



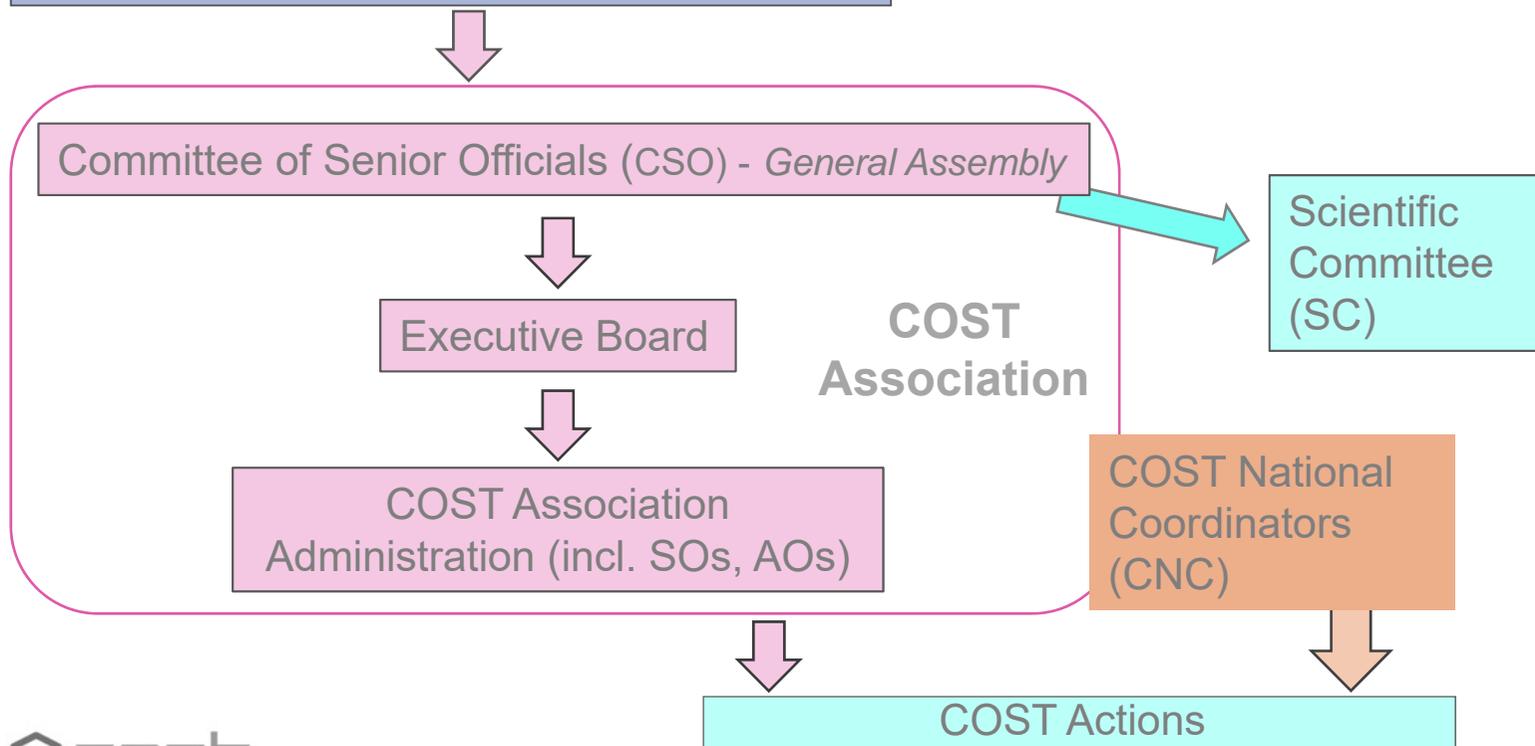
Growing  
**ideas**  
through  
**networks**

# Update from the COST Association to the Management Committee

**Dr. Lucia Forzi - Science Officer**

# COST Association organisation and relation with other actors

Ministerial Conferences (every five years)



# 37 COST Members

● EU 28

● EU Candidates and Potential Candidates

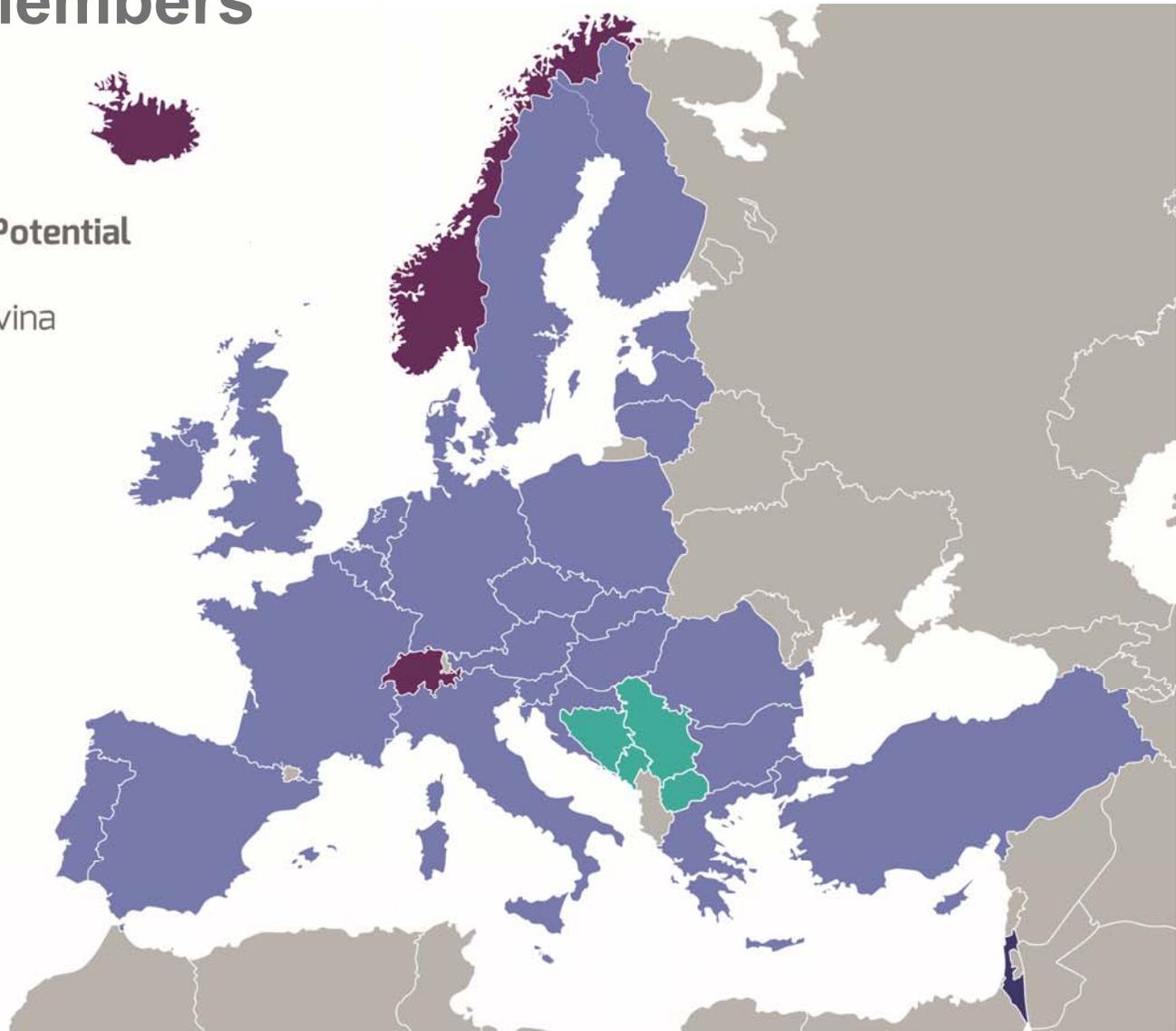
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
fYR Macedonia  
Montenegro  
Republic of Serbia  
Turkey

● Other countries

Iceland  
Norway  
Switzerland

● COST Cooperating Member

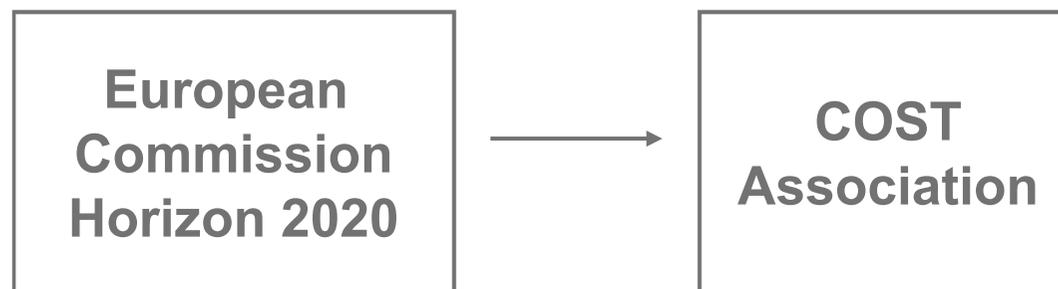
Israel

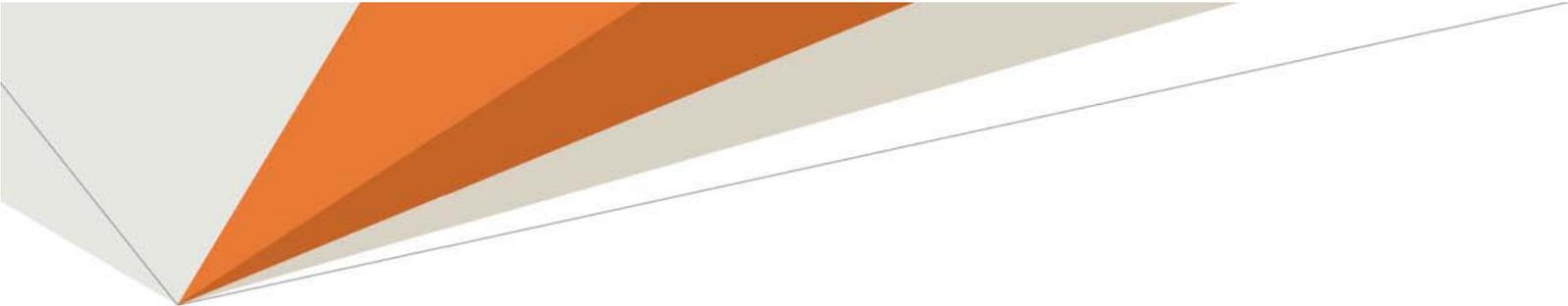




## EUR 300 million for 7 years from two H2020 work programmes:

- *Challenge 6 “Europe in a changing world – inclusive, innovative and reflective Societies”*
- *“Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation”*





# COST Policy

Additionally, specific objectives:

- SME and Industry cooperation
- International Cooperation



# COST Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC)

## ● EU 13

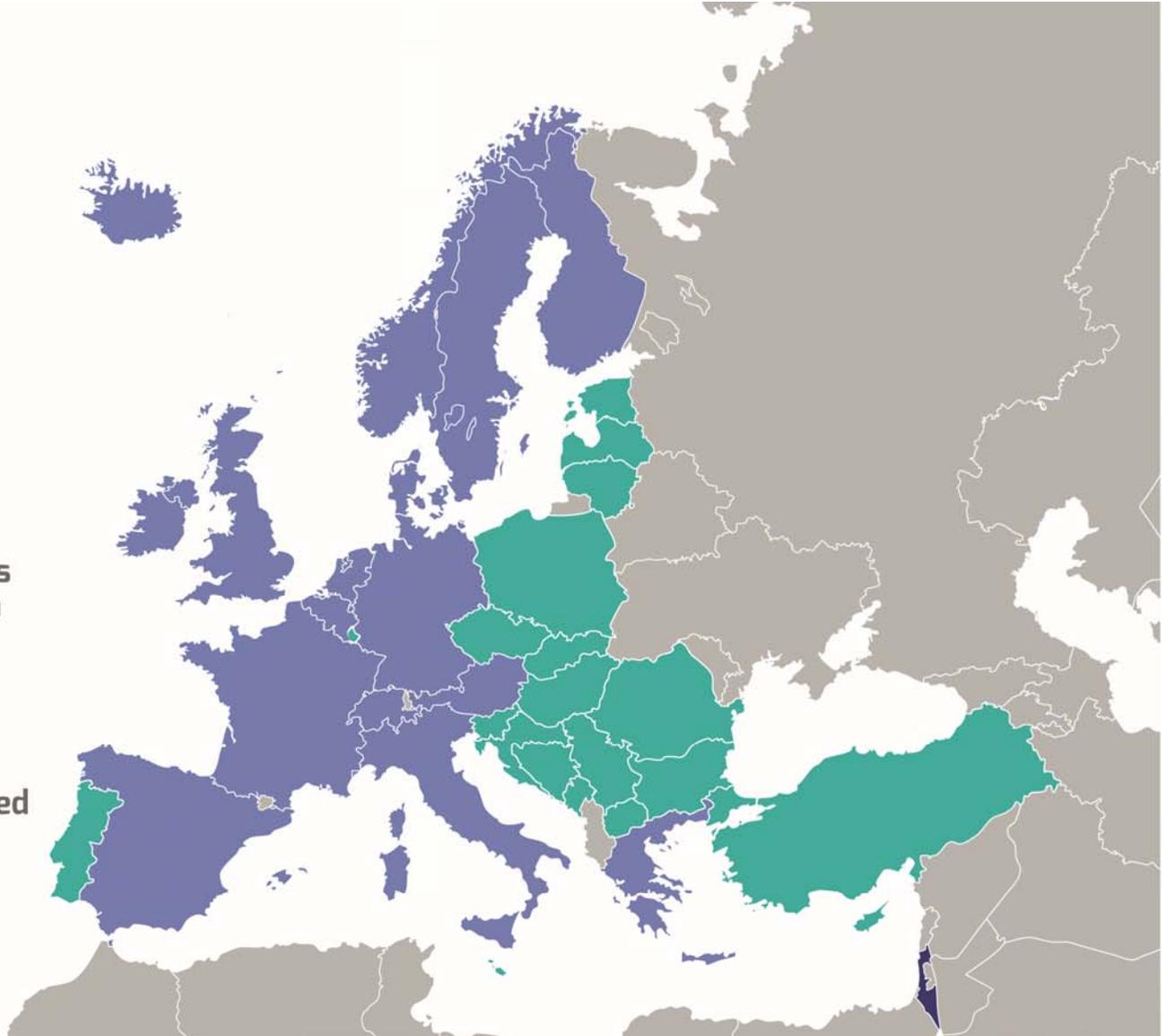
Bulgaria  
Croatia  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Estonia  
Hungary  
Latvia  
Lithuania  
Malta  
Poland  
Romania  
Slovakia  
Slovenia

## EU Candidates and Potential Candidates

Bosnia and Herzegovina  
fYR Macedonia  
Montenegro  
Republic of Serbia  
Turkey

## EU countries targeted by the European Commission:

Luxembourg  
Portugal





## Inclusiveness Target Countries

In H2020 COST aims to:

- **Connect ‘pockets of excellence’** in science and technology operating from diverse locations in Europe
- **Encourage and enable researchers from less research-intensive countries** across the COST Members to set up, lead, join COST Actions
- **Counterbalance research communities unequal access** to knowledge infrastructures, funding and resources distribution



## Early Career Investigators & Gender Balance

Early Career Investigators → PhD + up to 8 years

- Strong involvement of Early Career Researchers in the Action

Good gender balance in the Action

- Strong involvement of underrepresented gender in the Action



## Implementing COST policy in the Action

- Leadership roles in the Action structure (e.g. Grant Holders, WG Leaders)
- Benefiting from COST networking tools (in particular STSM and Training Schools)
- Organizing and locating Action meetings and events
- Promoting STSMs
- Promoting Conference Grants



## SME and Industry Cooperation

Aiming to facilitate/ encourage industry participation

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



## International Cooperation

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

- 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 Training School Trainers



## Monitoring and Final Assessment of Actions

- achievement of MoU objectives and deliverables
- contribution to the COST Mission and implementation of COST policies
- dissemination and exploitation of COST Action results

# Monitoring and Final Assessment of Actions

Type	Time (months)	Content	Assessment / Evaluation by
Progress Review 1	12	Implementation of SC Recommendations & COST Policy on Excellence and Inclusiveness	Scientific Committee
Progress Review 2	24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress</li> <li>• Impacts and successes</li> <li>• Dissemination &amp; Exploitation</li> <li>• Urgent needs for improvement</li> </ul>	Independent External Expert
Final Assessment	48	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MoU Achievements</li> <li>• Expected Impact &amp; Successes</li> <li>• Dissemination &amp; Exploitation</li> <li>• Added value of the networking</li> <li>• Success stories</li> <li>• Emerging themes/ potentially important future developments</li> </ul>	Independent External Expert



## CA16101: Monitoring - PR1 (month 12)

- e-COST based reporting by Action Chair on behalf of MC
- Data provided by the COST Association – Comments provided by the Action (% of ITC, ECIs, Gender in the Action MC and how these % are related to the allocation of Action leading roles)
  - Comparison between proposal stage and Action implementation, as well comparison to the average of all Actions
- **SC Recommendations & COST Policy on Excellence and Inclusiveness (*from the proposal stage*):**

*“The proposed Action must develop and implement a specific plan to significantly increase gender balance at the management as well as participation levels of the Action. Care must be taken to ensure the implementation of the plans to ensure the participation of Inclusiveness Target Countries and Early Career Investigators as well as partners from industry. The proposed Action should work towards development of a comprehensive strategy to increase involvement of IPCs.*”
- **SC analysis and outcome of PR1 either:**
  - implementation **sufficient**
  - implementation **insufficient but plans adequate** - *repeat policy implementation monitoring in 1 year*
  - implementation **insufficient and plans inadequate** - *Action to meet with SC*



## MC meeting

Use this meeting to:

- 1) Ensure how to achieve the goals identified for GP1
  - 2) Start to identify goals for GP2
- The aim is to achieve the **MoU objectives** and **deliverables** agreed with the COST Association

# WBP (GP1)

## Grant Agreement Period Goals

Number	Grant Agreement Period Goal	MoU Objective(s) it relates to
GAPG 1	1. WG 1-1. Identification of commonalities and diversity of END USER requirements for evidence collection, treatment, examination and admission to a Court of Law across the COST Action Countries (Analytical Strand).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secondary objective 1</li> <li>• Secondary objective 4</li> </ul>
GAPG 2	2. WG 1-2. Identification of END USERS "information and technology desirables" to enhance the value of the forensic evidence (Analytical Strand)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secondary objective 1</li> </ul>
GAPG 3	3. WG 1-3. Identification of the range of technologies applicable to the analysis of the different types of evidence (analytical strand).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secondary objective 2</li> </ul>
GAPG 4	4. WG 1-4. Assessment of the level of information retrievable through the application of a given technique to the different types of evidence (analytical strand)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secondary objective 2</li> </ul>
GAPG 5	5. WG 1-5. Identification of current limitations of the assessed technologies and technological and software desirables (Analytical Strand)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secondary objective 2</li> </ul>
GAPG 6	6. WG2-1. Identification of the range of technologies applicable to the analysis of the different types of digital evidence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secondary objective 1</li> </ul>
GAPG 7	7. WG 2-2. Identification of current limitations of the assessed technologies and desirables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secondary objective 1</li> </ul>
GAPG 8	8. WG2-3. Assessment of the quality/quantity of information currently achieved through the application of a given technique across the COST Action Countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secondary objective 2</li> </ul>
GAPG 9	9. WG 2-4. Assessment of the treatment of the information across the COST Action Countries (processing, artifacts, storage, sharing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secondary objective 2</li> <li>• Secondary objective 4</li> </ul>
GAPG 10	10. WG1-2. Data Protection and privacy aspects of forensic evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secondary objective 1</li> </ul>

# WBP (GP1)



COST Action CA16101 COST Association  
MULTI-modal Imaging of FOREnsic SciEnce Evidence – tools for Forensic Science

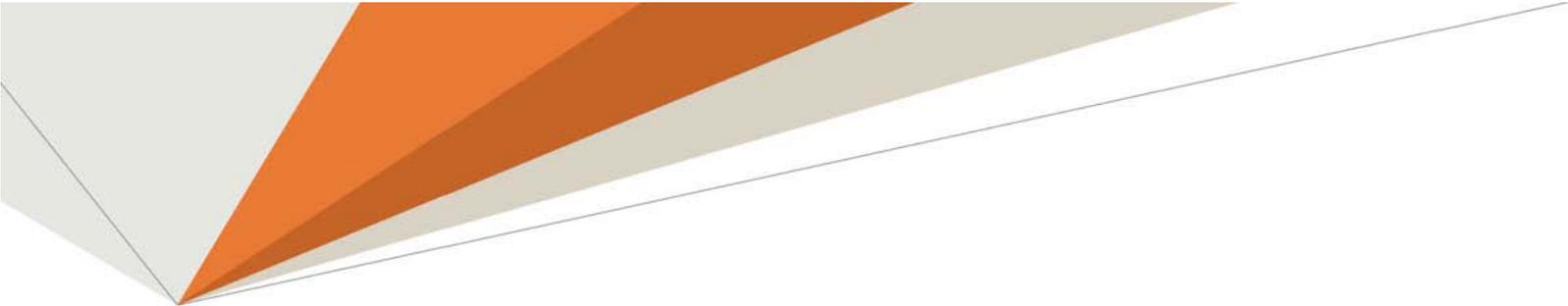
Workplan status: **Amendment Signed COST**

Original Budget 115 977.50 EUR  
Amendment 129 977.51 EUR

Assigned Grant Holder: Sheffield Hallam University (Sheffield, United Kingdom)  
GH Manager/Administrative Representative: Mr Patrick Egan

COST Action CA16101 Annex A of the Grant Agreement (not editable) from 2017-05-01 to 2018-04-30

Networking Tools	Quantity	Budget
Meetings	2	EUR 56 818.00
Training Schools	1	EUR 14 740.00
Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM)	10	EUR 24 000.00
ITC Conference Grant	6	EUR 13 465.92
COST Action Dissemination	1	EUR 4 000.00
Other Expenses Related to Scientific Activities (OERSA)	0	EUR 0.00
<b>Total Science Expenditure</b>		<b>EUR 113 023.92</b>
Financial and Scientific Administration and Coordination (FSAC) – MAX. 15%	15 %	EUR 16 953.59
<b>Total Grant</b>		<b>EUR 129 977.51</b>



## CA16101: Grant Periods

### Following Grant Periods:

- GP2: From 01/05/2018 to 30/04/2019
- GP3: From 01/05/2019 to 30/04/2020
- GP4: From 01/05/2020 – 01/03/2021 (Action end date)



## New networking Tool - Conference Grants

- Aimed at supporting **PhD students** and **ECl researchers** from **Participating ITCs**
- to attend international science and technology related conferences not specifically organised by the COST Action.

### The applicant must:

1. make an oral/poster presentation at the conference in question on the topic of the Action and must acknowledge COST
2. be listed in the official event/conference programme.

# Reminders

# MC decision taking procedure

## MC MEETINGS

Minimum once a year in a participating COST Country

Typical duration ½ day

Decisions only valid if at least 2/3 of the Participating COST Countries are represented

**Simple majority vote** of MC Members with **1 vote / Participating COST Country**

**The MC Chair does not have the right to vote**

**MC decision must be minuted and sent to the COST Association**

## E-VOTE

Initiated and managed by the MC Chair(or by the Vice-Chair when the Chair is affiliated with the Grant Holder)

All MC members are in the e-mail list

Vote open for 7 days

**Simple majority vote** of MC Members with **1 vote / Participating COST Country**

**MC decision must be included in the official MC minutes of the following MC Meeting**

# Co-organised activities and sessions

## ■ Co-organised activities: expected

- Action participants (especially MC members) to constitute half of the SC of the conference.
- Approx. 50% speakers and session Chairs to be Action participants (especially MC members and active WG members).
- Good representation of the Action participants in the audience.
- LOS and invited speakers fairly shared between the Action and the external organisation/ body/ institution/...
- In the WBP describe the added benefits of this co-organisation.

## ■ Session in a conference: expected

- Only the speakers of the session can be reimbursed.
- Reimbursement must follow the rules of reimbursement based on the duration of the session, not of the conference.



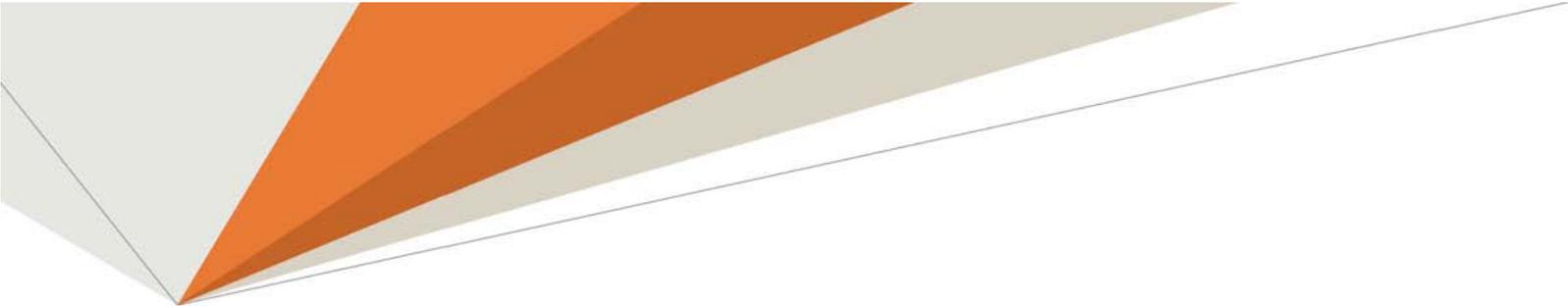
# Dissemination

## Action Publication and Dissemination Activities

- **COST Action budget and paid by the Grant Holder.**
  - Responsibility of the Management Committee
  - Publication and dissemination strategy must be reflected in the Work and Budget plan of the specific Grant Period

## Final Action Dissemination (FAD)

- Material (typically a publication) produced after the 4-years of the Action
- Additional grant (up to max 10 000 EUR) managed directly by Action GH
- Request **6 months** before the official end date of the Action
- Published and Invoice is paid no later than 12 months after the official end of the Action



## Acknowledging COST Funds

- It's vital that you **mention COST funding** whenever you communicate your network's achievements
- It helps boost the programme's visibility and impact (budget issues)
- See **our brand book** for details on how to use our **visual identity** and acknowledge COST funding

<http://www.cost.eu/media/dissemination-corporate-identity>





## Publications

- **To be eligible for financial support, publications produced by a renowned publisher must be**
  - a direct result from the work performed by the Action
  - authored by participants from at least 3 different Participating COST Countries
  - Publication requests will be assessed by COST along the lines of quality and impact

*Vademecum*

# COST: Important documents

- ❑ **COST Vademecum**
- ❑ **Guidelines for the Dissemination of COST Action Results and Outcomes**
- ❑ **Guidelines for Action Management, Monitoring and Assessment**

COST Actions are bottom-up science and technology networks, open to researchers and stakeholders with a duration of four years. They are active through a range of networking tools, such as workshops, conferences, training schools, short-term scientific missions (STSMs), and dissemination activities. COST does not fund research itself.

COST prides in its support for high-risk, innovative and emerging research themes. However, COST does not set any research priorities.

COST Actions can also pave the way to or establish synergies with EU-funded research projects. Moreover, collaboration within research projects can also lead to new Actions, thus enhancing the networking potential of such consortia.

## COST Implementation Rules

Action Proposal Submission Evaluation Selection and Approval (PDF, 276 kB)

Rules for Participation in and Implementation of COST Activities (PDF, 308 kB)

Action Management, Monitoring and Final Assessment (PDF, 299 kB)

International Cooperation and Specific Organisations Participation (PDF, 338 kB)

## Vademecum

COST Vademecum (PDF, 2 MB)

## COST Action Template Centre

COST Grant Agreement Template (PDF, 359 kB)

Monitoring Progress Report Template - MC Chair (DOCX, 156 kB)

Monitoring Progress Review Template - Action Rapporteur (DOCX, 122 kB)

Final Action Dissemination Grant request form (DOCX, 117 kB)

▶ e-COST Action Management Tool User Guide (eCAMT) (PDF, 2 MB)

## Key Documents

▶ Technical Annex (DOCX, 176 kB)

▶ COST Open Call – Submission, Evaluation, Selection and Approval (SESA) Guidelines (PDF, 236 kB)

▶ Guidelines for the Dissemination of COST Action Results and Outcomes (PDF, 2 MB)

▶ Guidelines for Action Management, Monitoring and Assessment (PDF, 566 kB)

# COST Open Call

[http://www.cost.eu/participate/open\\_call](http://www.cost.eu/participate/open_call)

## Collection Dates:

- 25 April 2018, 12:00 CET

## Submit your COST Action proposal

The next collection date is expected to be 7 September 2017, 12:00 noon (CET).

The e-COST tool reopened for submissions on Monday, 16 January.

We invite participants to submit proposals for COST Actions contributing to the scientific, technological, economic, cultural or societal knowledge advancement and development of Europe. Multi- and interdisciplinary proposals are encouraged.

The open call Action Proposal Submission, Evaluation, Selection and Approval (SESA) procedure is fully science and technology-driven and will ensure a simple, transparent and competitive proposal evaluation and selection process, reflecting the bottom-up, open and inclusive principles of COST.

Participants planning to submit a proposal for a COST Action will need to refer to the [updated SESA guidelines](#).

The minimum number of countries included in the network has increased to **seven COST Full or Cooperating Members**. Out of the seven, a minimum of three must be [Inclusiveness Target Countries](#). For more details, please refer to the [annex of the updated SESA guidelines](#).

Participants will also need to include the [updated technical annex](#), which should not exceed 15 pages. Results will be communicated in **April 2018**.

### 2016 submissions

Participants who submitted their proposals in 2016 will need to refer to the [2016 SESA guidelines](#). The final decision on the approval and funding of the Action proposals collected on **7 December 2016** is expected in **June 2017**.

The set of **COST Implementation Rules** outlines procedures and conditions for participating in and setting up COST Actions.

For any questions related to the open call, please contact [opencall@cost.eu](mailto:opencall@cost.eu)

## e-COST

e-COST is a portal for COST Action participants' registration and financial reporting

▶ [Link to e-COST portal](#)

## Key Documents

▶ [COST Open Call – Submission, Evaluation, Selection and Approval \(SESA\) Guidelines \(PDF, 236 kB\)](#)

▶ [Technical Annex \(DOCX, 176 kB\)](#)

## COST Implementation Rules

▶ [Action Proposal Submission Evaluation Selection and Approval \(PDF, 288 kB\)](#)

▶ [Rules for Participation in and Implementation of COST Activities \(PDF, 297 kB\)](#)

▶ [Action Management, Monitoring and Final Assessment \(PDF, 271 kB\)](#)

▶ [International Cooperation and Specific Organisations Participation \(PDF, 242 kB\)](#)

## Other documents

▶ [Open Call infographic \(PDF, 966 kB\)](#)

▶ [COST Vademecum \(PDF, 602 kB\)](#)

▶ [Guidelines for Action Management, Monitoring and Assessment \(PDF, 566 kB\)](#)

▶ [Open Call for Proposals oc-2016-2 \(PDF, 57 kB\)](#)

## Open Call Contacts

General enquiries and technical problems

▶ [opencall@cost.eu](mailto:opencall@cost.eu)

# New COST Actions: Full lists

[http://www.cost.eu/COST\\_Actions](http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions)

About COST **COST Actions** Participate Events Media e-COST

- ▶ COST Action Networking Tools
- ▶ All Actions

Home | COST Actions

## COST Actions

COST Actions are a flexible, fast, effective and efficient networking instrument for researchers, engineers and scholars to cooperate and coordinate nationally funded research activities. COST Actions allow European researchers to jointly develop their own ideas in any science and technology field.

COST Actions are bottom-up science and technology networks, open to researchers and stakeholders with a duration of four years. They are active through a range of [networking tools](#), such as workshops, conferences, training schools, short-term scientific missions (STSMs), and dissemination activities. **COST does not fund research itself.**

COST prides in its support for high-risk, innovative and emerging research themes. However, **COST does not set any research priorities.**

COST Actions can also pave the way to or establish synergies with [EU-funded research projects](#). Moreover, collaboration within research projects can also lead to new Actions, thus enhancing the networking potential of such consortia.

COST Actions cover scientific and technological research activities for peaceful purposes and of public interest, aiming to contribute to the [COST Mission](#).

Every COST Action has an objective, defined goals and clear deliverables. These are described in a Memorandum of Understanding, accepted by at least seven participating [COST Member States](#).

You can browse through all the [running COST Actions](#).

COST Actions are:

**Pan-European**

Spanning 36 Member States

## Notice board

During FP7 (2007-2013), all COST Actions followed the Domain structure. COST Actions funded under the [new COST Open Call](#) will no longer follow this structure.

The new scientific organisation reflects a fully open and bottom-up approach through a single Scientific Committee. The new approach includes a [renewed Submission, Evaluation, Selection and Approval](#) favouring excellence and encouraging multi- and interdisciplinary approaches.

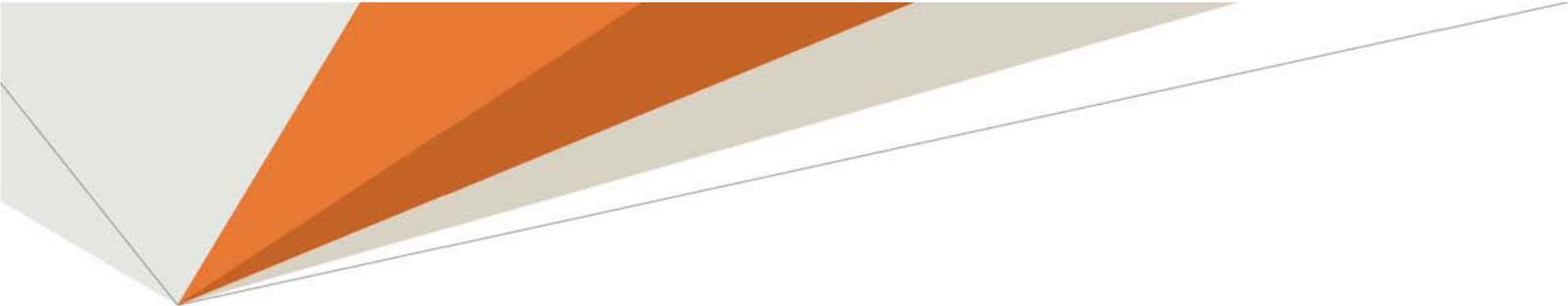
## Key Documents

- ▶ Approved Actions - [June 2017](#) (PDF, 336 kB)
- ▶ Approved Actions - [October 2016](#) (PDF, 274 kB)
- ▶ Approved Actions - [February 2016](#) (PDF, 425 kB)
- ▶ Approved Actions [2015](#) (PDF, 370 kB)
- ▶ Approved Actions 2014 (PDF, 964 kB)
- ▶ Approved Actions 2013 (PDF, 2 MB)
- ▶ Approved Actions 2012 (PDF, 4 MB)
- ▶ Approved Actions 2011 (PDF, 5 MB)
- ▶ Approved Actions 2010 (PDF, 3 MB)

# Become a COST Expert

- As a COST expert, you will have opportunity to:
  - Contribute to the evaluation of COST OC proposals;
  - Participate in the assessment of Action results and outcomes;
  - Take a 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](http://www.cost.eu/experts))
- An updated Curriculum Vitae with a list of publications is required to demonstrate competence in specific areas of expertise





## Reminder

- Always send to COST Association (SO and AO) the minutes of the MC meetings and upload them in e-COST
- Any addition of activities (meetings, TS, etc.) not in Grant Agreement needs MC and SO approval

Thank you

Follow and engage with us on social media

