

AN INTRODUCTION TO COST



UKRO, 17 March 2022

Judith Litjens



Policy Officer at the COST Association



Chapter 1

About COST & Strategic Priorities



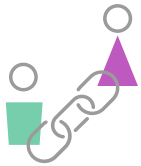
European Cooperation in Science & Technology

COST provides networking opportunities for researchers and innovators in order to strengthen Europe's capacity to address scientific, technological and societal challenges



ALL FIELDS OF S&T

(mono- or interdisciplinary,
new and emerging fields)



ALL PARTNERS

(academia, public organisation, industry,
NGO, International Organisations)



BOTTOM-UP APPROACH



ALL CAREER STAGES

(young and experienced researchers)



ALL COUNTRIES

- 38 COST Members
+ 1 Cooperating Member
- 16 Near Neighbour Countries
- Global cooperation

OPEN BY NATURE

COST membership

38 Members

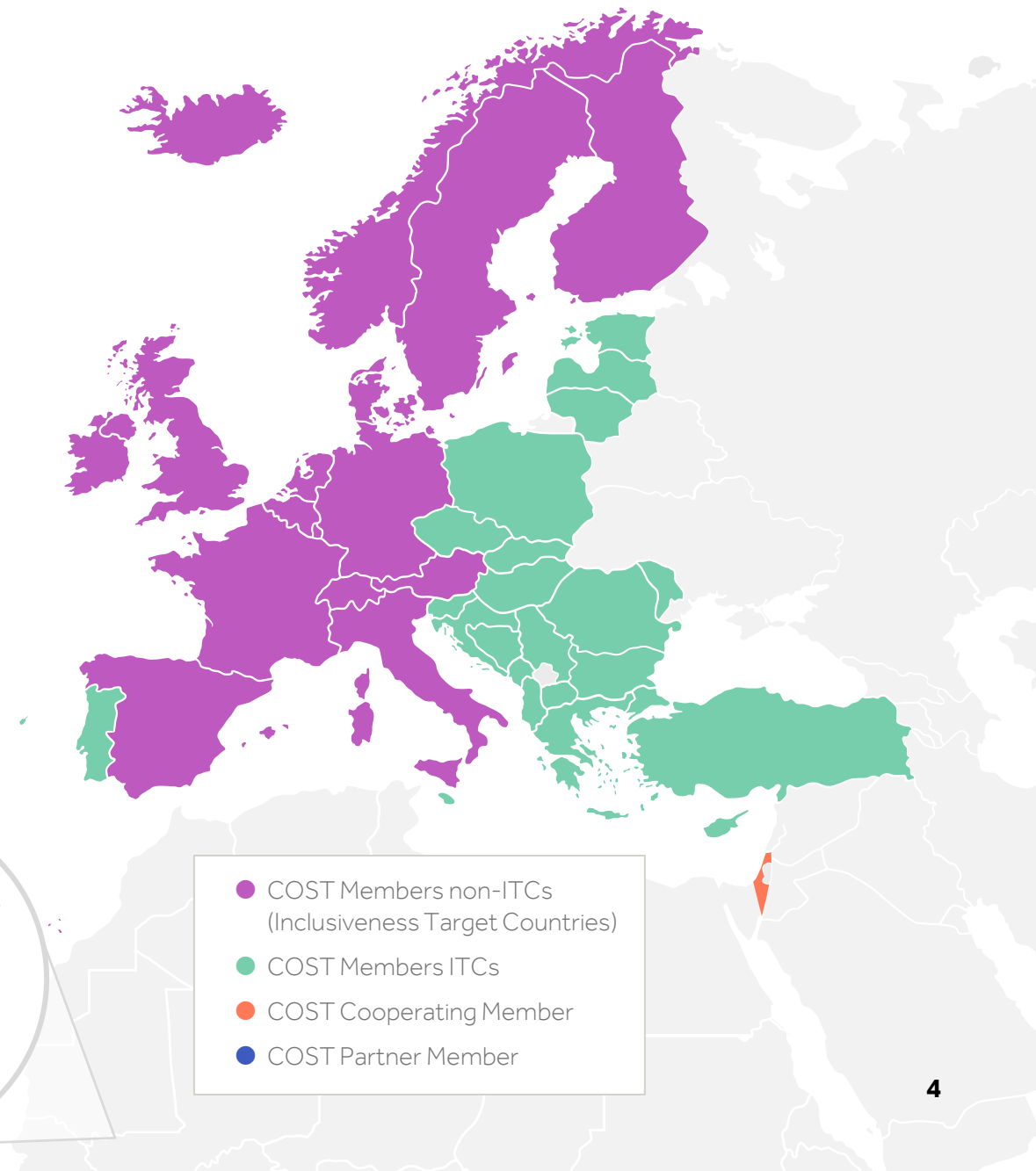
- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| ● Albania | ● Greece | ● Norway |
| ● Austria | ● Hungary | ● Poland |
| ● Belgium | ● Iceland | ● Portugal |
| ● Bosnia and Herzegovina | ● Ireland | ● Romania |
| ● Bulgaria | ● Italy | ● Serbia |
| ● Croatia | ● Latvia | ● Slovakia |
| ● Cyprus | ● Lithuania | ● Slovenia |
| ● Czech Republic | ● Luxembourg | ● Spain |
| ● Denmark | ● Malta | ● Sweden |
| ● Estonia | ● The Republic of Moldova | ● Switzerland |
| ● Finland | ● Montenegro | ● Turkey |
| ● France | ● The Netherlands | ● United Kingdom |
| ● Germany | ● The Republic of North Macedonia | |

1 Cooperating Member

- Israel

1 Partner Member

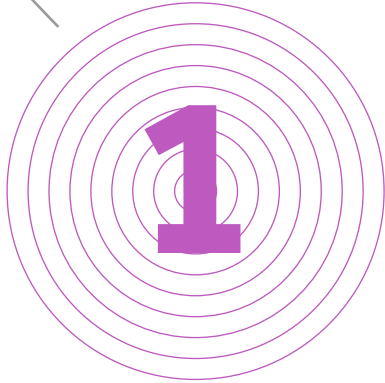
- South Africa



Role of COST in the ERA



3 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



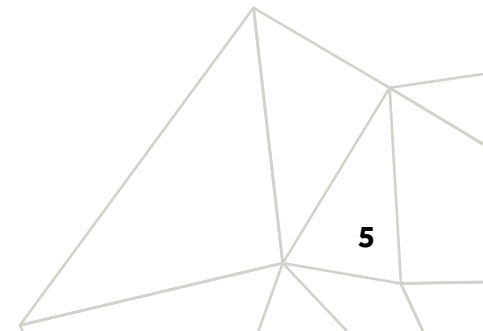
Promoting and spreading **excellence**



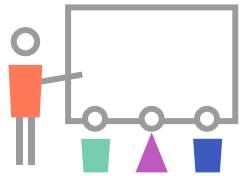
Fostering **interdisciplinary** research for breakthrough science



Empowering and retaining **young researchers**



Dedicated measures for active ITC participation



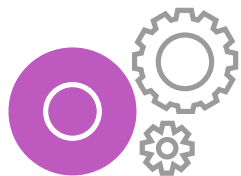
COST Info Days

- Targeted to ITC
- Combined with high-level meeting ITC government, including CNC



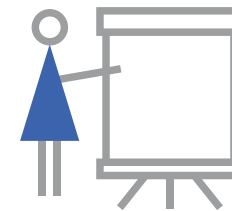
Proposals

- Eligibility
- External experts
- Inclusiveness policy



COST Actions

- COST Action leadership
- Conference grant for PhD students and young researchers
- Pre-payment for STSM



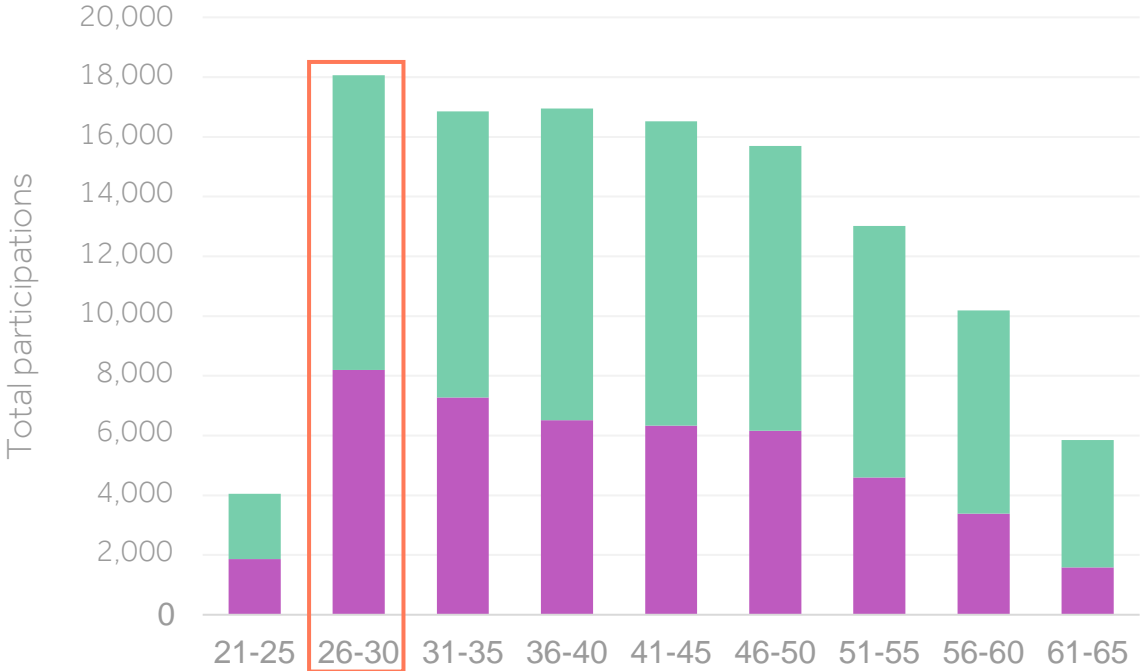
COST Academy

- Leadership workshop
- Finance/admin workshop
- Science communication training
- Mentoring grant holder
- Mentoring chair

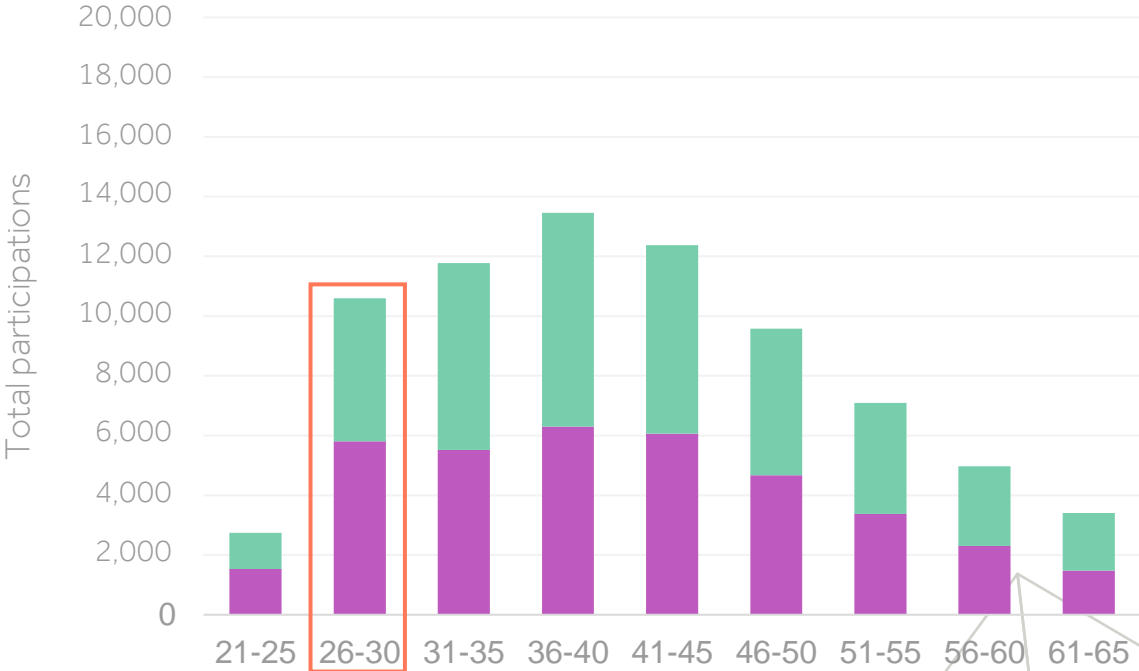
Empowering and retaining young researchers

Data from Horizon 2020 (2014-2021)

Other Countries

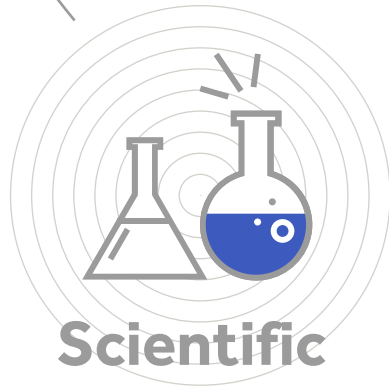


Inclusiveness Target Countries



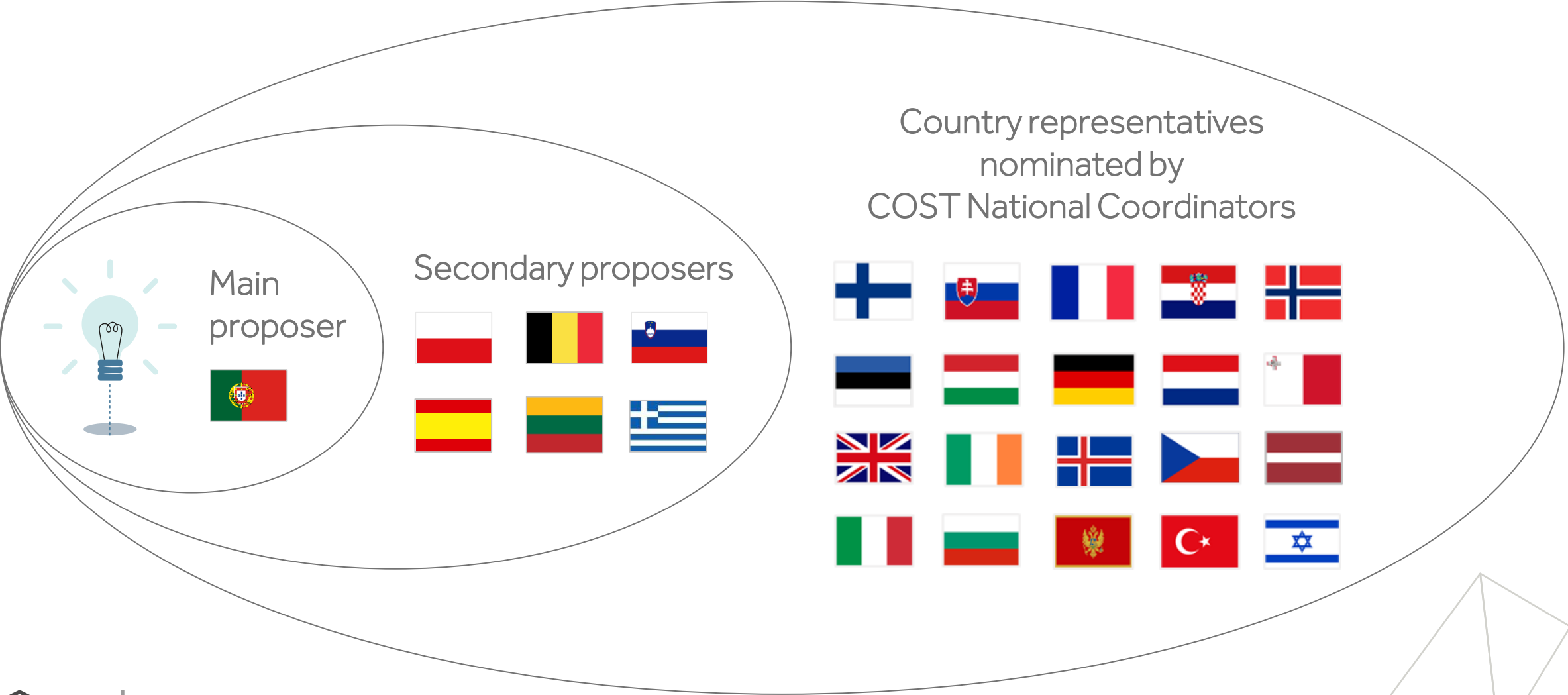
COST Actions: how do they work?

Benefits of participating in a COST Action





How it works?

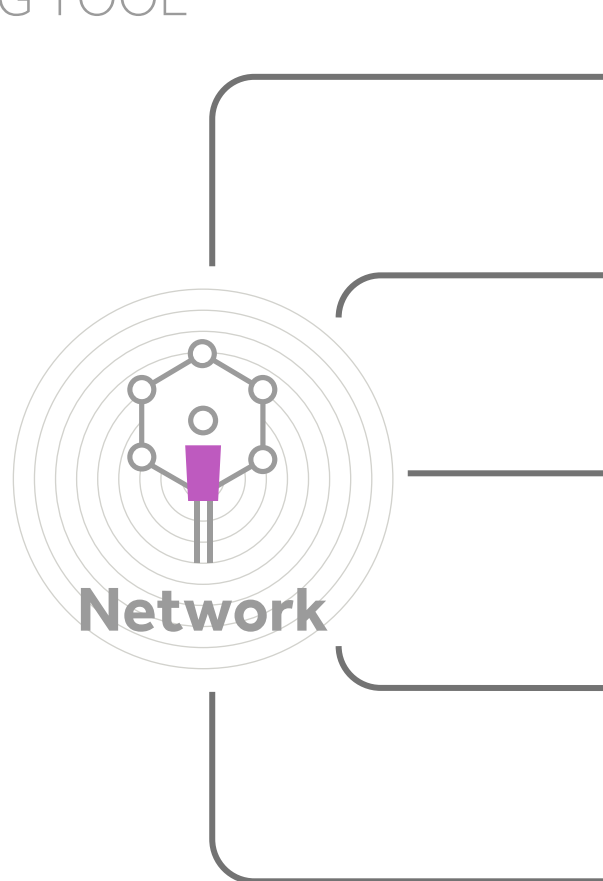


COST Actions

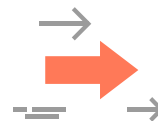
AN EFFICIENT NETWORKING TOOL

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

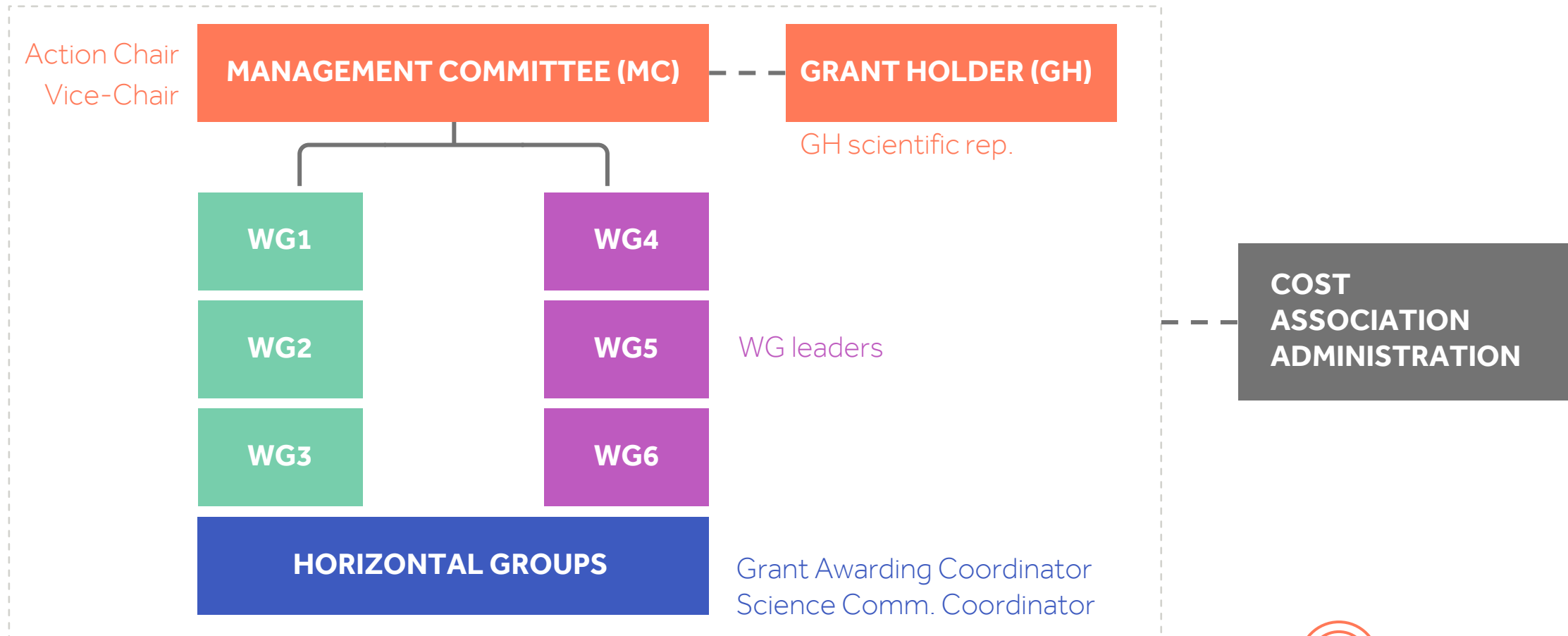


Research coordination
and capacity building activities



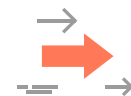
~ €600,000 over lifetime

COST Action structure and leadership positions



Networking tools

Research coordination
& capacity building
activities



Management committee meetings



Working group meetings



Conferences/ workshops



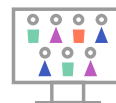
Training schools



Short-term scientific missions

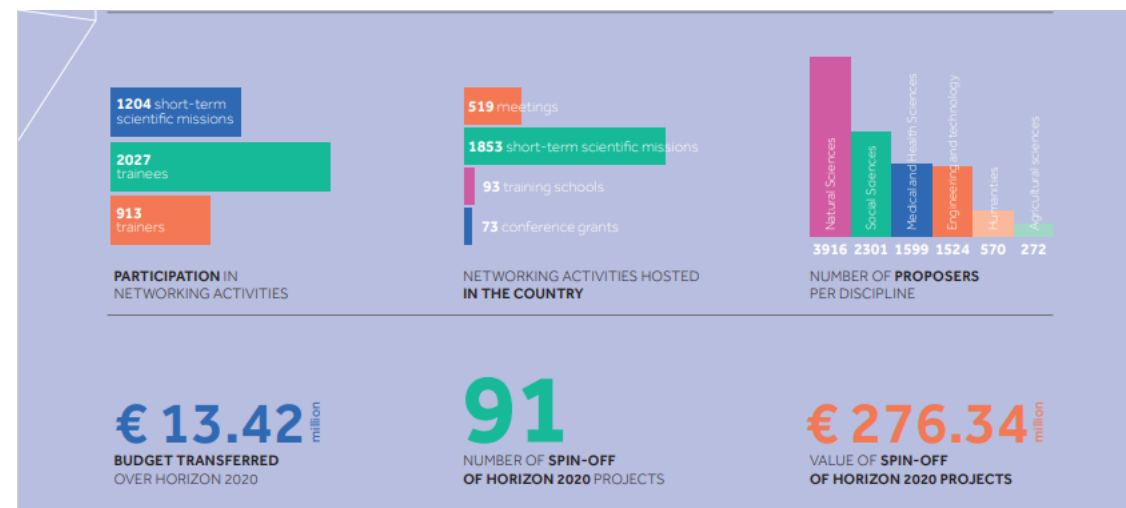
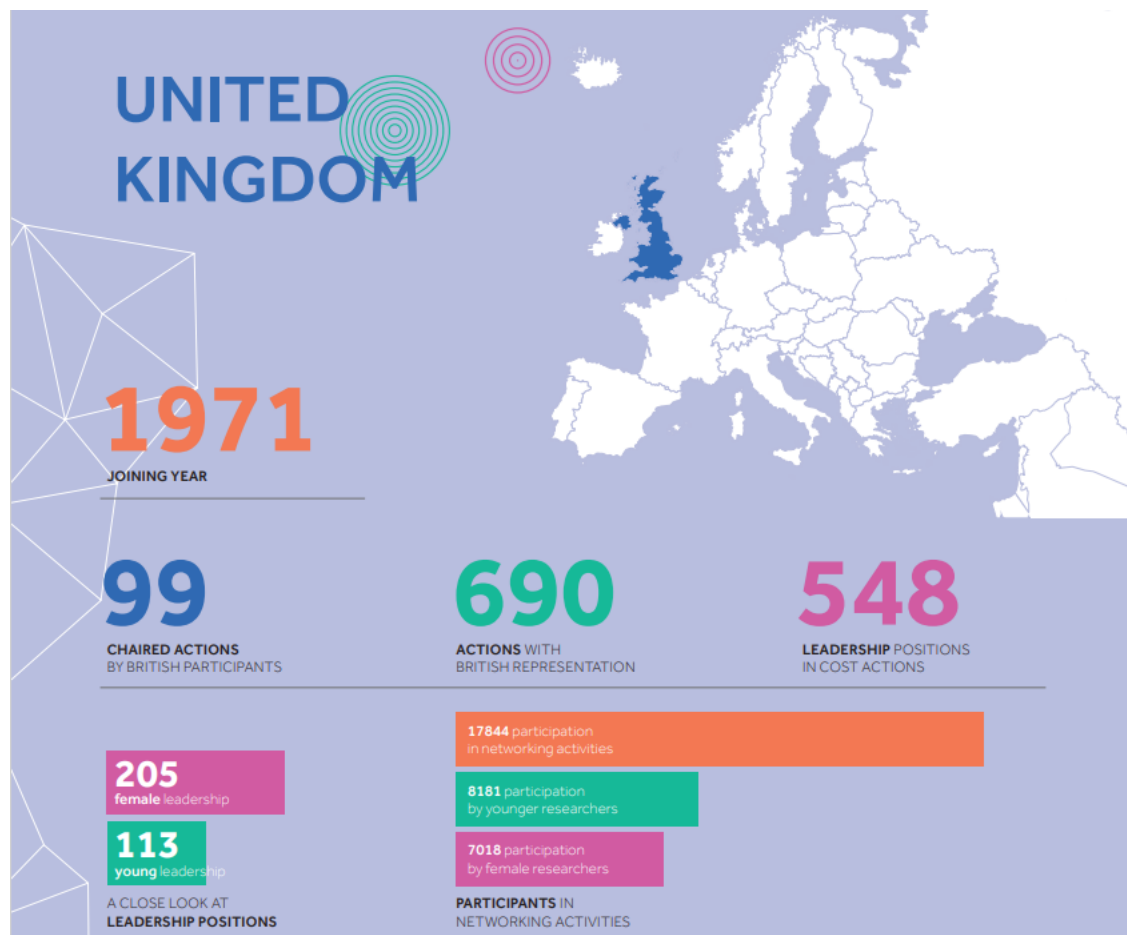


Dissemination



Virtual networking grants

UK participation in COST: key figures (H2020)





UK participation in COST: key figures 2019



STSMs & Training Schools 2019

234



1,718,470.41

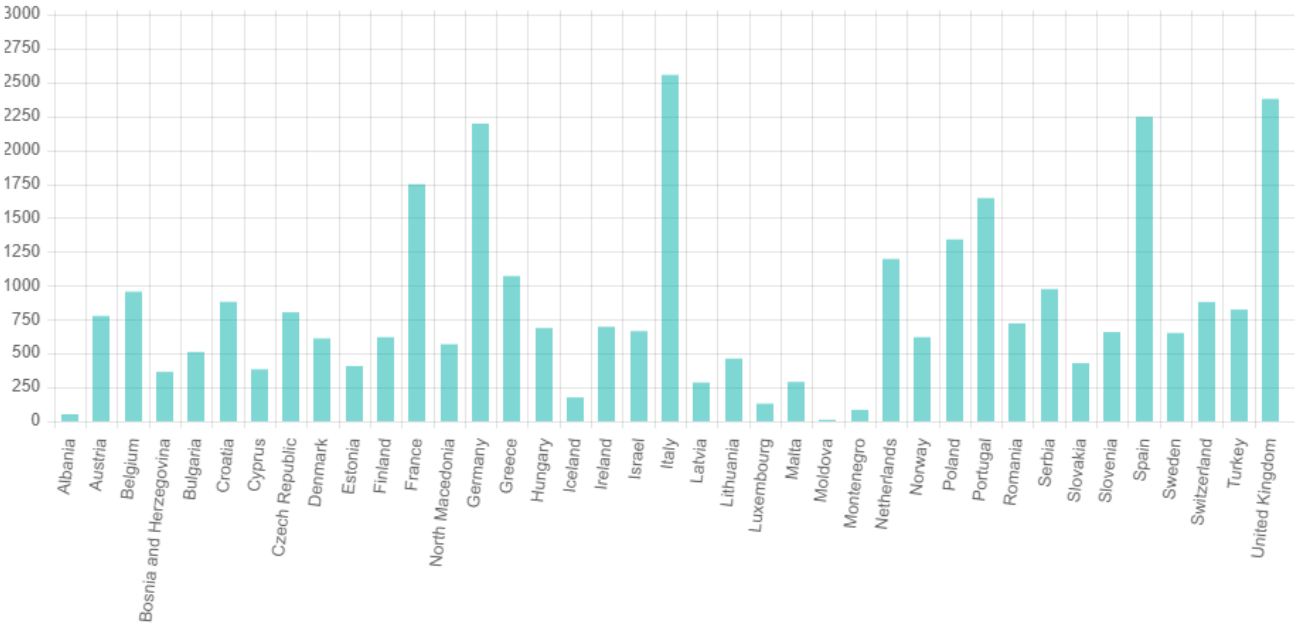
Budget received 2019



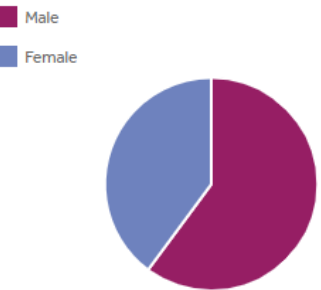
Leadership positions within Actions
2019

223

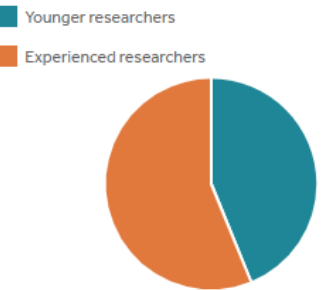
Individual participation in all Action activities 2019



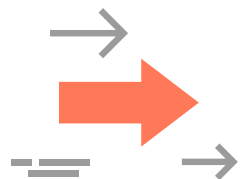
Participation by gender 2019



Participation by age 2019

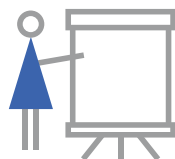


Key figures



292

Running Actions



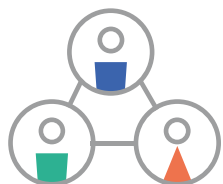
203

Training schools



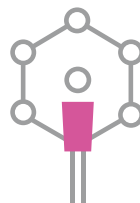
€134,500

Average annual budget
of a COST Action



2,320

Short-term
scientific missions



45,000

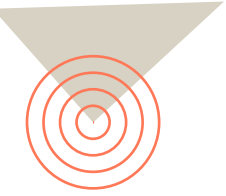
Researchers involved
in COST Actions



€153 million

COST budget
(in Horizon Europe for a 3-year period)

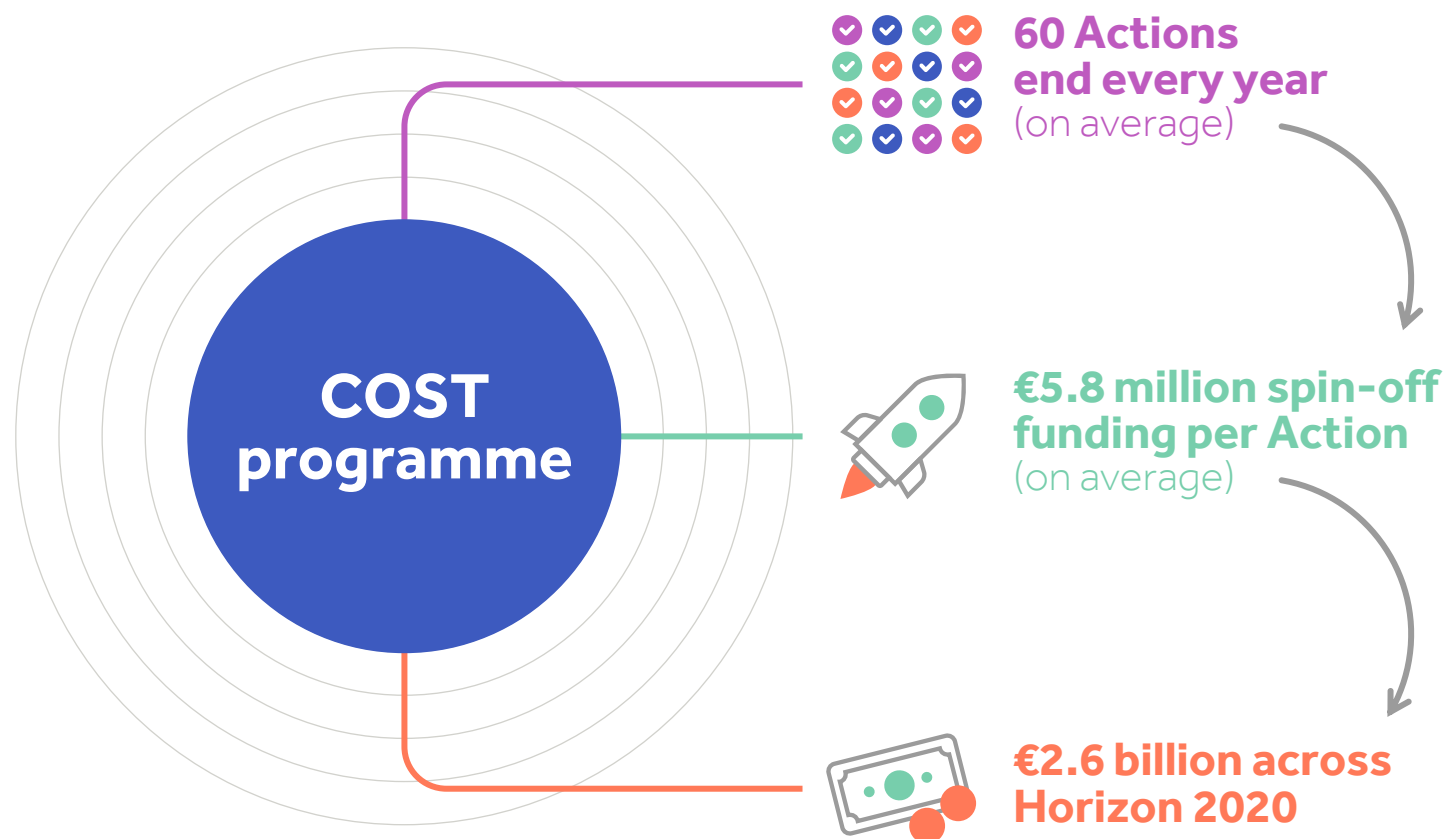
COST Impact Model

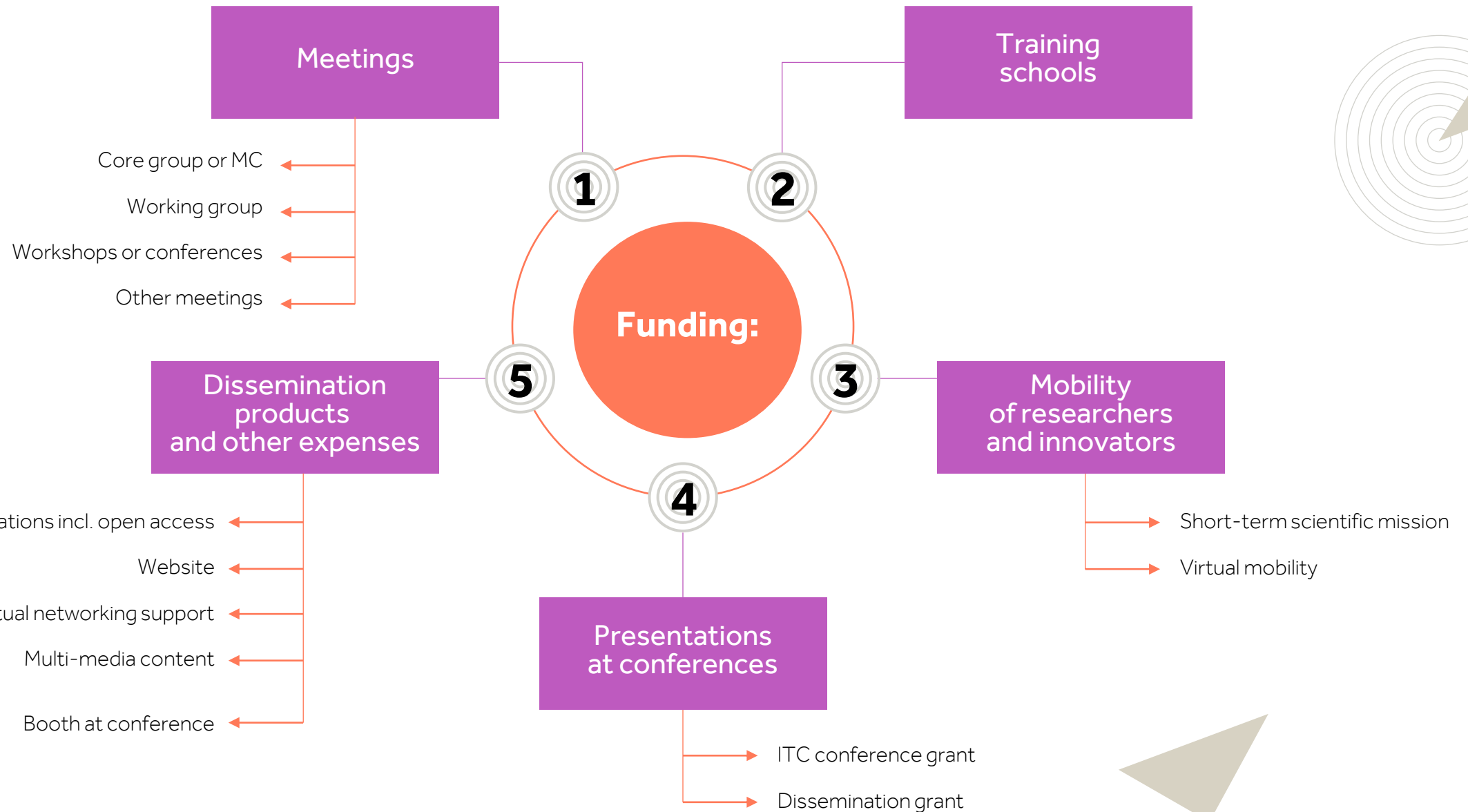


The value of networking

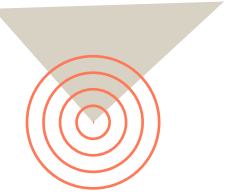
Participation in COST Actions

Follow-up Horizon 2020 proposals had a success rate of more than **37%**





Travel Reimbursement rules



Daily allowance (DA) covers:

- Hotel
- Meals
- Local travel in meeting country

Based on:

- Meeting country
- Travel times



Long distance travel (≥ 101 km) covers total travel expenses up to 1500 EUR

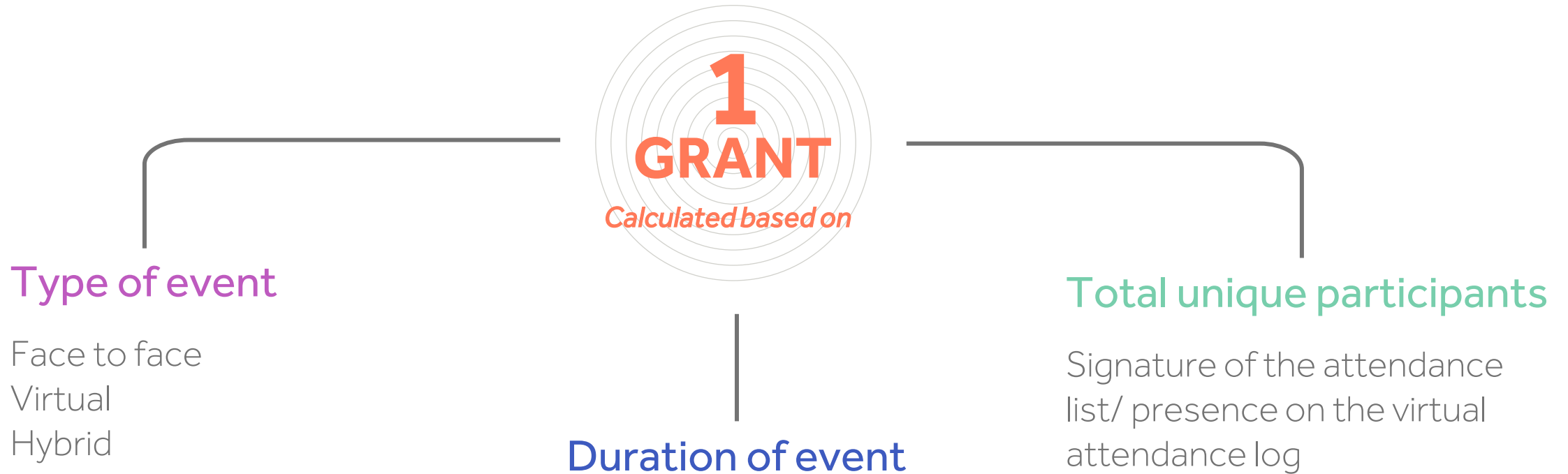
- Meeting country €160-200
- Travel times
- Meals offered by Local Organiser (-10% deducted per provided meal)

Others:

- Visa costs
- Travel cancellation insurance

Reimbursement

LOCAL ORGANISER SUPPORT (LOS)



Reimbursement

LOCAL ORGANISER SUPPORT (LOS)

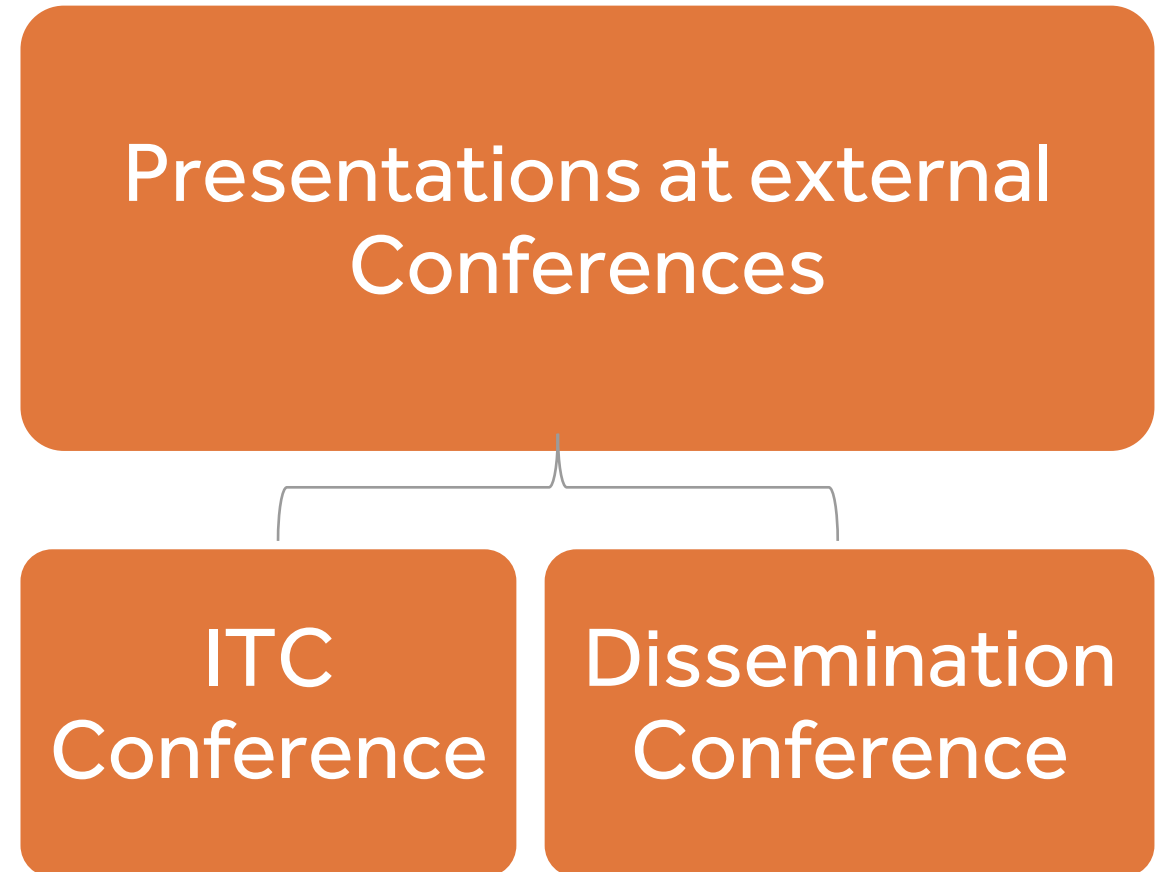
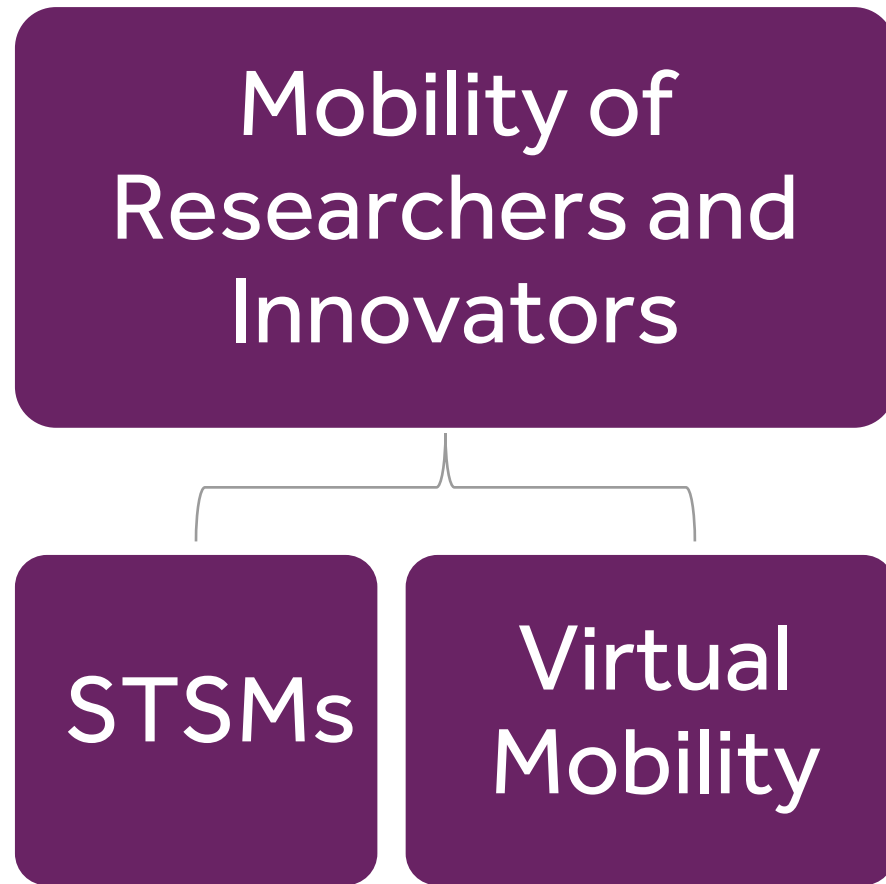
- Local Organiser Support grant amount for face-to-face and hybrid meetings;

Total unique participants for the entire duration of the event	LOS grant for a COST face to face / hybrid event lasting:		
	1 day	2 days	3 days or more
Min.1–max. 25 participants	EUR 1.000	EUR 2.000	EUR 3.500
26-50 participants	EUR 2.000	EUR 4.000	EUR 6.000
51-100 participants	EUR 4.000	EUR 6.000	EUR 8.500
101-200 participants	EUR 6.000	EUR 8.500	EUR 10.000

- Local Organiser Support Grant amount for virtual meetings;

Total unique participants for the entire duration of the event	LOS grant for a COST virtual event lasting:		
	1-day event	2-day event	3-day event or more
Min.1–max. 25	EUR 350	EUR 700	EUR 900
26-50	EUR 900	EUR 1.500	EUR 3000
51-100	EUR 2.500	EUR 3.500	EUR 4.500
101-200	EUR 3.500	EUR 5.500	EUR 7.000

Reimbursement for Mobility of Researchers and Innovators : Grants



-Poster/oral
-ITC/NNC aged
below 40 years



-strictly oral
presentation as
Invited Speaker ²³

What is the maximum grant amount for each type?

- STSM

- ✓ Up to 4000 EUR

- request to prepay 50% is possible but decision lies with GH Institution

- Virtual Mobility Grant

- ✓ Up to 1500 EUR

- ITC Conference Grants and Dissemination Conference Grants

- ✓ Up to 2000 EUR per grant for face to face conferences

OR

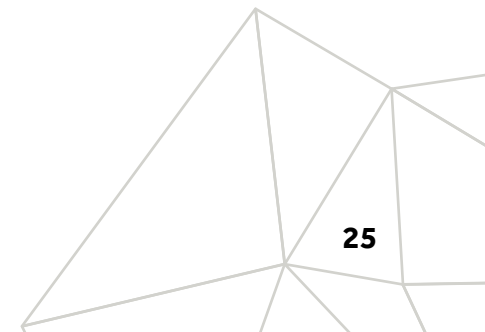
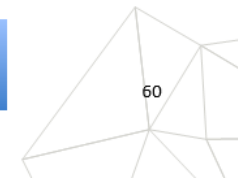
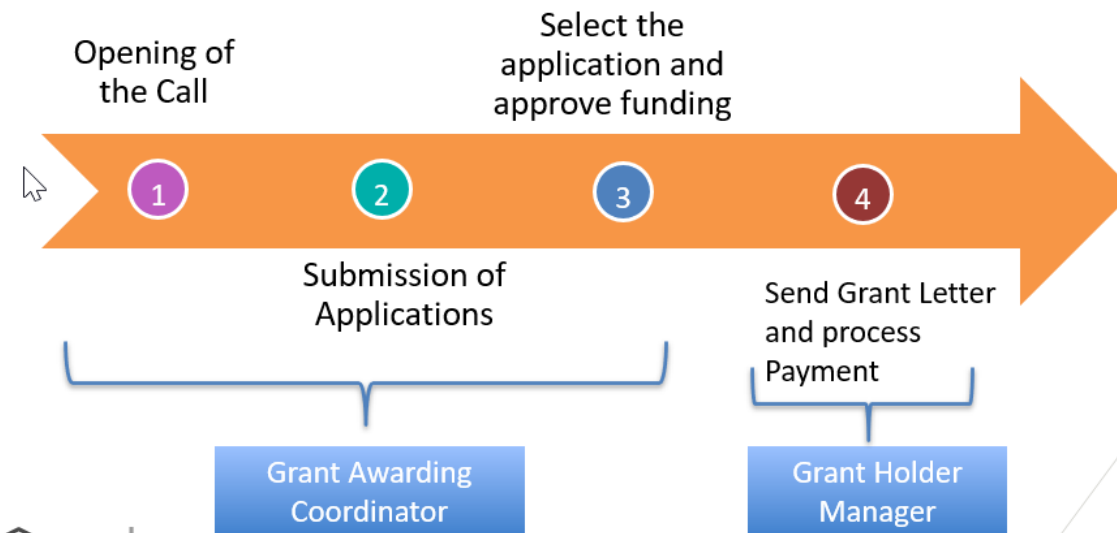
- ✓ Up to 500 EUR for virtual conferences



Virtual Networking Support

- Promoting and supporting virtual and hybrid collaboration as a complement to traditional ways of collaboration within the research and innovation communities
- **Individual Grant (EUR 4000 per grant). Follow on e-COST the Grant Awarding Process.**
- Selected by Open Call or identification of relevant participant.

How can you award grants for these activities?

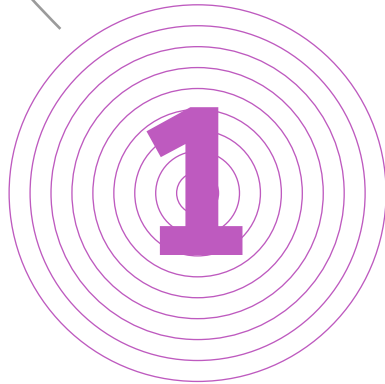


How to engage with COST?





How to engage with COST?



As a **participant**
of a running Action



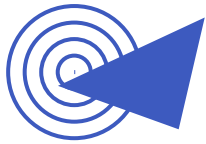
As a **proposer**
of a new COST Action



As **expert** to evaluate
submitted proposals

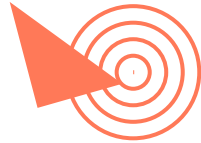
NEXT COLLECTION
DATE: 20 OCTOBER 2022

1. As a participant in a running Action (1/2)



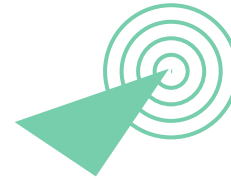
FIND THE ACTION IN YOUR FIELD

of interest on the
COST website



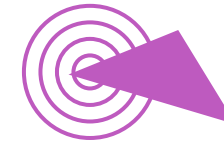
READ THE PROJECT PLAN

(MoU) – identify
your potential
contribution



BROWSE THE ACTION'S OWN WEBSITE

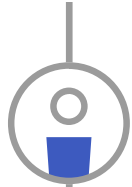
– check their
activities



IDENTIFY THE OPPORTUNITIES

to join the Action
and your contact
person

1. As a participant in a running Action (2/2)



AS A MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (MC) MEMBER

(contact the COST National Coordinator)



AS A WORKING GROUP (WG) PARTICIPANT

(contact the WG leader)



AS AD-HOC 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)



2. 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** proposer

Collection date:
20 October 2022
12:00 CET

www.COST.eu
opencall@cost.eu

Open Call for proposals – how to apply

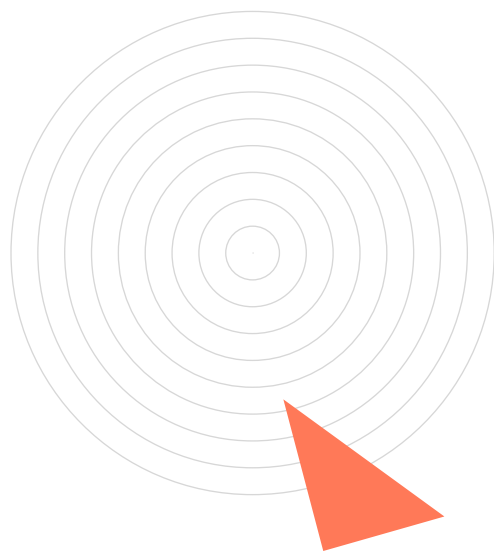
E-COST



1

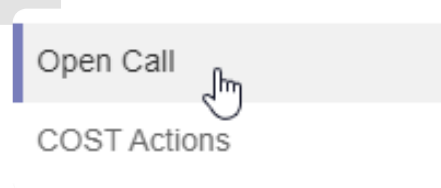
Create a COST account:

<https://www.cost.eu/ecost>

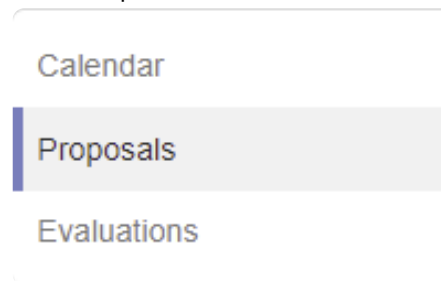


2

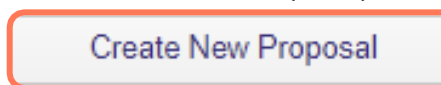
> Open Call



> Proposals



> Create new proposal



3

Online registration
and submission:

General information
+ Technical Annex





Proposals



GENERAL FEATURES



NETWORK OF PROPOSERS



TECHNICAL ANNEX

(www.cost.eu)

1. S&T Excellence
2. Networking Excellence
3. Impact
4. Implementation



COST EXCELLENCE AND INCLUSIVENESS POLICY SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES



COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy

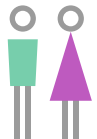
PROMOTING



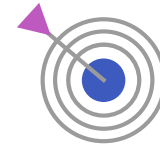
**GEOGRAPHICAL
BALANCE** (ITC)



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

Evaluation

SESA



ELIGIBILITY!

- Anonymous
- Minimum 50% ITC
- Peaceful purpose
- Format
- English

STEP 1

EXTERNAL REMOTE EVALUATION

- 3 Independent External Experts
- Technical Annex

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

Evaluation criteria



S&T EXCELLENCE

- Soundness of the challenge
- Progress beyond the state-of-the-art



3 QUESTIONS

Total marks for the section
= 15 points



NETWORKING EXCELLENCE

- Added value of networking in S&T excellence
- Added value of networking in Impact



3 QUESTIONS

Total marks for the section
= 15 points



IMPACT

- Impact to science, society and competitiveness, and potential for innovation/breakthroughs
- Measures to maximise impact



3 QUESTIONS

Total marks for the section
= 15 points



IMPLEMENTATION

- Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan



1 QUESTION

Total marks for the section
= 5 points

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

Read the SESA
Guidelines

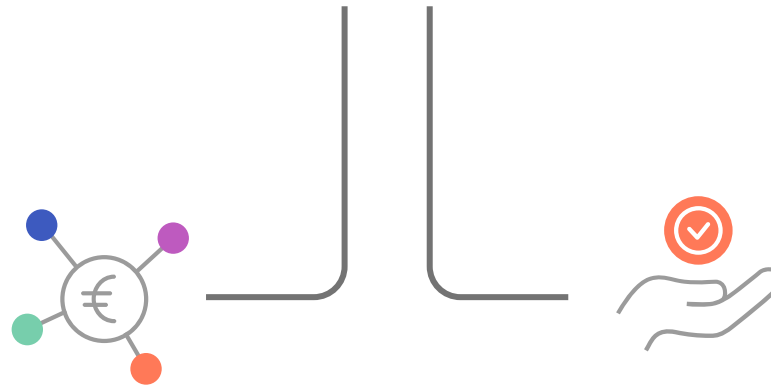
Technical Annex template
(Documents and Guidelines
repository on the COST website)



3. 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

THANK YOU!

