COST: EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

RESEARCH PROPOSALS PREPARATION OFFICE

www.ucy.ac.cy
COST is the oldest and widest European intergovernmental framework for transnational Cooperation in Science and Technology

- For 40 years COST has supported networking of research activities across all its Member countries (36 today) and beyond.
- Cyprus as a full member in COST => 1999
- COST is open to all disciplines, to all novel and ground-breaking S&T ideas, to all categories of partners, to the world at large based on the principle of mutual benefit
- Tries to complement research initiatives within ERA and to reduce the fragmentation of research activities
- It is funded by the 7th Framework Programme. That is it follows the financial and contractual obligations of the FP7 (250 M EUR of FP7)
- ESF provides the COST Office and is its implementing agent
- Bottom-up Approach
- Light-weight administration and easy implementation
What does cost fund?

COST provides financial support for cooperation efforts of scientific groups across Europe and the coordination of these research networks called “Actions”.

The support will cover the costs of networking activities such as:
- meetings (e.g. travel, subsistence, local organiser support),
- conferences,
- workshops,
- short-term scientific exchanges,
- training schools,
- publications and dissemination activities

COST does not fund the research itself!

Funding for the research activities of these actions is provided by national or institutional funding.
ORGANIZED IN NINE BROAD DOMAINS:

- Biomedicine and Molecular Biosciences (BMBS)
- Chemistry and Molecular Sciences and Technology (CMST)
- Earth System Science & Environmental Management (ESSEM)
- Food and Agriculture (FA)
- Forests, their Products and Services (FPS)
- Individuals, Societies, Cultures and Health (ISCH)
- Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)
- Materials, Physics and Nanosciences (MPNS)
- Transport and Urban Development (TUD)

- Trans-Domain – Two Domains and more
Common in each Action

• The Applicant can be at any career stage provided that she/he is active in research and the research activity is RELEVANT to the proposed topic/action.
• Proposals playing a precursor role for other European programmes and/or initiated by early-career researchers are especially welcome.

Early-Career Researchers: less than 8 years from the acquisition of PhD.

• Gender Balance

• Contribution to the Solution of Global Challenges in a Global Dimension

• A network of approximately four year’s lifetime

• Minimum five COST countries (proposal submission and signature of MoU)

Continuous OPEN CALL For PROPOSALS

Set Collection Dates: 29th March 2013, 17:00 BR

THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO PARTICIPATE IN COST

A) PROPOSE AN ACTION
   (either in a single Domain or more than two Domains)

B) JOIN AN ACTION
A1) PROCEDURE TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL (except from TDP)

A two-stage procedure

1. *Submit a Preliminary Proposal by the set Collection Date (29 March 2013)*
   - Register an e-cost profile (updated)
   - On-line template
   - Maximum 1500 words in English (check the text for correctness and clarity)
   - Mention other participants from COST countries (minimum five)
   - Provide a brief overview of the proposal and its intended impact
   - Indicate preferred Domain of allocation and if other Domain(s) are relevant to it

*The Coordinator of the group (the “Applicant”) should come from a COST Country Or a European body and is responsible for submitting the proposal.*
A1) PROCEDURE TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL (except from TDP)

A pre-check is performed by the COST Office to reject any Preliminary Proposal which does not meet the basic requirements for COST support:

1. Does the Proposal conform with the specified template? [NO = Reject]
2. Are 5 or more COST Member States involved in the Proposal? [NO = Reject]
3. Does the Proposal seek funding for research? [YES = Reject]
4. Is there obvious duplication with work currently or recently supported by COST? [YES = Reject]

PRELIMINARY PROPOSALS (Evaluation Criteria)

1. Right for Cost
2. Public Utility/Service
3. Innovation
4. Impact
5. Networking
6. Presentation

Assessed by the Domain Committees in accordance with the published criteria: Guidelines for Assessment of applications for COST Actions
A1) PROCEDURE TO SUBMIT A FULL PROPOSAL (except from TDP)

• Applicants of selected preliminary proposals will be invited to submit a full proposal with a complete

  Invitation 30 May 2013 to submit 26 July 2013

• Around 20% of preliminary proposals will be invited to submit a full proposal (around 120 high-ranked preliminary proposals)

• Final Selection of 30 new Actions subject to budget availability (60 new Actions/year)

Criteria for Evaluation of FULL Proposals:
A. Science and Networking (Weight 2)
B. Impact (Weight 2)
C. Structure and Organization (Weight 1)
D. Contribution to Wider Cost Goals (Weight 1)
E. Overall Recommendation of EEP (External Experts)
A2) PROCEDURE TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL Trans-Domain Proposal

Eligibility Criteria:
- Cover two or more COST Domains
- Registered and Updated e-Cost profile of all Proposers as of 15 February 2013.

Steps:
1) Proposal Registration: Title, Acronym and Short Abstract (Initial Idea-Challenge and expected impact) (250 words), Domains- useful for Finding Experts! By 29 March 2013, 17:00 Brussels time (GMT+1).

2) Proposal Submission: deadline on 14 June 2013, 17:00 Brussels time (GMT+1).

All this information can be found at TDP Guidelines.
2) Proposal Submission

The TDP Pilot evaluation and selection procedure is based on the submission of a single proposal consisting of four main sections with a maximum length of about **15 pages**:

**Section A: Challenge (up to 3200 words, about 6 pages)**
This section describes the scientific/technological justification for the COST Action. Stating the Action Objectives further to the Categories of Objectives.

**Section B: Added Value of Networking (up to 2100 words, about 4 pages)**
This section describes how the challenge will benefit from Networking Activities.

**Section C: Milestones and Deliverables: contents and time frames (up to 1800 words, about 3 pages), are they suitable for the COST Framework.**
This section describes what activities will be organized and the expected main outputs.

**Section D: Action Structure and Participation (up to 1000 words, about 2 pages)**
This section describes the participation and internal organization of the Action.
Trans-Domain Proposal

TDP Pilot Evaluation Process

1. External Experts (evaluate scientific and technological challenge and added value of the network to tackle this challenge)

2. Remote Evaluation Panel (experts from COST Domain Committees) to evaluate proposals in their entirety (challenge and implementation plan)

3. TDP Panel Hearings: evaluate the leadership potential, motivation and drive, organizational and communicational skills. Address main criticism received throughout the evaluation.
GENERAL FOR COST Proposed Actions

- The Main Proposer, the Applicant, should come from a COST country or a European Body

- A scientist-researcher can participate in only ONE Action

- Only two nominated representatives from each country can participate in the management Committee of an Action

- Each proposal must reach a threshold of 70%

- Parts of the proposal will be used for the MoU (Technical Annex) thus, BE CAREFUL for the Style, Language, Spelling, Format, Expressions

- Actions are budgeted via yearly Grant Agreements based on annual work plan and budget plan detailing the activities necessary to achieve the declared objectives as defined in Action Strategy.
USEFUL TERMS

Action Participants

Management Committee Members: Action Decision Making by representing their COST Country after nomination, one vote/partner. Decides upon Action Strategy, budget etc.

Working Group members: nominated by the MC, contribute to achievement of Action objectives by coordinating their national/institutional work within the COST Action. All MC members are encouraged to be WG members. Unlike MC Members, WG members are not necessarily reimbursed for their participation.

Occasional Participants: are invited by the MC to participate to COST networking tools because their participation is deemed necessary for the achievement of Action Objectives (such as Training School Grantees, invited experts and other).
B) Join An Action

A) If your country has not yet accepted the Action's Memorandum of Understanding:
   • contact your CNC who can launch your country's participation procedure in the relevant Action. Once done, the CNC can officially nominate you as a representative of your country to the MC committee and inform the Chair of the Action of your interest.

B) If your country has already accepted the Action's Memorandum of Understanding,
   but has not yet nominated 2 representatives:
   • contact your COST National Coordinator (CNC) who can officially nominate you as a representative of your country to the Management Committee (MC) and inform the Chair of the Action of your interest.
   and has already nominated 2 representatives:
   • contact the Action Chair for possible nomination by the Management Committee (MC) to a Working Group (WG).

Application form to participate in Action
A list of funded Actions can be found at www.cost.esf.org
Contacts

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THANK YOU FOR YOU ATTENTION

APPLY at http://www.cost.eu/participate/open_call !!!!