

Online COST Info Day Q&A document

18 February 2025

This document provides answers to the questions posted by attendees in the Q&A box of the Zoom webinar, in the YouTube live chats or sent to events@cost.eu.

Event webpage: <https://www.cost.eu/cost-events/online-cost-info-day-2025/>

Presentations: <https://www.cost.eu/cost-events/online-cost-info-day-2025/>

Recording: COST YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d593TcIFWIk&t=5064s>

More information about the COST Actions can be found in the [Annotated Rules](#)

The answers to the questions have been provided based on the applicable COST rules at the date of the webinar. These rules are regularly updated and may be subject to changes. In case of doubt, you can check COST rules on <https://www.cost.eu/funding/documents-guidelines/>

Questions unanswered during the webinar or further clarifications to the answers provided during the webinar are marked in *italic*.

YOUTUBE questions

Does this mean that applying for a grant for a research conference will reimburse the costs of travel and registration? Is this the same for scientific journal fees ?

Conference grants provide a contribution for travelling, accommodation and subsistence expenses, registration fee and overall effort.

Are the grants for PhD holders only? I may have missed this but where can I see this information? Also it does not support social science projects?

Networking activities organized through a Grant Awarding Process are for all researchers and innovators who are eligible to receive a grant, based on their country of affiliation. Our Actions cover all fields of science including Social Sciences.

Will this presentation be made available?

We will add them with the answers to the Q&A document on <https://www.cost.eu/cost-events/online-cost-info-day-2025/>

I'm from an eligible country and would like to propose my own, new project. Do I need to have partners from different countries?

Yes. There is a minimum requirement of 7 countries, and at least half of the countries shall be ITCs.

Are some topics more valued than others? For instance, mathematics topic is not so abundant as Biology. Would you give priority to mathematics?

COST is open to any topic.

If someone is registered as an external expert, can he/she also submit a new proposal in COST action?

You have an overview of the incompatibilities in page 11 (https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2024/11/COST-101-21-Submission-Evaluation-Selection-and-Approval-SESA-Level-B_version2.0.pdf)

How long does it take to receive the grant after application?

Once the activity has ended, the grantee submits the required report and relevant documentation in e-COST within 30 days. The report then needs to be approved by the Grant Awarding Coordinator. After approval, the Grant Holder Institution has 30 calendar days to process the payment.

However, STSMs grantees may request up to 50% pre-payment of the approved grant. This amount is subject to availability of funds and approval by the Grant Holder Institution. The request of pre-payment shall be submitted to the Grant Holder Manager.

How many countries is a good number to participate in the proposal?

To submit a proposal, there should be at least 7 countries participating. A minimum of 50% of these countries should be Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC). In the evaluation process, there is no other assessment related to the number of countries participating, provided the eligibility criteria mentioned above have been met.

Are there any limits for using ITC? In other words, can we benefit from it more than once?

If the question is related to ITC Conference grants, the grant awarding procedures are carried out by Actions themselves through a competitive process and all eligible candidates can apply to the calls. There are no limits to the number of applications. Actions have their own rules and criteria in place for awarding grants.

For instance, if I apply for a conference that will take place in 4 months, then I apply for the grant to COST, will the grant be received within 4 months or more?

The question is not clear. Please contact event@cost.eu if you need more information

ZOOM questions

Is there a mandatory TRL to be achieved at the end of a COST Action? Is there a technological obligation? Or is it carried out on a voluntary basis?

All ending Actions are assessed in their final assessment based on the achievement of their objectives and deliverables for the Action.

Our institution is a member of the International Society for Viruses of Microbes (ISVM), which will be organizing an international conference next year. Would it be possible to establish a COST Action and apply for funding to support this event?

COST Actions do not fund specific events, outside of an Action. You can apply with a proposal and if successful, you will get the grant to implement a diversity of networking activities throughout your Action lifetime.

According to the eligibility tool, third country participants may, once in the lifetime of a COST Action, have a participant reimbursed for attending a COST Action meeting as an invited individual or receive financial support to act as a trainer in a COST Action Training School. Does an international organisation not have the same possibilities?

Our indicator for reimbursement purposes is the country of affiliation.

According to page 60 of the [Annotated Rules](#): yes, as a trainer is possible, and also to be invited in a COST meeting once in the lifetime of a COST Actions (4 years).

As it was mentioned that actions can be joined afterwards by later members, how it is possible to define an action when members should still be flexible to join on that action?

Every year the work and budget plan is discussed between the Action and COST to define the budget needed based, among other criteria, on the number of COST countries represented in the Working Groups.

What is the minimum number of countries/members for a successful action proposal? or what is the minimum scope for a project idea?

7

The average of 34 countries per Action mentioned earlier on, does it refer to a new Action proposal or to Actions that have already started (snowballing, so to speak)?"

Snowballing :-)

Where can I find more info about 'Local Organiser Support'?

www.COST.eu, in the [Annotated Rules](#).

Do conference grants for young researchers get considered on October 21st too? The conference I'd like to attend (and have no funding to do so) is in the early October. Thank you!

No, the grant period for a COST Action starts as of November 2025

The 21st October 2025 is the collection date regarding new COST proposals. The networking activities are decided in the COST Action, including the calendar for the Conference Grants.

Is it possible to build on "old" actions for follow-up or broadening the scope?

Yes, as long as the proposal is anonymous.

Can a research group submit 2 proposals for a cost action?

In principle, yes, *providing there are different proposals.*

After submitting a reimbursement claim, approximately how long does it take to get reimbursed?

The Action Grant Holder must process reimbursements claims to Action participants within 30 calendar days after the end date of the activity. However, delays may occur due to availability of funds and/or internal reimbursement rules at the Grant Holder Institution.

Hello, this is probably in the rules and documents but a quick answer would be helpful to start planning-- do the costs for individual STSMs (long v. short) or costs for individual participants in virtual mobility need to be included in the proposal budget? How much flexibility is there for changes? Thanks!

No, that is too detailed for the proposal. Meetings and planning will take place later once the Action is approved and work and budget plan is established.

Please note that you do not need to provide a budget breakdown at the proposal stage, since the budget is allocated to the approved Actions by the COST Association on the basis of specific parameters and subject to budget availability.

If I well understand COST action does not fund any research activities but it does fund dissemination activities in international conference where action's results are communicated. Which kinds of results does COST actions produce if they are not research results? Could you pls elaborate on this further?

Thanks

It goes in all directions. Please check the "success stories" on our website to get a good overview

Can the NGO members participate in COST actions?

Yes, COST Actions are open to NGOs, SMEs, academia.....

In the call documentation for candidates, reference is made to the fees to be paid to external experts and review experts. who should cover these costs?

This is covered by COST.

Thank you for the very helpful and informative presentations. When thinking about a new COST Action application, can proposers be a combination of academics and people from other sectors (e.g. public and private organisations)?

Yes.

If a member in our Action is originally from an ITC, but is affiliated in another country's institution (for example, they are originally from Portugal but are currently working in France), are they still considered an ITC member, according to the COST criteria?

Affiliation counts.

Arial can we join your next training school?

This question has been answered live.

Does COST cover IRL workshops to build a Horizon consortium and brainstorm Horizon proposal?

No.

What is the maximum working groups should be proposed into any COST action?

There is no specific maximum, but more than 6 is not advised.

Under what circumstances can we involve participants from USA, Canada, Hong Kong etc in a new Cost Action?

Participation is opened to any relevant individual to the Action. May a participation require reimbursement, please check eligibility page of the [Annotated Rules](#) on p. 60. These are countries you mentioned are called International Partner Country (IPC).

Can a doctoral student be a secondary proposer?

Yes.

Can none-academic staff such as knowledge exchange of technology transfer colleagues lead work on behalf of academic colleagues?

In principle yes.

As I am currently working as a postdoc in Germany, should I apply from the same country, or can I apply from India as well?

The country of the institution to which you have a legal affiliation.

If PhD students want to attend a conference or other networking activities - who is applying for that? Is this the PI/group leader that has an account on the Cost website or everyone in that lab, who wants to be involved?

The PhD student him/herself.

You have told a lot about the grants for specific activities within the Action (conferences, workshops, mobility). Is there a financial support for conducting specific research within the Action? Is there a financial support for WG leaders and Action leaders?

No.

What will be funded? Personnel costs, travel expenses, fees, material costs, etc

No personnel cost, only travel expenses, accommodation, organizer fees, *some material but not infrastructure*. See website for all details.

Hi may i check will this session be shared as a recorded file? Thanks

<https://www.cost.eu/cost-events/online-cost-info-day-2025/>

When is the action management committee appointed in new cost action proposals? (Is it indicated as part of the application for a new proposal?)

From when the proposal is approved as COST Action, and until the end date of the Action, Management Committee members are nominated by the COST countries.

Do cost cover the work hours of persons administrating the cost action?

No

I can only find the cost actions on the webpage but not the working groups. Is there a direct link to them?

Yes, click on Working Groups tab

If the COST proposal was not accepted on the first attempt, can we send the same proposal again (of course keeping in mind the new technical annex)

Yes

If I understand correctly, members of COST actions do not necessarily have to be from academic institutions? Thank you!

No, can be SME, NGO, government agency. Only criteria is affiliation to a legal entity.