COST Open Call evaluation
Getting involved as a COST Expert

25 February 2021

COST Open Call

- Open to all scientific and technological (S&T) fields (bottom-up)

- Promoting scientific, technological, economic, cultural and societal innovation in Europe

- Reducing 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

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COST
Open Call

When? — Next Collection : 29 October 2021 – 12:00 CET

What? — One stage online submission of proposals e-COST account

Who? — Main proposer (and secondary proposers)

How many? — 40 – 45 Actions approved per collection

Step 1: External remote evaluation

3 Independent External Experts
Individual Evaluation + Consensus Evaluation

SESA
Submission
Evaluation
Selection
Approval

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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Step 1: External Remote Evaluation

- Proposals are evaluated **only** on the basis of the **evaluation criteria**

S&T EXCELLENCE	NETWORKING EXCELLENCE	IMPACT	IMPLEMENTATION
■ Soundness of the Challenge *(Q1)*	■ Added value of networking in S&T Excellence *(Q4)*	■ Impact to science, society and competitiveness, and potential for innovation/break-throughs *(Q7)*	■ Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan *(Q10)*
■ Progress beyond the state-of-the-art ■ *(Q2, Q3)*	■ Added value of networking in Impact *(Q5, Q6)*	■ Measures to maximise impact *(Q8, Q9)*	
Total marks for the section = **15 points**	Total marks for the section = **15 points**	Total marks for the section = **15 points**	Total marks for the section = **5 points**
TOTAL MARKS AWARDED = 0 - 50 points **OVERALL THRESHOLD = 34 points**			

Benefits of getting involved as COST Expert

- **Insight** into the latest developments and trends of a scientific field

- By evaluating proposals, prospective COST Action proposers can **learn a lot on what makes a proposal 'excellent'**

- Building **reputation** in the research community as a COST expert

- Contributing to the **COST programme impact** and success

- **Honorarium** of 50 EUR per proposal evaluated (100 EUR if selected as proposal Rapporteur to coordinate the consensus process among assigned experts).

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Two steps (with different deadlines)

1. Individual evaluation -> Individual Evaluation Report
2. Consensus evaluation -> Consensus Evaluation Report

Individual evaluation

- Familiarise with COST framework and Open Call guidelines
- COST Action proposals are compact (max 15 pages) and have the same structure (based on standard template)
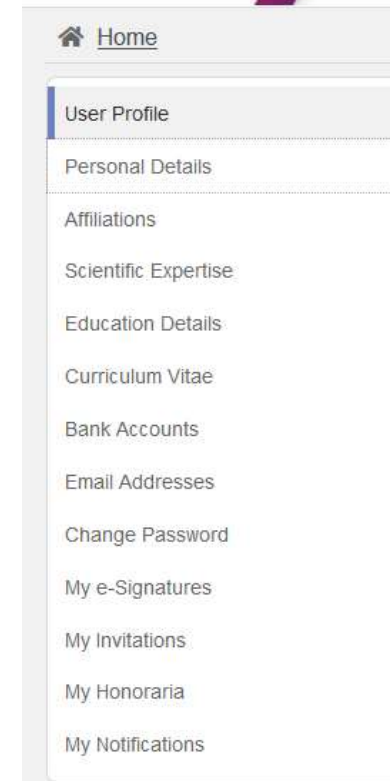
Consensus evaluation

- Specific roles: one rapporteur drafting the consensus report, two 'voters' to contribute and approve the draft consensus.
- Well coordinated communication among experts is time effective

Registering as a COST Expert on e-COST

The COST Expert database is not linked to any other expert database (e.g. EC expert db)

1. Create an e-COST account

2. Complete all sections of the user profile relevant to your expert profile

3. Under 'Scientific Expertise', provide consent to be included in the COST Expert database

Home
User Profile
Personal Details
Affiliations
Scientific Expertise
Education Details
Curriculum Vitae
Bank Accounts
Email Addresses
Change Password
My e-Signatures
My Invitations
My Honoraria
My Notifications

☑ I agree to be included in the COST Expert database and to be contacted by the COST Association to contribute to the evaluation and any other scientific activities related to COST (*).

(*) You can be invited to either take part (1) in the Open Call evaluation as an external expert; (2) in Open Call as review panel member; (3) in the monitoring of COST Actions.

Please note: You will need to register contact details of your Institution and upload a CV so we can correctly match your expertise with proposals.
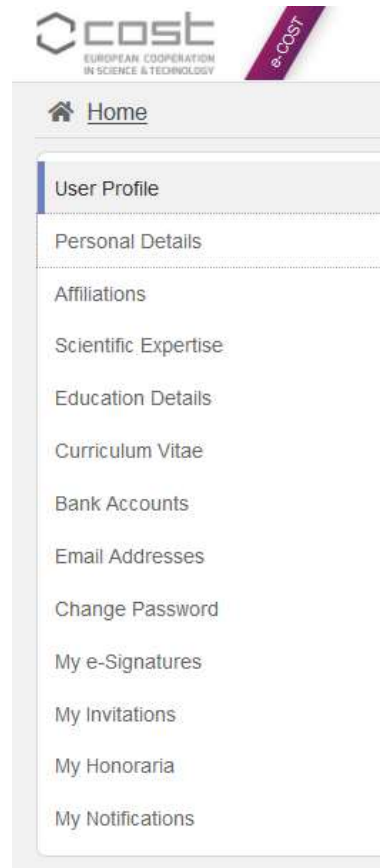
COST Expert background and expertise

1. Specify 1 core expertise (science field + research area)

2. Specify additional "Other expertise", including level of confidence (Basic / Medium / High)

3. If your research area is not included, you may specify "user-defined" expertise areas (for keywords matching)

Tips:

- Do not specify more than 10 most relevant expertise areas

- Update expertise areas in line with your career development

Open Call evaluation: optimise your chances to be selected

Experts are selected based on proven expertise in their fields, matching with the areas of expertise required by the proposals

Provide all the elements describing you as expert in your field

- Upload CV in English and update it regularly (every 1-2 years)
- Include in the CV all relevant experience, such as evaluator for scientific journals, conferences or funding programmes
- Specify professional homepage
- Create researcher identifier ORCID "Open Researcher and Contributor ID"
- Create researcher profile on Google Scholar and other academic networks
- Search your name in the web -> is your expert profile sufficiently visible?

Once invited to evaluate a COST Action proposal…

- Familiarise with the COST framework and with the Open Call SESA guidelines (regularly updated)

- Respect the deadlines

- Put yourself in the shoes of the proposers: provide useful and constructive comments, which can help improving the proposal if not funded

- Contact the COST Association in case of need (opencall@cost.eu)

Thank you for your attention

Get involved as a COST Expert!

Contact us: *opencall@cost.eu*