UNIVERSITY OF MALTA GRANTS WEEK
COST Morning

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

50
1971 - 2021

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Funded by the Horizon 2020
Framework Programme
of the European Union

Programme

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**
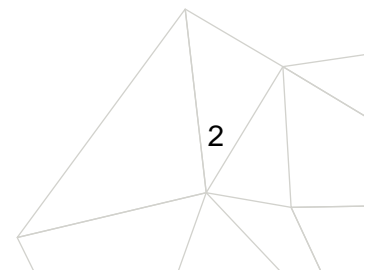
           Chair, Dr Melchior Cini, Malta Deputy COST CNC CSO
           Prof. Janet Mifsud, COST CNC CSO
           Prof. Luciano Mule Stagno, COST Scientific Committee chair
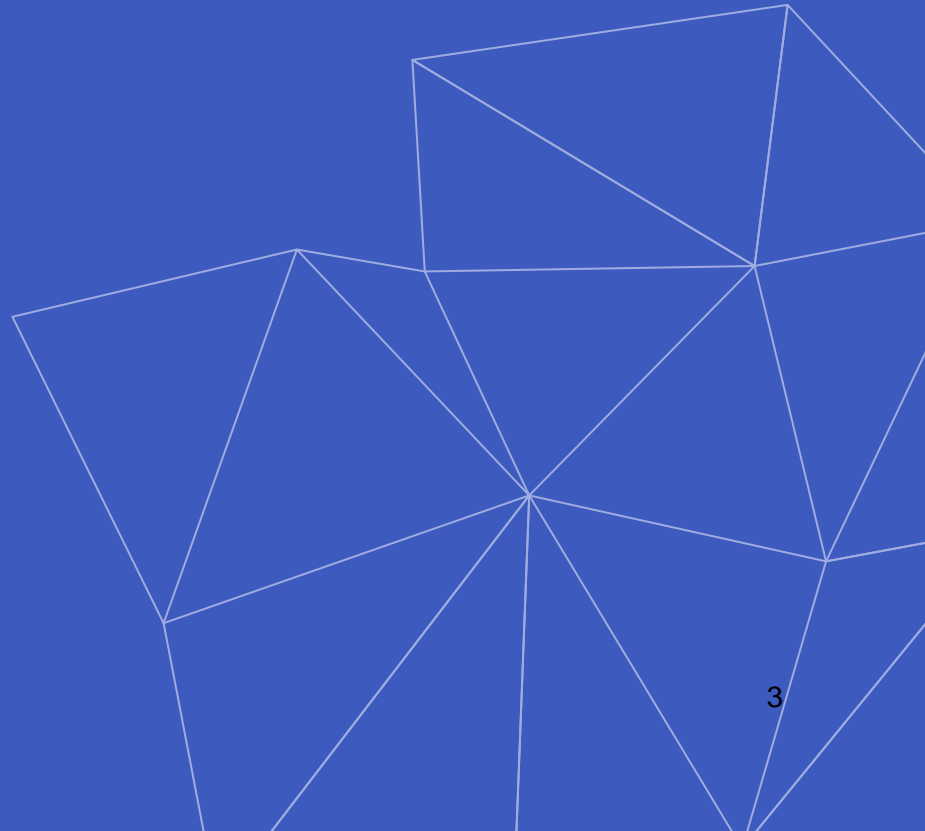   **Dr. Lourdes Farrugia**, COST Action chair
           Dr. Jean Paul De Lucca, COST Action MC Member

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

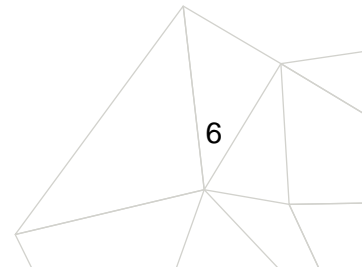Session 4.1 Ronald de Bruin

Welcome
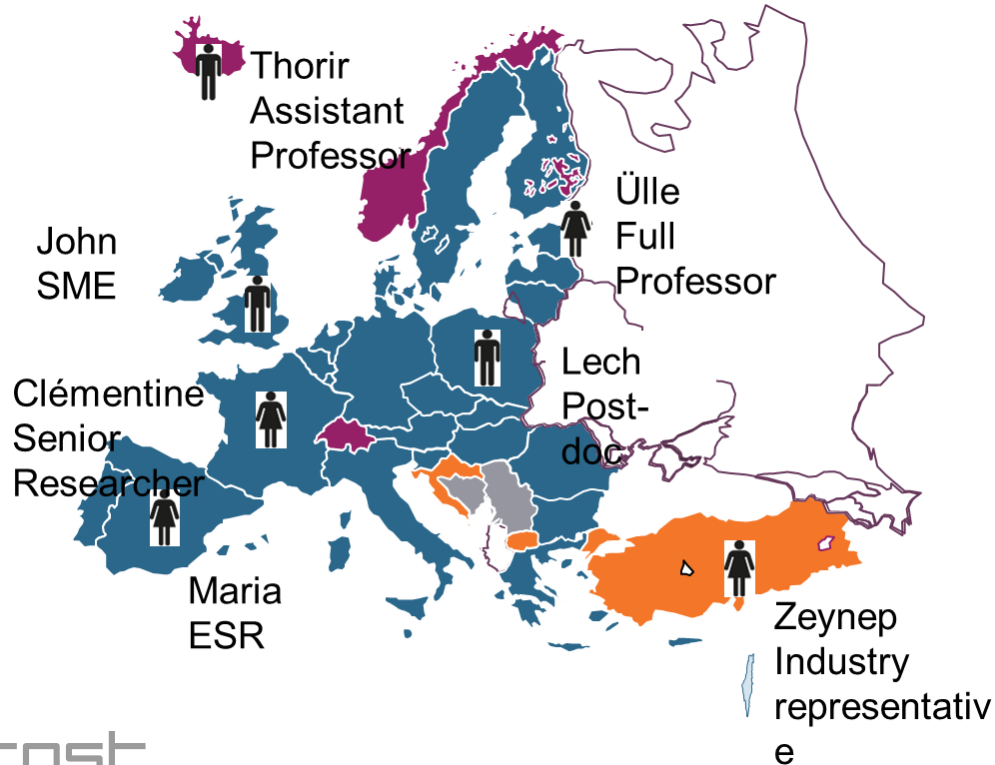
COST: an overview

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)**

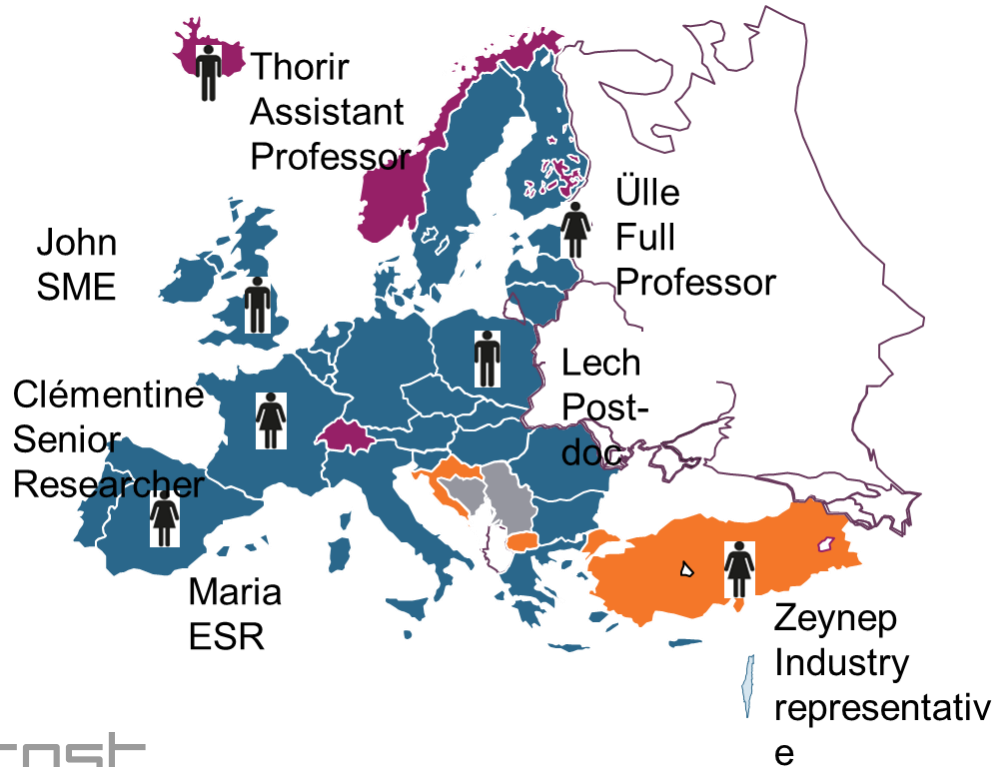 - **Training Schools**

  - **Dissemination activities**

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Thorir
Assistant
Professor

Ülle
Full
Professor

John
SME

Lech
Post-
doc

Clémentine
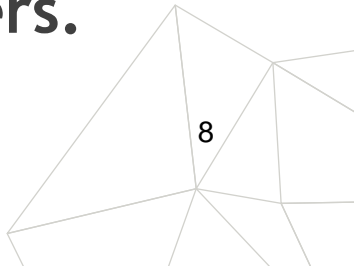Senior
Researcher

Maria
ESR

Zeynep
Industry
representative

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

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

7

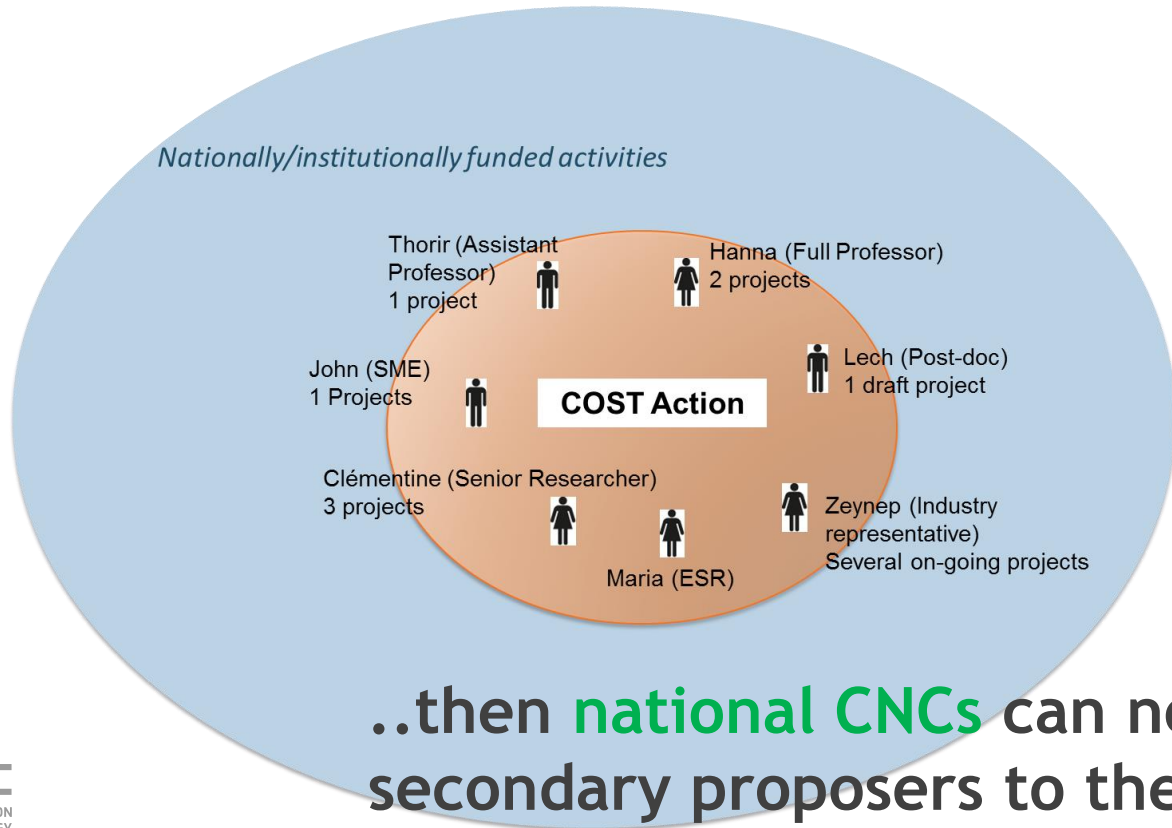This is coordinated by the **COST scientific committee** who appoint experts and reviewers.

Thorir Assistant Professor

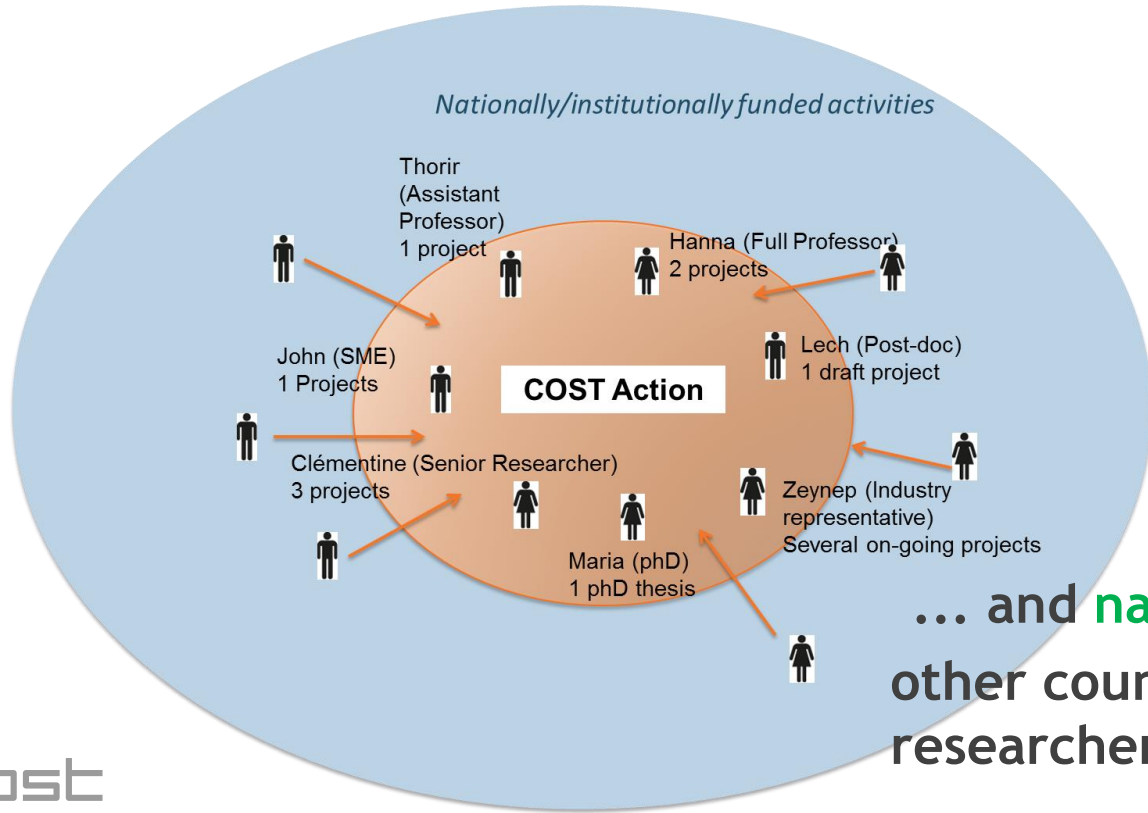John SME

Clémentine Senior Researcher

Maria ESR

Ülle Full Professor

Lech Post-doc

Zeynep Industry representative

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Nationally/institutionally funded activities

Thorir (Assistant Professor) 1 project

Hanna (Full Professor) 2 projects

John (SME) 1 Projects

COST Action

Lech (Post-doc) 1 draft project

Clémentine (Senior Researcher) 3 projects

Maria (ESR)

Zeynep (Industry representative) Several on-going projects

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

COST
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Nationally/institutionally funded activities

Thorir
(Assistant
Professor)
1 project

Hanna (Full Professor)
2 projects

John (SME)
1 Projects

COST Action

Lech (Post-doc)
1 draft project

Clémentine (Senior Researcher)
3 projects

Zeynep (Industry
representative)
Several on-going projects

Maria (phD)
1 phD thesis

… and national CNCs from other countries can nominate researchers too…

10

COST strengths
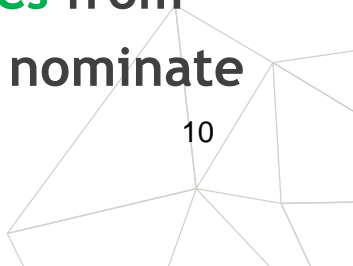
Bottom-up and open networking instrument:

- 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)

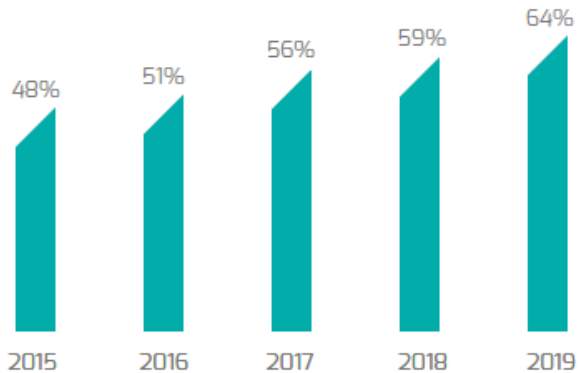- all career stages (young and senior investigators)
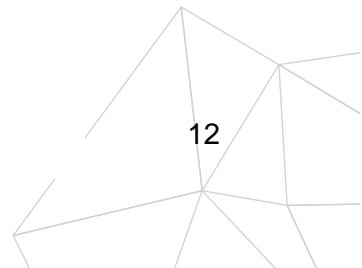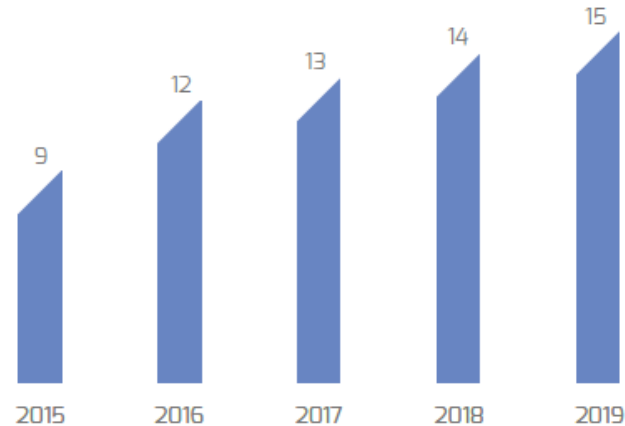
- all countries
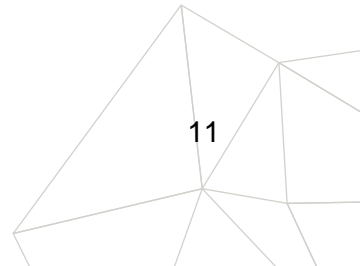
11

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

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
48%	51%	56%	59%	64%

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN COST ACTIONS

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
9	12	13	14	15

EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

COST in Malta

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

170

202

146
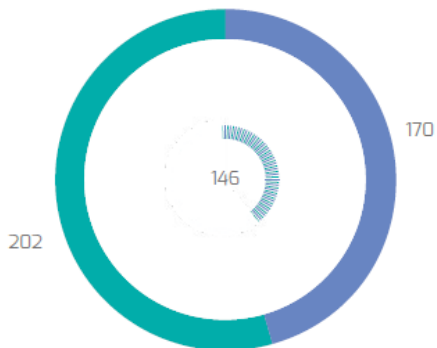
PARTICIPATION IN NETWORKING ACTIVITIES

17
Short-term
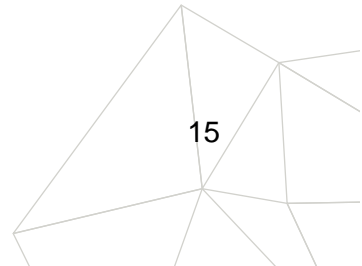scientific missions

41
Trainees

3
Trainers

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
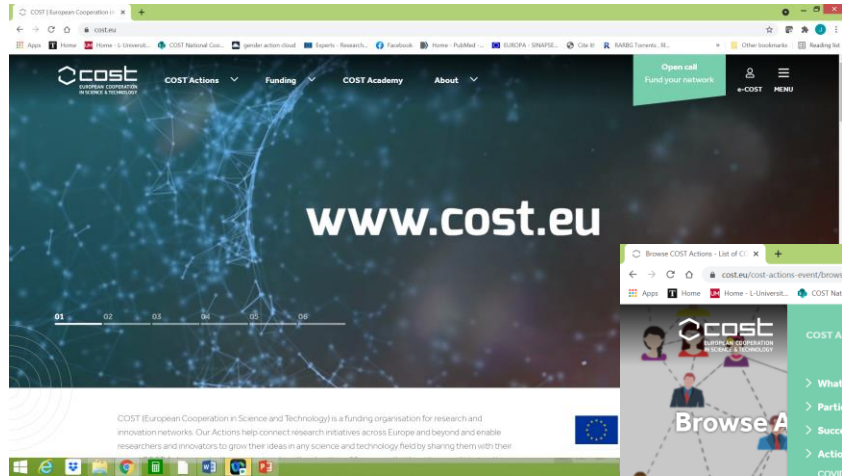IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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.
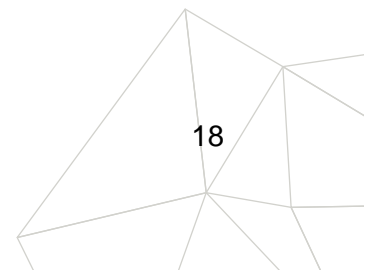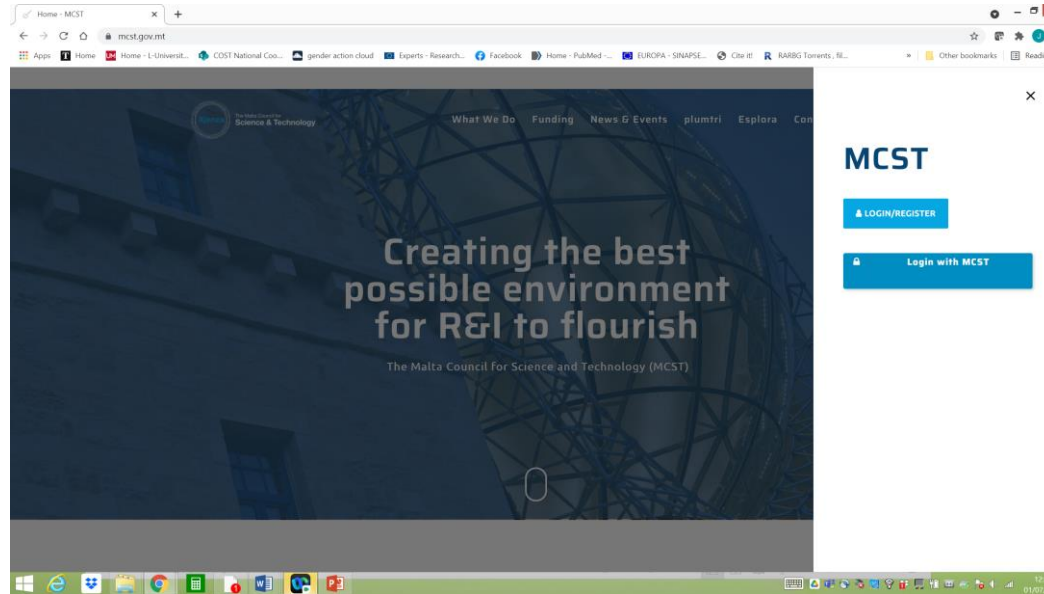
15

How to start? www.cost.eu
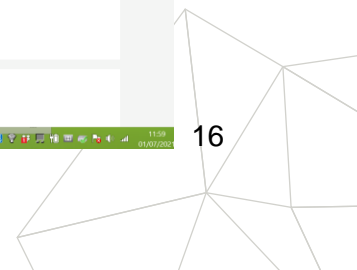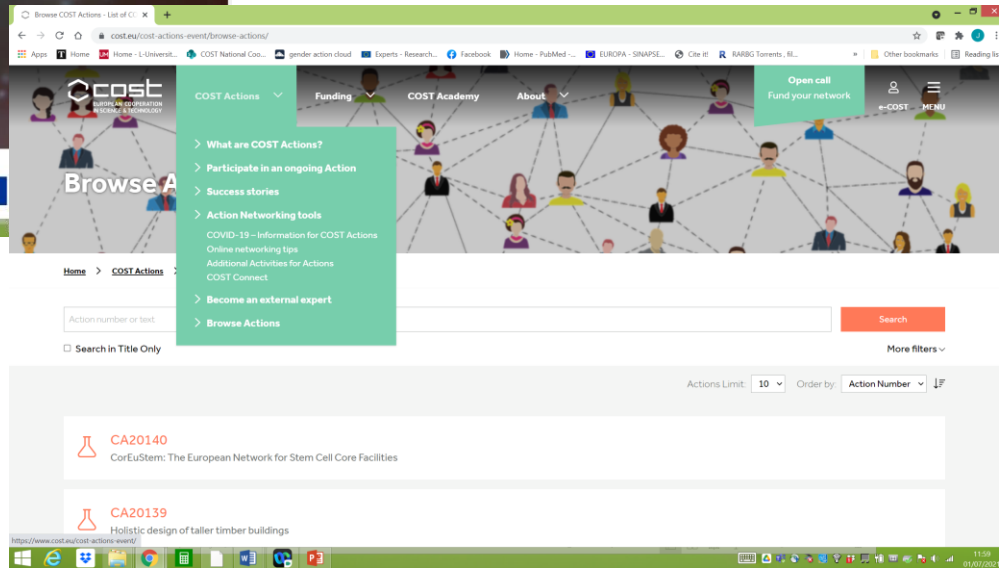
How to start?

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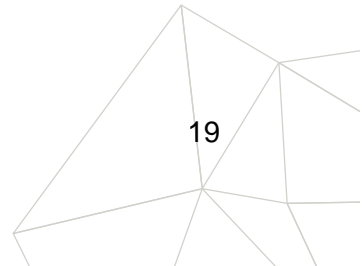- For more details on action check MOU

COST
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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…)

COST
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Local procedures for applications

COST application form

- 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 interdisciplinary of COST actions

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
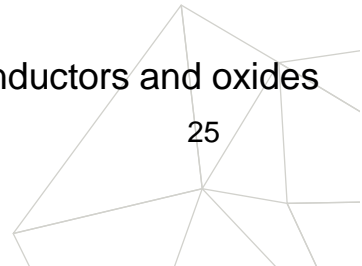
Examples of COST actions

- 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

COST
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Recent changes in COST

MC members: changes to nomination processs

- 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 1st November 2021.

- The **MC Chair, Vice-Chair and Grant Holder Scientific Representative** need to be MCs

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Substitution of MC Members

- On 1st 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 1st November they will be transferred to that WG and will appear on the Action website (as WG member).

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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.
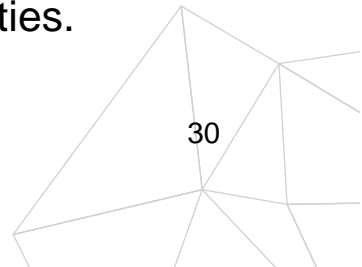
Working group (WG) members: how to apply

- Open the relevant COST action webpage from www.cost.eu
- Click on the "apply" button on the Action webpage

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.

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 3rd parties –
    - Capacity building (limited to young researchers and innovators from ITC or NNC)
    - Dissemination meeting related to COST Actions' work and results. **(NEW)**

COST
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
COST Members	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)						
Specific Organisations	Eur. RTD Org.	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✘	✔
Specific Organisations	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.

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

	Meetings	Training Schools and other networking activities
Virtual Environment	✓	✓
COST Members — Full or Cooperating Members	✓	✓
COST 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.

COST
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
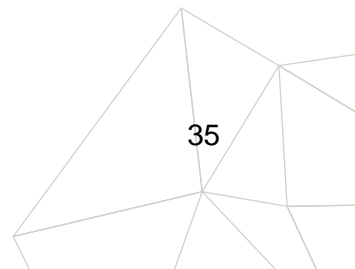
Conclusion

Focussed & 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

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