



Action Plan of the Framework Partnership Agreement of COST H2020

ANNEX 1

Action Plan of the Framework Partnership Agreement
between the European Commission and the COST Association
for implementing the COST activities under Horizon 2020

COST at a turning point:

**A unique framework for pan-European S&T cooperation
as clear demonstration of European values**

Preamble

Project ID 633054 – Project acronym COST H2020



COST is supported by
the EU Framework Programme
Horizon 2020

COST Association
Avenue Louise 149 | 1050 Brussels, Belgium
t: +32 (0)2 533 3800 | f: +32 (0)2 533 3890
office@cost.eu | www.cost.eu

Research and Innovation is recognised as being a source of progress and wellness for a country, a continent, the society. The emergence of a knowledge-based economy and society makes Science and Technology becoming again key source for Research and Innovation.

However, today, more than ever before, Europe, its institutions and governments, its research actors and its citizens are facing defying societal challenges aggregated by persisting crisis. While fast technological developments, emergence of new industries, reinforces research intensive, highly competitive countries, other regions are failing to unlock their excellence and perform low in research, development and innovation. The latter remain behind defeated by the financial crises and create delays in the fields of science and technology damaging the economies of those countries and consequently Europe as a whole. More than ever before, Europe must react and put all effort to avoid a two-speed development among its Member States where the networking concept proposed by COST shall be a strong contribution also supporting the full realisation of the Innovation Union.

COST will contribute towards the Innovation Union goals and more particularly to Horizon 2020 objectives through its Mission with 4 specific objectives:

- Joining research efforts and developing common S&T programmes
- Building capacity
- Addressing Societal Questions
- Strengthening COST Inclusiveness Policy

COST will achieve these objective through:

- Coordination of nationally funded research activities led by pan-European, high quality, collaborative S&T networks.
- Providing networking and leadership opportunities for emerging talents and thereby strengthening and building up excellent S&T communities.
- Promoting trans-disciplinary, new approaches and topics and identifying early warning signals of unforeseen societal problems aiming at contributing to Societal Challenges.
- Fostering better access and integration of less research performing countries' researchers to the knowledge hubs of the European Research Area aiming at contributing to the Widening Pillar of Horizon 2020.

The objective of COST H2020 Framework Partnership Agreement is to found a stable and structured partnership between the European Commission and the COST Member Countries who commit themselves to establish, maintain and implement the strategic Action Plan described in the following. This Framework Partnership Agreement will cover the full initiative over the coming seven years in order to enable the completion of the strategic Action Plan within the context of the agreement. COST is financed out of the European Union research budget through Horizon 2020. The total indicative budget proposed for this period shall be of EUR 300 Million (constant prices) subject to approval by the budgetary authority, it will be released progressively through yearly Specific Grant Agreements. The COST Member Countries commit themselves to give a 50% share of the funds obtained to the COST Inclusiveness Target Countries as defined in this agreement.

The overall challenge for COST is to foster a common pan-European effort and contributing to it by the COST key guiding principles. This also extends to enhancing the interplay between COST and other Union policies, dissemination and technology transfer towards exploitation.



This Action Plan of the COST H2020 Framework Partnership Agreement has been developed by the COST Member Countries to address policy matters identified through a series of reports, initiatives and responses obtained (FP7 mid-term evaluation, assessments, observers reports of the evaluation system, independent expert panels on impact assessment). They form part of a continuous process within the COST Framework to support the ongoing development and improvement of the activities involving and being around all COST actors.

This Action Plan has been prepared by the COST Member Countries based on the national frameworks/reflections, priorities, processes and challenges specific to each country but also and in particular taking into account their common interest and joint mission statement. As such, they have decided to unite their efforts, content and level of detail, consistent with their different national needs, environments and stages of development, benefiting of the momentum and bringing the European interest into the centre of their concerns and ambitions towards the same objective.

The specific tasks to be accomplished by the COST Association will be described in details in the annual Specific Grant Agreements. They will allow to identify specific steps to be taken in order to achieve the goals and objectives outlined below.

