

Growing
ideas
through
networks

How to prepare a COST proposal

COST Information session September 10th, 2020
Dominique Vandekerchove, Science Officer



Funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme
of the European Union

COST key figures of 2019

292 
Running Actions

203 
Training schools

 €122,000
Average annual budget
of a COST Action

 2,242
Short-term scientific missions

 45,000
Researchers involved
in COST Actions

 €300 million
COST budget (from Horizon
2020 for a 7 year period)

COST: The networking tool in the ERA and the pre-portal to other ERA funding schemes

COST Acting as a pre-portal for FP funding

Horizon 2020 applications reported by finished COST Actions

Total Actions with
finished Final Action
Report

114

Submitted H2020
proposals reported

392

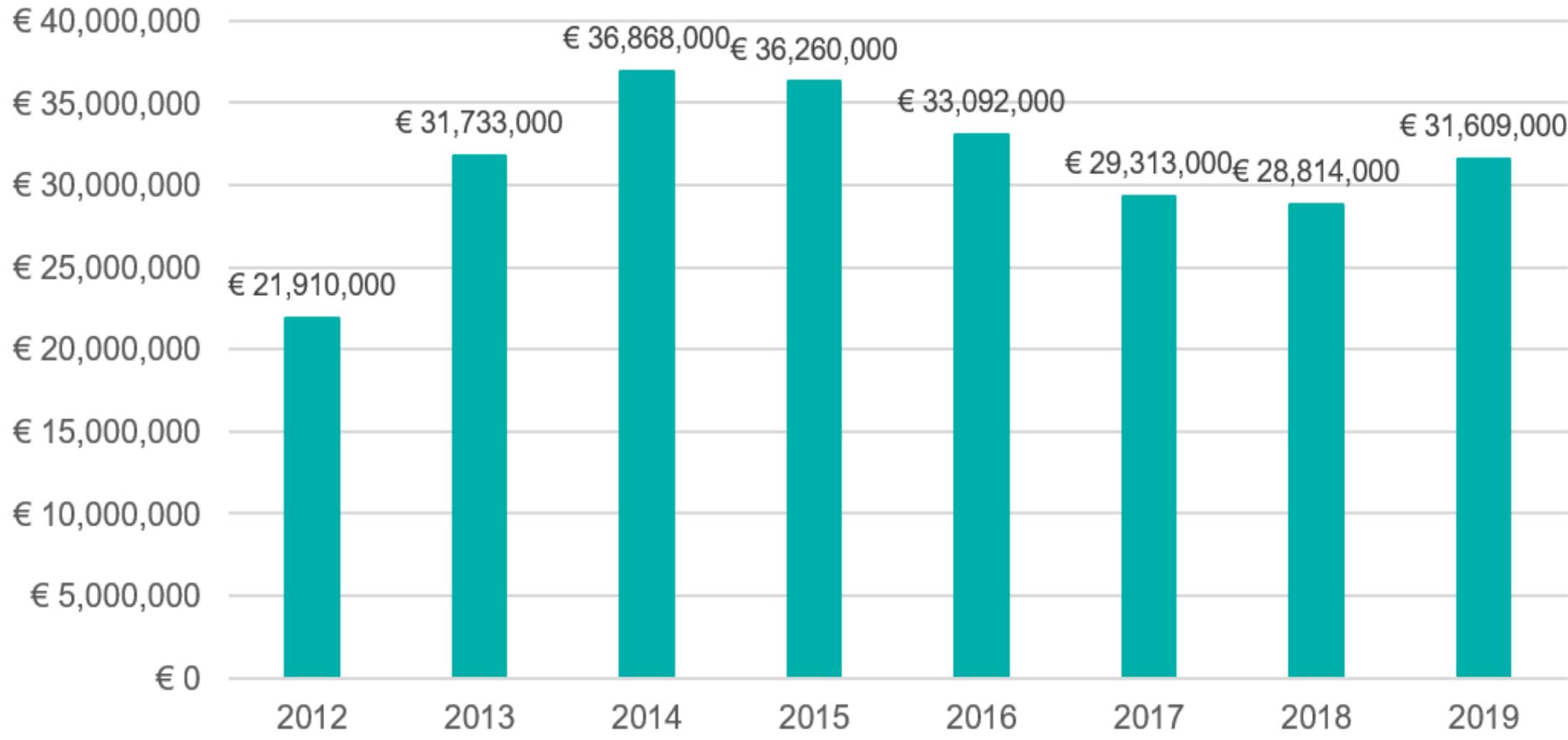
Approved H2020
projects reported

131

Success rate

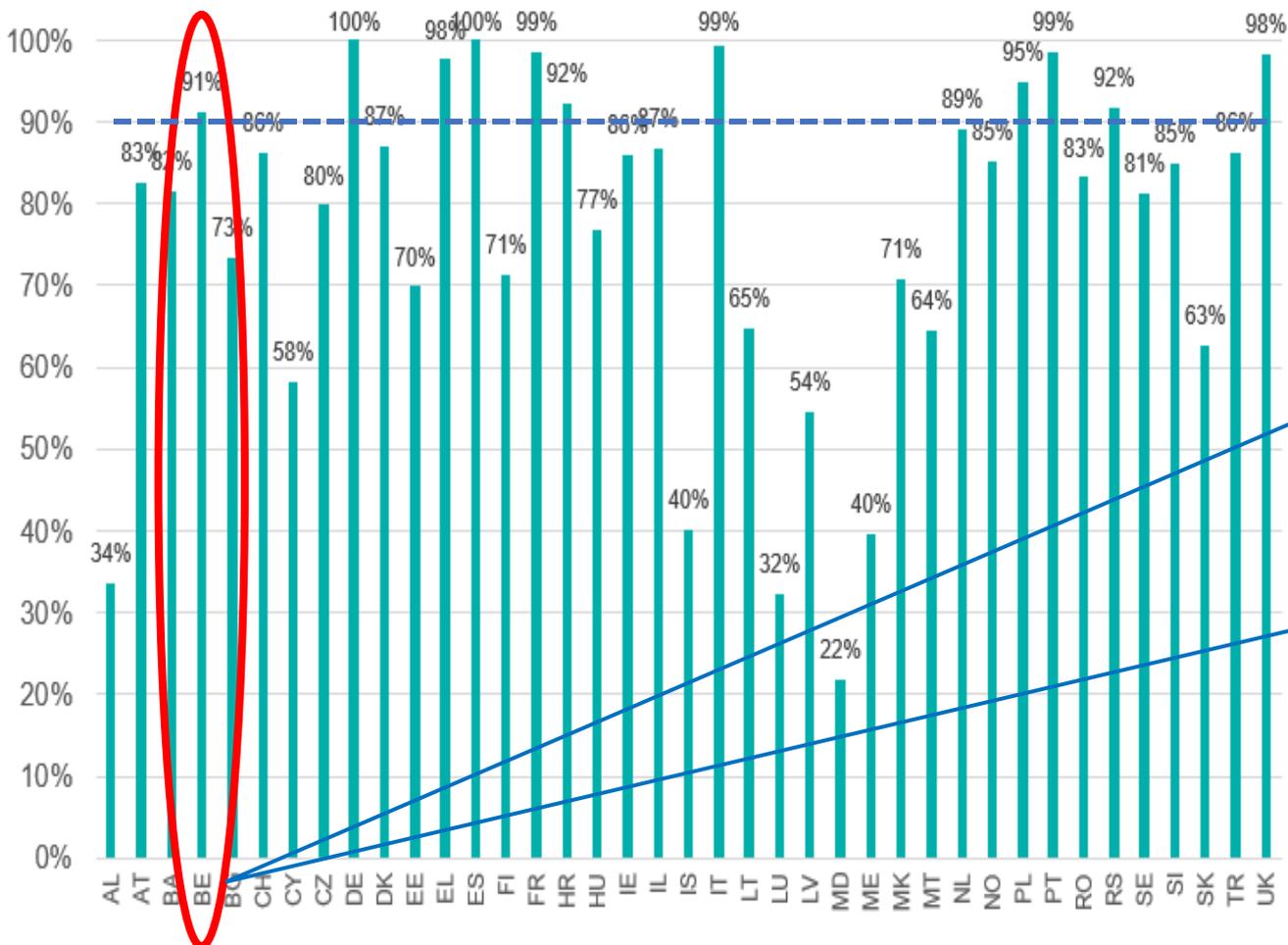
33 %

COST Actions' budget transferred to COST Countries



Graph 4. COST Actions' budget transferred to the COST Full and Cooperating Members

Participation in COST Actions (2019) from COST Full and Cooperating Members



Graph 1. National participation in running Actions % (total number of running Actions in bracket)

Graph 1a. Country participation in running Actions 2019 (% of total)

Why submit a COST proposal ?

“A strong desire to be independent is present in every good scientist.

But sometimes, this desire can become a scientist’s undoing.”

Knowledge sharing leads to

- common understanding of problems
- coordinated activities, pooling resources
- reduced risks
- synthesis and re-combination of spread pieces of knowledge
- innovation and synergies : $1+1>2$



<https://cheekyscientist.com/networking-tips/>

How does it work?

COST Action participants
nominated by COST National Coordinators



Main proposer



Secondary proposers



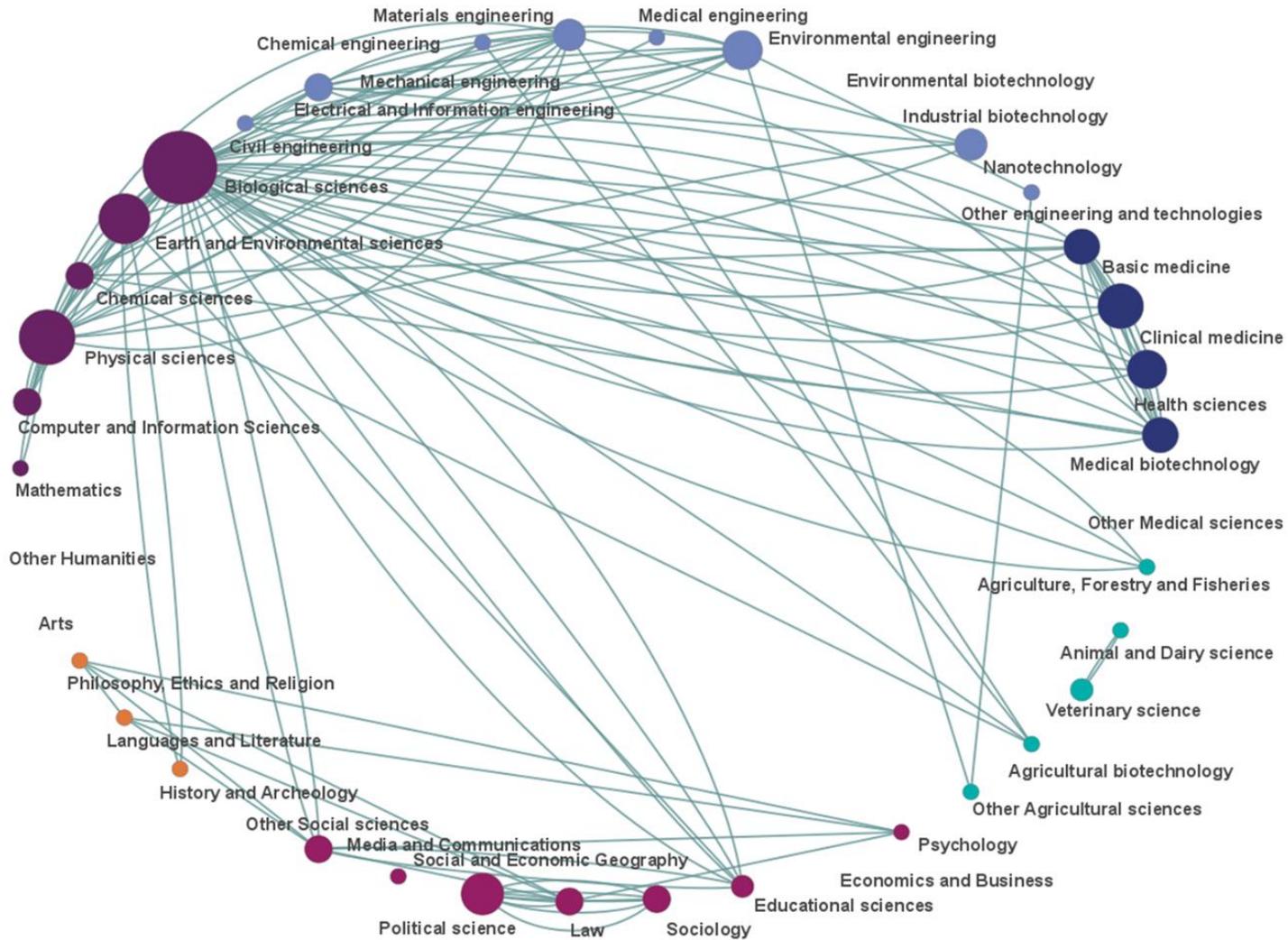
COST Open Call

- Open to **all scientific and technological (S&T) fields** (bottom-up)
- Promote scientific, technological, economic, cultural and societal **innovation** in Europe
- **Reduce the gap** between scientists, policy makers and society in Europe and beyond

COST Actions aim at

- Promoting the creation, exchange and application of scientific knowledge
- Being open and output oriented
- Responding to COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy :
 - ✓ Geographical balance (ITC)
 - ✓ Age balance (experienced researchers and ECI)
 - ✓ Gender balance

Fostering **interdisciplinary** research for breakthrough science



COST Open Call

When?

Collection every 9 months
Next: 29 October 2020 – 12:00 CET

What?

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

Who?

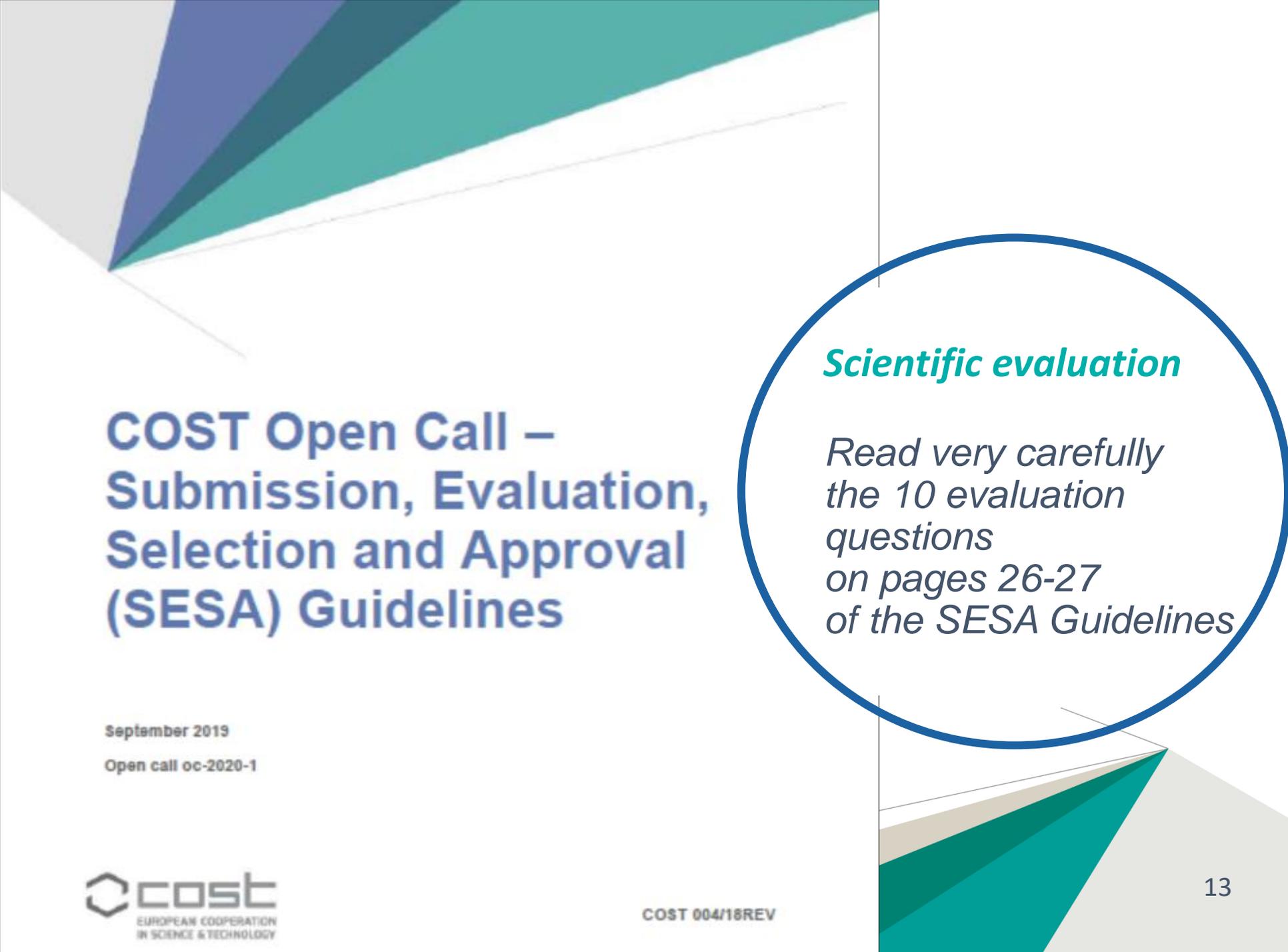
Main proposer
(and minimum 6 secondary
proposers, $\geq 50\%$ ITC)

How many?

40 – 45 Actions approved per
collection

Open Call for proposals – how to apply

- Read the official announcement
- Read the SESA Guidelines



COST Open Call – Submission, Evaluation, Selection and Approval (SESA) Guidelines

September 2019

Open call oc-2020-1

Scientific evaluation

*Read very carefully
the 10 evaluation
questions
on pages 26-27
of the SESA Guidelines*

Open Call for proposals – how to apply

- Read the official announcement
- Read the SESA Guidelines
- Online registration and submission (e-COST)

How to apply

Home > Funding > How to get funding > How to apply

A COST Action proposal can be submitted at any time of the year. Proposals are collected up to twice a year. The submission, evaluation, selection and approval (SESA) procedure ensures a simple, transparent and competitive evaluation and selection process, in line with COST's bottom-up, open¹ and inclusive² principles.



Proposers benefit from a one-stage submission via the [e-COST submission tool](#). The proposal requires filling in a few sections online and uploading a technical annex of up to 15 pages.

The minimum number of countries included at the proposal stage is seven **COST Members**. Out of the seven, a minimum of 50% must be **Inclusiveness Target Countries**. For more details, please refer to the annex of the SESA guidelines.

For any questions related to the open call and how to get funding, please contact opencall@cost.eu

Online proposal submission tool (e-COST)*

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



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.

p 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)

[Generate PDF](#)

[Ready to submit?](#)

Open Call for proposals – how to apply

- Read the official announcement
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- Online registration and submission (e-COST)
- Technical Annex template

Open Call for proposals – 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

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- Technical Annex template
- Helpdesk: opencall@cost.eu

Evaluation – SESA

Results
~8 months after
submission

Eligibility check

anonymity, format, minimum 50% participation of ITC, peaceful purpose, English

Step 1: Remote evaluation

by independent External Evaluators

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

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

“ *The opportunity for science lies in creating an unlimited space where crossovers between ideas and people can change the world for the better.* ”