciplinary collaboration.	Shows outdated references and lacks proper engagement with current research.
Innovative Approach	Introduces new methodologies and interdisciplinary solutions with measurable outcomes.	Claims innovation but lacks concrete examples and differentiation from existing research.
Stakeholder Engagement	Identifies relevant stakeholders and presents a clear plan for engagement and collaboration.	Fails to specify key stakeholders or outline their roles in the project.
Networking Strategy	Effectively integrates international collaboration with a structured networking approach.	Weak networking plan , lacks clarity on how collaborations will be established.
Impact on Society & Research	Clearly outlines short-term and long-term impacts on academia, industry, and policy.	Generalized claims without concrete impact assessment or real-world application.
Feasibility & Work Plan	Structured timeline, well-defined tasks, and deliverables with risk mitigation strategies.	Lacks coherence , with unrealistic goals and no clear methodology for execution.
Risk Analysis & Mitigation	Includes a strong risk assessment and mitigation strategy.	Fails to address potential risks and does not present a backup plan.
Dissemination Strategy	Provides a clear, detailed plan for dissemination and knowledge transfer.	Weak dissemination plan, lacks focus on outreach and impact measurement.



COST Documents related to Rules

Level A - CSO

[Rules and principles for COST Activities](#)

COST 088/21

Annex I [country and organisation table](#)

Annex II [definitions and abbreviations](#)

Level B - CSO

[COST Action Proposal
SESA](#)

COST 101/21

[Rules for
COST Actions](#)

COST 089/21

[Rules for COST
Innovators
Grants](#)

COST 098/21

Level C - EB

[COST Open Call
Proposers' Guidelines
\(SESA\)](#)

COST 104/21

[COST Annotated Rules
for
COST Actions](#)

COST 094/21

[CIG Guidelines](#)

COST 105/21

