

COST Connect

The relevance of impact in R&I policy – What role for networks?

COST Association
Avenue Louise 149
1050 Brussels - BELGIUM

24 November 2017

DRAFT AGENDA

<i>Coffee and arrival</i>	08.45 – 09.00
Introduction and welcome - Welcome words by COST	09.00 – 09.30
Setting the scene Short inputs (by invitation) that include - Current policy developments in the area - Success stories and future ambitions by invited stakeholders and researchers (e.g. from JRC, EIT, EUREKA, etc.)	09.30 – 10.45
<i>Coffee break</i>	10.45 – 11.00
Welcome round and check-in - All participants briefly introduce themselves	11.00 – 11.40
Announcing, discussing and selecting questions - People bring forward their question with the offer to host a discussion table. After all tables have been chosen by someone sharing a question, the other participants are invited to think about which table they want to join first.	11.40 – 12.15
Pro-Action Café Round 1: What is the quest behind the question - Every participant is invited to challenge the table host and different facets of the question are explored.	12.15 – 13.00
<i>Lunch</i>	13.00 – 14.15
Pro-Action Café Round 2: What is missing - The participants aim to make the picture more complete, redefine and deepen the discussion on the question (e.g. questions not asked yet, perspectives or options not considered yet).	14.15 – 15.00
Pro-Action Café Round 3: What is next - What did we learn? What next steps will each of us take? What are possible actions (individually and together in variable geometry)?	15.00 – 15.45
<i>Coffee break</i>	15.45 – 16.00
Presentation of results - Wrap up of the results by the hosts of the tables	16.00 – 16.45
Next steps and closing of the meeting - Short input from high-level policy maker in the field (MEP, tbc.) and COST on the next steps, feedback by all participants	16.45 – 17.45

COST CONNECT: THE RELEVANCE OF IMPACT IN R&I POLICY – WHAT ROLE FOR NETWORKS?

Background

The measurement of impact is a “hot topic” in European Research and Innovation policies. European funded research projects and programmes are increasingly asked to define and measure the impact they create, both in ex-ante and ex-post assessments. The way impact is defined and measured – and which data is used to do so – largely decides whether people, research projects, journals and institutes are seen as successful. Impact measurement will also play a crucial role in the discussions on the Next Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP9). As stated by Carlos Moedas in October 2016, “impact should be a key value in FP9”, and that a more “sophisticated approach on impact is needed”.

With this COST Connect event, COST and representatives of COST Actions want to contribute to this discussion, and to bring several stakeholders together to elaborate on the question what the role and definition of impact is in Research and Innovation policies, and by this contributing to a more diverse and inclusive interpretation of impact in particular of different networking instruments. The event offers an interactive forum to several COST Actions (both working on horizontal and thematic research topics) and stakeholders active in the EU’s R&I field.

Results shall feed into the discussion on FP9 through follow-up activities with stakeholders in Brussels as well with the future EU Council presidencies.

Aims and Objectives

In relation to the Actions:

- Raising awareness in relation to the impact discourse and FP9
- Making them aware of R&I policy discussions, issues of impact measurement and pressure to achieve societal impact with scientific work
- Highlighting funding opportunities and the respective relevance of impact domains
- Providing a platform to lobby for the use of indicators that value networking, interdisciplinarity, involvement of different actors in research
- Discussing emerging topics in the field: identifying potential future cooperation to learn from each other and increase impact (creating links among COST Actions)
- Promoting their research and forging contacts with other interested projects / Actions

In relation to the stakeholders:

- Furthering the dialogue on impact measurement in R&I policy and gaining a common understanding of different impact dimensions for different policies, programmes and projects
- Linking them to COST Actions – thematic links, ideas for future programming
- Learning from COST experiences in bringing together research, industry and policy makers to achieve impacts

In relation to COST:

- Increasing visibility and impact of the programme in relation to R&I policies
- Outreach to an active thematic community, widening participation and benefits of ongoing efforts, promoting COST possibilities to avoid duplication

Invited participants

- Relevant COST Action and H2020 projects working on the topic of R&I Impact
- EU R&I stakeholder associations working on R&I, including EIT, JRC, JPIs, EUREKA, EUA etc.
- National associations for R&I evaluation, institutions, statistical institutes and academic publishers working and producing with indicators relevant for impact measurement
- S&T policy makers from the European Commission
- Members of European Parliament

Methodology

The workshop is based on the concept of the “Pro Action Café”, which is a methodology for creative and inspirational conversations. Participants are invited to share their questions (around projects – seed ideas) and get group input (deeper questions – knowledge – experience) from others. A Pro Action Café is an innovative yet simple methodology for hosting conversations about questions, projects, and concerns that matter to the individuals that attend.

In a Pro Action Café, topics are brought forward by participants themselves. There is no set agenda, only overall guiding questions and “setting-the-scene” presentation with the intention of deepening the learning process of all participants.

Short setting-the-scene presentations provide a possibility for COST and stakeholders to bring in key information, relevant for the future discussion on the role of networks for the impact of research and innovation activities.

After the Introduction and the setting the scene presentations, there are three rounds of conversation in café style – each guided by a few generic questions to help deepen and focus the conversations.

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