



# COST Action CA18218

## European Burden of Disease Network



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*Technical platform to integrate and strengthen capacity in  
burden of disease assessment across Europe and beyond*



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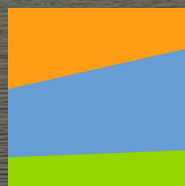
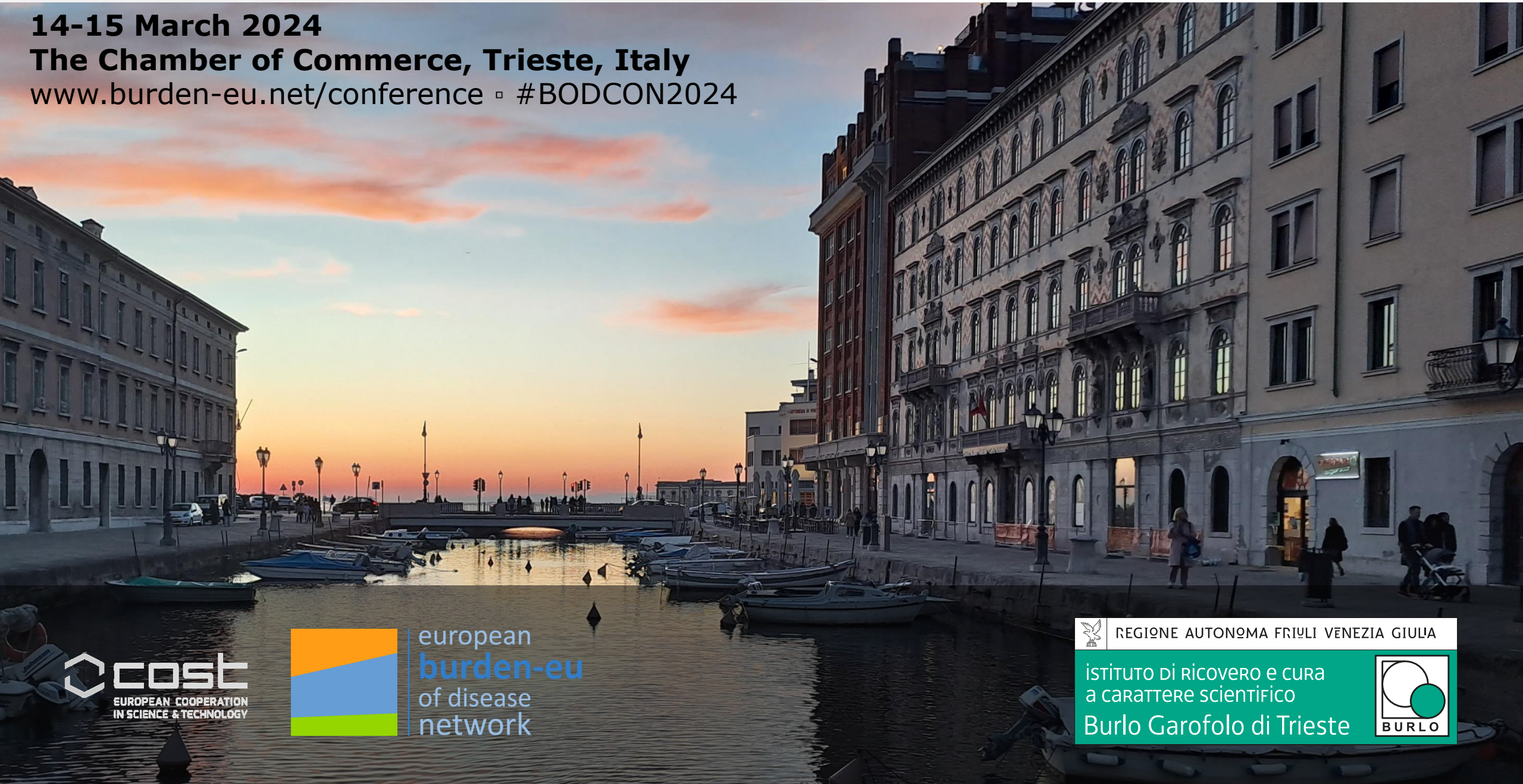
*Technical platform to integrate and strengthen capacity in  
burden of disease assessment across Europe and beyond*

# 2nd International Burden of Disease Conference

14-15 March 2024

The Chamber of Commerce, Trieste, Italy

[www.burden-eu.net/conference](http://www.burden-eu.net/conference) ▫ #BODCON2024



european  
**burden-eu**  
of disease  
network



REGIONE AUTONOMA FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA

ISTITUTO DI RICOVERO e CURA  
a CARATTERE SCIENTIFICO  
Burlo Garofolo di Trieste





# Our experience

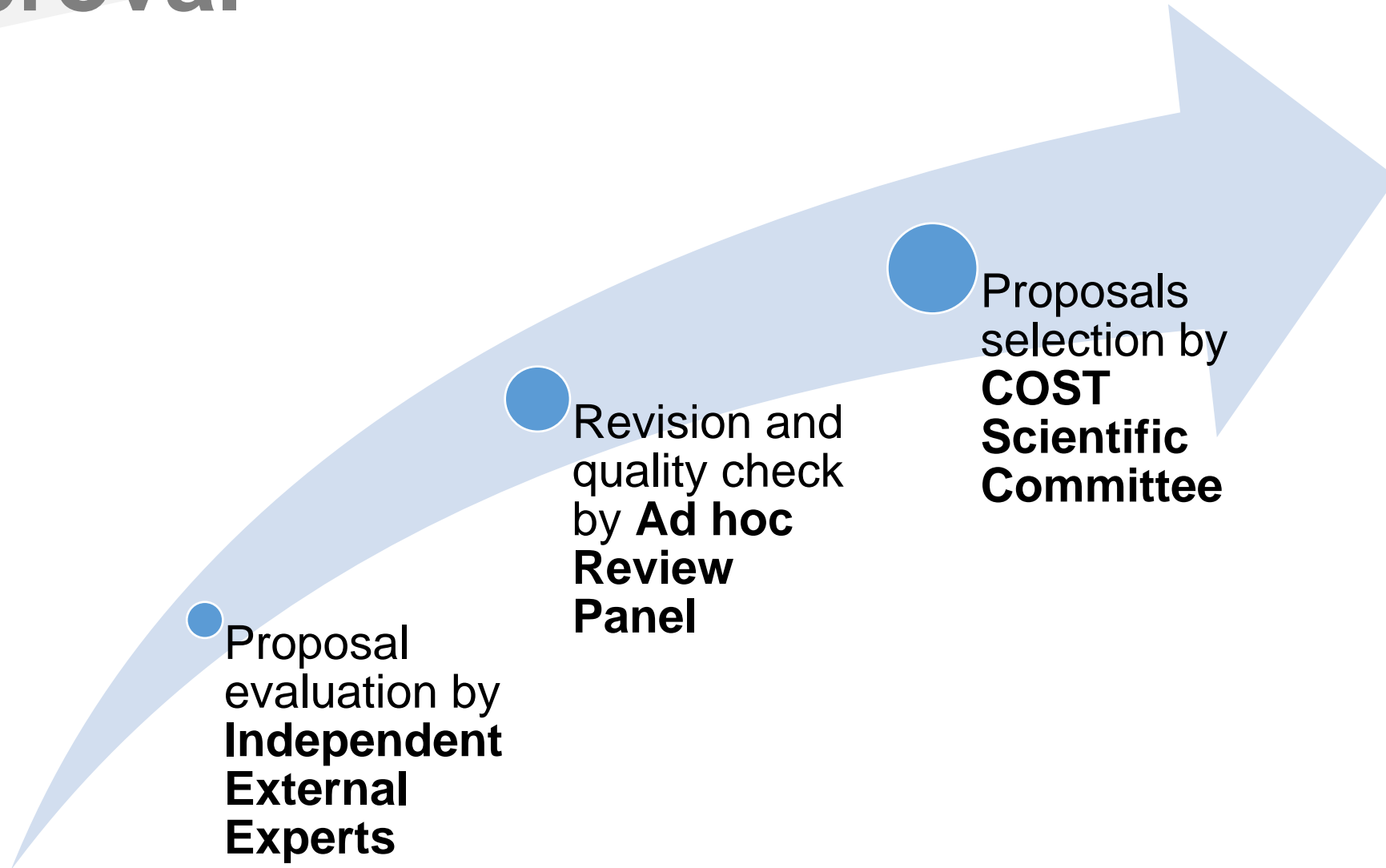
- Unique opportunity for networking and capacity building
  - Network still growing !
- Platform for preparing new project proposals
- Administrative burden
- How to keep large network involved?
- COVID had a big impact, but we adapted via new online tools
- Need careful reflection on options for sustainability

# Impressions from a Belgian evaluator

COST Specialised Information Session 2024

[Brecht.Devleesschauwer@Sciensano.be](mailto:Brecht.Devleesschauwer@Sciensano.be)

# Proposal Evaluation, Selection and Approval



# Independent External Experts

- Identified taking into account Research Areas and keywords
- Double-blind peer review
- At least three Experts -> Individual Evaluation Reports (IER)
- One appointed as Rapporteur -> Consensus Evaluation Report (CER)
  - If no consensus, then IER used



# Ad hoc Review Panels

- Selected from a pool of active researchers and innovators who have been nominated by the CNCs
- Double-blind peer review
- Tasks
  - Ensure quality of Consensus Evaluation Reports and marks
  - Resolve differences in opinions among IERs
  - Rank proposals above the overall threshold
  - Strive for consistency of marking across proposals within and across Review Panels
  - Identify proposals which address emerging issues or potentially important future developments
  - Prepare report for Scientific Committee

# COST Scientific Committee

- High-level experts (one from each COST Member) with internationally renowned expertise and recognised merit in their professional career
- Decides on eligibility of proposals
- Establishes from the list of retained proposals the shortlist of proposals for approval by the Committee of Senior Officials
  - Above the cut-off mark
  - Equal to, one point less, two points less than cut-off mark
    - Selects proposals best responding to COST Mission and Policy
    - ~ Inclusiveness Target Countries, Young Researchers and Innovators, Gender
    - ~ Balanced COST Actions' portfolio and promoting interdisciplinarity

# Evaluation Reports

- Eligibility criteria
  - Length of the Technical Annex
  - Anonymity
  - Respect of fundamental ethical principles with special emphasis on peaceful purposes
  - Language (English)
- Evaluation criteria
  - S&T Excellence
  - Networking Excellence
  - Impact
  - Implementation

Statements resulting in ineligibility	Eligible statements
<p>“Several members of the proposers’ network have been involved in previous FP7 projects, like ATTPS and ADAPTIWALL, and COST Actions, such as FP0901” (direct reference).</p>	<p>“The Action will seek contact with / reach out to / draw on the expertise of / build on / ... previous FP7 projects, like ATTPS and ADAPTIWALL, and COST Actions, such as FP0901.”</p>
<p>“Among government-run public services we have the Department of Health of Catalonia on board” (direct reference).</p>	<p>"The Network of Proposers already includes a / several government-run public service(s)."</p>
<p>Some of the Proposers’ names are emphasised in the references section, e.g. “<b>Smith A</b> &amp; Jones B (2020), Journal of Physics”, where A. Smith is a proposer (direct reference).</p>	<p>No emphasis on proposers' publications in the references section in any way, e.g., “Smith A &amp; Jones B (2020), Journal of Physics”.</p>
<p>“The Network of Proposers has already generated some output”, with in the footnote a link to a YouTube video or webpage in which secondary proposers can be identified (indirect reference, potentially identifiable).</p>	<p>“The Network of Proposers has already generated some output”, without links to a YouTube video or webpage in which secondary proposers can be identified</p>
<p>The Technical Annex referring to the expertise of the network members through specific publications (the authors of these publications come from an institution participating in the proposal: indirect reference).</p>	<p>The Technical Annex referring to the expertise of the Network of Proposers, possibly also mentioning the field, sub-field and expected contribution to the respective WG(s) / activities but without mentioning specific publications.</p>

# Evaluation criteria

<b>S&amp;T EXCELLENCE</b>	<b>NETWORKING EXCELLENCE</b>	<b>IMPACT</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTATION</b>
Total mark for the section = 15 points	Total mark for the section = 15 points	Total mark for the section = 15 points	Total mark for the section = 5 points
<b>TOTAL MARKS AWARDED = 0 – 50 points</b>			
<b>OVERALL THRESHOLD = 34 points</b>			



Evaluator	Report Status	Options	S&T Excellence			Networking Excellence			Impact			Implementation
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
Consensus	Approved		VG	G	VG	G	E	VG	VG	VG	E	VG
Review panel report	Final		VG	G	VG	G	E	VG	VG	VG	E	VG

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

Questions in grey need to be completed. The triangle indicates the current position.

S&T Excellence			Networking Excellence			Impact			Implementation
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
VG	G	VG	G	E	VG	VG	VG	E	VG
▲									

## S&T Excellence >> Soundness of the Challenge

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

- The proposal addresses this question in an excellent manner.
- The proposal addresses this question in a very good manner.
- The proposal addresses this question in a good manner.
- The proposal addresses this question in a fair manner.
- The proposal addresses this question in a poor manner.
- The proposal fails to address the question under examination or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information.

# Evaluation Reports

## Main strengths:

The challenge is strongly supported by evidence and the authors have done a very good job in describing the most important issues related to [REDACTED]

Please write up to 250 words.

**Words: 29**

## The proposal would benefit from certain improvements:

The timeliness of the proposal is not explicit when describing the challenges. In the state of the art, the proposal could benefit from a wider consideration of recent European studies on [REDACTED]

Please write up to 250 words.

**Words: 36**



# Evaluation criteria

## **S&T EXCELLENCE CRITERIA**

### **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?

# Evaluation criteria

## **NETWORKING EXCELLENCE CRITERIA**

### **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?

# Evaluation criteria

## **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?

# Evaluation criteria

## **IMPLEMENTATION CRITERION**

### **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?

# Reflections – Overall process

- ~60 submissions in panel, 8 panel members
- Scores very close (42/41/41/40/39/39/37/37/35/35)
- Highly competitive, across all science domains
- IEE are domain experts, not necessarily familiar with COST

# Reflections – Evaluation criteria

- Research Coordination & Capacity Building Objectives should be concrete and formulated in a SMART way
- Be specific and concrete in how to involve stakeholders, perform dissemination, which impacts, risk mitigation, etc..
- Include references in state of the art
- (Specific stakeholder, expertise, ... missing)

# Get inspired

## CA18218 - European Burden of Disease Network (burden-eu)

 Downloads

[Home](#) > [Browse Actions](#) > European Burden of Disease Network (burden-eu)

**Description**

Management Committee

Main Contacts and Leadership


Working Groups and Membership


### Description


What are the most relevant diseases in a country? Which risk factors are the strongest contributors to disease and death? How is the impact of different diseases evolving over time, and how does it compare between countries and within subnational units? As the need for prioritising the use of available resources constantly increases, a timely, sound and comprehensive answer to these fundamental questions is more than ever needed to inform public health decision making. Driven by the impact of the Global Burden of Disease study, several researchers and national and international health institutes have adopted the burden of disease approach to address these questions.

The complexity of the burden of disease approach however resulted in major disparities in research capacity across Europe. The burden-eu COST Action will address current challenges by 1) stimulating interaction between existing efforts, 2) supporting technical capacity building at country level,

#### Action Details

 MoU - 035/19

 CSO Approval date - 04/06/2019

 Start date - 28/10/2019

 End date - 27/10/2023

 <https://www.burden-eu.net/>