




Growing
ideas
through
networks

COST - European Cooperation in Science and Technology

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- 
- What is COST?
 - How does COST work?
 - Why and how to participate in COST activities?



■ What is COST?

COST mission

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

COST mission summarises the core business of COST and its rationale.

COST – 45 years proven track record in research collaboration

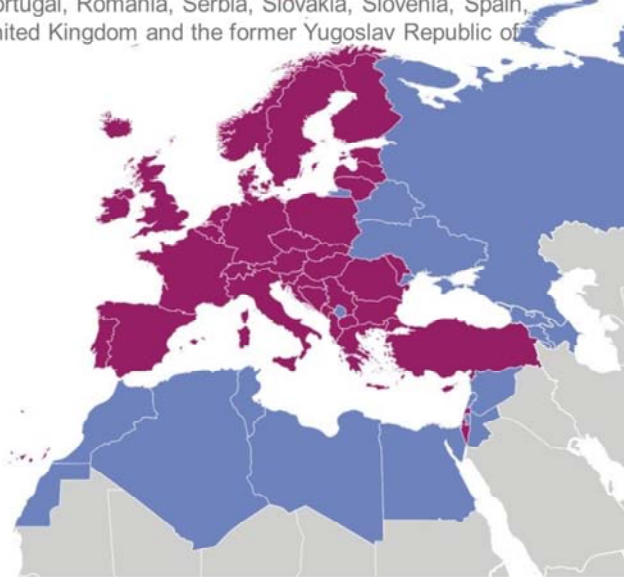
38 COST Full Members: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

1 Cooperating Member: Israel

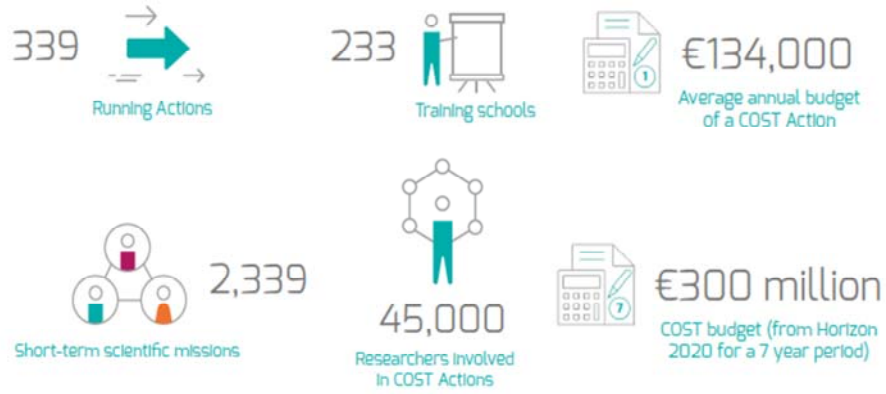
COST Near Neighbour

Countries: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Kosovo*, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Russia, Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.



COST key figures of 2017



COST: The networking tool in the ERA and the pre-portal to other ERA funding schemes

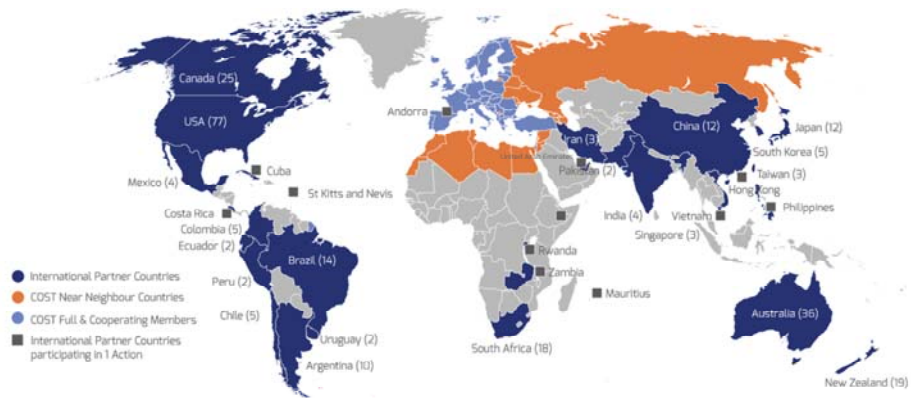
Main figures underlining and resulting from COST activities

Role of COST in the ERA - 3 Strategic Priorities



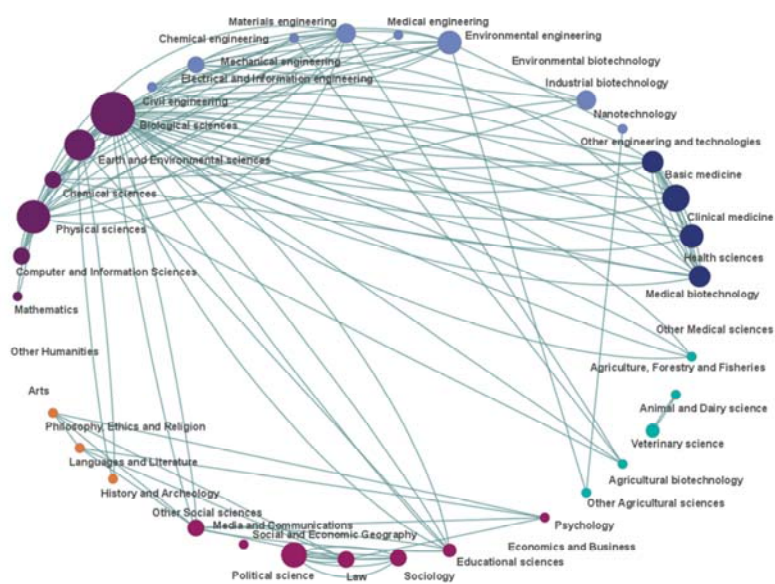
The three priorities of COST

Promoting and spreading excellence



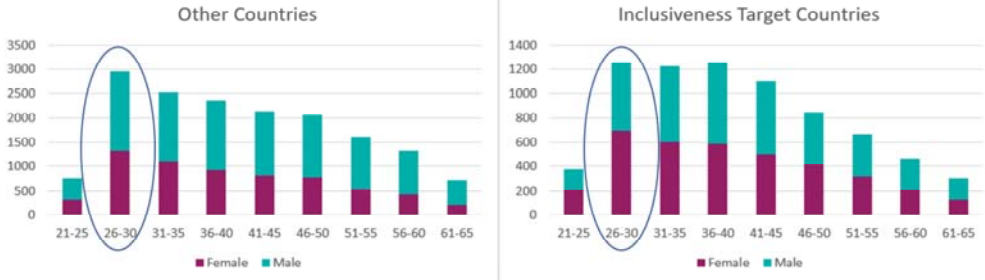
1st priority: promoting and spreading excellence globally

Fostering interdisciplinary research for breakthrough science



2nd priority is interdisciplinarity that results from the bottom-up and open nature of the COST Actions.

Boosting careers of young researchers



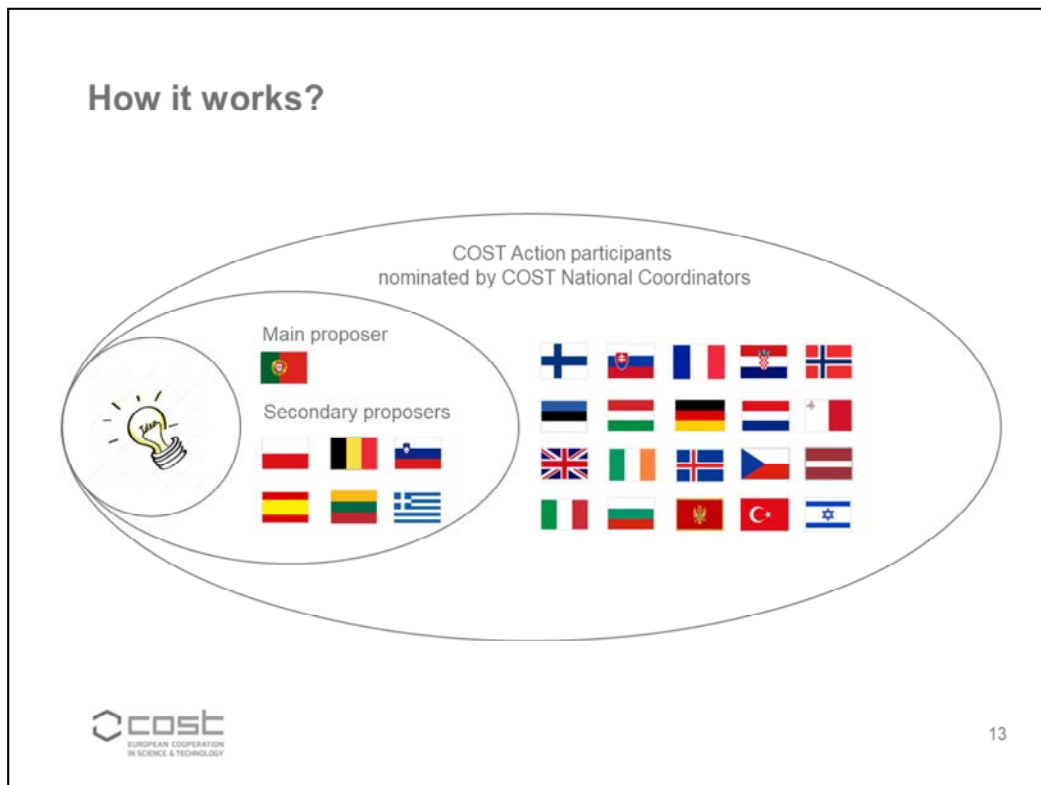
3rd priority is empowering young researchers. The graphs show the overall participation in COST Actions by age group.



■ How does COST work?

Why Networking?

- Knowledge sharing leads to...
 - Common understanding of problems at hand
 - Coordinated activities
 - Pooling resources
 - Reduced risks
 - Synergies (1+1>2)



A COST Action starts with an idea that is presented in a proposal. The proposing team is lead by the main proposer and composed of secondary proposers. Minimum 7 COST Full Members. NNCs can be in the proposing team as secondary proposers as addition to the minimum 7 Full COST Members.

COST Actions are:

- Open and Expandable

COST Actions are open to any type of participation regarding **type of institutions** (public, private), **career levels** (young and old), **countries** (the whole world can participate) at **any time** (not necessary to be part of the proposal).
- Bottom-up

We do not define research topic. Any proposal is possible. It is completely **researcher-driven**. The Action can deal with 1 topic, or handle different topics.
- Flexible and light

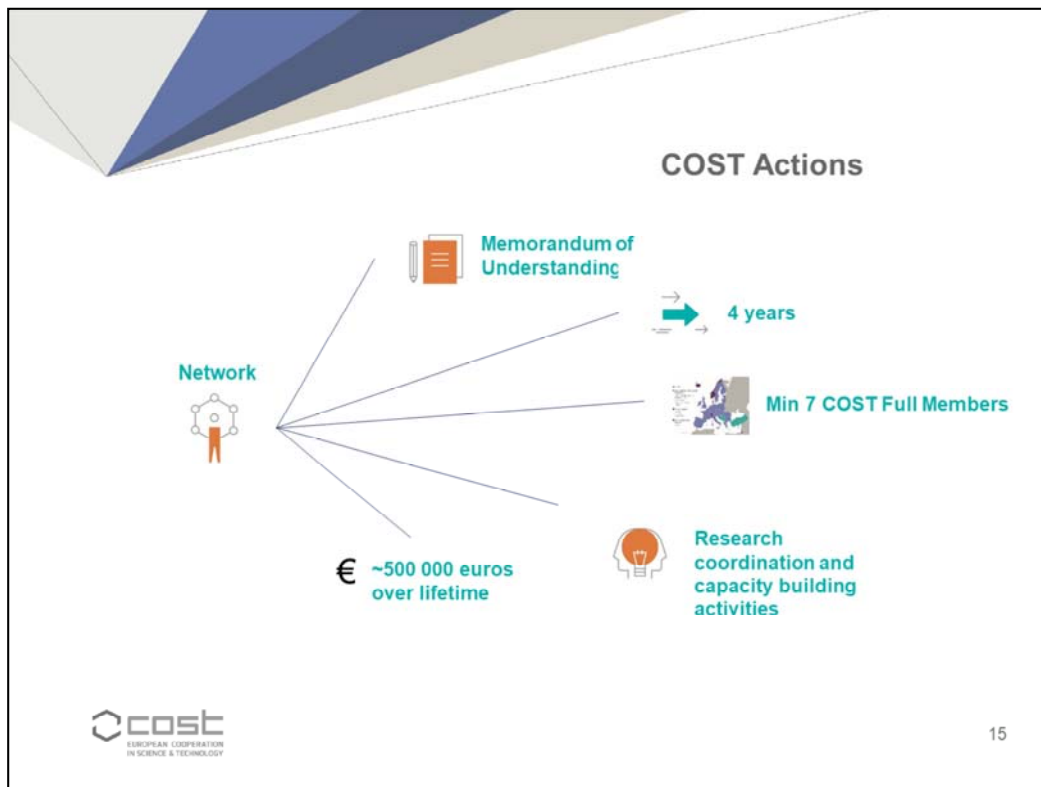
Adaptable research and **activities**. The management of the Action defines the priorities, nothing is set in stone. The reporting is light, and we try to keep our rules as simply as possible.

- Output and impact oriented

We stimulate the wide sharing of knowledge through several dissemination activities, principles of Open Science, Open Access and Open Innovation are stimulated.

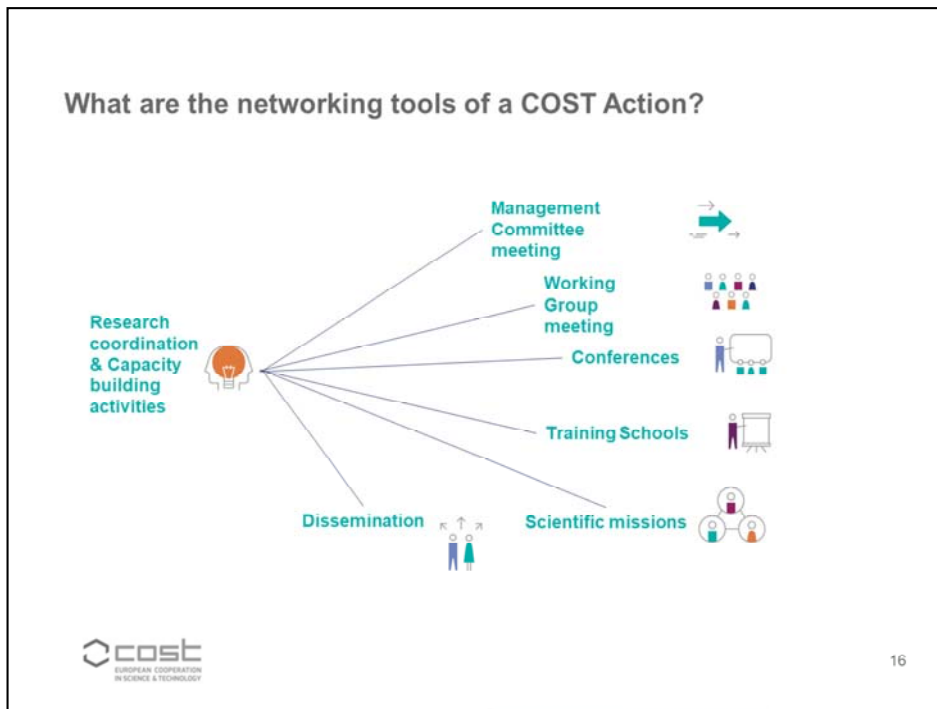
COST Action are:

- Open and expandable
- Bottom-up
- Flexible and light
- Output and impact oriented



- A network of researchers, engineers and scholars with nationally funded research (Build a community
Build a new collective identity)
- Collaborating in S&T fields of common interest → MOU
- From at least seven COST Full Members / Expandable to new participants / Currently average number of parties: 27
- Engage in research coordination and capacity building
- Average on the running Actions

10% success rate



- COST Actions are bottom-up **science and technology networks, open to researchers and stakeholders.**
- 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.**
- **Around 230 COST Actions are currently ongoing.**

Researcher-driven

In terms of proposed topics, objectives and work organisation; researchers choose their own topics; all decision are entrusted to the Action's Management Committees

Open and Inclusive

Open to all researchers, engineers and scholars, irrespective of gender, field or career stage. Actions can expand, as researchers from new countries can join in during the first three years

Multi- and interdisciplinary

Building, bridging and expanding multi- and interdisciplinary science and technology research communities.



- **How to participate in COST activities?**



Participation from Near Neighbour Countries

- COST Actions are open to welcome non-COST country participants
- Participation is based on ascertained mutual benefit
- Funding conditions: researchers from NNCs are eligible for reimbursement, COST Actions with NNC participants receive a top-up to their allocated budget

How to engage with COST?



1. As **participant** of a running COST Action
2. As (secondary) **proposer** of a COST Action
3. Become an **external expert**

Join an Action

- As a Management Committee (MC) observer
- As a Working Group (WG) participant
- As grantee of a Short Term Scientific Mission
- As trainer / trainee of a Training school
- As attendee of a Workshop/Conference
- ...

How to join a running COST Action?

- Contact Action Chair and express interest
- Submit official motivation letter (approval from institution needed)
- Action Chair launches procedure in e-COST and uploads motivation letter.
- Additional information should be provided if needed
- Action MC votes
- Approval by Head of Science Operations and Executive Board

The internal approval procedure takes place within, appr. 15 days
The request for joining an Action is made by the institution of the researcher assigning the individual scientist to the Action.

JOIN running COST Actions/ COST activities

- DO your research of COST Actions
<https://www.cost.eu/cost-actions/browse-actions/>

- INVEST your time
- IDENTIFY the CO
- CONTACT the Act

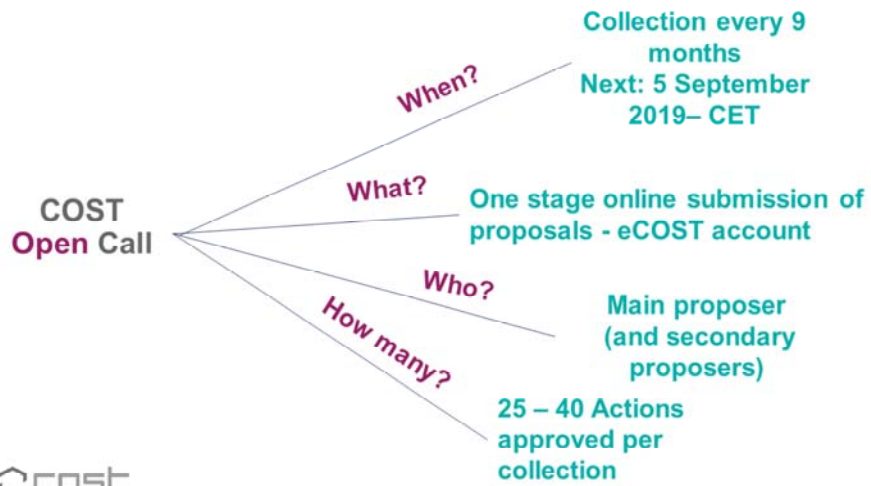
- DON'T UNDERES
- DON'T only shoot radar

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

The screenshot shows the 'Browse Actions' page on the COST website. The page header includes the COST logo and navigation menus for 'Who We Are', 'Funding', 'COST Actions', and 'Academy'. A search bar is present with the text 'Action number or Title'. Below the search bar, there are four action listings:

Action ID	Start Date	End Date	Title
CA1710	20/10/2016	28/10/2022	Standardising output based surveillance to control non regulated diseases of Listeria in the EU
CA1731	26/10/2016	25/10/2022	The Soil Science & Archæo-Geophysics Alliance: going beyond projection
CA1734	26/10/2016	25/10/2022	Optical synergies for spatiotemporal sensing of suitable ecophysiological traits
CA1703	23/10/2016	22/10/2022	Delivery of Antisense RNA Therapeutics

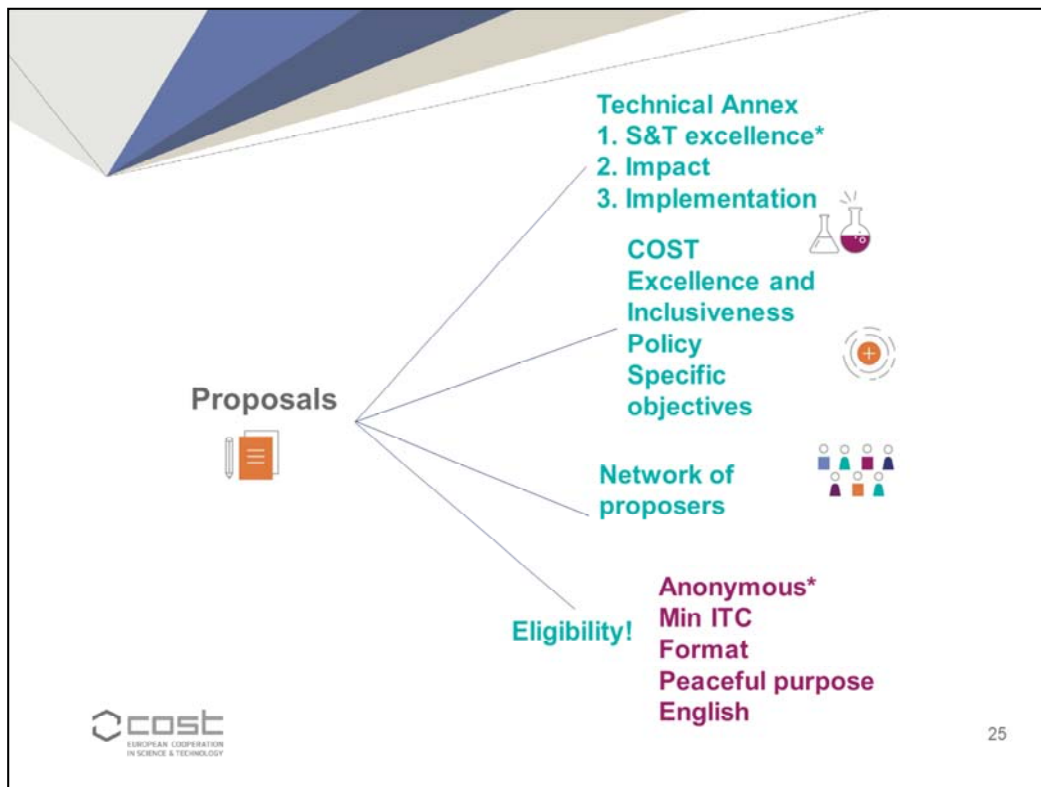
Secondary proposer of a COST Action





Process

- The Main Proposer acts as representative and contact point for the COST Association
- Main proposer invites secondary proposer to join the proposal (through e-COST).
- E-COST profile is needed!



Content

SESA procedure

New **Submission, Evaluation, Selection** and **Approval** (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 *Ad hoc* **Review**

Panels

Selection: COST Scientific Committee (SC)

Approval: COST Committee of Senior Officials (CSO)

Evaluation step

3 Independent External Experts

COST Expert data base

Fields and sub-fields of Science and Technology and, if needed, Key Words

Validated by Scientific Committee

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

Eligibility

coordinated by a main proposer in a COST Full or Cooperating Member state
represent a network of proposers from at least 7 COST Full/Cooperating Member states (min. ITC)

anonymous: no reference to the participants in the network of proposers

peaceful purposes

respect the word or page limits

written in English



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

- 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.

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





Benefits of participation in a COST Action

scientific	career	networking
work on topics not yet funded by other sources	Get experience in scientific and/ or administrative management (i.e. leading/ organising training schools disseminating research results)	can participate in any H2020 project at the same time
become member of leading scientific networks - without going through a possibly risky and exclusive proposal preparation	participating at short term scientific missions	can participate in more COST Actions at the same time "a la carte" access to existing networks by having an overview of all the running Actions without going through a possibly risky and exclusive proposal preparation
publication	Increasing visibility by hosting and/or participating at additional scientific events	extend one's network
engage with peers	becoming a Grant Holder	reimbursement



COST acting as a pre-portal for FP funding

Horizon 2020 applications reported by finished COST Actions

Total Actions with
finished Final Action
Report

Submitted H2020
proposals reported

Approved H2020
projects reported

Success rate

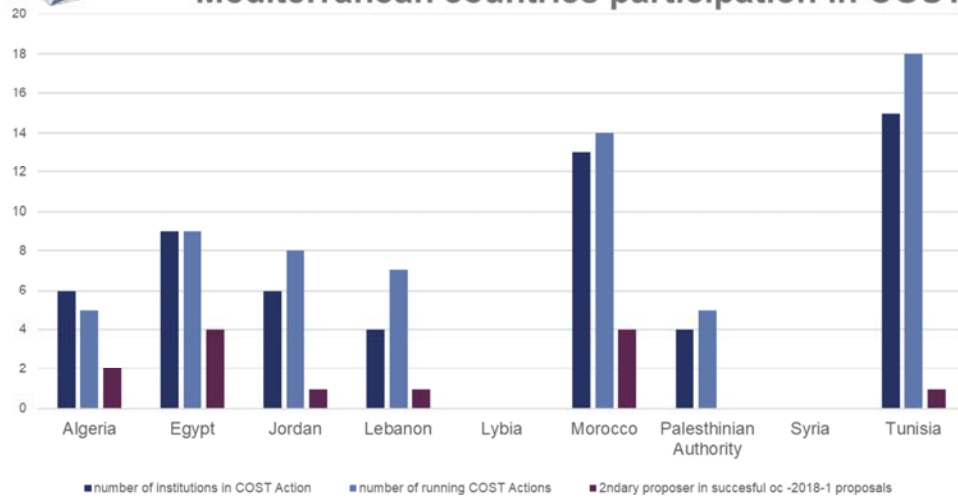
114


392

131

33 %

Mediterranean countries participation in COST



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- COST Awareness Day for NNCs 03/04/2019, Brussels, inviting the National Contact Persons (NCP) of H2020
 - 40 new COST Actions approved on 13/11/2018

https://www.cost.eu/news/get_involve_in_the_40_brand_new_actions_starting_in_spring_2019/

- Researchers coming to Brussels are welcome to contact COST and are encouraged to pay COST a visit

Thank you!

Contact and engage with us!

 @COST.Programme

 @COSTprogramme

 COST Association

 COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology)



“ *The opportunity for science lies in creating an unlimited space where crossovers between ideas and people can change the world for the better.* ”