COST INFO DAY

Slovakia, 22/02/2022

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EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Funded by the European Union

Rules of etiquette

All muted, except the speakers

Full screen, side-by-side mode, with Active Speaker View

Materials will be made available later

Q&A tool

Via the Chat icon

Open after the presentations

Send to everyone

Agenda

Welcome words - Dr Ronald de Bruin, Director of the COST Association

1. How to engage in a COST Action – Dr Giuseppe Lugano, Science Officer at the COST Association

2. Which activities are funded? – Ms Jeannette Nchung Oru, Administrative Officer at COST Association

3. How to prepare an Action proposal – Mr Christer Halen, Policy Administrator at the COST Association

4. What are the benefits from participating in COST? An Action member's experience

- Dr Ghadir Pourhashem, WG Leader from "Wider impacts and scenario evaluation of autonomous and connected transport" - (CA16222); Senior Researcher & EU Project Manager, University of Žilina
- Prof. Zdenko Machala, WG Leader from "Plasma applications for smart and sustainable agriculture" (CA19110), Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics, Comenius University,

5. National participation and nomination process – Ms Andrea Danková, COST National Coordination

6. Q&A

Session I

How to engage in a COST Action

Dr Giuseppe Lugano – Science Officer

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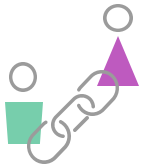
European Cooperation in Science & Technology

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

ALL FIELDS OF S&T

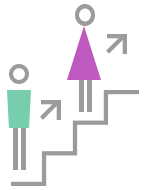
(mono- or interdisciplinary, new and emerging fields)



ALL PARTNERS

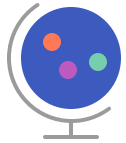
(academia, public organisation, industry, NGO, International Organisations)

BOTTOM-UP APPROACH



ALL CAREER STAGES

(young and experienced researchers)



ALL COUNTRIES

- 38 COST Members
  + 1 Cooperating Member
- 16 Near Neighbour Countries
- Global cooperation

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COST membership

38 Members

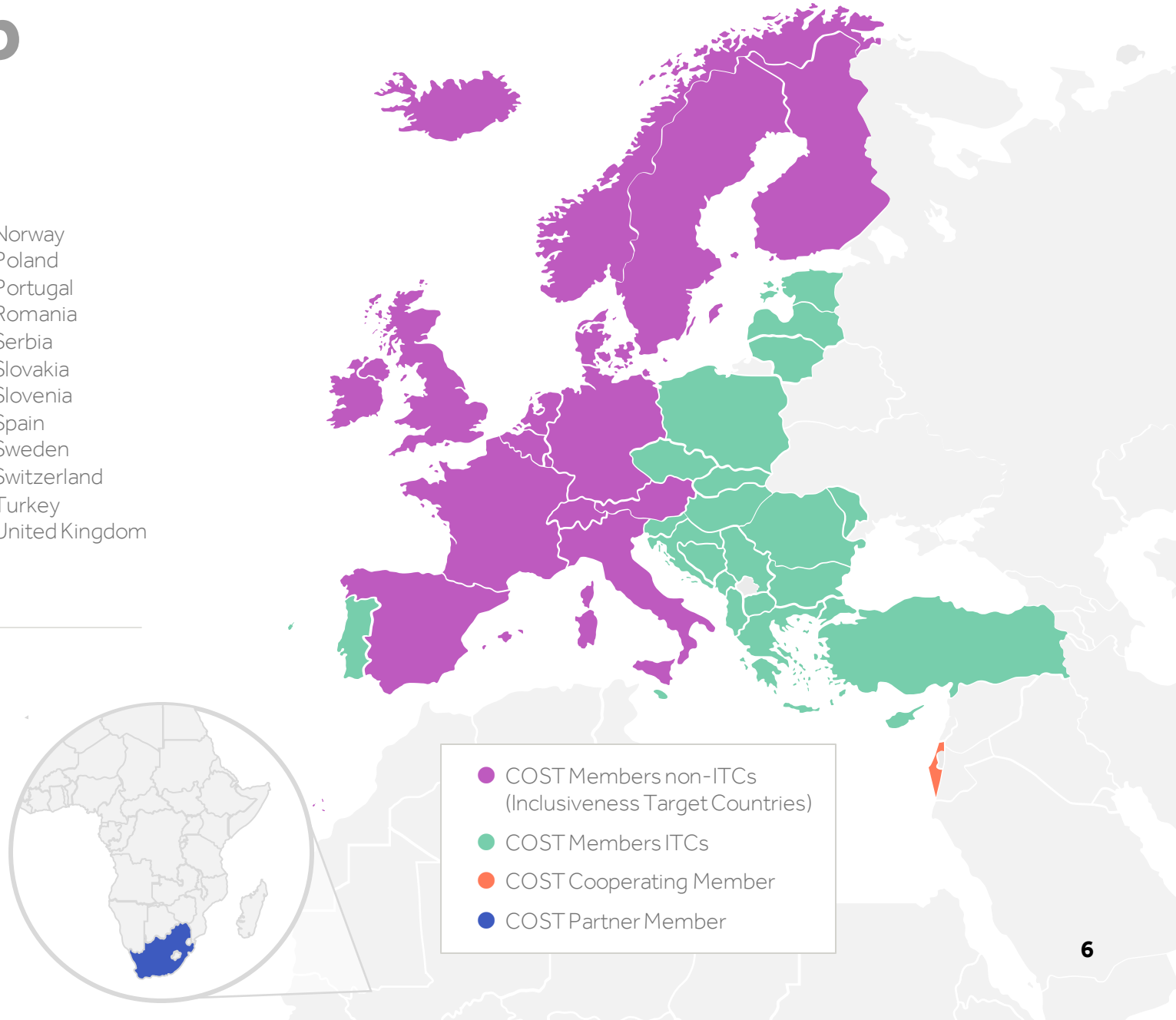
- Albania
- Austria
- Belgium
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- The Republic of Moldova
- Montenegro
- The Netherlands
- The Republic of North Macedonia
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Serbia
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Turkey
- United Kingdom

1 Cooperating Member

- Israel

1 Partner Member

- South Africa



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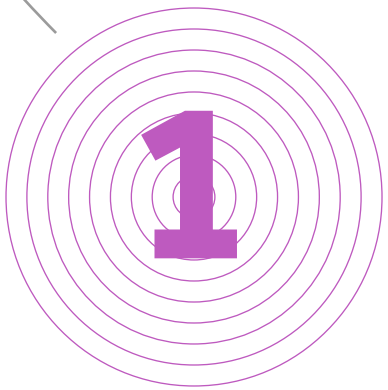
Role of COST in the ERA

3 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Promoting and spreading **excellence**

Fostering **interdisciplinary** research for breakthrough science

Empowering and retaining **young researchers**

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Benefits of participating in a COST Action

Scientific

Networking

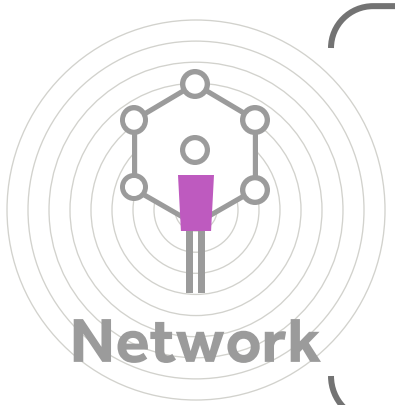
Career opportunities

Financial support

COST Actions

COST provides funding
for research coordination
and capacity building
activities

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



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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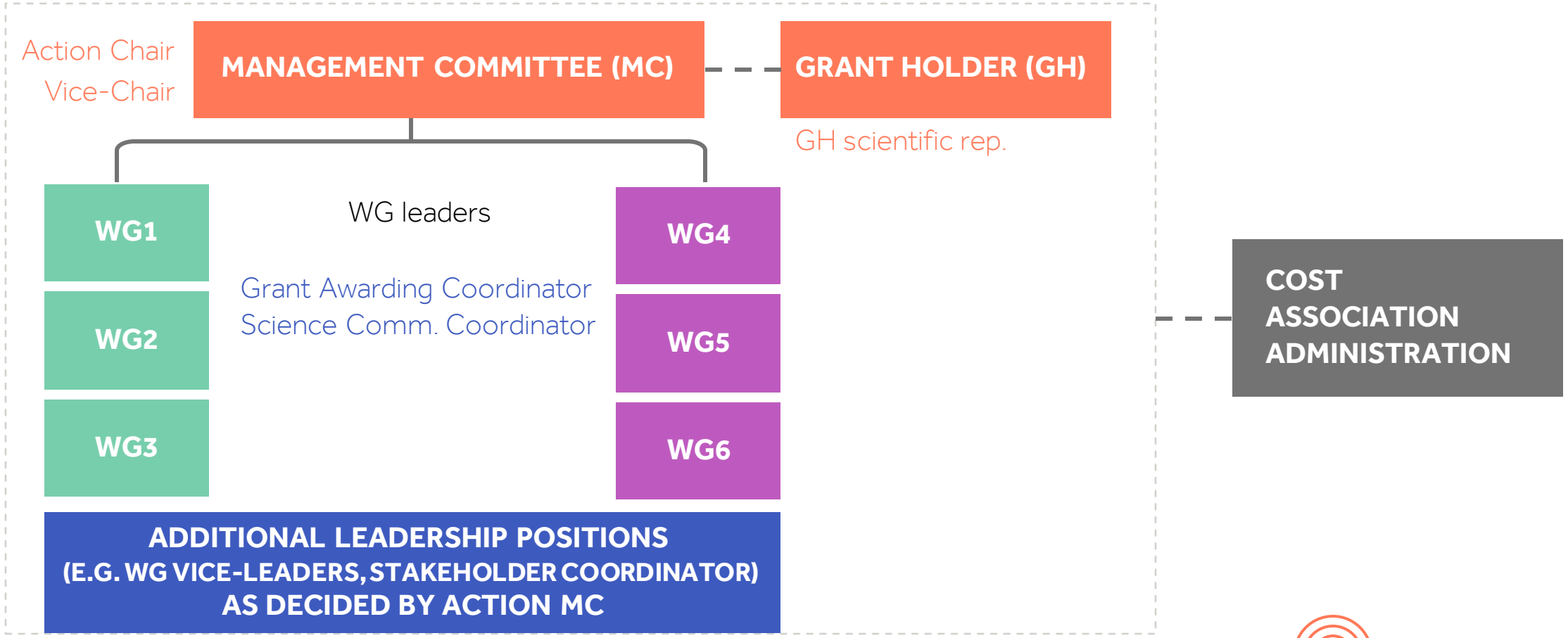
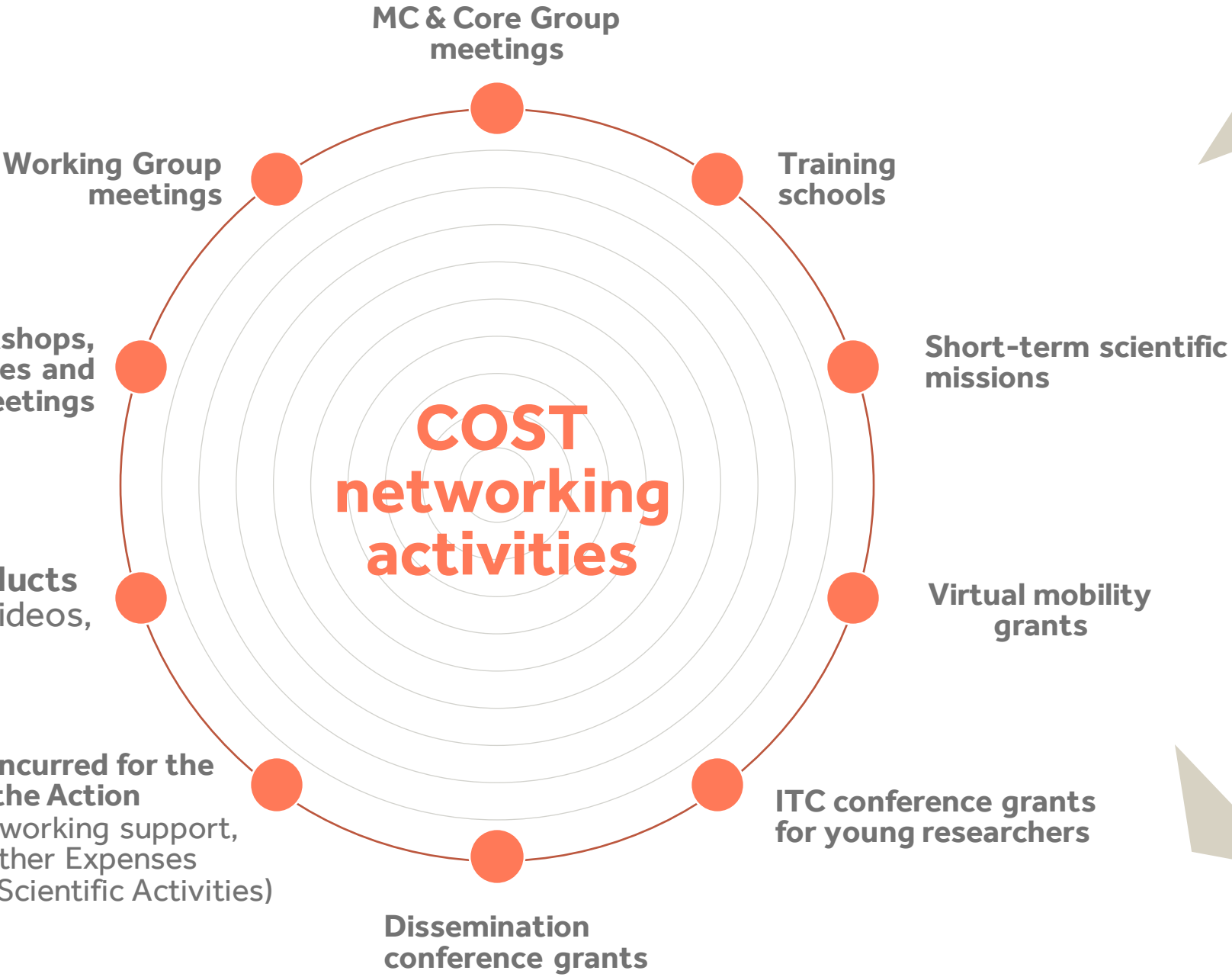
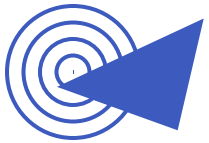
COST Action structure

AND LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

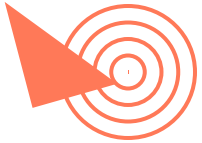



MC & Core Group meetings
Training schools
Short-term scientific missions
Virtual mobility grants
ITC conference grants for young researchers
Dissemination conference grants
Expenses incurred for the benefit of the Action (Virtual networking support, OERSA - Other Expenses Related to Scientific Activities)
Dissemination and communication products e.g. website, flyers, videos, publication costs
Workshops, Conferences and Other meetings
Working Group meetings
COST networking activities

Engage as a participant in a running Action (1/2)



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

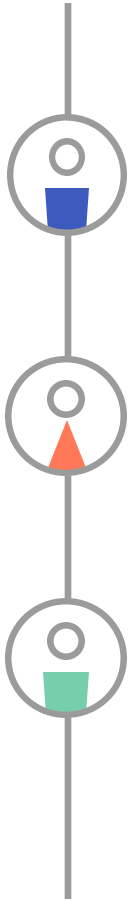


READ THE PROJECT PLAN (MoU) – identify your potential contribution

BROWSE THE ACTION'S OWN WEBSITE – check their activities

IDENTIFY THE OPPORTUNITIES to join the Action and your contact person

Engage as a participant in a running Action (2/2)

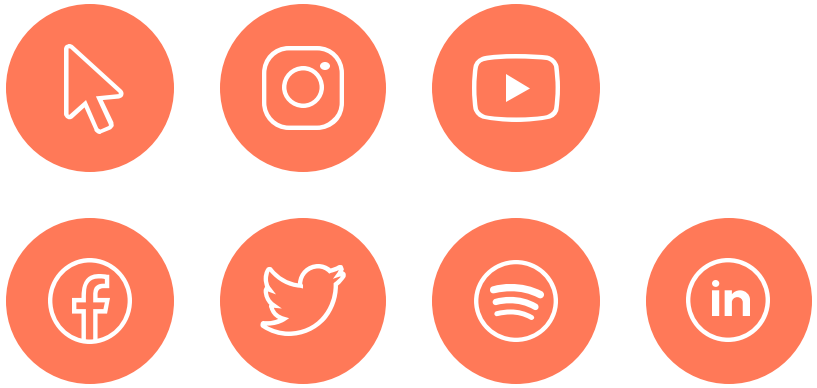


AS A MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (MC) MEMBER
(contact the COST National Coordinator)

AS A WORKING GROUP (WG) MEMBER
(apply for a WG via the Action website, contact the WG leader)

AS AD-HOC PARTICIPANT IN ACTION ACTIVITIES
(invited by Action MC or open participation)

THANK YOU!



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Session II

Which activities are funded?

Ms Jeanette Nchung Oru – Administrative Officer

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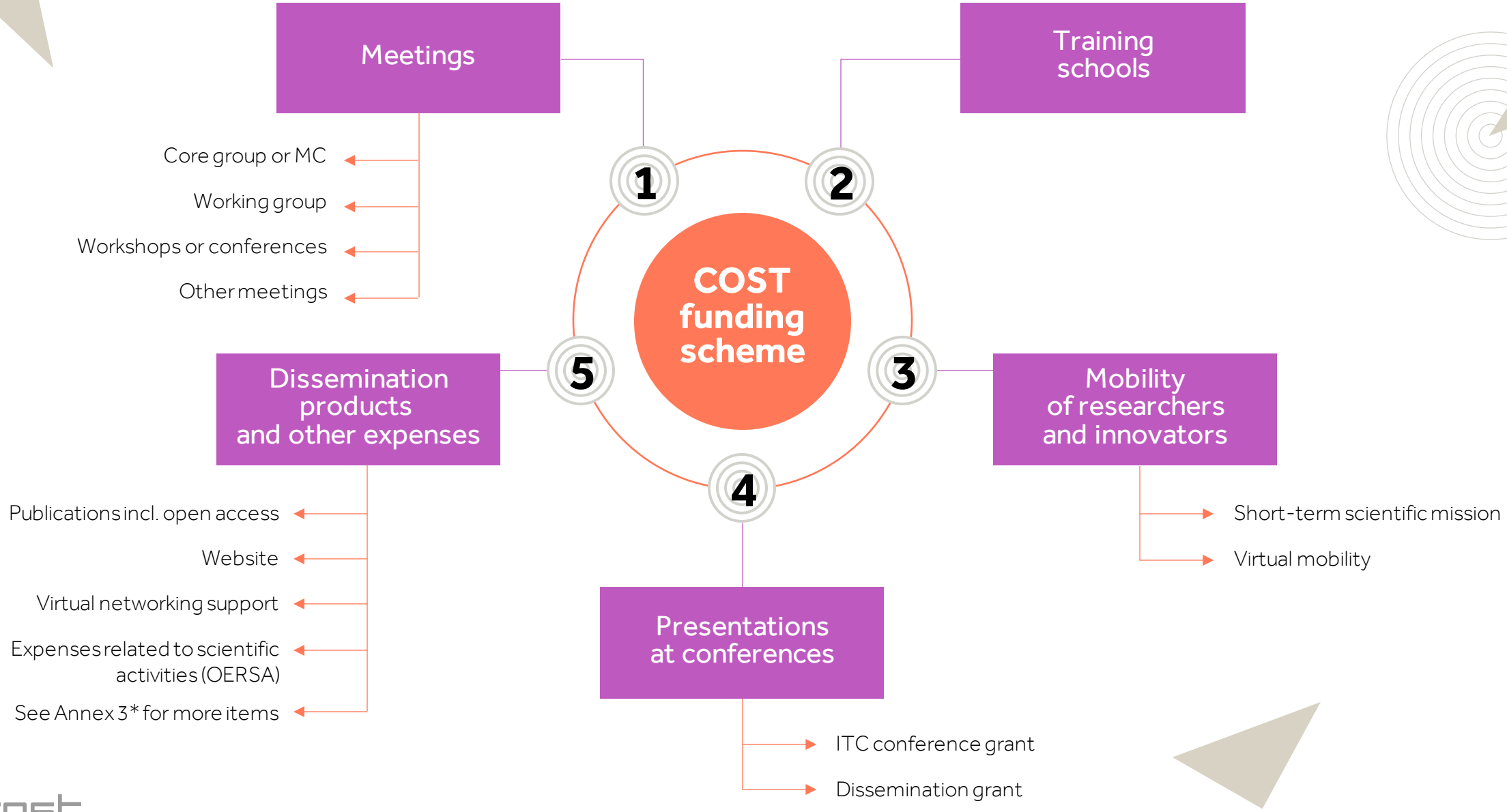

* See Annotated Rules for COST Actions

3 funding schemes

1. Daily Allowance
2. Grants
3. Invoices

3 funding schemes

1. Daily Allowance: Reimbursement for Meetings and Training Schools

Daily Allowance (DA) covers:

- ✓ Accommodation
- ✓ Meals
- ✓ Short distance travel : up to 100 km each way

No receipts required (to be uploaded)

Daily Allowance (DA)

- ✓ Daily Allowance is based on the country of the event (Meeting or Training School)
- ✓ MC can decide to lower the amount of the DA
- ✓ Training Schools: trainers and trainees can have different DA

Iceland	196
Ireland	200
Israel	185
Italy	190
Latvia	181
Lithuania	172
Luxembourg	194
Malta	183
Moldova	170
Montenegro	172
Netherlands	200
Norway	203
Poland	184
Portugal	185
Romania	177
Serbia	181
Slovakia	179
Slovenia	177
Spain	182
Sweden	188
Switzerland	198
the Republic of North Macedonia	181
Turkey	181
United Kingdom	210
Any other country	210

Long distance travel

- ✓ Any travel > 100 km to/from participant's place of affiliation and the meeting location
- ✓ Paid based on face-value
- ✓ Limited to plane, train, bus, car, and ferry
- ✓ Maximum of 1500 EUR for all travel

Plane	Train/Bus/Ferry	Car
E-ticket receipt - passenger name, dates and time, full itinerary, price	Receipt - dates, full itinerary, price	Proof of distance - 0.35 EUR per km, - max 2000 km on return

Travel cancellation insurance is eligible!

! The Action MC may decide to reduce the maximum amount.

LOS (Local Organiser Support)

Is a fixed **grant**, dependent on 3 factors:

- ✓ **Format:** Virtual/Online, Hybrid or Face to Face (F2F)
- ✓ **Number of people participating** based on the signed attendance list (F2F) and attendance logs (Online)
- ✓ **Duration** of the activity
- ✓ Grant is paid to an Institutional account and not to an individual

GRANT = No receipts required,

Grant Holder and LO follow their national and institutional rules

3 funding schemes

2. Reimbursement for Mobility of Researchers and Innovators and Presentations at Conferences Organized by 3rd parties : Grants

Reimbursement for Mobility of Researchers and Innovators : Grants

Mobility of Researchers and Innovators

- **STSMs**
- **Virtual Mobility**

Presentations at external Conferences

- **ITC Conference**
  - -Poster/oral
  - -ITC/NNC aged below 40 years
- **Dissemination Conference**
  - -strictly oral presentation as Invited Speaker

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What is the maximum grant amount for each type?

- STSM
  - ✓Up to **4000 EUR**

  -request to prepay 50% is possible but decision lies with GH Institution

- Virtual Mobility Grant
  - ✓Up to **1500 EUR**

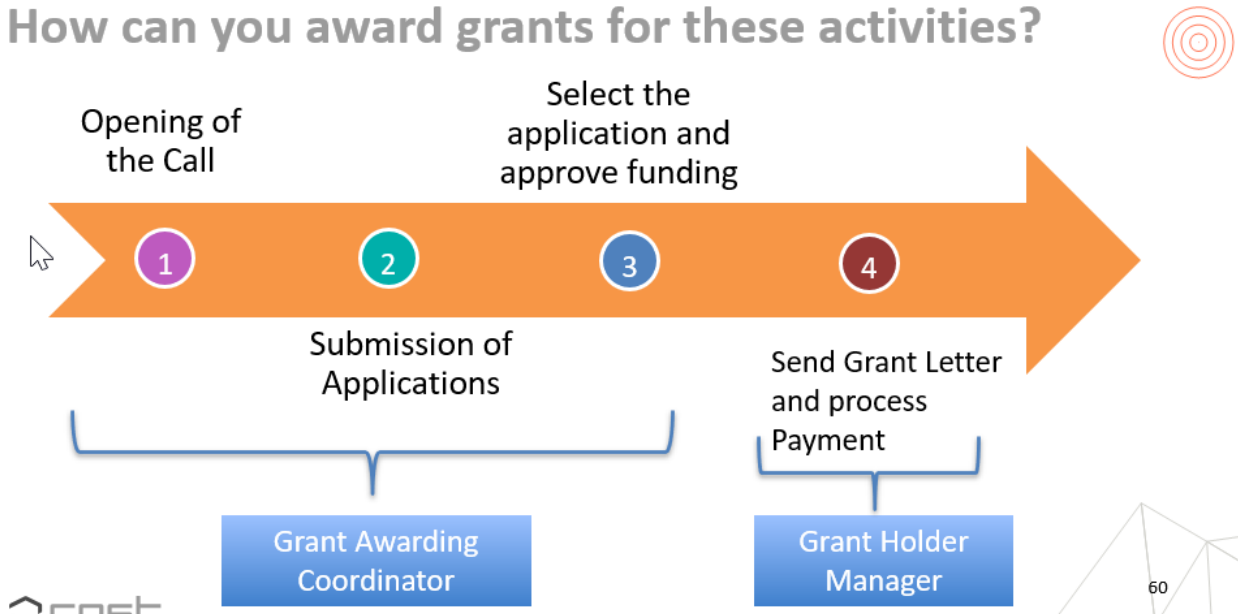
- ITC Conference Grants and Dissemination Conference Grants
  - ✓ Up to **2000 EUR** per grant for face to face conferences

  OR

  - ✓ Up to **500 EUR** for virtual conferences

Virtual Networking Support

- Promoting and supporting virtual and hybrid collaboration as a complement to traditional ways of collaboration within the research and innovation communities
- **Individual Grant (EUR 4000 per grant). Follow on e-COST the Grant Awarding Process.**
  - Selected by Open Call or identification of relevant participant.



3 funding schemes

3. Reimbursement based on Invoices: Dissemination and Communication Products

Dissemination and Comm. Products: Eligible expenses (based on invoices)

- Action Website
- Action logo
- Dissemination Materials
- Multimedia Content
- Information Materials
- Booth at a Conference or Commercial exhibition

Reimbursement of individuals

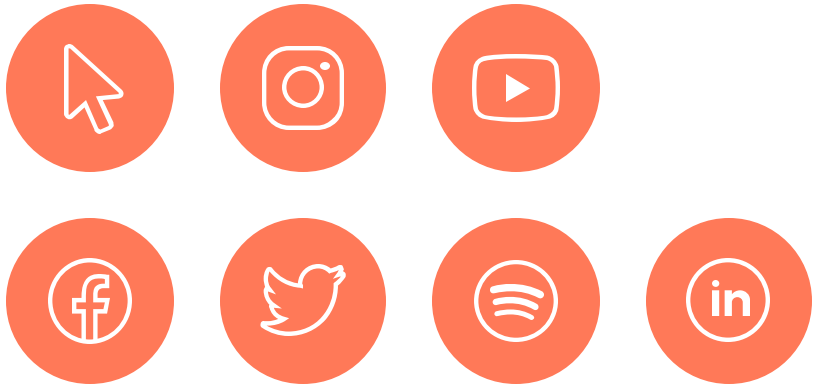
Affiliation to		Meetings		Training Schools			Other networking activities	
		Invited individual	Local Organiser	Trainer	Trainee	Local Organiser	ITC Conf Grant*	All others
COST Members	Legal entity in COST F/C Member	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Legal entity in CPM	At COST Partner Member's costs (dedicated budget line)						
Specific Organisations	EC/EU	At EC, EU body, office or agency cost (minimisation of cascade funding)						
	Eur. RTD Org.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
	IO	Once in the lifetime of the Action	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
NNC	Legal entity in a NNC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
IPC / Third States	Legal entity in an IPC	Once in the lifetime of the Action	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗

* ITC Conference Grants are limited to Young researchers and innovators from COST Inclusiveness Target Countries and NNC.

Location of Activities

		Meetings	Training Schools and other networking activities
Virtual Environment		✓	✓
COST Members	Full or Cooperating Members	✓	✓
	Partner Member	✗	✓
NNC		✓	✓
IPC/Third State		✗	✓
Specific Organisations		Rule applicable to territory where it is vested	

THANK YOU!



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Session III

How to prepare an Action proposal

Mr Christer Halen –
Policy Administrator

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Main Features

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:
20 October 2022
12:00 CET

www.COST.eu
opencall@cost.eu

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Open Call for proposals – how to apply

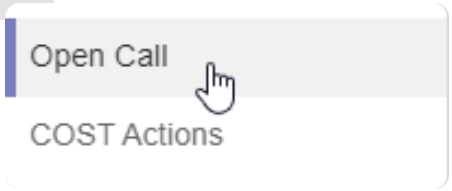
E-COST

1

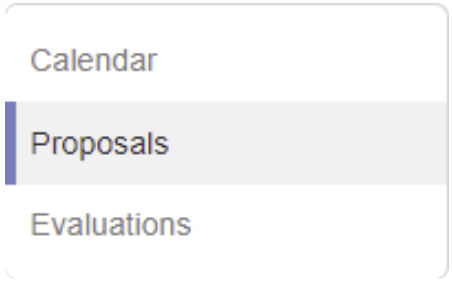
Create a COST account:
https://www.cost.eu/ecost

2

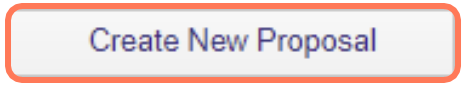
> Open Call



> Proposals



> Create new proposal



3

Proposal preparation and submission:
Online information
+ Technical Annex

Proposals

GENERAL FEATURES

TECHNICAL ANNEX

(www.cost.eu)

1. S&T Excellence
2. Networking Excellence
3. Impact
4. Implementation

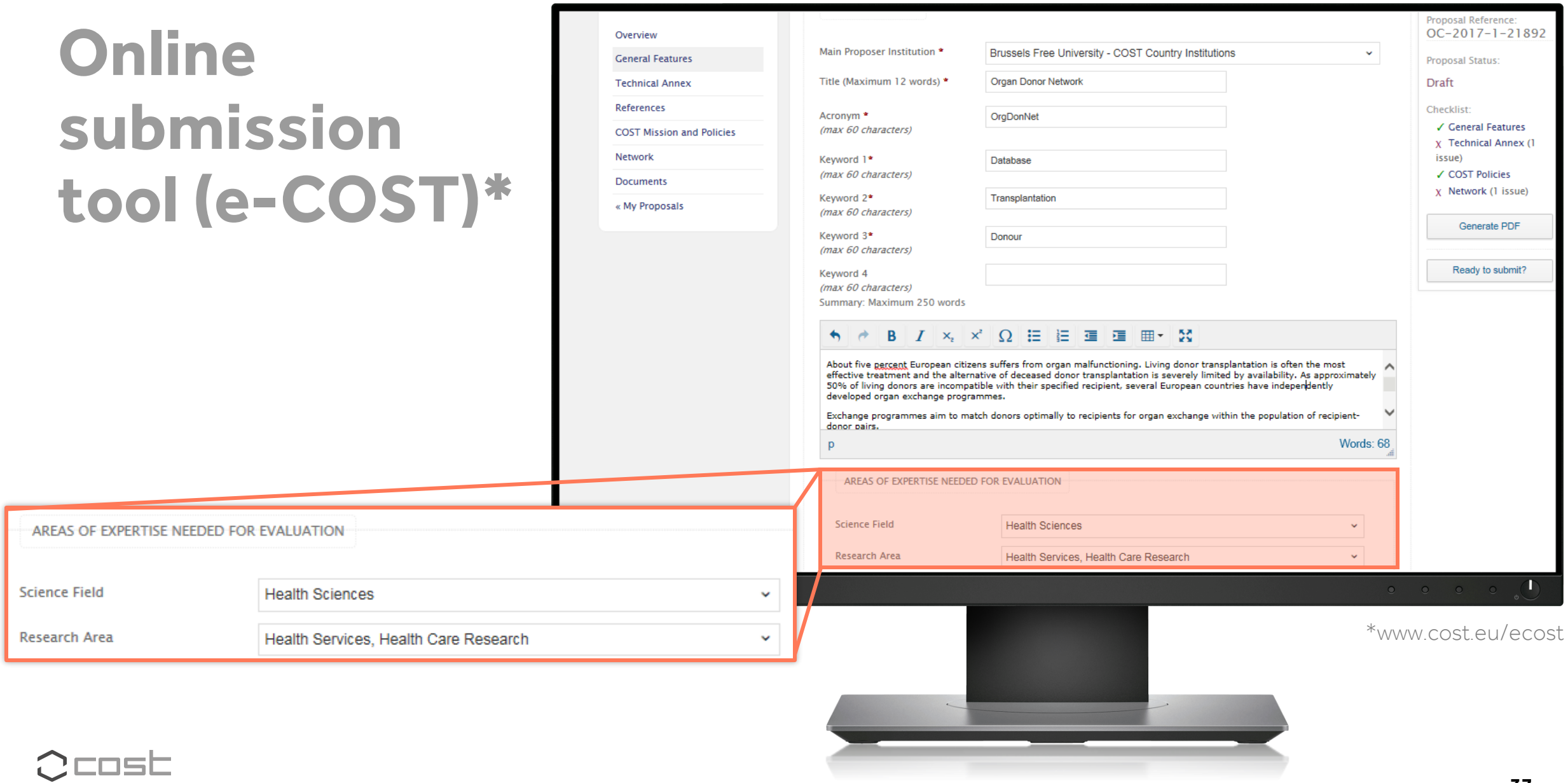
COST EXCELLENCE AND INCLUSIVENESS POLICY SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

NETWORK OF PROPOSERS

Proposals

GENERAL FEATURES

Online submission tool (e-COST)*



AREAS OF EXPERTISE NEEDED FOR EVALUATION
Science Field
Health Sciences
Research Area
Health Services, Health Care Research

*www.cost.eu/ecost

Proposals

GENERAL FEATURES

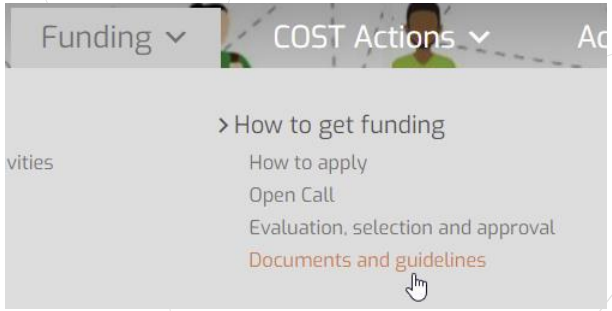
TECHNICAL ANNEX

(www.cost.eu)

1. S&T Excellence
2. Networking Excellence
3. Impact
4. Implementation

Proposals

GENERAL FEATURES



TECHNICAL ANNEX

(www.cost.eu)

1. S&T Excellence
2. Networking Excellence
3. Impact
4. Implementation

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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

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

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Proposals

GENERAL FEATURES

TECHNICAL ANNEX

1. S&T excellence
2. Networking Excellence
3. Impact
4. Implementation

COST EXCELLENCE AND INCLUSIVENESS POLICY SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy

PROMOTING THROUGHOUT ITS ACTIVITIES

GEOGRAPHICAL BALANCE (ITC)

AGE BALANCE (young researchers)

GENDER BALANCE

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

GENERAL FEATURES

TECHNICAL ANNEX

1. S&T excellence
2. Networking Excellence
3. Impact
4. Implementation

COST EXCELLENCE AND INCLUSIVENESS POLICY SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

NETWORK OF PROPOSERS

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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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

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)

All documents can be found on : https://www.cost.eu/funding/how-to-get-funding/documents-guidelines

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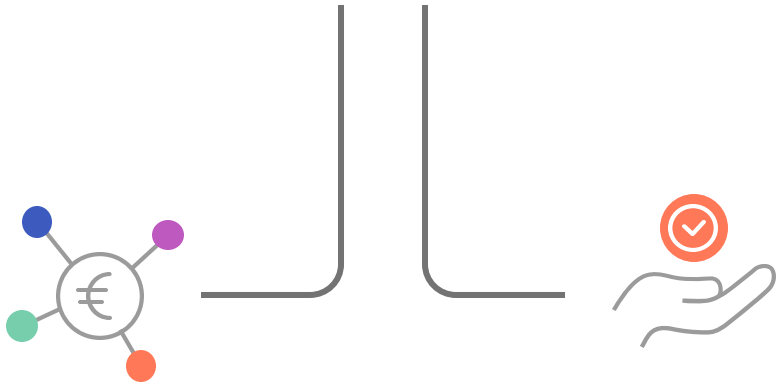
Become an external expert

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

Register to the expert database: https://www.cost.eu/ecost

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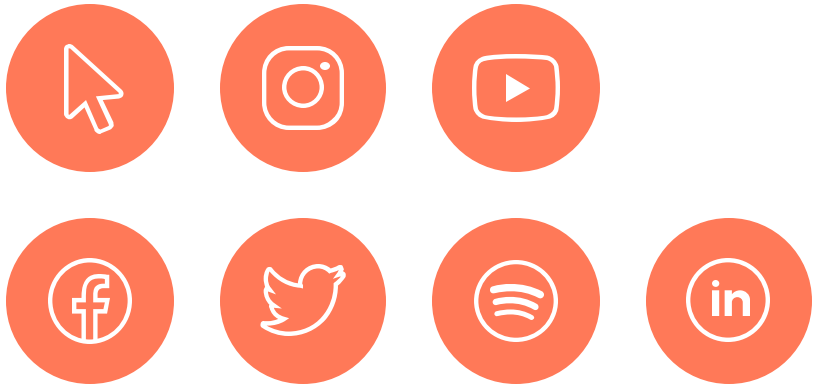
THANK YOU!



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