COST – Growing ideas through networks

Central & Eastern European R&I Cooperation Day, 14 June 2018, Ghent
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Overview of the presentation

- What is COST
- COST Strategic priorities
- How to get involved?
- Future Outlook
What is COST?

“COST (Cooperation in Science and Technology) is the longest-running European framework supporting cooperation and networking among researchers, engineers and scholars by enabling them to jointly develop their own ideas and new initiatives across all fields in science and technology, including social sciences and humanities.”
COST – 45 years proven track record in research collaboration

• 37 COST 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, Montenegro, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

• 1 Cooperating Member

Israel

• Near Neighbour Countries participation

Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Russia, Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine
COST key figures of 2017

339 Running Actions
233 Training schools
€134,000 Average annual budget of a COST Action
2,339 Short-term scientific missions
45,000 Researchers involved in COST Actions
€300 million COST budget (from Horizon 2020 for a 7 year period)
Role of COST in the ERA – 3 Strategic Priorities

1. Promoting and spreading excellence
2. Fostering interdisciplinary research for breakthrough science
3. Boosting careers young researchers
Priority 1. Promoting and Spreading Excellence (1/3)
Priority 1. Promoting and Spreading Excellence (2/3)
Priority 1. Promoting and Spreading Excellence (3/3)
Dedicated measures for active ITC participation

- COST Info Days
  - Targeted to ITC
  - combined with high-level meeting ITC government, including NCP

- Proposals
  - Eligibility
  - External experts
  - Inclusiveness policy

- COST Actions
  - COST Action Leadership
  - Conference grant for PhD students and young researchers
  - Pre-payment for STSM

- COST Academy
  - Leadership workshop
  - Finance/Admin workshop
  - Science Communication training
  - Mentoring GH
  - Mentoring Chair
Priority 2. Fostering interdisciplinary research (1/2)
Priority 2. Fostering Interdisciplinary research (2/2)

COST Action TU1306 - CYBERPARKS

Fostering knowledge about the relationship between Information and Communication Technologies and Public Spaces supported by strategies to improve their use and attractiveness
Priority 3. Boosting the career on young researchers (1/2)

Researchers’ career development and complementary funding schemes

- **Erasmus+**
- **MSCA**
- **ERC Starting Grant**
- **ERC Consolidator Grant**
- **Associate Professor / Full Professor**
- **Full Professor**

- **Students**
- **Post-Graduates**
- **Post-Docs**
Priority 3. Boosting the career on young researchers (2/2)
What are COST Actions?

- Management Committee meeting
- Working Group meeting
- Conferences
- Training Schools
- Dissemination
- Scientific missions
What are COST Actions?

- Network
- Memorandum of Understanding
- 4 years
- Min 7 countries
- € \(~500,000\) euros over lifetime
- Research coordination and capacity building activities
How to get involved with COST?

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

Collection every 9 months
Next: 28 November 2018

One stage online submission of proposals
eCOST account

Who?
Main proposer
(and secondary proposers)

When?

What?

How many?
25 – 40 Actions approved per collection

COST Open Call
1. Propose a COST Action

- Technical Annex
  1. S&T excellence*
  2. Impact
  3. Implementation

- COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy
  Specific objectives

- Network of proposers

- General features

- Eligibility!
  Anonymous*
  Min ITC
  Format
  Peaceful purpose
  English

Proposals
2. Join a running COST Action

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

…
How to find the relevant COST Action?
3. Register as an expert

- 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.
Future Outlook. Positioning of COST as leading networking tool in the ERA.

- COST Academy
- COST Innovators Grant
- COST ERA funding pre-portal
- COST global networking
- COST Connect
- COST science-informed policy advice
- COST Actions
  - Meetings, workshops and conferences, and conference grant
  - Training schools
  - Short-term Scientific Missions
  - Dissemination activities

COST ERA funding pre-portal

COST global networking
COST in Horizon Europe

- Horizon Europe proposal published on 7 June 2018
  - COST in the “Sharing Excellence” pillar, together with Teaming, Twinning and ERA Chairs
  - EUR 1 700 000 000
  - “This intervention area will support the Horizon Europe specific objectives: Spread and connect excellence across the EU; Reinforce the creation of high quality knowledge; Increase cross-sectorial, cross-disciplinary cross-border cooperation.”
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“
The opportunity for science lies in creating an unlimited space where crossovers between ideas and people can change the world for the better.
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