

## An Introduction to COST Webinar

COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a funding organisation that aims to support researchers, in any sector and at all career stages, to grow their professional research networks and boost their careers. COST Actions are open to all science and technology fields, including new and emerging fields and help to connect research initiatives across Europe and beyond.

Our [Introduction to COST webinar](#) provided attendees with an overview of COST and the benefits of participation. A number of questions submitted during the webinar were unable to be answered on the day. UKRO sought clarification on those outstanding questions.

### Questions and Answers

#### Can funded UKRI networks participate in a COST action?

- As UKRI networks are not legal entities, individual researchers in the networks may apply with the legal entity that they're affiliated to, provided that their research is funded at a national level.

#### I am doctoral student at Heriot-Watt University UK however based at their Dubai campus at the moment. Am I eligible for COST?

- Yes, you are eligible. Eligibility for funding is not related to the role of the participant in the Action, neither to their physical location, but only with the country where the legal institution of affiliation is located.

#### Is there minimum/maximum spending limit per year? Does it cover admin costs?

- The annual spending limit is determined in the Work and Budget plan, which is subject to approval of the COST Association and an Annex to the Action Grant Agreement. The spending limit differs per Action, as it depends on the budget available to the COST Association; the size of the network; and type of Action. The average annual budget of a COST Action is EUR 134,500.

#### Is there a limit for number of Working Groups (WGs)? You mentioned three to six-, but we have many more. Is that a problem?

- There is no limit in number of WGs, but there is a limit in funding, so the more WGs an Action has, the less money is available for each of them.

#### Could you please confirm which is the minimum duration of a Short-term scientific missions (STSM)?

- Five days.

#### Is there funding for research proposal writing?

- No funding for proposal writing.

#### When calculating researcher age, are deductions made for maternity/parental leave?

- No.

It sounds like a lot of details are decided by the Management Committee (MC) and by the Working Groups (WGs) after the action has been funded. So how much detail (e.g. of training schools, conferences, etc) can/should you put in the application to show excellence in implementation?

- This information is specified in the [Submission, Evaluation, Selection and Approval \(SESA\) guidelines](#).

### Are the activities to be solely funded by COST Action? Could it be some joint events with external funding support?

- It is possible to organise joint events with external funding support, as long as the COST funds were used for the COST event and participants. Actions can also charge a registration fee to non-COST participants to boost their budget for that particular event (please note COST Actions can never charge a registration fee to COST Action participants). COST is always careful to state that the event must remain a COST event and not be hijacked by Pharma, Industry or whoever also contributed money. All joint collaborations need to be pre-approved by the COST Association, and duplication of funding (e.g. in case of a joint event with the European Commission) should in all cases be avoided.

### Are there guidelines for the participation of non-research/university members? Are there minimum/maximum numbers for participants who can be professional associations, business consultants, policy makers, and the like?

- No maximum numbers for any type of participants. No guidelines on different types of participants, but any individual affiliated to a legal entity is eligible to apply.

### Please can you supply some examples of social science/ arts participations after the presentation. The interdisciplinary aspect would be nice to highlight.

- Please consult the [COST website](#) for further details. You can easily browse COST Actions by putting in a search for 'social sciences'. You can also have a look at the COST Action booklet, listing all COST Actions that received funding in 2021.

### COST funding does not count as research funding for your appraisals and other researcher productivity measures, although many of the outcomes are research outcomes, like the software and publications that were presented. The ambiguity in considering COST as research or not should be reviewed, so this funding could be at least partially considered as research.

- COST does not fund research activities. Some of the outcomes of a COST Action can be considered research focused, but these activities were funded at the national level, COST only funds the coordination of these activities.

### How do we get in touch?

- [opencall@cost.eu](mailto:opencall@cost.eu) or contact your dedicated [UKRO European Advisor](#) for further information.