



UK Research
and Innovation

COST – UK CNC webinar 22 June 2026

OFFICIAL

10.05-10.30 – Hazel Dalgard, UK COST National Coordinator (UKRI):
– Open Call 2026: COST proposal eligibility, submission and evaluation, ECRs in COST
– Q&A

10.30-10.45 – Reflections of COST Action Chairs:
– Chris White, Action Chair for CA 24144 (also the Grant Holder Institution in the Action.)
– Catherine Walsh Action Chair for CA22133
– COST Action Chairs – Q&A

10.45-11.10 – Hazel Dalgard UK COST National Coordinator (UKRI):
– COST Management Committee structure and positions,
– COST Action budgets, participating in activities of COST actions
– Joining a COST action

11.10-11.20 – Q&A on any aspect of COST

11.20-11.30 – Resources and conclusion

Part 1

- What COST is.
- How COST works.
- Proposal submission and evaluation.
- COST support for Early Career Researchers.

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

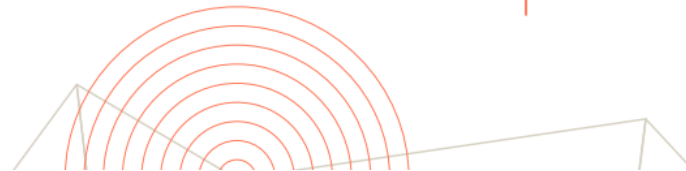
(young and experienced researchers)



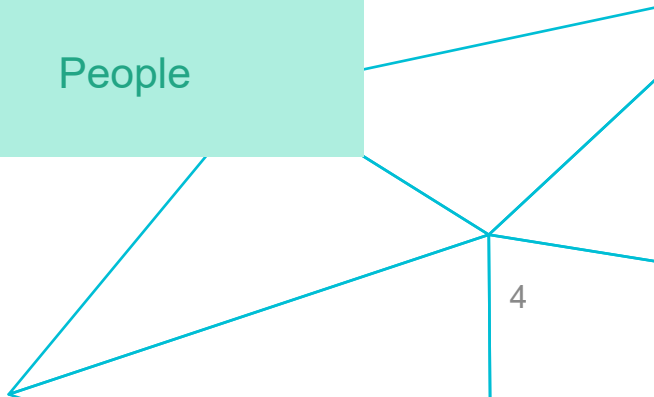
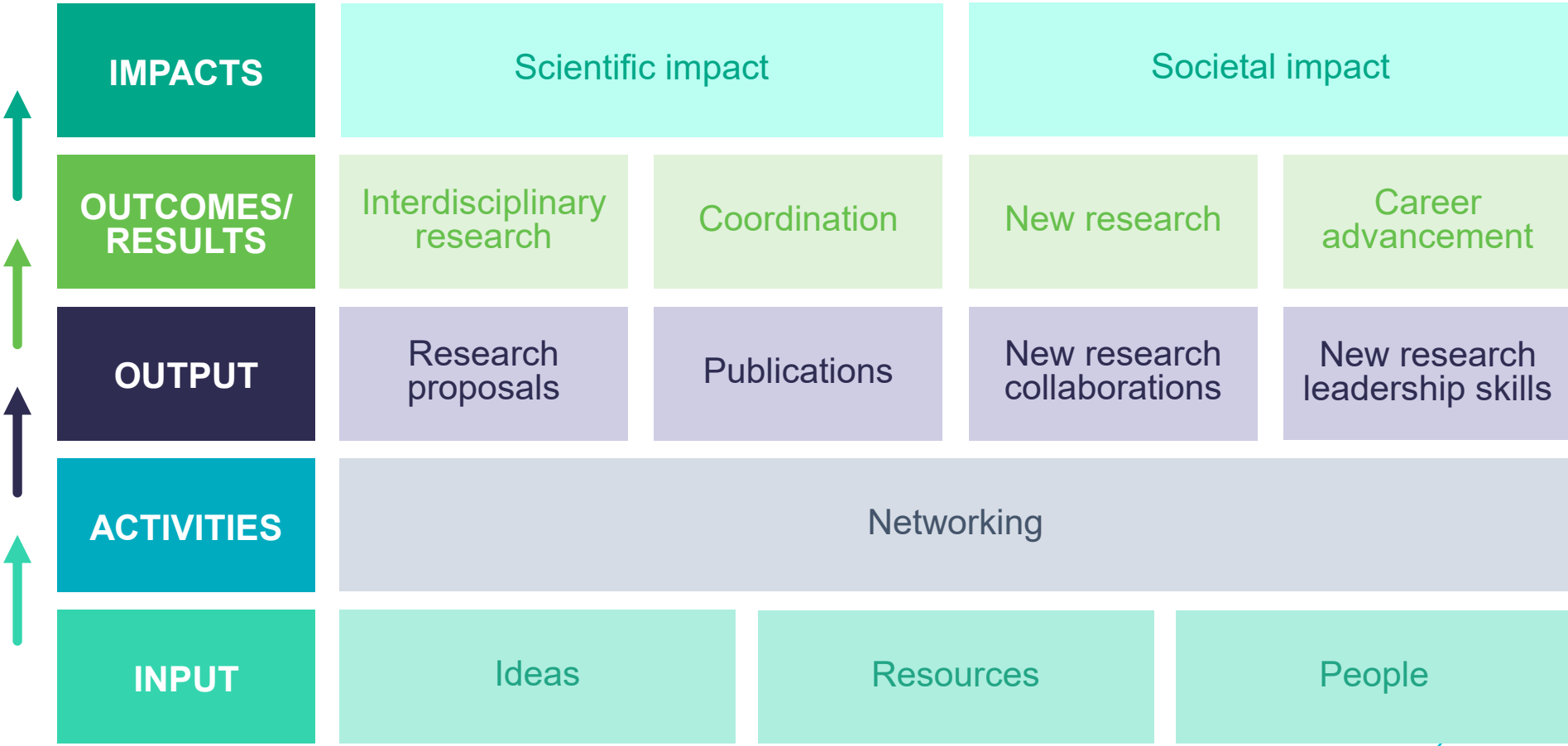
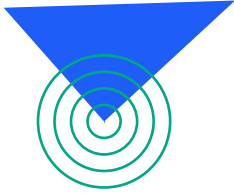
ALL COUNTRIES

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

OPEN BY NATURE



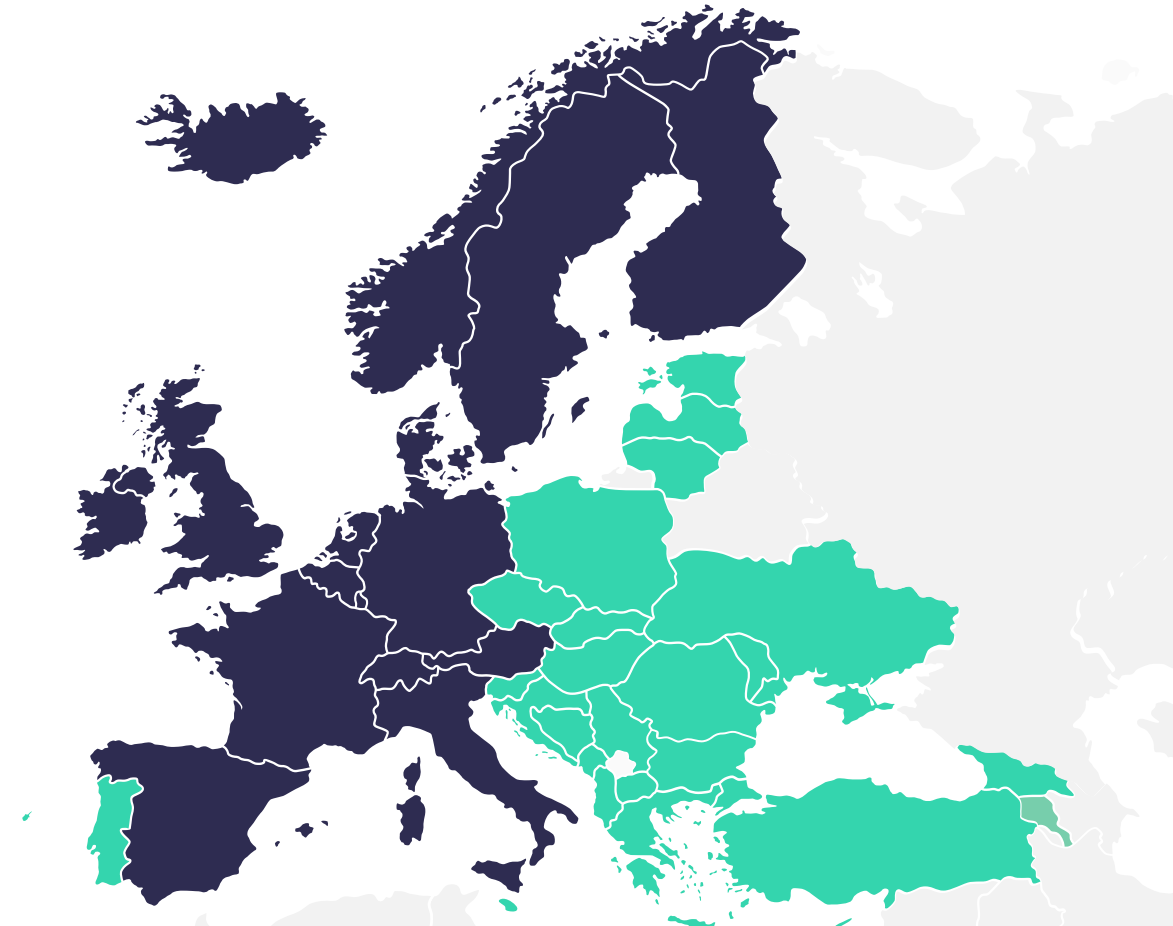
COST Impact Model



COST Membership

41 Full COST Members

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| ● Albania | ● Germany | ● North Macedonia |
| ● Armenia | ● 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 | ● Türkiye |
| ● France | ● The Netherlands | ● Ukraine |
| ● Georgia | ● The Republic of | ● United Kingdom |

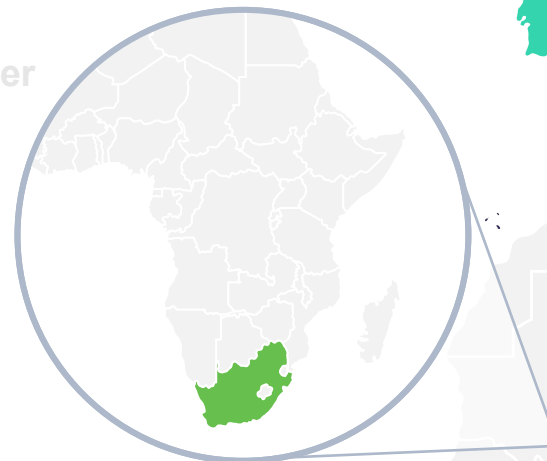


1 Cooperating Member

● Israel

1 Partner Member

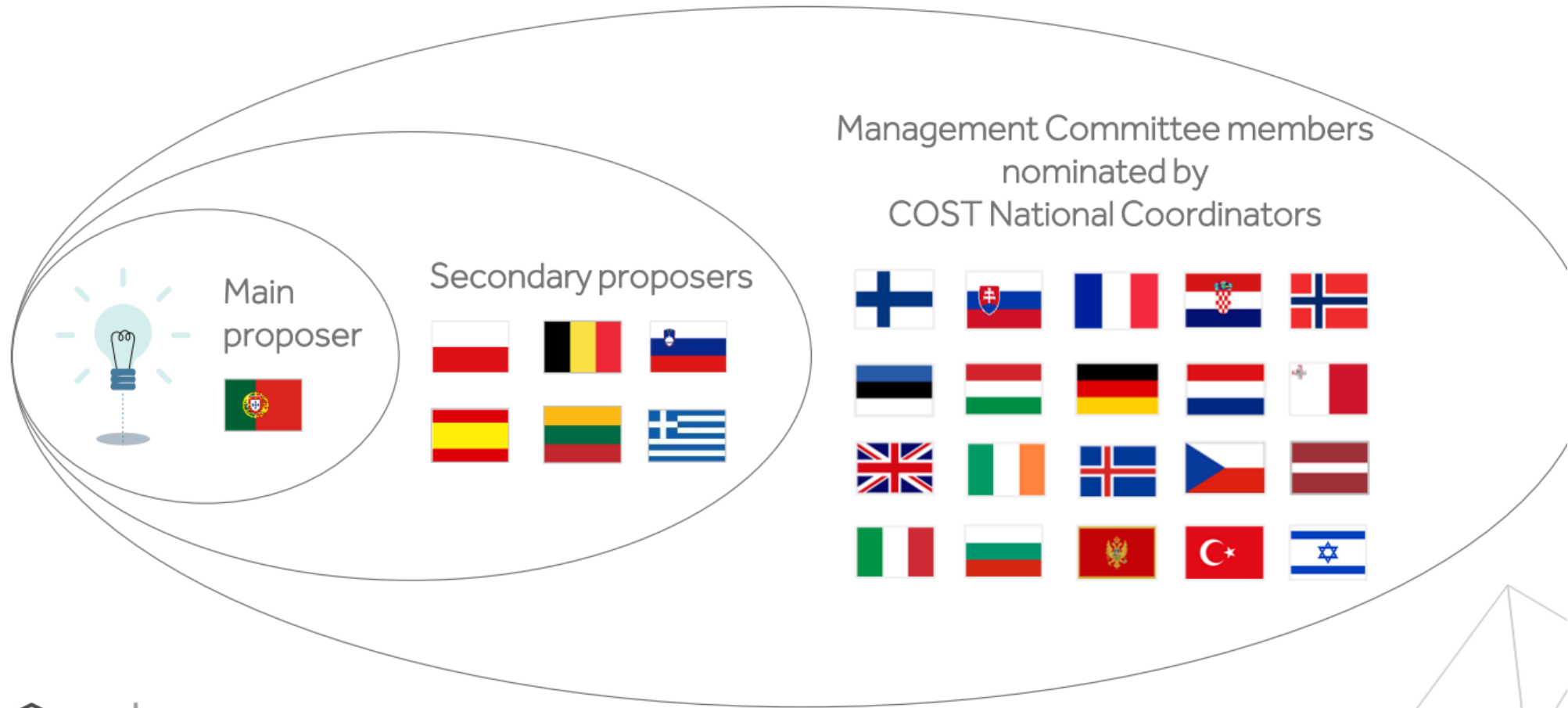
● South Africa



- COST Members non-ITCs (Inclusiveness Target Countries)
- COST Members ITCs
- COST Cooperating Member
- COST Partner Member



How it works?

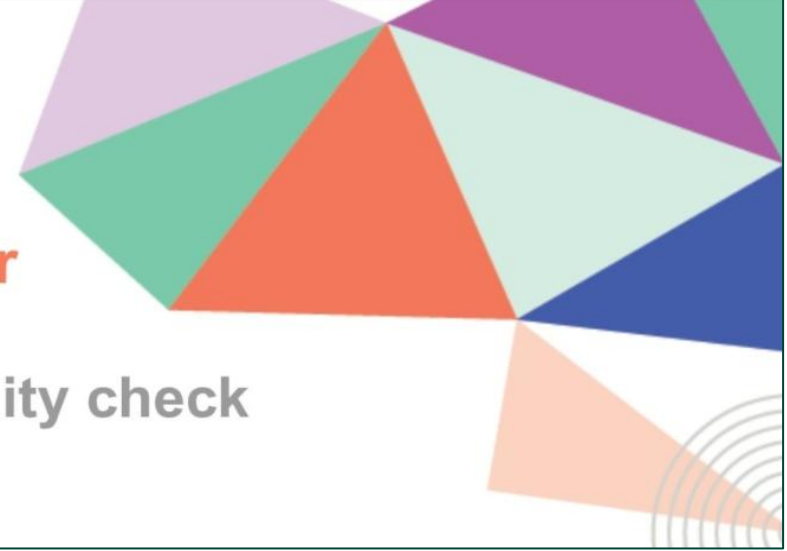


COST Open Call 2025

The highest number of proposals ever

1090 submitted proposals* before eligibility check

***29% increase** in submissions compared to 2024



- **All submitted proposals – by field** - <https://www.cost.eu/oc-2025-1-initial-analysis/>
* 55% of proposals have two or more Main Fields of Science.
- **42 COST countries** submitted as a main proposer – IT (110); **UK (109)**; ES (96).
- **Networks** - The average size is **47 proposers** (main and secondary).
- **Gender balance** - remains **52% male/48% female** main proposers.
- **Inclusiveness** - **25% younger/75% experienced** researchers as main proposers.
- **31% ITCs/ 69% COST Member Countries** as main proposers' institutions

COST OPEN CALL 2026

COST Open Call 2026 - what's new? - COST

COST Info Day 2026 recording and slides

<https://www.cost.eu/funding/open-call-a-simple-one-step-application-process/>

COST OPEN CALL

One-stage **online submission** of proposals (e-COST)

Open for submissions as from 31 July 2026

Proposal should focus on Excellence in S&T and Networking, Impact and Implementation

Up to 80 COST Actions approved per collection

Main Proposer + **secondary** proposer

Collection date:
28 October 2026, 12:00 CET

www.COST.eu
opencall@cost.eu



Open Call: How to apply?



E-COST

1

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

2

> Open Call

Open Call
COST Actions

3

**Online registration
and submission:**
General information
+ online Technical Annex



> Proposals

Calendar
Proposals
Evaluations

> Create new proposal

Create New Proposal



Proposals



**GENERAL
FEATURES**



**NETWORK OF
PROPOSERS**



TECHNICAL ANNEX (E-COST)

1. Excellence in S&T and Networking
2. Impact
3. Implementation



Open Call for proposals

TECHNICAL ANNEX - ONLINE SUBMISSION TOOL (e-COST)



SECTIONS

1. EXCELLENCE in
S&T and
NETWORKING

2. IMPACT

3. IMPLEMENTATION

SUB-SECTIONS

- A. Main challenge
- B. Objectives
- C. State-of-the-art
- D. Rationale for choosing networking to address the main challenge
- E. Critical mass of the network

- A. Impact related to objectives
- B. Involvement of stakeholders
- C. Communication, dissemination and valorisation

- A. Action Structure
- B. Work plan (tasks, activities and timeframe)
- C. Deliverables
- D. Gantt chart

- Technical Annex
- Max. 15 pages
- Diagrams and figures accepted

OC 2026 – SESA changes!

Evaluation

SESA



ELIGIBILITY!

- At least 50% Inclusiveness Target Countries
- At least 40% Young Researchers and Innovators
- Peaceful purpose
- Anonymous
- One proposer one role per Open Call
- English



EXTERNAL REMOTE EVALUATION

- 3 Independent External Experts
- Technical Annex



CONSENSUS REPORT AND QUALITY CHECK

- Appointment of a rapporteur



SELECTION BY THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

- Assessment of acceptability
- Shortlist



APPROVAL BY COST COMMITTEE OF SENIOR OFFICIALS

- Results 7-8 months after submission



Evaluation criteria



EXCELLENCE IN S&T AND NETWORKING

- Soundness of the challenge
- Research coordination and capacity-building objectives.
- Progress beyond the state-of-the-art
- Added value of networking in S&T excellence
- Critical mass of the network



IMPACT

- Impact on science, society, policy, or any other relevant area, and short-, medium- or long -term.
- Involvement of stakeholders, their role and added-value.
- Plans for communication, dissemination and valorisation of results and target audience



IMPLEMENTATION

- Coherence of the Action structure and effectiveness of the work plan



5 QUESTIONS

Range of marks: 0 – 5
Threshold: 3



3 QUESTIONS

Range of marks: 0 – 5
Threshold: 3



1 QUESTION

Range of marks: 0 – 3

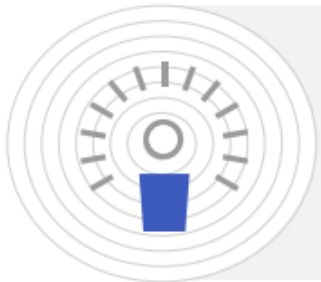


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Scientific and societal impact

- Scientific discoveries and breakthroughs, development of new research infrastructures, adoption of common standards, technological applications in the form of products and services, etc.



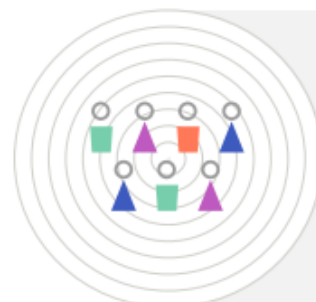
Research careers

- 85% of researchers participating in COST Actions indicate that participation has led to career advancement



Follow-up funding

- Horizon 2020 reported success rate: 39% (on a yearly basis, around €450 million of approved common research projects spin off from ending Actions)



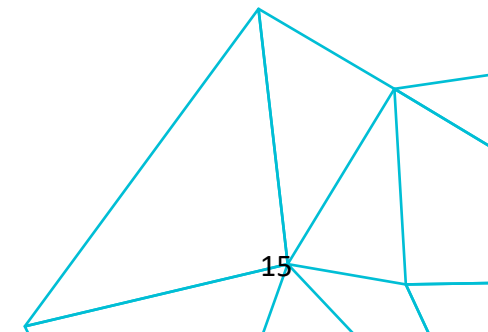
Co-Publications

- Co-publications between active COST Action participants see an increase of about 55% compared to general co-publications



COST boosts careers

- “I truly believe that the fact that I was the Chair of a COST Action helped me with the appointment into my permanent position in Portugal.”
- Dr Raquel Conceição, University of Lisbon, Portugal



20 Years of the European Charter for Researchers:

Time to Turn Principles into Systemic Change

December 2024 - late 2026 - **COST Cross-Cutting Activity** to investigate how to improve career development to attract and retain researchers in Europe.

<https://www.cost.eu/about/strategy/cross-cutting-activities/>



Policy recommendations, guidelines, training opportunities, thorough analysis of transfer of good practices will be developed by four CCA Working Groups:

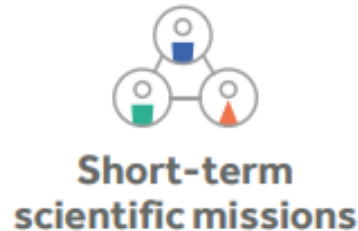
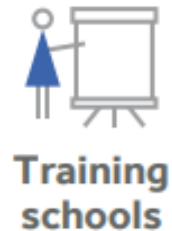
1. Working Group on young researchers;
2. Working Group on career advisory and support services;
3. Working Group on building a young researchers' community in COST Actions; and
4. Working Group on gender equity and fostering diversity in research

COST in numbers...

- A COST Action typically lasts for 4 years.
- Funding is typically ~ €700,000 over lifetime.
- Around 70-80 new Actions start each year (around 300 run in parallel)

Cost Action collaboration and capacity building activities:

COST ACTIONS





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Questions?



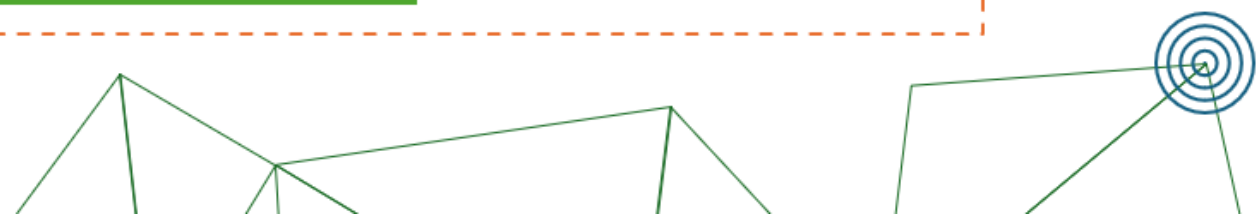
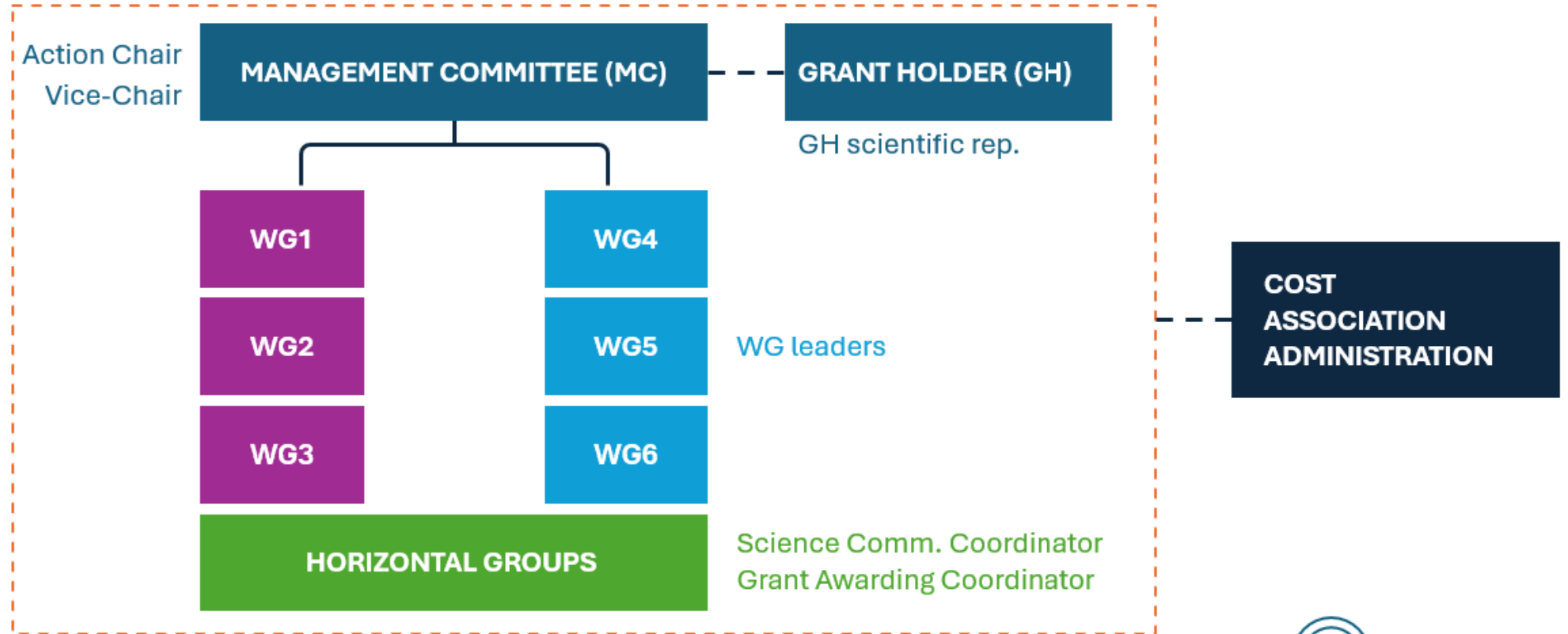
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Part 2

- COST Management Committee structure and positions,
- COST Action budgets, participating in activities of COST actions
- Joining a COST action

COST Action structure

- LEADERSHIP POSITIONS



Becoming a member of a Working Group (WG)

Apply via the COST website - MC members as well

WG preference, Scientific Background, Motivation, WG contribution

Approved WG members will appear on the Action page of the COST website



Working Groups

Number	Title	Leader
1	Mental health impacts of climate change	✓
2	The adaptive strategies and treatment possibilities for affected groups and individuals	▼
3	Short-term goals of community of practice: shifting societal behaviour	▼
4	Long-term strategies of community of practice: enabling sustainability	▼

Express your interest to join any of the working groups by applying below.

It is required to have an e-COST profile to submit your application. If needed, [create it first](#) and then click 'Apply'.



Membership

Action Details

MoU - 026/24

CSO Approval date - 17/05/2024

Start date - 29/10/2024

End date - 28/10/2028

How can I participate?

- Read the Action Description [MoU](#)
- Inform the Main Proposer/Chair of your interest ([email](#))
- [Apply](#) to join your Working Groups of interest
- Please note, Management Committee nominations are carried out through the [COST National Coordinators](#)



TA – MOU (AGA) – W&BPs

- Technical annex – partially migrates into the MOU for the Action (4 years).
- Action Grant Agreement signed with GHI.
- W&BPs agreed annually by the Action MC. (Activities can peak in the middle to latter years as the action grows.)
- Each year funding drawdown as 50% (w. Action Grant Agreement/W&BP), then 35% after submission of the intermediate financial report, then 15% after submission of the final financial report.
- Every action incl. a 15% administration payment to the GHI (FSAC).

What can be funded by COST





Daily allowance (DA) covers:

- Accommodation
- Meals
- Short distance travel (≤ 100 km one way)
- Other incidental costs*

(Incidental costs refer to taxi or parking expenses, fuel costs, carbon tax, toll charges, car rental expenses linked to car travel, tips, etc.)



Based on:

- Meeting country
- Travel date(s) and hours
- Daily Allowance for local participants is 50% of the country rate



The Management Committee can lower Daily Allowance

Training schools:
Trainers and trainees can have different Daily Allowance

As a participant in a running Action



FIND THE ACTION IN YOUR FIELD

of interest on the
COST website



READ THE PROJECT PLAN

(MoU) – identify
your potential
contribution

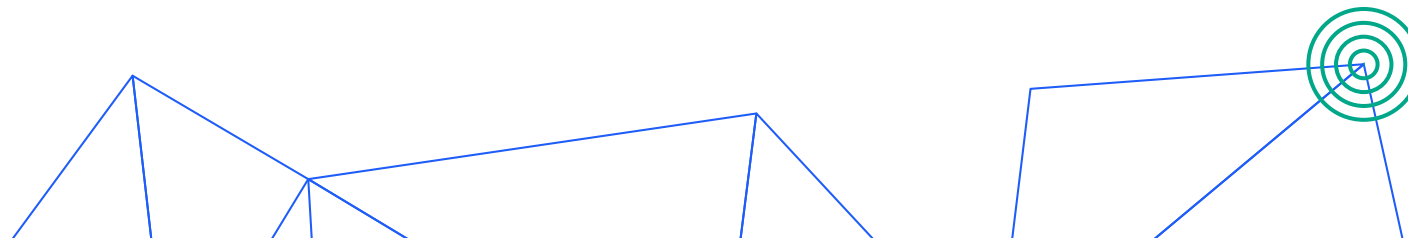


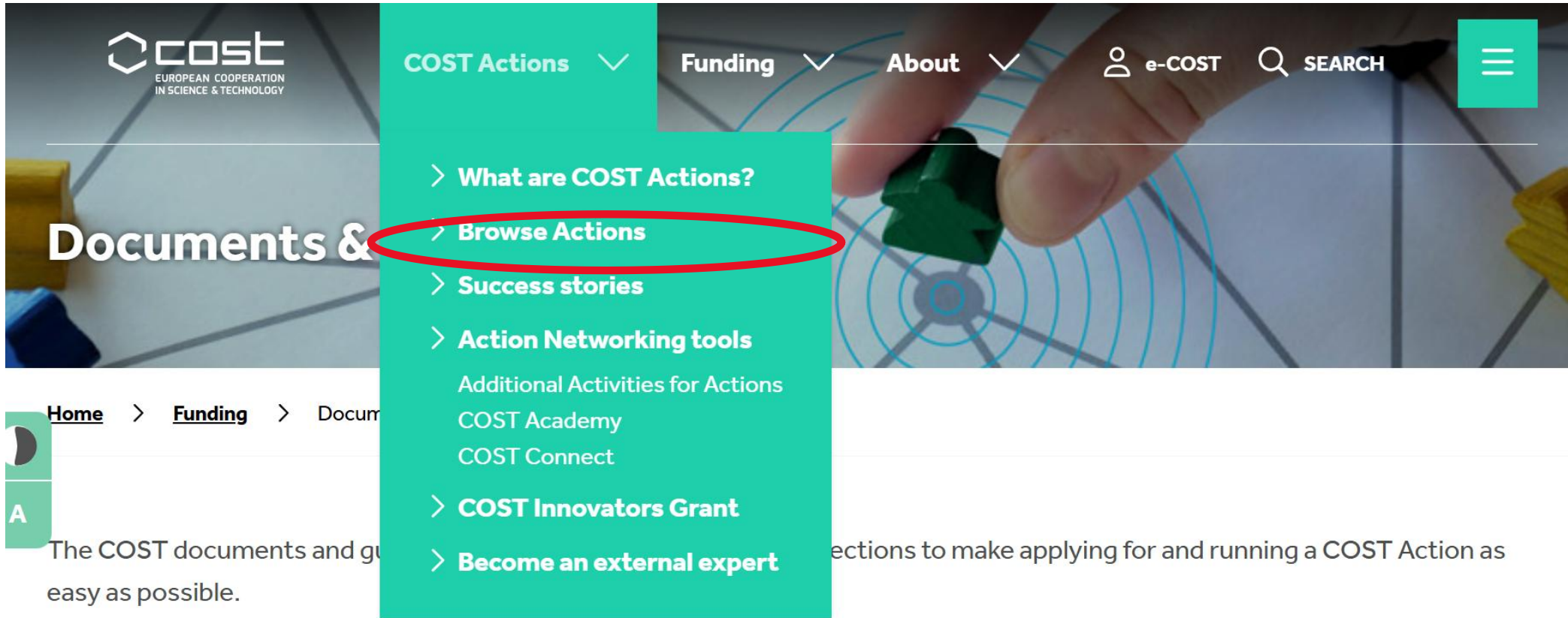
BROWSE THE ACTION'S WEBSITE

 – check
their activities

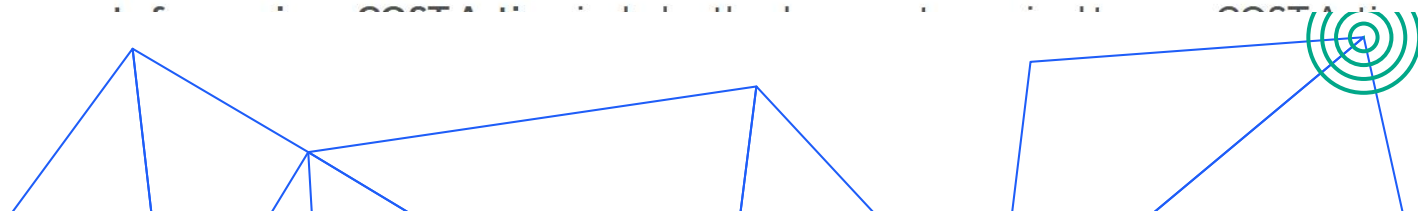
IDENTIFY THE OPPORTUNITIES

to join the Action
and your contact
person





The first section, **Documents for the Open Call**, includes the documents required to submit a new COST Action proposal. Relevant documents for Open Call 2026 will be available in Spring 2026.



Browse action>Search example - “cardiovascular”

The screenshot shows the COST Actions website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, COST Actions, Browse Actions, Funding, and About. A search bar contains the text "Cardiovascular" and a red "Search" button. Below the search bar, there is a checkbox for "Search in Title Only" and a "More filters" dropdown. The results section shows "Found 31 action(s)" and two search results:

Search Results
<p>CA24165 29/10/2025 - 28/10/2029 Network for Cardiovascular Pharmacogenomics and Precision Medicine (CardioPharmaGENET)</p>
<p>CA24142 13/10/2025 - 12/10/2029 Precision Medicine for Cardiac Arrest (PREMEDICARE)</p>

CA24142 - Precision Medicine for Cardiac Arrest (PREMEDICARE)

Downloads

[Home](#) > [Browse Actions](#) > Precision Medicine for Cardiac Arrest (PREMEDICARE)

Description

Management Committee

Main Contacts and Leadership

Working Groups and Membership

Action Details

MoU - 051/25

CSO Approval date - 19/05/2025

Want to join a WG? Study the MOU and contact the WG leaders.

Want to join activities of an action? Study the Action's website for open calls for scientific missions etc.



Brussels, 19 May 2025

COST 051/25

DECISION

Subject: Memorandum of Understanding for the implementation of the COST Action "Precision Medicine for Cardiac Arrest" (PREMEDICARE) CA24142

The COST Member Countries will find attached the Memorandum of Understanding for the COST Action Precision Medicine for Cardiac Arrest approved by the Committee of Senior Officials through written procedure on 19 May 2025.



[ABOUT](#) [ACTION STRUCTURE](#) [NEWS](#) [DELIVERABLES](#) [CONTACT](#)

Network for Cardiovascular Pharmacogenomics and Precision Medicine

CardioPharmaGENET aims to advance personalized medicine in cardiovascular care by leveraging pharmacogenomics (PGx) to optimize drug therapies. In cardiovascular medicine, this approach is especially critical, given the significant patient variability in drug responses to therapies.



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Questions?

Part 3 - Resources



- [COST website](#)
- [What is a COST Action](#)
- [How to join existing COST Actions](#)
- [Browse actions](#)
- [COST “am I eligible” tool](#)
- [Eligible countries and Annex I country and organisation table](#)
- [Tips for a winning proposal](#)

 [Key documents \(Annotated Rules Level C\)](#)

- [Annotated Rules FAQ – COST](#)

[COST Open Call 2026 - what's new? - COST](#)
[COST Open Call 2026 -COST Info Day 2026 recording and slides](#)

[COST Newsletter](#)
[COST's YouTube channel \(@costoffice\)](#)
[LinkedIn: COST Association](#)
[COST Strategic Plan \(2017-2027\)](#)
[COST's UK country website](#)

UK COST National Coordinator - cost.ukcnc@dsit.gov.uk
cost@ukro.ac.uk

Portal (subscribe for free) - [COST Factsheet](#)

<https://www.ukro.ac.uk/publications/european-cooperation-in-science-technology-cost/>



European Cooperation in Science & Technology (COST)

What is the COST programme and why participate?

COST is a framework for European Cooperation in Science and Technology run by the COST Association, **with over 40 countries** including the UK as a full member. It is funded by the COST Members and by the 'Widening participation and spreading excellence' budget in Horizon Europe.

COST supports researchers and innovators to build long term relationships in any research field, fostering collaboration between nations, strengthening Europe's overall ability to address key societal and economic challenges. Each year up to **70 COST Actions** are approved in total.

- COST Actions are bottom-up global networks of researchers in any disciplines, pursuing specific research agendas they propose.
- COST is open to any legal entities e.g. businesses.
- Early Career Researchers and others benefit from professional development opportunities under COST.
- COST does not fund research, but a broad range of networking and collaboration activities to pool and share research approaches and results.

A short video on the COST Association website explains [why people should consider participating](#).

Participating in a COST Action brings many benefits including researcher career development:

- Expands researchers' networks creating connections that foster excellent research.
- Fosters interdisciplinary research.
- Kickstarts researcher careers and supports their growth.
- Empowers young researchers with leadership opportunities early in their careers.
- Facilitates long term professional relationships for results across disciplines and countries.
- Supports researchers' professional profile development including communication of impact.
- Supports those researchers who may also wish to engage in Horizon Europe programmes.

What does a COST Action involve?

Overall, a successful proposal for a new COST Action should entail the following features:

- Create new networks rather than simply seek funding for existing ones.
- Contribute to the coordination of European Research Area efforts across Europe.
- Contribute strongly and visibly to European society, economic growth and welfare by producing results of interest to policy makers, standards bodies and/or private companies and industry.
- Be based upon:
 - the level of interest and relevant research resources in the countries participating
 - the added value expected from the coordination of national research by the Action
- Be expandable to new participants.
- Identify and consider R&D supported by other national and international funding schemes.
- Encourage capacity-building, by connecting high-quality scientific communities in Europe and worldwide, and encourage the mobility of early-career European researchers.

What activities does a COST Action support with funding?

Up to €150,000 is available annually on average, over four years, with the first year fixed at €125,000. Funding is relative to the size of the consortium and the level of engagement by partners.

COST actions typically fund:

- Meetings, conferences, workshops and conference grants.
- Training schools

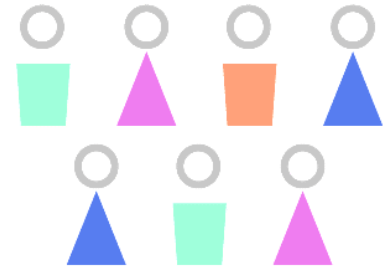
Gender Equality Plan for COST Activities

This GEP outlines guiding targets that help to promote gender balance in:

- Participation in COST Actions for both ITC and non-ITC participants and young researchers;
- COST Action leadership positions.

What is expected from a COST Action?

- Monitor gender balance in the research networks;
- Identify and invite participants from the under-represented groups;
- Nominate a Gender Equality Advisor;
- Develop a COST Action Gender Equality Plan;
- Organise Action events with a gender focus;
- Use gender inclusive language in all network communications;
- Participate in gender equality events organised by COST e.g. COST Academy and COST Connect.



Open Research Europe

- ORE is the European Commission's Open Access publishing platform for research results stemming from EU funding;
- COST Actions can submit directly to ORE, free of charge. Many article types are possible from all fields of science;
- Must be original content (not be submitted anywhere else) and stem from a COST Action;
- ORE offers rapid publication, open peer review, and indexing in databases such as Scopus and PubMed;
- COST Actions can create Collections (a compilation of content relating to a specific community) and there is no deadline;
- Complementary to the existing Open Access expenses covered by the COST rules.

