

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA GRANTS WEEK

COST Morning



Venue: Valletta campus / Online
Date: July 8, 2021



Funded by the Horizon 2020
Framework Programme
of the European Union

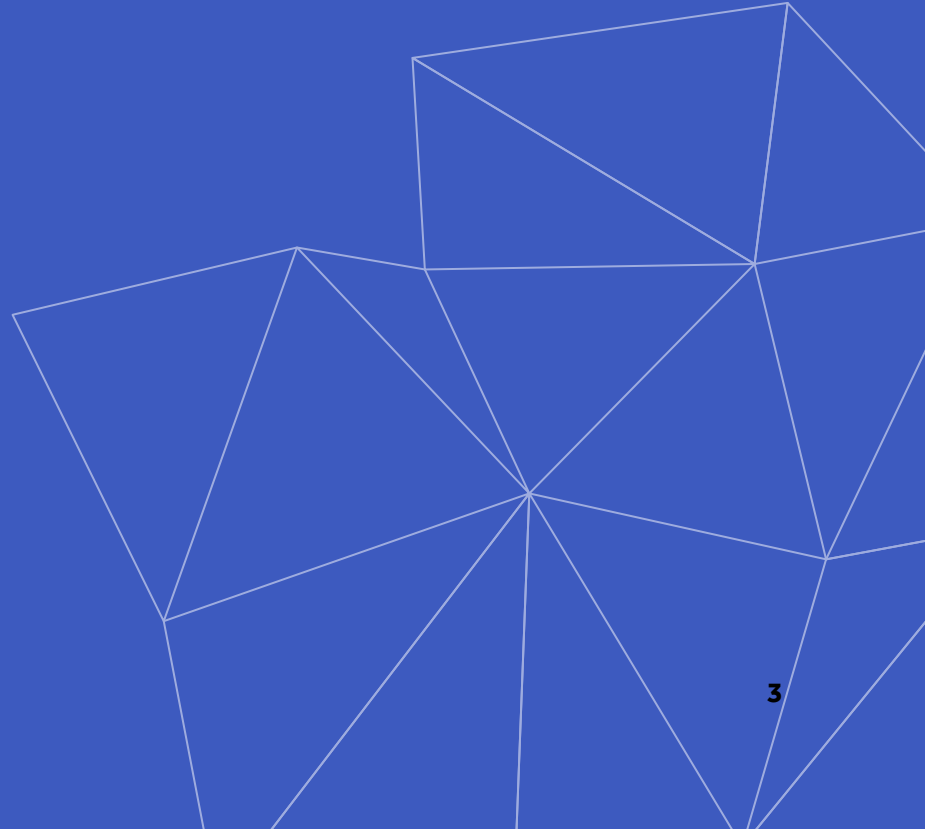


- 09:30 Session 4.1 - Introducing COST
Dr Ronald de Bruin, Director of the COST Association
- 09:45 Session 4.2 - COST Overview
Prof. Janet Mifsud, COST CNC CSO
- 10:15 Session 4.3 – Building a successful COST Action
Mr Christer Halen, Senior Administrator - Science Operations COST Association
- 11:00 Session 4.4 – COST Panel Discussion

Chair, Dr Melchior Cini, Deputy COST CNC CSO
Prof. Janet Mifsud, COST CNC CSO
Prof. Luciano Mule Stagno, COST Scientific Committee chair
Dr. Lourdes Farrugia, COST Action chair
Dr. Jean Paul De Lucca, COST Action MC Member

Session 4.1 Ronald de Bruin

Welcome



Session 4.2 Janet Mifsud

COST: an overview



What is a COST action?

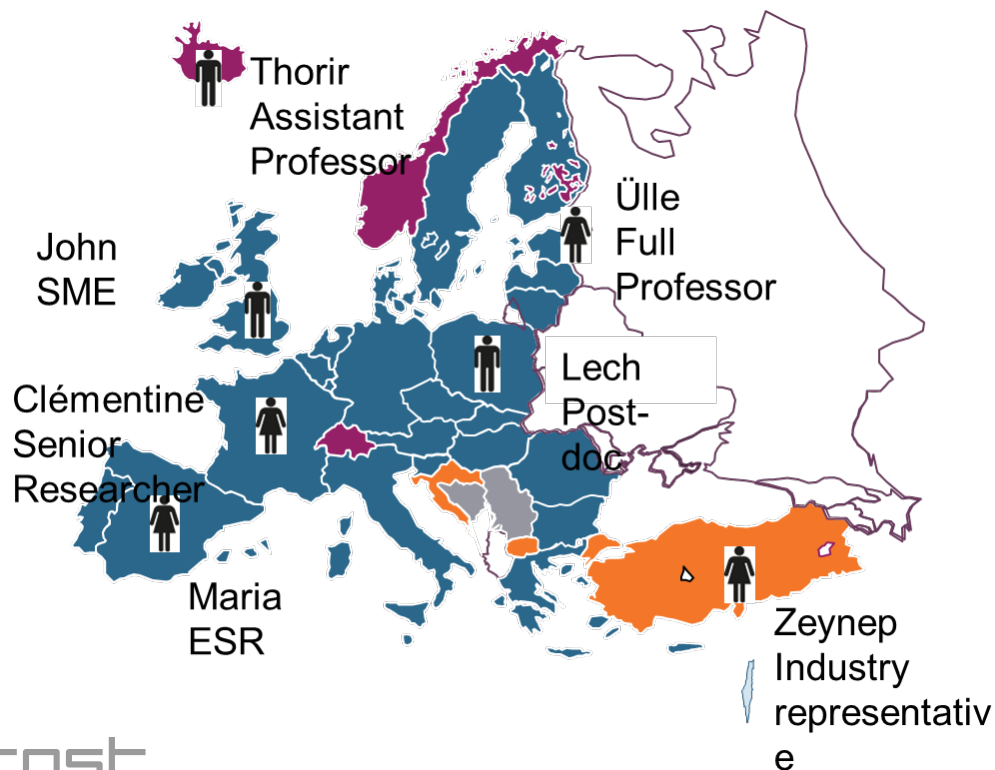


What is a COST action?



- **COST Actions are networks** integrating externally funded research, with a minimum of 5 participating COST countries. They receive a financial contribution based on a 4-year joint work programme for:
 - **Scientific/Working Group meetings**
 - **Workshops and Seminars**
 - **Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs)**
 - **Training Schools**
 - **Dissemination activities**

How is a COST action set up?



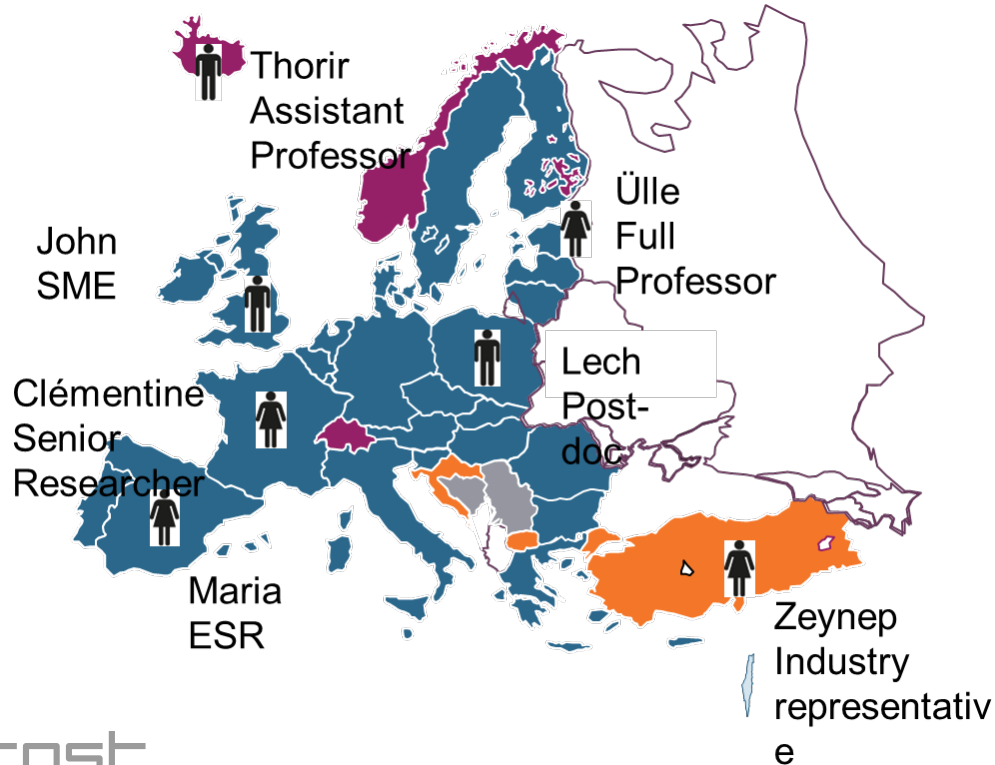
**Main proposer
contacts potential
secondary
proposers to join
the COST
proposal....**

**With a focus on
inclusion of ITC
countries**

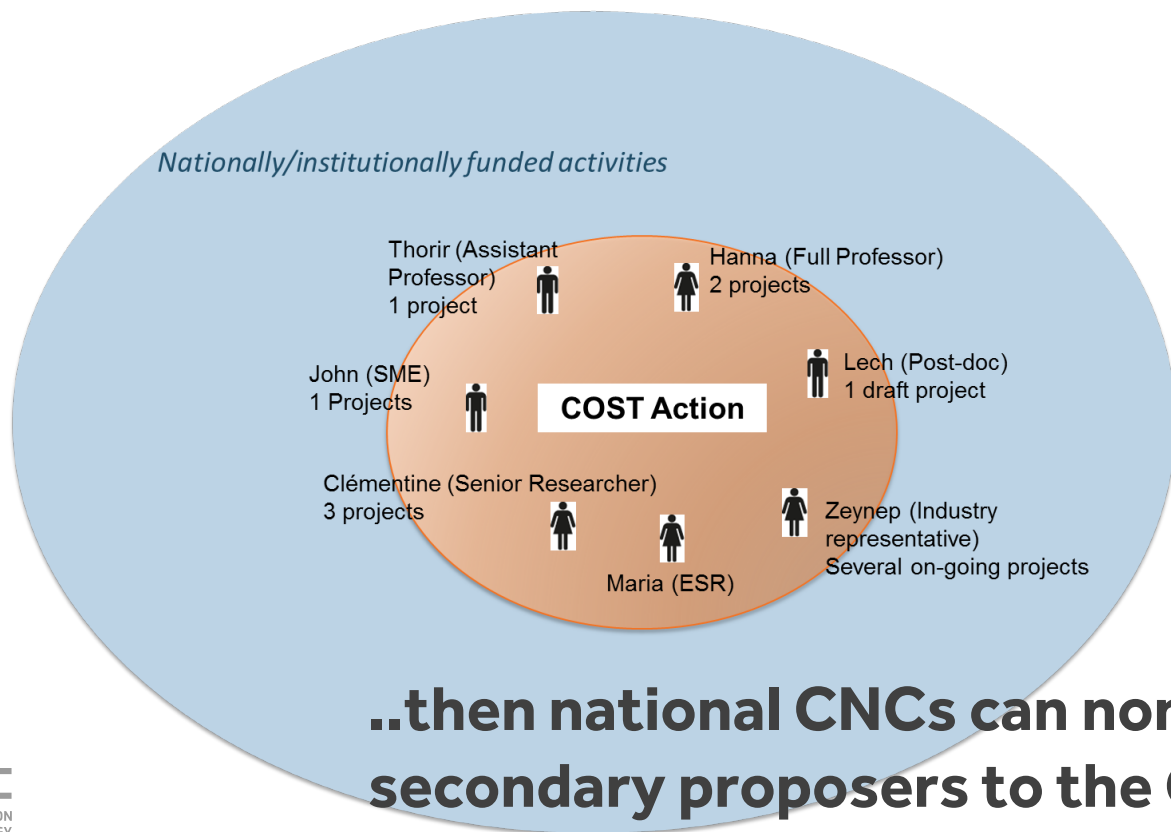
Evaluation of COST actions...



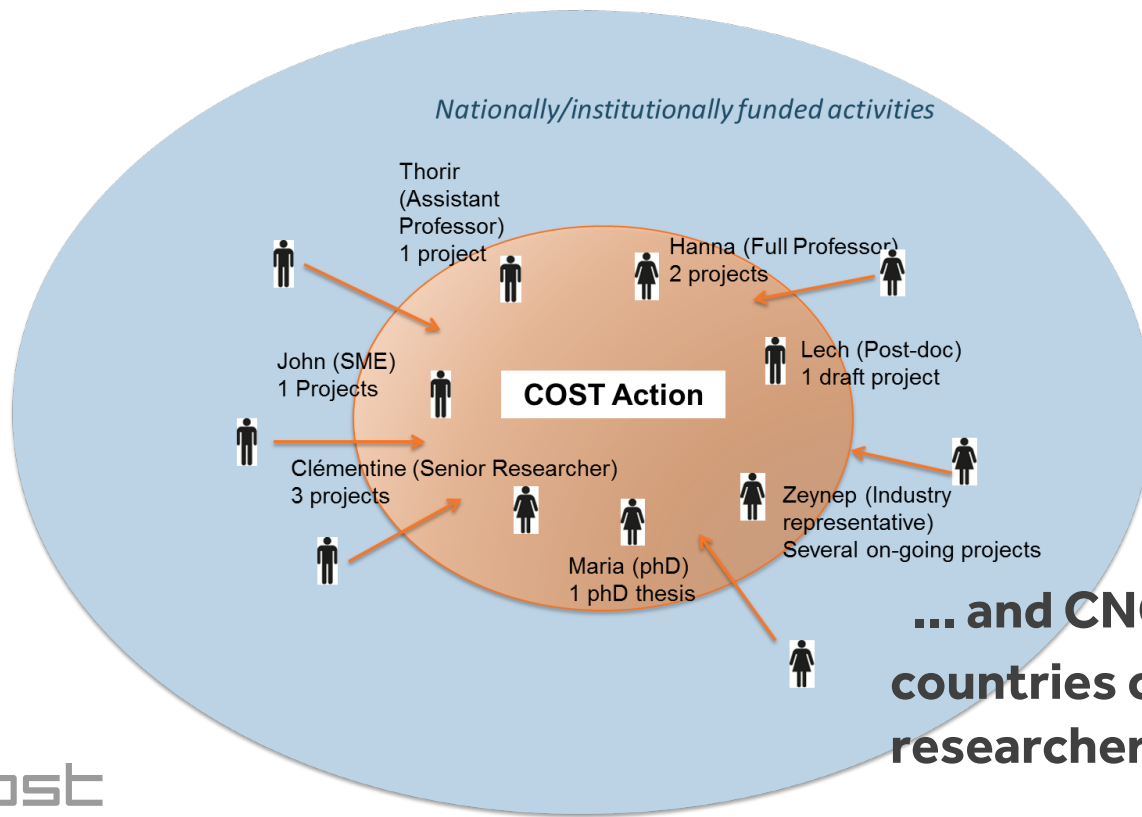
**This is coordinated
by the COST
scientific
committee who
appoint experts
and reviewers.**



If a COST action is approved..



Joining an approved COST action



... and CNCs from other countries can nominate researchers too...



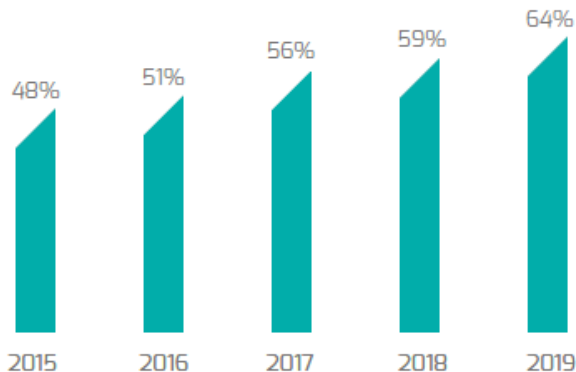
Bottom-up and open networking instrument:

- networking of researchers
- all fields of S&T (including interdisciplinary, new and emergent fields)
- any novel and original idea (innovative)
- all partners (public and private, big and small)
- all career stages (young and senior investigators)
- all countries

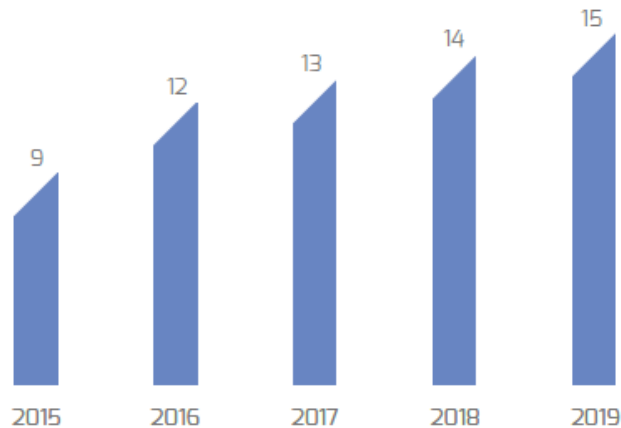


Since 2010, Malta's participation in COST continued to increase several times fold. In 2020, Malta participated in 200 Actions out of 291 Actions running at any time of the year (69%).

COUNTRY REPRESENTATION IN COST ACTIONS



LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN COST ACTIONS

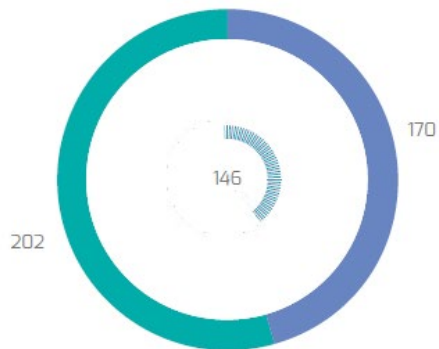




Since 2010, Malta's participation in **COST** continued to increase several times fold, compared to other EU countries, across all the domains

INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION IN ALL ACTION ACTIVITIES

■ Women ■ Men /// Younger researchers



PARTICIPATION IN NETWORKING ACTIVITIES

17

Short-term scientific missions

41

Trainees

3

Trainers

13

The background is a solid teal color. It features several white geometric patterns: a set of concentric circles in the top right, another set in the bottom left, and a complex network of intersecting lines forming various polygons on the right side.

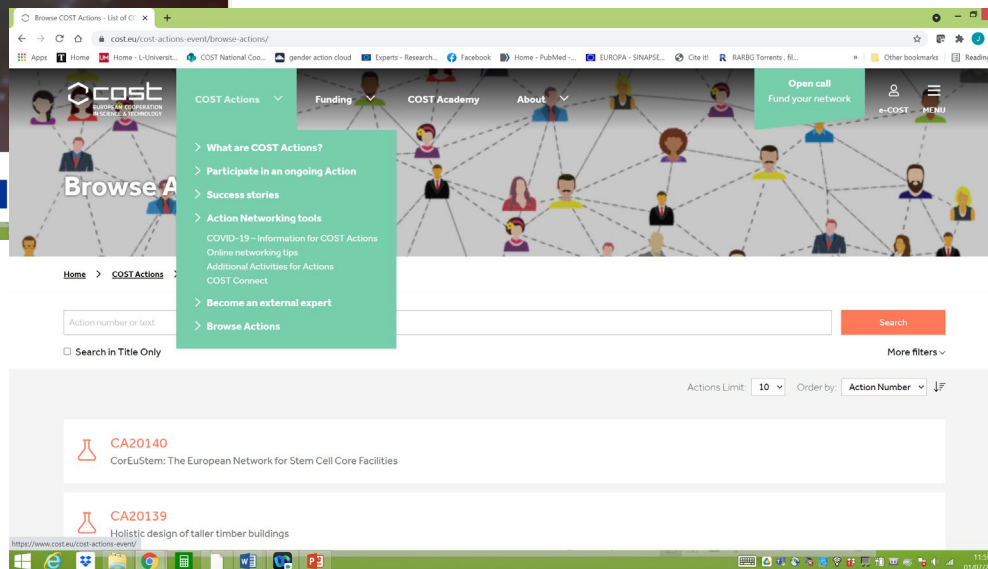
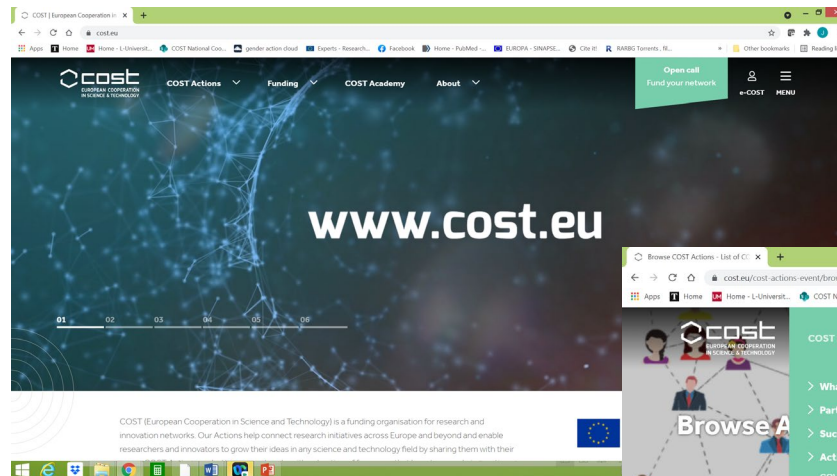
How can I participate in COST?

How can I participate in COST?



- Each country has different procedures
- But basically each nomination is on a country basis made by the CNC, on behalf of the COST managing authority, usually the Science Council. In Malta this is MCST.

How to start? www.cost.eu

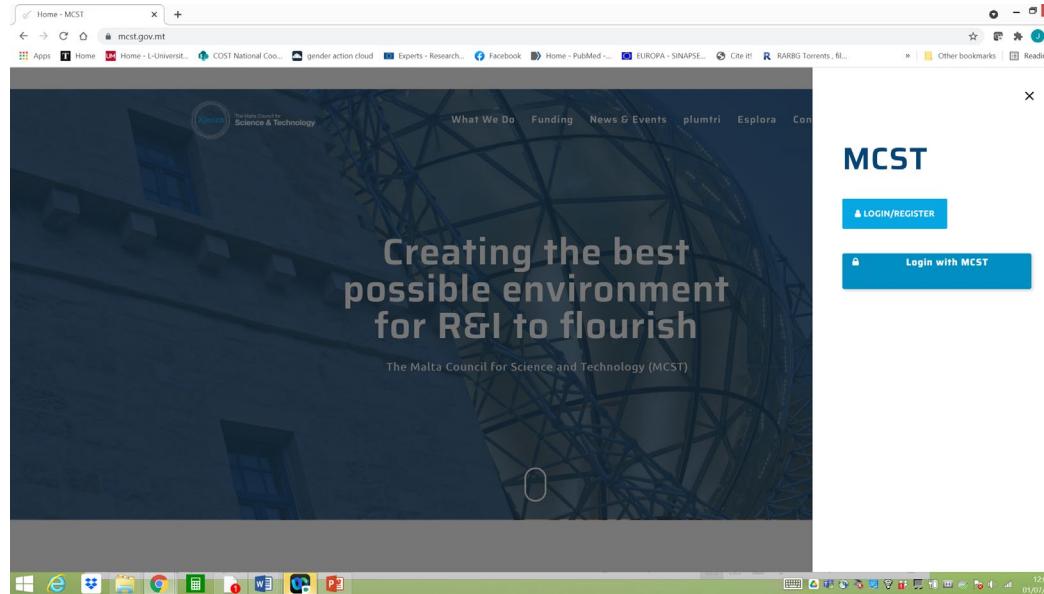


How to start?



- Go to www.cost.eu
- Click on search facility
- Click on All actions
- Put in a key word
- Look for actions which are just approved (preferably)
- For more details on action check MOU

Or join the MCST mailing list....



How to join?



- Check the start date of the action
- Check if Malta already has two MC representatives in that action
- If not contact CNC
- Fill in application form
- Submit soft scanned signed copy (only please...)

Local procedures for applications





EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION AS MALTA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
REPRESENTATIVE IN AN ACTION OF THE COST PROGRAMME

TO BE COMPLETED BY EACH APPLICANT

COST ACTION TITLE and ACRONYM (if any)	
COST ACTION NUMBER	
DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE OF ACTION*	
END DATE OF ACTION	

*If COST action has been in force for longer than one year, copy of minutes approval by Management Committee that Malta has been accepted in the COST action is required.

GUIDELINES FOR COMPLETION AND CHECK-LIST

Annexes	- A brief 2page Curriculum Vitae (CV), including key Publications and Outline Description of the Research Projects relevant to the activities of the Action - Abstract of COST action	☐ ☐
Signatures	The Declaration of the Participant has been duly completed and signed. The Head of the Unit/Department/Service has duly completed and signed the relevant Departmental Approval	☐ ☐
Submission		

PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY SOFT COPIES ARE ACCEPTED

Please send the completed Application Form as scanned and signed pdf file by e-mail to cost_mcast@gov.mt and janet.mifsud@um.edu.mt

All personal information will be processed in accordance with GDPR Regulations, of the Laws of Malta.

1. RESEARCHER'S DETAILS

FULL NAME	
POSITION / CAPACITY	
ADDRESS	
MOBILE TELEPHONE NUMBER	
E-MAIL	

2. DECLARATION OF PARTICIPANT

I, the undersigned, hereby declare and undertake that in the case of my approval in participating in an Action of the COST Programme:

1. I will actively participate in all the meetings and activities of the Action.
2. I will submit an annual report and any other information that may be requested from time to time to the MCST COST CMC, relevant to my activities in the context of the Action.
3. All the information declared in this application is true.
4. I will not expect any funding from MCST to support my participation at the COST action.
5. I accept that MCST has the right to reassess my participation in the COST action.
6. **I will inform COST CMC if I decide to organise any COST related events in Malta**

Signature of the Participant:	
Full Name of the Participant:	
Date:	

3. DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL

I, _____ Head of the Department/Unit _____ declare that I have been informed and I agree with the participation of Mr/Ms _____ in the COST Action of the COST Programme with Number _____

Signature of the Head of the Department/Unit/Service:		Seal of the Organisation.
Date:		

4. WHY WOULD YOU LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE AFOREMENTIONED COST ACTION?

5. RELEVANT QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

Please describe your qualifications and experience in accordance to the activities of the Action (max. 200 words)

6. PARTICIPATION IN WORKING GROUP

Please state in which working group you would like to participate and explain why. (max. 200 words)

7. PARTICIPATION IN OTHER COST ACTIONS

Did you participate in other COST Action? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, please give details of action title and number

8. ANNEXES

In the Annexes of this application, you should attach the following:

- A brief 2page Curriculum Vitae (CV), including key Publications
- Abstract of COST action.

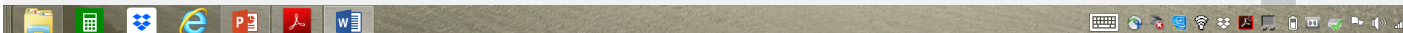
Page 1 of 3

Page 2 of 3

Page 3 of 3

6 words

English (United Kingdom)




EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

20



- MCST Application for COST
- CV is important (2 pages only please)
- Application checked by CNC
- Applicant must show how the action is relevant to his/her area of interest and expertise
- If more than 2 applicants, then priority is given to applicants from different institutes/departments to ensure the interdisciplinary of COST actions



- Recommendation forwarded to MCST board for approval
- CNC informs applicant of approval
- CNC uploads applicant details on e-COST website
- Applicant receives link to accept nomination and upload details on e-COST
- Whole process takes around 2 weeks

Examples of COST actions



Examples of COST actions..just published



- CA20101 Plastics monitoring detection remediation recovery
- CA20102 Marine Animal Forest of the world
- CA20103 Biosecurity enhanced through training, evaluation and raising awareness
- CA20104 Network on evidence-based physical activity in old age
- CA20105 Slow Memory: Transformative Practices for Times of Uneven and Accelerating Change
- CA20106 Tomorrow's 'wheat of the sea': Ulva, a model for an innovative mariculture
- CA20107 Connecting Theory and Practical Issues of Migration and Religious Diversity
- CA20108 FAIR Network of micrometeorological measurements
- CA20109 Modular energy islands for sustainability and resilience
- CA20110 RNA communication across kingdoms: new mechanisms and strategies in pathogen control
- CA20111 European Research Network on Formal Proofs
- CA20112 Platform of policy evaluation community for improved EU policies and better acknowledgement
- CA20113 A sound proteome for a sound body: targeting proteolysis for proteome remodelling
- CA20114 Therapeutical applications of Cold Plasmas

Examples of COST actions



- CA20115 European network on international student mobility: connecting research and practice
- CA20116 European Network for Innovative and Advanced Epitaxy
- CA20117 Converting molecular profiles of myeloid cells into biomarkers for inflammation and cancer
- CA20118 Three-dimensional forest ecosystem monitoring and better understanding by terrestrial-based technologies
- CA20119 European andrology network— research coordination, education and public awareness
- CA20120 Intelligence-Enabling Radio Communications for Seamless Inclusive Interactions
- CA20121 Bench to bedside transition for pharmacological regulation of NRF2 in noncommunicable diseases
- CA20122 Harmonizing clinical care and research on adrenal tumours in European countries
- CA20123 Intergovernmental Coordination from Local to European Governance
- CA20124 Maximising impact of multidisciplinary research in early diagnosis of neonatal brain injury
- CA20125 Applications for zoosporic parasites in aquatic systems
- CA20126 Network for research, innovation and product development on porous semiconductors and oxides

Examples of COST actions



- CA20127 Waste biorefinery technologies for accelerating sustainable energy processes
- CA20128 Promoting Innovation of fermented foods
- CA20129 Multiscale irradiation and chemistry driven processes and related technologies
- CA20130 European MIC Network – New paths for science, sustainability and standards
- CA20130 European MIC Network – New paths for science, sustainability and standards
- CA20131 Efficient Justice for All: Improving Court Efficiency through EU Benchmarking
- CA20132 Urban Tree Guard - Safeguarding European urban trees and forests through improved biosecurity
- CA20133 Cross-border transfer and development of sustainable resource recovery strategies towards zero waste
- CA20134 Traces as Research Agenda for Climate Change, Technology Studies, and Social Justice
- CA20135 Improving biomedical research by automated behaviour monitoring in the animal home-cage
- CA20136 Opportunistic precipitation sensing network
- CA20137 Making Early Career Researchers' Voices Heard for Gender Equality
- CA20138 Network on water-energy-food nexus for a low-carbon economy in Europe and beyond
- CA20139 Holistic design of taller timber buildings
- CA20140 CorEuStem: The European Network for Stem Cell Core Facilities

Recent changes in COST



MC members: changes to nomination processs



- Up to 2 representatives per COST Full or Cooperating Member, nominated by CNC following application
- Nominations now must be done by CNC before the first Management Committee meeting (MC1)
- After MC1 there needs to be tacit approval by the MC. To be given within 4 weeks of request
- Everyone who wants to join an Action (including the MC candidate) as from now for the new Actions, should register for WGs in a specific COST action as from 1st November 2021.
- The **MC Chair, Vice-Chair and Grant Holder Scientific Representative** need to be MCs



Substitution of MC Members

- On 1st November, MC substitutes will be removed from the Action website and e-COST and applications for permanent substitutes for COST MC members **will no longer be possible**.
- There may be substitutes nominated for a limited time or specific meeting.
- Among the WG members affiliated in the same COST Member or Specific Organisation.
- They can be nominated by the MC directly when necessary, without the need to go through the relevant country COST CNC.
- If substitutes are involved in a Working Group (WG), as from 1st November they will be transferred to that WG and will appear on the Action website (as WG member).

Working group (WG) members: changes in role

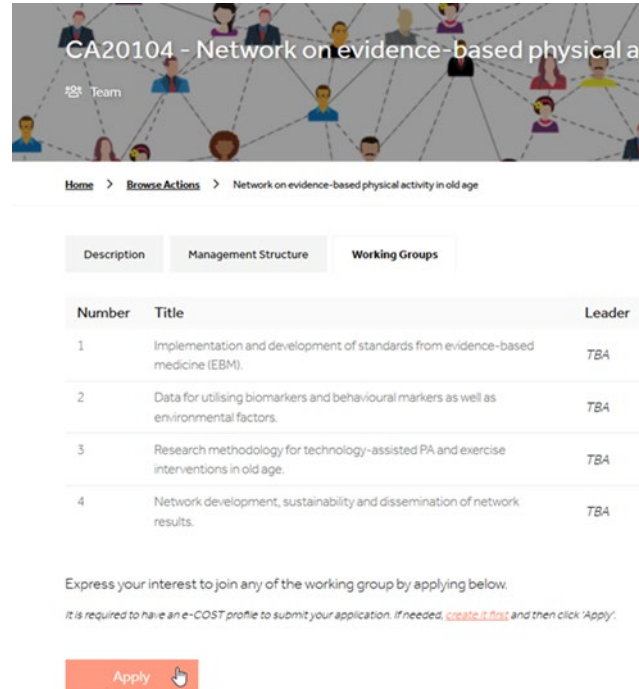


- Researchers who are not MC members may request to apply as Working Group (WG) experts. This is done directly from the COST Action webpage.
- Researchers can apply from now as WG experts for the new Actions (**but please note that these applications will only be reviewed after the first MC meeting**).
- The researcher applies directly without the need to go through the relevant country COST CNC, using the following steps.
- NB: A WG member is not reimbursed for participating in COST Action activities. This remains a decision of the MC under the COST eligibility framework.

Working group (WG) members: how to apply



- Open the relevant COST action webpage from www.cost.eu
- Click on the “apply” button on the Action webpage



CA20104 - Network on evidence-based physical activity in old age

Home > Browse Actions > Network on evidence-based physical activity in old age

Description Management Structure Working Groups

Number	Title	Leader
1	Implementation and development of standards from evidence-based medicine (EBM).	TBA
2	Data for utilising biomarkers and behavioural markers as well as environmental factors.	TBA
3	Research methodology for technology-assisted PA and exercise interventions in old age.	TBA
4	Network development, sustainability and dissemination of network results.	TBA

Express your interest to join any of the working group by applying below.

It is required to have an e-COST profile to submit your application. If needed, [create it first](#) and then click 'Apply'.

Apply

Working group (WG) members: how to apply

- Fill in the online application. This will be reviewed by the Management Committee after the first MC meeting.
- Please note that you need to create an e-cost profile to be able to fill in this form.
- The form also gives the option to declare your availability to join the MC or act as a substitute if needed for a short period of time.

The screenshot shows the 'Working Group application' form for COST Action CA20103, 'Biosecurity Enhanced Through Training Evaluation and Raising Awareness (BETTER)'. The form is titled 'Working Group application' and includes a note: 'Please note that the Action Management Committee shall decide on your application within 3 months after the 1st Management Committee Meeting (2021/2022)'. The form is divided into several sections: 'Applicant profile details', 'Working Group details', 'Scientific Background', 'Motivation', and 'Working Group Contribution'. Each section has a text area for input and a 'Save' button at the bottom. The 'Working Group details' section includes a list of checkboxes for 'I am available to be substituted as MC member' and 'I am available to substitute the MC membership of my COST member country or Specific Organisation on an ad-hoc basis'. The 'Scientific Background' section has a text area for 'Here comes a description in maximum 150 words on how your scientific background relevant for the COST Action.' The 'Motivation' section has a text area for 'Here comes a description in maximum 150 words on your motivation to join the COST Action.' The 'Working Group Contribution' section has a text area for 'Here comes a description in maximum 150 words on how you plan to contribute to the Working Group(s)'. The form is part of the COST Action CA20103 website, which also displays the COST logo and navigation links.

New position: Grant Awarding Coordinator



- New position to coordinate the opening of calls, evaluation procedures and grants to support the following networking activities:
 - Mobility of researchers and innovators
 - Attendance of conferences organised by 3rd parties –
 - Capacity building (limited to young researchers and innovators from ITC or NNC)
 - Dissemination meeting related to COST Actions' work and results. (NEW)

Reimbursement of individuals



MC Meeting:

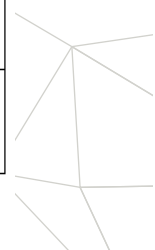
- Open to any relevant participant (even if not MC member) as attendee.
- MC can decide to reimburse only 1 MC member per country.

Invited Speakers:

- No more limit of 4 per event
- Concept substituted by ad hoc participant

Affiliation to		Meetings		Training Schools			Other networking activities	
		Invited individual	Local Organiser	Trainer	Trainee	Local Organiser	ITC Conf Grant*	All others
COST Members	Legal entity in COST F/C Member	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Legal entity in CPM	At COST Partner Member's costs (dedicated budget line)						
Specific Organisations	EC/EU	At EC, EU body, office or agency cost (minimisation of cascade funding)						
	Eur. RTD Org.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
	IO	Once in the lifetime of the Action	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
NNC	Legal entity in a NNC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
IPC / Third States	Legal entity in an IPC	Once in the lifetime of the Action	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗

* ITC Conference Grants are limited to Young researchers and innovators from COST Inclusiveness Target Countries and NNC.



Location of Activities



		Meetings	Training Schools and other networking activities
Virtual Environment		✓	✓
COST Members	Full or Cooperating Members	✓	✓
	Partner Member	✗	✓
NNC		✓	✓
IPC/Third State		✗	✓
Specific Organisations		Rule applicable to territory where it is vested	

✓ MC meeting: can be organised using virtual means.

Conclusion





Focussed &
complementary
interests



Opportunities
for training



Expertise and
resource sharing



Incentive and
motivation



Participation
and support



Linking with other
COST actions



Funds to make
these possible



Down-to-earth
people wanting
to work
together

Session 4.3 Christer Halen

Building a successful COST Action





Session 4.1 COST Panel Discussion

Chair, Dr Melchior Cini, Deputy COST CNC CSO

Prof. Janet Mifsud, COST CNC CSO

Prof. Luciano Mule Stagno, COST Scientific Committee chair

Dr. Lourdes Farrugia, COST Action chair

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