COST

European Cooperation in Science and Technology

Introduction to the COST Framework Programme

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme
of the European Union

Outline

- What is COST?
- What are the COST Actions and how to participate in them?
- How to prepare a successful proposal?

Growing
ideas
through
networks

What is COST?

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme
of the European Union

What is COST?

COST (CO-operation in Science and Technology) is the longest-running EU funded programme enabling

researchers to set up their interdisciplinary research networks in Europe and beyond.

COST creates open spaces where ideas and people grow, unlocking the full potential of science.

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Growing
ideas
through
networks

What are COST Actions?

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme
of the European Union

Action Features

- Bottom-up approach
- Open and expandable participation

Open to all stakeholders, type of institutions, career levels, countries, at any time

- Flexible and light administration

adaptable research and activities, light reporting

- Output and impact oriented

open science, wide sharing of knowledge and results, open access, open innovation

COST Actions

Memorandum of Understanding

4 years

Network

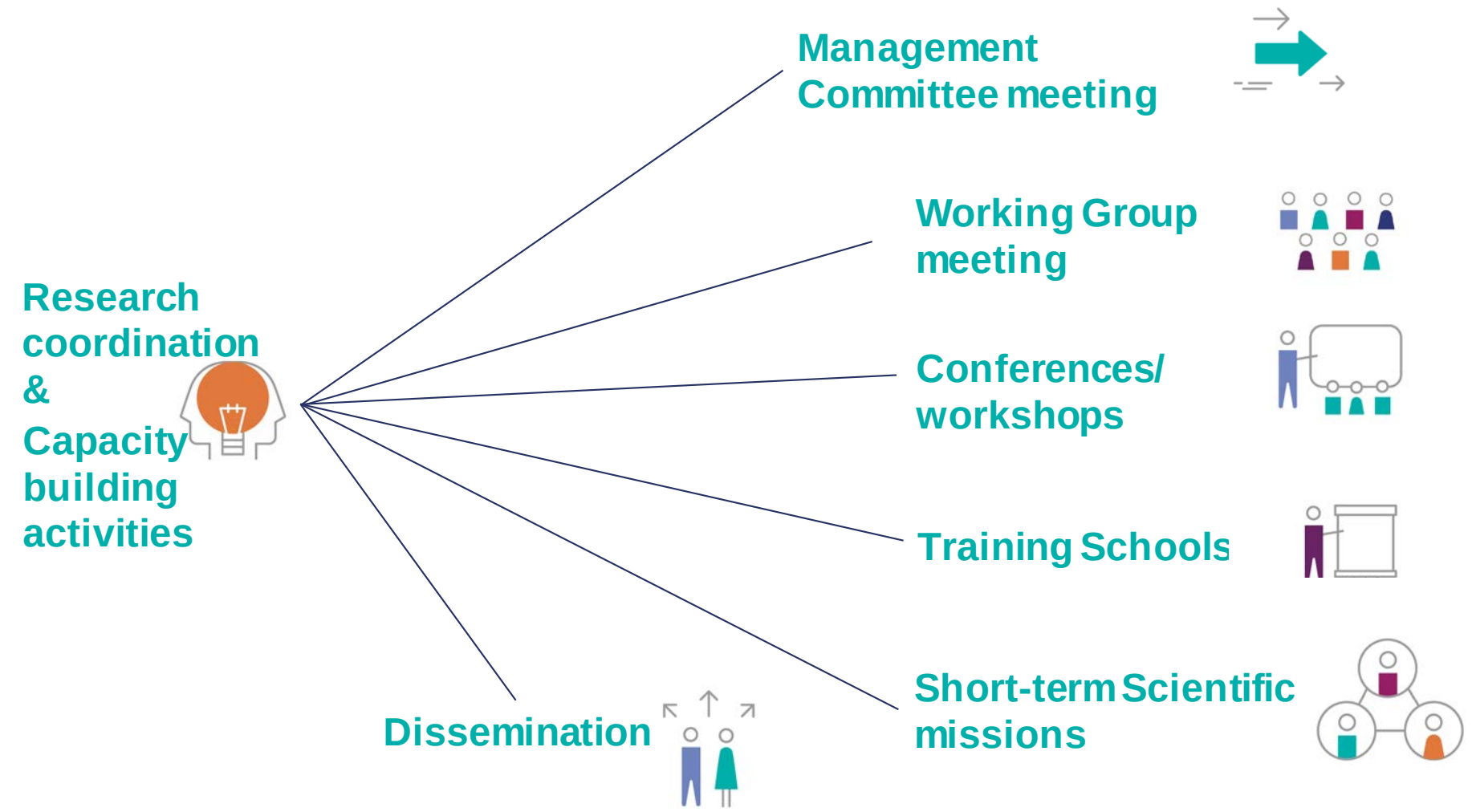
Min 7 countries, average participation, 27 countries

€ ~500 000 euros over lifetime

Research coordination and capacity building activities

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Networking tools



Financial rules: see COST Vademecum

COST Action Structure

Leadership Positions

Action Chair
Vice Chair

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (MC)

GRANT HOLDER (GH)

GH Scientific Rep.

COST Association Administration

WG1

WG2

WG3

WG5

WG6

WG leaders

Horizontal groups

STSM coordinator
Scientific Com. Manager

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

How to engage with COST?

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

Growing
ideas
through
networks

Engage as participant of a running COST Action

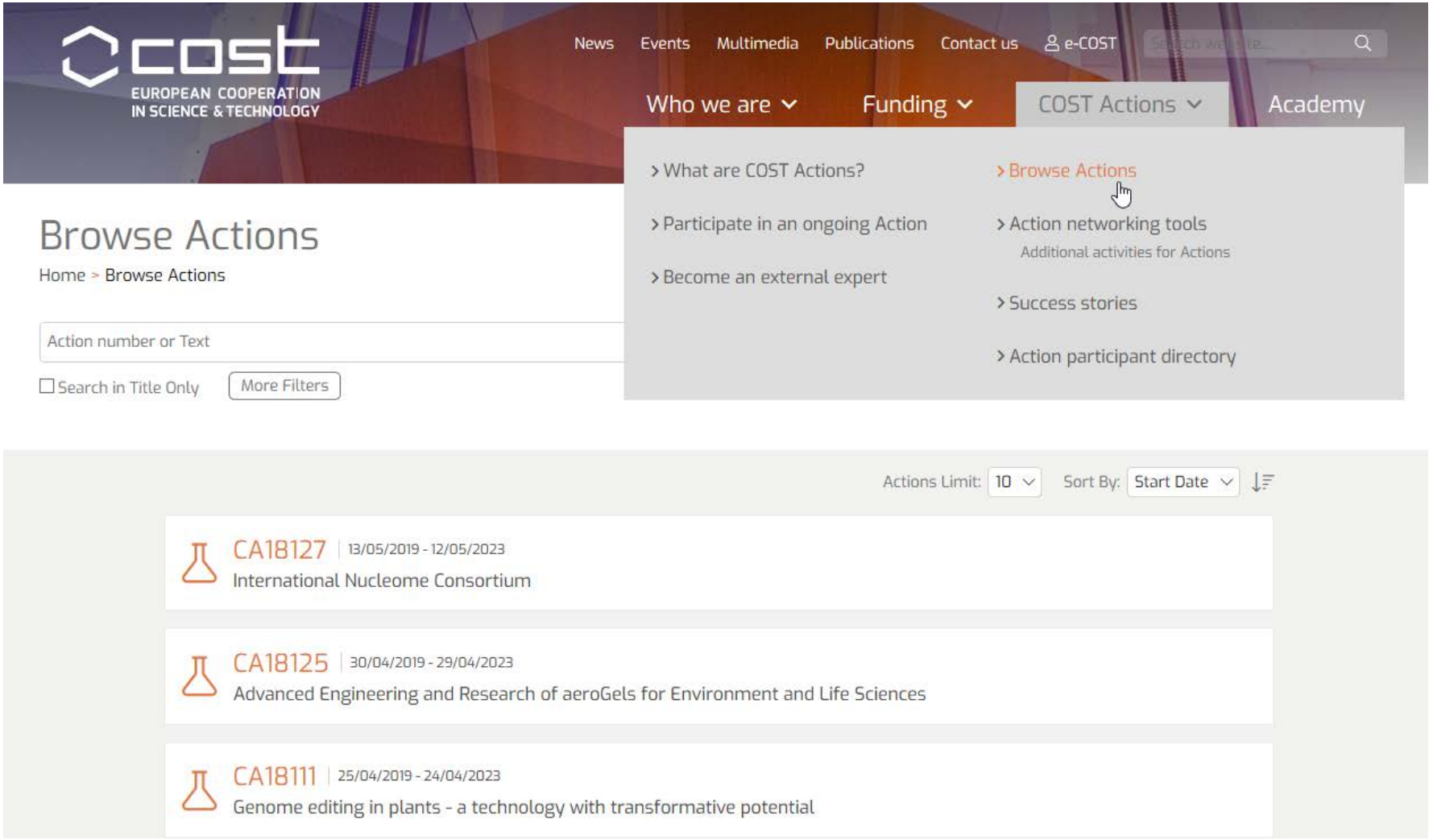
cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme
of the European Union

Engaging in a running COST 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

How to find the relevant COST Action?



Join an Action as…

- 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 national MC member)

Growing
ideas
through
networks

Engage as proposer of a COST Action

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme
of the European Union

COST Open Call

When? Collection every 9 months
Next: 29 April 2020 – 12:00 CET

What? One stage online submission of proposals
e-COST account

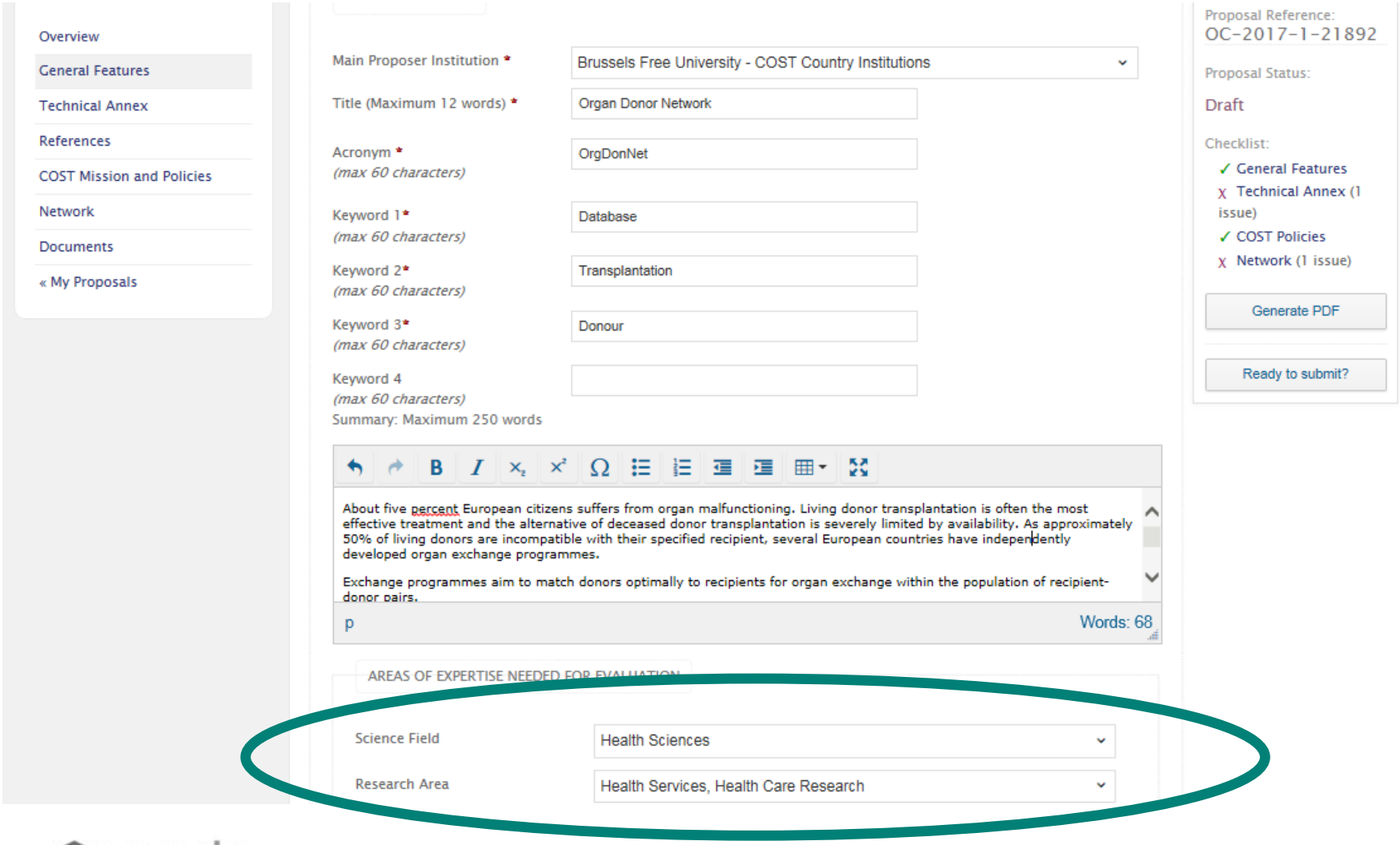
Who? Main proposer
(and secondary proposers)

How many? 40 – 45 Actions approved
per collection

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Proposals

Online submission tool (e-COST)*



*www.cost.eu/ecost

General features

Technical Annex
1. S&T excellence*
2. Networking Excellence
3. Impact
4. Implementation

Proposals

Open Call for proposals – Technical Annex

Sections	Sub-sections
1. S&T EXCELLENCE	1.1 soundness of the challenge 1.2 progress beyond the state-of-the-art
2. NETWORKING EXCELLENCE	2.1 added value of networking in S&T excellence 2.2 added value of networking in impact
3. IMPACT	3.1 impact to science, society and competitiveness, and potential for innovation/breakthroughs 3.2 measures to maximise impact
4. IMPLEMENTATION	4.1 coherence and effectiveness of the work plan

General features

Technical Annex
1. S&T excellence*
2. Networking Excellence
3. Impact
4. Implementation

COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy
Specific objectives

Proposals

COST Mission and Policy

- What is the 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 and Policy

- What is the COST Policy?

  COST Policy on Excellence and Inclusiveness

  1. Strengthening the excellence through the creation of cross-border networking of researchers
  2. Promoting geographical, age and gender balance throughout its activities and operations

Proposals

General features

Technical Annex
1. S&T excellence*
2. Networking Excellence
3. Impact
4. Implementation

COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy
Specific objectives

Network of proposers

Proposals

General features

Technical Annex
1. S&T excellence*
2. Networking Excellence
3. Impact
4. Implementation

COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy
Specific objectives

Network of proposers

Eligibility!

Anonymous*
Min ITC
Format
Peaceful purpose
English

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Evaluation - SESA

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

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

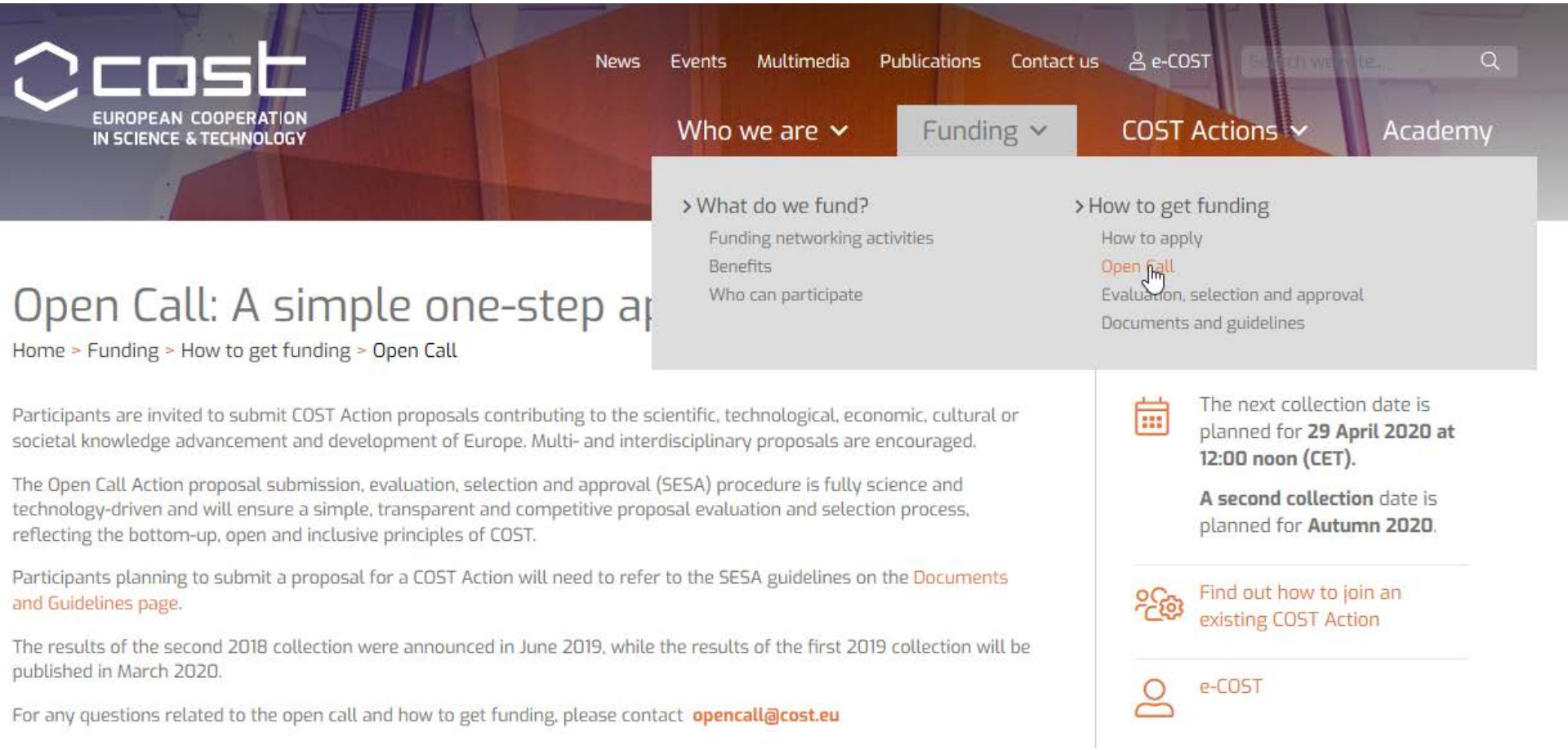
Step 1: External Remote Evaluation

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

S&T EXCELLENCE	NETWORKING EXCELLENCE	IMPACT	IMPLEMENTATION
▪ Soundness of the Challenge	▪ Added value of networking in S&T Excellence	▪ Impact to science, society and competitiveness, and potential for innovation/break-throughs	▪ Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan
▪ Progress beyond the state-of-the-art	▪ Added value of networking in Impact	▪ Measures to maximise impact	
Total marks for the section = **15 points**	Total marks for the section = **15 points**	Total marks for the section = **15 points**	Total marks for the section = **5 points**
TOTAL MARKS AWARDED = 0 - 50 points **OVERALL THRESHOLD = 34 points**			

COST Open Call

https://www.cost.eu



Open Call for proposals – how to apply

- Read the official announcement
- Read the SESA Guidelines
- Online registration and submission (e-COST)
- Technical Annex template
- Helpdesk: opencall@cost.eu

Growing
ideas
through
networks

Engage as external expert

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

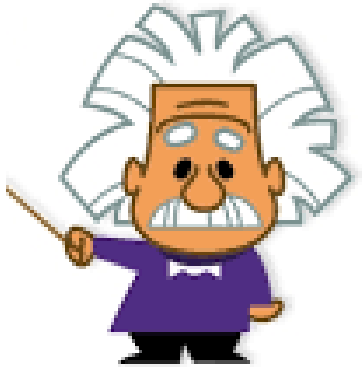
Funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme
of the European Union

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**

www.cost.eu/cost-actions/participate-external-expert/

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



Growing
ideas
through
networks

Outputs, Results and Impact of COST Actions

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme
of the European Union

Visual representation of COST impact philosophy

Impacts

- **Scientific impact**: interdisciplinary collaborations leading to breakthrough science
- **Societal impact**: bridging the innovation divide and participation gaps, and brain circulation in the ERA

Outcomes/ results

- Approved common projects on interdisciplinary research
- Coordination of standards, procedures and methods
- New research infrastructure and programs on societal challenges
- Career advancement for less-connected researchers

Output

- H2020, European and national common research proposals
- Peer-reviewed co-created publications
- New (interdisciplinary) research collaborations for researchers
- New research leadership skills and experience for less-connected researchers

Activities

Input

- Ideas
- Resources
- People

Contact and engage with us

- Sign up to our news: www.cost.eu/subscribe
- Contact: opencall@cost.eu
- Join us on our social networks:

www.facebook.com/COST.Programme/

https://www.linkedin.com/company-beta/1050548/

@COSTprogramme

https://www.youtube.com/user/COSTOffice

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

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY