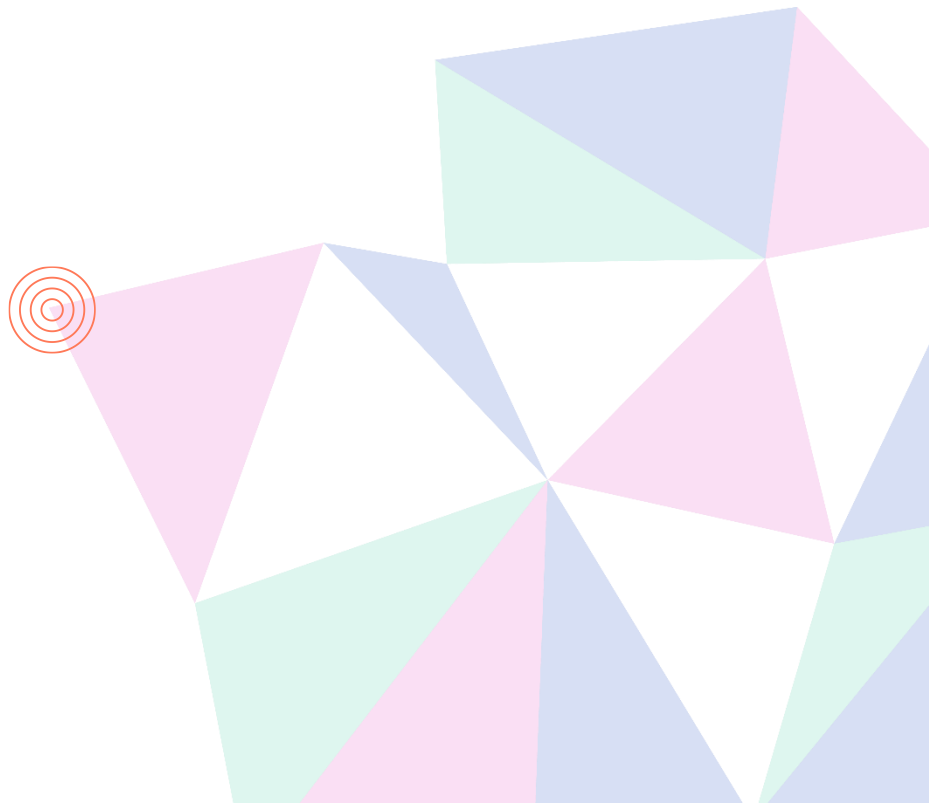


COST Info Day

Belspo, 7 May 2025

Bart Veys – Head of Policy



Overview Presentation



- COST: A General Introduction
- What are COST Actions?
- What is funded?
- How to get involved?

Overview Presentation



- **COST: A General Introduction**
- What are COST Actions?
- What is funded?
- How to get involved?

European Cooperation in Science & Technology

COST provides networking opportunities for researchers and innovators in order to strengthen Europe's capacity to address scientific, technological and societal challenges



ALL FIELDS OF S&T

(mono- or interdisciplinary,
new and emerging fields)



ALL PARTNERS

(academia, public organisation, industry,
NGO, International Organisations)



BOTTOM-UP APPROACH



ALL CAREER STAGES

(young and experienced researchers)



ALL COUNTRIES

- 41 COST Members
+ 1 Cooperating Member
- 14 Near Neighbour Countries
- Global cooperation

COST Membership

41 Full COST Members

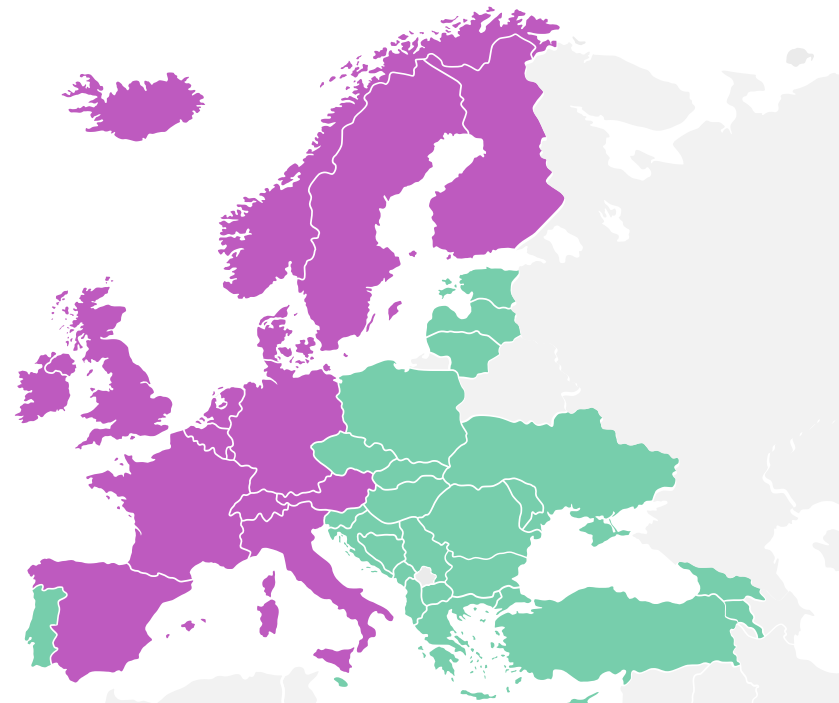
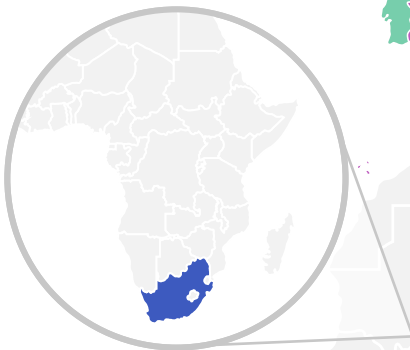
- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| ● Albania | ● Germany | ● Norway |
| ● Armenia | ● Greece | ● Poland |
| ● Austria | ● Hungary* | ● Portugal |
| ● Belgium | ● Iceland | ● Romania |
| ● Bosnia and Herzegovina | ● Ireland | ● Serbia |
| ● Bulgaria | ● Italy | ● Slovakia |
| ● Croatia | ● Latvia | ● Slovenia |
| ● Cyprus | ● Lithuania | ● Spain |
| ● Czech Republic | ● Luxembourg | ● Sweden |
| ● Denmark | ● Malta | ● Switzerland |
| ● Estonia | ● The Republic of Moldova | ● Türkiye |
| ● Finland | ● Montenegro | ● Ukraine |
| ● France | ● The Netherlands | ● United Kingdom |
| ● Georgia | ● The Republic of North Macedonia | |

1 Cooperating Member

● Israel

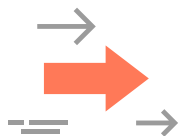
1 Partner Member

● South Africa



- COST Members non-ITCs (Inclusiveness Target Countries)
- COST Members ITCs
- COST Cooperating Member
- COST Partner Member

Key figures



280

Running Actions



60,000

Researchers involved
in COST Actions



200+

Average number of
researchers per Action



42%

Share of young
researchers in COST
Actions



19

Average number of widening
countries per COST Action



52%

Leadership positions
occupied by female
researchers



€ 170k

Average annual budget
of a COST Action





COST in Horizon Europe



Horizon Europe

Widening participation
and strengthening the
European Research
Area pillar

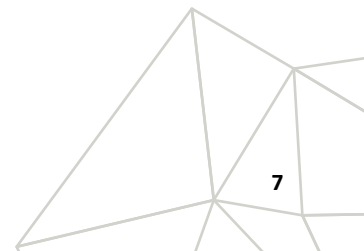


COST activities are
implemented by the COST
Association, under a
Framework Partnership
Agreement and Specific
Grant Agreements with
the European Commission



COST Actions

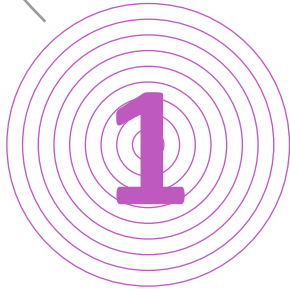
receive budget under
Third Party Funding





Role of COST in the ERA

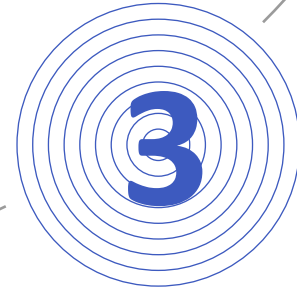
3 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Promoting and spreading
excellence



Fostering **interdisciplinary**
research for breakthrough
science



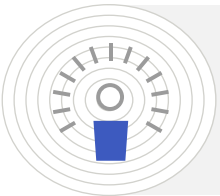
Empowering and retaining
young researchers

COST Actions and their Impact



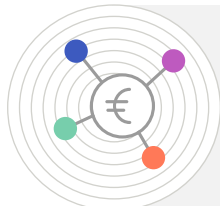
Scientific and societal impact

- Scientific discoveries and breakthroughs, development of new research infrastructures, adoption of common standards, technological applications in the form of products and services, etc.



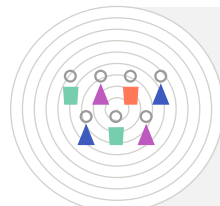
Research careers

- 85% of researchers participating in COST Actions indicate that participation has led to career advancement



Follow-up funding

- Horizon 2020 reported success rate: 39% (on a yearly basis, around €450 million of approved common research projects spin off from ending Actions)



Co-Publications

- Co-publications between active COST Action participants see an increase of about 55% compared to general co-publications

Overview Presentation



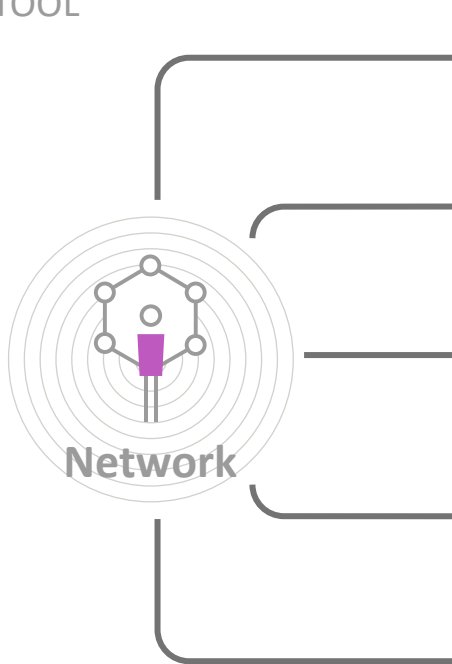
- COST: A General Introduction
- **What are COST Actions?**
- What is funded?
- How to get involved?

COST Actions

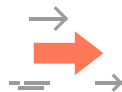
AN EFFICIENT NETWORKING TOOL

COST provides funding
for research coordination
and capacity building
activities

COST is not funding research
itself,
but pooling resources
and research results
by networking



Memorandum
of Understanding



4 years



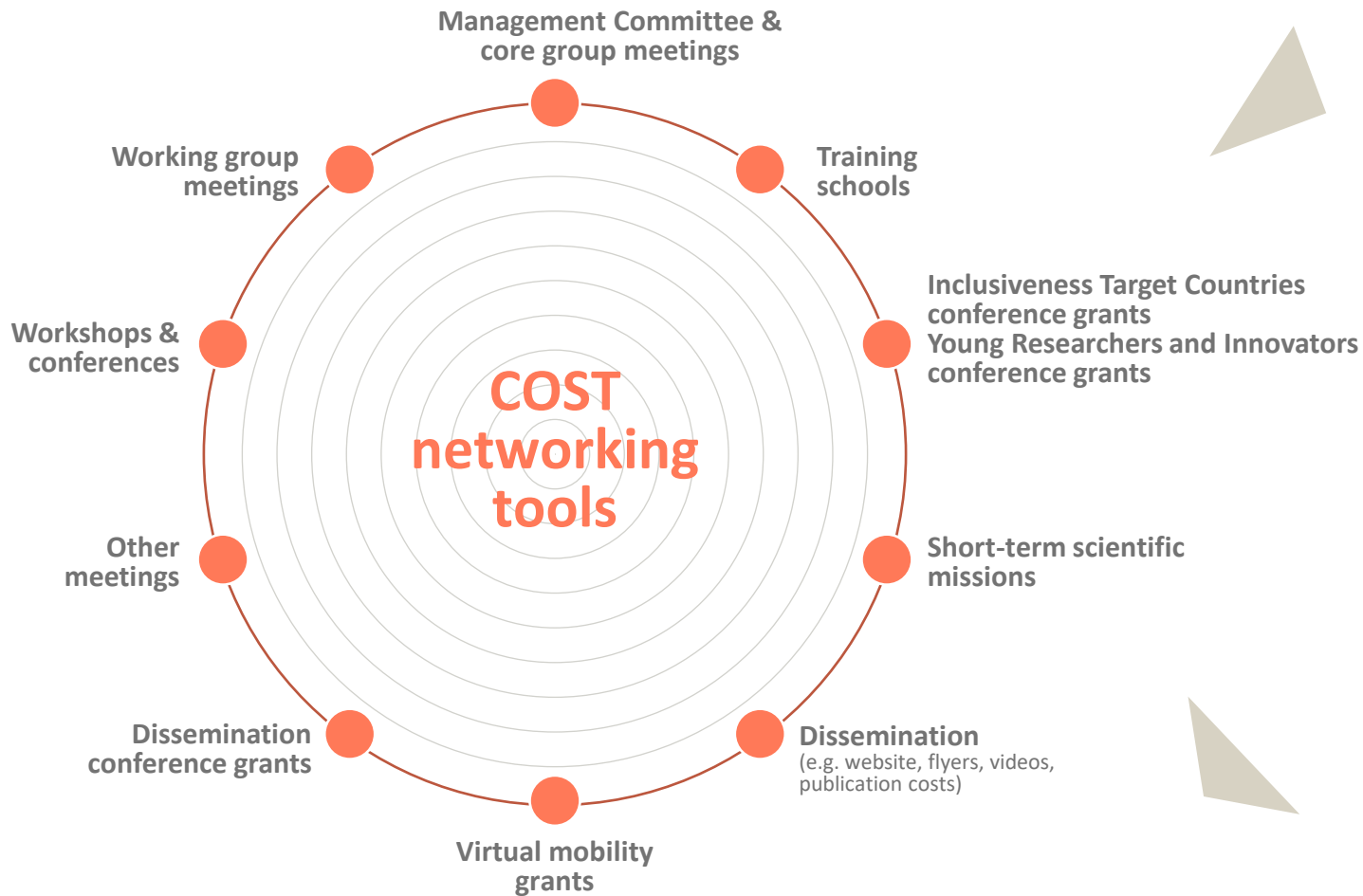
Min 7 countries, average
participation 34 countries



Research coordination
and capacity building activities

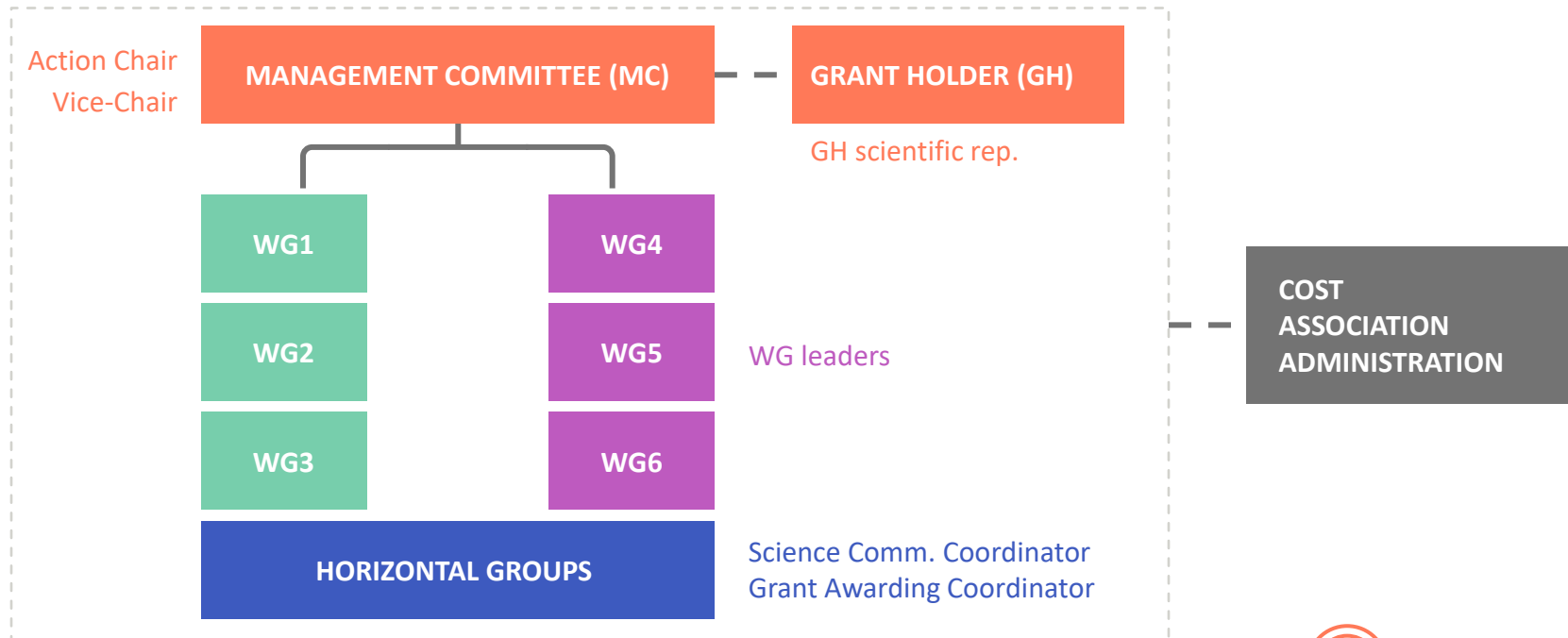


~ €680,000 over lifetime

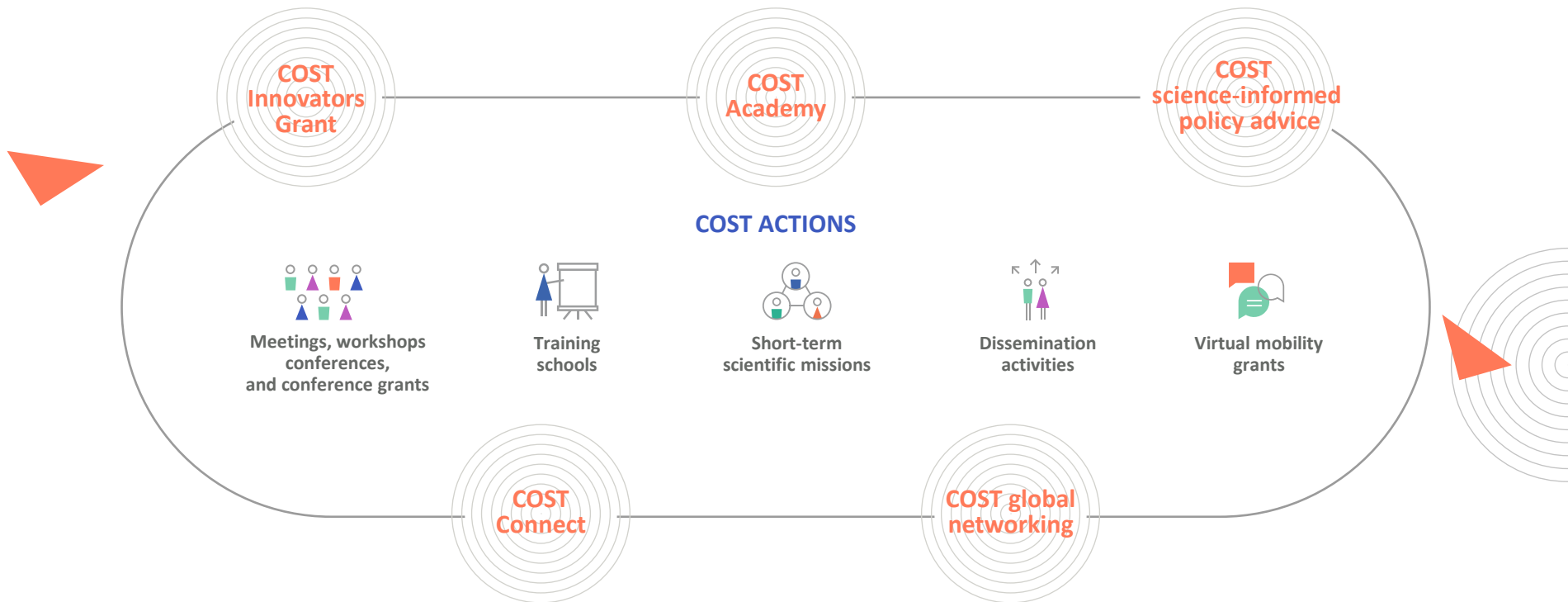


COST Action structure

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS



Implementing COST's strategic priorities





Success stories

Long read: Changing the face of a rare eye disease

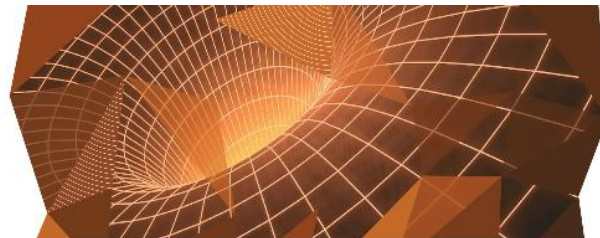
January 28, 2025



Success stories

Protecting hearts across Europe

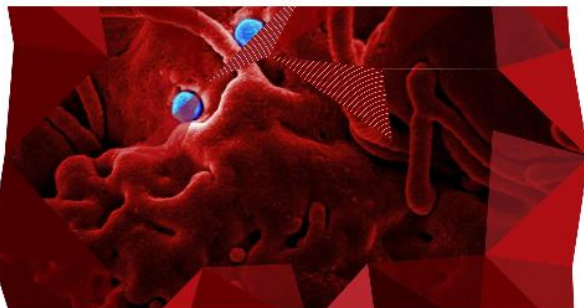
December 12, 2024



Success stories

A coherent approach to quantum

November 26, 2024



Success stories

Zooming in on multi-mode imaging

November 19, 2024



Success stories

Advancing Neutropenia research

November 5, 2024



Success stories

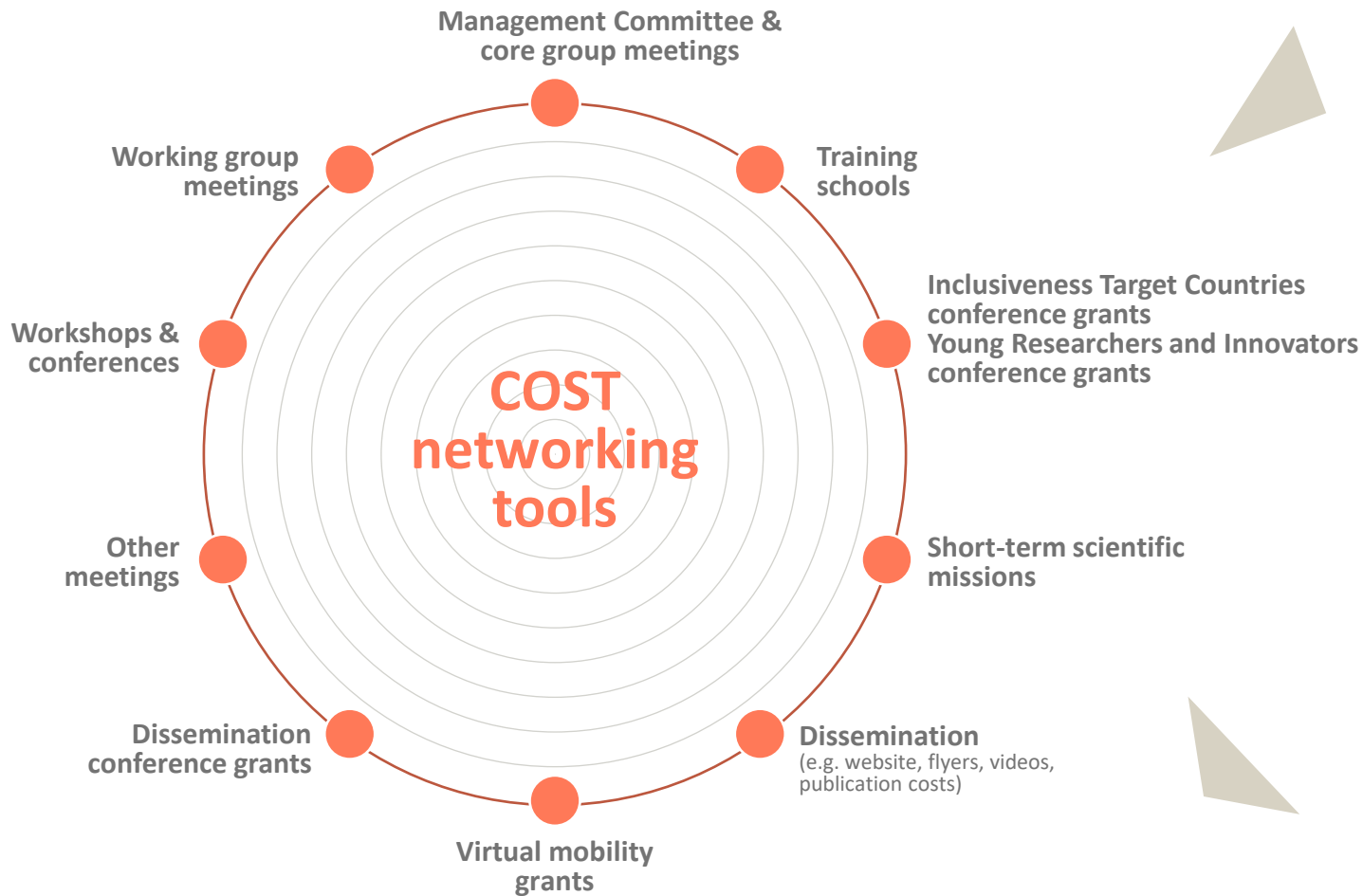
Making media accessible for all Europeans

September 30, 2024

Overview Presentation



- COST: A General Introduction
- What are COST Actions?
- **What is funded?**
- How to get involved?



Events



Funding

Meetings

- Management Committee and Working Group members, Invited Speakers, ad hoc members

Training Schools

- Trainers / Trainees

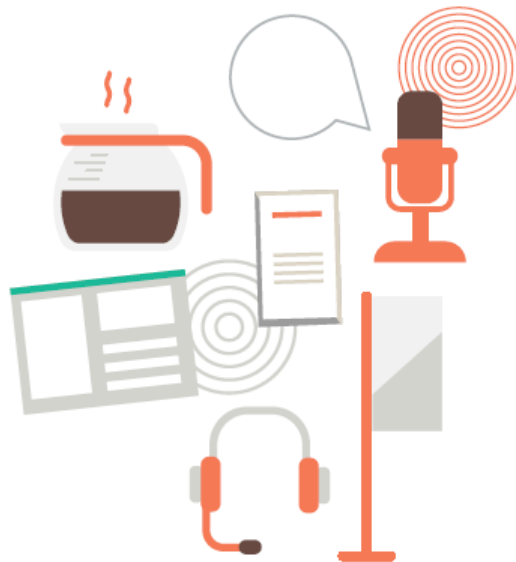
Travel reimbursement of the expenses incurred for attending COST events + support for the local organiser

Local organiser Support (LOS)

LOS is the financial contribution for the organisation of COST Action meetings and training schools, whether face-to-face, on-line or hybrid

What does LOS cover? (Non-exhaustive list)

- ▶ Room rental, audio-visual materials, and poster stands
- ▶ Refreshments
- ▶ Event materials
- ▶ Admin and technical support



USEFUL TO KNOW



- ▶ LOS grant depends on the number of participants and the duration of the event
- ▶ The LOS grant is paid AFTER the event and ONLY to the institutional bank account
- ▶ The LOS does not cover the VAT

[Annotated Rules](#)
[Step-by-Step LOS in e-COST](#)
[FAQ on LOS](#)

Short-Term Scientific Mission (STSM)



WHAT:

- Exchange visits aimed at supporting individual mobility, strengthening existing networks, fostering collaboration between COST Action participants
- Build capacity
- More than 90% of STSMs take place in COST countries, but can take place anywhere in the world



WHERE:

To a host organisation located in a **different** country than the country of affiliation

Grant AMOUNT:

Up to 4000 EUR,
paid after report approval
(after the STSM)

Young Researcher and Innovator Conference Grants



WHAT:

- Poster or oral Presentation of their own work within the scope of the Action given by a Young Researcher (age below 40)
- Conference Grants support Young Researchers, establish a strong network and increase the visibility of the Action



WHERE:

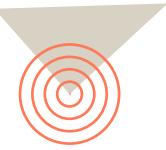
To a high-level conference
not organised by the Action itself
anywhere in the world.

Grant AMOUNT:

Up to 2500 EUR or 500 EUR (virtual),
paid after report approval



Inclusiveness Target Country (ITC) Conference Grants



WHAT:

- Oral Presentation of the own work by a Researcher **affiliated in an Inclusiveness Target Country / Near Neighbour Country** for their participation in high-level **conferences as Invited Speaker**
- ITC Conference Grants supports Researchers, establish a strong network and increase the visibility of the Action

WHERE:

To a high-level conference
not organised by the Action itself
anywhere in the world.

Grant AMOUNT:

Up to 2500 EUR or 500 EUR (virtual),
paid after report approval

Dissemination Conference Grants



WHAT:

- Oral Presentation of the **results of the Action** in high-level conferences **as Invited Speaker**
- To increase the visibility of the Action

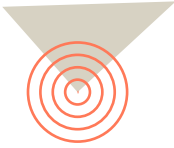
WHERE:

To a high-level conference
not organised by the Action itself
anywhere in the world

Grant AMOUNT:

Up to 2500 EUR or 500 EUR (virtual),
paid after report approval

Virtual Mobility (VM) Grant



WHAT:

A collaboration in a virtual setting among Action researchers or innovators to exchange knowledge, learn new techniques, etc.

Grant AMOUNT:

Up to 1500 EUR,
paid after report approval (after the VM)





Dissemination and Communication Products

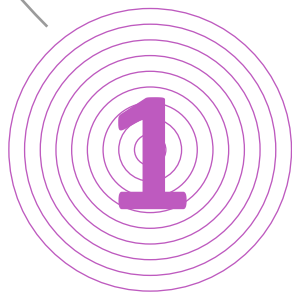
- Scientific publication in Open Access
- Action website
- Action Logo
- Dissemination Materials
- Information materials for external events
- Multimedia Content
- Conference booth in a conference (3rd party)

Overview Presentation



- COST: A General Introduction
- What are COST Actions?
- What is funded?
- **How to get involved?**

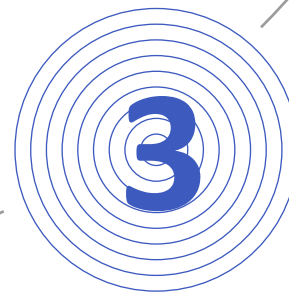
How to get involved?



As a **participant**
of a running Action



As a **proposer**
of a new COST Action



As **expert** to evaluate
submitted proposals

1. As a participant in a running Action (1/2)



FIND THE ACTION IN YOUR FIELD

of interest on the
COST website



READ THE PROJECT PLAN

(MoU) – identify
your potential
contribution



BROWSE THE ACTION'S WEBSITE

–
check their
activities



IDENTIFY THE OPPORTUNITIES

to join the Action
and your contact
person



1. As a participant in a running Action (2/2)



AS A MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (MC) MEMBER

(contact the COST National Coordinator)



AS A WORKING GROUP (WG) PARTICIPANT

(contact the working group leader)



AS A PARTICIPANT IN ACTION ACTIVITIES

Short-term scientific mission, conference grant, training school, workshop/conference,...

(check the Action's website, contact the chair or the national Management Committee member)



> What are COST Actions?

> **Browse Actions**

> How to join an Action

> **Action Networking tools**

Additional Activities for Actions
COST Connect

> **COST Innovators Grant**

> **Become an external expert**

260+ ACTIONS AND 5000+ EXPERTS

Find your network

Browse Actions

01

02

03

04


05


06



Action or Innovators Grant number or text

Search

☐ Search in Title Only

More filters 

Show: 10 

Order by: Approval Date  



CA23157 | 28/10/2024 - 27/10/2028

European Network for Multiple View Life Cycle Sustainability Assessment (MultiViewLCSA)



CA23128 | 28/10/2024 - 27/10/2028

Connecting Landscape Architecture Archives to enhance European landscape practice, research and education (ConnectLAA)



CA23156 | 25/10/2024 - 24/10/2028

European Network for Sigma-1 Receptor as a Therapeutic Opportunity (SIGMA-1EUROPE)



CA23104 | 25/10/2024 - 24/10/2028

Mainstreaming water reuse into the circular economy paradigm (Water4Reuse)

Description

Management Committee

Main Contacts and Leadership

Working Groups and Membership

Description

Mental health problems are a major issue in Europe and climate change is a force majeure that poses a tangible risk with unforeseeable consequences. Yet, the link between climate change and mental health remains largely unexplored, especially with respect to impact assessment at individual and societal level, and treatment possibilities. *CliMent* aims: a) to better understand how climate change affects mental health in Europe; b) to explore the coping strategies and further develop them; c) to implement short-term behavioural interventions to instigate societal action; and d) to implement long-term ways to promote sustainability. This will be achieved through four working groups (WGs) working in coordination to conduct systematic and scoping reviews, produce surveys and reports, and organise knowledge dissemination activities. WG1 will assess mental health impacts of climate change; WG2 will identify adaptive strategies and treatment possibilities; WG3 will map out short-term behavioural interventions to instigate societal actions; while WG4 will assess long-term strategies to enable sustainability. *CliMent* will harness the potential of the European network and will bridge multiple disciplines to tackle climate change-related mental health challenges. The expected outcomes are manifold and multifaceted including (but not limited to): accumulation and consolidation of scientific evidence; career support for mental health scientists and care providers; empowerment of citizens, educators, and policymakers via Communities of Practice specialised in dealing with the effects of climate change on mental health. As such, *CliMent* will help Europe maintain its individual and societal well-being amidst the challenges posed by climate change.

Action keywords

Climate Change - Mental Health - Public Health - Europe -

Action Details

- 📄 MoU - 026/24
- 👤 CSO Approval date - 17/05/2024
- 📅 Start date - 29/10/2024
- 📅 End date - 28/10/2028

How can I participate?

- Read the Action Description [MoU](#)
- Inform the Main Proposer/Chair of your interest ([email](#))
- [Apply](#) to join your Working Groups of interest
- Please note, Management Committee nominations are carried out through the [COST National Coordinators](#)



Working group member

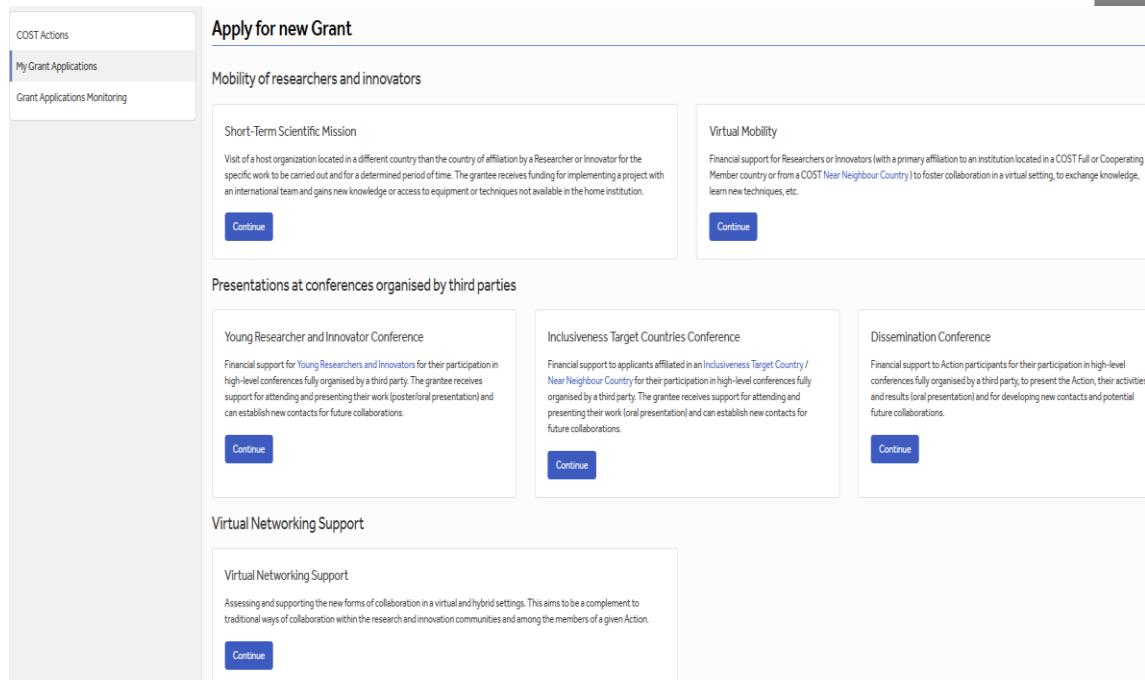
Working Group members are individuals with an affiliation to a legal entity anywhere in the world.

- The objectives of Working Groups (WG) are to perform the tasks required for a COST Action to fulfil its scientific objectives in line with those objectives defined in the MoU.
- **WG members shall actively participate to the WG activities and coordination of research efforts.**



Participant in Action Grants

- Short-Term Scientific Mission (STSM)
- ITC Conference Grant*
- Young Researcher and Innovator Conference Grant*
- Dissemination Conference Grant
- Virtual mobility



COST Actions

My Grant Applications

Grant Applications Monitoring

Apply for new Grant

Mobility of researchers and innovators

Short-Term Scientific Mission

Visit of a host organization located in a different country than the country of affiliation by a Researcher or Innovator for the specific work to be carried out and for a determined period of time. The grantee receives funding for implementing a project with an international team and gains new knowledge or access to equipment or techniques not available in the home institution.

[Continue](#)

Virtual Mobility

Financial support for Researchers or Innovators (with a primary affiliation to an institution located in a COST Full or Cooperating Member country or from a COST [Near Neighbour Country](#)) to foster collaboration in a virtual setting, to exchange knowledge, learn new techniques, etc.

[Continue](#)

Presentations at conferences organised by third parties

Young Researcher and Innovator Conference

Financial support for [Young Researchers and Innovators](#) for their participation in high-level conferences fully organised by a third party. The grantee receives support for attending and presenting their work (post/oral presentation) and can establish new contacts for future collaborations.

[Continue](#)

Inclusiveness Target Countries Conference

Financial support to applicants affiliated in an [Inclusiveness Target Country / Near Neighbour Country](#) for their participation in high-level conferences fully organised by a third party. The grantee receives support for attending and presenting their work (oral presentation) and can establish new contacts for future collaborations.

[Continue](#)

Dissemination Conference

Financial support to Action participants for their participation in high-level conferences fully organised by a third party, to present the Action, their activities, and results (oral presentation) and for developing new contacts and potential future collaborations.

[Continue](#)

Virtual Networking Support

Virtual Networking Support

Assessing and supporting the new forms of collaboration in a virtual and hybrid settings. This aims to be a complement to traditional ways of collaboration within the research and innovation communities and among the members of a given Action.

[Continue](#)

2. As a proposer of a new COST Action

COST OPEN CALL



One-stage **online submission** of proposals (e-COST)

Proposal should focus on S&T Excellence, Networking Excellence, Impact and Implementation

Up to 70 COST Actions approved per collection

Main Proposer + **secondary** proposer

Collection date:
21 October 2025
12:00 CET (tbc)

www.COST.eu
opencall@cost.eu



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

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

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

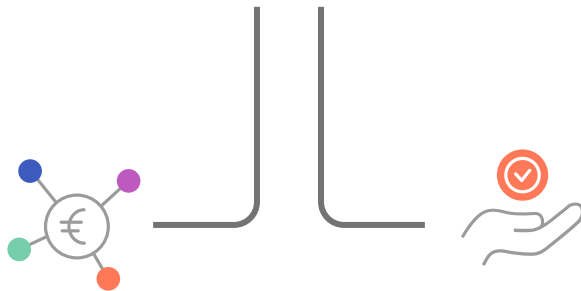
Results 7-8 months after submission



3. As external expert

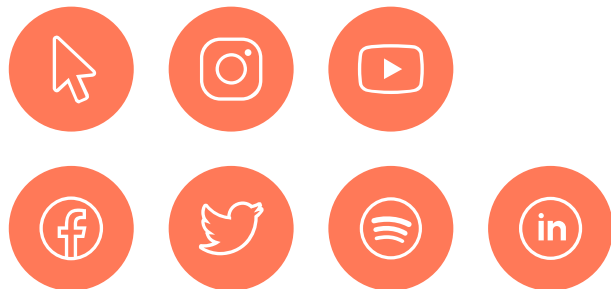
As a COST Expert,
you will have the opportunity to

Contribute to the
evaluation of COST Open
Call proposals



Participate in the
assessment of Action
results and outcomes

THANK YOU!



Contact and engage with us!

