



Growing
ideas
through
networks

Introduction to the COST Framework Programme

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Science Officer

BELSPO – Brussels, 06 June 2019



Funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme
of the European Union

Outline

- What is COST?
- What are the COST Actions?
- How to participate in them?
- How to prepare a successful proposal?

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What is COST?



Funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme
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COST - 45 years proven track record in research collaboration

38 COST Countries:

Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the Republic of North Macedonia

The countries in green are the less research-intensive COST countries, also known as inclusiveness target countries (ITCs)

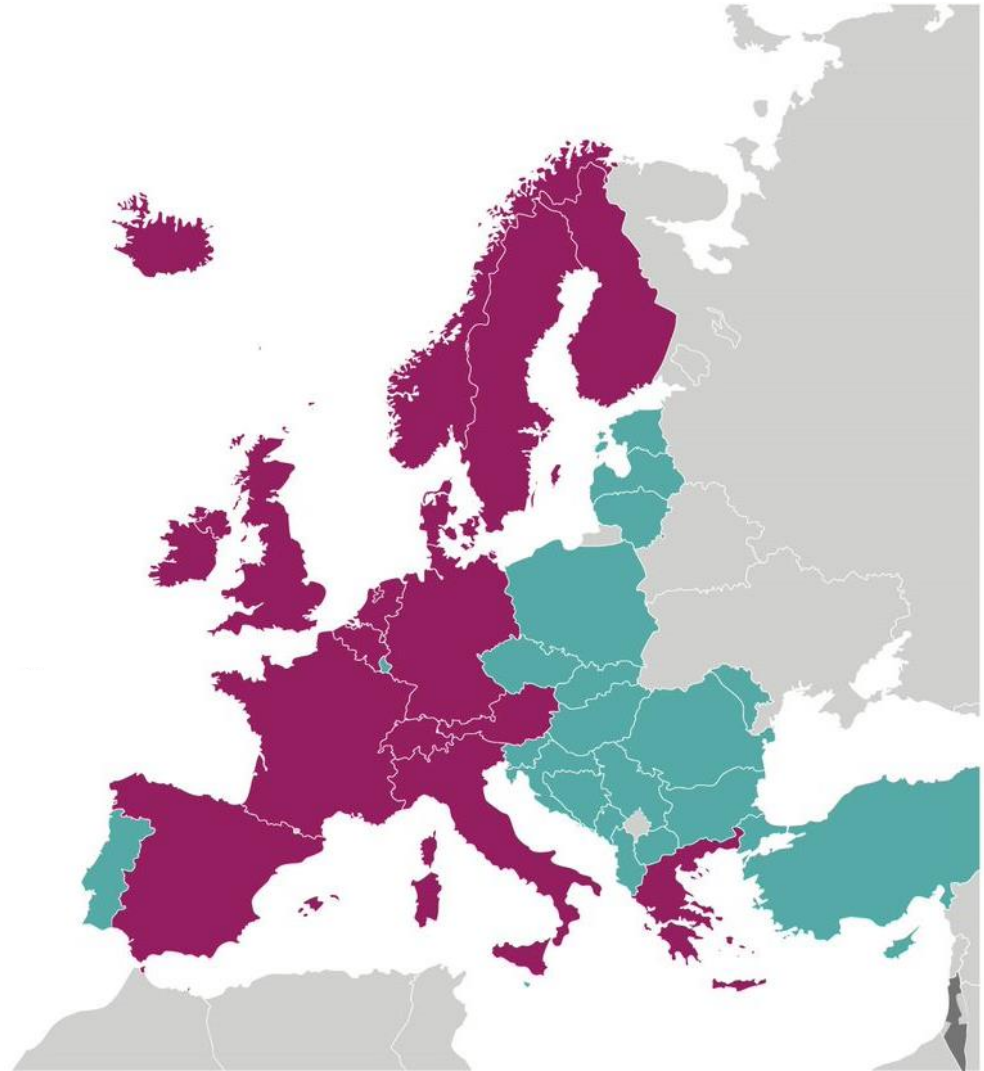
1 Cooperating State:

Israel

Near Neighbour Countries:

Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Kosovo*, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Russia, Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.



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What are COST Actions?



Action Features

- Funding **networks**, not research
- **Bottom-up** approach
- **Open and expandable** participation
 - all stakeholders, all career levels, all countries
- **Flexible** and light administration
 - Fast evaluation process
 - adaptable activities
- **impact** oriented
 - open science
 - sharing of knowledge
 - open access, open innovation

How it works?

COST Action participants
nominated by COST National Coordinators



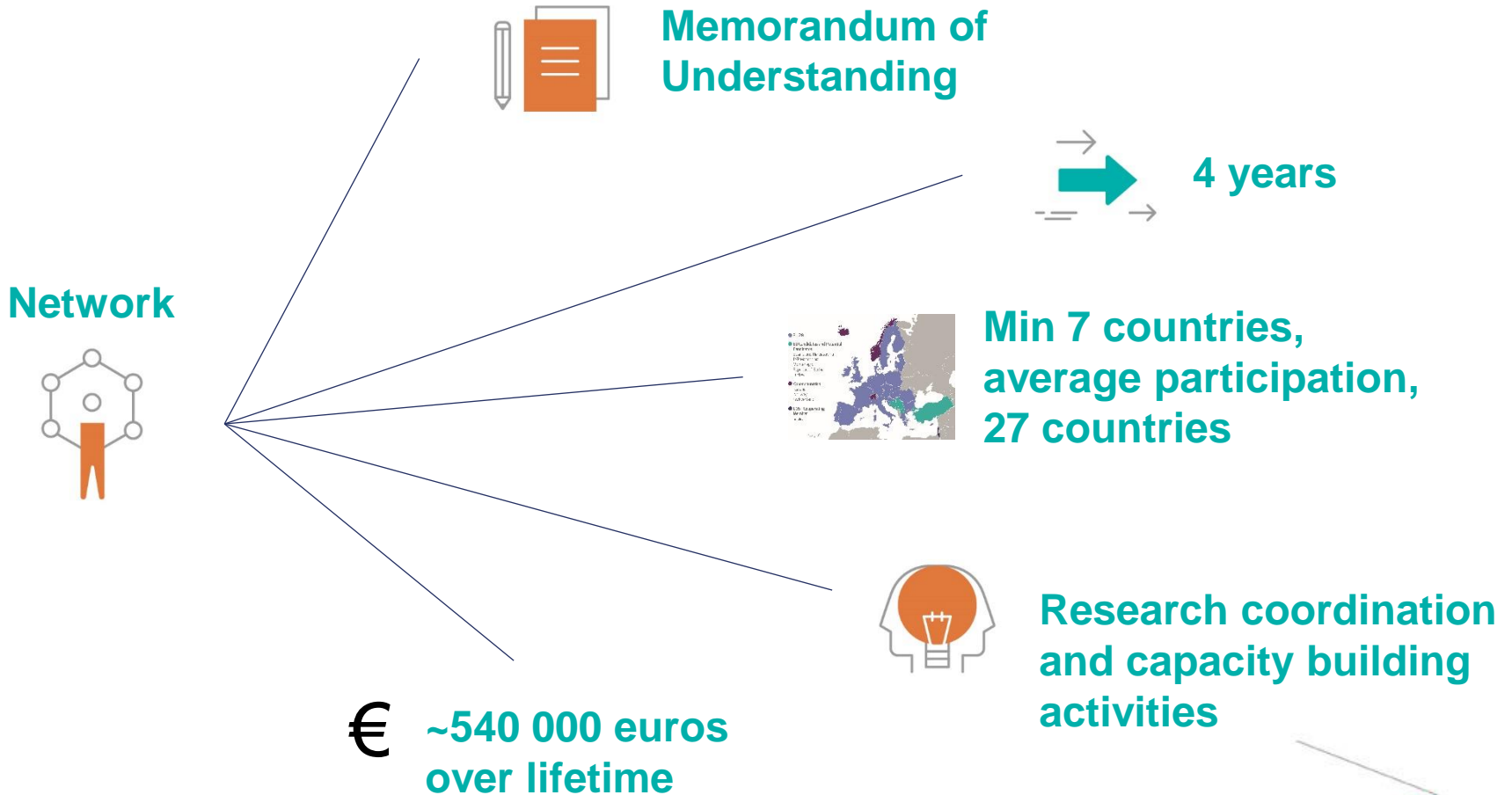
Main proposer




Secondary proposers



COST Actions



COST key figures of 2017

339 
Running Actions

233 
Training schools

 €300 million
COST budget (from Horizon
2020 for a 7 year period)

 2,339
Short-term scientific missions


45,000
Researchers Involved
In COST Actions

Networking tools

Research coordination & Capacity building activities



Dissemination



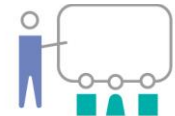
Management Committee meeting



Working Group meeting



Conferences



Training Schools



Scientific missions (inter-lab exchanges)

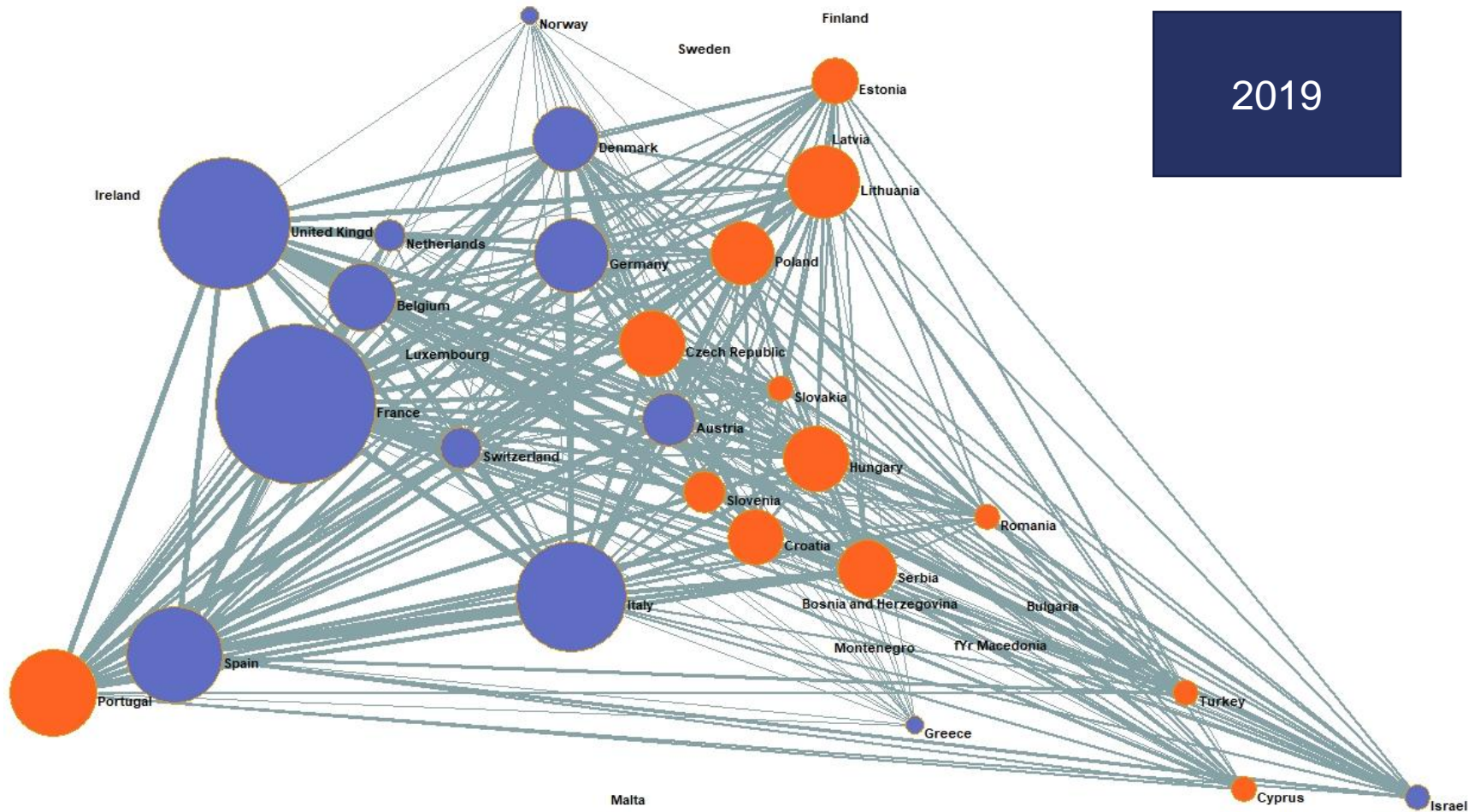


A network in bubbles

MCM1
2016



Iceland

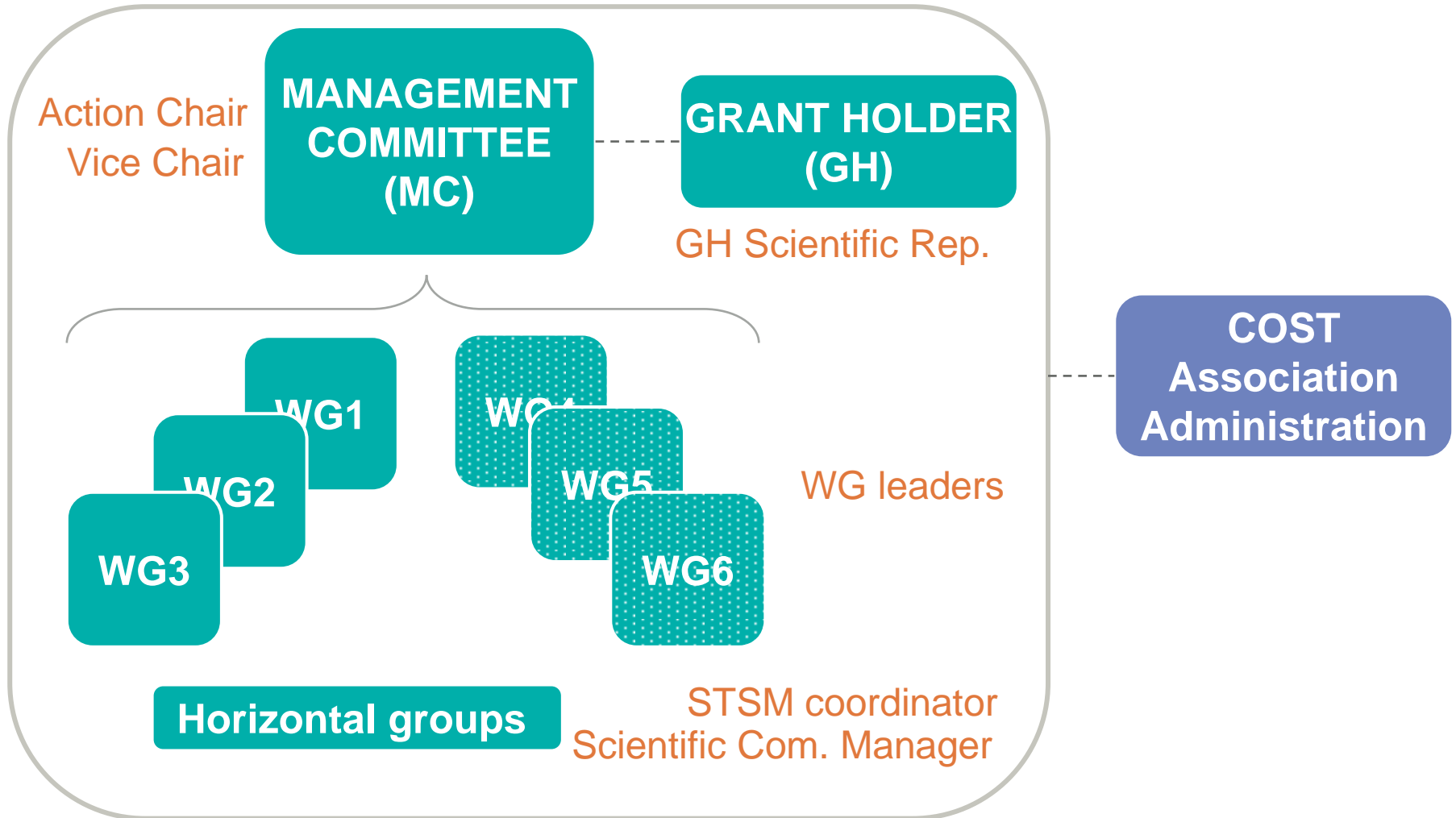


2019

COST Action Structure



Leadership Positions



How to engage with COST?



1. As **participant** of a running COST Action
2. As **proposer** of a COST Action
3. As **expert** to evaluate submitted proposals

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Engage as participant of a running COST Action



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How to find the relevant COST Action?



- > What are COST Actions?
- > Participate in an ongoing Action
- > Become an external expert
- > Browse Actions
- > Action Networking Tools
Additional activities for Actions
- > Success Stories
- > Action participant directory

About COST

Home > Who we are > About COST

Growing ideas through networks

The European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) provides funding for the creation of research networks, called **COST Actions**. These networks offer an open space for collaboration among scientists across Europe (and beyond) and thereby give impetus to research advancements and innovation.

COST is bottom up, this means that researchers can create a network – based on their own research interests and ideas – by submitting a proposal to the COST Open Call. The proposal can be in any science field. COST Actions are highly interdisciplinary and open. It is possible to join ongoing Actions, which therefore keep expanding over the funding period of four years. They are multi-stakeholder, often involving the private sector, policymakers as well as civil society.

Since 1971, COST receives EU funding under the various research and innovation framework programmes, such as Horizon 2020.

COST funding intends to complement national research funds, as they are exclusively dedicated to cover collaboration activities, such as workshops, conferences, working group meetings, training schools, short-term scientific missions, and dissemination and communication activities. For more information, please go to the Funding section of this website.

The COST Association places emphasis on actively involving researchers from less research-intensive COST Countries (Inclusiveness Target Countries, ITC). Researchers from Near Neighbour Countries and International Partner Countries can also take part in COST Actions, based on

<https://www.cost.eu/cost-actions/browse-actions/> information, please visit the [global networking](#) page.

Video

- 🌐 Growing ideas through networks (brochure)
- 🌐 2017 Join an Action booklet
- 🌐 Annual Report 2017
- 🌐 Annual Report 2016
- 🌐 Annual Report 2015
- 🌐 Annual Report 2014



Join an Action...

- As a Management Committee (MC) member
- As a Working Group (WG) participant
- As grantee of a Short Term Scientific Mission
- As grantee of a ITC Conference grant
- As trainer / trainee of a Training school
- As attendee of a Workshop/Conference
-

Management Committee

| | |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| MC Chair | Prof Christophe TATOUT ▼ |
| MC Vice Chair | Dr Célia BAROUX ▼ |

Working Group Leaders

| | |
|-----------|----------------------|
| WG Leader | Dr Katja GRAUMANN ▼ |
| WG Leader | Dr Stefanie ROSA ▼ |
| WG Leader | Dr Ales PECINKA ▼ |
| WG Leader | Dr Bjoern GRUENING ▼ |
| WG Leader | Dr Geraint PARRY ▼ |

COST Participants

| | | |
|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 🌐 Austria | 13/07/2017 | Confirmed |
| 🌐 Belgium | 02/10/2017 | Confirmed |
| 🌐 Denmark | | |

Advice

- Read the MoU and identify your interest / potential contribution

Main Contacts



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Action Documents

 AFS *requires e-COST registration

 MoU

Advice

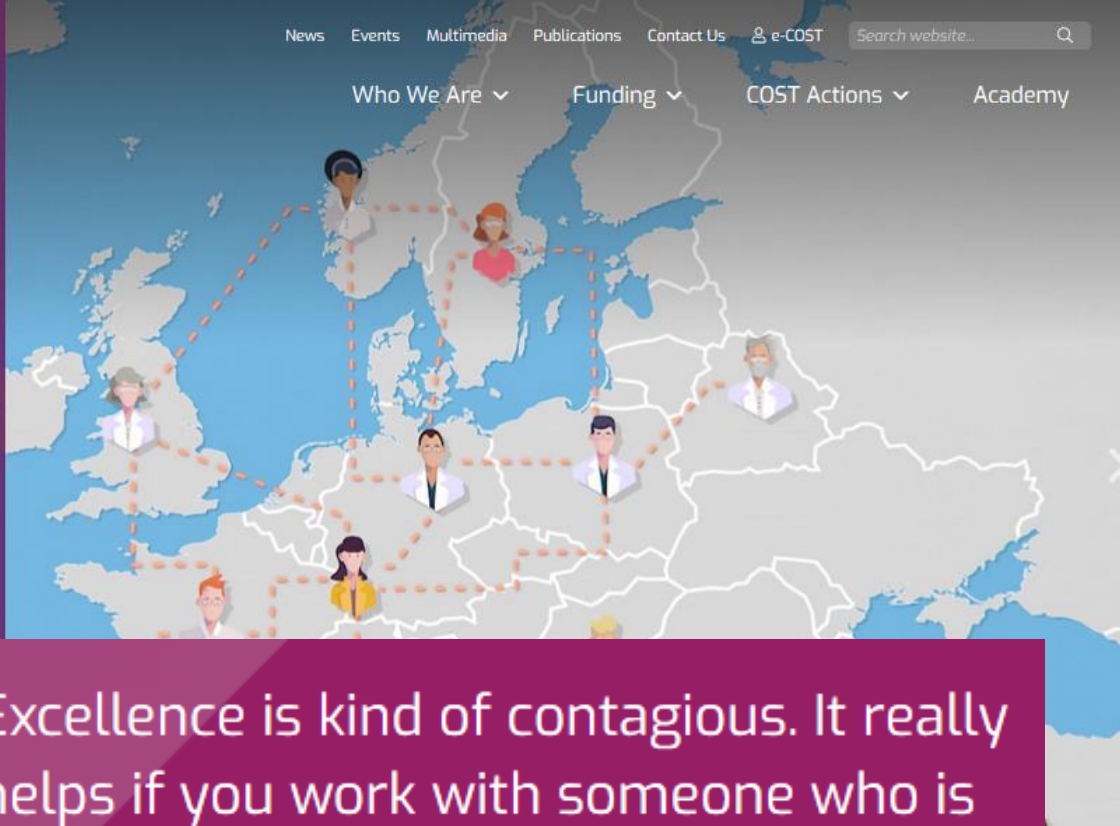
- Browse the Action's own website – check their activities

The screenshot shows the website for COST Action CA1622. The header includes the COST logo (EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY) and a navigation menu with links for News, Events, Multimedia, Publications, Contact Us, e-COST, Who We Are, Funding, COST Actions, and Academy. A search bar is also present. The main heading is "CA1622 - Impact of Nuclear Domains On Gene Expression and Plant Traits". Below the heading is a breadcrumb trail: "Home > Browse Actions > Impact of Nuclear Domains On Gene Expression and Plant Traits". A teal oval highlights the link "www.brookes.ac.uk/indepth/" with a globe icon, and "Downloads" with a download icon and "Team" with a group icon. At the bottom, there are three tabs: "Description", "Parties" (which is selected), and "Management Committee".

Why join a COST Action?

Find out more information in our short animation

[Watch here](#)



“ Excellence is kind of contagious. It really helps if you work with someone who is good and you see how other people in the field work.

Dr Julius Georgiou Associate Professor, Faculty of Engineering,
University of Cyprus

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Engage as proposer of a COST Action

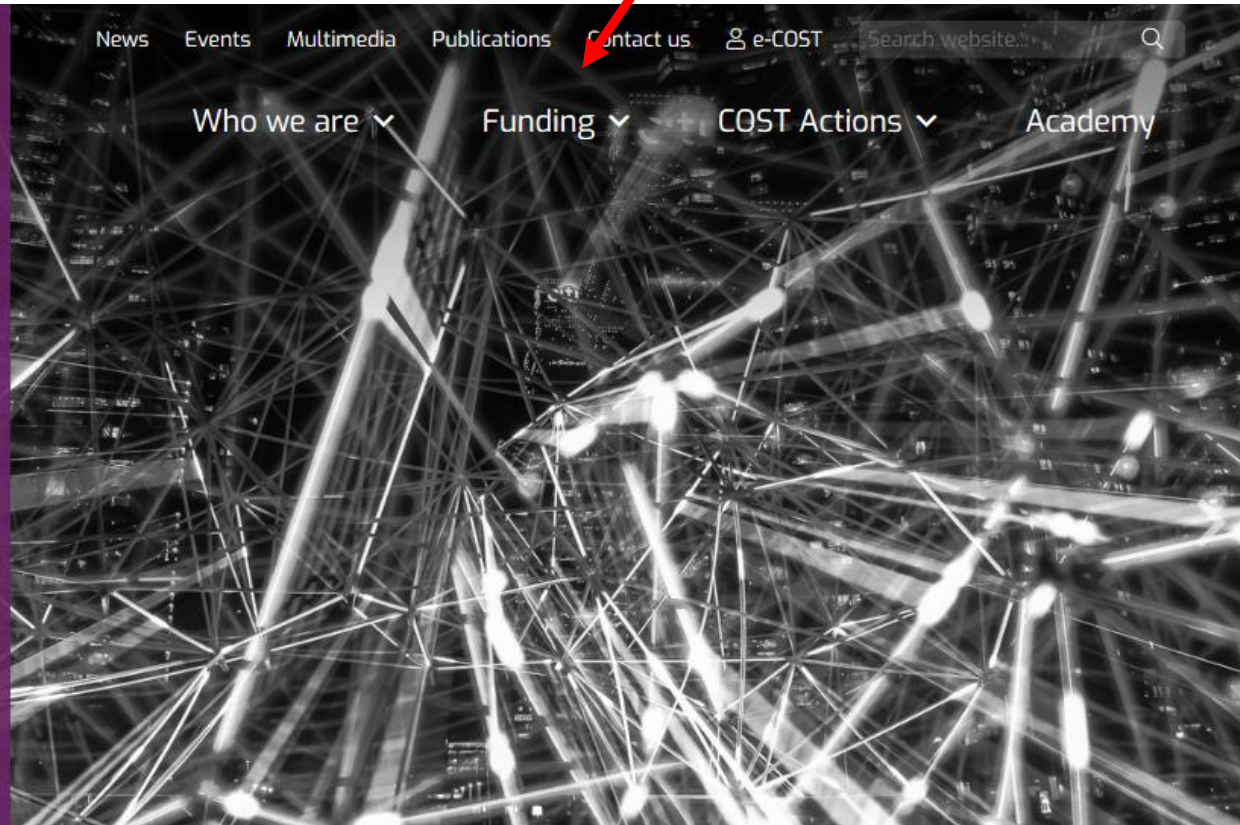


Next collection date

The image shows a screenshot of the COST website homepage. On the left, there is a purple sidebar with the COST logo and the text 'EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY'. Below the logo, it says 'Open Call' and '5 September 2019'. A paragraph of text follows: 'We invite participants to submit proposals for COST Actions, the next collection date will be 5 September 2019, 12:00 noon (CET)'. A 'Read more' button is located at the bottom of this sidebar. The main content area on the right features a navigation menu with links for 'News', 'Events', 'Multimedia', 'Publications', 'Contact us', 'e-COST', and a search bar. Below the navigation menu, there are four main menu items: 'Who we are', 'Funding', 'COST Actions', and 'Academy'. The background of the main content area is a photograph of two people in white protective suits working on a large, complex scientific instrument with many blue panels.

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Discover More



How to get funding

Home > Funding > How to get funding

Proposals for COST Actions are collected twice a year through the submission, evaluation, selection and approval (SESA) procedure.

The following pages give additional advice on the application procedure for funding.

If you would like to join an existing COST Action, [click here](#).

How to apply

[Go to Page](#)

Open Call

[Go to Page](#)

Evaluation, Selection and
Approval

[Go to Page](#)

Documents and guidelines

[Go to Page](#)

<https://www.cost.eu/funding/how-to-get-funding/open-call/>

COST Open Call

When?

Collection every 9 months
Next: 5 September 2019 – 12:00 CET

What?

One stage online submission of proposals
eCOST account

Who?

Main proposer
(and secondary proposers)

How many?

40 – 45 Actions approved
per collection

General features

Proposals



Online submission tool (e-COST)*

Overview

General Features

Technical Annex

References

COST Mission and Policies

Network

Documents

« My Proposals

Main Proposer Institution *
Brussels Free University - COST Country Institutions

Title (Maximum 12 words) *
Organ Donor Network

Acronym *
(max 60 characters)
OrgDonNet

Keyword 1 *
(max 60 characters)
Database

Keyword 2 *
(max 60 characters)
Transplantation

Keyword 3 *
(max 60 characters)
Donour

Keyword 4
(max 60 characters)

Summary: Maximum 250 words

About five percent European citizens suffers from organ malfunctioning. Living donor transplantation is often the most effective treatment and the alternative of deceased donor transplantation is severely limited by availability. As approximately 50% of living donors are incompatible with their specified recipient, several European countries have independently developed organ exchange programmes.

Exchange programmes aim to match donors optimally to recipients for organ exchange within the population of recipient-donor pairs.

Words: 68

AREAS OF EXPERTISE NEEDED FOR EVALUATION

Science Field
Health Sciences

Research Area
Health Services, Health Care Research

Proposal Reference:
OC-2017-1-21892

Proposal Status:
Draft

Checklist:

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

Generate PDF

Ready to submit?

General features

- Technical Annex**
- 1. S&T excellence***
 - 2. Networking Excellence**
 - 3. Impact**
 - 4. Implementation**



Proposals



Proposals



General features

Technical Annex

- 1. S&T excellence*
- 2. Networking Excellence
- 3. Impact
- 4. Implementation



COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy Specific objectives



COST MISSION AND POLICY



■ What is the COST Policy?

❖ COST Excellence and Inclusiveness

1. **Strengthening the excellence** through the creation of cross-border networking of researchers
2. Promoting geographical, age and gender **balance** throughout its activities and operations

Proposals



General features

Technical Annex

- 1. S&T excellence*
- 2. Networking Excellence
- 3. Impact
- 4. Implementation



COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy Specific objectives



Network of proposers



Required minimum number of Inclusiveness Target Countries per number of COST members presented in a proposal

| Number of COST 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 |

Proposals



General features

Technical Annex

1. S&T excellence*
2. Networking Excellence
3. Impact
4. Implementation



COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy Specific objectives



Network of proposers



Eligibility!

- Anonymous*
- Min ITC
- Format
- Peaceful purpose
- English

Evaluation - SESA

Step 1: External remote evaluation



3 independent external experts
Technical Annex

Step 2: Revision and quality
check by Review Panels

Step 3: Selection by the Scientific
Committee
COST policy and objectives

Step 4: Approval by COST
committee of Senior Officials -
Results 7-8 months after submission

Evaluation criteria - step 1

| S&T EXCELLENCE | NETWORKING EXCELLENCE | IMPACT | IMPLEMENTATION |
|--|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Soundness of the Challenge - Progress beyond the state-of-the-art | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Added value of networking in S&T Excellence - Added value of networking in Impact | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Impact to science, society & competitiveness, & potential for innovation/ breakthroughs - Measures to maximise impact | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan |
| Total marks for the section: 15 points | Total marks for the section: 15 points | Total marks for the section: 15 points | Total marks for the section: 5 points |
| <p>Total marks awarded: 0-50 points</p> <p>Overall threshold: 34 points</p> | | | |

> What do we fund?

- Funding networking activities
- Benefits
- Who can participate

> How to get funding

- How to apply
- Open Call
- Evaluation, selection and approval
- Documents and guidelines**

Documents and guidelines

Home > Funding > How to get funding > Documents and guidelines

The COST documents and guidelines below are for COST Action participants and researchers interested in knowing more about COST Actions:


The **COST implementation rules** provide the basic and general conditions for the implementation of COST activities, with a specific focus on COST Actions.


The **COST Action template centre** provides documents that COST Actions may use to report on their activities.

The **key documents** include the official announcement of the COST Open Call; the vademecum, which provides the terms and conditions for the financing of Actions and other activities; the technical annex, which is part of the COST Action proposal; and the SESA guidelines that give information on the application and selection procedure. You will also find the guidelines for dissemination of your COST Action results, which is key to know how to communicate the networks' outcomes.

For general enquiries and technical problems, please contact opencall@cost.eu

The documents and guidelines in brief:

 The documents on this page give more information for COST Action participants and interested parties.

 This information is also provided on the relevant pages of the COST website.

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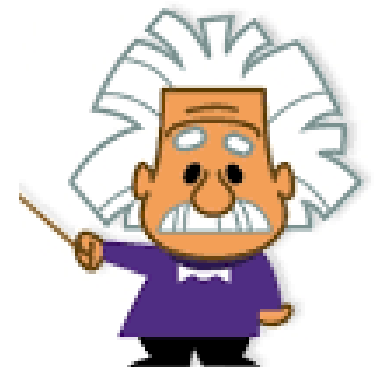
Engage as external expert



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**

www.cost.eu/cost-actions/participate-external-expert/



[> What are COST Actions?](#)[> Browse Actions](#)[> Participate in an ongoing Action](#)[> Action Networking Tools](#)

Additional activities for Actions

[> Become an external expert](#)[> Success Stories](#)[> Action participant directory](#)[Login](#)

Become an external expert

[Home](#) > [COST Actions](#) > [Become an external expert](#)

Call for COST external experts

We invite experts from all scientific areas to participate in the evaluation of proposals for COST Actions collected twice a year through the COST Open Call.

By being available for occasional, short-term assignments, you will contribute to fair, inclusive and fully transparent scientific project assessment at European level.

A COST external expert must not necessarily belong to academic institutions. However, a university degree and considerable scientific or professional experience in the specific areas of expertise are a requirement.

Why become a COST expert?

As a COST external 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.

You will:

- Gain insight into the latest scientific and technological developments put forward by COST scientific communities.
- Build on your reputation in the research community through the recognition of your role as a COST expert.
- Contribute to the impact and success of our COST programme.

Thank you!

Contact and engage with us!

 @COST.Programme

 @COSTprogramme

 COST Association

 COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology)