



What are the COST Actions and how to participate in them?

Universitat Illes Balears
22 abril 2015, Palma de Mallorca

COST Action - Characteristics

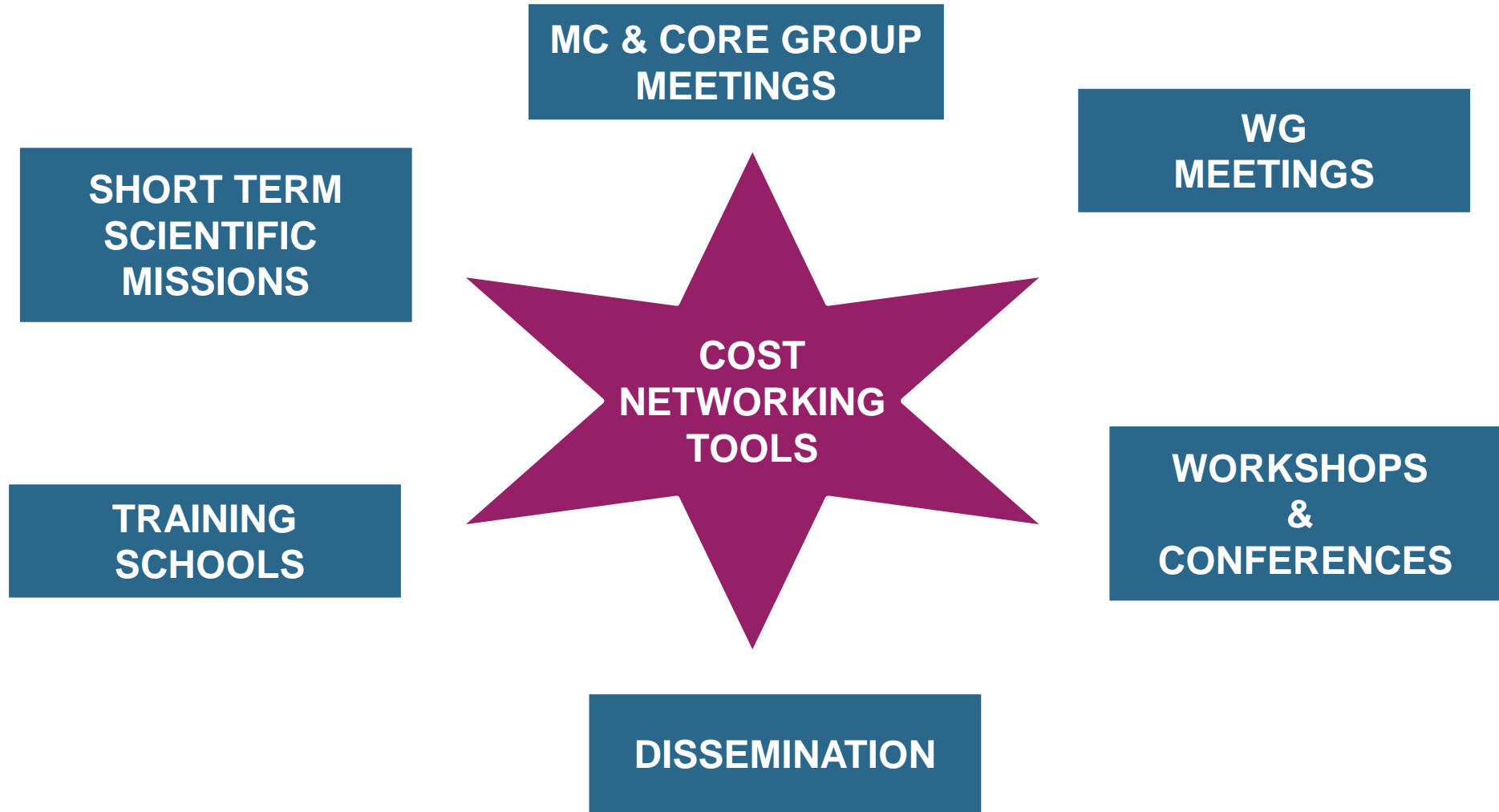
Network of researchers

- ❑ Collaborating in research fields of interest to **at least 5 COST Countries**
- ❑ Selected via the COST Open Call for proposals
- ❑ Objectives and deliverables defined in the Action's Memorandum of Understanding
- ❑ Duration of **4 years**
- ❑ **Expandable** to new participants
- ❑ Average Annual COST Budget EUR 130 000 to perform networking activities (Meetings, Conferences, Workshops, Short-term scientific exchanges, Training schools and Dissemination Activities)

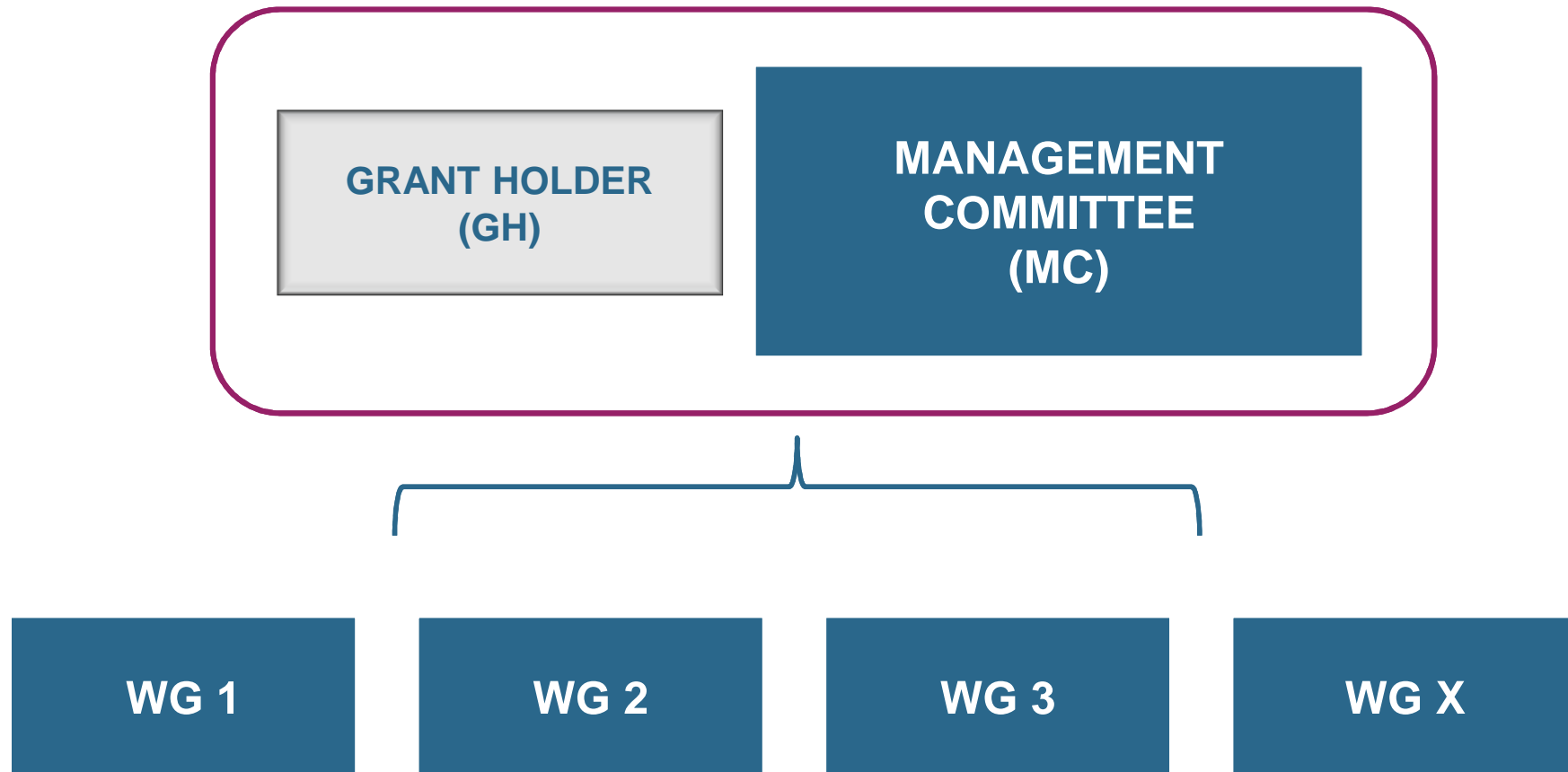
COST DOES NOT FUND RESEARCH



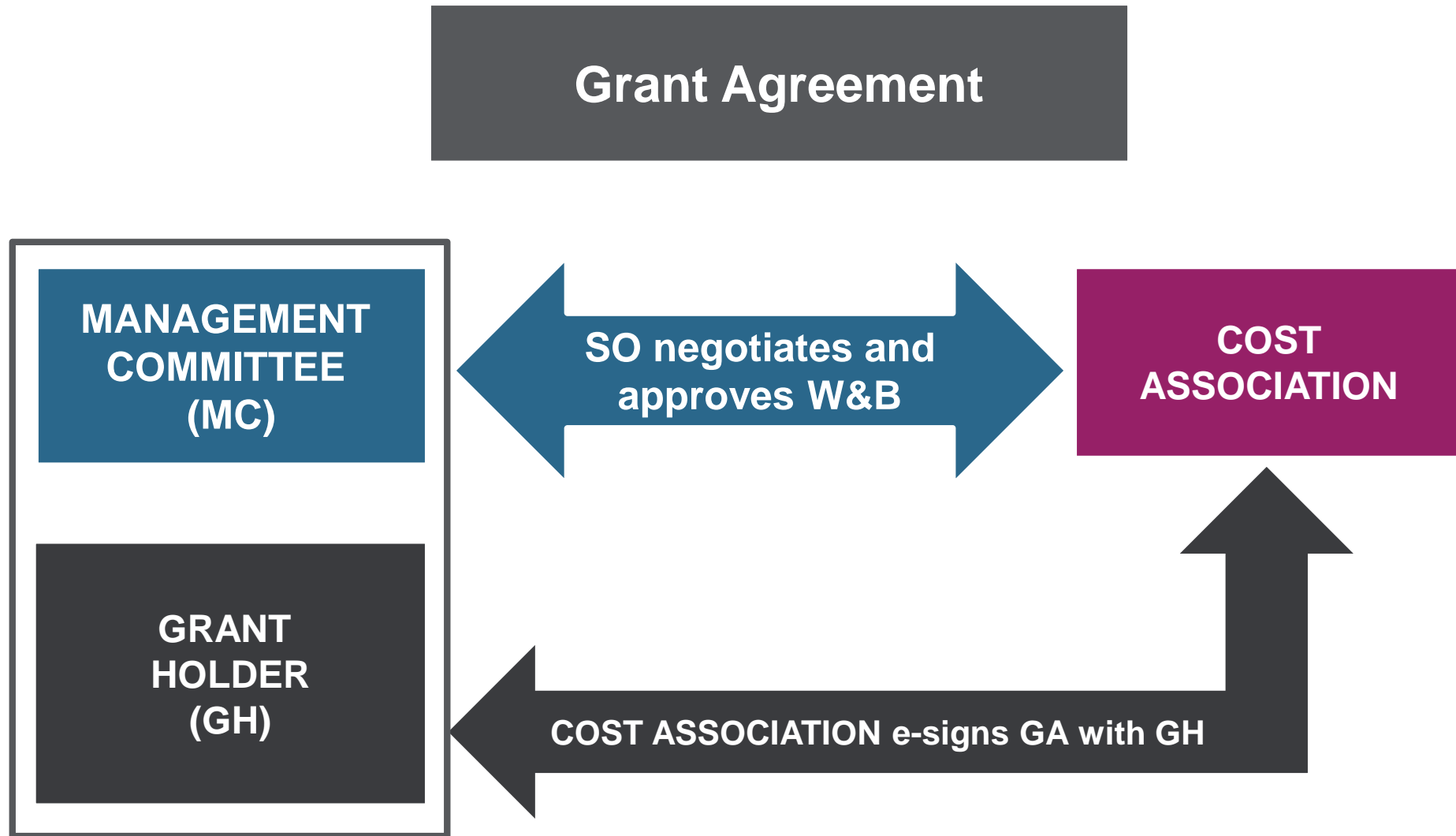
COST Networking Tools



Action Structure



How are COST Actions funded?





How to Participate

<http://www.cost.eu/participate>



OPTION 1

**Would you like to join an existing
COST Action?**

http://www.cost.eu/participate/join_action

COST Actions are Open!

You can join any Action that is running:

✓ **AS A MC MEMBER:**

By **contacting your CNC** in order to be one (of the maximum two) MC members representing your Country

✓ **AS A WG PARTICIPANT:**

By **contacting you respective MC member** and or the Action Chair and participate in the Working Groups

How to Find a running Action?

- ▶ All Actions
- ▶ Biomedicine and Molecular Biosciences (BMBS)
- ▶ Chemistry and Molecular Sciences and Technologies (CMST)
- ▶ Earth System Science and Environmental Management (ESSEM)
- ▶ Food and Agriculture (FA)
- ▶ Forests, their Products and Services (FPS)
- ▶ Individuals, Societies, Cultures and Health (ISCH)
- ▶ Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)
- ▶ Materials, Physics and Nanosciences (MPNS)
- ▶ Transport and Urban Development (TUD)
- ▶ Trans-Domain Proposals

All Actions

This section gives an overview of all past and running Actions with descriptions provided by the Actions directly. Click on the Action of your interest. Alternatively, use the detailed search option in the top right corner of your screen or visit the Domain pages below.

Search for COST Action

Full text search

search in title only

all Domains

Action number

Start date from End date until

e.g. 28/04/2010

Page 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |

Action 1 to 30 of 1172

▶ show all Actions on one page

Sort by Action No Name of Action Start date End date

- ▶ MP1406 | Multiscale in modelling and validation for solar photovoltaics (MultiscaleSolar) | 07 May 2015 - 07 May 2019
- ▶ MP1404 | Simulation and pharmaceutical technologies for advanced patient-tailored inhaled medicines (SimInhale) | 04 May 2015 - 04 May 2019
- ▶ MP1405 | Quantum structure of spacetime (QSPACE) | 30 April 2015 - 30 April 2019
- ▶ IS1408 | Industrially Contaminated Sites and Health Network (ICSHNet) | 29 April 2015 - 29 April 2019
- ▶ IS1410 | The digital literacy and multimodal practices of young children (DigiLitEY) | 24 April 2015 - 24 April 2019
- ▶ MP1407 | Electrochemical processing methodologies and corrosion protection for device and systems miniaturization (e-MINDS) | 23 April 2015 - 23 April 2019
- ▶ TD1407 | Network on technology-critical elements - from environmental processes to human health threats | 15 April 2015 - 15 April 2019
- ▶ IS1407 | Ancient European languages and writings (AELAW) | 13 April 2015 - 13 April 2019
- ▶ FA1408 | A European Network for Foodborne Parasites (Euro-FBP) | 30 March 2015 - 30 March 2019

http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/all_actions

How to Find a running Action?

MPNS COST Action MP1401

Advanced fibre laser and coherent source as tools for society, manufacturing and lifescience

Descriptions are provided by the Actions directly via e-COST.

Among the different types of Lasers, fibre lasers are, both as research and commercially, the youngest, yet the fast growing type of laser due to several factors. This Action will be the first arena where experts in fundamental material science, established laser and component groups, fibre laser manufacturers and end-users will be able to actively interact, share know-how and focus on common goals. We do expect to boost a series of innovations in the field. Among them we aim to cover the 3-6 micron wavelength interval, and beyond, to support mid-infrared applications and to enhance fibre performance to cover more efficiently visible and ultra-violet wavelength generation for biophotonics and healthcare. The Action will also investigate glass material and fibre design to overcome the actual limitation in output power. The improvements will mainly boost healthcare to benefit wide society and EU manufacturing to retain and increase manufacturing workforce within EU. The Action will mentor a new generation of researchers by providing Early Stage Researchers an opportunity to develop both scientific and management skills. At the same time the Action will actively promote gender balance and women researchers to management positions.

Materials, Physical and Nanosciences COST Action MP1401

- ▶ Description
- ▶ Parties
- ▶ Management Committee



General Information*

Chair of the Action:
[Prof Stefano TACCHEO](#) (UK)

Vice Chair of the Action:
[Prof Roberta RAMPONI](#) (IT)

Science officer of the Action:
[Dr Fatima BOUCHAMA](#)

Administrative officer of the Action:
[Ms Milena STOYANOVA](#)

Downloads*

Action Fact Sheet
[Download AFS as .RTF](#)

Memorandum of Understanding
[Download MoU as PDF](#)

Websites*

Domain website:
<http://www.cost.eu/mpns>

Description of the Action, Participants, MoU, MC Chair, Science Officer, Administrative Officer

* content provided by e-COST.
Data is synchronised once per night.

How COST Countries join an Action

Before an Action Starts and **less than one year** after CSO Approval



If new COST Countries join the Action



OPTION 2

Are you already in contact with other researchers and you would like to submit a COST Action proposal?

COST Open Call - background doc.

- Webpage: www.cost.eu/opencall
- Rules & procedure for the submission, evaluation, selection and approval of COST Action proposals. (COST 133/14 B.1.)
- COST Open Call Submission, Evaluation, Selection and Approval (SESA) guidelines
- COST Action proposal template (Technical Annex .docx)

Stay tuned for COST updates:
http://www.cost.eu/participate/open_call



Collection Dates

- Submission of proposals anytime throughout the year via the **new e-COST online submission tool**
- The COST Open Call will continue having the **spring and autumn Collection dates**, when all submitted proposals are gathered and evaluated
- **The Next Collection Date is 8 September 2015 at 12 noon (CET)**



How to prepare a successful proposal?



COST Open Call

One-stage submission process (on line tool)

New **S**ubmission, **E**valuation, **S**election and **A**pproval (SESA) procedure follows the subsequent phases:

- **SUBMISSION:** by a **Main Proposer** on behalf of a network of proposers
- **EVALUATION :**
 - External Remote Evaluation by **Individual External Experts**
 - Revision and Quality Check by **Review Panels**
- **SELECTION: COST Scientific Committee (SC)**
- **APPROVAL: COST Committee of Senior Officials (CSO)**

Eligibility Criteria

- Represent a network of proposers from at **least 5** COST Member Countries or Cooperating State with researchers, engineers or scholars having a **registered e-COST profile**
- **Be coordinated by a Main Proposer in a COST Member Country or Cooperating State**
- Be **anonymous**, hence not contain any reference to the names and/or institutions of the participants in the network of proposers
- Address science and technology challenges destined only for **peaceful purposes**
- **Respect word or page limits** as described in the SESA Guidelines (in preparation)
- Be written in **English**, the working language of the COST Association
- **Not be identical with another submitted proposal**

Network of Proposers

- **At least 5 proposers** (one Main Proposer plus at least 4 Secondary Proposers)
 - affiliated to legal entities based in at least 5 different COST Member Countries and/or Cooperating State
- Main Proposer acts as **coordinator and contact point** for the COST Association
 - also in charge of inviting and accepting Secondary Proposers to the Network
- All proposers must have a registered and updated **e-COST profile** and specify their scientific expertise
 - <https://e-services.cost.eu>



Proposal Sections - Highlights

SECTION		
GENERAL FEATURES	Online tool Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Key Expertise needed for Evaluation ▪ Fields / Subfields of Science and Technology plus Research Areas
TECHNICAL ANNEX	PDF Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MAX 15 Pages ▪ Anonymity ▪ Figures and Pictures - Copyright
REFERENCES	Online tool Optional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 500 words ▪ Anonymity
COST MISSION & POLICIES	Online tool Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 500 words ▪ Excellence and Inclusiveness ▪ International Cooperation ▪ Industrial Dimension
NETWORK of PROPOSERS	Online tool Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimum 5 researchers from 5 COST Member Countries and/or Cooperating State ▪ Statistical Information that will be used for evaluation



Technical Annex

SECTIONS	SUB-SECTIONS
<p>S&T EXCELLENCE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Challenge ▪ Objectives ▪ Progress beyond the State-of-the-art and Innovation/Novelty Potential ▪ Added value of networking
<p>IMPACT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expected Impact ▪ Measures to Maximise Impact ▪ Potential for Innovative approach versus Risk Level
<p>IMPLEMENTATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Description of the Work Plan ▪ Management Structures & Procedures ▪ Network as a whole

Step1: External Remote Evaluation

- **3 Independent External Experts**
 - COST Expert data base
 - CV + expertise
 - Fields and sub-fields of Science and Technology and specific Research Areas from a pre-defined multi-layered list
 - Validated by the COST SC
- **Remote peer-review evaluation**
- **Remote consensus** shall be sought between the Independent External Experts
- **The consensus shall not be imposed**; independent External Experts may maintain their views on the proposal
- **Eventual differences in opinion of the experts resulting in a non-consensual decision will be handled and arbitrated by the Review Panel**

Step 1: External Remote Evaluation

- Proposals are evaluated **only** on the basis of the **evaluation criteria**

S&T EXCELLENCE	IMPACT	IMPLEMENTATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soundness of the challenge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scientific, technological and/or socio-economic impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress beyond the state-of-the-art and innovation potential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures to maximise impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriateness of management structures and procedures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added value of networking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level of risk and level of potential innovation/breakthroughs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Network as a whole
Total Mark for the section: 25 points	Total Mark for the section: 20 points	Total Marks for the section: 20 points
TOTAL MARK AWARDED: 65 points		
OVERALL THRESHOLD: 45 points		

Step 2: Revision and Quality check

- **By Review Panels**
 - Active researchers, engineers or scholars
 - Appointed by COST National Coordinators
 - *Ad hoc* Review Panels set by the COST Association
 - Validated by the COST Scientific Committee
- **Reviewing and validating** all the Consensus Reports and marks
- **Resolving the differences** in opinions among the Independent External Experts
- After validation of consensus reports and marks, **rank the proposals above the threshold**
- For the proposals above the threshold, identify those that indicate **emerging issues or potentially important future developments**

Proposal Sections - Highlights

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TECHNICAL ANNEX	PDF Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MAX 15 Pages ▪ Anonymity ▪ Figures and Pictures - Copyright
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NETWORK of PROPOSERS	Online tool Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimum 5 researchers from 5 COST Member Countries and/or Cooperating State ▪ Statistical Information that will be used for evaluation



Selection

- **By the COST Scientific Committee**
 - 36 high-level experts representing the 35 COST Member Country and 1 Cooperating state (Israel)
 - Appointed by and reports to CSO
- Shall select among the ranked list of proposals received from the Review Panels by discriminating among proposals with the same marks, taking into account the **COST mission and policies**
 - Focus on **Excellence and Inclusiveness**
- **Balanced COST Action portfolio**, by ensuring the coverage of all S&T fields
- Shall submit the final ranked list of selected proposals to the CSO for approval.



COST POLICIES



Excellence and Inclusiveness

Originated from:

- The political context of the Innovation Union (Horizon 2020).
- The intergovernmental context of the COST Member Countries.

With the aim to:

- **Encourage and enable researchers from less research-intensive countries across the COST Member Countries to set up and/or join COST Actions and get more intensively involved in all COST activities.**
- Counterbalance research communities unequal access to knowledge infrastructures, funding and resources distribution.
- Connecting “pockets of excellence“ in science and technology operating from diverse locations in Europe.

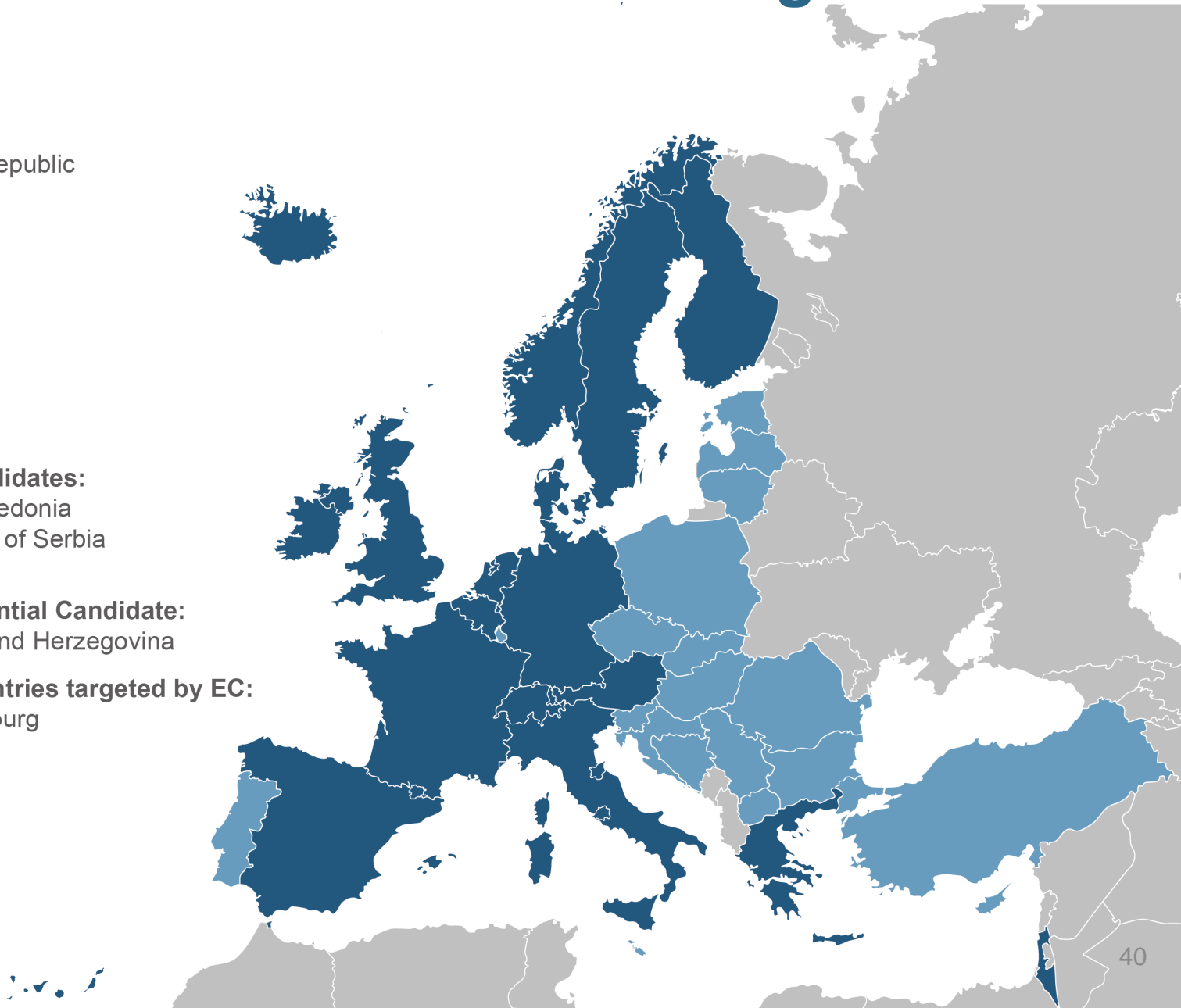
COST Inclusiveness Target Countries

- **EU 13:**
 - Bulgaria
 - Croatia
 - Cyprus
 - Czech Republic
 - Estonia
 - Hungary
 - Latvia
 - Lithuania
 - Malta
 - Poland
 - Romania
 - Slovakia
 - Slovenia

- EU Candidates:**
 - fYR Macedonia
 - Republic of Serbia
 - Turkey

- EU Potential Candidate:**
 - Bosnia and Herzegovina

- EU Countries targeted by EC:**
 - Luxembourg
 - Portugal



Excellence and Inclusiveness

Implementation Strategy by the MC

The Action should have a plan towards inclusiveness (**Geographical Coverage, Early Career Investigator involvement and Gender Balance**) that is revised and updated at every MC meeting and develop a strategy to attract researchers and stakeholders

SOME EXAMPLES:

- ❑ Leadership roles
- ❑ Organising and locating Action meetings and events
- ❑ Benefiting from COST networking tools
- ❑ Promoting STSMs
- ❑ Action Think Tank for Early Career Investigators

ECI = PhD + up to 8 years

International Cooperation

Implementation Strategy by the MC

Aiming to support the involvement of researchers from **Near Neighbour** and **International Partner Countries** in COST Actions on the basis of mutual benefit.

SOME EXAMPLES:

- Approved IPC and NNC Institutions can host STSMs
- Researchers from approved NNC Institutions can:
 - Apply for STSMs
 - Attend Training Schools
- Researchers from approved IPC and NNC Institutions can be Trainers when Training Schools are organised

SME & Industry Cooperation

Implementation Strategy by the MC

Aiming to facilitate/ encourage industry participation

SOME EXAMPLES:

- Session dedicated to industrial participation at Action events
- Roundtable discussions with industrial partners at Action events
- STSMs with industry acting as home/ host institution

Final Considerations

- ❑ Strong competition: be ambitious
- ❑ Start: start early – a proposal preparation needs time
- ❑ Become acquainted with the **COST Open Call: Submission, Evaluation, Selection and Approval (SESA) guidelines** (in preparation)
- ❑ Have a clear view over the Action structure and 4 year strategy (WG)
- ❑ Present a clear strategy on the integration of researchers from inclusiveness countries (ex: Grant Holder, STSM,...)
- ❑ If you have the chance, have a **native speaker check the English**
- ❑ BUT - Perfect English is not necessary, it is the **clarity + consistency** which counts and increases your chances
- ❑

OPTION 3

Become a COST EXPERT

Become a COST 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;**
- **Be invited to take part in the assessment of COST strategic activities**

New experts can express their interest via the COST Expert online registration form (www.cost.eu/experts)

An updated Curriculum Vitae with a list of publications is required to demonstrate competence in specific areas of expertise.

More on COST Experts:
www.cost.eu/participate/experts.





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