

# UNIVERSITY OF MALTA GRANTS WEEK

## **COST Morning**



**Venue: Valletta campus / Online**  
**Date: July 8, 2021**



Funded by the Horizon 2020  
Framework Programme  
of the European Union





- 09:30      **Session 4.1 - Introducing COST**  
**Dr Ronald de Bruin**, Director of the COST Association
- 09:45      **Session 4.2 - COST Overview**  
**Prof. Janet Mifsud**, Malta COST CNC CSO
- 10:15      **Session 4.3 – Building a successful COST Action**  
**Mr Christer Halen**, Senior Administrator - Science Operations COST Association
- 11:00      **Session 4.4 – COST Panel Discussion**

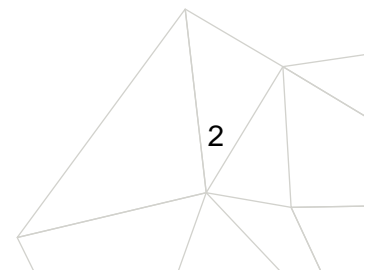
**Chair, Dr Melchior Cini**, Malta Deputy COST CNC CSO

**Prof. Janet Mifsud**, COST CNC CSO

**Prof. Luciano Mule Stagno**, COST Scientific Committee chair

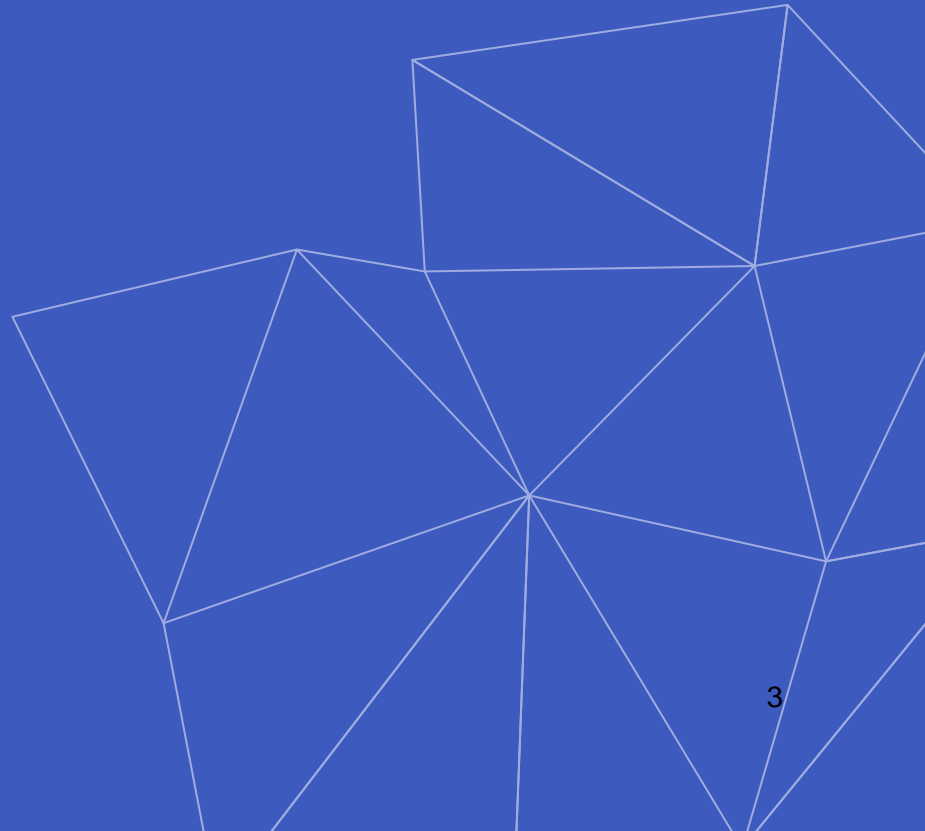
**Dr. Lourdes Farrugia**, COST Action chair

**Dr. Jean Paul De Lucca**, COST Action MC Member



Session 4.1 Ronald de Bruin

# Welcome



Session 4.2 Janet Mifsud

# COST: an overview



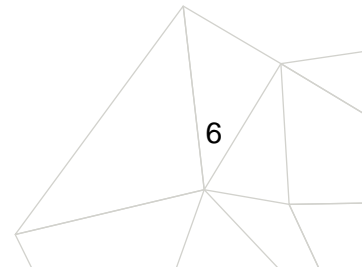


What is a COST action?

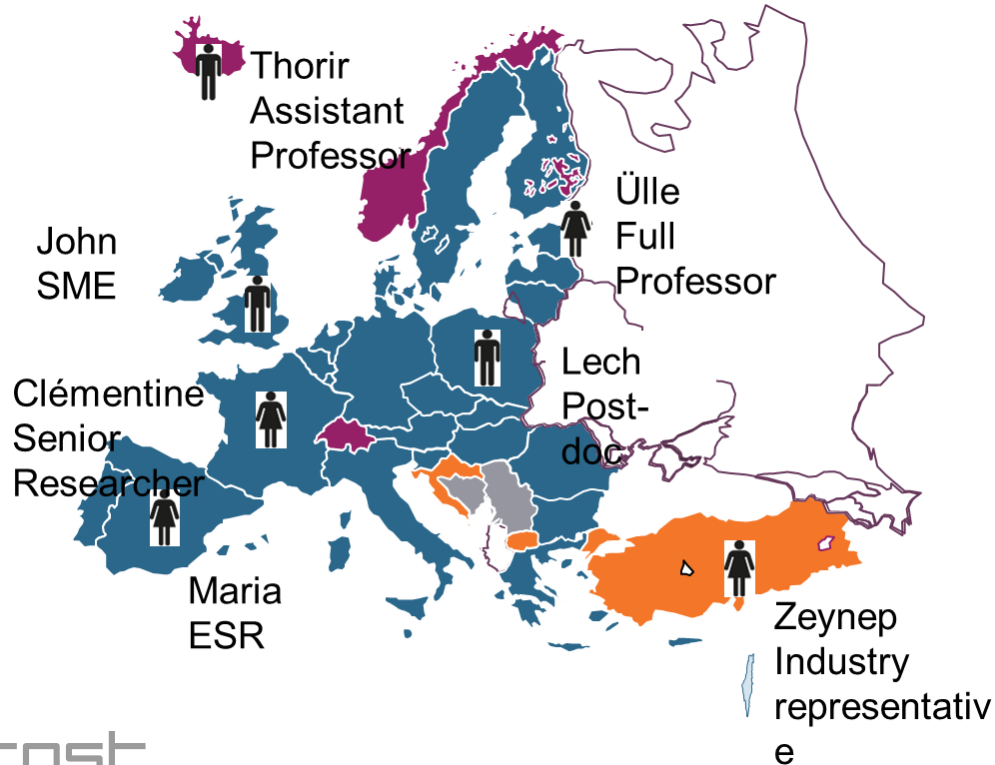
# What is a COST action?



- **COST** is the oldest EU research funding mechanism: **50 years old**
- **COST actions are networks** integrating externally funded research, with a minimum of 5 participating COST countries.
- They receive a financial contribution based on a 4-year joint work programme for:
  - **Scientific/Working Group meetings**
  - **Workshops and Seminars**
  - **Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs)**
  - **Training Schools**
  - **Dissemination activities**



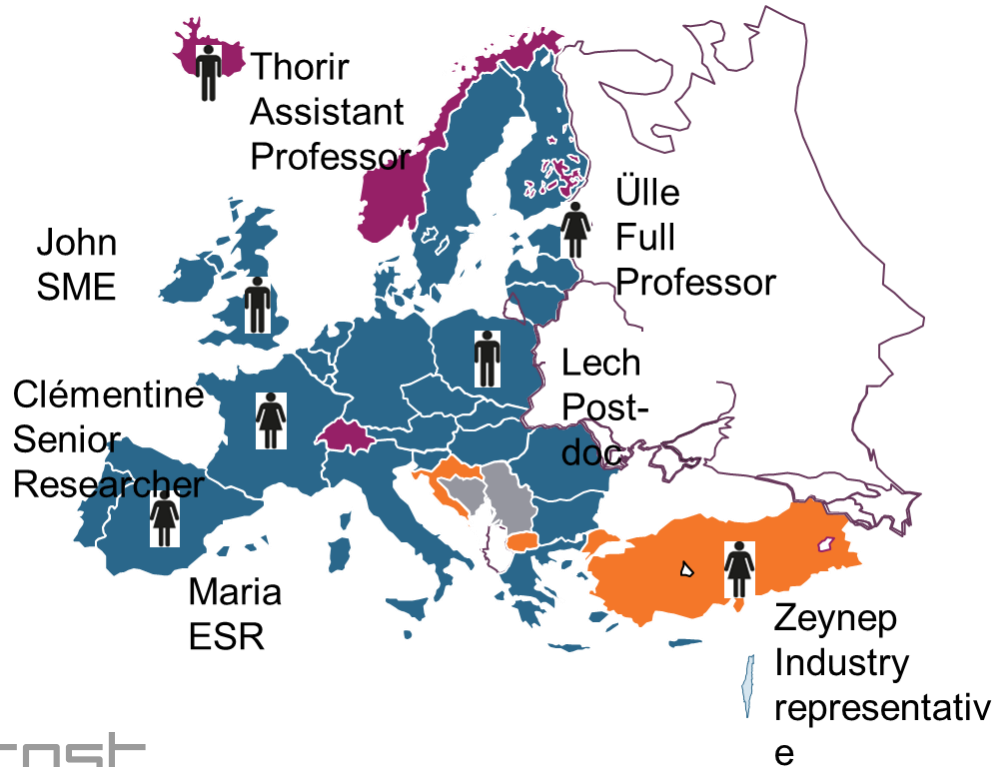
# How is a COST action set up?



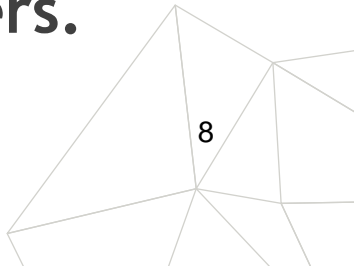
**Main proposer**  
contacts potential  
**secondary**  
**proposers** to join  
the COST  
proposal....

With a focus on  
inclusion of **ITC**  
**countries**

# Evaluation of COST actions...

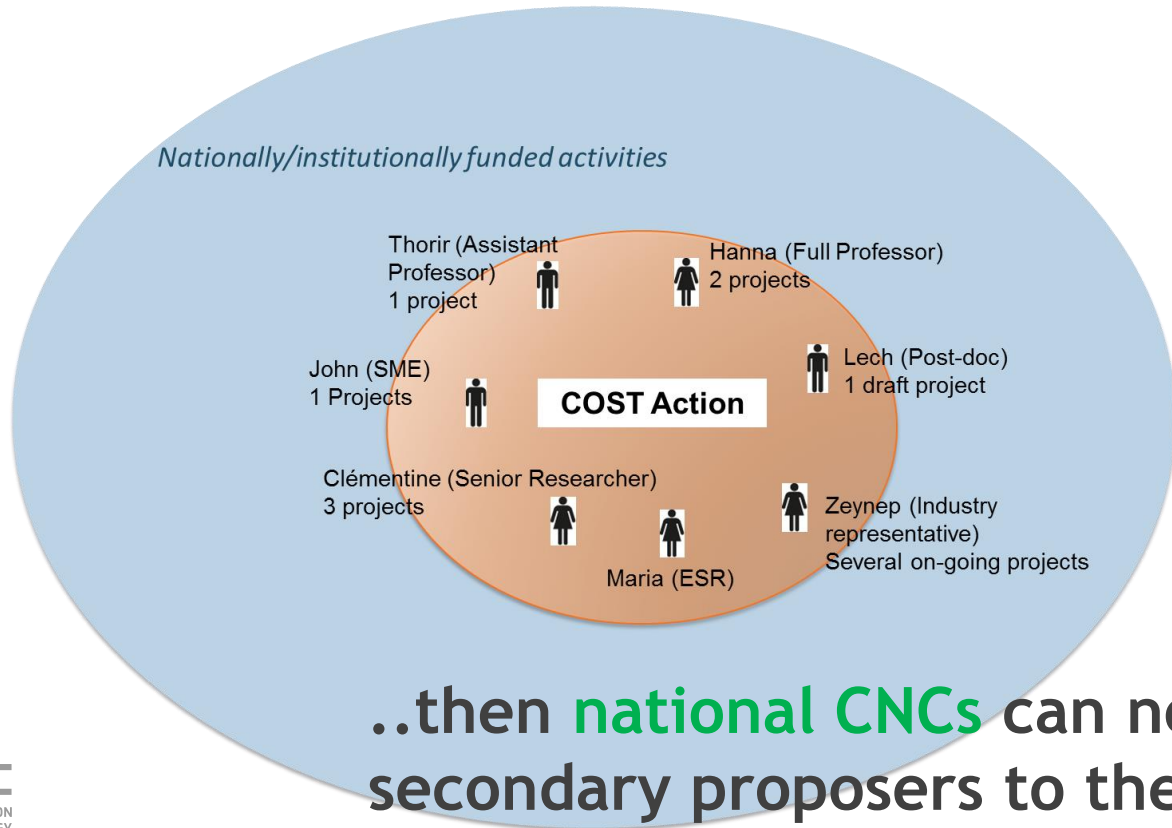


This is coordinated by the **COST scientific committee** who appoint experts and reviewers.



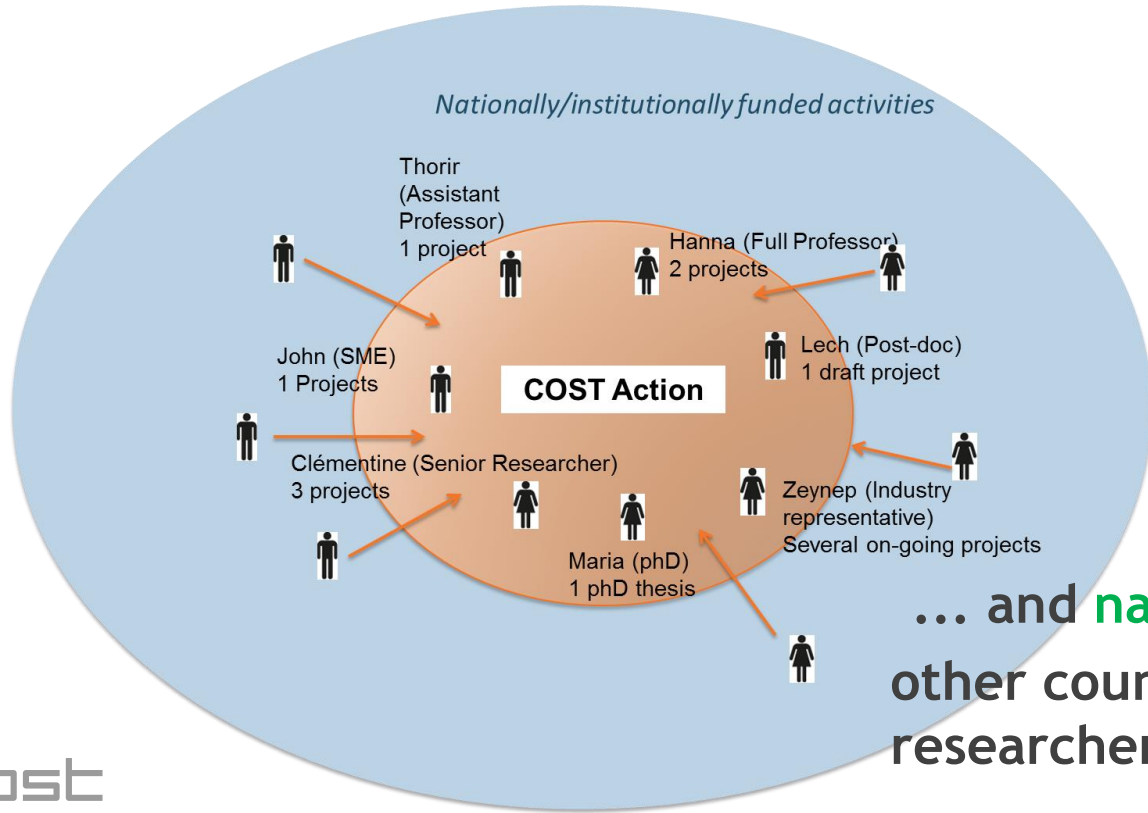


# If a COST action is approved..

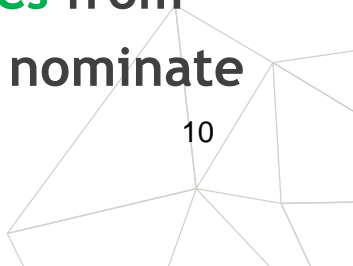


..then **national CNCs** can nominate the secondary proposers to the COST Action

# Joining an approved COST action



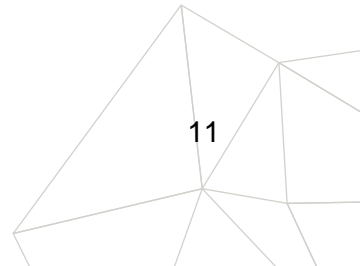
... and **national CNCs** from other countries can nominate researchers too...





## Bottom-up and open networking instrument:

- networking of researchers
- all fields of S&T (including interdisciplinary, new and emergent fields)
- any novel and original idea (innovative)
- all partners (public and private, big and small)
- all career stages (young and senior investigators)
- all countries

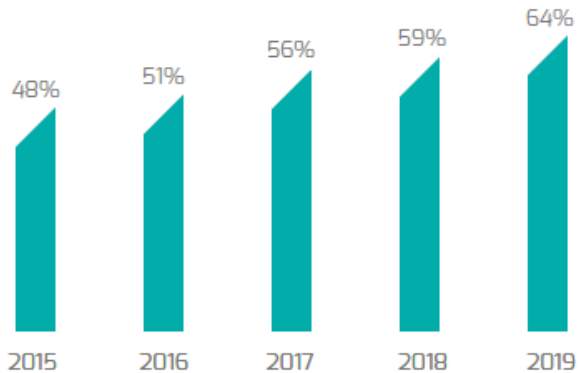


# COST in Malta

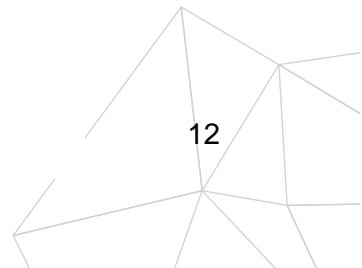
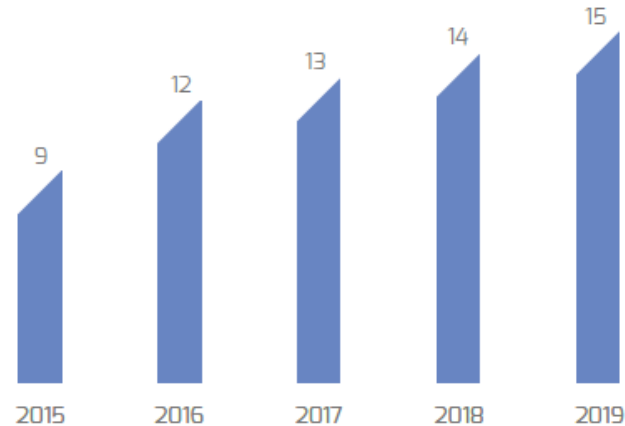


Since 2010, Malta's participation in COST continued to increase several times fold. In 2020, Malta participated in 200 Actions out of 291 Actions running at any time of the year (69%).

COUNTRY REPRESENTATION IN COST ACTIONS



LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN COST ACTIONS

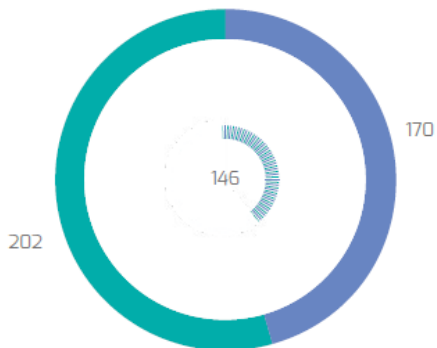




Since 2010, Malta's participation in **COST** continued to increase several times fold, compared to other EU countries, across all the domains

## INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION IN ALL ACTION ACTIVITIES

■ Women ■ Men // Younger researchers



## PARTICIPATION IN NETWORKING ACTIVITIES

17

Short-term scientific missions

41

Trainees

3

Trainers

13

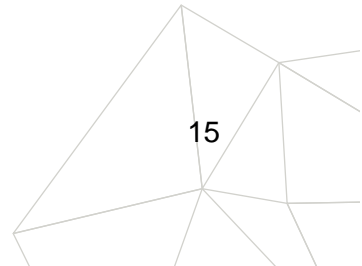


How can I participate in COST?

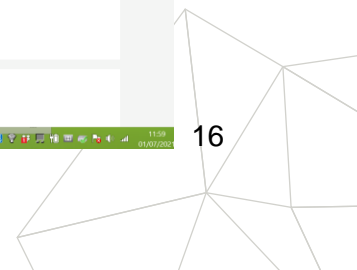
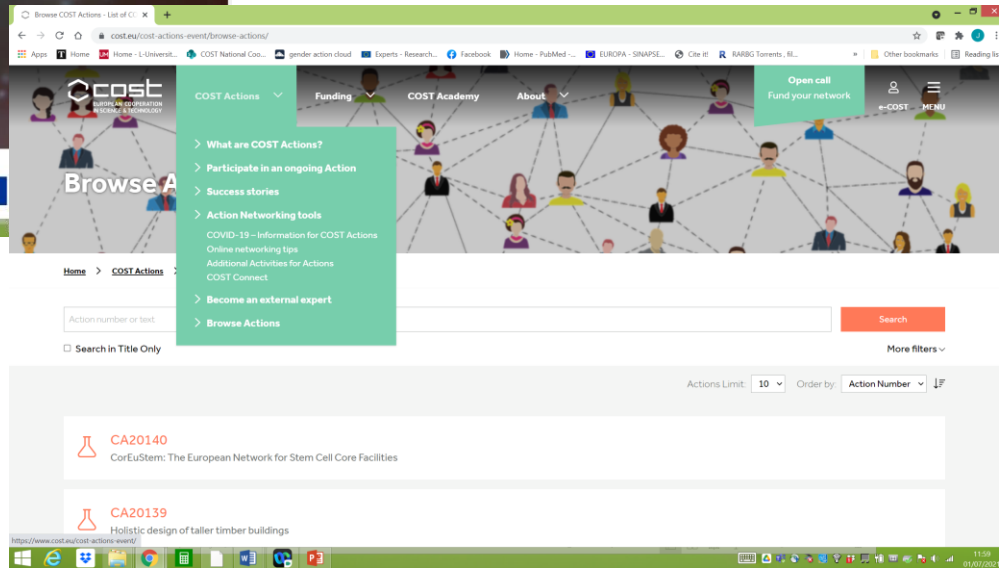
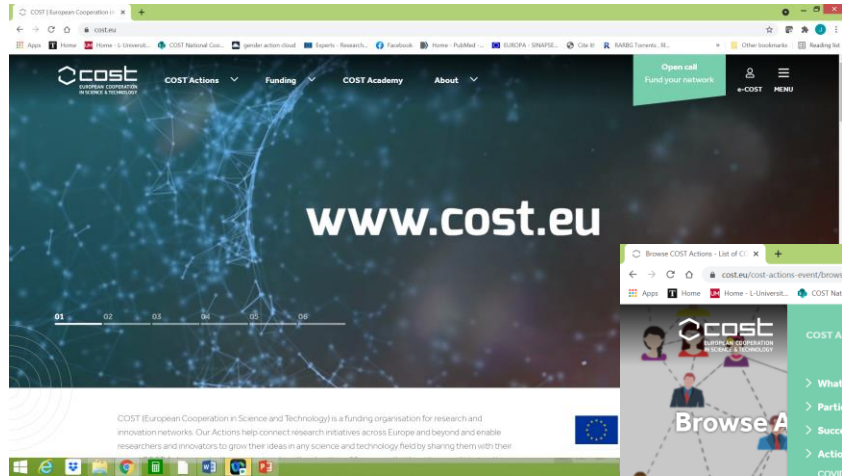
# How can I participate in COST?



- Each country has different procedures
- But basically each nomination is on a country basis made by the CNC, on behalf of the COST managing authority, usually the Science Council. In Malta this is MCST.



# How to start? www.cost.eu



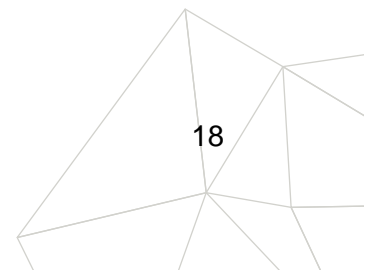
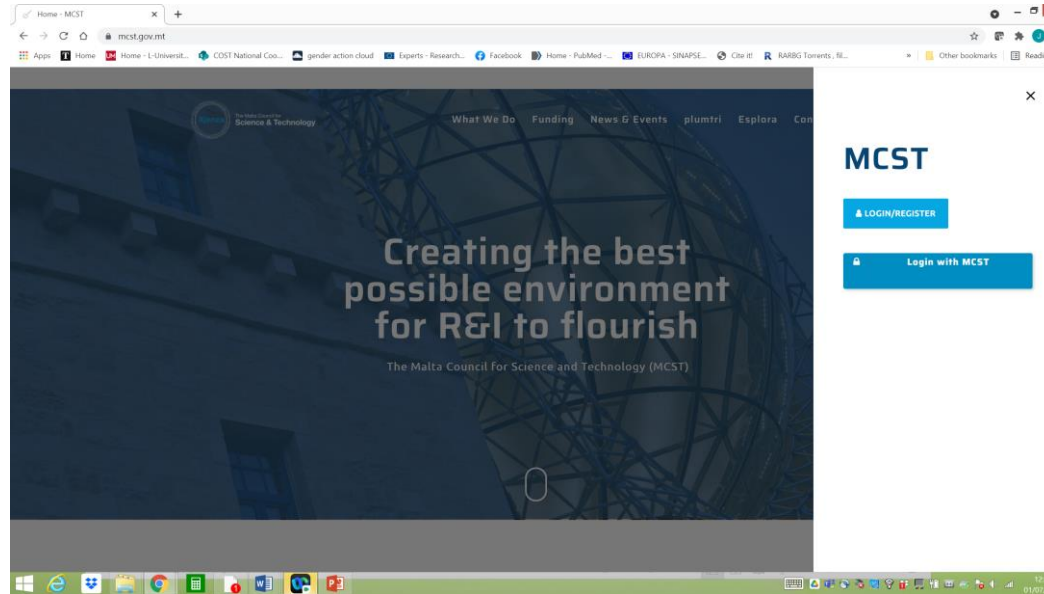


# How to start?



- Go to [www.cost.eu](http://www.cost.eu)
- Click on search facility
- Click on All actions
- Put in a key word
- Look for actions which are just approved (preferably)
- For more details on action check MOU

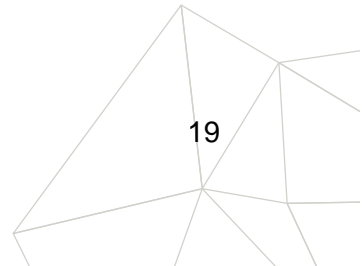
# Or join the MCST mailing list....



# How to join?



- Check the start date of the action
- Check if Malta already has two MC representatives in that action
- If not contact CNC
- Fill in application form
- Submit soft scanned signed copy (only please...)



# Local procedures for applications



**1. RESEARCHER'S DETAILS**

FULL NAME	<input type="text"/>
POSITION / CAPACITY	<input type="text"/>
ADDRESS	<input type="text"/>
MOBILE TELEPHONE NUMBER	<input type="text"/>
E-MAIL	<input type="text"/>

**2. DECLARATION OF PARTICIPANT**

I, the undersigned, hereby declare and undertake that in the case of my approval in participating in an Action of the COST Programme:

- I will actively participate in all the meetings and activities of the Action.
- I will submit an annual report and any other information that may be requested from time to time to the NCST COST CNC, relevant to my activities in the context of the Action.
- All the information declared in this application is true.
- I will not expect any funding from NCST to support my participation at the COST action.
- I accept that NCST has the right to reassess my participation in the COST action.
- Will inform COST CNC if I decide to organise any COST related events in Malta**

Signature of the Participant: \_\_\_\_\_  
Full Name of the Participant: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ Head of the Department/Unit \_\_\_\_\_ declare that I have been informed and I agree with the participation of MR/Ms \_\_\_\_\_ in the COST action of the COST Programme with Number \_\_\_\_\_.

Signature of the Head of the Department/Unit/Service: _____	Seal of the Organisation.
Date: _____	

**4. WHY WOULD YOU LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE AFOREMENTIONED COST ACTION?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**5. RELEVANT QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE**

\_\_\_\_\_

**6. PARTICIPATION IN WORKING GROUP**

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. PARTICIPATION IN OTHER COST ACTIONS**

Did you participate in other COST Action? Yes  No   
If yes, please give details of action title and number \_\_\_\_\_

**8. ANNEXES**

In the Annexes of this application, you should attach the following:

- A brief Zpage Curriculum Vitae (CV), including key Publications
- Abstract of COST action.



- MCST Application for COST
- CV is important (2 pages only please)
- Application checked by CNC
- Applicant must show how the action is relevant to his/her area of interest and expertise
- If more than 2 applicants, then priority is given to applicants from different institutes/departments to ensure the interdisciplinarity of COST actions

# COST application process



- Recommendation forwarded to MCST board for approval
- CNC informs applicant of approval
- CNC uploads applicant details on e-COST website
- Applicant receives link to accept nomination and upload details on e-COST
- Whole process takes around 2 weeks

# Examples of COST actions

# Examples of COST actions..just published



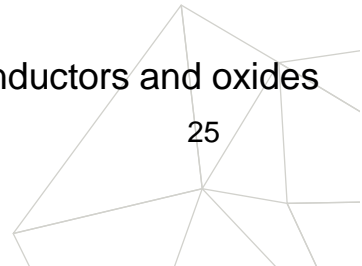
- CA20101 Plastics monitoring detection remediation recovery
- CA20102 Marine Animal Forest of the world
- CA20103 Biosecurity enhanced through training, evaluation and raising awareness
- CA20104 Network on evidence-based physical activity in old age
- CA20105 Slow Memory: Transformative Practices for Times of Uneven and Accelerating Change
- CA20106 Tomorrow's 'wheat of the sea': Ulva, a model for an innovative mariculture
- CA20107 Connecting Theory and Practical Issues of Migration and Religious Diversity
- CA20108 FAIR Network of micrometeorological measurements
- CA20109 Modular energy islands for sustainability and resilience
- CA20110 RNA communication across kingdoms: new mechanisms and strategies in pathogen control
- CA20111 European Research Network on Formal Proofs
- CA20112 Platform of policy evaluation community for improved EU policies and better acknowledgement
- CA20113 A sound proteome for a sound body: targeting proteolysis for proteome remodelling
- CA20114 Therapeutical applications of Cold Plasmas



# Examples of COST actions



- CA20115 European network on international student mobility: connecting research and practice
- CA20116 European Network for Innovative and Advanced Epitaxy
- CA20117 Converting molecular profiles of myeloid cells into biomarkers for inflammation and cancer
- CA20118 Three-dimensional forest ecosystem monitoring and better understanding by terrestrial-based technologies
- CA20119 European andrology network– research coordination, education and public awareness
- CA20120 Intelligence-Enabling Radio Communications for Seamless Inclusive Interactions
- CA20121 Bench to bedside transition for pharmacological regulation of NRF2 in noncommunicable diseases
- CA20122 Harmonizing clinical care and research on adrenal tumours in European countries
- CA20123 Intergovernmental Coordination from Local to European Governance
- CA20124 Maximising impact of multidisciplinary research in early diagnosis of neonatal brain injury
- CA20125 Applications for zoosporic parasites in aquatic systems
- CA20126 Network for research, innovation and product development on porous semiconductors and oxides



# Examples of COST actions



- CA20127 Waste biorefinery technologies for accelerating sustainable energy processes
- CA20128 Promoting Innovation of fermented foods
- CA20129 Multiscale irradiation and chemistry driven processes and related technologies
- CA20130 European MIC Network – New paths for science, sustainability and standards
- CA20130 European MIC Network – New paths for science, sustainability and standards
- CA20131 Efficient Justice for All: Improving Court Efficiency through EU Benchmarking
- CA20132 Urban Tree Guard - Safeguarding European urban trees and forests through improved biosecurity
- CA20133 Cross-border transfer and development of sustainable resource recovery strategies towards zero waste
- CA20134 Traces as Research Agenda for Climate Change, Technology Studies, and Social Justice
- CA20135 Improving biomedical research by automated behaviour monitoring in the animal home-cage
- CA20136 Opportunistic precipitation sensing network
- CA20137 Making Early Career Researchers' Voices Heard for Gender Equality
- CA20138 Network on water-energy-food nexus for a low-carbon economy in Europe and beyond
- CA20139 Holistic design of taller timber buildings
- CA20140 CorEuStem: The European Network for Stem Cell Core Facilities

# Recent changes in COST



# MC members: changes to nomination process



- Up to 2 representatives per COST Full or Cooperating Member, nominated by CNC following application
- Nominations now must be done by CNC before the first Management Committee meeting (MC1)
- After MC1 there needs to be tacit approval by the MC. This is to be given within 4 weeks of request
- Everyone who wants to join an Action (including the MC candidate) as from now for the new Actions, should register for WGs in a specific COST action as from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021.
- The **MC Chair, Vice-Chair and Grant Holder Scientific Representative** need to be MCs



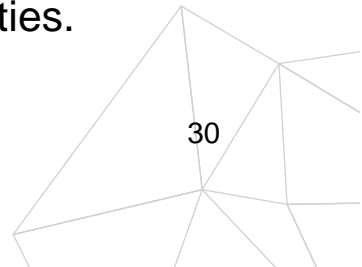
## Substitution of MC Members

- On 1<sup>st</sup> November, MC substitutes will be removed from the Action website and e-COST and applications for permanent substitutes for COST MC members **will no longer be possible**.
- There may be **substitutes** nominated for a limited time or specific meeting.
- They can be nominated by the MC directly when necessary, without the need to go through the relevant country COST CNC.
- If substitutes are involved in a Working Group (WG), as from 1<sup>st</sup> November they will be transferred to that WG and will appear on the Action website (as WG member).

# Working group (WG) members: changes in role



- Researchers who are not MC members may request to apply as **Working Group (WG) experts**. This is done directly from the COST Action webpage.
- Researchers can apply from now as WG experts for the new Actions (**but please note that these applications will only be reviewed after the first MC meeting**).
- The researcher who wishes to become WG member applies directly without the need to go through the relevant country COST CNC, using the following steps.
- **NB:** A WG member is not reimbursed for participating in COST Action activities. This remains a decision of the MC under the COST eligibility framework.



# Working group (WG) members: how to apply



- Open the relevant COST action webpage from [www.cost.eu](http://www.cost.eu)
- Click on the “apply” button on the Action webpage



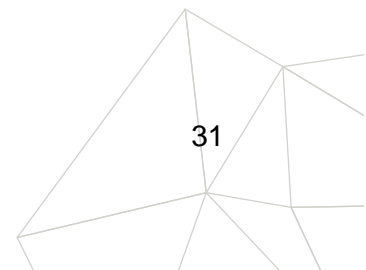
[Home](#) > [Browse Actions](#) > Network on evidence-based physical activity in old age

Description			Management Structure			Working Groups		
Number	Title				Leader			
1	Implementation and development of standards from evidence-based medicine (EBM).				TBA			
2	Data for utilising biomarkers and behavioural markers as well as environmental factors.				TBA			
3	Research methodology for technology-assisted PA and exercise interventions in old age.				TBA			
4	Network development, sustainability and dissemination of network results.				TBA			

Express your interest to join any of the working group by applying below.

*It is required to have an e-COST profile to submit your application. If needed, [create it first](#) and then click 'Apply'.*

Apply 



# Working group (WG) members: how to apply



- Fill in the online application. This will be reviewed by the Management Committee after the first MC meeting.
- Please note that you need to create an e-cost profile to be able to fill in this form.
- The form also gives the option to declare your availability to join the MC or act as a substitute if needed for a short period of time.

cost  
EUROPEAN COOPERATION  
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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Contact Us

Home / COST Actions / CA20103 / WG Applications

### Working Group application

COST Action CA20103  
Biosecurity Enhanced Through Training Evaluation and Raising Awareness (BETTER)

Please note that the Action Management Committee will decide on your application within 3 months after the 1st Management Committee Meeting (2021-02-2021).

Applicant profile details

Science Field: Political Science  
Research Area: European studies (Confidence Level: none) see more

The fields listed are coming from your e-COST profile and are necessary for the approval of your WG application. If you find something to update, please go to my profile and update it accordingly.

**Working Group:**

- 1 Mapping biosecurity measures applied on farms and transport across Europe
- 2 Studying the knowledge and experience of stakeholders and of the general public
- 3 Methods for evaluation of biosecurity and benefits of its implementation
- 4 Training and dissemination

The Working Group structure is subject of approval at the 1st Management Committee Meeting on 2021-02-20.

**Scientific background:** Here comes a description in maximum 150 words on how your scientific background relevant for the COST Action.  
Maximum: 150 words (please describe here in a brief manner your scientific background relevant for the COST Action).

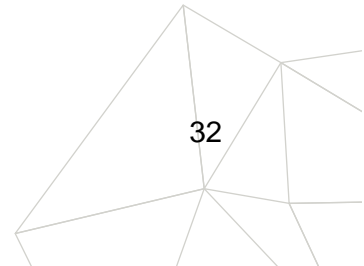
**Motivation:** Here comes a description in maximum 150 words on your motivation to join the COST Action.  
Maximum: 150 words (please describe here in a brief manner your motivation to join the COST Action).

**Working Group Contribution:** Here comes a description in maximum 150 words on how you plan to contribute to the Working Group(s).  
Maximum: 150 words (please describe here how you plan to contribute to the Working Group(s)).

**MC member:** I am available to be substituted as MC member.  
Please confirm it possible the COST National Coordinator (CNC) of your COST Member Country (COST National Coordinator) for your nomination.

**Substitute:** I'm available to substitute the MC membership(s) of my COST member country or Specific Organisation on an ad-hoc basis.

Submit





# New position: Grant Awarding Coordinator



- New position to coordinate the opening of calls, evaluation procedures and grants to support the following networking activities:
  - Mobility of researchers and innovators
  - Attendance of conferences organised by 3<sup>rd</sup> parties –
    - Capacity building (limited to young researchers and innovators from ITC or NNC)
    - Dissemination meeting related to COST Actions' work and results. **(NEW)**

# Reimbursement of individuals



- **MC Meeting:**
  - Open to any relevant participant (even if not MC member) as attendee.
  - MC can decide to reimburse only 1 MC member per country.
- **Invited Speakers:**
  - No more limit of 4 per event
  - Concept substituted by ad hoc participant

Affiliation to		Meetings		Training Schools			Other networking activities	
		Invited individual	Local Organiser	Trainer	Trainee	Local Organiser	ITC Conf Grant*	All others
COST Members	Legal entity in COST F/C Member	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Legal entity in CPM	At COST Partner Member's costs (dedicated budget line)						
Specific Organisations	EC/EU	At EC, EU body, office or agency cost (minimisation of cascade funding)						
	Eur. RTD Org.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
	IO	Once in the lifetime of the Action	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
NNC	Legal entity in a NNC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
IPC / Third States	Legal entity in an IPC	Once in the lifetime of the Action	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗

\* ITC Conference Grants are limited to Young researchers and innovators from COST Inclusiveness Target Countries and NNC.

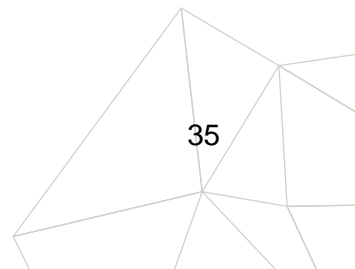


# Location of Activities



		Meetings	Training Schools and other networking activities
Virtual Environment		✓	✓
COST Members	Full or Cooperating Members	✓	✓
	Partner Member	✗	✓
NNC		✓	✓
IPC/Third State		✗	✓
Specific Organisations		Rule applicable to territory where it is vested	

✓ MC meeting: can be organised using virtual means.



# Conclusion





Focused &  
complementary  
interests



Opportunities  
for training



Expertise and  
resource sharing



Incentive and  
motivation



Participation  
and support



Linking with other  
COST actions



Funds to make  
these possible



Down-to-earth  
people wanting  
to work  
together

Session 4.3 Christer Halen

# Building a successful COST Action





## Session 4.1 COST Panel Discussion

**Chair, Dr Melchior Cini, Deputy COST CNC CSO**

**Prof. Janet Mifsud, COST CNC CSO**

**Prof. Luciano Mule Stagno, COST Scientific Committee chair**

**Dr. Lourdes Farrugia, COST Action chair**

**Dr. Jean Paul De Lucca, COST Action MC Member**

