COST INFO DAY

25 April 2023, Brussels

European Cooperation in Science & Technology

MISSION

COST provides networking opportunities for researchers and innovators in order to strengthen Europe's capacity to address scientific, technological and societal challenges

VISION

Europe's most empowering research programme

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Promoting and spreading excellence

Fostering interdisciplinary research for breakthrough science

Empowering and retaining young researchers

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
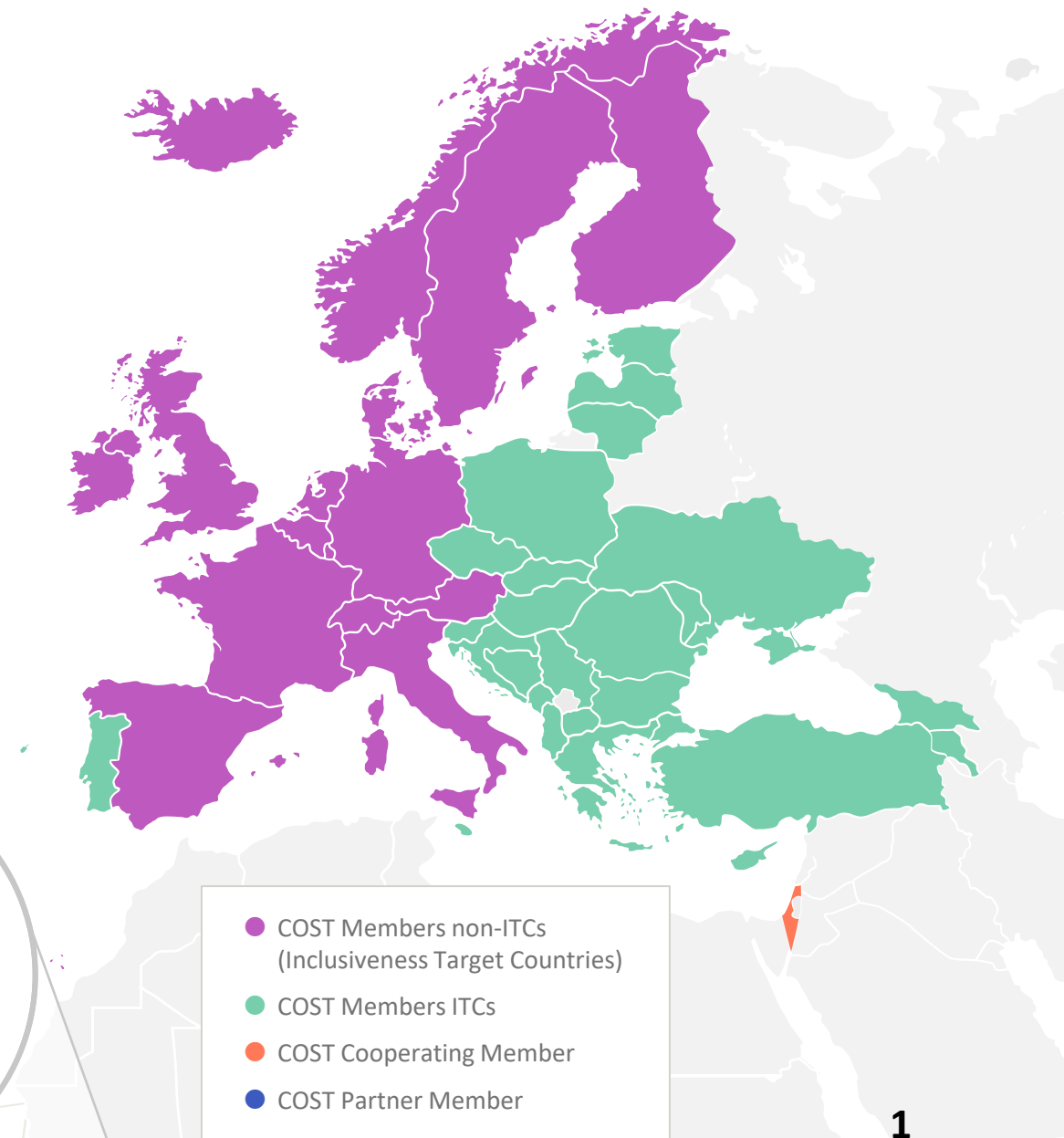IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
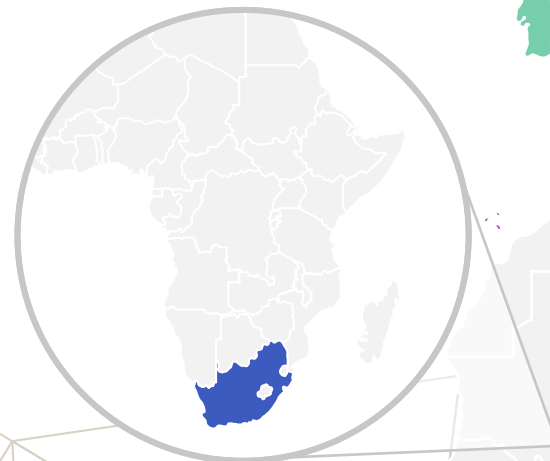
COST Membership

41 COST Members

- Albania
- Armenia
- Austria
- Belgium
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Georgia
- 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
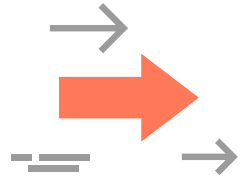- Ukraine
- United Kingdom

1 Cooperating Member
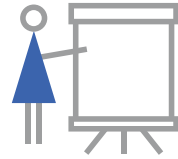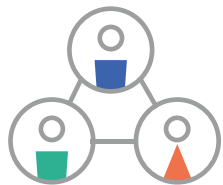
- Israel

1 Partner Member

- South Africa

COST
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Legend

- COST Members non-ITCs (Inclusiveness Target Countries)
- COST Members ITCs
- COST Cooperating Member
- COST Partner Member

Key figures

292
Running Actions

203
Training schools

€155,000
Average annual budget
of a COST Action

2,320
Short-term
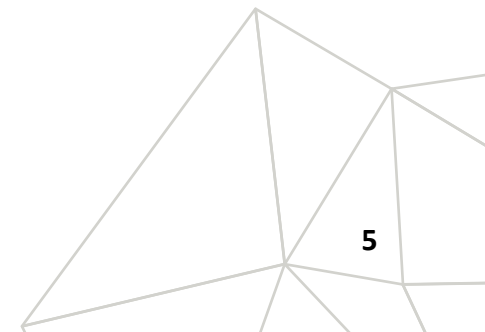scientific missions

45,000
Researchers involved
in COST Actions

€153 million
COST budget
(in Horizon Europe
for a 3-year period)

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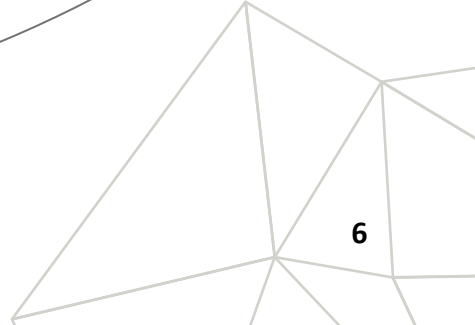IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Belgium in COST Actions (2022)
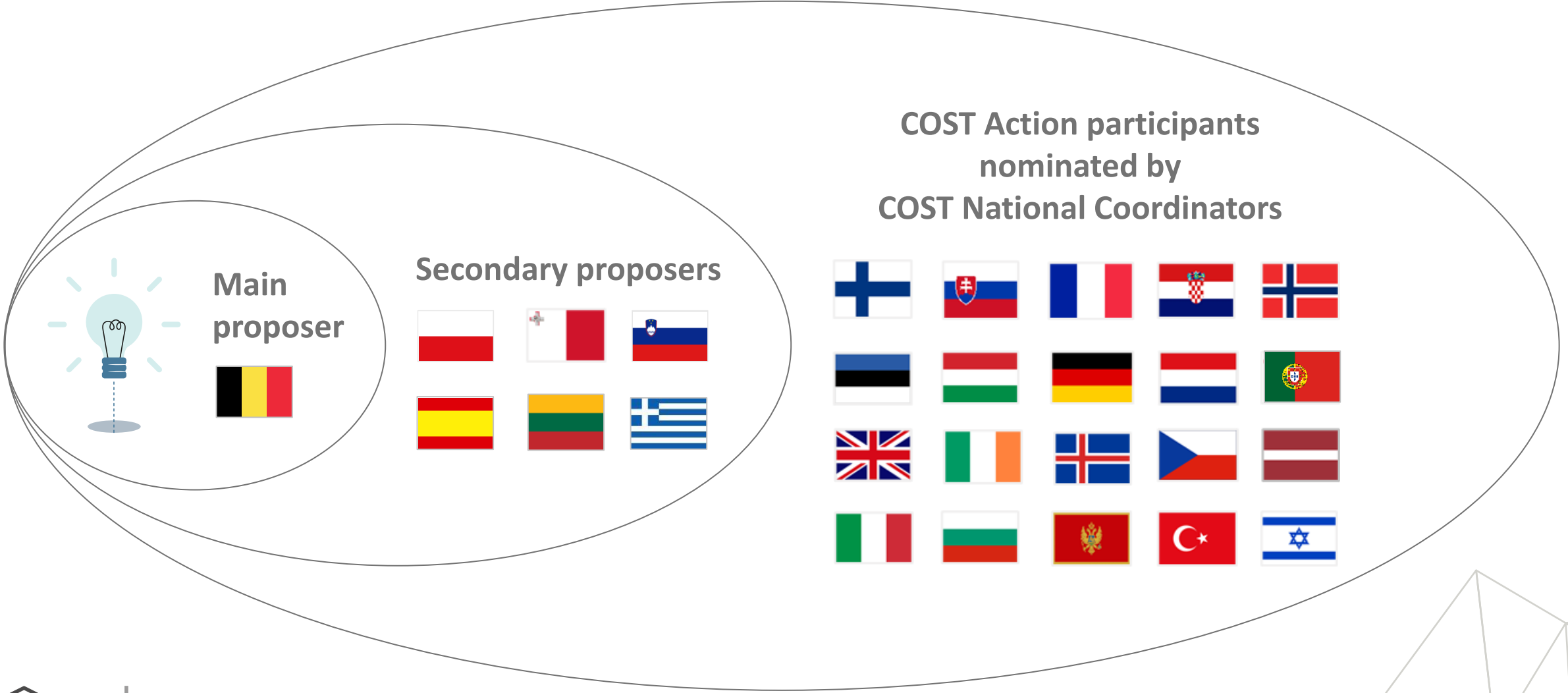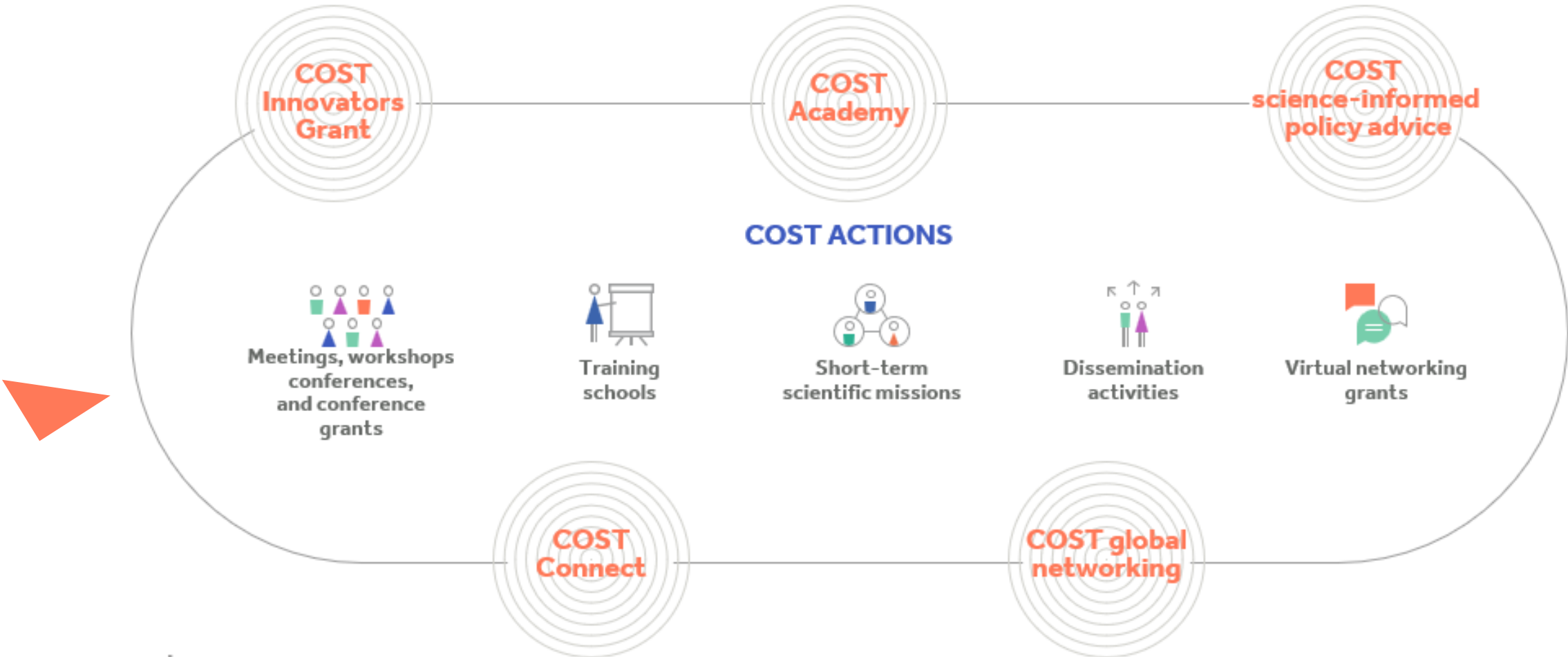
- Belgian researchers participate in 88% of the running COST Actions.

- 81 Belgian researchers are active in leadership positions.

- In 2022, more than 450 researchers were reimbursed for their participation in networking activities. 57% of them were young researchers.

How it works?

Main proposer

Secondary proposers

COST Action participants nominated by
COST National Coordinators

COST Innovators Grant

COST Academy

COST science-informed policy advice

COST ACTIONS

Meetings, workshops conferences, and conference grants

Training schools

Short-term scientific missions

Dissemination activities

Virtual networking grants

COST Connect

COST global networking

95% of researchers participating in COST Actions indicate that participation has led to career advancement.

In the course of the Actions, co-publications between active COST Action participants see an increase of about 55% compared to general co-publications.

Horizon 2020 reported success rate lies at 38%. Yearly, around €390 million of approved common research projects spin off from ending Actions.

cost
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Example of COST Success Stories
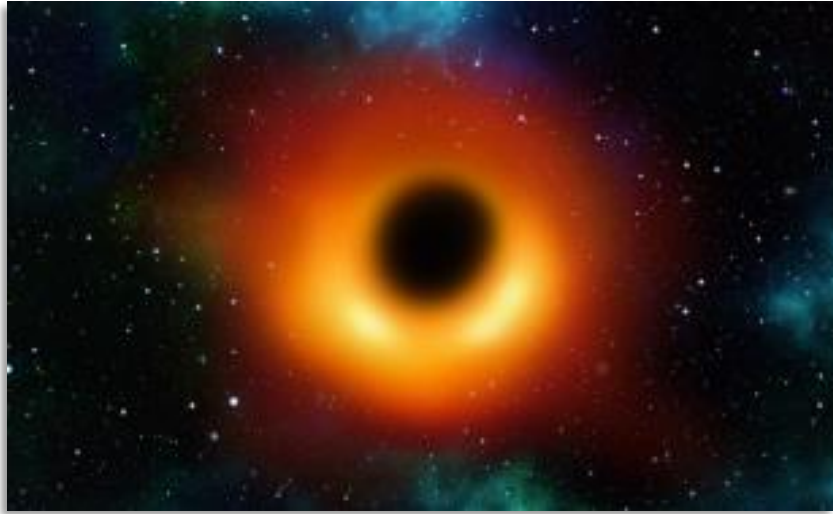
- COST Action MP1304

- Running from 16/05/2013 - 24/11/2017

- NewCompStar - Exploring fundamental physics with compact stars

- On 10 April 2019, the world discovered the first-ever picture of a black hole in stunning detail

"Neutron stars like to become black holes," says Action Chair Prof. Luciano Rezzolla of Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany, who also played a prominent role in the collaboration that had presented the first-ever image of a black hole. "The two have a lot in common, and so the expertise that was developed and nurtured in NewCompStar also provided fertile ground for this imaging work."
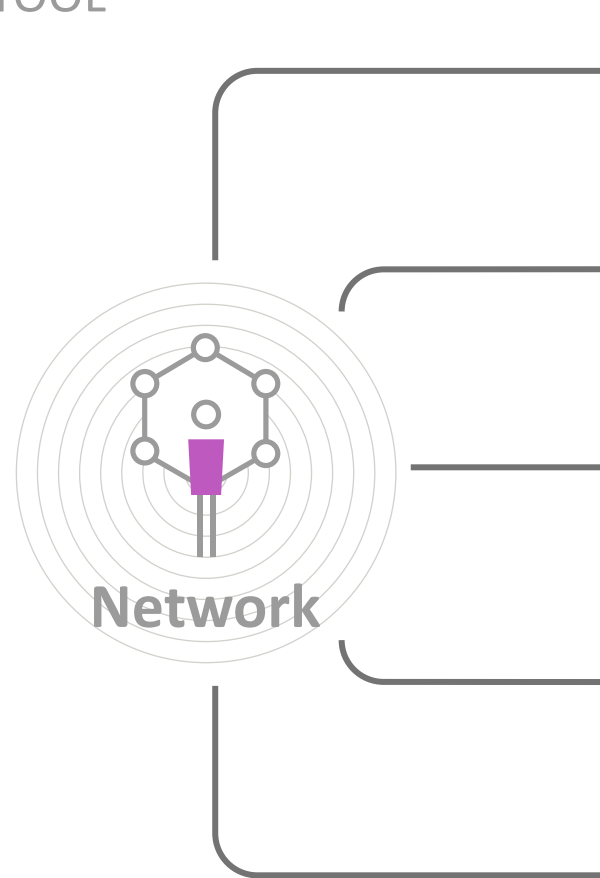
COST Actions
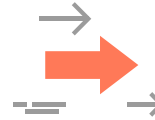
An efficient networking tool

COST Actions

AN EFFICIENT NETWORKING TOOL

COST provides funding
for research coordination
and capacity building activities

COST is not funding research
itself,
but pooling resources
and research results
by networking

Network

Memorandum
of Understanding

4 years

Min 7 countries, average
participation 30 countries

Research coordination
and capacity building activities

~ €600,000 over lifetime

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LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Action Chair
Vice-Chair

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (MC)

GRANT HOLDER (GH)

GH scientific rep.

WG1

WG4

WG2

WG5

WG leaders

WG3

WG6

HORIZONTAL GROUPS

Grant Awarding Coordinator
Science Comm. Coordinator

COST ASSOCIATION ADMINISTRATION

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Networking Activities & Other Expenses

- MC & Core Group Meetings
- Working Group Meetings
- Training Schools
- Workshops & Conferences
- Short-Term Scientific Missions
- Virtual Networking Grants
- ITC Conference Grants for Young Researchers
- Dissemination Conference Grant
- Dissemination & Communication Products
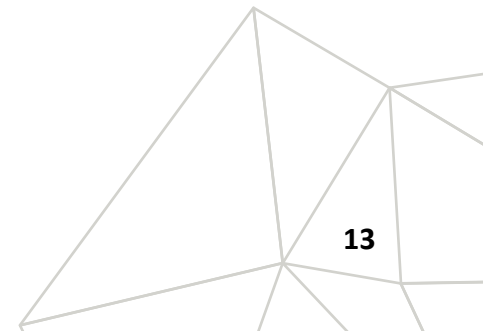- Other Expenses (LOS, OERSA)

Funding offered by COST

Meetings

- Travel reimbursement of the meeting participants
  - Daily allowance (accommodation, meals, local transport)
  - Long distance travel expenses (on face value)

- Local Organiser Support
  - Face to face or virtual events

Funding offered by COST

Mobility of researchers

- Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSM)
  - Up to 4000 EUR

- Virtual Mobility Grants
  - Up to 1500 EUR

Funding offered by COST
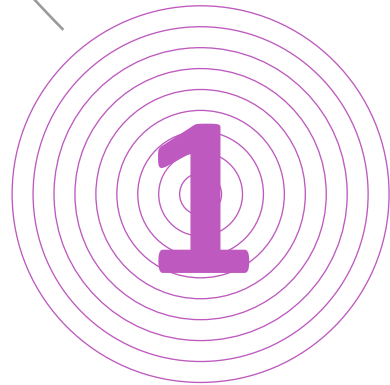
Dissemination of research activities

- ITC Conference Grants
  - Up to 2000 EUR (500 EUR for virtual events)

- Dissemination Conference Grants
  - Up to 2000 EUR (500 EUR for virtual events)

- Dissemination activities
  - Open Access publications, books, websites, etc.
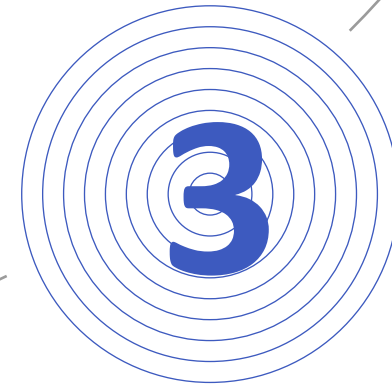
How to engage with COST?

How to engage with COST?

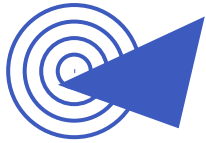**1**

As a participant
of a running Action

2

As a proposer
of a new COST Action

3

As expert to evaluate
submitted proposals

cost
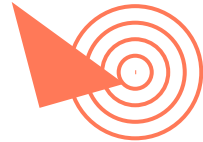EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

1. As a participant in a running Action (1/2)

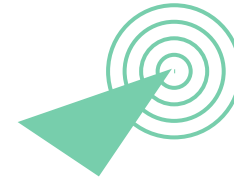**FIND THE ACTION IN YOUR FIELD**
of interest on the COST website (www.cost.eu)

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

1. As a participant in a running Action (2/2)
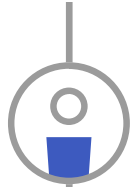
AS A MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (MC) MEMBER
(contact the COST National Coordinator)

AS A WORKING GROUP (WG) PARTICIPANT
(contact the WG leader)

AS A PARTICIPANT IN ACTION ACTIVITIES
short-term scientific mission, ITC conference grant, training school, workshop/conference,…
(check the Action's website, contact the chair or the national MC member)

2. As proposer of a new COST Action

COST OPEN CALL

One-stage online submission of proposals (e-COST)

Proposal should focus on S&T Excellence, Networking Excellence, Impact and Implementation

70 COST Actions approved per collection

Main proposer + secondary proposer

Collection date:
25 October 2023
12:00 CET

www.COST.eu
opencall@cost.eu

Proposals

GENERAL FEATURES

TECHNICAL ANNEX
(www.cost.eu)

1. S&T Excellence

2. Networking Excellence

3. Impact

4. Implementation

COST EXCELLENCE AND INCLUSIVENESS POLICY SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

NETWORK OF PROPOSERS

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Open Call for proposals
TECHNICAL ANNEX

SECTIONS

1. S&T EXCELLENCE

2. NETWORKING EXCELLENCE

3. IMPACT

4. IMPLEMENTATION

SUB-SECTIONS

1.1 Soundness of the challenge
1.2 Progress beyond the state-of-the-art

2.1 Added value of networking in S&T excellence
2.2 Added value of networking in impact

3.1 Impact to science, society and competitiveness, and potential for innovation/breakthroughs
3.2 Measures to maximise impact

4.1 Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan

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

Evaluation

SESA

ELIGIBILITY!

- Anonymous
- Minimum 50% ITC
- Peaceful purpose
- Format
- English

STEP 1

EXTERNAL REMOTE EVALUATION

- 3 Independent External Experts
- Technical Annex

STEP 2

REVISION AND QUALITY CHECK BY REVIEW PANELS

STEP 3

SELECTION BY THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

COST policy and objectives

STEP 4

APPROVAL BY COST COMMITTEE OF SENIOR OFFICIALS

Results 7-8 months after submission

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3. As external expert

As a COST Expert,
you will have the opportunity to

Contribute to the
evaluation of COST Open
Call proposals
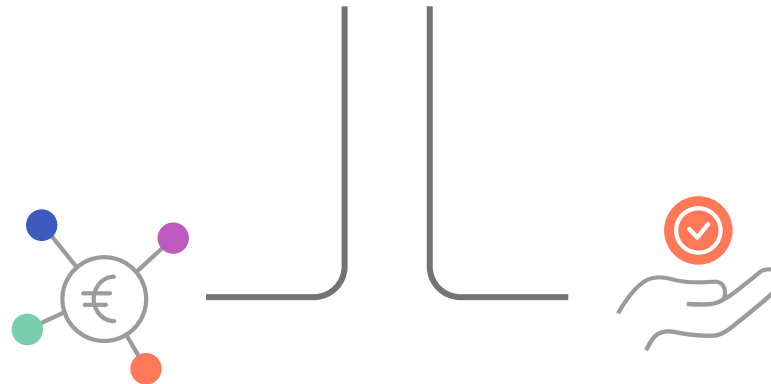
Participate in the
assessment of Action
results and outcomes

Questions

How does the evaluation process work, and what are the main criteria that reviewers use to assess proposals?

How important is the composition of the Action management committee, and what characteristics should members possess?

How can we involve tourism industry stakeholders and government agencies in our Action, and what benefits can they bring to the network?
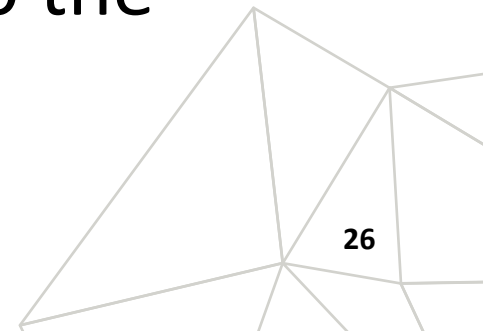
Questions

What are the benefits of participating in a COST Action, and how can we maximize these benefits for our research and career development?

How can we ensure that our proposed research topic aligns with COST's priorities and objectives?

How can we best disseminate the results of our Action to the broader scientific community and the public?

Questions

How can we ensure the sustainability of our Action beyond the initial four-year funding period?

I am trying to figure out (1) what I need to gather for the application, and (2) if my topic is a good fit for this funding

Is it possible to organise with university partners in the Democratic Republic of Congo an Easter school funded by your organisation? What exactly is the limit of funding to be granted?

THANK YOU!
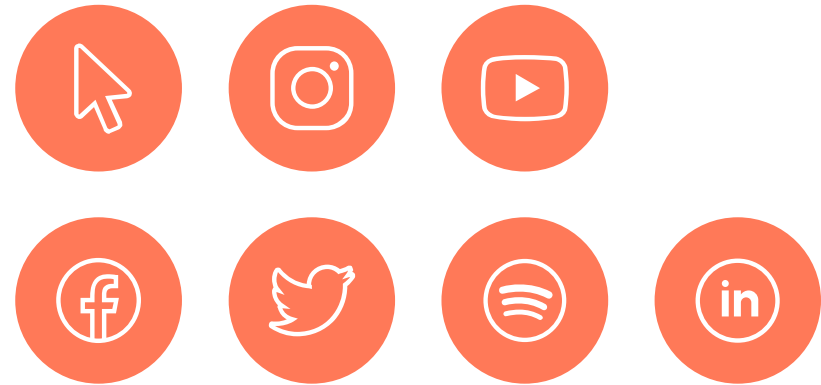
Contact and engage with us!

Second Session

2. As proposer of a new COST Action
COST OPEN CALL
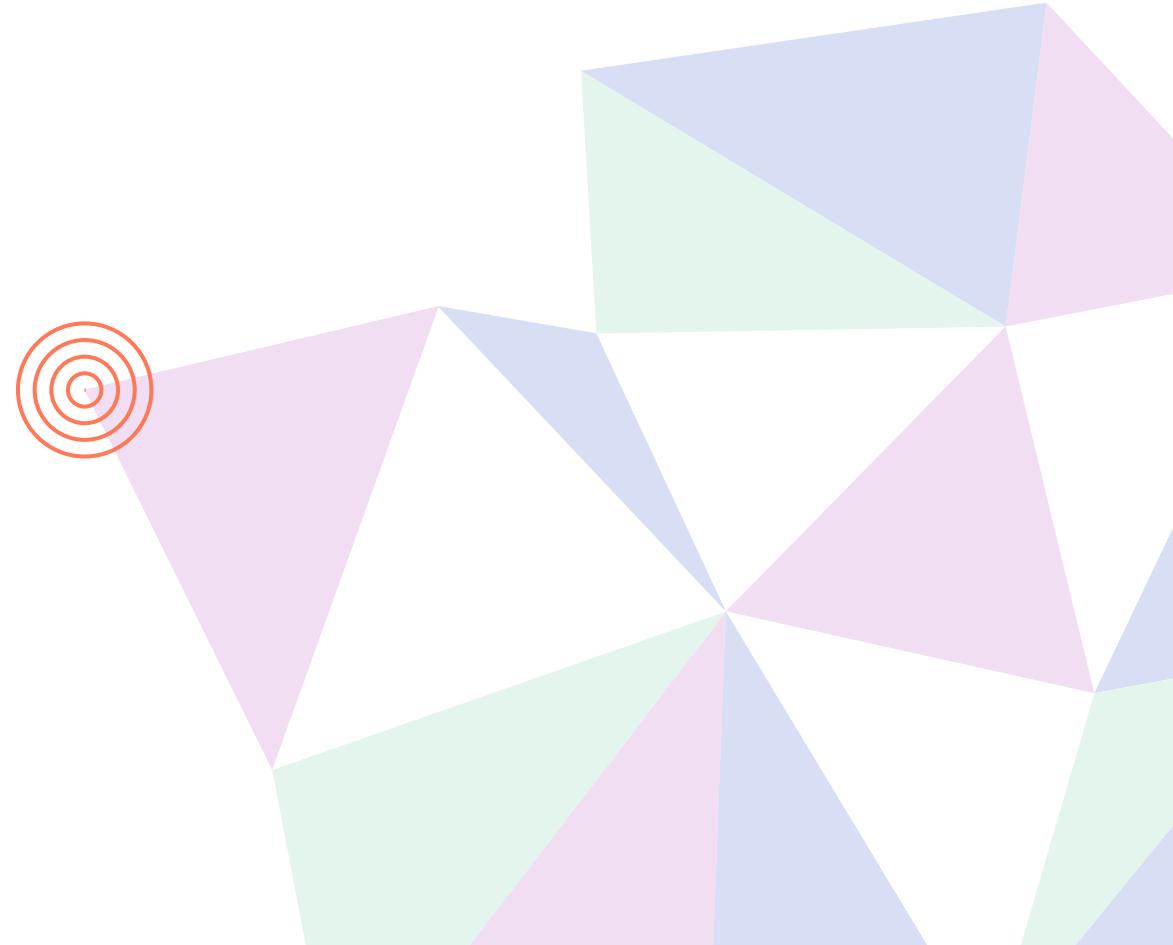
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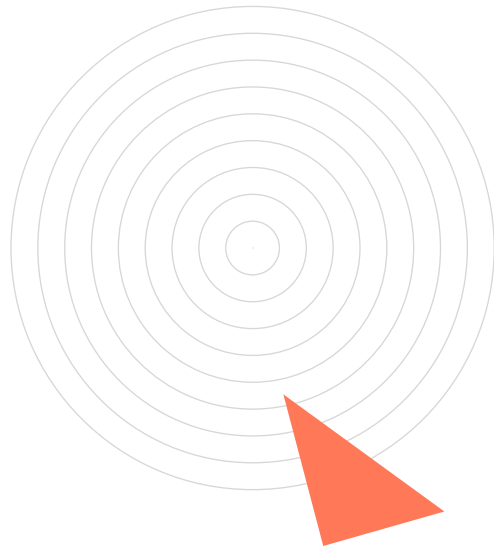www.COST.eu
opencall@cost.eu

Open Call for proposals – how to apply

E-COST

1 Create a COST account:
https://www.cost.eu/ecost

2 > Open Call

Open Call

COST Actions

> Proposals

Calendar
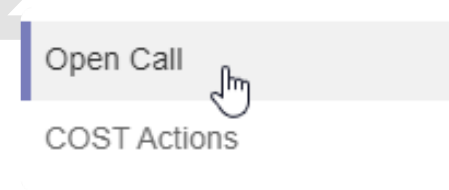
Proposals

Evaluations

> Create new proposal
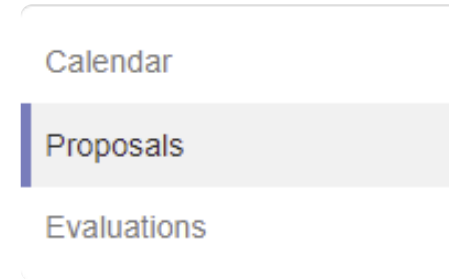
Create New Proposal
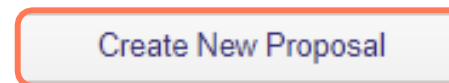
3 Online registration and submission:
General information
+ Technical Annex
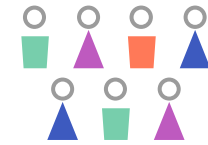
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Proposals

GENERAL FEATURES

TECHNICAL ANNEX
(www.cost.eu)

1. S&T Excellence

2. Networking Excellence

3. Impact

4. Implementation

COST EXCELLENCE AND INCLUSIVENESS POLICY SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

NETWORK OF PROPOSERS

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32

Proposals

GENERAL
FEATURES

Online submission tool (e-COST)*

*www.cost.eu/ecost

Proposals

GENERAL FEATURES

TECHNICAL ANNEX
(www.cost.eu)

1. S&T Excellence

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Proposals

Funding ⌄   COST Actions ⌄

› How to get funding
How to apply
Open Call
Evaluation, selection and approval
Documents and guidelines

TECHNICAL ANNEX
(www.cost.eu)

1. S&T Excellence

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Open Call for proposals
TECHNICAL ANNEX

SECTIONS

1. S&T EXCELLENCE

2. NETWORKING EXCELLENCE

3. IMPACT

4. IMPLEMENTATION

SUB-SECTIONS

1.1 Soundness of the challenge
1.2 Progress beyond the state-of-the-art

2.1 Added value of networking in S&T excellence
2.2 Added value of networking in impact

3.1 Impact to science, society and competitiveness, and potential for innovation/breakthroughs
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4.1 Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan

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

S&T Excellence

Soundness of the challenge

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

Progress beyond the state-of-the-art.

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

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

Networking Excellence

Added value of networking in S&T Excellence

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

Added value of networking in Impact

Q5. Does the proposed network contain, or present a credible plan for securing, the critical mass and range of 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 participants?
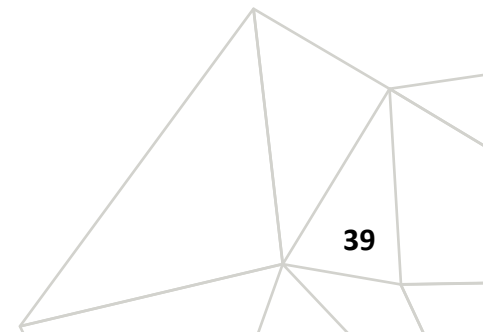
Impact criteria

Impact to science, society and competitiveness, and potential for innovation/breakthroughs

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

Measures to maximise impact

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?
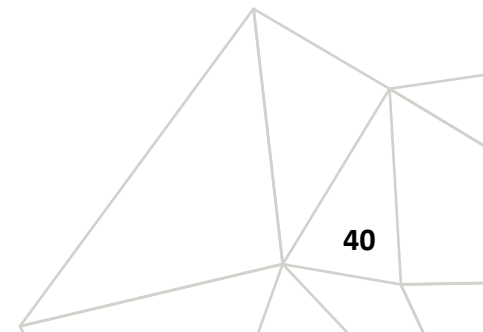
Implementation criteria

Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan

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

Some key concepts (1/2)

Research Coordination Objectives

- development of a common understanding/definition of the subject matter;

- coordination of information seeking, identification, collection and/or data curation;

- coordination of experimentation or testing;

- comparison and/or performance assessment of theory/ model/ scenario/ projection/ simulation/

- narrative/ methodology/ technology/ technique;

- development of knowledge needing international coordination: new or improved theory/

- model/scenario/ projection/ simulation/ narrative/ methodology/ technology/ technique;

- achievement of a specific tangible output that cannot be achieved without international coordination (e.g. due to practical issues such as database availability, language barriers, availability of infrastructure or know-how, etc.);

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Some key concepts (2/2)

Capacity-building objectives

- fostering knowledge exchange and the development of a joint research agenda around a topic of scientific and/or socio-economic relevance;

- fostering knowledge exchange and the development of a joint research agenda around a new or emerging field of research;

- bridging separate fields of science/disciplines to achieve breakthroughs that requires an interdisciplinary approach;

- acting as a stakeholder platform or trans-national practice community (by area of socioeconomic application and/or market sector);

- involving specific target groups (e.g. newly established research groups, Young Researchers and Innovators, the under-represented gender, teams from countries/regions with less capacity in the field of the Action).

Proposals

GENERAL FEATURES
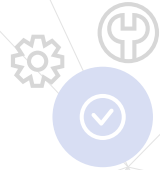
TECHNICAL ANNEX

1. S&T excellence

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COST EXCELLENCE AND INCLUSIVENESS POLICY SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

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COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy

PROMOTING

GEOGRAPHICAL BALANCE (ITC)

AGE BALANCE (young researchers)

GENDER BALANCE throughout its activities
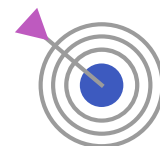
OBJECTIVES

1. Identifying excellence in science and technology across Europe

2. Increasing research communities' access to funding and infrastructures

3. Triggering structural changes in COST Members' national research systems

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Proposals

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1. S&T excellence

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COST EXCELLENCE AND INCLUSIVENESS POLICY SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

NETWORK OF PROPOSERS

Evaluation criteria

S&T EXCELLENCE

- Soundness of the challenge
- Progress beyond the state-of-the-art

3 QUESTIONS

Total marks for the section = 15 points

NETWORKING EXCELLENCE

- Added value of networking in S&T excellence
- Added value of networking in Impact

3 QUESTIONS

Total marks for the section = 15 points

IMPACT

- Impact to science, society and competitiveness, and potential for innovation/breakthroughs
- Measures to maximise impact

3 QUESTIONS

Total marks for the section = 15 points

IMPLEMENTATION

- Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan

1 QUESTION

Total marks for the section = 5 points

TOTAL MARKS AWARDED = 50 points - OVERALL THRESHOLD = 34 points

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Evaluation

SESA

ELIGIBILITY!

- Anonymous
- Minimum 50% ITC
- Peaceful purpose
- Format
- English

STEP 1

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- Technical Annex

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Results 7-8 months after submission

cost
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IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Ineligibility at COST proposals - Examples

Statements resulting in ineligibility

"Several members of the proposers' network have been involved in previous FP7 projects, like ATTPS and ADAPTIWALL, and institutions/organisations/networks/COST Actions, such as FP0901" (direct reference)

Eligible statements

"The Action will seek contact with / reach out to / draw on the expertise of / build on / ... previous FP7 projects, like ATTPS and ADAPTIWALL, and institutions/organisations/networks/COST Actions/..., such as FP0901."

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IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Ineligibility at COST proposals - Examples

Statements resulting in ineligibility

"The Network of Proposers has already generated some output1", with in the footnote a link to a YouTube video or webpage in which secondary proposers can be identified (indirect reference, potentially identifiable)

Eligible statements

"The Network of Proposers has already generated some output", without links to a YouTube video or webpage in which secondary proposers can be identified

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Ineligibility at COST proposals - Examples

Statements resulting in ineligibility

"Among government-run public services we have the Department of Health of Catalonia on board" (direct reference)

Eligible statements

"The Network of Proposers already includes a / several government-run public service(s)."

How to apply in a nutshell

Read the official announcement

Online registration and submission (e-COST)

Helpdesk: opencall@cost.eu

Read the SESA Guidelines

Technical Annex template (Documents and Guidelines repository on the COST website)

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THANK YOU!