Introduction to the COST Framework Programme

Estelle EMERIAU
Science Officer
BELSPO – Brussels, 06 June 2019
Outline

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

- **Memorandum of Understanding**
- **4 years**
- **Min 7 countries, average participation, 27 countries**
- **Research coordination and capacity building activities**
- **€ ~540 000 euros over lifetime**

Network
COST key figures of 2017

Running Actions

339 → 233

Training schools

Short-term scientific missions

2,339

Researchers Involved In COST Actions

45,000

€300 million

COST budget (from Horizon 2020 for a 7 year period)
Networking tools

Management Committee meeting

Working Group meeting

Conferences

Training Schools

Scientific missions (inter-lab exchanges)

Dissemination

Research coordination & Capacity building activities
A network in bubbles

MCM1 2016
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
Engage as participant of a running COST Action
How to find the relevant COST Action?

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 information, please visit the global networking page.

https://www.cost.eu/cost-actions/browse-actions/
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MC Chair</td>
<td>Prof Christophe TATOUT</td>
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<tr>
<td>MC Vice Chair</td>
<td>Dr Célia BAROUX</td>
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## Working Group Leaders

<table>
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<tr>
<th>WG Leader</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Katja GRAUMANN</td>
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<td>Dr Stefanie ROSA</td>
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<td>Dr Ales PECINKA</td>
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<td>Dr Bjoern GRUENING</td>
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<td>Dr Geraint PARRY</td>
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## COST Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>13/07/2017</td>
<td>Confirmed</td>
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<td>Belgium</td>
<td>02/10/2017</td>
<td>Confirmed</td>
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<td>Germany</td>
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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

CA16212 - Impact of Nuclear Domains On Gene Expression and Plant Traits

@www.brookes.ac.uk/indepth/

Downloads  Team
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
Engage as proposer of a COST Action
Next collection date

Open Call
5 September 2019
We invite participants to submit proposals for COST Actions, the next collection date will be 5 September 2019, 12:00 noon (CET)

Read more
Growing ideas through networks

Discover More
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.
COST Open Call

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

One stage online submission of proposals
eCOST account

Main proposer
(and secondary proposers)

When?

What?

Who?

How many?

40 – 45 Actions approved per collection

https://www.cost.eu/funding/how-to-get-funding/open-call/
General features

Proposals
Online submission tool (e-COST)*

Science Field: Health Sciences
Research Area: Health Services, Health Care Research

*www.cost.eu/ecost
Proposals

General features

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

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

COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy
Specific objectives

Proposals
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
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of COST Members</th>
<th>Minimum number of ITC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S&amp;T EXCELLENCE</th>
<th>NETWORKING EXCELLENCE</th>
<th>IMPACT</th>
<th>IMPLEMENTATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Soundness of the Challenge</td>
<td>- Added value of networking in S&amp;T Excellence</td>
<td>- Impact to science, society &amp; competitiveness, &amp; potential for innovation/breakthroughs</td>
<td>- Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Progress beyond the state-of-the-art</td>
<td>- Added value of networking in Impact</td>
<td>- Measures to maximise impact</td>
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</table>

**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  

**Total marks awarded:** 0-50 points  
**Overall threshold:** 34 points
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 open.call@cost.eu
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/
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)