



Evaluation process

STEP 1 – PROPOSAL EVALUATION BY **INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL EXPERTS** (double blind)

1.1 SUBMISSION OF INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION REPORTS

Three IEEs evaluate remotely in the e-COST platform: Individual Evaluation Report (IER)

1.2 SUBMISSION OF CONSENSUS EVALUATION REPORTS

IEEs prepare a **Consensus Evaluation Report** (CER) for the proposal assigned to them.

Review panel member (RP): preliminary revision and quality check of the CER – involved in discussions leading to consensus



Evaluation process

- **STEP 2 – REVISION AND QUALITY CHECK BY AD HOC REVIEW PANELS**
- Appointed by the COST Association from a pool of researchers nominated by the CNCs (COST National Coordinators)
- RP Members:
 - **Review and validate** the remote Consensus Evaluation Reports (CERs) and marks.
 - **Resolve differences in opinions** among the IEEs.
 - **Rank the proposals** above the overall threshold, according to their validated consensus marks, and prepare a shortlist of proposals.
 - Strive for **consistency of marking** across the proposals within the Review Panel.
 - Identify those proposals, among those above the overall threshold, which address **emerging issues or potentially important future developments**.
 - Prepare the **report** for the COST Scientific Committee.



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

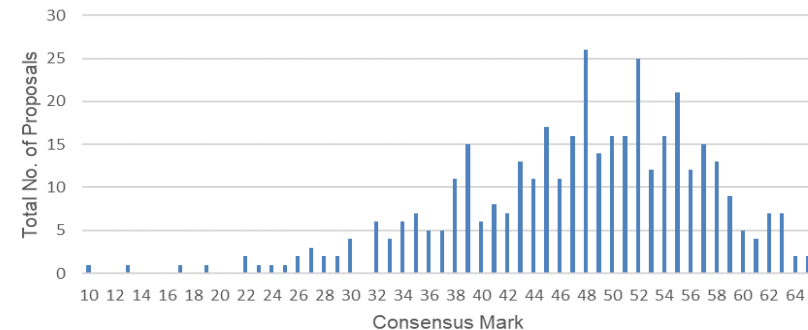
- Include a Network of Proposers from **at least 7** different COST Full or Cooperating Members.
- **Be anonymous** (self-citations or other references that allow identification of participants)!
- Address S&T challenges destined only for **peaceful purposes**
- Respect word and page limits: Technical Annex must **not exceed fifteen (15) pages**.
- Be written in **English**.



Evaluation criteria

S&T EXCELLENCE	IMPACT	IMPLEMENTATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soundness of the challenge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scientific, technological and/or socio-economic impact. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress beyond the state-of-the-art and innovation potential. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures to maximise impact. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriateness of management structures and procedures.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added value of networking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level of risk and level of potential innovation/breakthroughs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Network as a whole
Total marks for the section = 25 points	Total marks for the section = 20 points	Total marks for the section = 20 points
TOTAL MARKS AWARDED = 65 points OVERALL THRESHOLD = 45 points Proposals failing to achieve the overall threshold will not be funded		

nsus Marks oc-2018-1





Marks

MARK	ABBREVIATION DISPLAYED IN e-COST	LABEL	DESCRIPTION
5	E	Excellent	The proposal fully addresses all relevant aspects of the question. Any shortcomings are minor.
4	VG	Very Good	The proposal addresses the question very well, although certain improvements are still possible.
3	G	Good	The proposal addresses the question well, although improvements would be necessary.
2	F	Fair	While the proposal broadly addresses the question, there are significant weaknesses.
1	P	Poor	The question is addressed in an inadequate manner, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
0	Fail	Fail	The proposal fails to address the question under examination or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information.



Q1 - Is the challenge relevant and timely?

- The **research question** addressed by the proposed COST Action.
- Whether answering the research question will solve a **relevant S&T and / or socio-economic** problem.
- Whether this is the right moment for addressing the research question by **means of networking**.
- Scores: 4.2 ± 0.7 (3-5)

Q2 - Are the objectives presented clear and pertinent to tackle the challenge?

- **Research and Capacity building objectives**
- The stated objectives contribute to **answer the research question (challenge)** of the Action.
- The objectives are **SMART** (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timely).
- The objectives are **clearly defined** and are not confused with COST Action networking activities (i.e. meetings, Training Schools, Short-Term Scientific Missions, Conference Grants and Dissemination), milestones and deliverables (please see Q10 for definitions).
- *Scores: 4.2 ± 0.7 (3-5)*



Q3 - Does the proposal advance the state-of-the-art and introduce an innovative approach to the challenge?

- If the proposal shows a good **understanding** of the state-of-the-art.
- How and if the proposal will **advance** the state of the art.
- The **innovation** the proposal brings about, by tackling the challenge.
- *Scores: 4.0 ± 0.7 (3-5)*



Q4 - Is networking the best approach to tackle the challenge?

- *Whether the challenge could not be met in the same way without a COST Action*
- *How networking helps meet the challenge, for example, by:*
 - *Leveraging resources not funded by COST.*
 - *Increasing the impact of research outputs.*
 - *Mitigating research fragmentation*
- *Scores: 4.8 ± 0.4 (4-5)*



Q5 - What is the added value of the proposed network in relation to former and existing efforts at European and/or international level?

- Whether the **added value** of the proposed network has been explained
- Whether former and **existing efforts** at the European and/ or international level **have been identified**.
- Scores: 4.1 ± 0.6 (3-5)

Q6 - Does the proposal clearly identify relevant, and realistic short-term/ long-term impacts?

- *Whether the impacts identified by the proposal are **relevant to S&T and/or the society** at large.*
- *Whether the impacts listed can be **realistically** achieved if the Action proposal is successful.*
- *Scores: 3.8 ± 0.7 (3-5)*

Q7 - Does the proposal identify the most relevant stakeholders and present a clear plan to involve them as Action's participants?

- Whether the **relevant stakeholders** are identified.
- Whether the **plan to involve them** is clear, attainable and realistic.
- Scores: 3.6 ± 0.7 (3-5)



Q8 - Is there a clear and attainable plan for dissemination and/or exploitation of results?

- Whether the **dissemination plan** is targeted, clear and attainable.
- Whether the **plan for exploitation of results** is relevant, clear and attainable (exploitation of results may not be relevant to some topics of proposals).
- *Scores: 3.9 ± 0.9 (2-5)*



Q9 - How well does the proposal succeed in putting forward potential innovation/ breakthroughs with a convincing risk/return trade-off?

- Whether the proposal succeeds in putting forward potential innovation/ breakthroughs with a **convincing risk/return trade-off**.
- *Scores: 3.8 ± 0.8 (3-5)*



Q10 - Is the work plan (Working Groups, tasks, activities, timeframe and deliverables) coherent, realistic and appropriate to ensure the achievement of the objectives?

- Whether the planned deliverables are **in line with the definitions** (Action deliverables must not be confused with COST Action networking activities).
- Whether the planned deliverables are the most appropriate results to achieve the objectives.
- The tasks and activities planned are adequate for assuring achievement of the results and deliverables.
- The planned **timeframe** for the implementation is achievable and there are **suitable milestones** to map and measure progress.
- *Scores: 3.8 ± 0.7 (3-5)*

Q11 - Does the proposal identify the main risks related to the work plan and have a plan for contingencies?

- Whether the **main risks** related to the Work Plan are identified and the **contingencies** are presented in a credible way.
- Scores: 3.7 ± 1.0 (2-5)



Q12 - Are the management structure and procedures appropriate?

- Whether the **management structure** follows the COST rules.
- Whether the **management procedures** are appropriate for the implementation of the proposed COST Action
- *Scores: 4.8 ± 0.4 (4-5)*



Q13 - **Critical mass, expertise and geographical distribution** for addressing the challenge and the objectives? If not, does the proposal identify the gaps in the network and present a clear plan for overcoming the gaps?

Are mutual benefits clearly ascertained in case of involvement of NNC* and IPC* institutions?

- **NOT** whether **COST Policies** (Early Career Investigators, Gender Balance, Inclusiveness Target Countries participation) are addressed by the proposal, this is done by the Scientific Committee in the Selection phase.
- **Critical mass, expertise and geographical distribution** of the network are sufficient to tackle the challenge and implement the work plan and in case there are gaps, whether these are identified by the proposers and there is a plan to overcome them.
- In case Near Neighbor Countries (NNCs) and International Partner Countries (IPCs), institutions and International Organisations are intended to be involved in the proposed Action, the **mutual benefits** deriving from their participation are clearly explained.
- Scores: 3.9 ± 0.9 (2-5)



Summary

- 3 IEEs largely define the score based on specific criteria
- These criteria will be reduced in coming round(s)
- Differences between projects are generally reflected across the range
- The IMPACT and IMPLEMENTATION criteria typically lead to larger differences:
 - Q7: Identification and involvement of Stakeholders
 - Q8: Dissemination and exploitation plan
 - Q11: Risks and Contingency plan
 - Q13: Composition of the consortium