

European Cooperation in Science and Technology

COST



21.5. 2025 Eva Matějcová

COST



AGENDA

- **Introduction of program**
- **How to participate**
- **Evaluation criteria**
- **Presentation of Jiří Klimeš and Daniel Št'astný - sharing experiences with successful projects**

What is COST?



- provides networking opportunities for researchers and innovators in order to strengthen Europe's capacity to address scientific, technological and societal challenges.
- **A COST Action is an interdisciplinary research network that brings researchers and innovators together to investigate a topic of their choice for 4 years.**

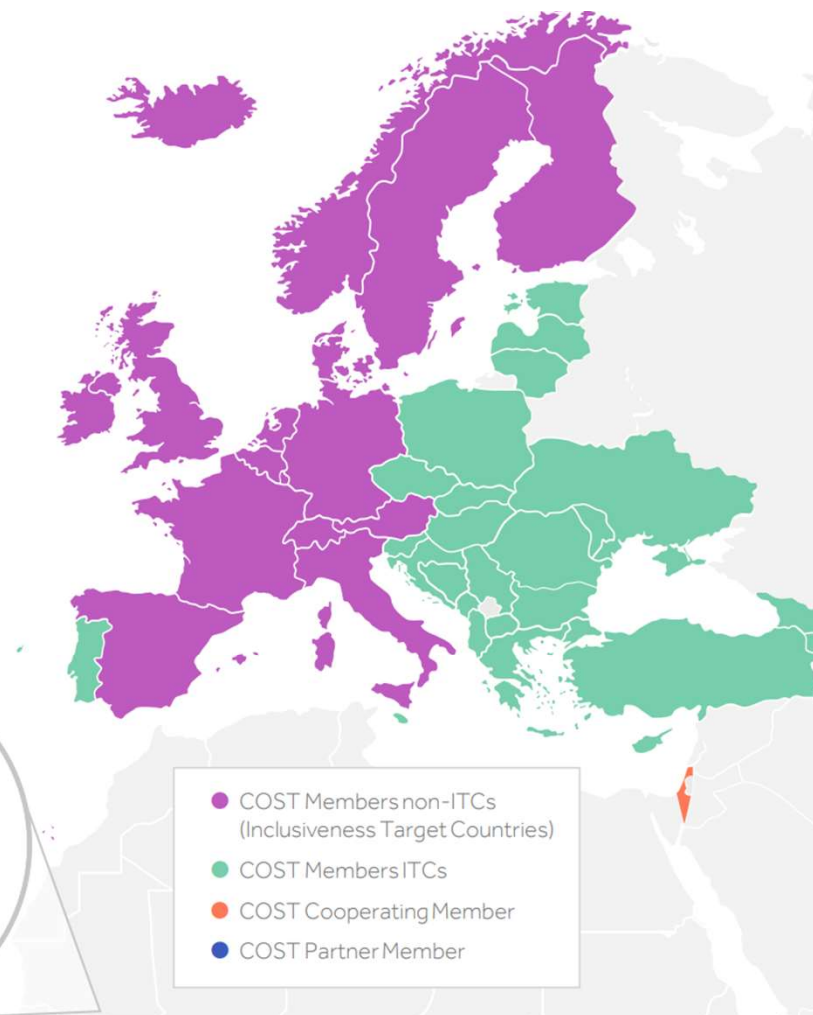


COST Membership

41 FULL COST Members

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

- 1** Cooperating Member **1** Partner Member
- Israel ● South Africa



Strategic Priorities



- Promoting and spreading excellence
- Fostering interdisciplinary research for breakthrough science – open call for any discipline
- Empowering and retaining young researchers – COST is very inclusive and gender balance

Core activities in COST action



- **Meetings, workshops conferences, and conference grants**
- **Training schools**
- **Short-term scientific missions (STSM)**
- **Dissemination activities**
- **Virtual networking grants**

Key figures



- **324 Running Actions ([Browse COST Actions](#))**
- **Up to 70 new Actions approved every year**
- **183 000€ average annual budget**
- **Success rate at 2023 call was at around 12%**
- **Follow-up proposals have a success rate of more than 39%**

What is the COST project

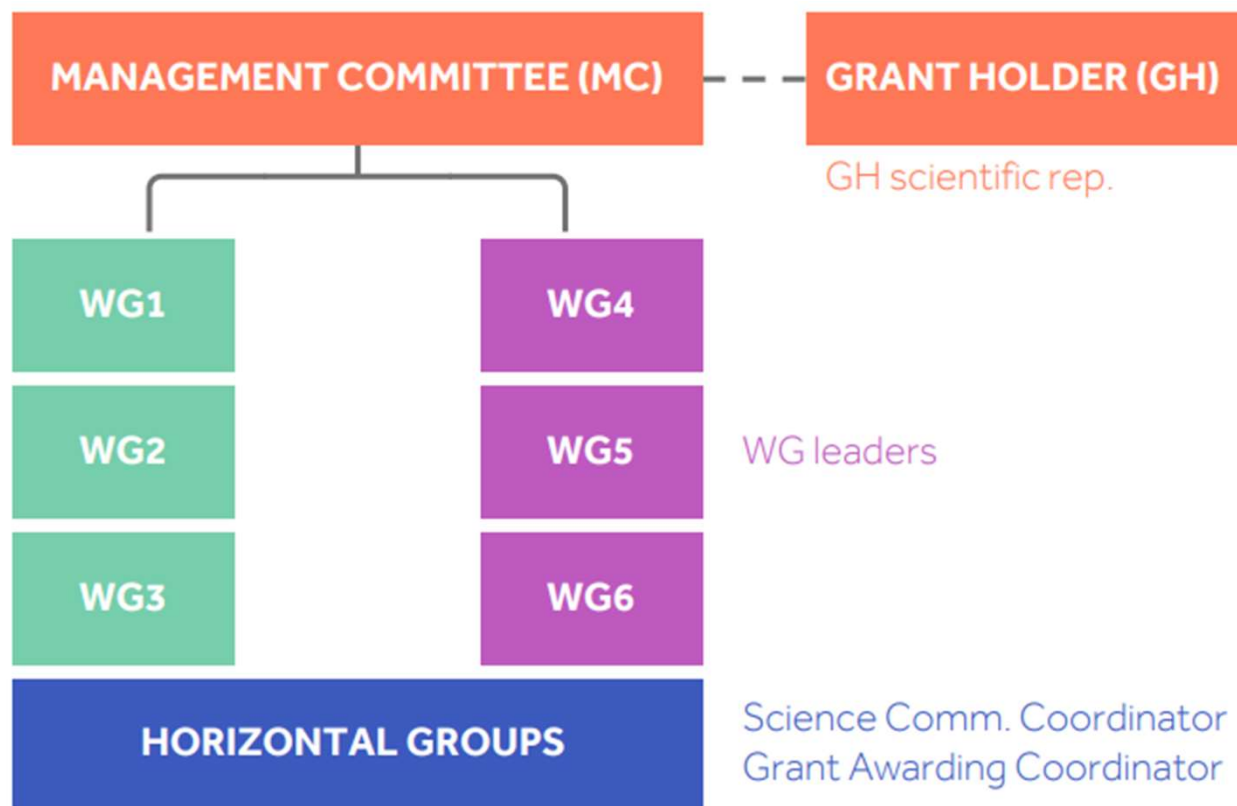


- **A platform to meet and discuss research ideas**
- **Usually 4 years**
- **Min 7 countries (at least 50% from Inclusiveness Target countries)**
- **provides funding for research coordination and capacity-building activities, not research itself**
- **No budget forecast is requested when submitting a proposal**

COST Action structure



Action Chair
Vice-Chair



**COST
ASSOCIATION
ADMINISTRATION**

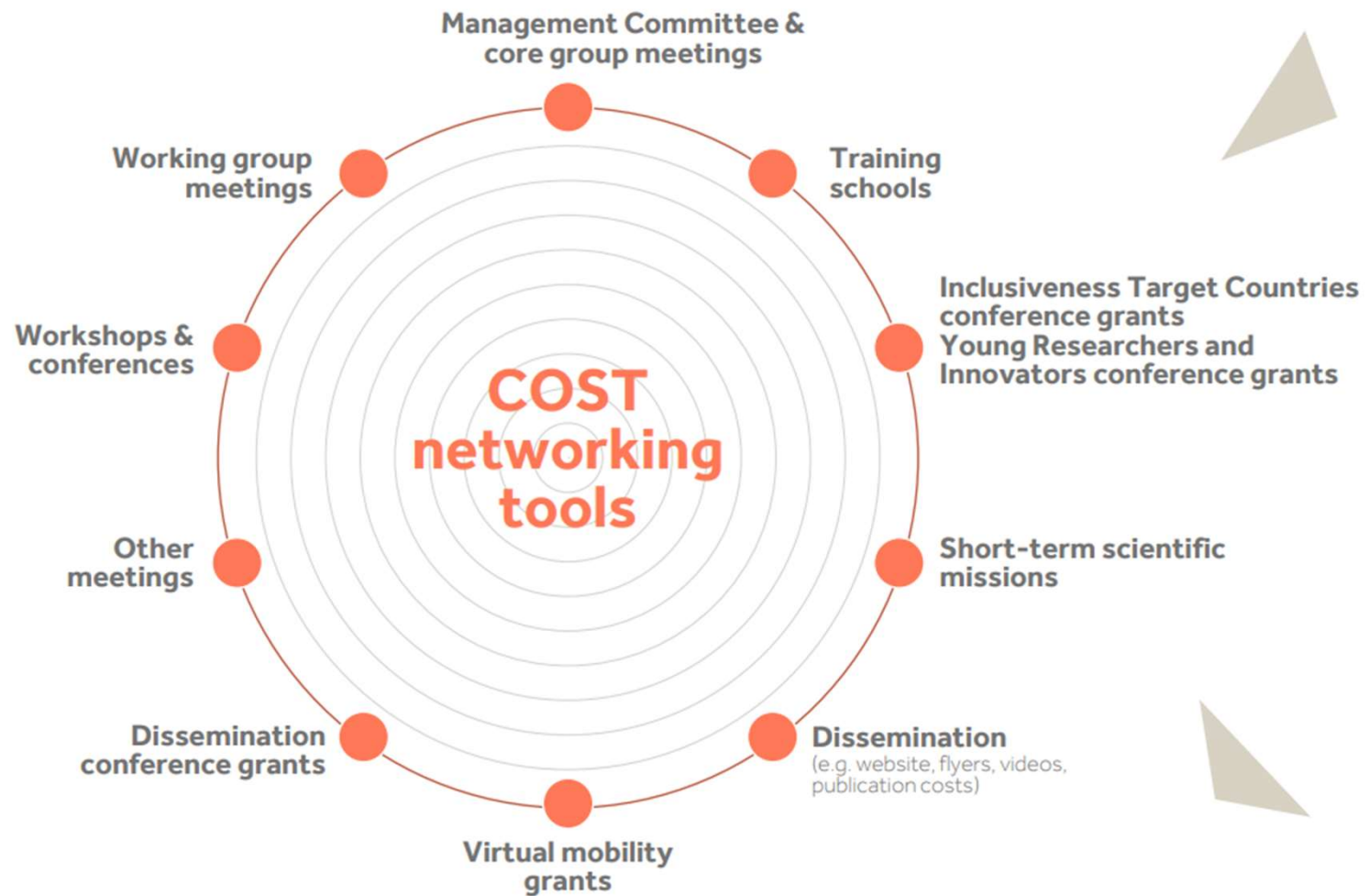
What is COST



How does it work?



COST networking tools



How to participate in a COST Action



- 1. As a participant of a running Action**
- 2. As a proposer of a new COST Action**
- 3. As expert to evaluate submitted proposals**

I. 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)
- **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)

I. 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 OWN WEBSITE** – check their activities
- **IDENTIFY THE OPPORTUNITIES** to join the Action and your contact person

Becoming a member of a Working Group (WG)



**Univerzita
Karlova**

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



CA22128 - Establishing Networks to Implement the Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations (IMPLEMENDEZ)

Downloads

Home > Browse Actions > Establishing Networks to Implement the Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations (IMPLEMENDEZ)

Description Management Committee Main Contacts and Leadership **Working Groups and Membership**

Working Groups

Number	Title	Leader
1	Investigation, Interviewing, Interrogation Themes	TBA
2	Law, Human Rights, Criminal Justice Themes	TBA
3	Vulnerability Themes	TBA
4	Institutional and Governmental Leadership Themes	TBA

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'.

Apply

Action Details

- MoU - 038/23
- CSO Approval date - 12/05/2023
- Start date - 05/10/2023
- End date - 04/10/2027

How can I participate?

- Read the Project 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 Contact Points](#)

Working Group Application



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Working Groups *

- ☐ 1. Epidemiology, clinical characterization, biosamples collection and clinical trial design in VLD
- ☐ 2. Comprehensive histological characterization for PSVD
- ☐ 3. Comprehensive radiological characterization of vascular liver diseases
- ☐ 4. Development of screening tools and diagnostic biomarkers for PSVD
- ☐ 5. Health-related quality of life and patient reported outcomes in VLD
- ☐ 6. Preclinical models of VLD, therapeutic targets and new therapeutic approaches for VLD

Scientific Background *

Maximum 150 words: please describe here in a brief manner your scientific background relevant for the COST Action.

Motivation *

Maximum 150 words: please describe here in a brief manner your motivation to join the COST Action.

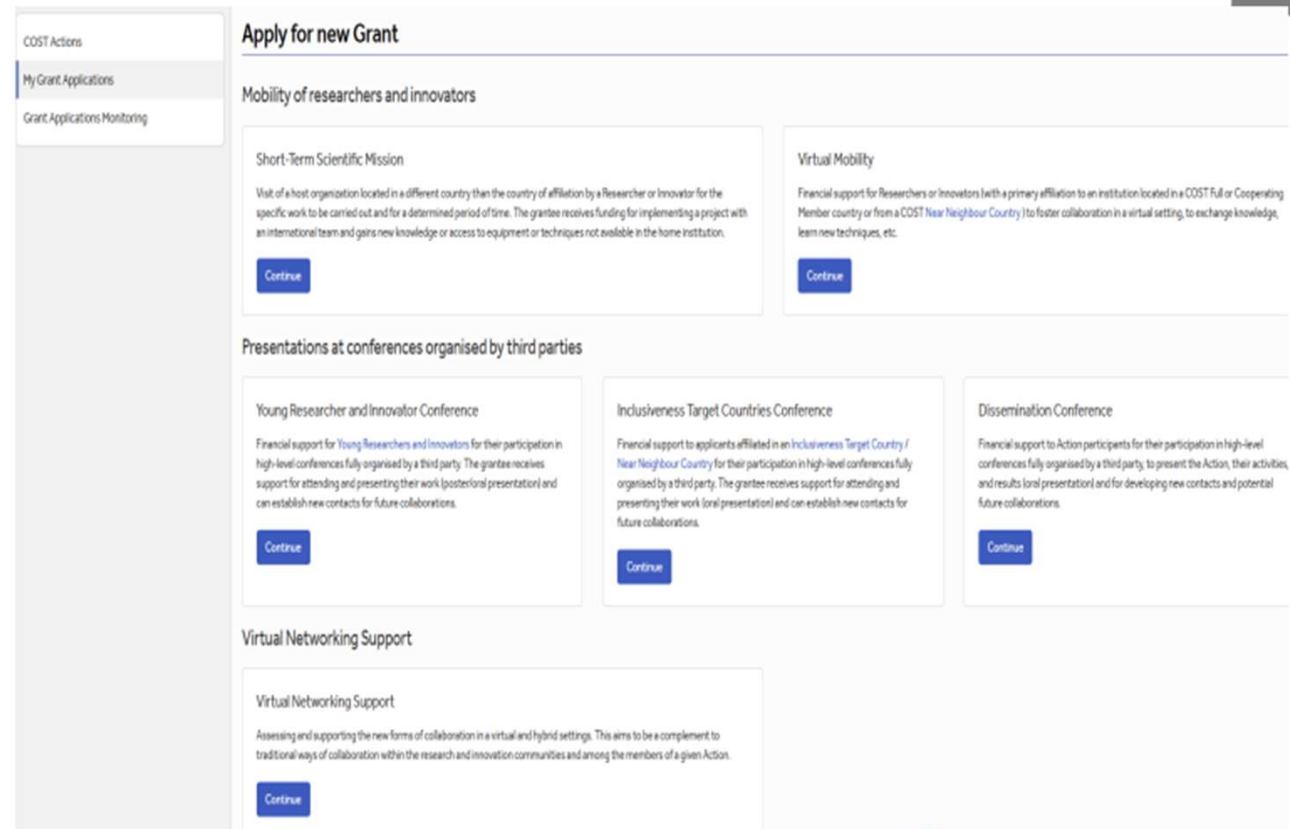
Working Group Contribution *

Maximum 150 words: please describe here how you plan to contribute to the Working Group(s).

Participant in Action Grants



- Short-Term Scientific Mission (STSM)
- ITC Conference Grant*
- Young Researcher and Innovator Conference Grant*
- Dissemination Conference Grant
- Virtual mobility



The screenshot shows a web application for applying for grants. On the left is a sidebar with three menu items: 'COST Actions', 'My Grant Applications' (which is highlighted), and 'Grant Applications Monitoring'. The main content area is titled 'Apply for new Grant' and contains a section 'Mobility of researchers and innovators'. This section has two columns of options, each with a description and a 'Continue' button. The first column includes 'Short-Term Scientific Mission' and 'Presentations at conferences organised by third parties' (which contains three sub-options: 'Young Researcher and Innovator Conference', 'Inclusiveness Target Countries Conference', and 'Dissemination Conference'). The second column includes 'Virtual Mobility'. Below these is a section for 'Virtual Networking Support' with one option. Each option's description is truncated in the image.

Apply for new Grant

Mobility of researchers and innovators

Short-Term Scientific Mission

Visit of a host organization located in a different country than the country of affiliation by a Researcher or Innovator for the specific work to be carried out and for a determined period of time. The grantee receives funding for implementing a project with an international team and gains new knowledge or access to equipment or techniques not available in the home institution.

[Continue](#)

Virtual Mobility

Financial support for Researchers or Innovators (with a primary affiliation to an institution located in a COST Full or Cooperating Member country or from a COST Near Neighbour Country) to foster collaboration in a virtual setting, to exchange knowledge, learn new techniques, etc.

[Continue](#)

Presentations at conferences organised by third parties

Young Researcher and Innovator Conference

Financial support for Young Researchers and Innovators for their participation in high-level conferences fully organised by a third party. The grantee receives support for attending and presenting their work (poster/oral presentation) and can establish new contacts for future collaborations.

[Continue](#)

Inclusiveness Target Countries Conference

Financial support to applicants affiliated in an Inclusiveness Target Country / Near Neighbour Country for their participation in high-level conferences fully organised by a third party. The grantee receives support for attending and presenting their work (oral presentation) and can establish new contacts for future collaborations.

[Continue](#)

Dissemination Conference

Financial support to Action participants for their participation in high-level conferences fully organised by a third party, to present the Action, their activities, and results (oral presentation) and for developing new contacts and potential future collaborations.

[Continue](#)

Virtual Networking Support

Virtual Networking Support

Assessing and supporting the new forms of collaboration in a virtual and hybrid settings. This aims to be a complement to traditional ways of collaboration within the research and innovation communities and among the members of a given Action.

[Continue](#)

Eg. Call for 2025 (STSM) Grant




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Karlova**

<https://www.valdig.eu/cost-action-euro-valdi-net-a-new-call-is-now-open/>

COST action EURO-VALDI-NET // a new call is now open

Mar 20, 2025

Dear members of the COST Action EURO-VALDI-NET, dear VALDIG members,

We are happy to inform you we are opening **a new call for 2025 Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM) Grant.**

Euro-VALDI-NET invites CA-23146 Action participants with a primary affiliation to a legal entity located in

a COST Full or Cooperating Member country, a COST Near Neighbour Country or a European RTD

Organisation (i.e. intergovernmental scientific research organisations) to apply for a Short Term

Scientific Mission (STSM) Grant.

In total, 5 grants will be funded (maximum of €2100 per grant, for a maximum of 28 days).

2. As a proposer of a new COST Action



- One-stage online submission of proposals (e-COST)
- Collection date: **21 October 2025 12:00 CEST**
- Create a COST account: <https://www.cost.eu/ecost>
- Main Proposer + secondary proposers

Proposal of a new COST Action



- **General Features**
- **Technical Annex – S&T Excellence and Networking, Impact, Implementation (new template for 2025 call)**
- **Cost Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy**
- **Specific Objectives**
- **Network of Proposers**

Open Call for proposals

Technical Annex



SECTIONS

1. EXCELLENCE in S&T and NETWORKING

2. IMPACT

3. IMPLEMENTATION

SUB-SECTIONS

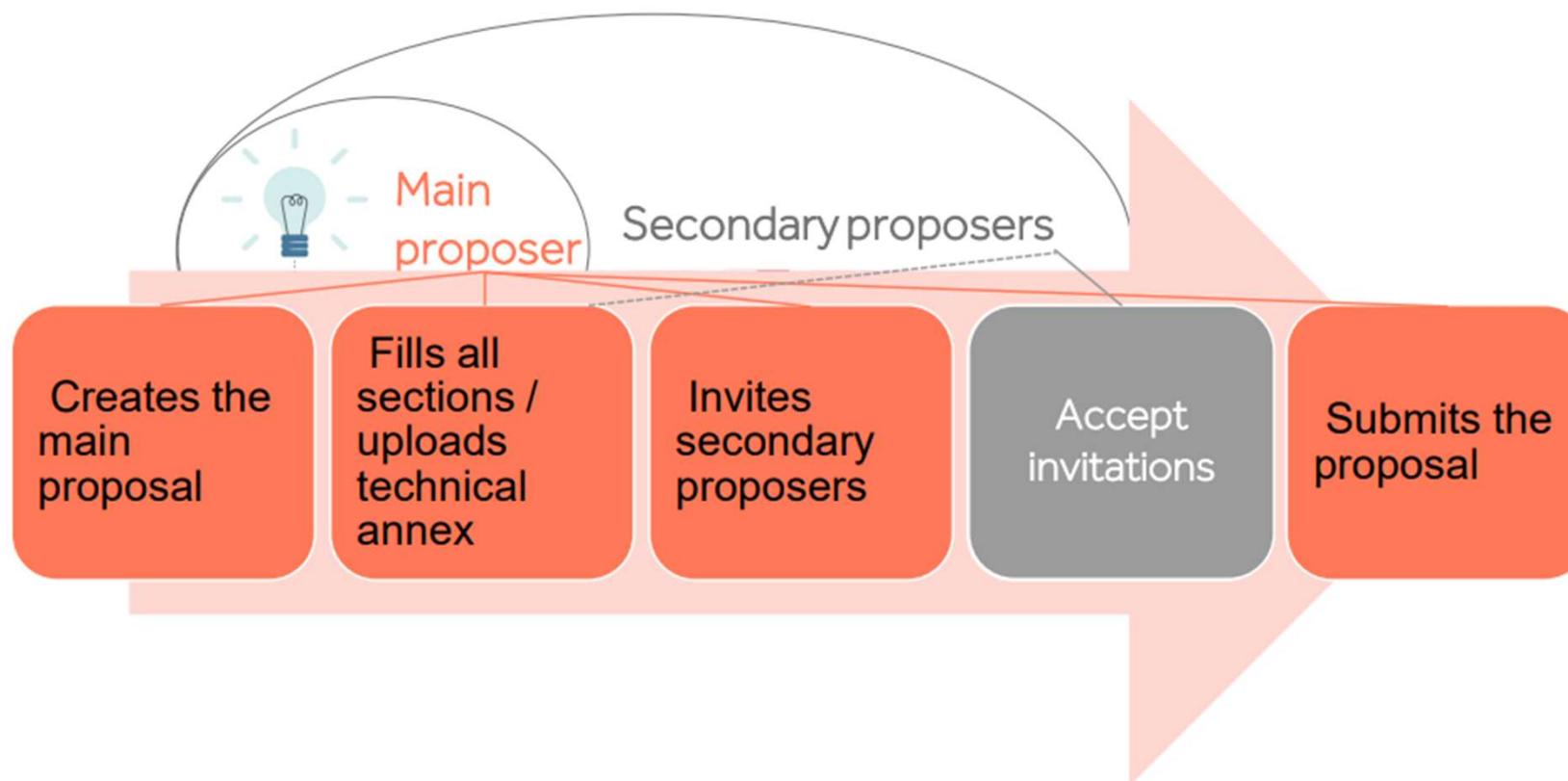
- A. Main challenge
- B. Objectives
- C. State-of-the-art
- D. Rationale for choosing networking to address the main challenge
- E. Critical mass of the network

- 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

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

Main and secondary proposer



All (main and secondary) proposers must have a COST account:

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

Evaluation



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



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



5 QUESTIONS

Range of marks: 0–5
Threshold: 3



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



3 QUESTIONS

Range of marks: 0–5
Threshold: 3



IMPLEMENTATION

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



1 QUESTION

Range of marks: 0–3

MORE ABOUT PROPOSAL



- No budget draft/information is needed in the proposal
- Proposers are individuals (and not their entities of affiliation)
- Use and don't change the template for Technical Annex
(Documents and Guidelines on the COST website)
- Be careful about anonymity
- submit draft in advance (e-COST allows resubmission)

Finances



- funded through a grant to the COST Action Grant Holder (GH) institution elected at the 1st Management Committee meeting.
- The Grant Holder institution can retain up to 15% of the scientific expenditures of the Action for Financial and Scientific Administration and Coordination (FSAC). This amount is therefore variable and can be used for the execution of the financial and administrative coordination tasks

Finances for research



- Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
- INTER-EXCELLENCE II
- INTER-COST



COST project acceptance procedure in the Czech Republic



This procedure applies both to those wishing to join an existing action and to the main proposers and co-proposers of a new COST Action.

The COST National Coordinator - Dr Ludmila Cermakova

Instruction can be found at (only in Czech)

<https://msmt.gov.cz/vyzkum-a-vyvoj-2/jak-podat-projekt-cost?lang=1>

Useful tips



The COST Association strongly recommends complying with the following requirements when drafting a proposal:

- present the text in a logical way, avoiding unnecessary repetition between the different sections;
- do not use footnotes, explain all acronyms;
- use of capital letters for COST-specific and Action-related expressions such as: COST Action, Action Chair, Action Management Committee, Working Group, Short-Term Scientific Mission (STSM), Training School, Core Group

Useful tips



- avoid pronouns such as “I”, “we”; rather use “the Action”;
- avoid expressions such as “planned” or “proposed” when referring to the Action; rather use “aims at”, “will”, etc.;
- avoid overstatements regarding the potential impact of the Action
- special note on anonymity: To be eligible, a proposal shall be anonymous, hence contain no direct or indirect reference to proposers and/or institutions participating in the network of proposers, meaning that proposers’ and/or institutions’ names should neither be explicitly mentioned nor be potentially identifiable.

FAQ



- **Deadline of the next call? - 21 October 2025 12:00 CEST**
- **Who is an applicant?** - An applicant is a person (not an institution) affiliated with a legal entity in Europe
- **Can we have more than 2 proposers from the same institution?** - Yes, there is no limitation on the number of proposers from one institution.
- **How will the main proposer invite the second one to participate in the proposal?** - That happens via e-COST, where you can fill in an email address and send the invitation to the secondary proposers.

FAQ



- **Can we re-submit the proposal if it's not successful in the upcoming round?** - Yes. resubmissions are possible. No restrictions.
- **The chances to be selected are higher, if the main proposer is a young researcher, from an ITC, and of the underrepresented gender?** These can be criteria, along with the COST Excellence Policy specific objectives, for selection by the Scientific Committee. The chances may not necessarily be higher.

FAQ



- **If no budget is needed in the submission, how can we know what will be funded in our proposal?** Without a budget, this means that you are proposing a 4-year plan of activities. If the proposal is successful and becomes an action, you will negotiate a work plan and budget each year detailing activities for the coming year. For a proposal, it is worth considering that the total budget will be in the range of 600 000 euros over four years.



Thank you!

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