

# Online COST Info Day

14 June 2023





# Participation in a COST Action

## Tips & tricks to submit a COST Action proposal



Dr Rossella Magli, COST Science Officer

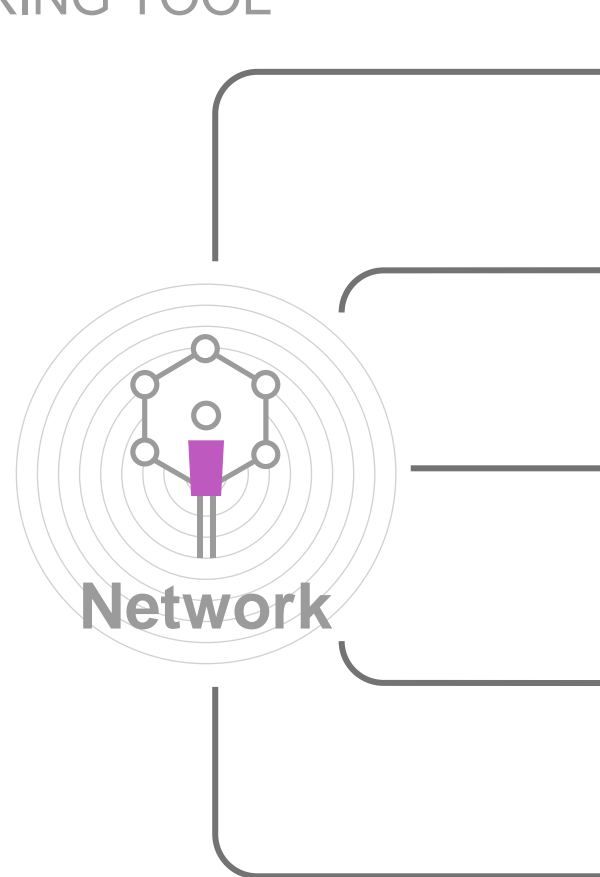


# COST Actions

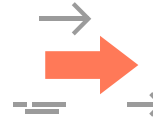
AN EFFICIENT NETWORKING TOOL

**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

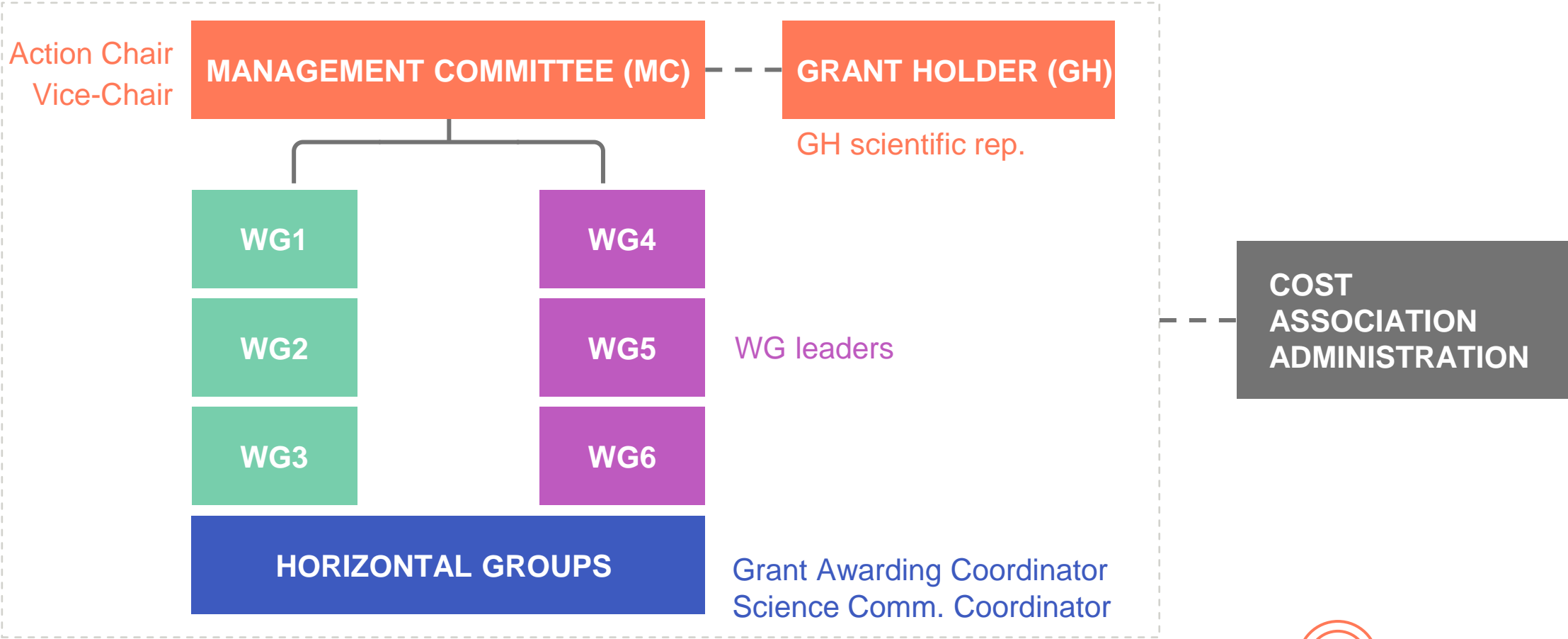


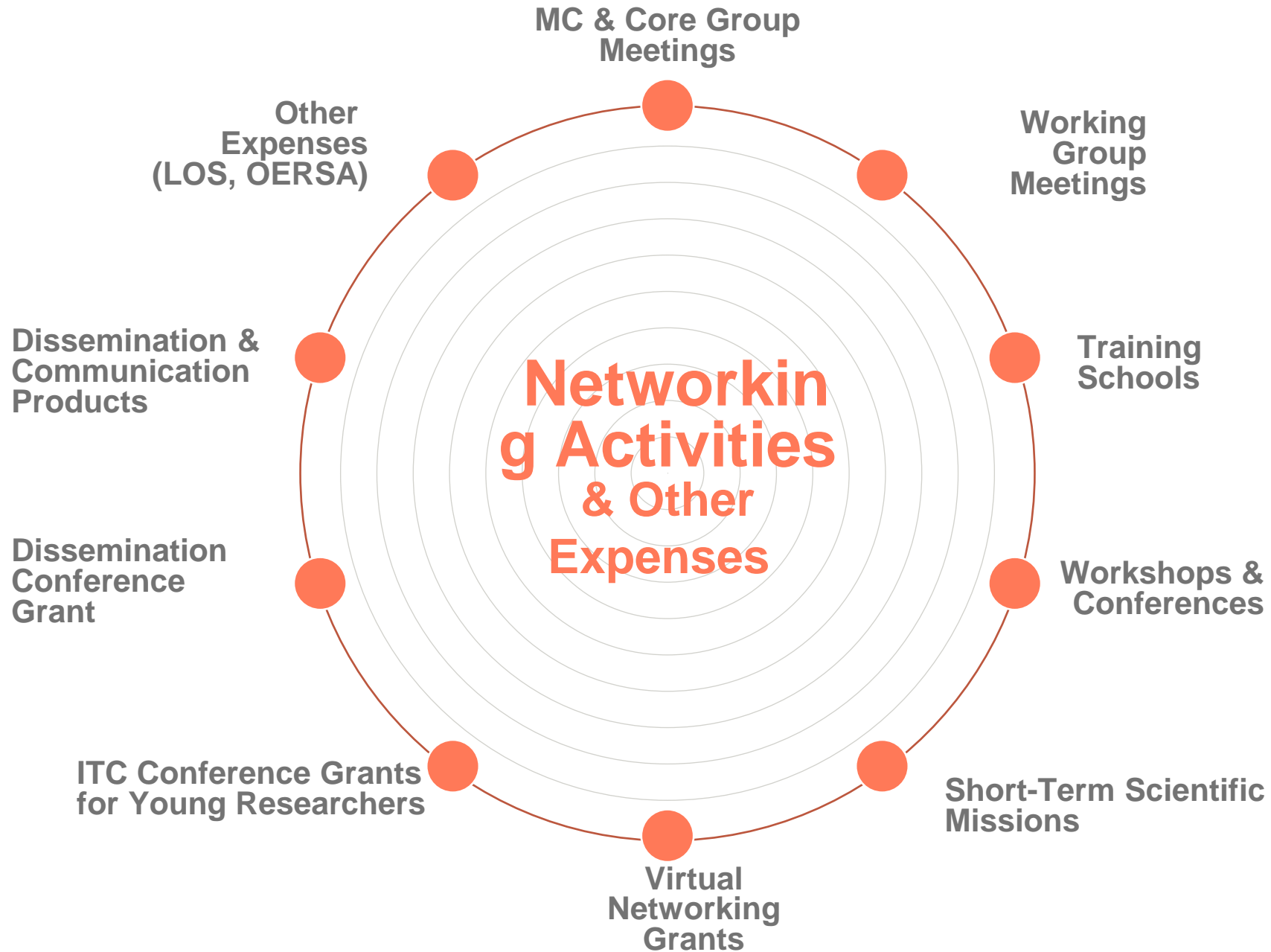
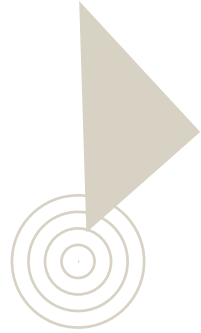
Research coordination and capacity building activities



~ €600,000 over lifetime

# COST ACTION STRUCTURE AND LEADERSHIP POSITIONS



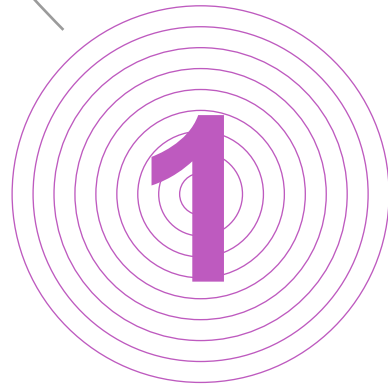


# How to engage with COST?





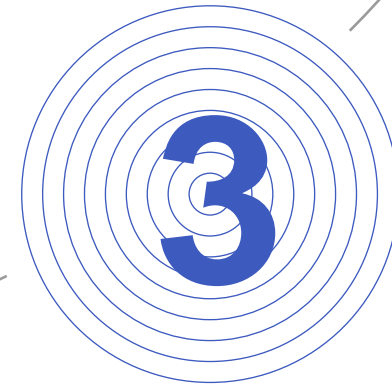
# How to engage with COST?



As a **participant**  
of a running Action



As a **proposer**  
of a new COST Action



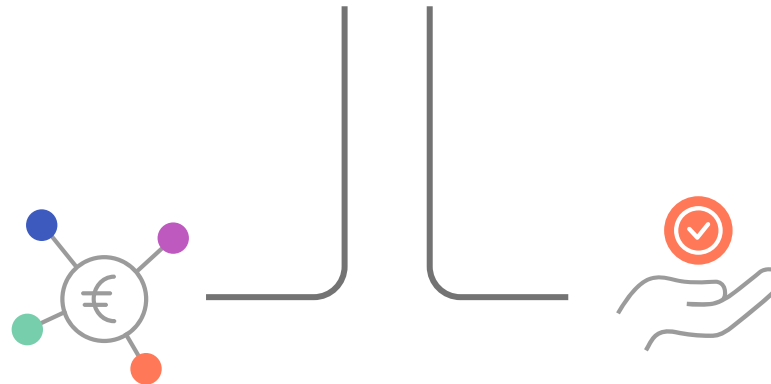
As **expert** to evaluate  
submitted proposals /  
running Actions



# As external expert

**As a COST Expert,**  
you will have the opportunity to

**Contribute** to the  
evaluation of COST  
Open Call proposals

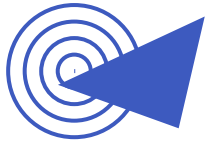


**Participate** in the  
assessment of Action  
results and outcomes



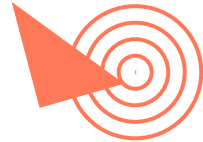


# As a participant in a running Action

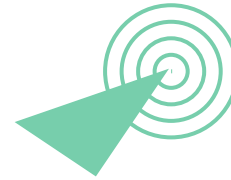


## FIND THE ACTION IN YOUR FIELD

of interest on the COST website  
([www.cost.eu](http://www.cost.eu))



READ THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (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

# As a participant in a running Action



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



**AS A WORKING GROUP (WG) PARTICIPANT**

(contact the WG leader + submit WG application)



**AS A PARTICIPANT IN ACTION ACTIVITIES**

short-term scientific mission, ITC conference grant, training school, workshop/conference,...

(check the Action's website, contact the chair or the national MC member)

# As proposer of a new COST Action

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** proposers

Collection date:  
25 October 2023  
12:00 CET

[www.COST.eu](http://www.COST.eu)  
[opencall@cost.eu](mailto:opencall@cost.eu)





# Proposals



**GENERAL  
FEATURE  
S**



**TECHNICAL  
ANNEX**

([www.cost.eu](http://www.cost.eu))

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
- Template
- English

STE

①

**P**  
EXTERNAL  
REMOTE  
EVALUATION

- 3 Independent External Experts
- Technical Annex

STE

②

**P**  
REVISION AND  
QUALITY CHECK  
BY REVIEW  
PANELS

STE

③

**P**  
SELECTION  
BY THE SCIENTIFIC  
COMMITTEE

COST policy  
and objectives

STE

④

**P**  
APPROVAL BY  
COST COMMITTEE  
OF SENIOR  
OFFICIALS

Results 7-8 months  
after submission

# Ineligibility at COST proposals – Example (direct)

## Statements resulting in ineligibility

“Among government-run public services we have the Department of Health of Catalonia on board” (direct reference)

## Eligible statements

"The Network of Proposers already includes a / several government-run public service(s)."

# Ineligibility at COST proposals – Examples on anonymity breach (indirect)

## Statements resulting in ineligibility

“Several members of the proposers’ network have been involved in previous FP7 projects, like ATTPS and ADAPTIWALL, and institutions/organisations/networks/COST Actions, such as FP0901” (direct reference)

## Eligible statements

“The Action will seek contact with / reach out to / draw on the expertise of / build on / ... previous FP7 projects, like ATTPS and ADAPTIWALL, and institutions/organisations/networks/COST Actions/..., such as FP0901.”



# Ineligibility at COST proposals - Examples

## Statements resulting in ineligibility

“The Network of Proposers has already generated some output”, with in the footnote a link to a YouTube video or webpage in which secondary proposers can be identified (indirect reference, potentially identifiable)

## Eligible statements

“The Network of Proposers has already generated some output”, without links to a YouTube video or webpage in which secondary proposers can be identified



# How to apply for a COST Action?



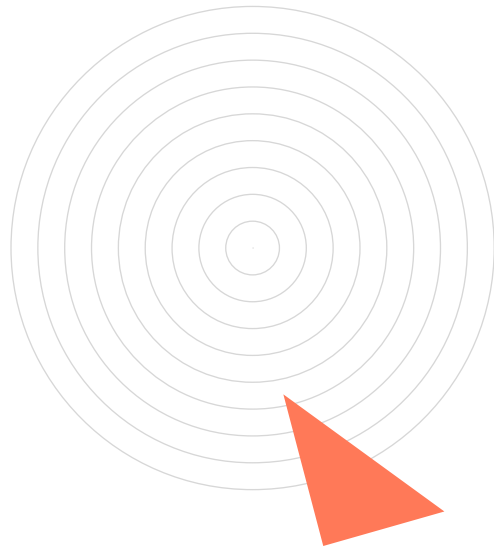
# Open Call for proposals – How to apply

E-COST



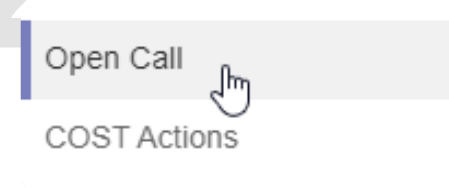
1

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

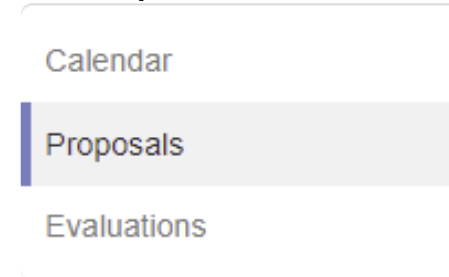


2

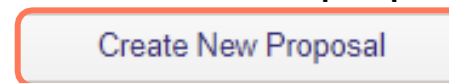
> Open Call



> Proposals



> Create new proposal



3

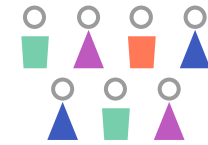
Online registration  
and submission:  
General information  
+ Technical Annex



# Proposals



**GENERAL  
FEATURES**



**NETWORK  
OF  
PROPOSERS**



**TECHNICAL  
ANNEX**

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**COST EXCELLENCE AND  
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# Proposals



**GENERAL  
FEATURE  
S**



# Online submission tool (e-COST)\*

Overview  
General Features  
Technical Annex  
References  
COST Mission and Policies  
Network  
Documents  
« My Proposals

Main Proposer Institution \*  
Brussels Free University - COST Country Institutions

Title (Maximum 12 words) \*  
Organ Donor Network

Acronym \*  
(max 60 characters)  
OrgDonNet

Keyword 1 \*  
(max 60 characters)  
Database

Keyword 2 \*  
(max 60 characters)  
Transplantation

Keyword 3 \*  
(max 60 characters)  
Donour

Keyword 4  
(max 60 characters)

Summary: Maximum 250 words

About five percent European citizens suffers from organ malfunctioning. Living donor transplantation is often the most effective treatment and the alternative of deceased donor transplantation is severely limited by availability. As approximately 50% of living donors are incompatible with their specified recipient, several European countries have independently developed organ exchange programmes.

Exchange programmes aim to match donors optimally to recipients for organ exchange within the population of recipient-donor pairs.

Words: 68

Proposal Reference:  
OC-2017-1-21892

Proposal Status:  
Draft

Checklist:  
✓ General Features  
✗ Technical Annex (1 issue)  
✓ COST Policies  
✗ Network (1 issue)

Generate PDF

Ready to submit?

AREAS OF EXPERTISE NEEDED FOR EVALUATION

Science Field  
Health Sciences

Research Area  
Health Services, Health Care Research

AREAS OF EXPERTISE NEEDED FOR EVALUATION

Science Field  
Health Sciences

Research Area  
Health Services, Health Care Research

\*[www.cost.eu/ecost](http://www.cost.eu/ecost)



# Proposals



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# Proposals



GENERAL  
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**TECHNICAL  
ANNEX**  
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Funding ▾ COST Actions ▾ Ad

> How to get funding

- How to apply
- Open Call
- Evaluation, selection and approval
- [Documents and guidelines](#)

# Open Call for proposals

TECHNICAL ANNEX

## SECTIONS

**1.** S&T  
EXCELLENCE

**2.** NETWORKING  
EXCELLENCE

**3.** IMPACT

**4.** IMPLEMENTATION

## SUB- SECTIONS

**1.1** Soundness of the challenge

**1.2** Progress beyond the state-of-the-art

**2.1** Added value of networking in S&T  
excellence

**2.2** Added value of networking in impact

**3.1** Impact to science, society and  
competitiveness,  
and potential for innovation/breakthroughs

**3.2** Measures to maximise impact

**4.1** Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan



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







# S&T Excellence

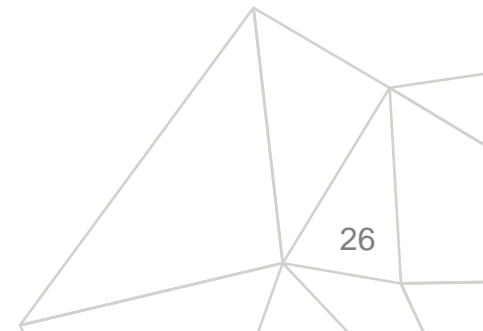
## Soundness of the challenge

**Q1.** Does the proposal demonstrate a comprehensive command of the state of the art in the field(s) and present a relevant and timely challenge?

## Progress beyond the state-of-the-art.

**Q2.** Does the proposal describe an innovative approach to the challenge that advances the state of the art in the field(s)?

**Q3.** Are the objectives presented relevant to the challenge, clear and ambitious?





# Networking Excellence

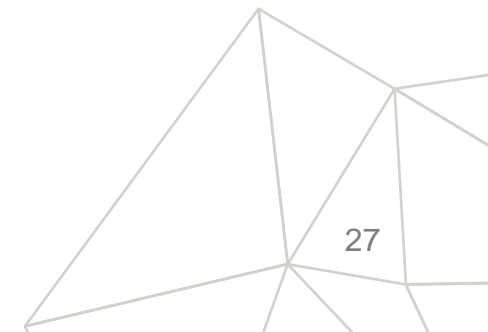
## **Added value of networking in S&T Excellence**

**Q4.** Does networking bring added value in tackling the challenge in relation to existing efforts at the European and/or international level?

## **Added value of networking in Impact**

**Q5.** Does the proposed network contain, or present a credible plan for securing, the critical mass and range of expertise for achieving the objectives and thus addressing the challenge?

**Q6.** Does the proposal identify the most relevant stakeholders and present a clear plan to involve them as Action participants?





# Impact criteria

## **Impact to science, society and competitiveness, and potential for innovation/breakthroughs**

**Q7.** Does the proposal clearly identify relevant and realistic impacts for science, society and/or competitiveness (including potential innovations and/or breakthroughs)?

## **Measures to maximise impact**

**Q8.** Does the proposed networking clearly contribute to knowledge creation, transfer of knowledge and career development?

**Q9.** Is the plan for dissemination and/or exploitation of results clear and attainable and does it contribute to the dialogue between science and the general public or policy?



# Implementation criteria

## Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan

**Q10.** Is the work plan (WGs, tasks, activities, timeframe, deliverables and risk analysis) appropriate to ensure the achievement of the objectives?



# Some key concepts (1/2)

## Research Coordination Objectives

- development of a common understanding/definition of the subject matter;
- coordination of information seeking, identification, collection and/or data curation;
- coordination of experimentation or testing;
- comparison and/or performance assessment of theory/ model/ scenario/ projection/ simulation/ narrative/ methodology/ technology/ technique;
- development of knowledge needing international coordination: new or improved theory/ model/scenario/ projection/ simulation/ narrative/ methodology/ technology/ technique;
- achievement of a specific tangible output that cannot be achieved without international coordination (e.g. due to practical issues such as database availability, language barriers, availability of infrastructure or know-how, etc.);



# Some key concepts (2/2)

## Capacity-building objectives

- fostering knowledge exchange and the development of a joint research agenda around a topic of scientific and/or socio-economic relevance;
- fostering knowledge exchange and the development of a joint research agenda around a new or emerging field of research;
- bridging separate fields of science/disciplines to achieve breakthroughs that requires an interdisciplinary approach;
- acting as a stakeholder platform or trans-national practice community (by area of socioeconomic application and/or market sector);
- involving specific target groups (e.g. newly established research groups, Young Researchers and Innovators, the under-represented gender, teams from countries/regions with less capacity in the field of the Action).



# Proposals

GENERAL  
FEATURES



TECHNICAL  
ANNEX

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

COST EXCELLENCE AND  
INCLUSIVENESS POLICY  
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES



# COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy

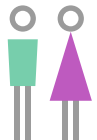
## PROMOTING



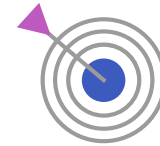
**GEOGRAPHICAL  
BALANCE** (ITC)



**AGE BALANCE**  
(young researchers)



**GENDER BALANCE**  
throughout its activities



## 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





# Proposals

GENERAL  
FEATURES



TECHNICAL  
ANNEX

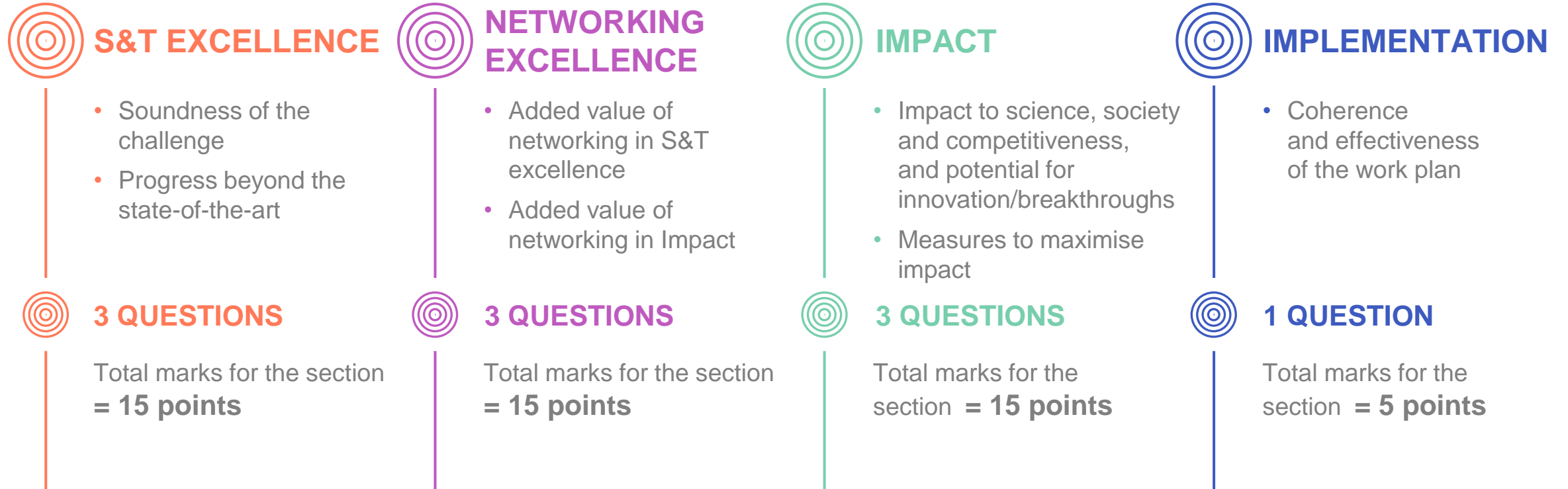
1. S&T excellence
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COST EXCELLENCE AND  
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NETWORK  
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PROPOSERS



# Evaluation criteria



**TOTAL MARKS AWARDED = 50 points - OVERALL THRESHOLD = 34 points**

# How to apply in a nutshell



Read the official  
announcement

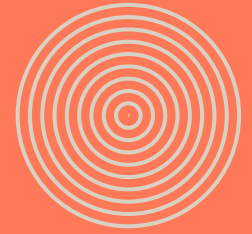
Online registration  
and submission (e-  
COST)

Helpdesk:  
[opencall@cost.eu](mailto:opencall@cost.eu)

Read the SESA  
Guidelines

Technical Annex template  
(Documents and Guidelines  
repository on the COST  
website)

# Networking activities funded within COST Actions



# What can be funded by COST?



Networking activities

Other expenses specifically supporting the Action

Events

Mobility of  
Researchers &  
Innovators

External Conferences

Dissemination &  
Communication Products

Expenses  
for the  
benefit of  
the network

Meetings

Training  
Schools

STSMs

Virtual  
Mobility

ITC Conference

Dissemination  
Conference

# Events



**Funding**

## Meetings

- Management Committee Meetings
- Working Group Meetings
- Workshop / Conference

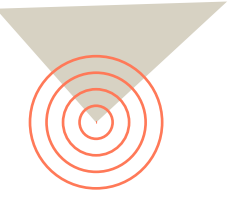
## Training Schools

- Capacity building and Research Coordination
- Trainers / Trainees

Participants get reimbursed the expenses incurred for attending COST events

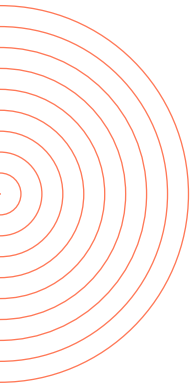


# Short-Term Scientific Mission (STSM)



## WHAT:

- Exchange visits aimed at supporting individual mobility, strengthening existing networks, fostering collaboration between COST Action participants
- Build capacity
- More than 90% of STSMs take place in COST countries, but can take place anywhere in the world



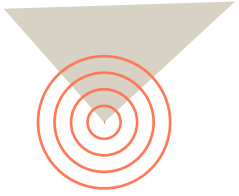
## WHERE:

To a host organisation located in a **different** country than the country of affiliation

## Grant AMOUNT:

Up to 4000 EUR,  
paid after report approval  
(after the STSM)

# ITC or Dissemination Conference Grants



## WHAT:

- Consists in a presentation of the own work given by a Young Researcher affiliated in an Inclusiveness Target Country / Near Neighbour Country for their participation in high-level conferences
- ITC Conference Grants support Young Researchers, establish a strong network and increase the visibility of the Action

## WHERE:

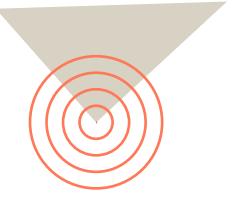
To a high-level conference  
**not organised by the Action itself**

## Grant AMOUNT:

Up to 2000 EUR or 500 EUR (virtual),  
paid after report approval



# Virtual Mobility (VM) Grant



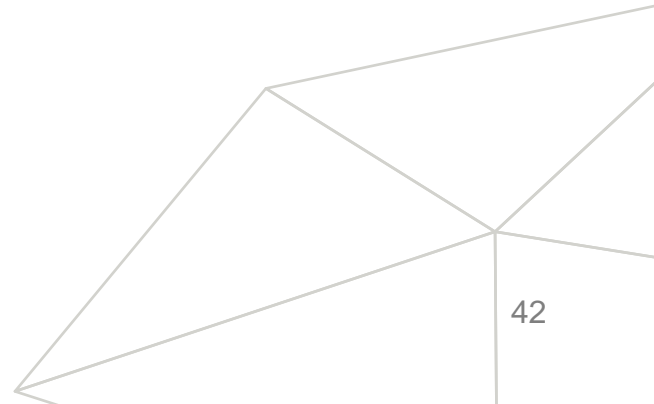
## WHAT:

A collaboration in a virtual setting among Action researchers or innovators to exchange knowledge, learn new techniques, etc.



## Grant AMOUNT:

Up to 1500 EUR,  
paid after report approval (after the VM)





## Dissemination and Communication Products

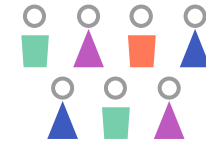


- Increase visibility, awareness and impact of COST Actions

- Make widely available the results of COST Actions to all types of potential users in COST Members and

### WHAT CAN BE FUNDED

1. Scientific publication (Open Access)
2. Action website & logo
3. Dissemination / information materials
4. Multimedia
5. Booth at a conference



### USERS

- **Action participants and COST Actions** – Receive funding for promoting their work and activities
- **Researchers outside the network and Stakeholders**; e.g. practitioners, policy makers, citizens, businesses,....
- **General Public** - Gets informed about scientific progress
- Potential to showcase the value of investing in EU Cooperation in Research



# Thank you!

