

COST Info Day 23 June 2020

Slido questions

Replied live

1. How one can find a potential COST consortium in a certain area? COST web site only lists those who are successful.
2. When you say VAT ineligible, what happens if the organisation is not in the VAT scheme and has to pay VAT?
3. It's hard to me to understand from the instructions what are actual milestones and objectives in the COST framework. Can you put some examples?
4. I would like to know how you define "early career researcher." You said 8y after PhD, but how do you take parental leave into account?
5. Is it possible to use COST funding for administrative personnel working for the cost (e.g., for reimbursement of missions)?
6. Is it possible to hire a subcontractor for communication and dissemination?
7. There was no proposal collection in April. What happened with the budget? Can we expect that the acceptance rate will drop from 12% to 6% this round?
8. Can we include non-COST countries such as China in a proposal (as I believe they will not receive any funding)?
9. Is it possible to hire a project manager for the COST action?
10. Effects of Brexit on participation of UK researchers?
11. Is there a maximum number of participants from the same country or institution within the country?
12. Are there any training sessions offered for writing or coordinating a COST Action proposal?
13. It would be useful to know how you recommend to deal with COVID issue since COST Actions are based on activities such as meetings, workshops ...
14. The collection rate will stay the same after the H2020 finishes? Will there be any other changes to the program in the next Horizon Europe program?
15. Is there a maximum number of participants in a COST proposal?

Pending

16. Following up on Laura CREAM's question: Is it possible to finance (sophisticated) technical equipment allowing for video conference meetings? Rental of equipment for a conference or a large meeting/training school is possible as outlined in the Local Organiser Support section in the Vademecum. However, in case of doubts, it is best to approach the COST Association to review the eligibility of the items before a commitment is issued.
17. Are costs related to personnel (i.e. employees' salaries) eligible? COST funding is for networking activities and does not fund personnel costs. Each Grant Holder Institution receives a maximum contribution based on the total eligible expenses declared that can be used for the administrative support of the management of an Action (see FSAC [Vademecum](#) page 13)

18. How many countries are eligible? COST Countries and Near Neighbour Countries are eligible for reimbursement. Only proposers affiliated to institutions in a COST country can submit proposals. And the minimum? 7 different COST countries in the proposal among them min 4 ITC countries. Can be 2 institutions of the same country be part of the same proposal? Yes
19. Can you confirm that only 7 participants (1 + 6) are formally required for the application? The minimum is 7 participants from 7 different COST countries among them 4 ITC countries
20. We submitted a COST proposal last year (2019), and we got a reject in April 2020 but with a good score. Can we improve and re-submit the proposal this year? Yes
21. How people WITHOUT a PhD are considered within the proposal? They are not taken into account for the calculation of the number and % of Early Career Investigators
22. How many people maximum from the same country and from the same institution? No limit, but keep a balance between countries
23. What was the threshold score to be funded in the last call? 47
24. BUDGET: is the budget calculated only according to the number of countries involved or also according to the number of people in the network? Only according to the number of COST countries
25. How can I include professionals as proposers in a COST Action. Individual freelancers can't join the network, but what about associations of freelancers? Anyone affiliated to an institution or company with a legal personality can participate
26. Can we limit the number of participants by country in order to keep a manageable network? the management committee has a limit of two persons by country and as the budget (and administrative support) grows with the number of countries it should allow you to manage a large network (for example more than 30 COST countries)
27. As an ERC Project PI, can I apply? Can I plan the COST action so that it works in synergy with the ERC project? Yes, but there should not be any double funding
28. ITC Conference fees can be covered for Master's students or other COST action participants or do they have to be ECI's or PhD students? No, they are reserved for PhD students, PhD candidates, and ECI's
29. What is the difference between the action management team and the core group? The core group is a subset of the MC comprising MC members in leadership position (its mandate is defined by the MC)
30. Hi! Super presentation :) Is there no kind of overhead budget for Grant Holders? The central coordination has to be done "also without running COST support"? There is an administrative support for the management of an Action (see FSAC in [Vademecum](#) page 13)
31. what are ITC conferences? ITC Conference Grants are aimed at supporting ECI and PhD students from Participating ITC to attend international science and technology related conferences, event or activity on the topic of the Action that are not organised by the COST Action.
32. Is it possible to hold the management committee meeting via videoconference? Yes
33. The answer about COVID is not really in line with Green Recovery isn't it. We should reduce international flights and shift more towards online meetings. In

COST we are convinced that presential events are a key factor of the success of the networking activities, especially at the beginning of the Action. However, the COST Association is indeed reflecting on ways to also contribute to the Green Recovery in the future and how to decrease the carbon footprint of the activities.

34. Any successful COST proposal example to get the inspiration? See Memorandum of Understanding of any of the latest approved Actions starting with CA191 (see <https://www.cost.eu/cost-actions/browse-actions/>)
35. What type of organisations can be secondary proposers? (E.g. Private companies). Yes, any person affiliated to an institution having a legal personality
36. We are an association representative of SMEs. We work with researchers, and also other stakeholders. Can we apply as main proposer? Yes, if your institution has a legal personality in one of the COST countries
37. Question for Dr Persson - can you provide an example of one of your short term scientific missions? Check <https://ecce.nu/Short> and <https://ecce.nu/workgroup/13-STSMs-participants>.
38. could you explain how resubmissions works? Re-submissions are considered as new submissions, as the panel of evaluators are renewed at each collection and rules might also be updated from one collection to the other is there a limit of proposals by a researcher? No
39. Is it eligible to have admin support to the Action Chair to help with the paperwork during the COST project? There is an administrative support for the management of an Action (see FSAC in [Vademecum](#) page 13)
40. Is it possible to apply for extension of the running COST action due to coronavirus outbreak with 6 months? As the traveling - main activity was not possible. Yes
41. On rules regarding Training Schools. Trainees eligible to be reimbursed. Can trainees from SMEs and non profit organizations be eligible for reimbursement? Yes
42. Can a COST action be mainly directed to the scientific training of practitioners and to the exchange science to practice? This is indeed possible in the context of the research coordination and capacity building objectives of the Action, if properly justified by the main challenge and the progress needed and in the state of the art.
43. I'm new to COST, I wonder if my organisation (A Swedish government agency that responsible for regional healthcare services) can be interested for COST action? (edited) You are welcome to participate
44. Does COST support mid-stage researchers? It supports researchers at any stage of their career, with specific measures for young researchers
45. If the EC decide to suspend Israel from EU-grants in case the annexation happens, does this affect COST as well? COST is inter-governmental, separate from the EU
46. is Budget making required? No, it is negotiated after approval and based on the number of COST countries in the Action
47. Are the Secondary proposer/ participating countries need for registration on the cost website like getting the PIC number that we usually do in the EU projects? Secondary proposers need to register to the e-COST database
48. Does the COST cover staff time? If I am dedicating 5% of my time to participate in the COST activities. Can this be paid to my university? If your

- Institution is selected as Grant Holder, a maximum contribution based on the total eligible declared that can be used for the administrative support of the management of an Action (see FSAC [Vademecum](#) page 13).
49. are Australian universities eligible as participants? **Yes, they can join but without financial support from COST**
 50. How people WITHOUT a PhD are considered within the proposal? Thanks **They can be secondary proposers. There is no educational or degree requirement to join a proposal.**
 51. Is there a difference, and if yes what is it, between the Action chain, the grant holders, the COST managers and stake holders? **For the different roles, see [guidelines for Action management](#) page 14-18**
 52. Can a newly established network of academics and practitioners apply for COST funding or can one only apply in a direct response to a call? **Participants are applying individually not in the name of a network (anonymity). In case of pre-existing network, be aware that COST networks are open and that the objectives should be specific to the COST Action and to the challenge mentioned in the Memorandum of Understanding.**
 53. Who will be the budget holder, action chair or the management committee? Can we pay someone from this budget to help with the finances? **One of the institutions in the Management Committee**
 54. will the evaluators see section of the applicants CV? **No**
 55. Which contributors need to get an approval from the Cost national coordinators: project leader, management committee, members of the working groups? **Only the MC members (and substitutes) need to be nominated by the CNC**
 56. BUDGET: Do Near Neighbour Countries (NNCs) and International Partner Countries (IPCs) count when determining the budget? **No, but top-up to the budget can be added to the budget when NNC participate in an Action**
 57. The 50% rule for ICT concerns percentages of ICT countries participating or partners from ICT countries participating? **ICT countries participating**
 58. Martin mentioned that most people focus on the idea, and not on other aspects of the proposal. Can he repeat these aspects? **Check in the video recorded.**
 59. It is unclear in the instructions how general or precise objectives must be, for instance mention specific diseases or just talk about a wide area of healthcare **Objectives should be specific**
 60. Are there new countries to be included in future, for instance Ukraine? **No, not for the moment**
 61. How do you set up your network and manage expectations: e.g. if > 2 people per country sign up, but only 2 can be in management, how do you select/discuss this? **The team could discuss this among themselves, rotations in the MC can be envisaged**
 62. Can I join an action at any moment? **Yes, see activities on the Action website. There are some restrictions in the last year (a new country cannot join the MC in the last year)**
 63. Any problems determined by COVID on meeting in presence? **The COST Actions activities were officially stopped until April 2020, and the COST Association recommends not to organise any event before September 2020. But this has to be checked according to the health and safety regulations from**

each country and travel possibilities. The best is to discuss with the Science Officer responsible for the Action.

64. Confused about participation of different countries and how we can choose and their eligibility? Participants from COST Countries and Near Neighbour Countries are eligible for reimbursement. second eligibility criteria of the main proposer? Only proposers affiliated to institutions in a COST country can submit proposals. education? There are no educational requirements to participate (but there are specific measures for young researchers)
65. Is there any open call planned in 2020? Collection date: 29 October 2020
66. Our organization sent a newsletter requesting to become a member COST 18220. early in March. Please tell me how long it takes to wait for the final answer? You should check with the [COST National Coordinator](#) of your country
67. Can the ITC country be a main coordinator (e.g. Bosnia and Herzegovina)?
Yes
68. Shouldn't the FSAC adjusted to the country of the grant holder, similar as the daily allowances are? This is currently not planned
69. How are costs for 'special assistance' handled (e.g. for sign language interpreting to ensure access for deaf academics)? While in general, translation and interpretation costs are not an eligible item, depending on the case and occurrence, special provisions can be considered for individual participants requiring special assistance. For these cases it is best to approach the COST Association to review the eligibility of the items before a commitment is issued.
70. How can I include professionals as proposers in a COST Action. Individual freelancers can't join the network? Any person affiliated to an institution having a legal personality can join