# 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

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- 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.

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# 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**.

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# Evaluation criteria

| S&T EXCELLENCE | NETWORKING EXCELLENCE | IMPACT | IMPLEMENTATION |
|---|---|---|---|
| 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 = 0 - 50 points**
**OVERALL THRESHOLD = 34 points**



All Proposals

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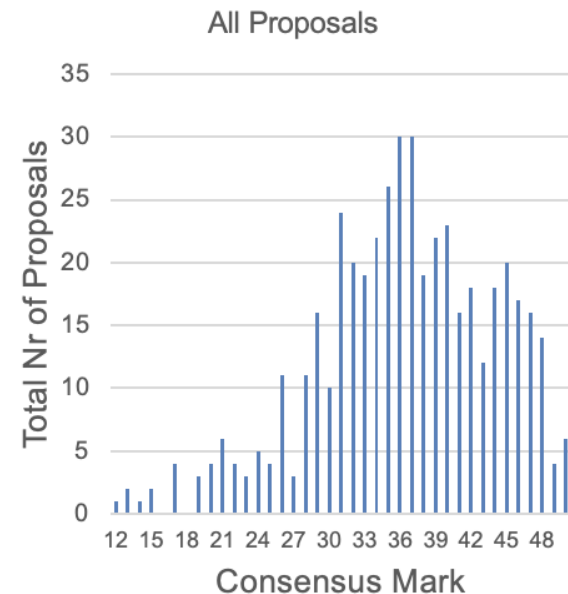
# Marks

| 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. |

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# Q1. Does the proposal demonstrate a comprehensive command of the state of the art in the field and present a relevant and timely challenge?

*- Section 1.1.1: "Demonstrate a comprehensive command of the **state of the art** in the field."*

*- In Section 1.1.2: "Describe the research question(s) your proposal addresses. Explain the **relevance and timeliness** of the identified challenge(s)."*

• *Scores: 4.2 ± 0.7 (3-5)*

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# Q2. Does the proposal describe an innovative approach to the challenge that advances the state of the art in the field?

- Section 1.2.1: "Describe how the challenge will be approached and emphasise the **innovativeness** of this approach and how it will **advance the state of the art in the field**."

- *Scores: 4.0 ± 0.7 (3-5)*

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# Q3. Are the objectives presented relevant to the challenge, clear and ambitious?

- Section 1.2.2: "Describe **clear and ambitious objectives** clearly showing their relevance to the identified challenge. Please formulate the objectives in a **"SMART" (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timely)** way. Objectives are not COST Action networking activities (e.g. meetings, training schools), milestones or deliverables

- *Scores: 4.2 ± 0.7 (3-5)*

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# Q4. Does networking bring added value in tackling the challenge in relation to existing efforts at the European and/or international level?

- *Section 2.1: "Describe the **added value** of the proposed COST Action in tackling the challenge in **relation to former and existing efforts***

- *Scores: 4.8 ± 0.4 (4-5)*

# 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?

- Section 2.2.1:Demonstrate that the proposed network **contains** the **critical mass and expertise** for achieving the objectives and thus addressing the challenge; and/or present a credible **plan for securing** the **critical mass** and expertise for achieving the objectives.

- *Scores: 4.1 ± 0.6 (3-5)*

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# Q6. Does the proposal identify the most relevant stakeholders and present a clear plan to involve them as Action's participants?

- Section 2.2.2:
- *Whether the **relevant stakeholders** are identified.*
- *Whether the **plan to involve them** is clear, attainable and realistic.*
- *Scores: 3.6 ± 0.7 (3-5)*

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# Q7. Does the proposal clearly identify relevant and realistic impacts for science, society and/or competitiveness (including potential innovations and/or breakthroughs)?

- Section 3.1:
- *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)*

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# Q8. Does the proposed networking clearly contribute to knowledge creation, transfer of knowledge and career development?

- Section 3.2: "Clearly describe the contribution that the proposed Action would make to **knowledge creation, transfer of knowledge and career development**."
- *Scores: 3.8 ± 0.7 (3-5)*

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# 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?

- Section 3.2: Whether the **dissemination plan** is targeted, clear and attainable.

- Whether the **plan for exploitation of results** is relevant, clear and attainable (may not be relevant to some topics of proposals).

- Whether there is a clear plan for **communication with the general public** and policy makers

- *Scores: 3.9 ± 0.9 (2-5)*

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# Q10. Is the work plan (WGs, tasks, activities, timeframe, deliverables and risk analysis) 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)*

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# Summary

- 3 IEEs largely define the score based on specific criteria

- Differences between projects are generally reflected across the range

- The IMPACT and IMPLEMENTATION criteria typically lead to larger differences:
  - Q6: Identification and involvement of Stakeholders
  - Q9: Dissemination and exploitation plan

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