Update from the COST Association to the Management Committee

Dr. Lucia Forzi - Science Officer

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COST Association organisation and relation with other actors

Ministerial Conferences (every five years)

Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) - *General Assembly*

Executive Board

COST Association

COST Association Administration (incl. SOs, AOs)

Scientific Committee (SC)

COST National Coordinators (CNC)

COST Actions

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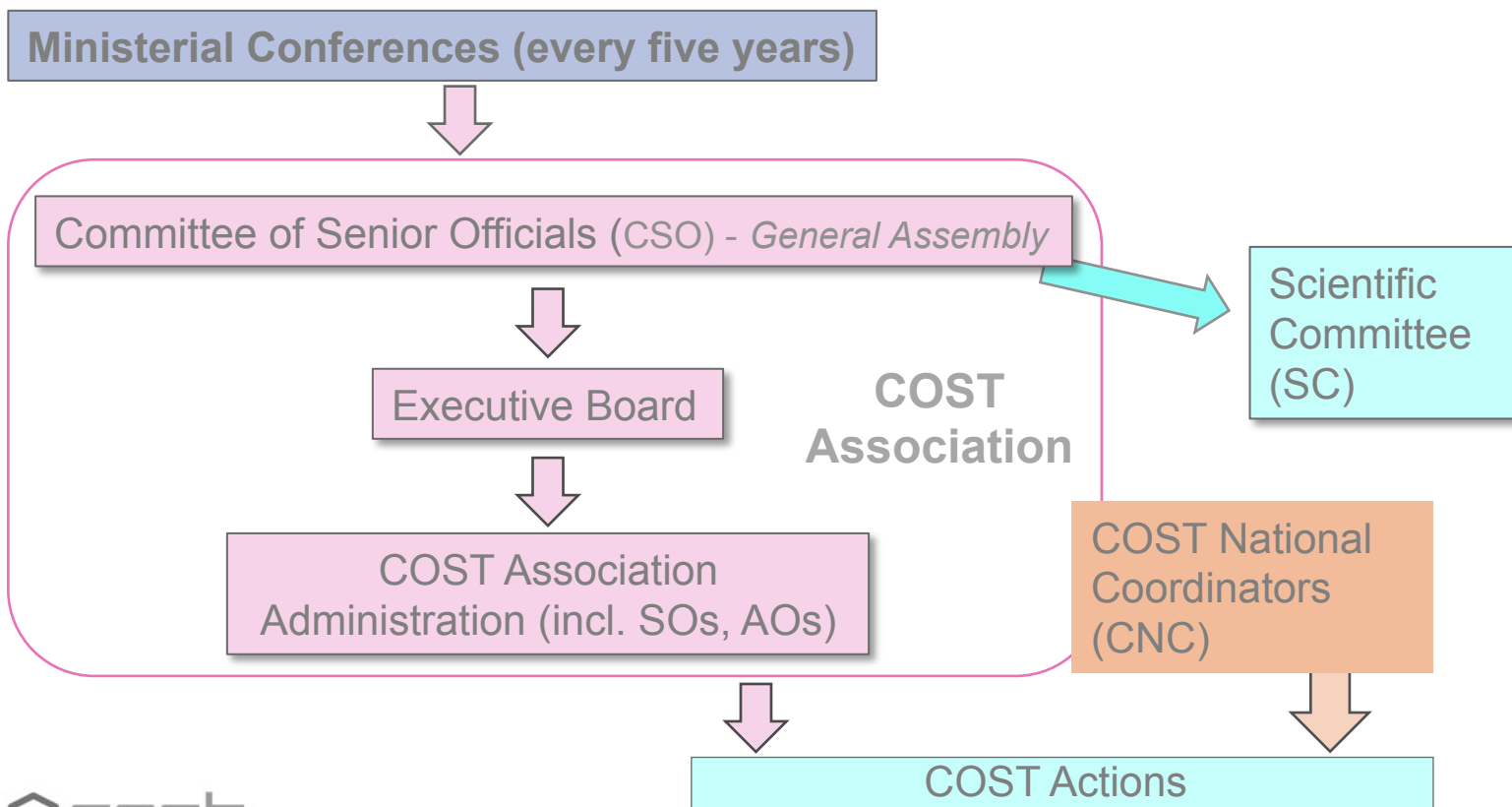
37 COST Members

- ● **EU 28**

- ● **EU Candidates and Potential Candidates**
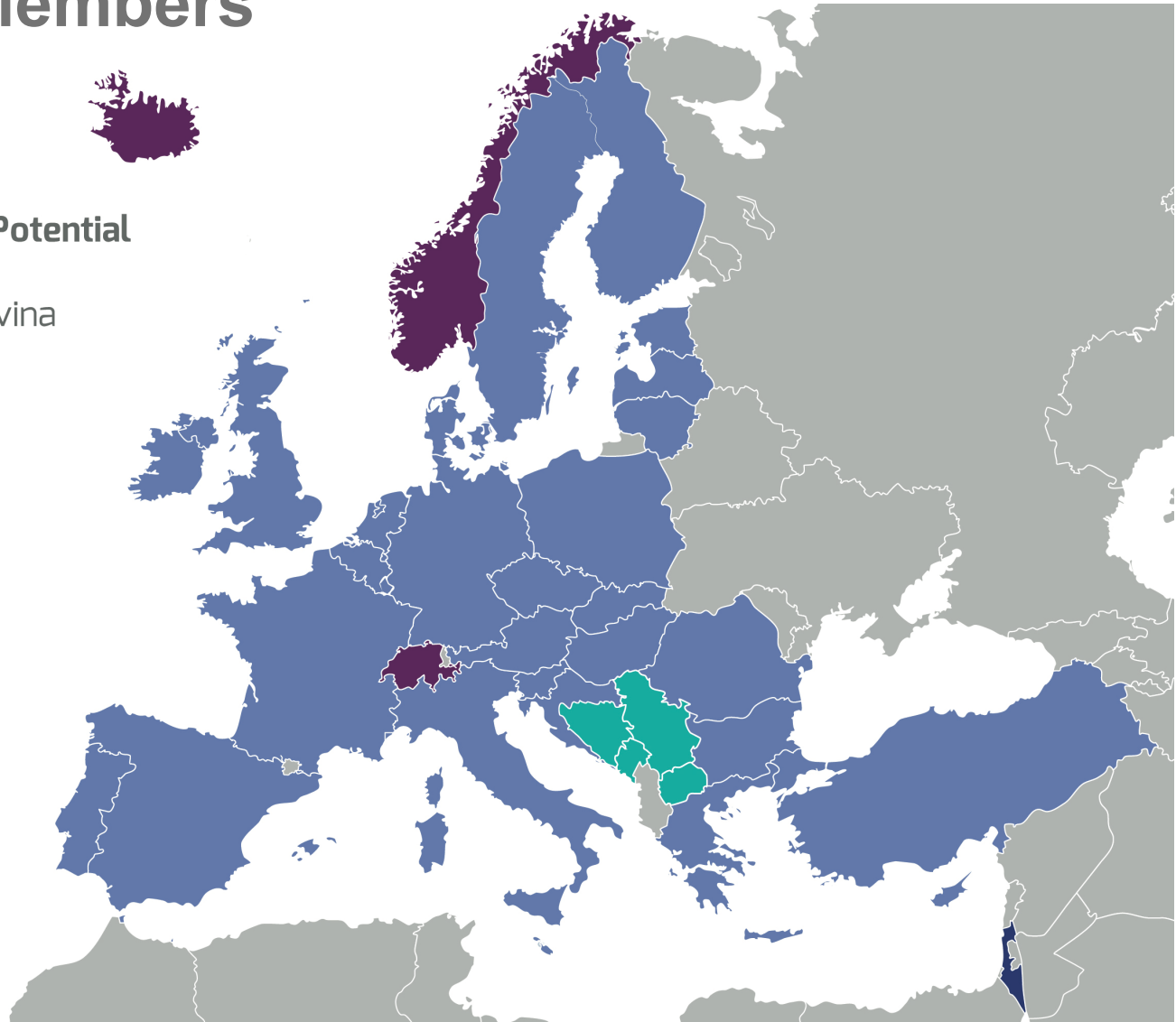 Bosnia and Herzegovina
  fYR Macedonia
  Montenegro
  Republic of Serbia
  Turkey

- ● **Other countries**
  Iceland
  Norway
  Switzerland

- ● **COST Cooperating Member**
  Israel

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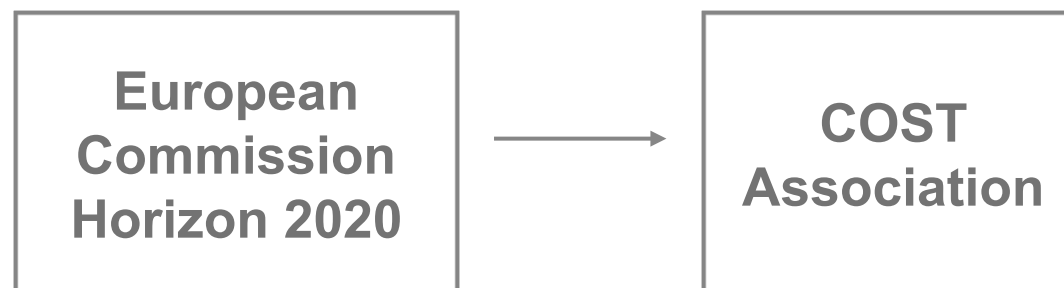
EUR 300 million for 7 years from two H2020 work programmes:

- *Challenge 6 "Europe in a changing world – inclusive, innovative and reflective Societies"*

- *"Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation"*

European Commission Horizon 2020	→	COST Association

COST Policy

Additionally, specific objectives:

- SME and Industry cooperation
- International Cooperation

Geographical coverage

Excellence and Inclusiveness

Early Career Investigator

Gender

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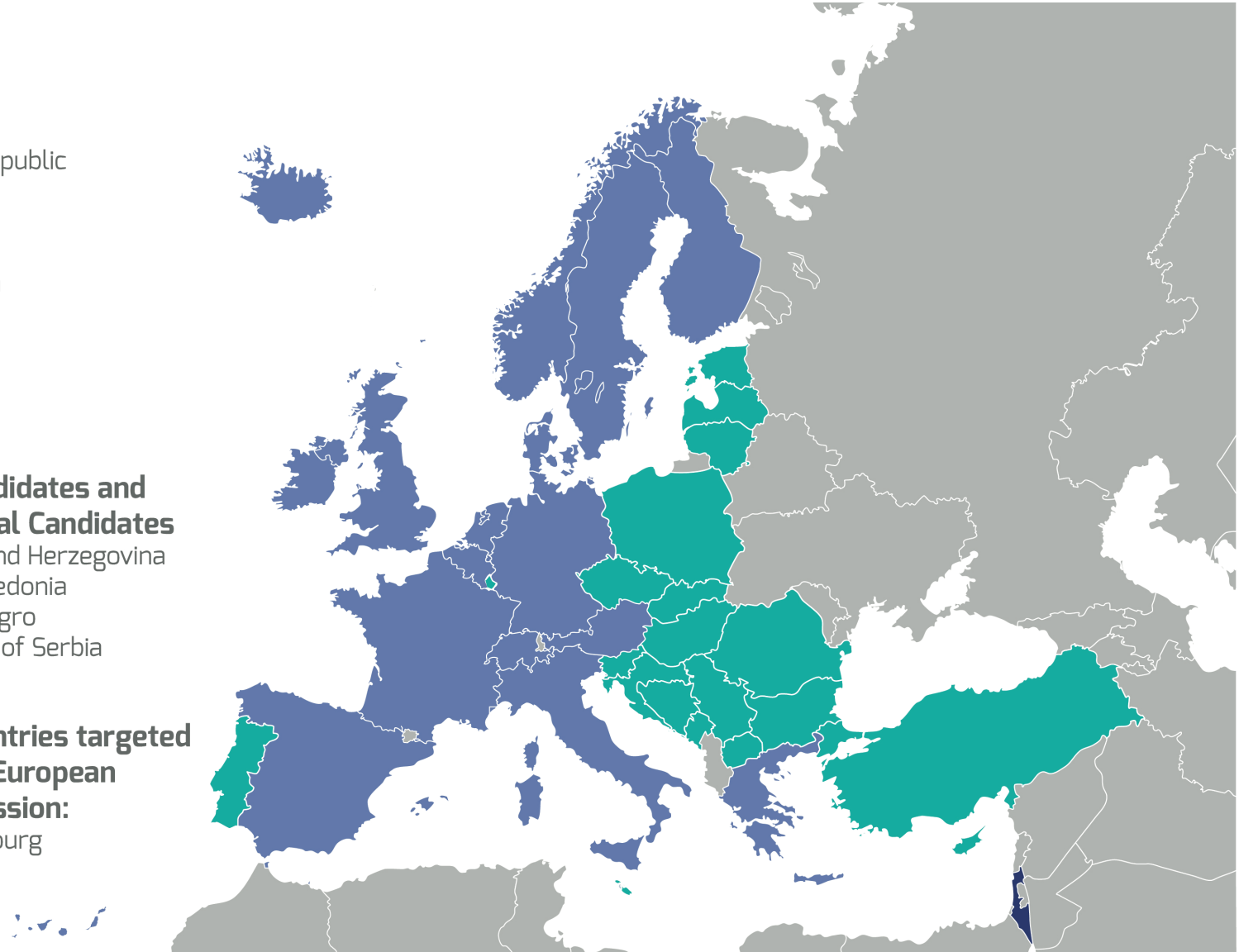# COST Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC)

● EU 13
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Estonia
Hungary
Latvia
Lithuania
Malta
Poland
Romania
Slovakia
Slovenia

EU Candidates and Potential Candidates
Bosnia and Herzegovina
fYR Macedonia
Montenegro
Republic of Serbia
Turkey

EU countries targeted by the European Commission:
Luxembourg
Portugal

Inclusiveness Target Countries

In H2020 COST aims to:

- **Connect 'pockets of excellence'** in science and technology operating from diverse locations in Europe

- **Encourage and enable researchers from less research-intensive countries** across the COST Members to set up, lead, join COST Actions

- **Counterbalance research communities unequal access** to knowledge infrastructures, funding and resources distribution

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Early Career Investigators & Gender Balance

Early Career Investigators ➡ PhD + up to 8 years
- Strong involvement of Early Career Researchers in the Action

Good gender balance in the Action
- Strong involvement of underrepresented gender in the Action

Implementing COST policy in the Action

- Leadership roles in the Action structure (e.g. Grant Holders, WG Leaders)
- Benefiting from COST networking tools (in particular STSM and Training Schools)
- Organizing and locating Action meetings and events
- Promoting STSMs
- Promoting Conference Grants

SME and Industry Cooperation

Aiming to facilitate/ encourage industry participation

- Participation in networking activities
- Session dedicated to industrial participation at Action events
- Roundtable discussions with industrial partners at Action events
- STSMs with industry acting as home/ host institution

International Cooperation

Aiming to support the involvement of researchers from Near Neighbour and International Partner Countries in COST Actions on the basis of mutual benefit.

- Approved IPC and NNC Institutions can host STSMs
- Researchers from approved NNC Institutions can:
  o Apply for STSMs
  o Attend Training Schools
- Researchers from approved IPC and NNC Institutions can be Training School Trainers

Monitoring and Final Assessment of Actions

- achievement of MoU objectives and deliverables

- contribution to the COST Mission and implementation of COST policies

- dissemination and exploitation of COST Action results

Monitoring and Final Assessment of Actions

Type	Time (months)	Content	Assessment / Evaluation by
Progress Review 1	12	Implementation of SC Recommendations & COST Policy on Excellence and Inclusiveness	Scientific Committee
Progress Review 2	24	• Progress • Impacts and successes • Dissemination & Exploitation • Urgent needs for improvement	Independent External Expert
Final Assessment	48	• MoU Achievements • Expected Impact & Successes • Dissemination & Exploitation • Added value of the networking • Success stories • Emerging themes/ potentially important future developments	Independent External Expert

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CA16224: Monitoring - PR1 (month 12)

- e-COST based reporting by Action Chair on behalf of MC
- Data provided by the COST Association – Comments provided by the Action (% of ITC, ECIs, Gender in the Action MC and how these % are related to the allocation of Action leading roles)
  - Comparison between proposal stage and Action implementation, as well comparison to the average of all Actions
- SC Recommendations & COST Policy on Excellence and Inclusiveness (*from the proposal stage*):

  "The contingency plan takes into account potential participants who showed interest; this needs to be firmed up and enacted in order to realise involvement from the wide range of stakeholders proposed. The roles and involvement of early career investigators needs to be clarified and better efforts need to be made to involve female participants."

- SC analysis and outcome of PR1 either:
  - implementation **sufficient**
  - implementation **insufficient but plans adequate** - *repeat policy implementation monitoring in 1 year*
  - implementation **insufficient and plans inadequate** - *Action to meet with SC*

MC meeting

Use this meeting to:

1) Ensure how to achieve the goals identified for GP1

2) Start to identify goals for GP2

→ The aim is to achieve the **MoU objectives** and **deliverables** agreed with the COST Association

WBP (GP1)

Grant Agreement Period Goals

Number	Grant Agreement Period Goal	MoU Objective(s) it relates to
GAPG 1	Scope and plan WG1 work and document initial activities on assessment of current capacities for pan-European raptor biomonitoring for 2-3 REACH priority contaminants	• Secondary objective 1 • Secondary objective 4
GAPG 2	Scope and plan WG2 work and document initial activities on assessment of current capacities for pan-European raptor biomonitoring for 2-3 PPPs/biocides/NSAIDs	• Secondary objective 1 • Secondary objective 4
GAPG 3	Scope and plan WG3 work and document initial activities on review of existing raptor collections in Europe	• Secondary objective 2 • Secondary objective 5
GAPG 4	Scope and plan WG4 work and document initial activities on development of framework for European Raptor Sampling Programme (ERSamP)	• Secondary objective 3 • Secondary objective 6

WBP (GP1)

COST Action CA16224, COST Association
European Raptor Biomonitoring Facility
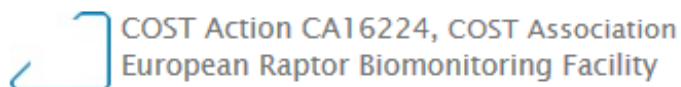
Workplan status: AGA Signed COST

Assigned Grant Holder: UNIVERSIDAD DE MURCIA (Murcia, Spain)
GH Manager/Administrative Representative: Ms Mª Jose Tomas

COST Action CA16224 Annex A of the Grant Agreement (not editable) from 2017-11-01 to 2018-04-30

Networking Tools	Quantity	Budget
Meetings	1	EUR 53 560.00
Training Schools	0	EUR 0.00
Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM)	3	EUR 7 500.00
ITC Conference Grant	0	EUR 0.00
COST Action Dissemination	2	EUR 5 000.00
Other Expenses Related to Scientific Activities (OERSA)	0	EUR 0.00
Total Science Expenditure		**EUR 66 060.00**
Financial and Scientific Administration and Coordination (FSAC) – MAX. 15%	15 %	EUR 9 909.00
Total Grant		**EUR 75 969.00**

CA16224: Grant Periods

Following Grant Periods:

- GP2: From 01/05/2018 to 30/04/2019
    - Budget: 141 000 EUR

- GP3: From 01/05/2019 to 30/04/2020

- GP4: From 01/05/2020 to 30/04/2021

- GP5: From 01/05/2021 – 16/10/2021 (**Action end date**)

Reminders

MC decision taking procedure

MC MEETINGS	E-VOTE

Minimum once a year in a participating COST Country

Typical duration ½ day

Decisions only valid if at least 2/3 of the Participating COST Countries are represented

Simple majority vote of MC Members with **1 vote / Participating COST Country**

The MC Chair does not have the right to vote

MC decision must be minuted and sent to the COST Association

Initiated and managed by the MC Chair (or by the Vice-Chair when the Chair is affiliated with the Grant Holder)

All MC members are in the e-mail list

Vote open for 7 days

Simple majority vote of MC Members with **1 vote / Participating COST Country**

MC decision must be included in the official MC minutes of the following MC Meeting

Co-organised activities and sessions

- **Co-organised activities: expected**
  - Action participants (especially MC members) to constitute half of the SC of the conference.
  - Approx. 50% speakers and session Chairs to be Action participants (especially MC members and active WG members).
  - Good representation of the Action participants in the audience.
  - LOS and invited speakers fairly shared between the Action and the external organisation/ body/ institution/…
  - In the WBP describe the added benefits of this co-organisation.

- **Session in a conference: expected**
  - Only the speakers of the session can be reimbursed.
  - Reimbursement must follow the rules of reimbursement based on the duration of the session, not of the conference.

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Dissemination

Action Publication and Dissemination Activities

- **COST Action budget and paid by the Grant Holder.**
  - Responsibility of the Management Committee
  - Publication and dissemination strategy must be reflected in the Work and Budget plan of the specific Grant Period

Final Action Dissemination (FAD)

- Material (typically a publication) produced after the 4-years of the Action
- Additional grant (up to max 10 000 EUR) managed directly by Action GH
- Request **6 months** before the official end date of the Action
- Published and Invoice is paid no later than 12 months after the official end of the Action

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Guidelines and Vademecum

Acknowledging COST Funds

- It's vital that you mention COST funding whenever you communicate your network's achievements

- It helps boost the programme's visibility and impact (budget issues)

- See our brand book for details on how to use our visual identity and acknowledge COST funding

http://www.cost.eu/media/dissemination-corporate-identity

Brand
book

Brand strategy and identity,
logotype use norms and implementation
of the brand across different
communication tools.

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Publications

- **To be eligible for financial support, publications produced by a renowned publisher must be**
  - a direct result from the work performed by the Action
  - authored by participants from at least 3 different Participating COST Countries
  - Publication requests will be assessed by COST along the lines of quality and impact

Vademecum

Reminder

- Always send to COST Association (SO and AO) the minutes of the MC meetings and upload them in e-COST

- Any addition of activities (meetings, TS, etc.) not in Grant Agreement needs MC and SO approval

COST Implementation Rules

Action Proposal Submission Evaluation Selection and Approval (PDF, 276 kB)

Rules for Participation in and Implementation of COST Activities (PDF, 308 kB)

Action Management, Monitoring and Final Assessment (PDF, 299 kB)

International Cooperation and Specific Organisations Participation (PDF, 338 kB)

ademecum

COST Vademecum (PDF, 2 MB)

OST Action Template Centre

COST Grant Agreement Template (PDF, 359 kB)

Monitoring Progress Report Template - MC Chair (DOCX, 156 kB)

Monitoring Progress Review Template - Action Rapporteur (DOCX, 122 kB)

Final Action Dissemination Grant request form (DOCX, 117 kB)

▶ e-COST Action Management Tool User Guide (eCAMT) (PDF, 2 MB)

Key Documents

▶ Technical Annex (DOCX, 176 kB)

▶ COST Open Call – Submission, Evaluation, Selection and Approval (SESA) Guidelines (PDF, 236 kB)

▶ Guidelines for the Dissemination of COST Action Results and Outcomes (PDF, 2 MB)

▶ Guidelines for Action Management, Monitoring and Assessment (PDF, 566 kB)

❏ **COST Vademecum**

❏ **Guidelines for the Dissemination of COST Action Results and Outcomes**

❏ **Guidelines for Action Management, Monitoring and Assessment**

COST Actions are bottom-up science and technology networks, open to researchers and stakeholders with a duration of four years. They are active through a range of networking tools, such as workshops, conferences, training schools, short-term scientific missions (STSMs), and dissemination activities. COST does not fund research itself.

COST prides in its support for high-risk, innovative and emerging research themes. However, COST does not set any research priorities.

COST Actions can also pave the way to or establish synergies with EU-funded research projects. Moreover, collaboration within research projects can also lead to new Actions, thus enhancing the networking potential of such consortia.

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http://www.cost.eu/participate

COST Open Call
http://www.cost.eu/participate/open_call

Collection Dates:
- 20 April 2018, 12:00 CET

Submit your COST Action proposal

The next collection date is expected to be 20 April 2018, 12:00 noon (CET).

We invite participants to submit proposals for COST Actions contributing to the scientific, technological, economic, cultural or societal knowledge advancement and development of Europe. Multi- and interdisciplinary proposals are encouraged.

The open call Action Proposal Submission, Evaluation, Selection and Approval (SESA) procedure is fully science and technology-driven and will ensure a simple, transparent and competitive proposal evaluation and selection process, reflecting the bottom-up, open and inclusive principles of COST.

Participants planning to submit a proposal for a COST Action will need to refer to the SESA guidelines .

The minimum number of countries included in the network has increased to seven COST Full or Cooperating Members . Out of the seven, a minimum of three must be Inclusiveness Target Countries . For more details, please refer to the annex of the updated SESA guidelines .

Participants will also need to include the updated technical annex, which should not exceed 15 pages. Results will be communicated in November 2018.

For any questions related to the open call, please contact opencall@cost.eu

e-COST

e-COST is a portal for COST Action participants' registration and financial reporting
▸ Link to e-COST portal

Key Documents

▸ COST Open Call – Submission, Evaluation, Selection and Approval (SESA) Guidelines (PDF, 236 kB)

▸ Technical_Annex (DOCX, 177 kB)

COST Implementation Rules

▸ Action Proposal Submission Evaluation Selection and Approval (PDF, 288 kB)

▸ Rules for Participation in and Implementation of COST Activities (._PDF, 462 kB)

▸ Action Management, Monitoring and Final Assessment (PDF, 271 kB)

▸ International Cooperation and Specific Organisations Participation (PDF, 242 kB)

Other documents

▸ Open Call infographic (PDF, 727 kB)

▸ COST Vademecum (PDF, 505 kB)

▸ Guidelines for Action Management, Monitoring and Assessment (...PDF, 657 kB)

▸ Open Call for Proposals oc-2016-2 (PDF, 57 kB)

▸ Announcement Open Call 2017-1 (June) (PDF, 116 kB)

Open Call Contacts

General enquiries and technical problems
▸ opencall@cost.eu

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New COST Actions: Full lists

http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions

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COST Actions

COST Actions are a flexible, fast, effective and efficient networking instrument for researchers, engineers and scholars to cooperate and coordinate nationally funded research activities. COST Actions allow European researchers to jointly develop their own ideas in any science and technology field.

COST Actions are bottom-up **science and technology networks, open to researchers and stakeholders** with a duration of four years. They are active through a range of networking tools, such as workshops,

OC-2015-1
CA15132 The comet assay as a human biomonitoring tool **(hCOMET)** (2016-2020)

projects can also lead to new Actions, thus enhancing the networking potential of such consortia.

COST Actions cover scientific and technological research activities for peaceful purposes and of public interest, aiming to contribute to the COST Mission.

Every COST Action has an objective, defined goals and clear deliverables. These are described in a Memorandum of Understanding, accepted by at least seven participating COST Member States.

You can browse through all the running COST Actions.

COST Actions are:

Pan-European

Spanning 36 Member States

Notice board

During FP7 (2007-2013), all COST Actions followed the Domain structure. COST Actions funded under the new COST Open Call will no longer follow this structure.

The new scientific organisation reflects a fully open and bottom-up approach through a single Scientific Committee. The new approach includes a renewed Submission, Evaluation, Selection and Approval favouring excellence and encouraging multi- and interdisciplinary approaches.

Key Documents

▸ Approved Actions - June 2017 (PDF, 336 kB)

▸ Approved Actions - October 2016 (PDF, 274 kB)

▸ Approved Actions - February 2016 (PDF, 425 kB)

▸ Approved Actions 2015 (PDF, 370 kB)

▸ Approved Actions 2014 (PDF, 964 kB)

▸ Approved Actions 2013 (PDF, 2 MB)

▸ Approved Actions 2012 (PDF, 4 MB)

▸ Approved Actions 2011 (PDF, 5 MB)

▸ Approved Actions 2010 (PDF, 3 MB)

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Become a COST Expert

- As a COST expert, you will have opportunity to:
  - Contribute to the evaluation of COST OC proposals;
  - Participate in the assessment of Action results and outcomes;
  - Take a part in the assessment of COST strategic activities.

- New experts can express their interest via the COST Expert online registration form (www.cost.eu/experts)
- An updated Curriculum Vitae with a list of publications is required to demonstrate competence in specific areas of expertise

Thank you

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