

COST - European Cooperation in Science and Technology



Open online Info Day – 01/10/2021
(10:00-11:30)

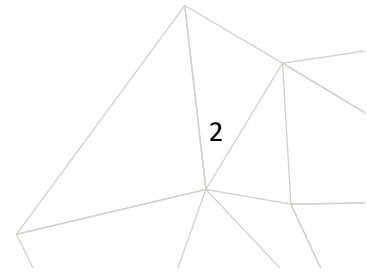


Funded by the Horizon 2020
Framework Programme
of the European Union



Etiquette

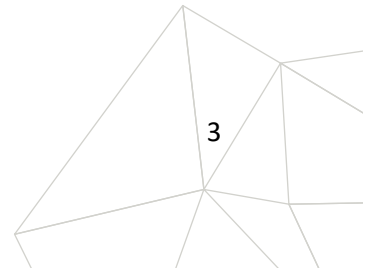
- The webinar is recoded and will be available on the COST Youtube channel
- No videos, participants are muted
- Full screen, side-by-side mode, with Active speaker view
- **Questions** can be asked via Zoom (Q&A icon) or Youtube:
 - Anytime
 - Sent anonymously if you do not want your name to appear
 - Can be upvoted
 - Answered at the end





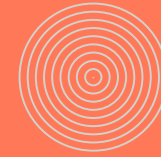
Agenda

- Welcome speech - Dr Anusha Panjwani, Head of Science Operations
- Session I: How to participate in a COST Action – Mr Christer Halen, Senior Administrator Science Operations
- Session II: Which activities are funded? – Ms Jeannette Nchung Oru, Administrative Officer
- Session III: How to submit a COST Action proposal – Dr Deniz Karaca, Science Officer
- Session IV: What are the benefits from participating in COST? An Action Chair's experience – Prof. Neil Lagali, Linköping University, Sweden. Chair of the COST Action Aniridia: networking to address an unmet medical, scientific, and societal challenge (ANIRIDIA-NET) – CA18116
- Q & A



Welcome speech

Dr Anusha Panjwani (Head of Science Operations - COST Association)





Session I

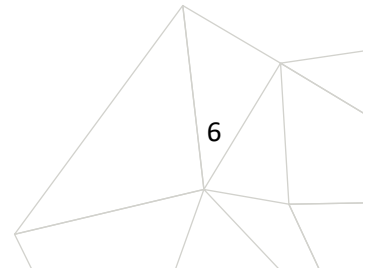
How to join a COST Action

Christer Halen (Senior Science Administrator - COST Association)



Strengths and Key Features

- Open to all scientific and technological (S&T) fields (**bottom-up**), all type of partners (academia, private, public,...), career stages and countries
- Promote scientific, technological, economic, cultural and societal **innovation** in Europe (Impact)
- **Reduce the gap** between scientists, policy makers and society in Europe & beyond



COST Actions aim at

- **Promoting** the creation, exchange, access to and application of **scientific knowledge** (open science)
- Responding to COST **Excellence** and **Inclusiveness** Policy :
 - Geographic diversity
 - Empower young researchers and innovators
 - Gender balance



COST Members

- **38 COST Members**

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, The Republic of North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and United Kingdom*

- **1 Cooperating Member**

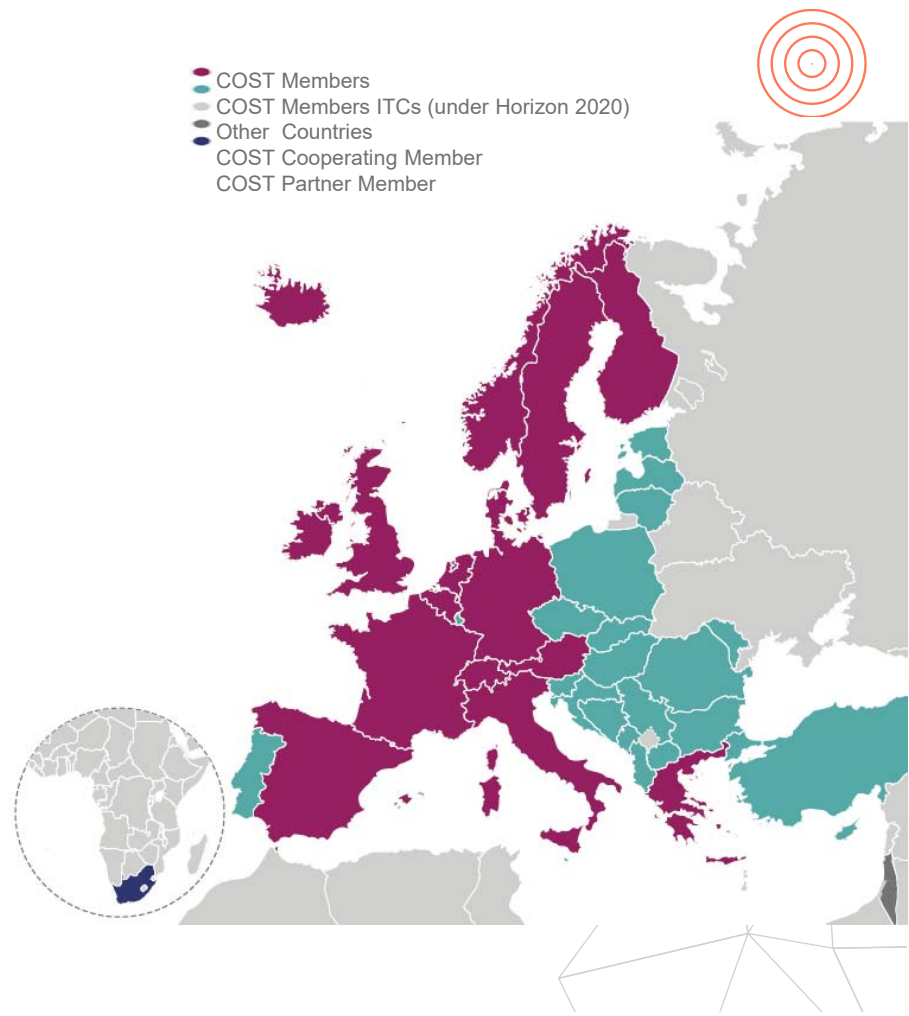
Israel

- **1 Partner Member**

South Africa

* ITC list under Horizon 2020

- COST Members
- COST Members ITCs (under Horizon 2020)
- Other Countries
- COST Cooperating Member
- COST Partner Member





How does it work?

COST Action participants
nominated by COST National Coordinators



Main proposer



Secondary proposers





COST Actions

Network



Memorandum of Understanding



4 years

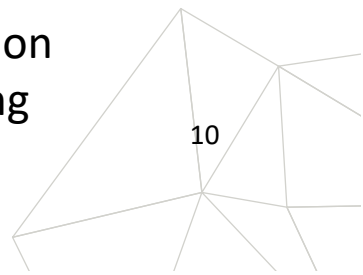


Min 7 COST countries at submission

€ ~500 000 euros over lifetime

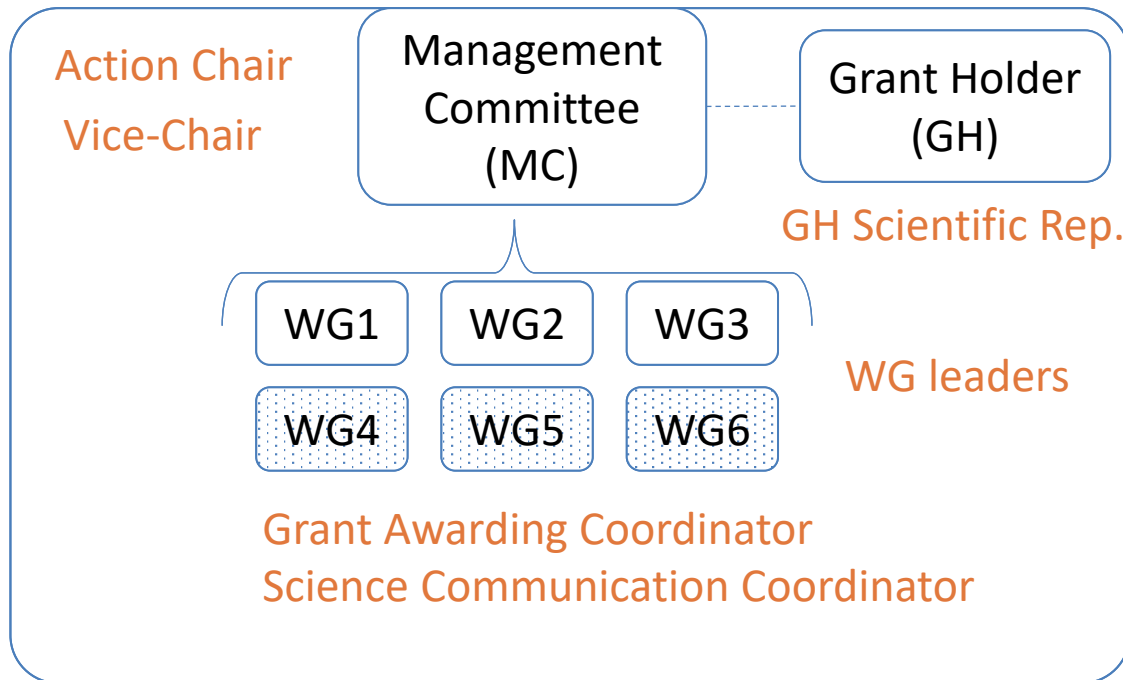


Research coordination and capacity building activities

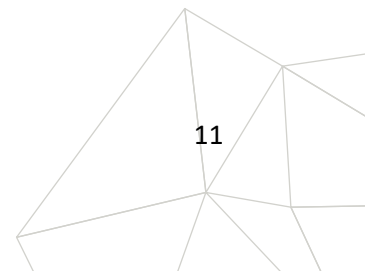




COST Action structure



Leadership Positions





Networking activities

Research coordination & Capacity building activities



Virtual Networking Tools

Dissemination and Communication



Management Committee meeting



Working Group meeting



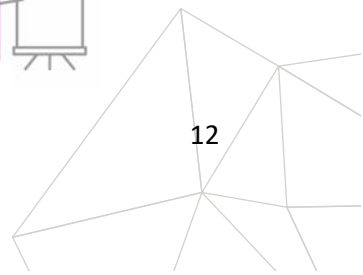
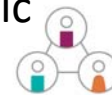
Conferences/workshops



Training Schools



Short-term Scientific missions / Conference Grants



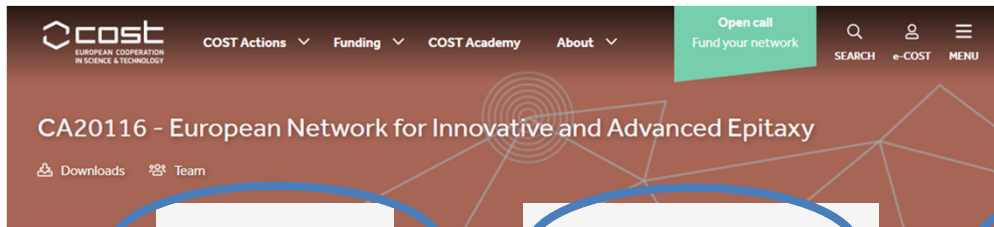


Engaging as participant of a running COST Action

- Find the Action in your field of interest on the COST website
- Read the project plan (MoU) – identify your potential contribution
- Browse the Action's own website – check their activities
- Identify the opportunities to join the Action and your contact person

The screenshot shows the COST website interface. At the top, the COST logo (European Cooperation in Science & Technology) is visible. A navigation bar includes 'COST Actions', 'Funding', and 'COST Academy'. A large green dropdown menu is open under 'COST Actions', listing options: 'What are COST Actions?', 'Participate in an ongoing Action', 'Success stories', 'Action Networking tools' (with sub-items: 'COVID-19 – Information for COST Actions', 'Online networking tips', 'Additional Activities for Actions', 'COST Connect'), 'Become an external expert', and 'Browse Actions' (highlighted with a mouse cursor). Below the menu is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Action number or text' and a checkbox for 'Search in Title Only'. At the bottom of the screenshot, a specific action is displayed: 'CA20140 | 21/10/2021 - 20/10/2025' with a flask icon, and the title 'CorEuStem: The European Network for Stem Cell Core Facilities'.

Find the information/contact person



Description

Management Structure

Working Groups

Action Details

MoU - 05/21 CSO Appr
Start of Action - 27/09/2021 End of Act

Description

The world is now facing challenges affecting our daily-life that include, among the most acute, health cities and climate action. The successful response to these challenges lies on our ability to solve tech devices.

Material science is at the heart of technological developments. Especially, epitaxy has always been the while controlling their properties at nanoscale, enabling the development of advanced devices. Today down the barriers limiting the development of more efficient devices, continuous innovation is essent

To build the foundation of new epitaxial and material science solutions, a European-level structure in thanks to cross-community discussions and exchanges.

The COST Action "European Network for Innovative and Advanced Epitaxy", named OPERA, will build communities in epitaxial growth focusing on different materials classes: conventional semiconductor traditionally separated scientific communities, both academic and industrial, having the common goa maturation, and exploit epitaxial combinations of the different material classes in order to unveil new organization, the OPERA COST Action will foster interdisciplinary collaborative research activities also of research and innovation.

Action Leadership Positions

Action Chair	Prof. Dr. ...
Action Vice Chair	Prof. Dr. ...
WG 1 - Pathways of trace metals from the soil and through the plant.	Prof. Dr. ...
WG 2 - Metalloproteins important for trace metal homeostasis, metalloenzymes	Prof. Dr. ...
WG 3 - Responses of trace metal metabolism to the environment: deficiency, toxicity, microorganism interactions	Prof. Dr. ...
WG 4 - Agronomic aspects of trace metal homeostasis: targeted fertilisation, agricultural management, breeding	Prof. Dr. ...
WG 5 - Dissemination and proposal writing	Prof. Dr. ...
WG 6 - Intellectual property protection	Prof. Dr. ...
Science Communication Coordinator	Prof. Dr. ...
ITC Conference Manager	Prof. Dr. ...

Management Committee

Country	MC Member
Austria	Prof. Dr. ...
Belgium	Prof. Dr. ...
Belgium	Prof. Dr. ...
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Dr. ...

Description Management Structure Working Groups

Number	Title	Leader
1	Fundamental research – New Materials	TBA
2	Applications-oriented material developments	TBA
3	Industry-oriented materials development and technological transfers	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

Main Contacts

Action Chair
Prof. Dr. ...

Action Vice Chair
Prof. Dr. ...

Science Officer
Prof. Dr. ...

Administrative Officer
Prof. Dr. ...

Action documents

Memorandum of Understanding





Join an Action as...

- As a Management Committee (MC) member (contact the COST National Coordinator)
- As a Working Group (WG) participant (register to a working group)
- As a participant in Action activities: Short Term Scientific Mission, Conference grant, Training school, Workshop/ Conference,... (Check the Action's website, contact the national MC member)





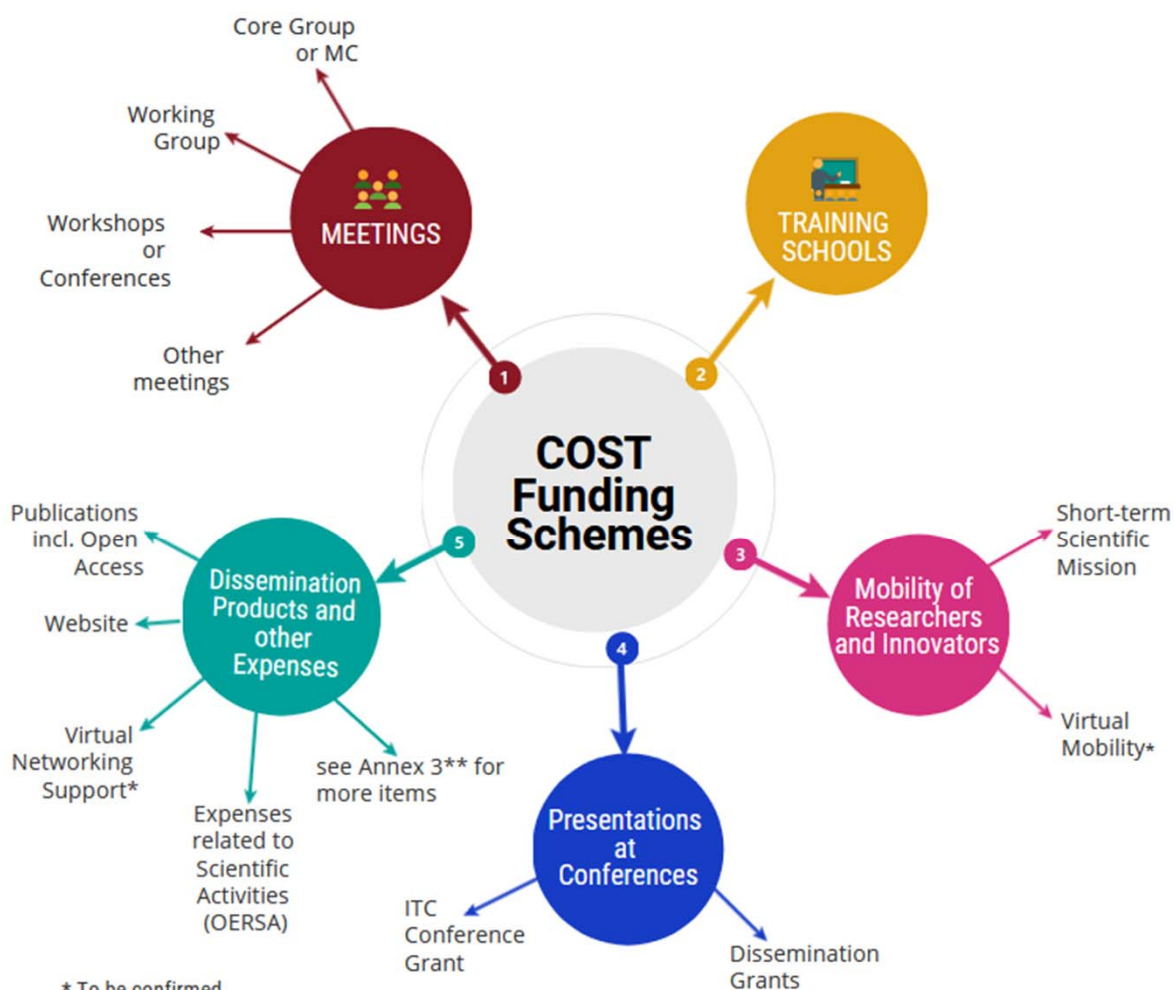
Session II

Which activities are funded by COST Association?

(Under Horizon Europe-Effective November 1, 2021)

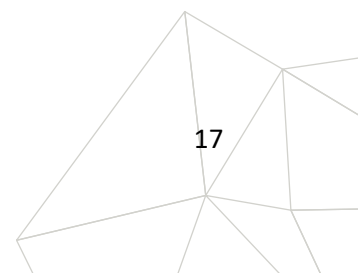
Ms Jeannette Nchung Oru (Administrative Officer - COST Association)





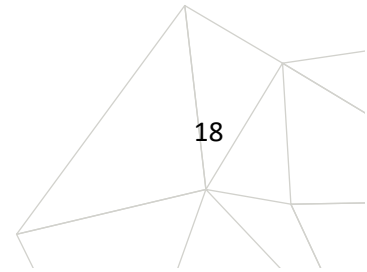
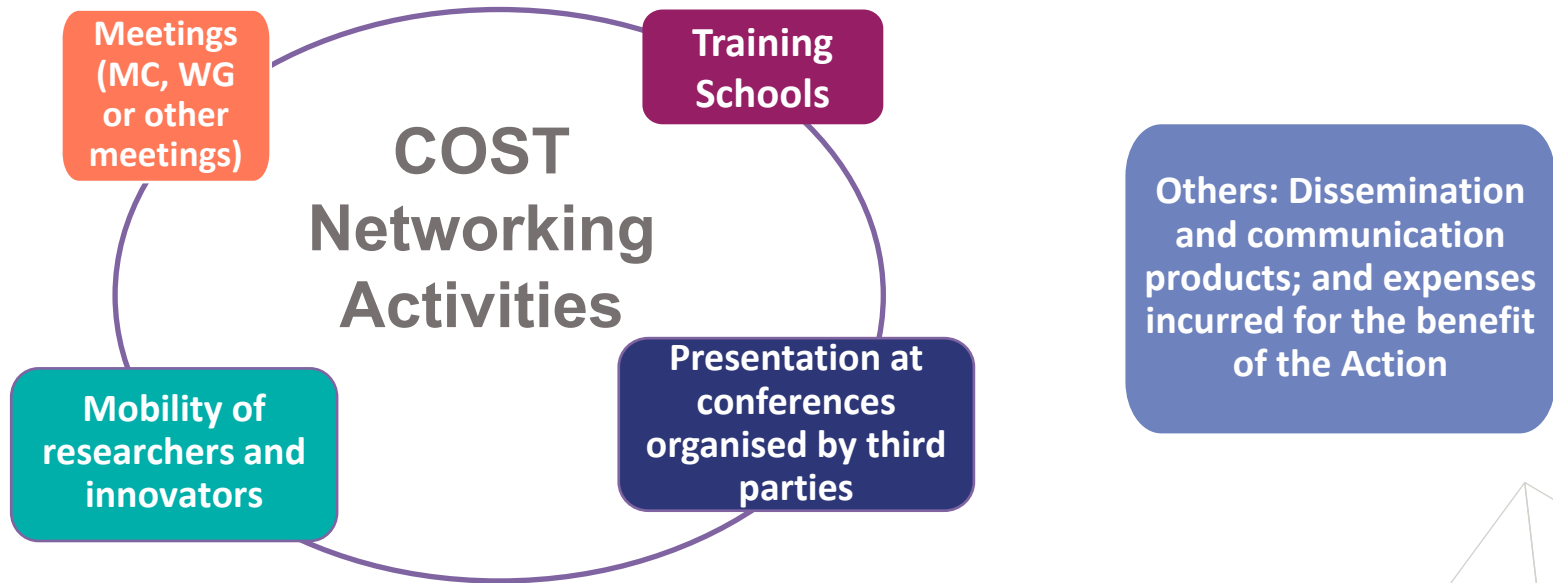
* To be confirmed

** see Annotated Rules for COST Actions



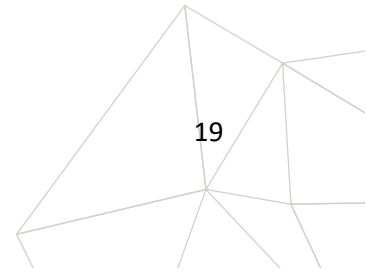


How can a COST Action spend the budget?





Reimbursement based on DA (daily allowance) and travel expenses



Travel reimbursement for participants

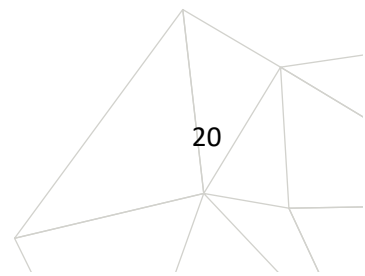


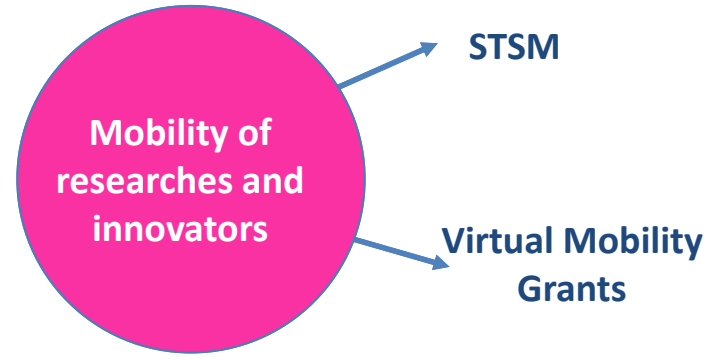
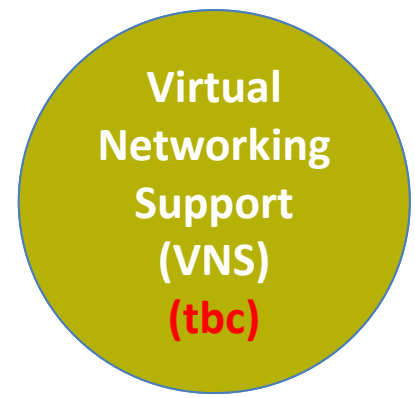
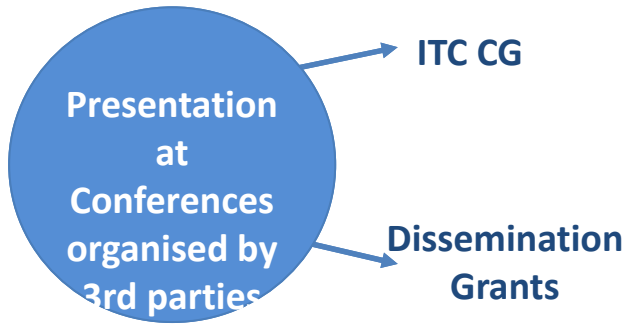
Daily Allowance (DA)

- Hotel
- Meals
- Short distance transportation,
 - ✓ Fixed DA amount,
 - ✓ Based on meeting location, travel dates and time

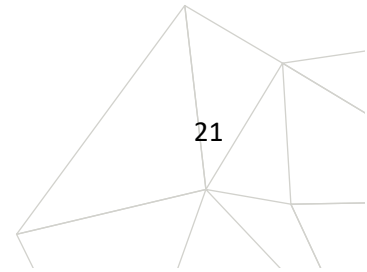


Long distance travel





Reimbursement based on fixed grants



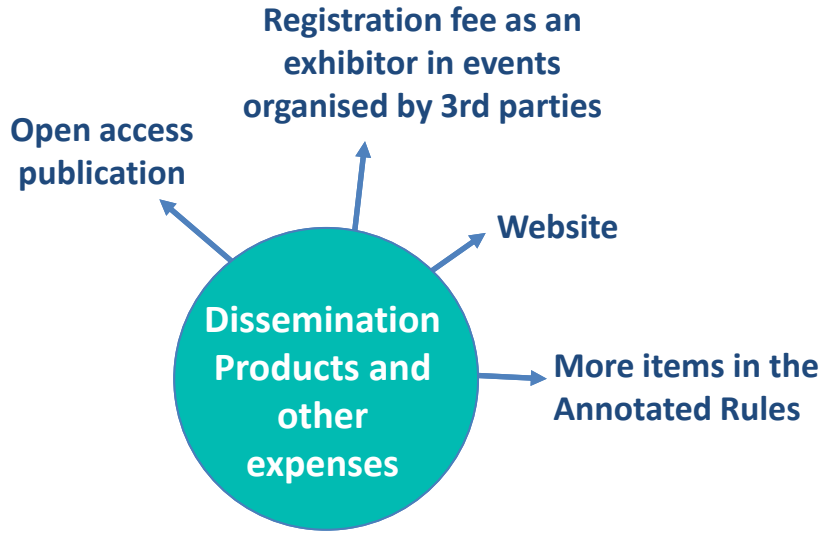


Local Organiser Support

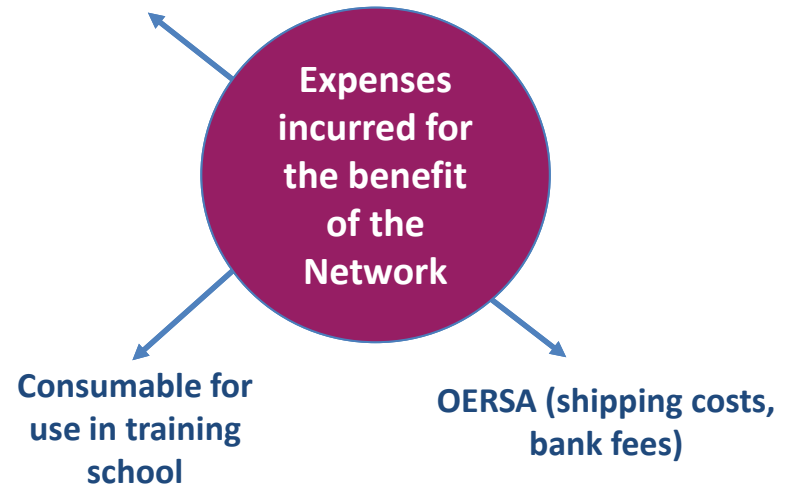
Financial contribution for the organisation of the event

Depends on 3 factors:

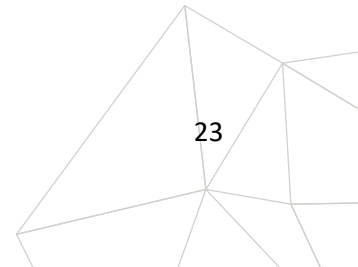
- 1. Type of event**
- 2. Size of event**
- 3. Duration of the event**
 - Up to 10 000 can be claimed.**
 - VAT not eligible**



Renting equipment and short term use of software and database license for Training School



Reimbursement based on invoices

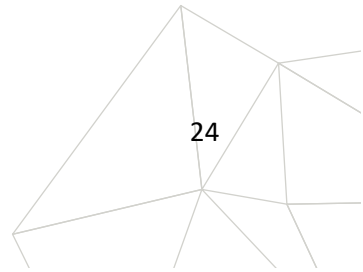




COST Actions and GDPR

- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- Protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of **personal data**
- **Pay attention to:**
 - Photos taken and videos made during COST Action meetings and events
 - Contact details for newsletter and website
 - Publications of personal data on the website (e.g. ad-hoc contributors' names and emails addresses, pictures of events...)

- Provide clear information on the purpose of collection and processing
- Request consent



COST Actions in the time of COVID 19

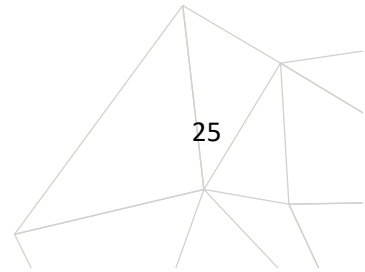


Till further notice, all face-to-face activities (TS, STSM, Conferences, meetings...) are organised under the Action responsibility:

- force majeure is not applicable
- in case of last-minute cancellation, expenses cannot be claimed

Therefore, in any case:

- national regulations regarding the pandemic should be strictly respected
- mandatory travel cancellation insurance: no force majeure will apply in case of last-minute cancellation
- anticipate a plan B online, if applicable






Session III

How to prepare a COST Action proposal

Dr Deniz Karaca (Science Officer - COST Association)



COST Open Call for Action Proposals

→

→
One collection per year
Next: 29 October 2021
– 12:00 CET



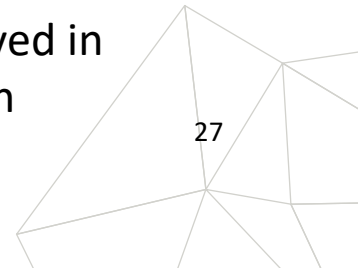
One-stage online
submission of
proposals
via e-COST
account



Main proposer
(+ minimum 6
secondary
proposers, $\geq 50\%$
ITC)



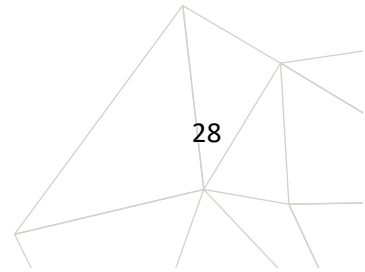
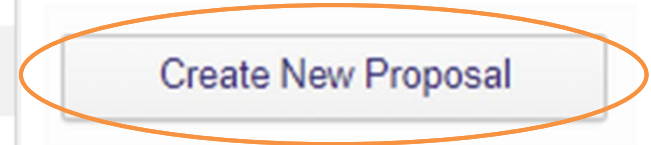
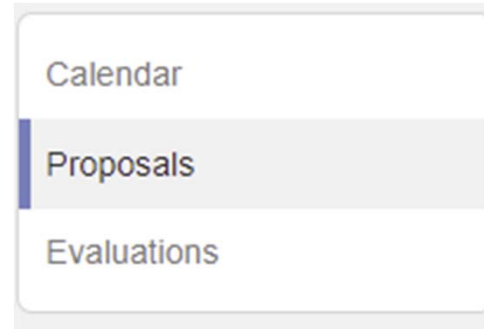
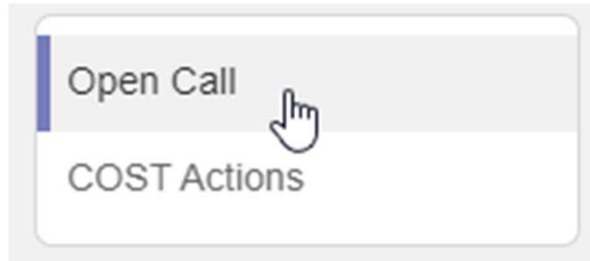
70 Actions approved in
this collection





Open Call for proposals – how to apply

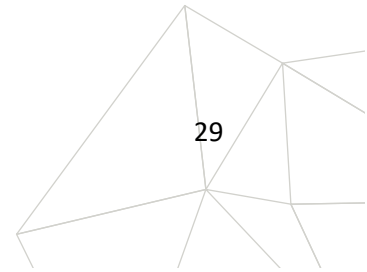
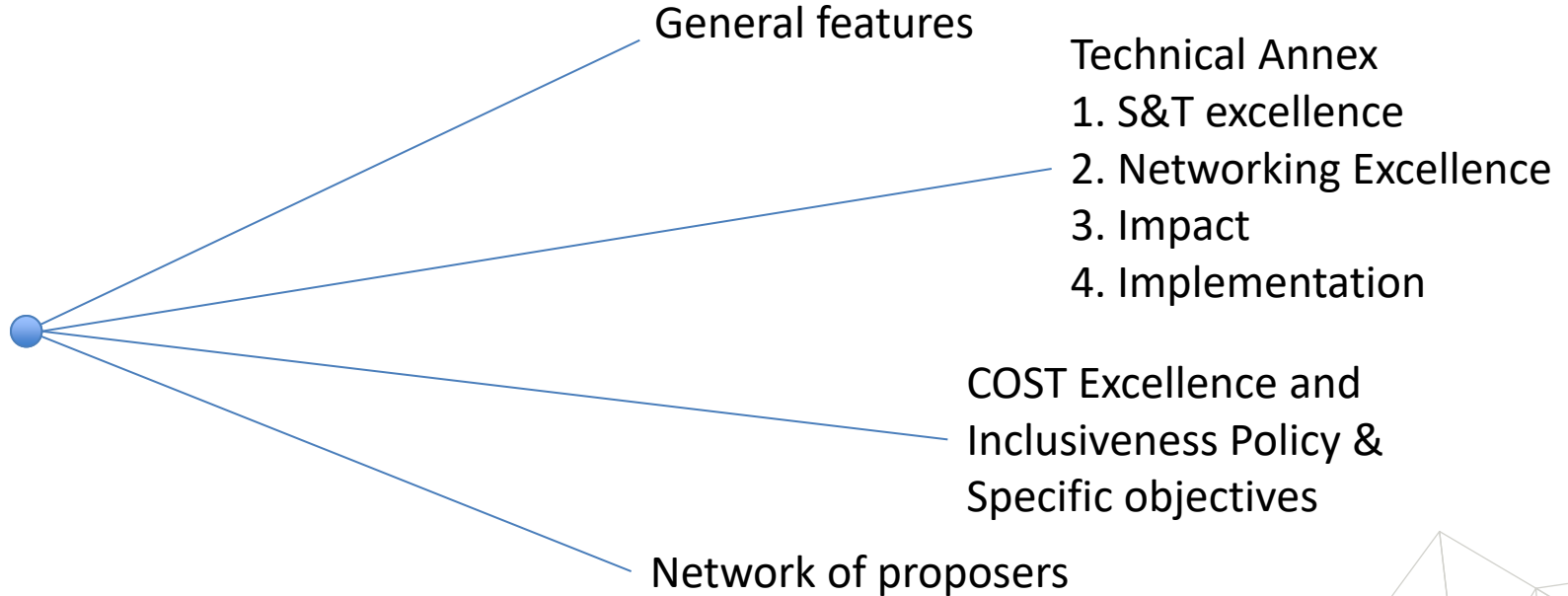
- Create an account e-COST: <https://www.cost.eu/ecost>
- Open Call > Proposals > Create new proposal





how to apply - sections

Proposals





Section General Features

Overview

General Features

Technical Annex

References

COST Mission and Policies

Network

Documents

« My Proposals

Main Proposer Institution *

Title (Maximum 12 words) *

Acronym *
(max 60 characters)

Keyword 1 *
(max 60 characters)

Keyword 2 *
(max 60 characters)

Keyword 3 *
(max 60 characters)

Keyword 4
(max 60 characters)

Summary: Maximum 250 words

↶ ↷ B I × × Ω ☰ ☷ ☹ ☺ ☻ ☼ ☽ ☿

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

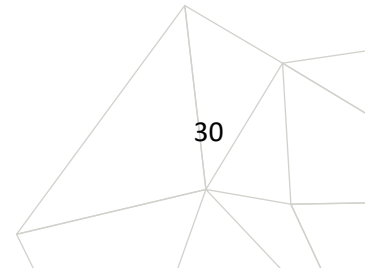
Research Area

Proposal Reference:
OC-2017-1-21892

Proposal Status:
Draft

Checklist:

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





how to apply - sections

Proposals



a. General features

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



Section Technical Annex

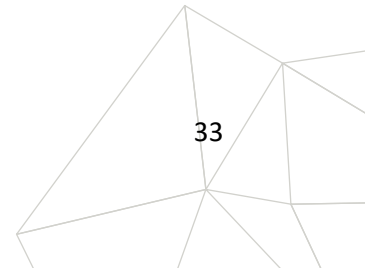
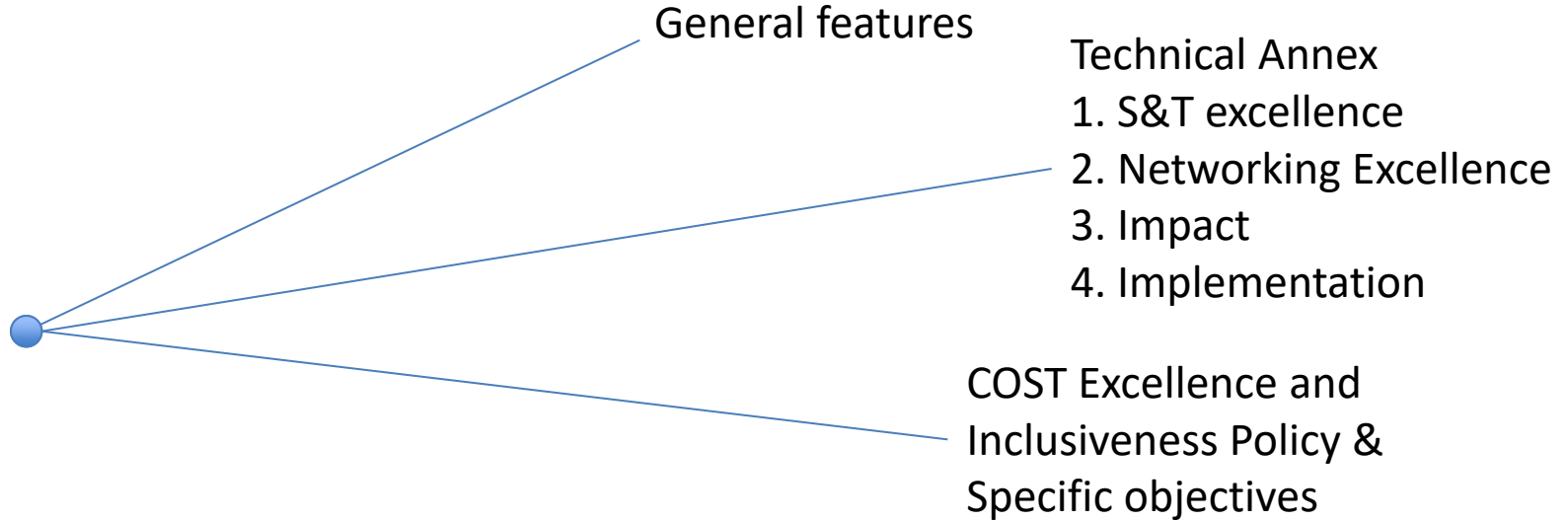
Sections	Sub-sections
1. S&T EXCELLENCE	1.1 soundness of the challenge 1.2 progress beyond the state-of-the-art
2. NETWORKING EXCELLENCE	2.1 added value of networking in S&T excellence 2.2 added value of networking in impact
3. IMPACT	3.1 impact to science, society and competitiveness, and potential for innovation/breakthroughs 3.2 measures to maximise impact
4. IMPLEMENTATION	4.1 coherence and effectiveness of the work plan

- *Downloadable Word template*
- *Max. 15 pages*
- *Diagrams and figures accepted*



how to apply - sections

Proposals





COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy

Promoting

- **geographical balance** (ITC)
- **age balance** (young researchers)
- **gender balance** throughout its activities

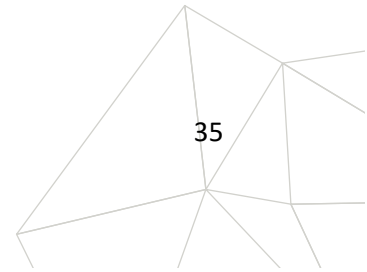
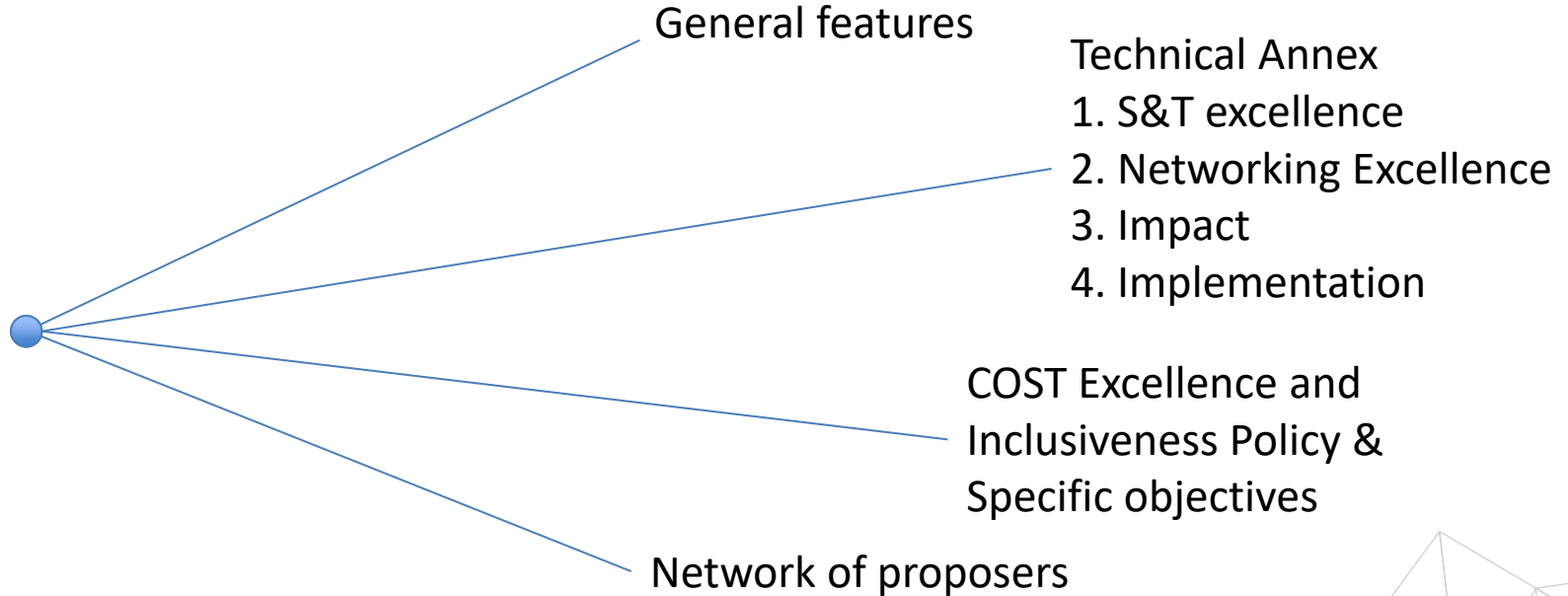
Objectives

- identifying excellence in science and technology across Europe
- Promote leadership roles in the Action for those categories, as well their access to funding and infrastructures



how to apply - sections

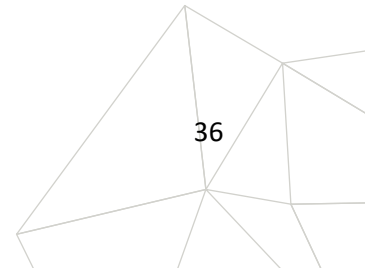
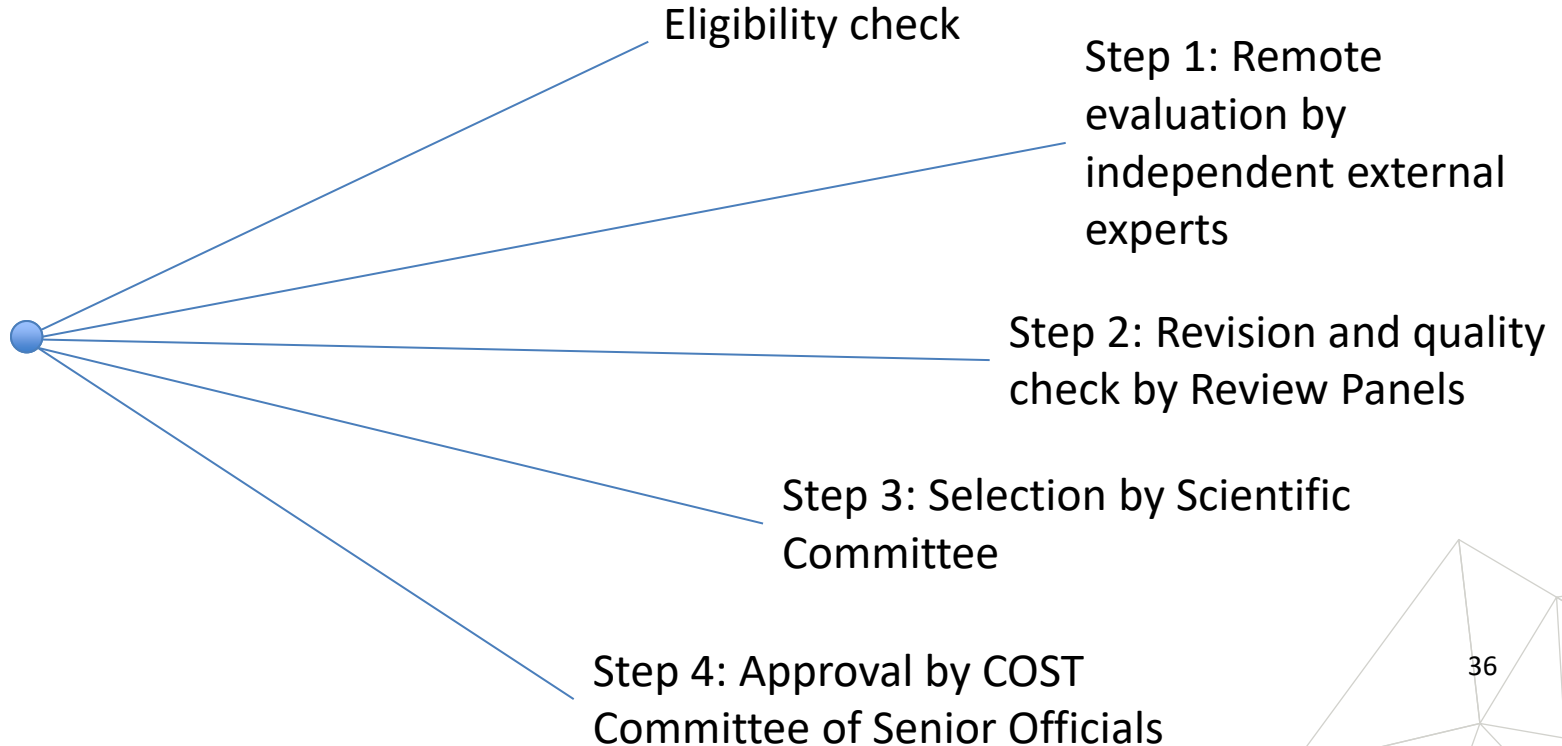
Proposals





Open Call for proposals – Evaluation

Evaluation





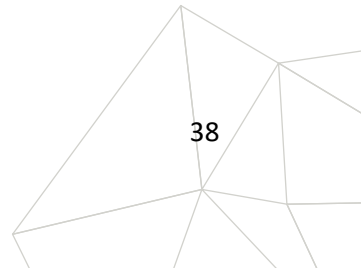
Evaluation criteria

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 and competitiveness, and potential for innovation/break-throughs▪ Measures to maximise impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan
3 questions	3 questions	3 questions	1 question
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 = 50 points - OVERALL THRESHOLD = 34 points			



S&T Excellence (15 pnts)

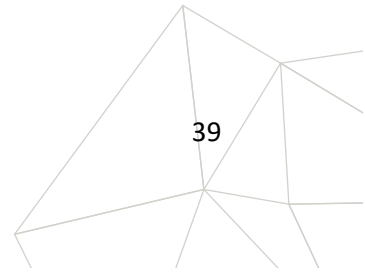
- Q1. Does the proposal demonstrate a comprehensive command of the state of the art in the field and present a relevant and timely challenge?
- Q2. Does the proposal describe an innovative approach to the challenge that advances the state of the art in the field?
- Q3. Are the objectives presented relevant to the challenge, clear and ambitious?





Networking Excellence (15 pnts)

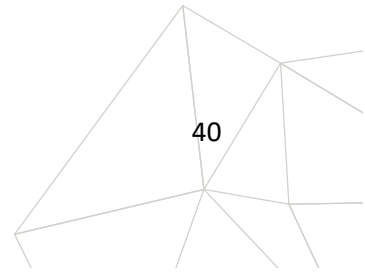
- Q4. Does networking bring added value in tackling the challenge in relation to existing efforts at the European and/or international level?
- Q5. Does the proposed network contain, or present a credible plan for securing, the critical mass and expertise for achieving the objectives and thus addressing the challenge?
- Q6. Does the proposal identify the most relevant stakeholders and present a clear plan to involve them as Action's participants?





Impact (15 pnts)

- Q7. Does the proposal clearly identify relevant and realistic impacts for science, society and/or competitiveness (including potential innovations and/or breakthroughs)?
- Q8. Does the proposed networking clearly contribute to knowledge creation, transfer of knowledge and career development?
- Q9. Is the plan for dissemination and/or exploitation of results clear and attainable and does it contribute to the dialogue between science and the general public or policy?





Implementation (5 pnts)

- Q10. Is the work plan (WGs, tasks, activities, timeframe, deliverables and risk analysis) appropriate to ensure the achievement of the objectives?

How to apply – in short

- Read the official announcement
- Read the SESA Guidelines
- Online registration and submission (e-COST)
- Technical Annex template
- Helpdesk: opencall@cost.eu





Documents repository

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

COST Actions ▾ Funding ▾ COST Academy About ▾

Open call
Fund your network

SEARCH e-COST MENU

- > What do we fund?
- > How to apply?
- > How to get funding?
- > **Documents & Guidelines**

[Home](#) > [Funding](#) > [How to get funding?](#) > Documents & 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.



Contact and engage with us

- Sign up to our news: www.cost.eu/subscribe
- Contact: opencall@cost.eu
- Join us on our social networks:



www.facebook.com/COST.Programme/



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/cost-office/>



[@COSTprogramme](https://twitter.com/COSTprogramme)



<https://www.youtube.com/user/COSTOffice>

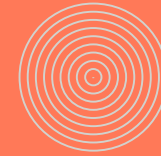
Session IV

What are the benefits from participating in COST?

Prof. Neil Lagali

*Dept of Biomedical and Clinical Sciences
Linköping University, Sweden*

Chair of COST Action CA18116 Aniridia: networking to address an unmet medical, scientific, and societal challenge



Our COST Action - ANIRIDIA-NET



- COST Action 18116 (2019-2023)
- Aniridia – a rare eye disease
- Genetic mutation in *PAX6* gene – hereditary or sporadic
- Eye problems from birth
- Leads to blindness or severe visual impairment by adulthood
- Requires many doctor visits, surgeries, medications – very challenging
- Every country has a population with aniridia
- There is no cure (new drugs, gene/stem cell therapy, ...)

Goals of the Action



- Build an inclusive EU network of ophthalmologists, scientists, trainees, patient organizations, industry and special interest groups – create linkages, training opportunities
- Improve aniridia management – evidence-based research, harmonized protocols, sharing of samples and models, consensus activities, patient-driven research
- Develop novel diagnostics and treatments – regenerative medicine, stem cells, new drugs, gene therapy, transplantation, tissue engineering, etc.

Organization – 6 Working Groups (WGs)





- 6 WGs, each with concrete yearly goals (GAPGs)
- Each has a WG leader to manage members, activities
- WG1: Clinical Guidelines
- WG2: Clinical and Cohort Studies
- WG3: Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine
- WG4: Transplantation, Inflammation, Immunity
- WG5: Aniridia Models for Collaborative Research
- WG6: Patient-driven Research

28 COST countries + NNCs + IPCs



1	 Austria [AT]	15	 Italy [IT]
2	 Belgium [BE]	16	 Latvia [LV]
3	 Bulgaria [BG]	17	 Malta [MT]
4	 Croatia [HR]	18	 Netherlands [NL]
5	 Cyprus [CY]	19	 North Macedonia [MK]
6	 Denmark [DK]	20	 Norway [NO]
7	 Estonia [EE]	21	 Poland [PL]
8	 Finland [FI]	22	 Portugal [PT]
9	 France [FR]	23	 Serbia [RS]
10	 Germany [DE]	24	 Slovenia [SI]
11	 Greece [EL]	25	 Spain [ES]
12	 Hungary [HU]	26	 Sweden [SE]
13	 Ireland [IE]	27	 Turkey [TR]
14	 Israel [IL]	28	 United Kingdom [UK]

NNCs

 RU
 UA

IPCs

 US
 CA

Examples of Action Activities (2 years)

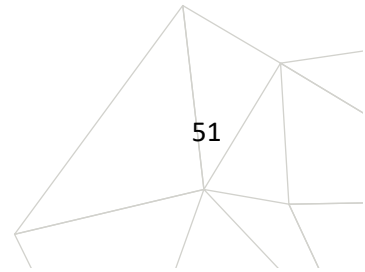


- Collaborative research through STSMs
 - eg., single-cell sequencing of patient-derived cells, new mouse model to Europe for the first time
- 2 review papers – 10+ countries, developmental biology, clinical
- 5 OA research articles – at least 3 COST countries
- 1 patient survey designed and validated
- 1 co-organized conference with COST session (7 speakers) - 2019
- 1 scientific symposium at an international conference – 2019 (6 speakers + 2 moderators)
- 1 virtual training school – 2021
- 2 Action-initiated EU research grant proposals (1 successful, 1,4 M€)
- 3 FTF + 2 virtual MC/WG meetings
- Dissemination
 - printed flyers, desk calendars, explainer video, webinar series, etc.

Benefits of Networking for Research



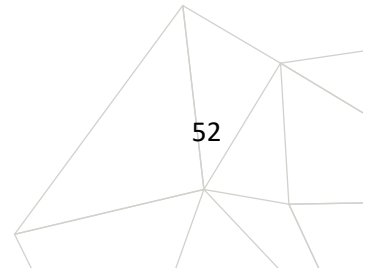
- Access to materials (cells, models, techniques) one would not normally have
- Access to state-of-the-art facilities, technologies, and competence
- Addressing bigger, unanswered questions in the field, multiple viewpoints
- Close dialogue with end users (e.g. patients and associations) for more targeted research
- Creating a 'critical mass' of interested parties, enabling:
 - Higher quality research
 - Pooling of resources
 - Collaborative grant applications
 - Higher-profile invitations, i.e., conference symposia, lobbying activities at EU level, etc.
- Stronger ties between Action members
- Opens new research directions



The impact for careers of young researchers



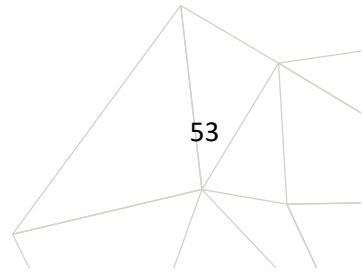
- STSMs: travel to a new environment, learn an important technique, gain valuable experiences
- TS: learn from the international leaders in the field, meet young researchers, establish contacts/network
- Leadership positions in the Action (MC, WG leader, coordinator, etc.)
- ITC conference grants (ECIs from ITC countries)
- Present and publish results alongside leaders in the field
- Partake in planning and discussions that move the field forward, an invaluable opportunity for young researchers



Recommendations for those who want to submit a COST Action proposal



- Identify a compelling research area that will create excitement among peers
- Think about how networking will move the field forward
 - What can be achieved that cannot otherwise? Involve many different sub-fields, stakeholders
- Reach a critical mass during the proposal phase (number of proposers/countries/ITCs)
- Build or leverage partnerships outside academia (industry, end users, NGOs)
- Reach out to ECIs during the proposal phase
- Have clear and concise goals: measurable, achievable
- Do not forget: ITCs, ECIs, gender balance
- Familiarize yourself with the COST rules (Vademecum)!



Reflections on Chairing a COST Action



- Feeling of 'extended colleagues', borders dissolve
 - MC meetings: social, team-building, memorable events
- Opens up many new opportunities (research, lobbying, leadership)
- 'Spider in the web', unique feel of the pulse of activity in the field
 - Can act quickly, mobilize resources when opportunities present (eg., funding opportunities)
- Raises your profile within the research community
 - Invite experts to events, suggest/approve STSMs, organize conferences/symposia, publish high-profile papers, training of the next generation, etc.
- You must set aside time for the Action Chair role
 - Benefits outweigh the time and administration required

