# **COST INFO DAY CROATIA**



Ms Salomé Moezzi-Gacon, Governance Officer



17.09.2025







# European Cooperation in Science & Technology

**MISSION** 

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



Promoting and spreading excellence

Fostering interdisciplinary research for breakthrough science

Empowering and retaining young researchers

#### **VISION**

Europe's most empowering research programme





**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**

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



# **COST Membership**

### **41** Full COST Members

- Albania
- Armenia
- Austria
- Belgium
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Georgia

- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary\*
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- The Republic of Moldova
- Montenegro
- The Netherlands
- The Republic of North Macedonia

- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal Romania
- Serbia
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Türkiye
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom

# 1 Cooperating Member

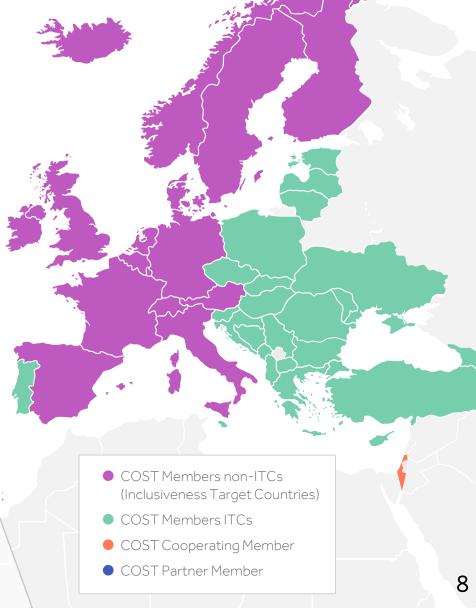
Israel

# Partner Member

South Africa

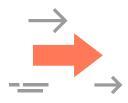






# **Key figures**





**292**Running Actions



**262** Training schools



€170,000 estimate annual budget of a COST Action



**2,150**Short-term scientific missions

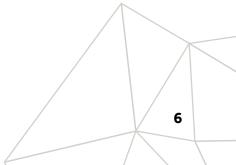


**60,000**Researchers involved in COST Actions



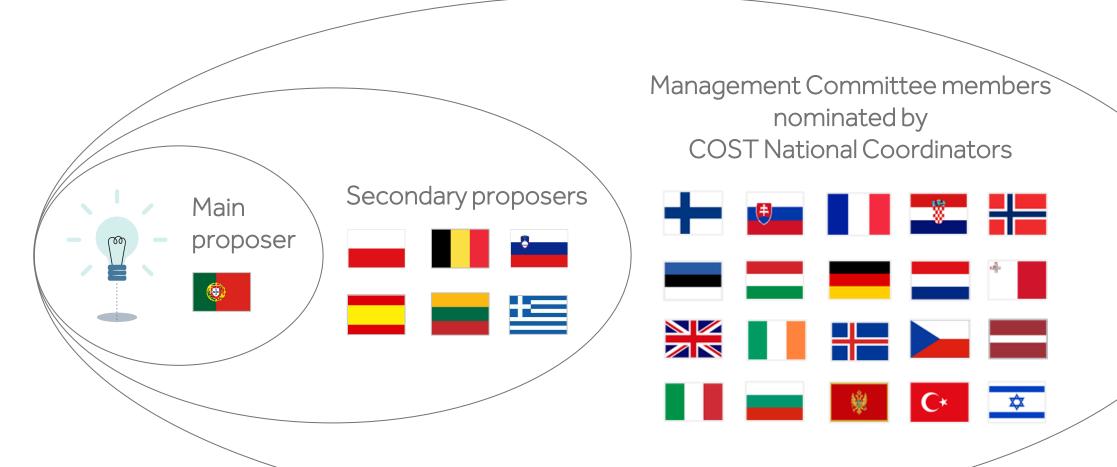
**€273 million**COST budget
(in Horizon Europe for a 5-year period)







# How it works?





# Role of COST in the ERA

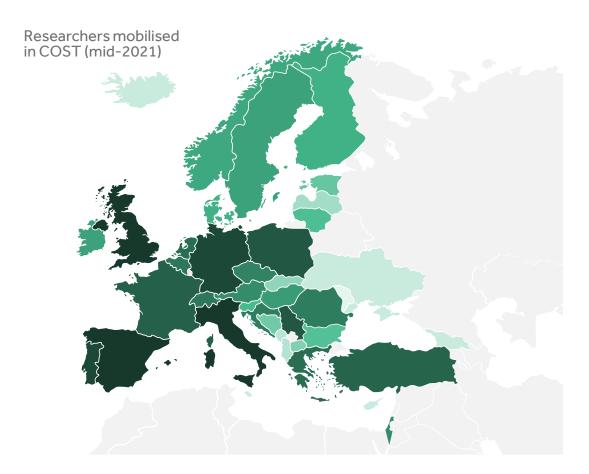


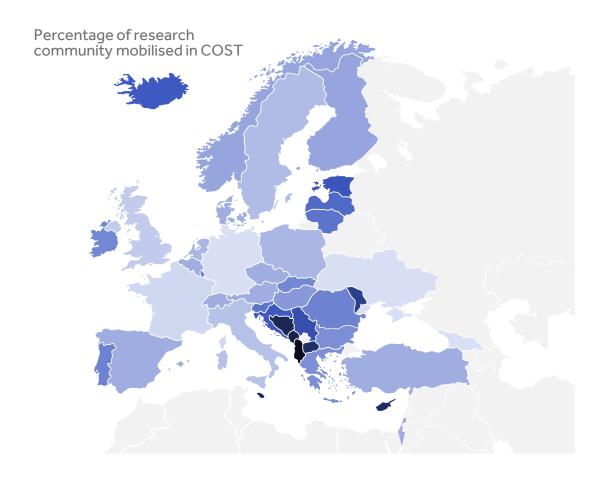




# **Priority 1**

#### PROMOTING AND SPREADING EXCELLENCE

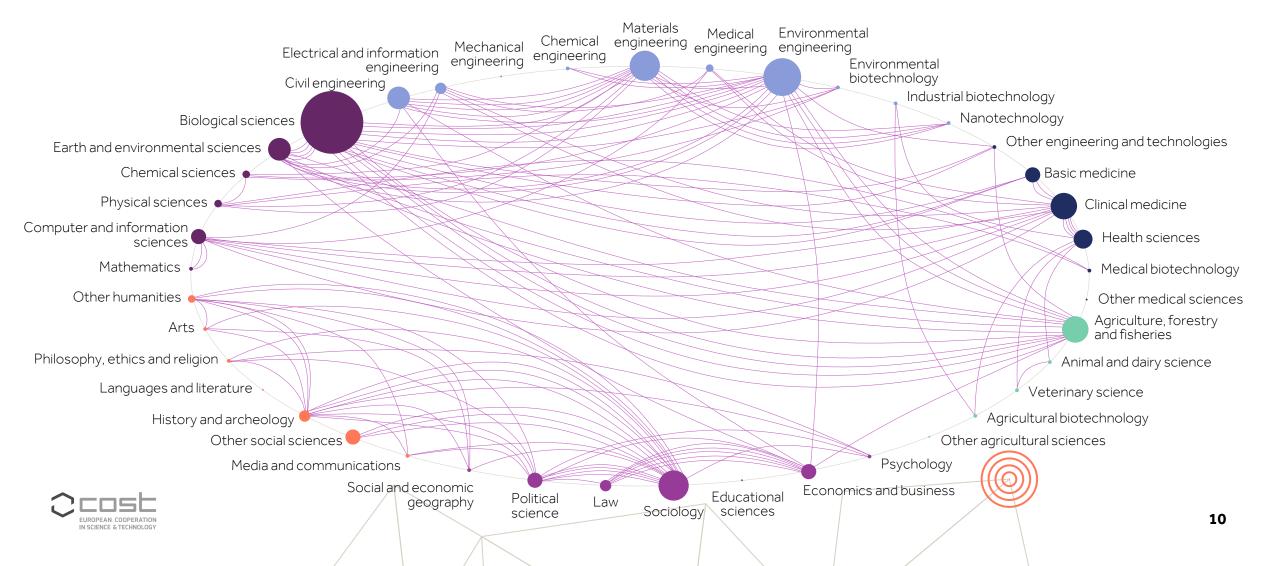






# **Priority 2**

#### FOSTERING INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH FOR BREAKTHROUGH SCIENCE





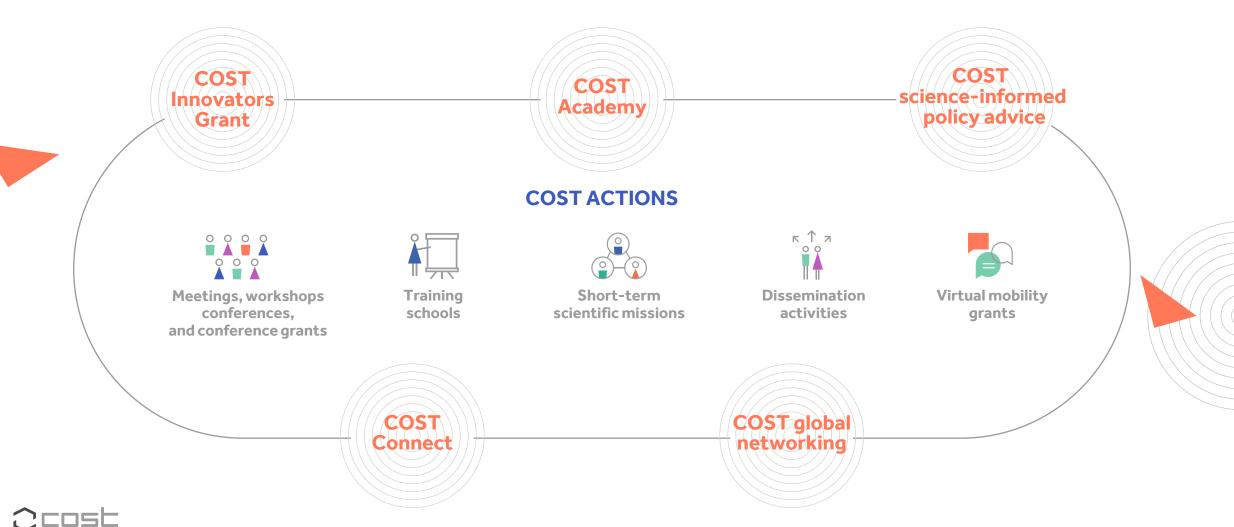
# **Priority 3**

#### EMPOWERING AND RETAINING YOUNG RESEARCHERS

#### Data from Horizon 2020 (2014-2021)



# Implementing COST's strategic priorities



# **COST in Horizon Europe**





#### **Horizon Europe**

Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area pillar



#### **COST** activities

are implemented by the COST Association, under a Framework Partnership Agreement and Specific Grant Agreements with the European Commission



**COST Actions** 

receive budget under Third Party Funding







# **Impact**



## 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)

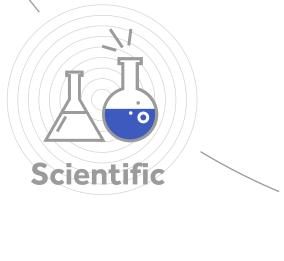


#### **Co-Publications**

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









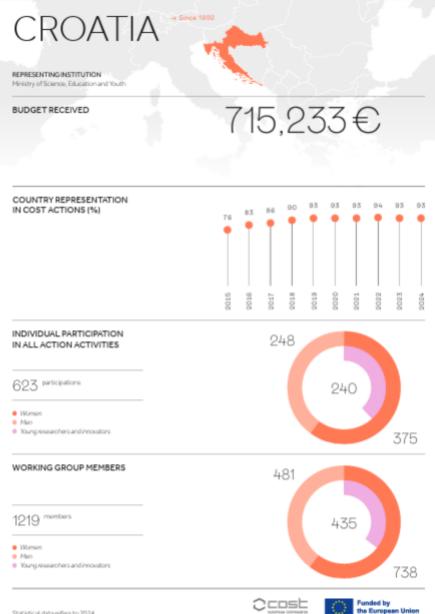


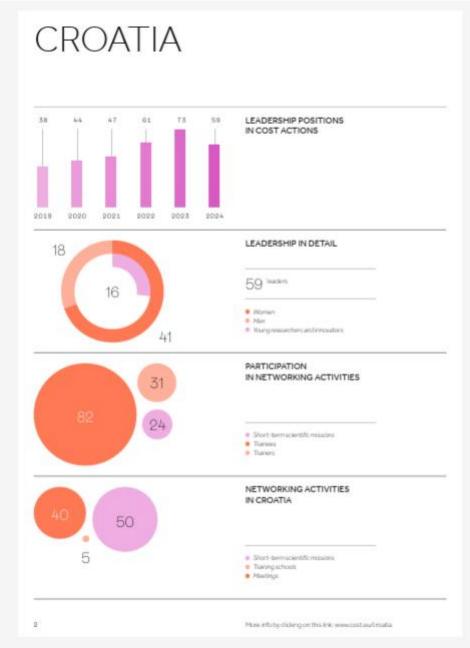






# **Croatia in COST Actions (2024)**





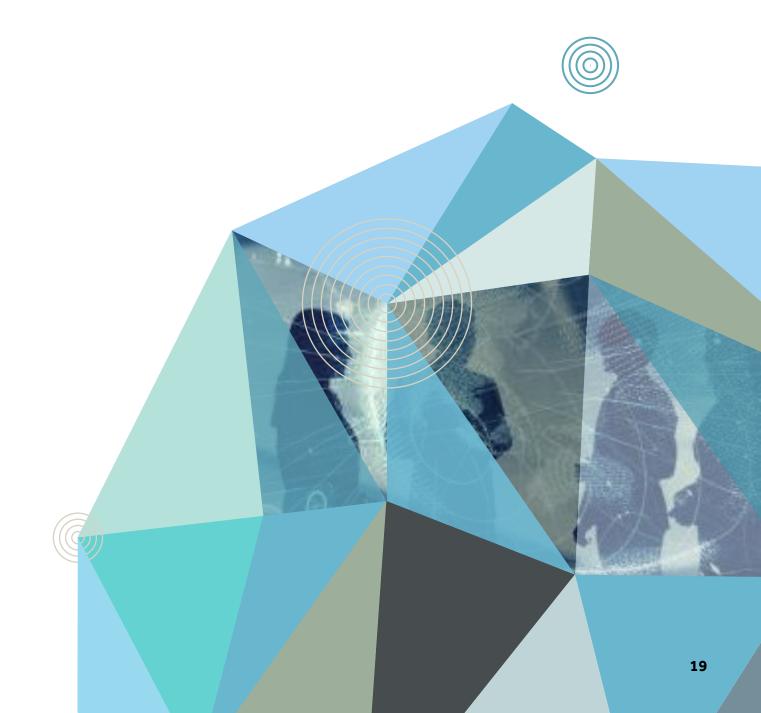


**COST Actions** 

# An efficient networking tool







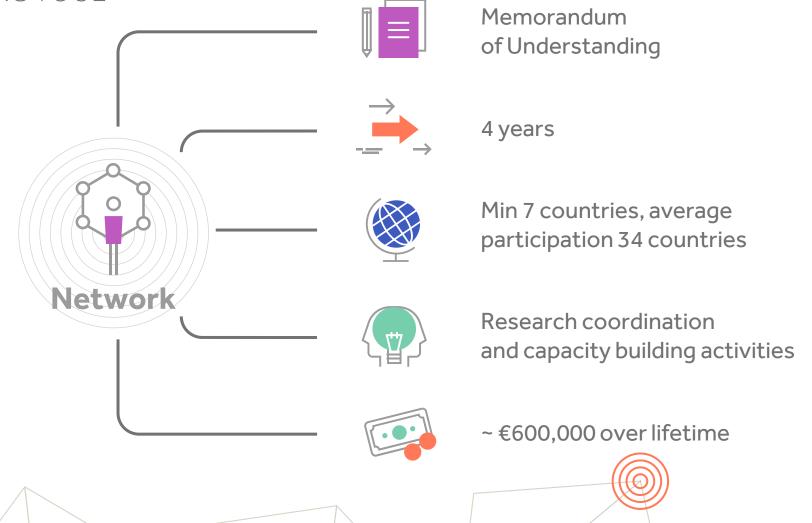
# **COST Actions**

AN EFFICIENT NETWORKING TOOL

#### **COST** provides funding

for research coordination and capacity building activities

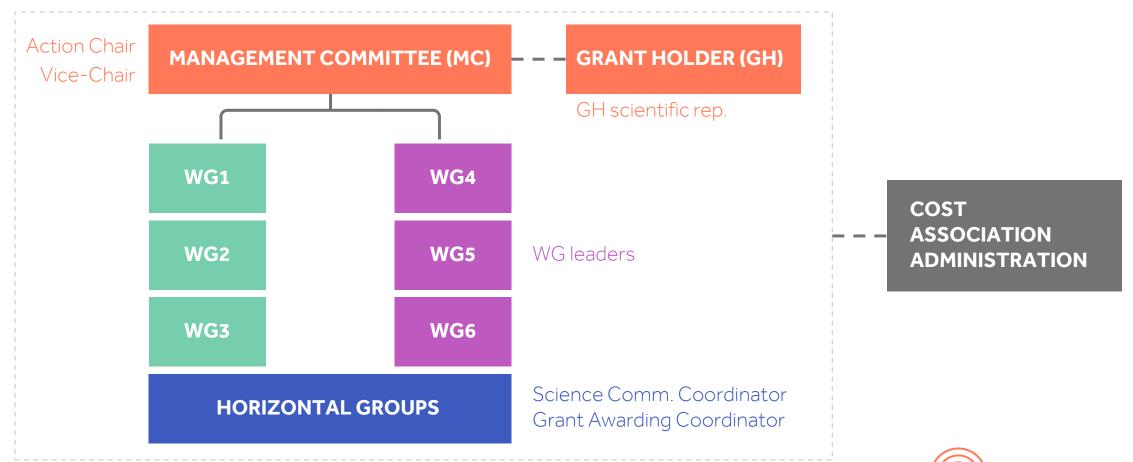
COST is not funding research itself, but pooling resources and research results by networking





# **COST Action structure**

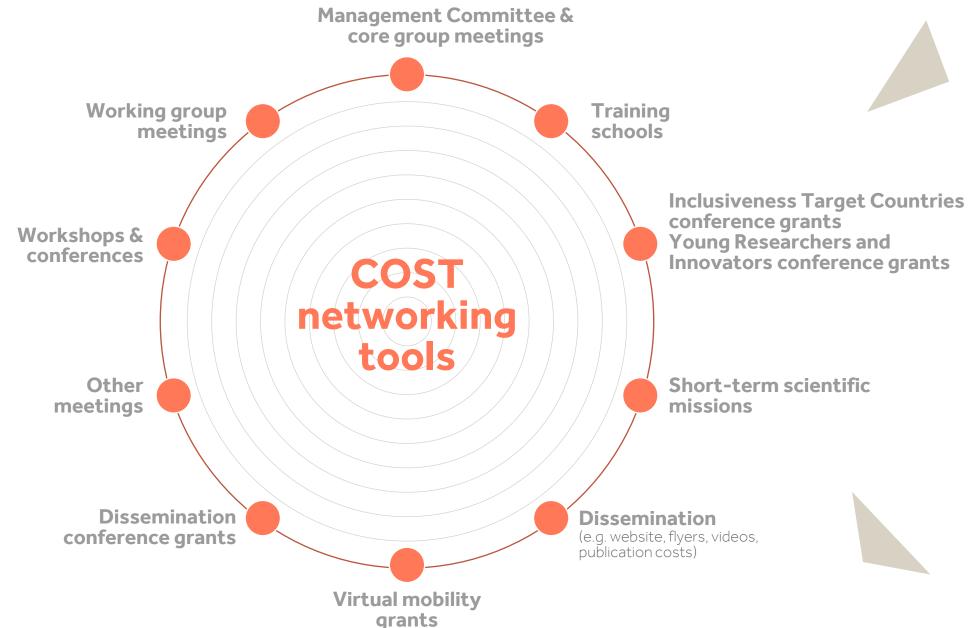
#### LEADERSHIP POSITIONS















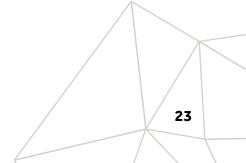


# Meetings

Travel reimbursement of the meeting participants

- ✓ Daily allowance (accommodation, meals, local transport)
- ✓ Long distance travel expenses (on face value up to 1 500€)
- Local Organiser Support
  - ✓ Face to face or virtual events



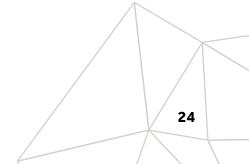






- Mobility of researchers
  - ✓ Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSM)
  - ✓ Up to 4000 EUR
- Virtual Mobility Grants
  - ✓ Up to 1500 EUR







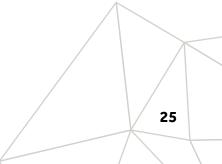


- Dissemination of research activities
  - ✓ ITC Conference Grants / YRI Conference Grants
  - ✓ Up to 2 500 EUR (500 EUR for virtual events)

- Dissemination Conference Grants
  - ✓ Up to 2 500 EUR (500 EUR for virtual events)

- Dissemination activities
  - ✓ Open Access publications, books, websites, etc.





# **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.





# **Engaging**with COST

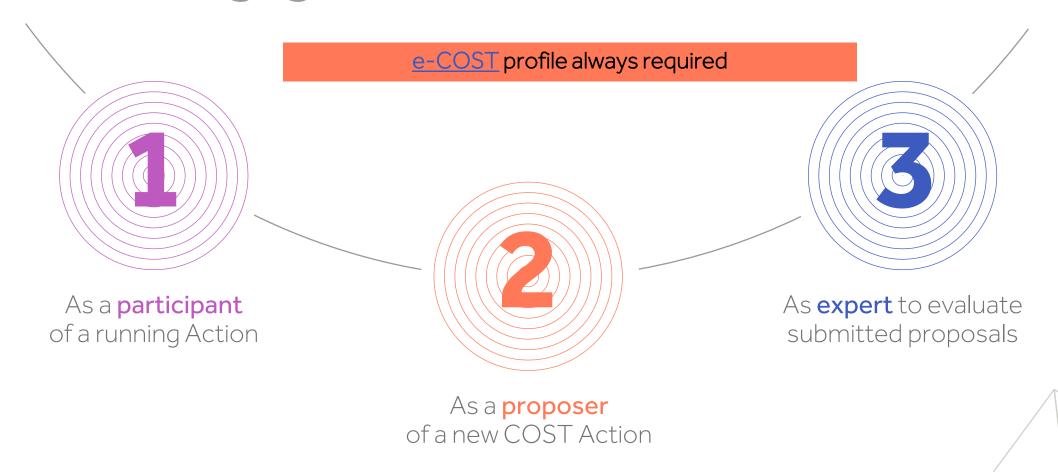






28

# How to engage with COST?





# 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 WEBSITE –

check their activities



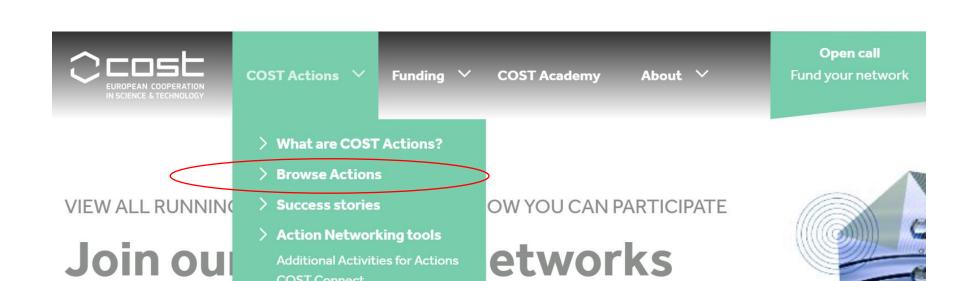
# IDENTIFY THE OPPORTUNITIES

to join the Action and your contact person









**COST Connect** 

Download this new publ

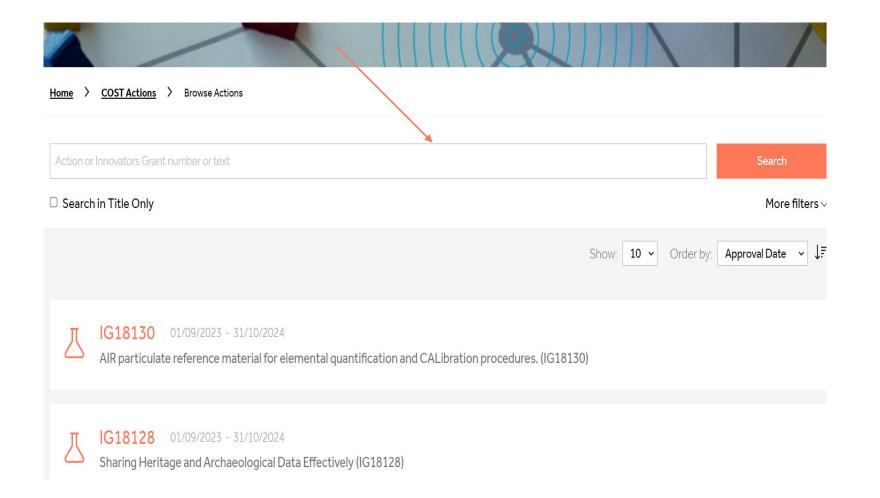
> COST Innovators Grant

> Become an external expert













Home > COST Actions > **Browse Actions** 

Search in Title Only

More filters ~

CA22124 07/11/2023 - 06/11/2027

EU Circular Economy Network for All: Consumer Protection through reducing, reusing, repairing (ECO4ALL)

CA22165 | 06/11/2023 - 05/11/2027

Redressing Radical Polarisation: Strengthening European Civil Spheres facing Illiberal Digital Media (DepolarisingEU)

CA22136 06/11/2023 - 05/11/2027

Pan-European Network of Green Deal Agriculture and Forestry Earth Observation Science (PANGEOS)

CA22103 30/10/2023 - 29/10/2027

A COMPREHENSIVE NETWORK AGAINST BRAIN CANCER (Net4Brain)

COST Actions Y Funding Y



CA22152 26/10/2023 - 25/10/2027

Supporting emerging care economy, empowering caregivers to provide safe care at home (BetterCare)



CA22118 26/10/2023 - 25/10/2027

Radionuclide theragnostics for personalised medicine (RATIONALE)

# 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 working group leader)



#### **AS A PARTICIPANT IN ACTION ACTIVITIES**

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

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





# Management committee member

#### The role of the Action MC shall be to:

- Take necessary actions to meet the aims and objectives of the COST Action by assuring all relevant aspects of the management of the network, stakeholder engagement and dissemination of results;
- Contribute to the COST mission and strategic priorities.
- Represent the COST Member State's national community of researchers and innovators on the Action's topic.

#### Action MC Members or Observers shall:

- Actively participate to the work of at least one WG;
- Serve and represent their COST Member or Specific Organisation's community in order to:
  - coordinate the input to the Action at national level or inside a Specific Organisation;
  - disseminate opportunities arising within the Action at national level or inside a Specific Organisation; and
  - report to the Responsible for nomination as required.







COST Actions ∨

Funding V

COST Academy

About ∨

Open call

SEARCH

e-COST MENU

#### Description

The increasing occurrence of toxic cyanobacterial blooms as a consequence of anthropogenic nutrient pollution in fresh water ecosystems threatens water security and quality worldwide for humans, animals and severely disrupts ecosystem balance. Therefore, the implementation of thorough monitoring strategies for cyanobacteria along with evaluation of the risks of bloom incidents and a plan for prevention and control measures are now required in water safety plans by water suppliers. The significant economic losses to water companies, fisheries, recreational activities and businesses caused by cyanobacterial blooms require greater attention from policymakers. A suite of in-lake control methods exists, but there is little guidance on their efficiency. Decreasing nutrient input from the catchment is crucial for long-term prevention/reduction of blooms and would be possible by the transition towards a more sustainable low nutrient leakage agriculture, but needs implementation strategies. The proposed COST action aims to increase and broaden capabilities throughout Europe for effective and sustainable management of water resources with a catchment wide approach by creating a unique network of experts, end users and stakeholders. Gathering and distributing information on early warning detection methods and experience in the effectiveness on both long and short-term control methods will underpin Decision Support Tools for water managers and authorities ensuring selection of appropriate methods for a specific waterbody. The overarching goal is a close exchange between scientific knowledge and management practices in order to decrease cyanobacteria blooms taking into account the different characteristics of the water body and its catchment and the regulation throughout Europe.

#### Action keywords

Cyanobacterial blooms - Catchment - water security - preventive control actions - curative control actions

#### **Action Details**

**MoU** - 073/24

#### 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, Manager Committee nominations re carried out through the COST

#### Action documents

Memorandum of Understanding



# Working group member

Working Group members are individuals with an affiliation to a legal entity <u>anywhere in the world.</u>

- > The objectives of Working Groups (WG) are to perform the tasks required for a COST Action to fulfil its scientific objectives in line with those objectives defined in the MoU.
- > WG members shall actively participate to the WG activities and coordination of research efforts.







Becoming a member of a Working Group (WG)

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

♣ Downloads

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

Description Management Committee Main Contacts and Leadership Working Groups and Membership

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

#### **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'.





#### 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 (<u>email</u>)

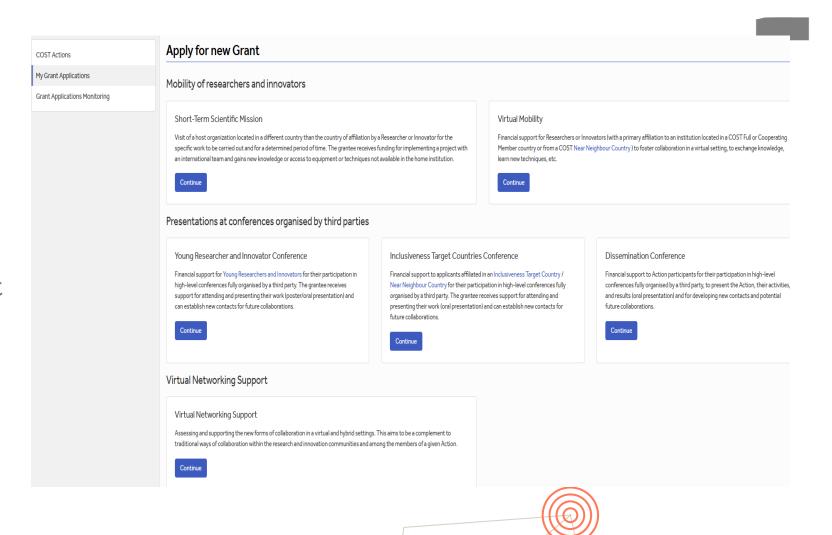
 <u>Apply</u> to join your Working Groups of interest

Please note, Management
 Committee nominations are
 carried out through the COST

tional Contact Po

# **Participant in Action Activities**

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









COST OPEN CALL

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

#### Proposal should focus on

S&T Excellence, Networking Excellence, Impact and Implementation Up to 70 COST Actions approved per collection

Main Proposer + secondary proposer

#### Collection date:

21 October 2025 12:00 CET www.COST.eu opencall@cost.eu





## Tips for submitting a winning COST Action proposal



watch the video







## Open Call: How to apply?

E-COST

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

2

> Open Call

Open Call
COST Actions

5

Online registration and submission:

General information

+ Technical Annex



> Proposals

Calendar

Proposals

Evaluations

> Create new proposal

Create New Proposal









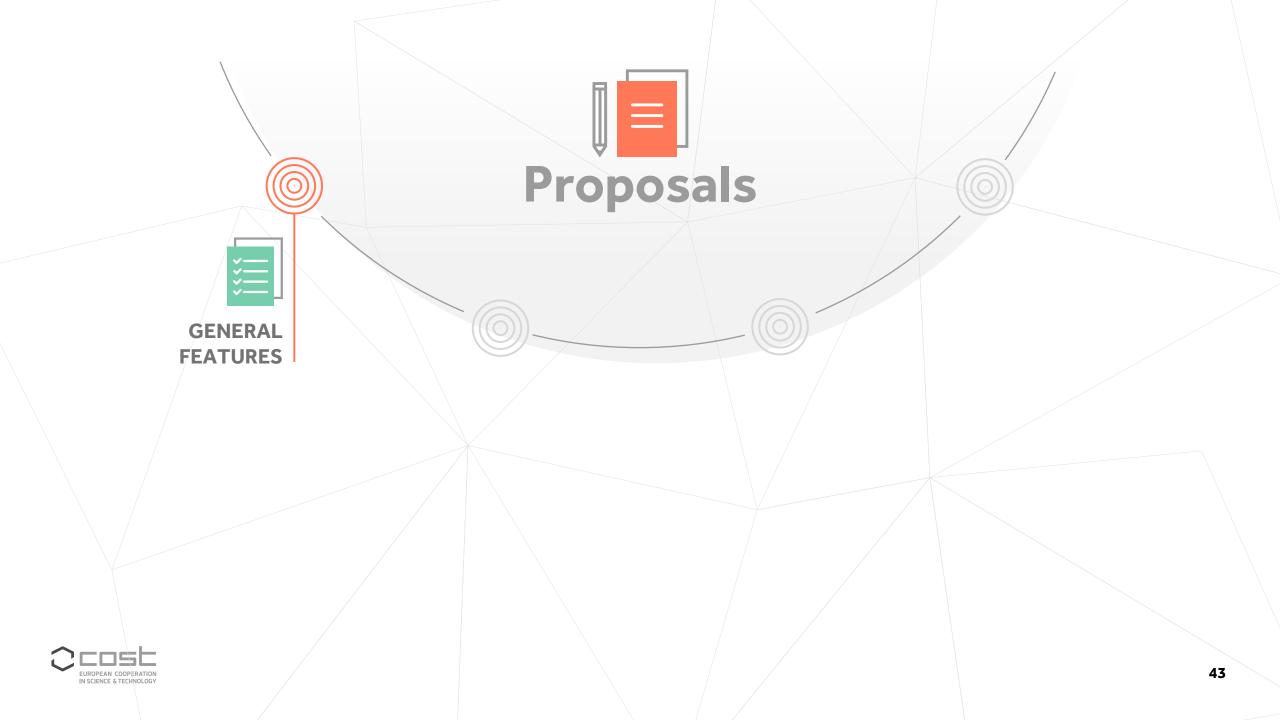
(https://www.cost.eu/Technical-Annex-Facsimile

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

INCLUSIVENESS POLICY SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

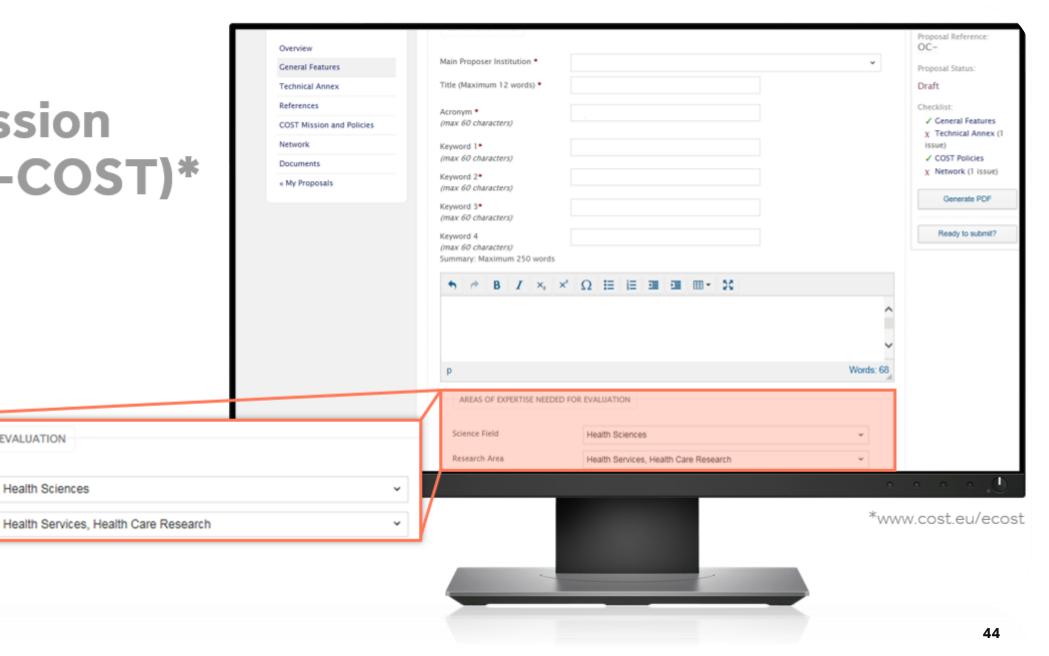






## **Online** submission tool (e-COST)\*

Health Sciences

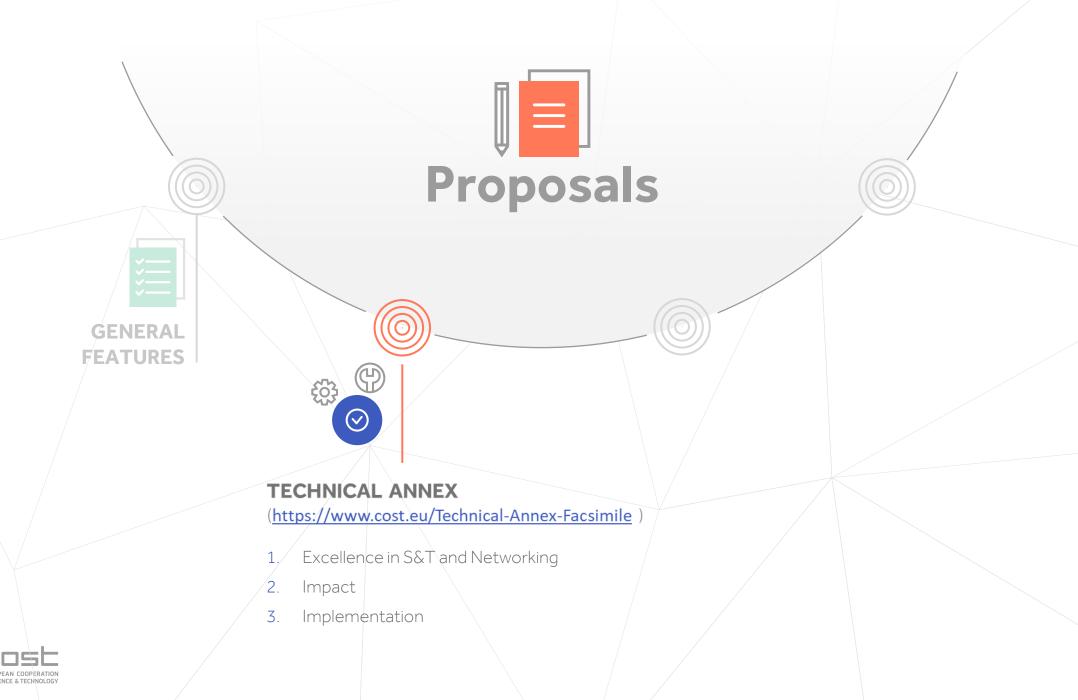




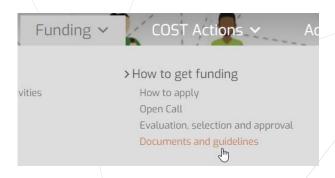
Science Field

Research Area

AREAS OF EXPERTISE NEEDED FOR EVALUATION







**FEATURES** 

#### **TECHNICAL ANNEX**

(<u>https://www.cost.eu/Technical-Annex-Facsimile</u>)

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



## **Open Call for proposals**

TECHNICAL ANNEX

#### **SECTIONS**

1. EXCELLENCE in S&T and NETWORKING

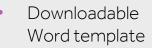
2. IMPACT

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





- Max. 15 pages
- Diagrams and figures accepted







## **COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy**

#### **PROMOTING**



**GEOGRAPHICAL BALANCE** (Inclusiveness
Target Countries)



**AGE BALANCE** 

(young researchers)



**GENDER BALANCE** throughout its activities



**OBJECTIVES** 

Identifying excellence in science and technology across Europe

2 Increasing research communities' access to funding and infrastructures

Triggering structural changes in COST Members' national research systems













### **Evaluation**

SESA







- Anonymous
- Minimum 50%
   Inclusiveness Target
   Countries
- Peaceful purpose
- Format

English



## EXTERNAL REMOTE EVALUATION

- 3 Independent External Experts
- Technical Annex





REVISION AND
QUALITY CHECK BY
REVIEW PANELS





COST policy and objectives



# APPROVAL BY COST COMMITTEE OF SENIOR OFFICIALS

Results 7-8 months after submission





### **Evaluation criteria**



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



- Impact on science, society, policy, or any other relevant area, and
- Involvement of stakeholders, their role and added-value

short-, medium- or long-term.

 Plans for communication, dissemination and valorisation of results and target audience



 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







## 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 on the COST website)





## Some tips

No budget draft/information is needed in the proposal

Be careful about anonymity (check what is and what is not an anonymity breach)

## Use and don't change the template

(Documents and Guidelines on the COST website)

Every Open Call has a new template – proposers who submit for a second year shall adapt the proposal to the new template







# 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





### **COST Documents related to Rules**

Level A - CSO

### Rules and principles for COST Activities

COST 088/21

Annex I country and organisation table
Annex II definitions and abbreviations

Level B - CSO

COST Action Proposal SESA

COST 101/21

Rules for COST Actions

COST 089/21

Level C - EB

COST Open Call
Proposers' Guidelines
(SESA)

COST 104/21

COST Annotated Rules
for
COST Actions

COST 094/21

Rules for COST
Innovators
Grants

COST 098/21

**CIG Guidelines** 

COST 105/21



### Relevant COST information materials



# COST Actions booklet COST corporate brochure



Pocket guide including all running actions & info on COST





General presentation of the COST Programme

# COST annual report 2023



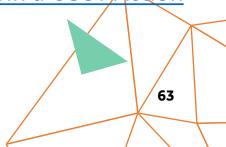
2022 highlights & COST Actions success stories

# **COST** corporate videos



Tips to submit a winning COST proposal

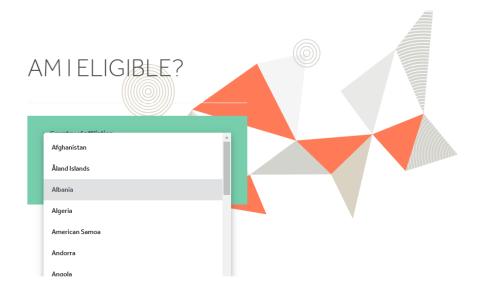
Why join a COST Action



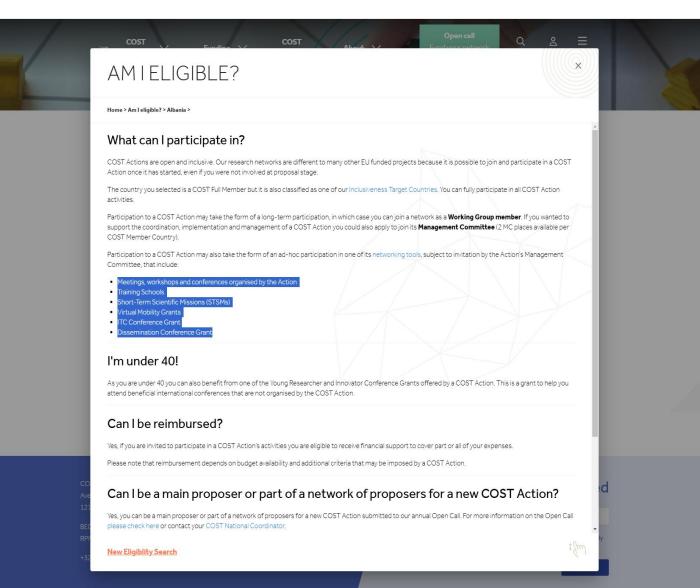
All available via: <a href="https://www.cost.eu/publications/">https://www.cost.eu/publications/</a>

## Am l eligible?

COST Actions are open to all participants, not only to COST Full Members but also to peers from around the world. Find out what opportunities are available depending on your location:

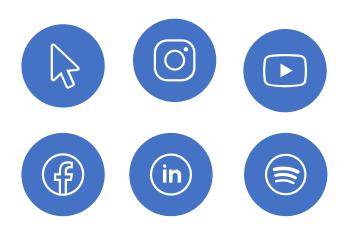


https://www.cost.eu/am-i-eligible/



## How to following

COST newsletter: www.cost.eu





### PAGE

#### Subscribe to the COST newsletter

Subscribe to the COST newsletter Join our mailing list to receive updates from the COST Association























