



Growing  
**ideas**  
through  
**networks**

# **COST Action CA15206**

Payments for Ecosystem Services - Forests for Water (PESFOR-W)

*Update from the COST Association, Final Event 17/03/2021*

# COST Overview

# COST - 50 years proven track record in research collaboration

- 38 COST Members

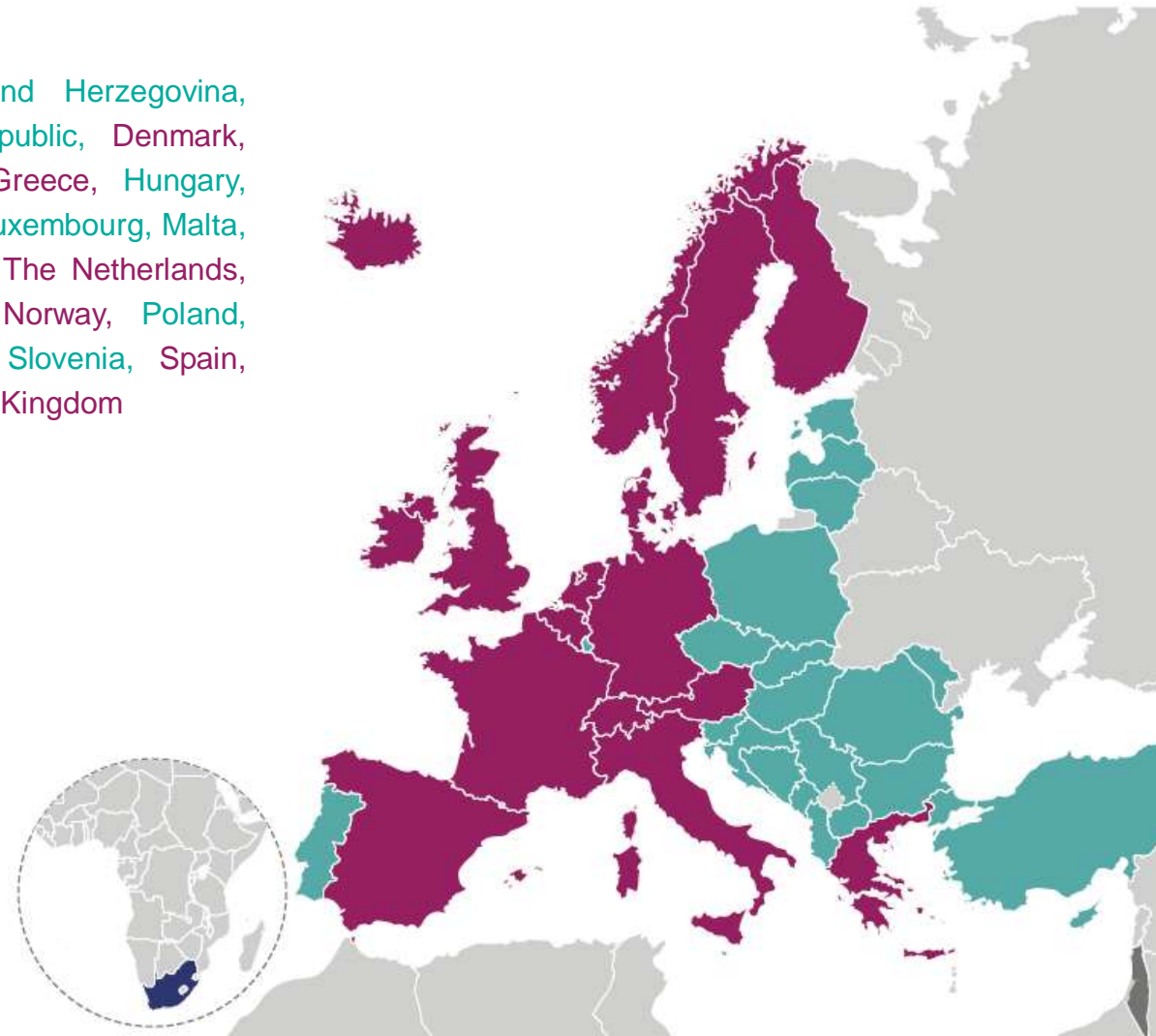
Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, The Netherlands, The Republic of North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and United Kingdom

- 1 Cooperating Member

Israel

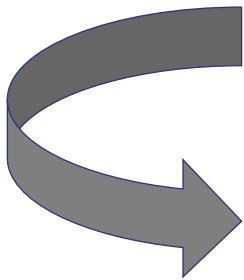
- 1 Partner Member

South Africa



# COST has budget under H2020 work programmes:

- Challenge 6 “Europe in a changing world – inclusive, innovative and reflective Societies”
- “Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation”

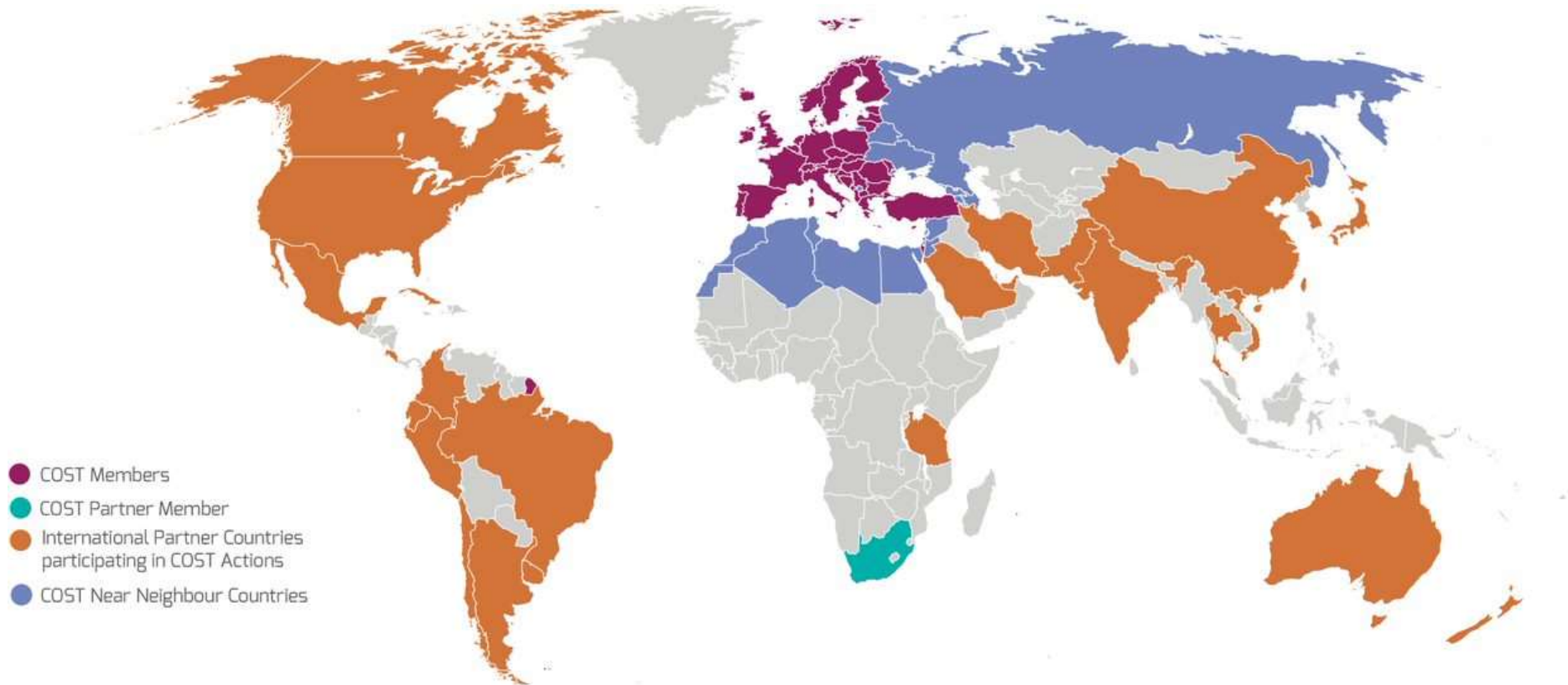


**COST policy**

# COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy



# COST Promoting International participation: Near Neighbour (NNC) and International Partner Countries (IPC)



COST Near Neighbour Countries: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Kosovo\*, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine\*\*, Russia, Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine

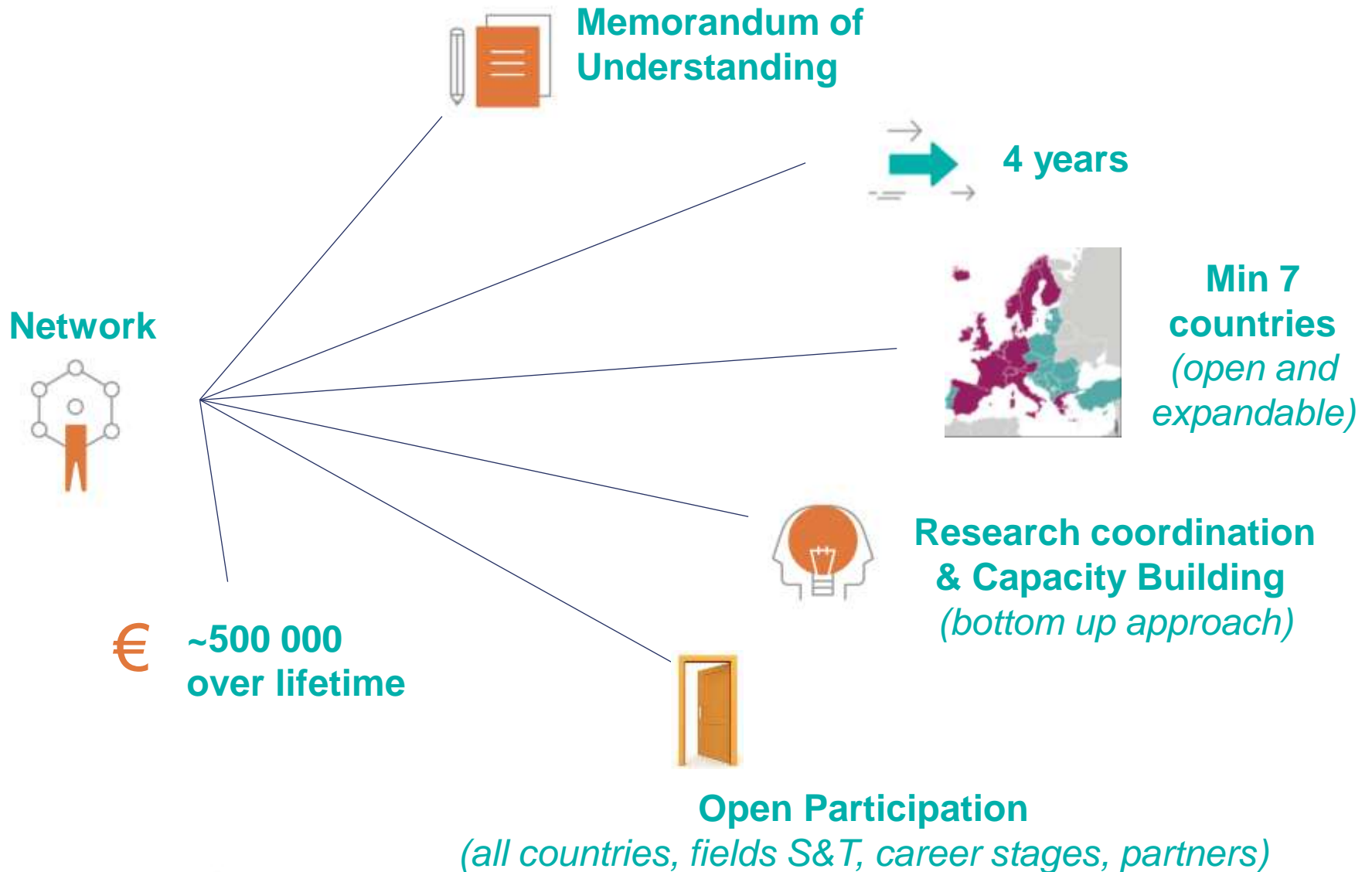
*\*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.*

*\*\*This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.*



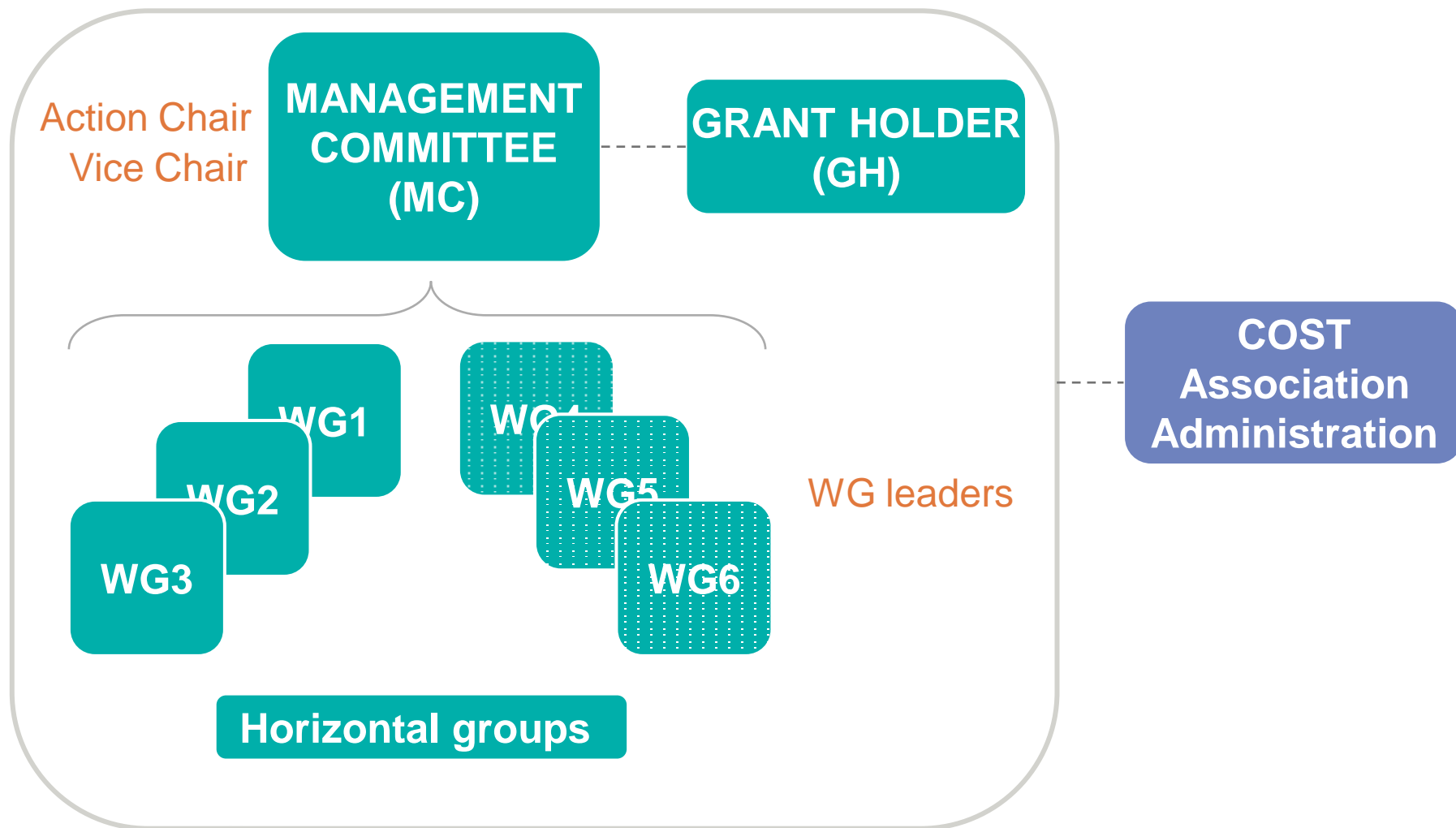
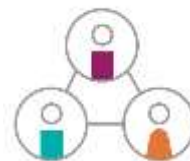
# COST Actions and Networking Tools

# COST Actions





# COST Action Structure

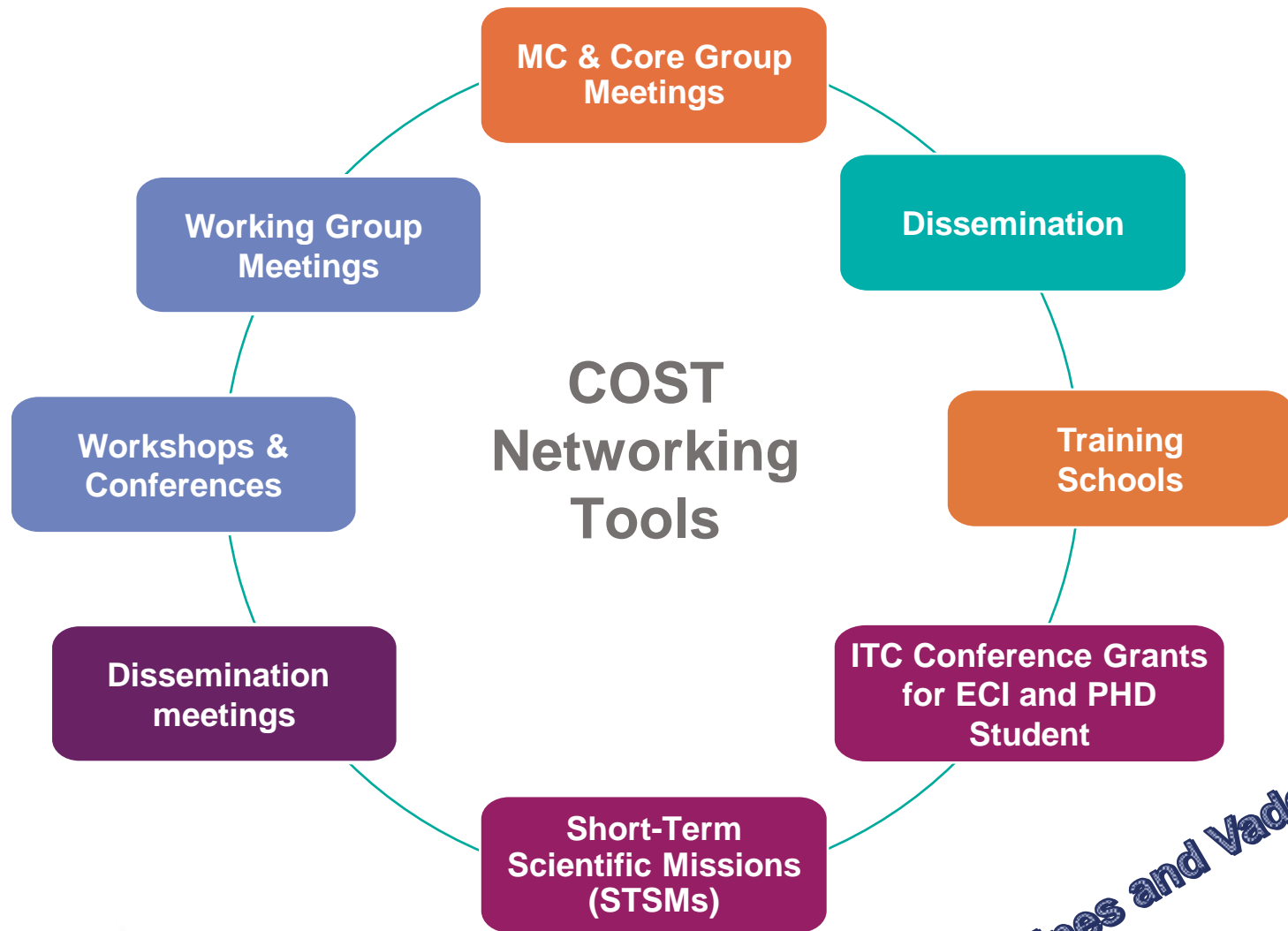


# Management Committee

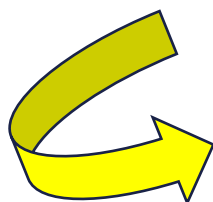
## → Purpose & Responsibilities

- Steer the Action towards the achievement of MoU Main Aim and Objectives
- Decide on Action Structure
- Implement the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy
- Contribute, vote and implement the Work & Budget Plan
- Manage participation: WG members, ad-hoc participants & International cooperation
- Elaborate and implement a strong Communication and Dissemination Plan
- Engage relevant Stakeholders and plan any eventual Exploitation Strategy
- Monitor and respond to the Action's assessment

# What does COST fund?



*Guidelines and Vademecum!*



<https://www.cost.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Vademecum-V8-1-May-20202.pdf>

## SECTION 8. SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS (STSM)

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) are institutional visits aimed at supporting individual mobility, fostering collaboration between individuals. The Guidelines for Action Management, Monitoring and Assessment should be followed to ensure the proper implementation of this networking instrument (see [www.cost.eu/guidelines](http://www.cost.eu/guidelines) Action management monitoring assessment).

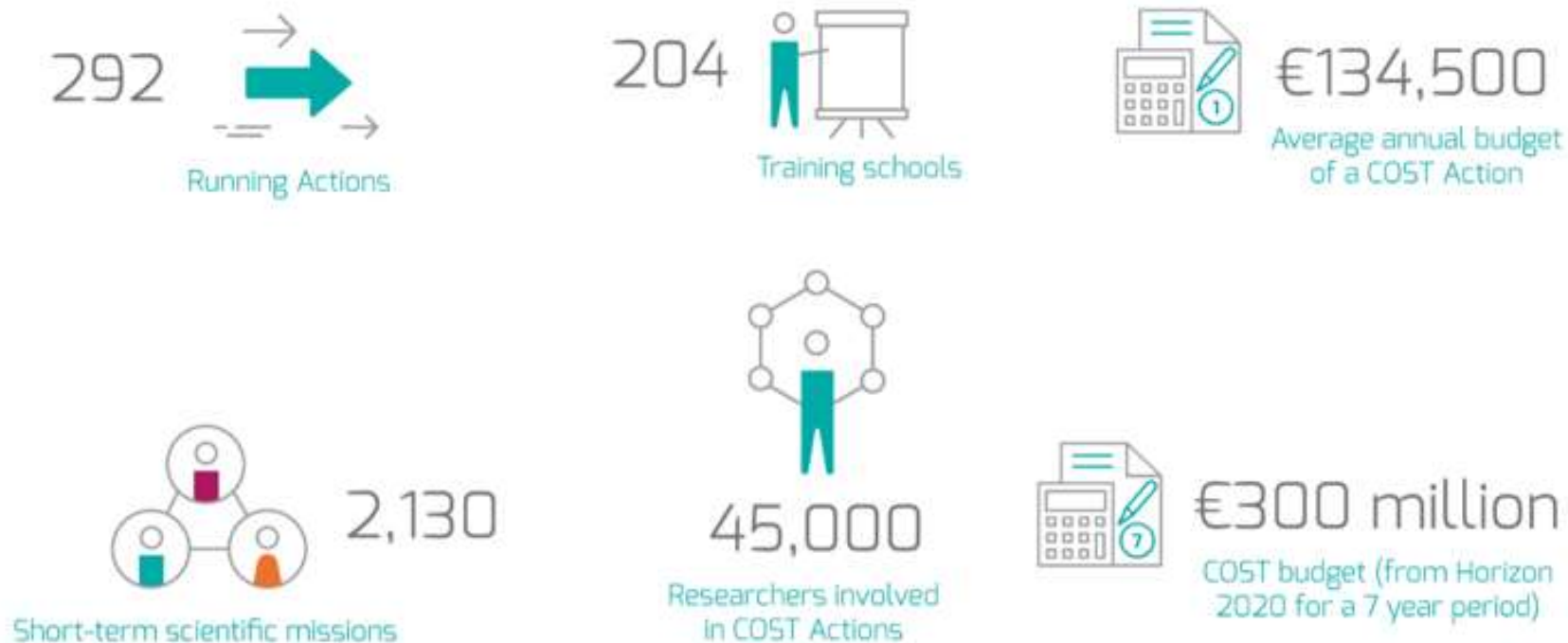
### 8.1. STSM – ELIGIBILITY RULES

STSM applicants shall be engaged in an official research programme as a PhD Student or postdoctoral fellow or can be employed by, or affiliated to, an institution, organisation or legal entity which has within its remit a clear association with performing research. The institutions / organisation or legal entity where applicants pursue their main strand of research are considered as Home Institutions. The Host Institution is the institution / organisation that will host the successful applicant.

The following table shows the scenarios available to eligible STSM applicants:

Applicant's Home Institution	STSM Host Institution
Located in a Participating COST Full Member / COST Cooperating Member	Located in another Participating COST Full Member / COST Cooperating Member
	Located in a Participating COST Partner Member
	Action MC Observer from IPC
	Action MC Observer from NNC
	The EU Commission or an EU Body, Office or Agency
	An Approved European RTD Organisation
	An Approved International Organisation
Action MC Observer from NNC	Located in a Participating COST Full Member / COST Cooperating Member
Located in an Approved European RTD Organisation	Located in a Participating COST Full Member / COST Cooperating Member

# COST key figures of 2019



*COST: The networking tool in the ERA and the pre-portal to other ERA funding schemes*

# Status of your COST Action

# COST Action CA15206:

CSO approval: 26/02/2016

Start of Action: 18/10/2016

End of Action: ~~17/10/2020~~ / Extended until 17/04/2021

Duration: 4.5 years

Parties: Currently 33 (+ 5 NNC + 3 IPC + 2 IO)

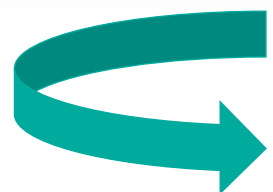
## Parties

Country	Date	Country	Date	Country	Date	Country	Date
Austria	26/04/2016	Belgium	03/10/2016	Bosnia and Herzegovina	05/04/2016	Bulgaria	10/05/2016
Croatia	21/07/2016	Czech Republic	27/05/2016	Denmark	01/04/2016	Estonia	19/08/2016
Finland	30/03/2016	France	20/04/2016	Germany	30/03/2016	Greece	09/03/2016
Hungary	27/10/2016	Ireland	29/03/2016	Italy	12/05/2016	Latvia	04/08/2016
Lithuania	05/11/2018	Luxembourg	27/07/2016	Montenegro	17/09/2016	Netherlands	28/09/2016
North Macedonia	11/03/2016	Norway	15/08/2016	Poland	14/03/2016	Portugal	28/04/2016
Romania	09/05/2016	Serbia	07/04/2016	Slovakia	29/04/2016	Slovenia	04/05/2016
Spain	03/05/2016	Sweden	13/09/2016	Switzerland	30/06/2016	Turkey	22/05/2018
United Kingdom	29/02/2016						

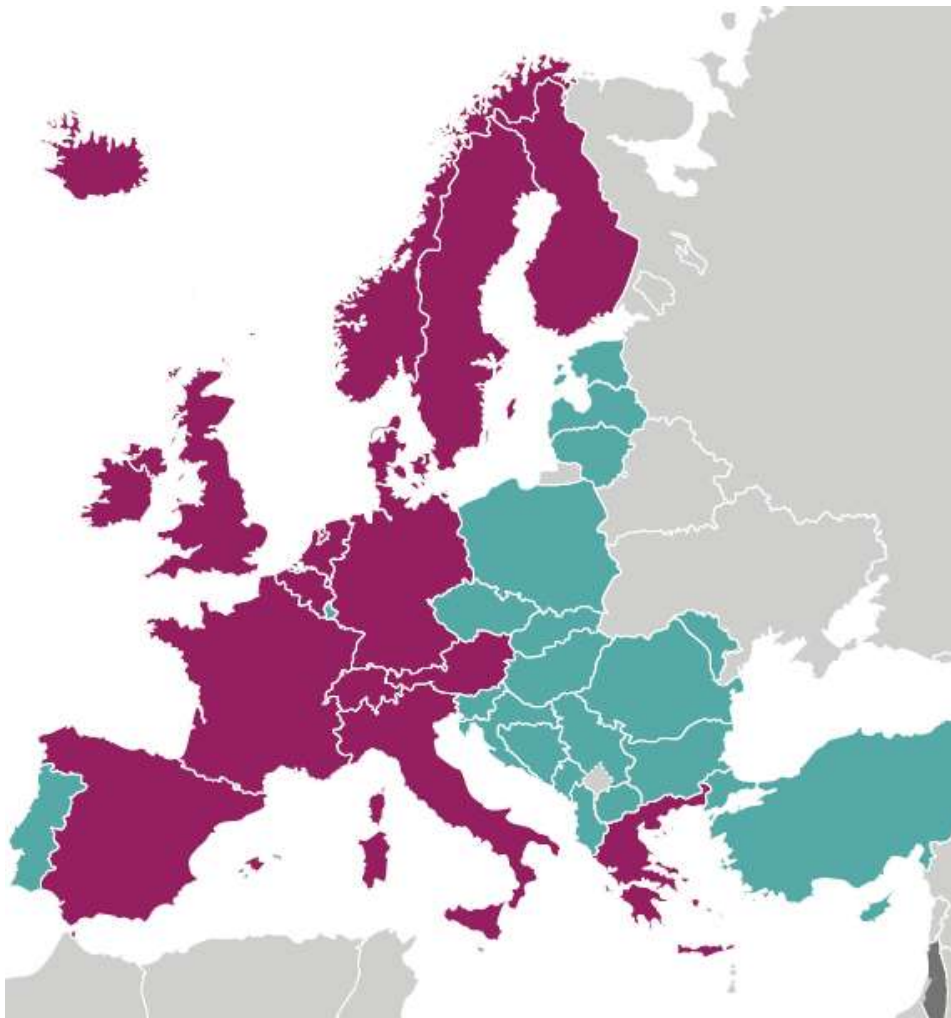


# COST Action CA15206: Financial support

#	Period	From	To	Status	Allocated Budget	Grant Amount
1	AGA-CA15206-1	2016-11-01	2017-04-30	Closed	70,500.00 EUR	70,500.00 EUR
2	AGA-CA15206-2	2017-05-01	2018-04-30	Closed	170,000.03 EUR	170,000.04 EUR
3	AGA-CA15206-3	2018-05-01	2019-04-30	Closed	202,880.19 EUR	215,862.41 EUR
4	AGA-CA15206-4	2019-05-01	2020-04-30	Closed	164,000.00 EUR	164,013.00 EUR
5	AGA-CA15206-5	2020-05-01	2021-04-17	Active	111,300.00 EUR	111,300.45 EUR



**~730.000 EUR**



**COST Policy:**  
50% of the budget  
needs to be spent for  
the benefit of  
researchers from ITCs

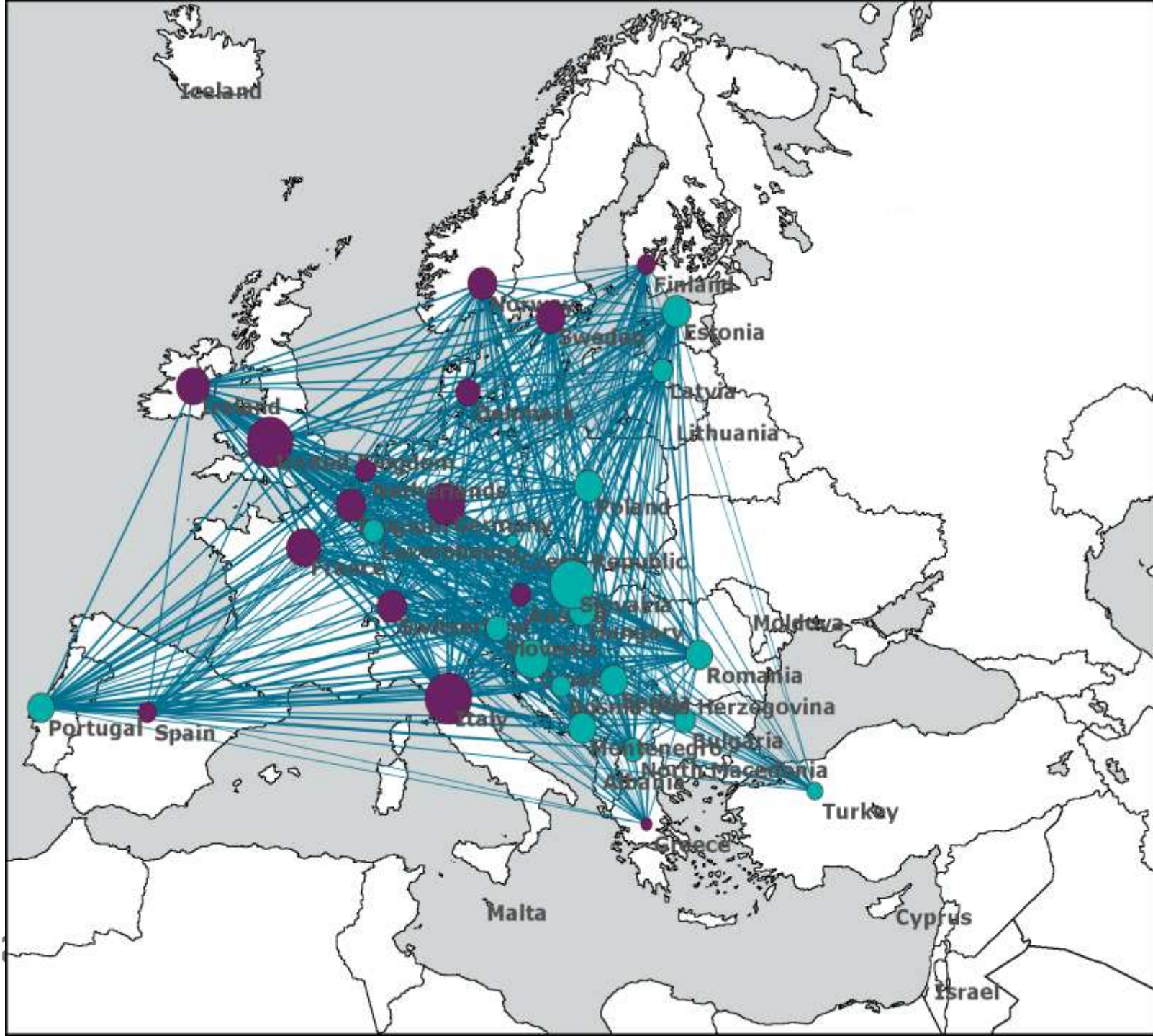
**PERFOR-W spent**  
*(by February 2021)*  
**aprox. 60% for the**  
**benefit of ITCs**  
**researchers.**

**Impressive!**  
**Congratulations!**

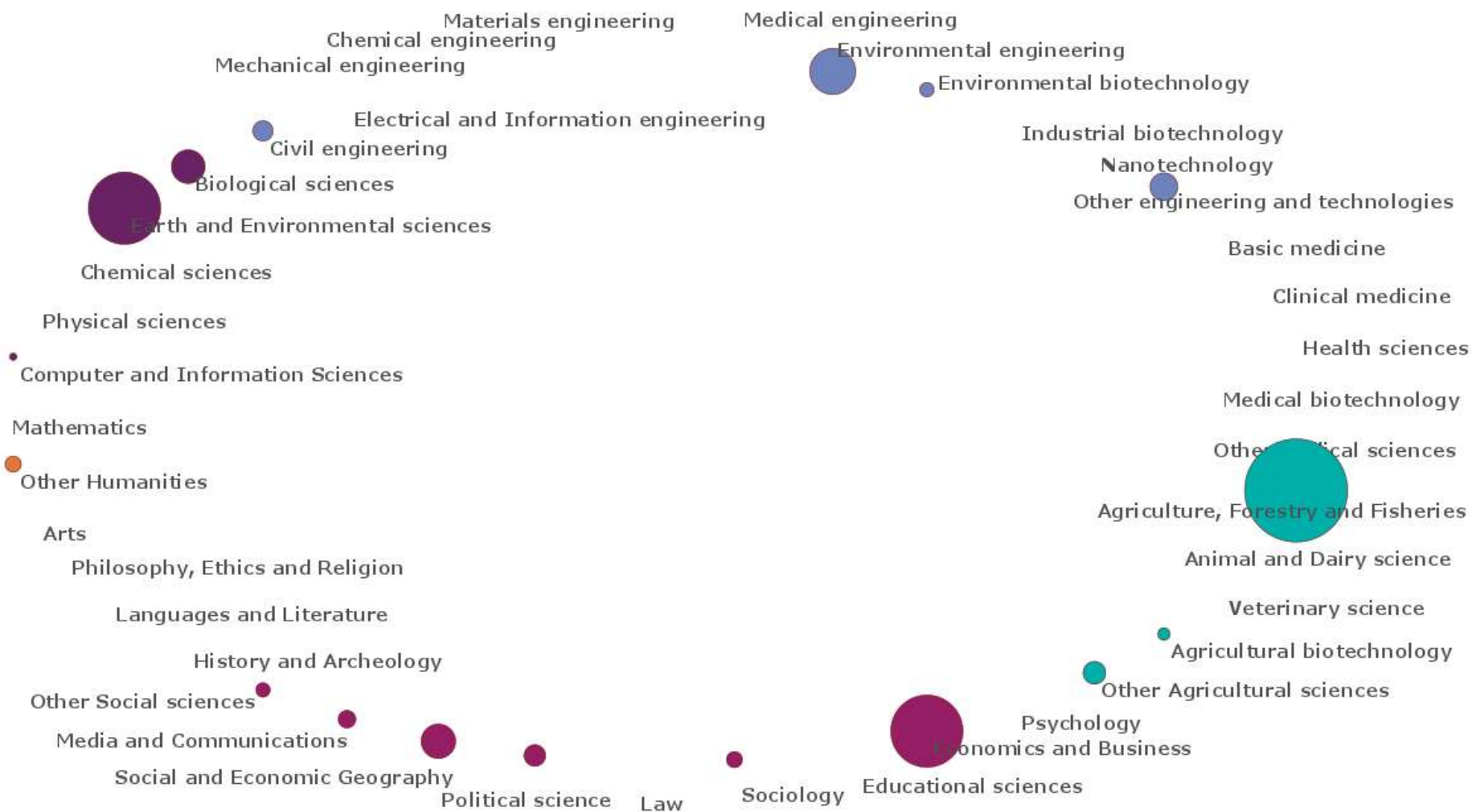


## Key numbers

- 180 researchers from 30 countries involved in the Action activities (72 women, 89 ECI)
- 20 meetings and 1 Training School organised. 16 STSMs and 7 ITC Conference Grants granted.
- Researchers travelled to 20 countries for networking activities during the course of the Action.









## **Actions with many connections to CA15206**

- FP1201 (Forest LAnd Ownership Changes in Europe: Significance for Management And Policy (FACESMAP))
- FP1204 (Green Infrastructure approach: linking environmental with social aspects in studying and managing urban forests)
- FP1207 (Orchestrating forest-related policy analysis in Europe (ORCHESTRA))
- CA15226 (Climate-Smart Forestry in Mountain Regions)
- CA16209 (Natural Flood Retention on Private Land)

# What is next?

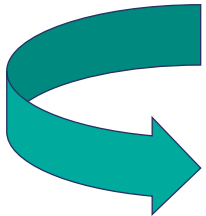


# The Action is almost finished... what is next?

- Final Action Dissemination (FAD)
- Final Assessment Report (FA)
- Think about the future (MC task)
  - ✓ How to continue the network?
  - ✓ Other COST Action or EU proposals?
  - ✓ Find related Actions?
  - ✓ ..... (be creative 😊)

# Final Action Dissemination (FAD) Grant

- Final Action Dissemination (FAD) refers to **outputs produced after the end date of the Action** in order to share and promote the COST Action's results among wider research community, policy makers, other stakeholders or EU citizens.
- The FAD is funded centrally by the COST Association under the Centralised Management Funding Scheme in the form of a **fixed Grant (max 10 000 EUR)**



**The FAD request was submitted to COST in May 2020 and the Grant Letter sent by 26 May 2020.**

## Final Action Dissemination (FAD) Grant request form

To apply for a Final Action Dissemination (FAD) grant, please fill in the template below.

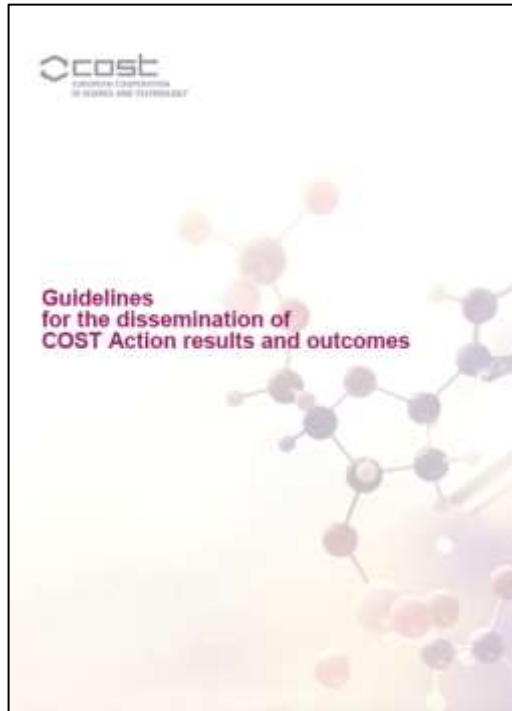
### Action details

COST Action number & title	CA15206 Payments for Ecosystem Services (Forests for Water)
COST Action Science Officer	Monica Perez Cabero
Grant holder details	<u>Università degli studi di Padova, Italy</u>
MC decision to apply for FAD grant	Enter the date and type of MC decision (MC meeting or written procedure) to apply for a FAD grant. Attach any relevant email correspondence.  MC <u>eVote</u> 22/5/20

### Final Action Dissemination details

Type (tick box)	Digital publication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Open Access	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Print publication	X			
	Multimedia	<input type="checkbox"/>	Specify media		
	Other/additional details				
Title (even if tentative)	Forest for Water: A step-by-step Guide for Payment Schemes				
Fields covered (keywords)	Payment for Ecosystem Services, Water quality, Agricultural diffuse pollution				
Publisher/provider (when applicable)	Not applicable				
Type details (when applicable)	Number of pages	~25	ISBN (when applicable)		

# COST: how to acknowledge COST in publications and dissemination activities? (I)



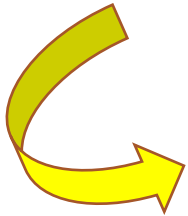
[https://www.cost.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/guidelines\\_communicating\\_exploiting\\_COSTAction\\_results\\_outcomes-1.pdf](https://www.cost.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/guidelines_communicating_exploiting_COSTAction_results_outcomes-1.pdf)



<http://www.cost.eu/media/dissemination-corporate-identity>

# COST: how to acknowledge COST in publications and dissemination activities? (II)

<https://www.cost.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/how-to-acknowledge-COST-funding.pdf>



## ACKNOWLEDGING COST FUNDING

All print and online publications + audiovisual projects (series, special issues, guidelines, scientific papers, brochures, posters, videos etc.)

Include the following:

COST logo + EU flag & text



Funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme of the European Union

### Acknowledgement

This article/publication is based upon work from COST Action < insert name of Action or initials >, supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology).

### COST description

COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a funding agency for research and innovation networks. Our Actions help connect research initiatives across Europe and enable scientists to grow their ideas by sharing them with their peers. This boosts their research, career and innovation.

### Weblink

[www.cost.eu](http://www.cost.eu)

**In case of space constraints (e.g. scientific papers), include the following:**

- Acknowledgment
- Weblink

### Cover page - example




### Acknowledgments section - example



# Action Monitoring

- All Actions are monitored during their implementation with regards to:
  - ✓ their achievement of MoU objectives and deliverables
  - ✓ their implementation of COST policies
  - ✓ the dissemination and exploitation of COST Action results
- The monitoring and assessment is used as basis for:
  - ✓ Decision making by COST (e.g. budget allocation, termination, promotion/ dissemination, etc.)
  - ✓ Claims about COST's achievements to EC

# Action Monitoring... When?

Type	Time (months)	Focus	Referent
PR1	12	Implementation of SC Recommendations & COST Policies	Scientific Committee
PR2	24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress</li> <li>• Impacts and successes</li> <li>• Dissemination &amp; Exploitation</li> <li>• Urgent needs for improvement</li> </ul>	Action Rapporteur
FA	48 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MoU Achievements</li> <li>• Expected Impact &amp; Successes</li> <li>• Dissemination &amp; Exploitation</li> <li>• Added value of the networking</li> <li>• Lessons for the future and success stories</li> <li>• Emerging themes/ potentially important future developments</li> </ul>	Action Rapporteur

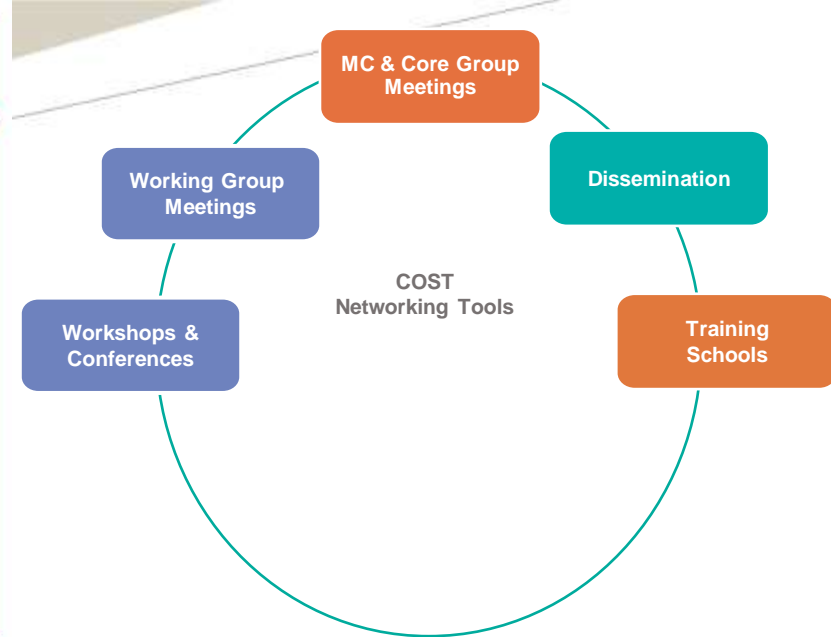


# What is new?



## News from COST Association

- **New COST Partner country:** South Africa. Contact: [Toto.Matshediso@dst.gov.za](mailto:Toto.Matshediso@dst.gov.za)
- **International cooperation:** new process based on individuals (no institutions).
- **Daily allowance** entered in force in May 2020.
- **On line tools:** eligible (up to 500 EUR per Action, special derogation for Covid-19 pandemic)



*“Although, online tools are not usually eligible under current COST rules, we are now taking the exceptional step to ensure that your Action will be able to purchase the virtual networking tools of your choice, up to the cost of 500 euros excluding VAT. This measure will be effective until the end of the grant period, 30 April 2020. As this initiative is outside of our usual networking activities, we would like to support you by offering a short summary of useful tools, which is attached to this email.”*

[www.cost.eu/online\\_networking](http://www.cost.eu/online_networking)

# Adapting networking tools to the virtual setting

- ✓ Up to 500 EUR for virtual communication tools.
- ✓ Cancellation insurance:
  - *for travelling and local organiser.*
- ✓ ITC Conference Grants and Dissemination Meetings:
  - *virtual conference fee.*
- ✓ LOS Virtual Meetings:
  - *technical support*
- ✓ Reinforcement of Dissemination Materials:
  - *Action Website, Videos, Flyers, Open Access for Papers, Training Materials to be publicly available, etc.*

# Brexit

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[Home](#) > [Who we are](#) > [About COST](#) > [Brexit](#)

## Brexit update: COST funding guaranteed for UK affiliated participants until the end of Horizon 2020

Whilst the COST Association regrets the UK leaving the European Union, it respects this decision and welcomes the entry into force of the Withdrawal Agreement between the European Union and the UK as of February 1, 2020.

Until the end of Horizon 2020, the current Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, the COST Association will keep funding the UK affiliated participants in all COST activities.

In this context, all measures adopted in 2019 in view of a potential no-deal Brexit are withdrawn.

At this stage, there is no indication on the potential eligibility of UK affiliated participants (including Grant Holders) under Horizon Europe as this will depend on the Free Trade Agreement negotiations between the UK and the EU. The COST Association will therefore attentively follow the developments of Brexit and act in the best interests of the European research and innovation community.

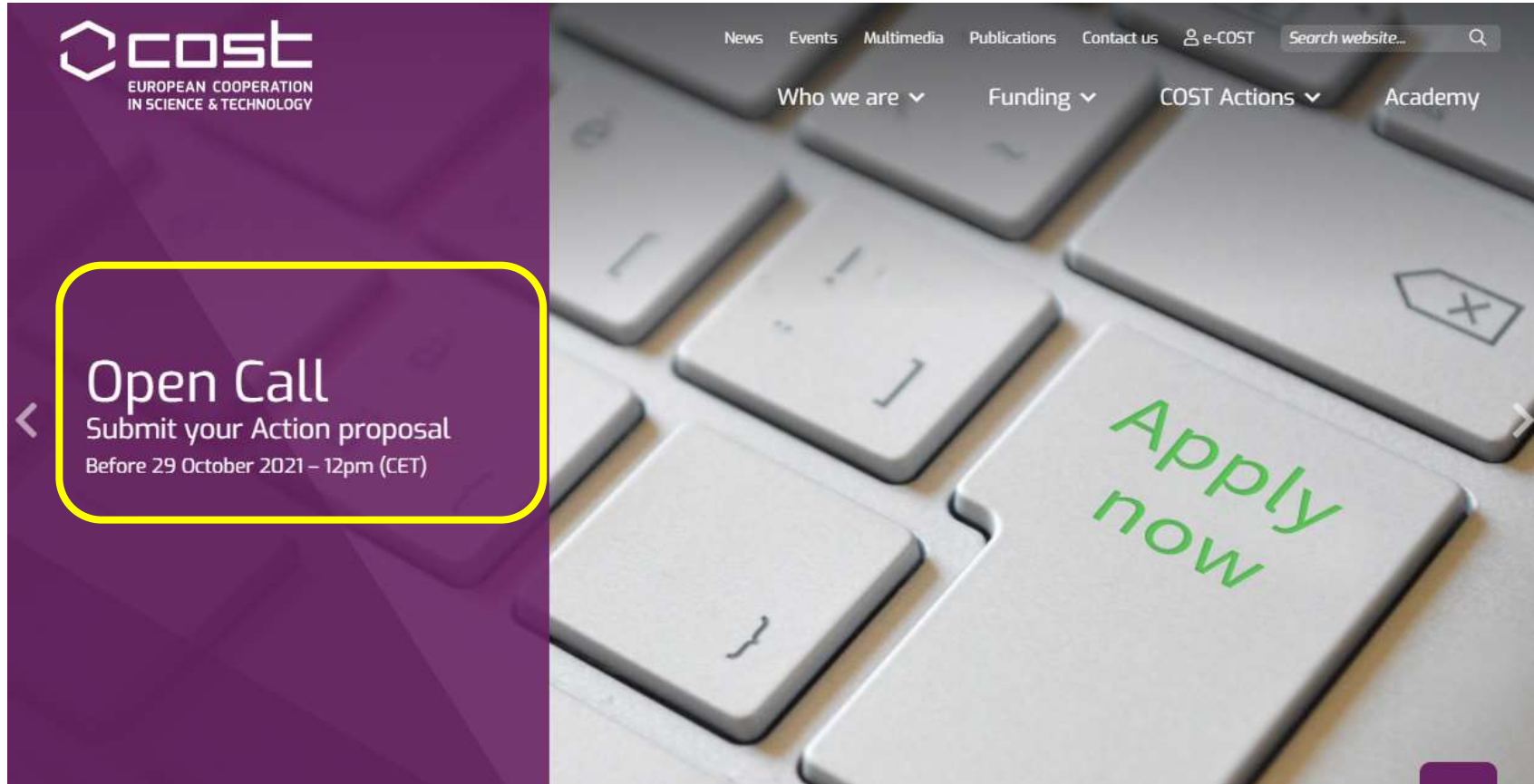
## Related information:

-  [Administrative measures regarding a potential no-deal Brexit 05 July 2019](#)
-  [Communication regarding a potential no-deal Brexit 18 April 2019](#)

For more info: <https://www.cost.eu/who-we-are/about-cost/brexit/>

UK COST National Coordinator: [cost@beis.gov.uk](mailto:cost@beis.gov.uk)

# New Open Call: deadline 29 October 2021!



**cost**  
EUROPEAN COOPERATION  
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

**Open Call**  
Submit your Action proposal  
Before 29 October 2021 – 12pm (CET)

News Events Multimedia Publications Contact us e-COST Search website... Q

Who we are ▾ Funding ▾ COST Actions ▾ Academy

Apply now

# 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**

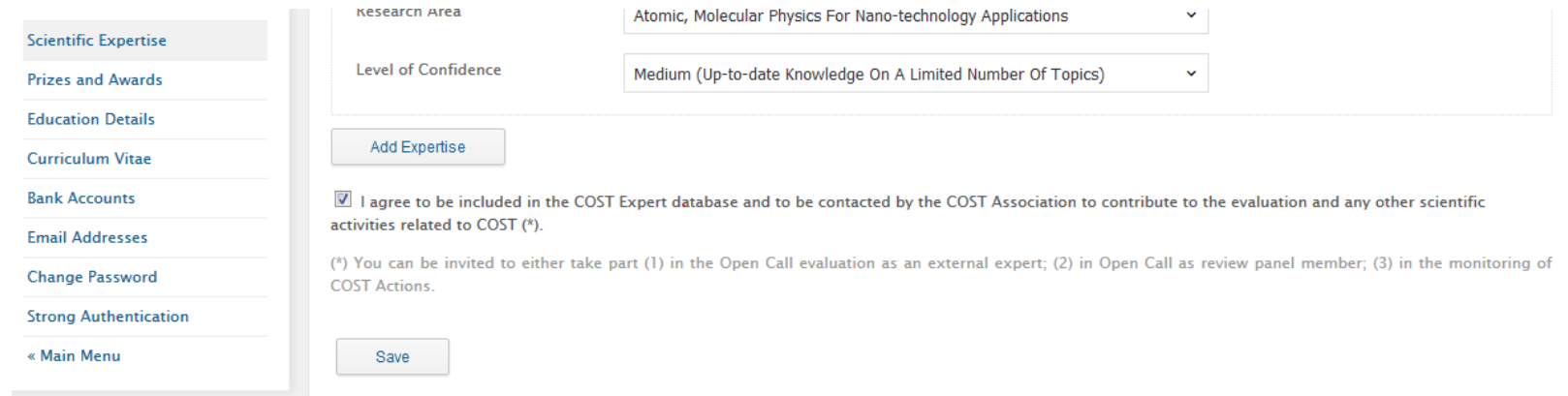


# Evaluation Criteria

S&T EXCELLENCE	NETWORKING EXCELLENCE	IMPACT	IMPLEMENTATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soundness of the Challenge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Added value of networking in S&amp;T Excellence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impact to science, society and competitiveness, and potential for innovation/break-throughs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress beyond the state-of-the-art</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Added value of networking in Impact</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Measures to maximise impact</li> </ul>	
Total marks for the section = <b>15 points</b>	Total marks for the section = <b>15 points</b>	Total marks for the section = <b>15 points</b>	Total marks for the section = <b>5 points</b>
<b>TOTAL MARKS AWARDED = 0 - 50 points</b> <b>OVERALL THRESHOLD = 34 points</b>			

# Open Call – Become a COST expert

- e-COST → tick the box in “Scientific Expertise”



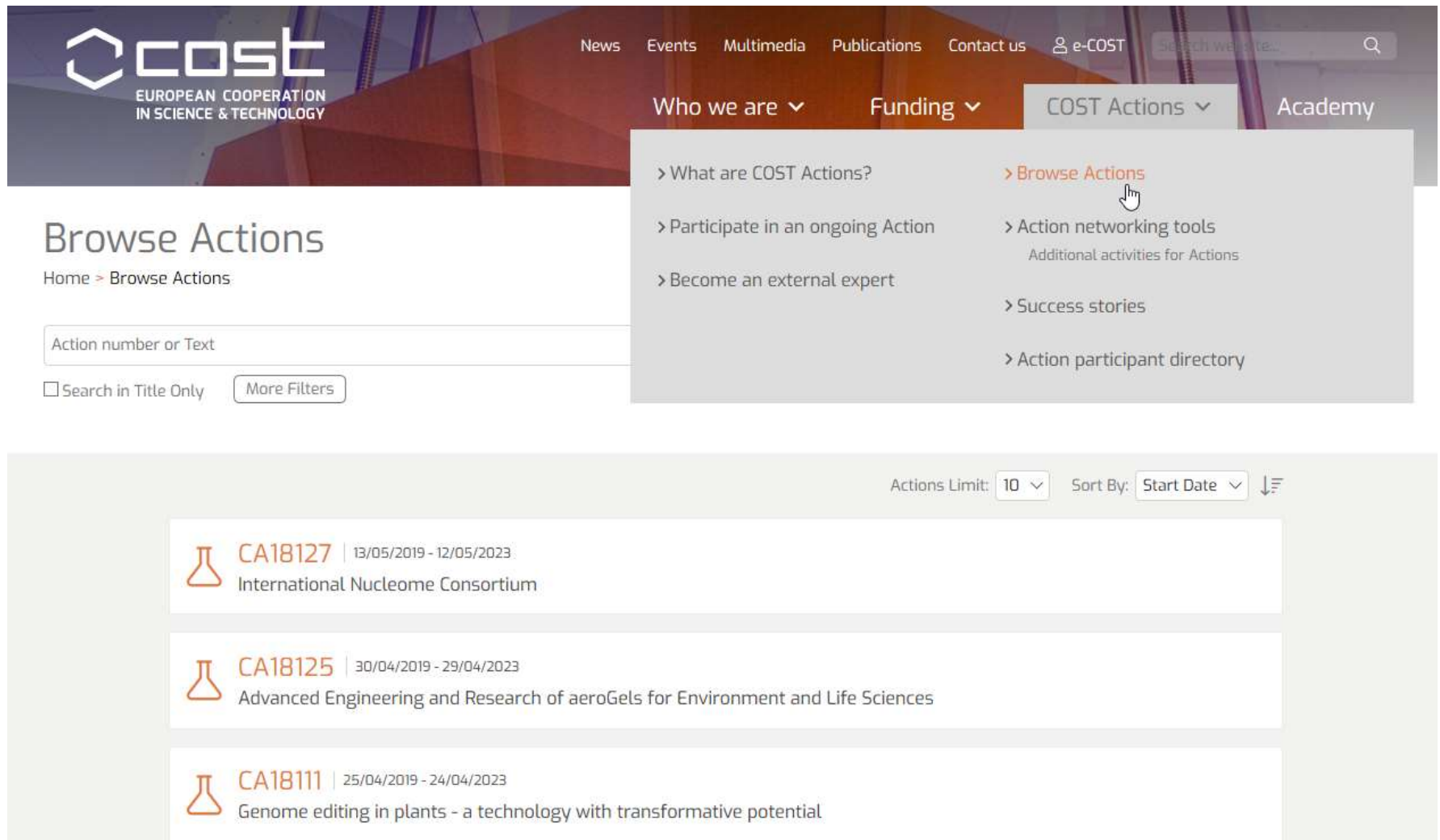
The screenshot shows the 'Scientific Expertise' section of the e-COST portal. On the left is a sidebar menu with links: Scientific Expertise (highlighted), Prizes and Awards, Education Details, Curriculum Vitae, Bank Accounts, Email Addresses, Change Password, Strong Authentication, and « Main Menu'. The main form area contains two dropdown menus: 'Research Area' set to 'Atomic, Molecular Physics For Nano-technology Applications' and 'Level of Confidence' set to 'Medium (Up-to-date Knowledge On A Limited Number Of Topics)'. Below these is an 'Add Expertise' button. A checkbox is checked with the text: 'I agree to be included in the COST Expert database and to be contacted by the COST Association to contribute to the evaluation and any other scientific activities related to COST (\*).' A footnote explains: '(\*): You can be invited to either take part (1) in the Open Call evaluation as an external expert; (2) in Open Call as review panel member; (3) in the monitoring of COST Actions.' At the bottom is a 'Save' button.

- If already expert, check your profile – please!
  - Email address correct?
  - Areas of expertise still relevant?
  - Up-to-date CV?
  - Link to your personal (!) homepage?

# Join a running COST 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)

# How to find the relevant COST Action?



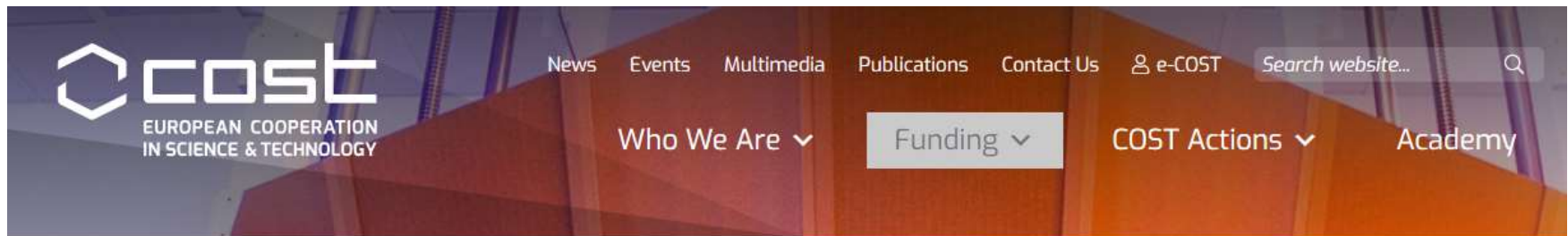
The screenshot shows the COST website interface. At the top, the COST logo (European Cooperation in Science & Technology) is on the left, and navigation links (News, Events, Multimedia, Publications, Contact us, e-COST) and a search bar are on the right. Below the navigation bar, there are tabs for 'Who we are', 'Funding', 'COST Actions', and 'Academy'. The 'COST Actions' tab is selected, and a dropdown menu is open, showing options: '> What are COST Actions?', '> Participate in an ongoing Action', '> Become an external expert', '> Browse Actions' (highlighted with a mouse cursor), '> Action networking tools' (with subtext 'Additional activities for Actions'), '> Success stories', and '> Action participant directory'.

Below the navigation bar, the 'Browse Actions' page is displayed. It includes a search bar labeled 'Action number or Text', a checkbox for 'Search in Title Only', and a 'More Filters' button. The main content area shows a list of actions, filtered by 'Actions Limit: 10' and 'Sort By: Start Date'.

Action Number	Duration	Action Title
CA18127	13/05/2019 - 12/05/2023	International Nucleome Consortium
CA18125	30/04/2019 - 29/04/2023	Advanced Engineering and Research of aeroGels for Environment and Life Sciences
CA18111	25/04/2019 - 24/04/2023	Genome editing in plants - a technology with transformative potential

# COST: supporting documents

<https://www.cost.eu/funding/how-to-get-funding/documents-and-guidelines/>



## Documents and guidelines

Home > Funding > How to get funding > Documents and Guidelines



Action management,  
monitoring and final  
assessment

Download



International cooperation  
and specific organisations  
participation

Download



Rules for participation in and  
implementation of COST  
activities

Download



COST Code of Conduct

Download

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- Contact: [opencall@cost.eu](mailto:opencall@cost.eu)
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[www.facebook.com/COST.Programme/](http://www.facebook.com/COST.Programme/)



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



[@COSTprogramme](https://twitter.com/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.*

