Deadline	**Thu 29 Oct 2020 12:00 (CET)**
Call name	**COST Association: COST Action**
www	https://www.cost.eu/funding/how-to-get-funding/open-call/
Focused on	Networking: meetings, workshops, conferences, training schools, short term scientific missions, dissemination activities; Strengthening Europe´s research and innovation capacities
PI	Network of proposers (top management, senior researchers, project managers) represented by a main proposer
Eligible organisation	Consortium of at least 7 institutions from at least 7 COST Member States, half of which has to be from COST Inclusiveness Target Countries Research institutions, public higher education institutions, research infrastructures, international organisations, public authorities, regional bodies, private law subjects: companies, SMEs, NGOs, foundations...
Target group	Network of stakeholders: research institutions, universities, research infrastructures, companies, SMEs... Researchers, engineers, scholars, innovators from all career levels, degrees of specialisation and professional backgrounds, from PhD students to Nobel Prize winners
Expected outputs	Breakthrough scientific developments; interdisciplinary bottom-up networks New ideas, initiatives, concepts, services, products Codified knowledge (publications, patents, websites), tacit knowledge (not formalised knowledge), technology (software, new materials, prototypes, databases), societal applications, proposals to the ERC/large collaborative EU projects Meetings: AMC/WG meetings, workshops, conferences: organised by the Action, open to the whole scientific community Training Schools (TS): intensive training in research and innovation topics Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSM): exchange visits between researchers and innovators within the COST Action Dissemination activities: to disseminate outputs to other COST S&T networks, policymakers, media, society… Conference Grants: helping PhD students and early-career investigators from ITCs to attend international conferences Deliverables (Action´s objectives): reports, documents, technical diagrams, S&T papers and contributions, content for training schools, input to standards, best practices, white papers, etc.
Call opens	10 Mar 2020
IOCB deadline	**26 Oct 2020**
Final deadline	**Thu 29 Oct 2020 12:00 (CET)**
Evaluation results	May 2021
Signature of agreement	
Earliest date of implementation	Expected May 2021
Latest date of implementation	
Sustainability	website for 2 years after completing the project
Reporting	3 progress reports: at month 12, 24, 48 (Final Achievement Report) Intermediate Financial Report (IFR) submitted when requesting the second payment around month 8 of the Grant Period Final Financial Report (FFR) submitted within 45 calendar days from the end of each Grant Period (12 months)
Project duration (min-max)	**48 months (4 years)**
Allocation for the call	up to 40 new COST Actions per call
Project budget (min-max)	**~expected average annual budget of 134 000 EUR**
Success rate	15 %

Eligible costs	direct costs: personnel costs, travel expenses, accommodation, equipment, goods & services, fees… indirect costs: overheads max 15% **dissemination meetings**: travel, accommodation and meal expenses, conference fees **meetings**: travel (up to 1200 €), local transport- bus, shuttle, train, metro, tram, ferry (25 €), taxi (up to 80 €, before 7 am, after 10 pm), parking, visa, accommodation (up to 120 €/p/n), meal (20 €/m, max 2m/d) expenses; medical illness and/or Force Majeure; organisational expenses (Local Organiser Support, LOS) **training schools**: up to 4 trainers/invited speakers (travel, accommodation, meal expenses), trainees (fixed grant up to 1500 €, travel, accommodation, meal expenses); LOS, training materials **Local Organiser Support** (LOS): (1) a lump sum of up to 20 €/p/d, max 5000 €; (2) expenses justified by detailed invoices, max 10000 €; rental of rooms and technical equipment; photocopying & printing; phone, fax & mailing for announcements; up to 15% of LOS to support the administrative & secretarial expenses; field trip expenses; coffee breaks, refreshments & light lunches (wraps, sandwiches, finger food etc.); one single networking dinner; consumables such as laboratory materials, scientific equipment **Short Term Scientific Missions** (STSM) (1) for PhD students or postdocs 5-90 calendar days, up to 2500 €/p, 160 €/d; (2) for Early Career Investigators (ECI) up to 8 years after PhD, 91-180 calendar days, up to 3500 €/p, 160 €/d **conference grants** for PhD students & ECI from ITCs, oral/poster presentation: up to 2500 €/p, 160 €/d, 500 € fees **communication tools**: creation, development, hosting, maintenance of website up to 9000 €; graphic design up to 1000 €; flyers, leaflets, posters, pens; multimedia content; conference booths; publications co-authored by at least 3 FM up to 10000 € in total funded by COST Association; Open Access licences; production & distribution of publications; proofreading, layout & editing expenses **Final Action Dissemination** (FAD) funded by the COST Association, apply no later than 6 months before the official end date of the Action: a fixed grant up to 10000 €
Reimbursement	**100 %**
Mode of funding	ex-ante & ex-post first instalment of 50 % after signature of the Grant Agreement second instalment of 35 % reimburses after submission of IFR month 8 third instalment of 15 % reimburses after submission depends on submission of FFR
Language of application	English
Provider	COST Association AISBL, Brussels, www.cost.eu
Call identifier	
Call info	COST aims to enable breakthrough scientific developments leading to new concepts, services and products. It thereby contributes to strengthening Europe´s research and innovation capacities. Objectives: (1) Joining research efforts and developing common S&T programmes by coordinating nationally funded research activities led by pan-European, high quality, collaborative S&T networks. (2) Building capacity by providing networking and leadership opportunities for emerging talents and thereby strengthening and building up excellent S&T communities. (3) Addressing Societal Questions by promoting transdisciplinary, new approaches and topics and identifying early warning signals of unforeseen societal problems aiming to contribute to Societal Challenges. (4) Strengthening COST Inclusiveness Policy by fostering better access and integration of less research intensive countries' researchers to the knowledge hubs of the European Research Area aiming at contributing to the Widening Pillar of Horizon 2020. COST encourages and fosters trans-, multi- and interdisciplinary approaches by integrating researchers, engineers and scholars from different fields and horizons. COST Actions are: pan-European, bottom-up, open, unique, multi-, inter- and transdisciplinary, output & impact-oriented
Conditions / Restrictions	Proposal of up to 15 pages. Identify your research challenge and explain how tackling it could lead to breakthroughs. Demonstrate how networking helps tackle the challenge. Present a detailed plan to reach your objectives in 4 years. Show you are able to engage the right stakeholders, having a balanced European participation, gender representation and various career stages. Explain how you will maximise the impact of your idea. At least 50 % of the budget has to be spent in widening countries (Inclusiveness Target Countries, ITCs) Network of proposers from at least 7 different COST Full or Cooperating Members with a minimum 50% of ITCs.

	Proposal has to be anonymous (in order to comply with the double-blind principle of the evaluation). There can be more than one proposer per institution, as long as it is clearly beneficial for the proposed Action. All proposers must have a registered and updated e-COST profile: https://e-services.cost.eu and specified expertise.
	COST full members (FM): 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, Netherlands, Republic of North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom. **Inclusiveness Target Countries** (ITCs): Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Croatia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Luxemburg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Republic of North Macedonia, Republic of Serbia, Turkey **Cooperating Member**: Israel **Near Neighbour Countries** (NNC): Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Kosovo, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine15, Russia, Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine. COST Action structure: **Action MC members** (MCM) = up to 2 persons for each FM nominated by the CNC, have voting rights within the AMC **Action MC substitutes** (MCS) = up to 3 persons for each FM nominated by the CNC, replace MCM when necessary **MC observers** (MCO) = Action participants affiliated to partner members, accepted MoU, based in NNCs, IPCs, EC, EU bodies, offices or agencies, International Organisations, European RTD Organisations (Eiroforum) **WG members** = Action participants appointed by the AMC, contribute to the achievement of the Action objectives **Ad hoc participants** = individuals selected by the AMC to contribute to the Action activities: STSM grantees, trainees & trainers in Training Schools, invited speakers **Action Management Committee** (AMC) = decision-making body, responsible for the coordination, implementation & management; composed of up to 2 representatives of FM that have accepted Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) **Working Groups** (WGs) = are in charge of developing activities needed to achieve the Action objectives **Chair** = elected by the AMC, responsible for the coordination and implementation of the Action **Vice-chair** = elected by the AMC, assists when requested to do so by Chair, can substitute Chair when required or mandated to do so **Grant Holder** = the legal entity responsible for the scientific, administrative and financial implementation of the Action **Group Leaders** = appointed by the AMC **COST National Coordinators** (CNCs) = individuals appointed by COST Members in charge of confirming participation of their COST Member to a COST Action by means of the acceptance of the MoU and nominating AMC members **Action Grant Agreement** (AGA) & annual **Work and Budget Plans** (W&BPs) = detailing the activities designed to achieve the objectives defined in the MoU
Proposal consists of	1) General features (mandatory, e-COST profile) 2) Technical Annex (Science & technology excellence, Impact, Implementation) 3) References (not-mandatory, max 500 words) 4) COST Mission, Policy and rules (mandatory max 1000 words) 5) Network of proposers (mandatory, e-COST profile)
Evaluation criteria	Single-round evaluation Step 1: Proposal peer-review evaluation by at least 3 independent external experts => 3 evaluation reports (total marks awarded 65 points, overall threshold 45 points) => consensus report **Excellence**: soundness of the challenge; progress beyond the state-of-the-art and innovation potential; added value of networking (25 points) Q1 Is the challenge relevant and timely? Q2 Are the objectives presented clear and pertinent to tackle the challenge? Q3 Does the proposal advance the state-of-the-art and introduce an innovative approach to the challenge? Q4 Is networking the best approach to tackle the challenge?

	Q5 What is the added value of the proposed Network in relation to former and existing efforts at EU/international level? **Impact**: scientific, technological and/or socio-economic impact; measures to maximise impact; level of potential innovation/breakthroughs (20 points) Q6 Does the proposal clearly identify relevant and realistic short-term/long-term impacts? Q7 Does the proposal identify the most relevant stakeholders and present a clear plan to involve them as participants? Q8 Is there a clear and attainable plan for dissemination and/or exploitation of results? Q9 How does the proposal succeed in putting forward potential innovation/breakthroughs with a convincing risk/return trade-off? **Implementation**: coherence and effectiveness of the work plan; appropriateness of management structures and procedures; network as a whole (20 points) Q10 Is the work plan (WGs, tasks, activities, timeframe, deliverables) coherent, realistic and appropriate to ensure the achievement of the objectives? Q11 Does the proposal identify the main risks related to the work plan, has a plan for contingencies? Q12 Are the management structure and procedures appropriate? Q13 Does the proposed Network envisage the critical mass, expertise and geographical distribution for addressing the challenge and the objectives? If not, does the proposal identify the gaps in the Network and present a clear plan for overcoming the gaps? Are mutual benefits clearly ascertained in case of involvement of NNC and IPC institutions? Step 2: Revision and quality check by ad hoc review panel Step 3: Proposal selection by COST Scientific Committee (high-level experts one from each FM/CM) Step 4: Final decision on approval and funding by the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO)
Research areas	**Natural Sciences:** (1) Mathematics, (2) Computer and Information Sciences, (3) Physical Sciences, (4) Chemical Sciences, (5) Earth & Environmental Sciences, (6) Biological Sciences **Engineering & Technology:** (7) Civil Engineering, (8) Electrical, Electronic, Information Engineering, (9) Mechanical Engineering, (10) Chemical Engineering, (11) Materials Engineering, (12) Medical Engineering, (13) Environmental Engineering, (14) Environmental Biotechnology, (15) Industrial Biotechnology, (16) Nano-technology, (17) Other E&T Medical & Health Sciences: (18) Basic Medicine, (19) Clinical Medicine, (20) Health Sciences, (21) Medical Biotechnology, (22) Other Medical Sciences **Agricultural Sciences:** (23) Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, (24) Animal & Dairy Science, (25) Veterinary Science, (26) Agricultural Biotechnology, (27) Other Agricultural Sciences Social Sciences: (28) Psychology, (29) Economics & Business, (30) Educational Sciences, (31) Sociology, (32) Law, (33) Political Science, (34) Social & Economic Geography, (35) **Media & Communications**, (36) Other Social Sciences **Humanities:** (37) History & Archaeology, (38) Languages & Literature, (39) Philosophy, Ethics, Religion, (40) Arts, (41) Other Humanities
Call workshop	Not announced
IOCB contact	We kindly ask all serious applicants to inform IOCB Grant Centre / Project Office asap. Thank you in advance for cooperation. We are looking forward to supporting your project and to helping with preparation of your grant application. projectoffice@uochb.cas.cz , +420 220 183 179, +420 220 183 266
Download documents	2020_COST_summary 2020_COST_infographic 2020_COST_guidelines 2020_COST_Vademecum 2020_COST_Technical-Annex