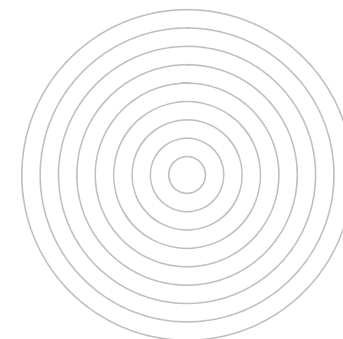


COSY Opportunities for Early-Career Researchers



Dr. Marina Šekutor
COSY Grant Awarding Coordinator

European Cooperation in Science & Technology (COST)



MISSION

COST provides networking opportunities for researchers and innovators in order to strengthen Europe's capacity to address scientific, technological and societal challenges

VISION

Europe's most empowering research programme

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

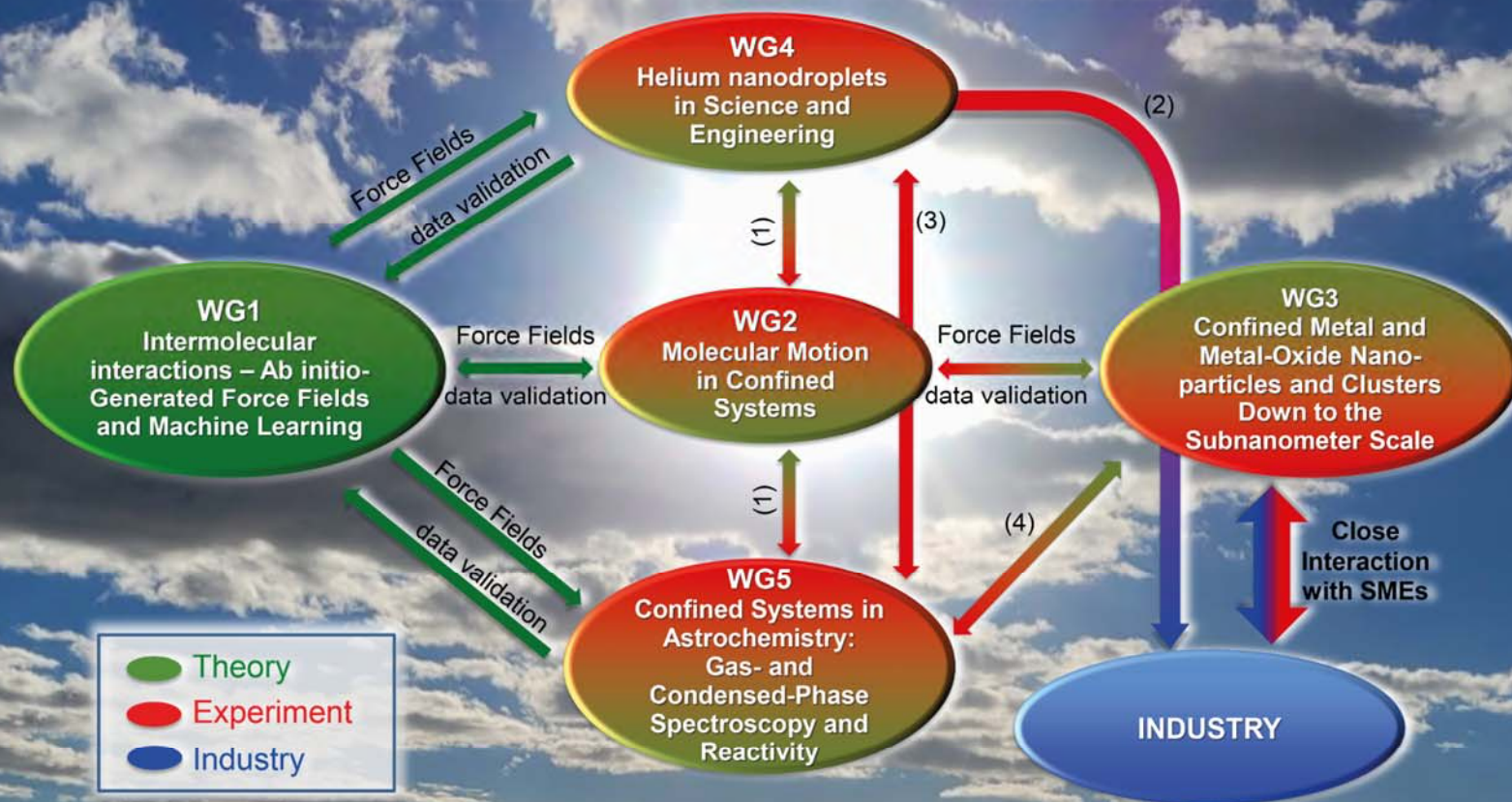
Promoting and spreading excellence

Fostering interdisciplinary research for breakthrough science

Empowering and retaining young researchers

CA21101 – CONFINED MOLECULAR SYSTEMS: FROM A NEW GENERATION OF MATERIALS TO THE STARS (COSY)

Synoptic scheme of interactions between Working Groups (WGs)



MANDATORY LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN EVERY COST ACTION

- **Chair** - coordinating Action activities in line with the scientific aims and objectives defined in the COST Action MoU and the Work and Budget Plan
- **Vice-Chair** - assisting the Chair and replacing the Chair when necessary
- **Grant Holder Scientific Representative** - liaison between the Grant Holder and the Action MC
- **Working Group (WG) Leaders** - coordinating and managing activities and tasks associated with achieving the Action scientific and networking objectives specific to the WGs they lead
- **Grant Awarding Coordinator (GAC)** - coordinating the awarding by the Action of Grants to support the mobility of researchers and innovators and the presentation of Action results at conferences organized by a third party
- **Science Communication Coordinator (SCC)** - coordinating the implementation of a communication and dissemination strategy to enable the Action achieving its objectives and to increase the visibility of the network, playing a crucial role in bridging the gap between the Action scientific achievements and the public

COSY LEADERSHIP POSITIONS THE MOST IMPORTANT FOR MOBILITY



Action Chair, Spain, CSIC, **Maria Pilar de Lara-Castells**

Action Vice-Chair, Italy, University of Bologna, **Cristina Puzzarini**

Scientific Grant Holder, Spain, Universidad de Cádiz, **Juan Carlos Hernández-Garrido**

Grant Awarding Coordinator, Croatia, Ruđer Bošković Institute, **Marina Šekutor**

STSM coordinator, Greece, National Hellenic Research Foundation, **Heribert Reis**

Conference coordinator, Estonia, University of Tartu, **Kaido Sillar**

+ **The Review Committee: STSM coordinator** or **Conference coordinator**, **Miroslav Medved** (Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica, Slovakia and Palacký University in Olomouc, Czech Republic), **Aggelos Avramopoulos** (University of Lamia, Greece), **Anna Kaczmarek-Kędziera** (University of Torun, Poland) and the appropriate **WG leader**.

COST Membership

40 Members

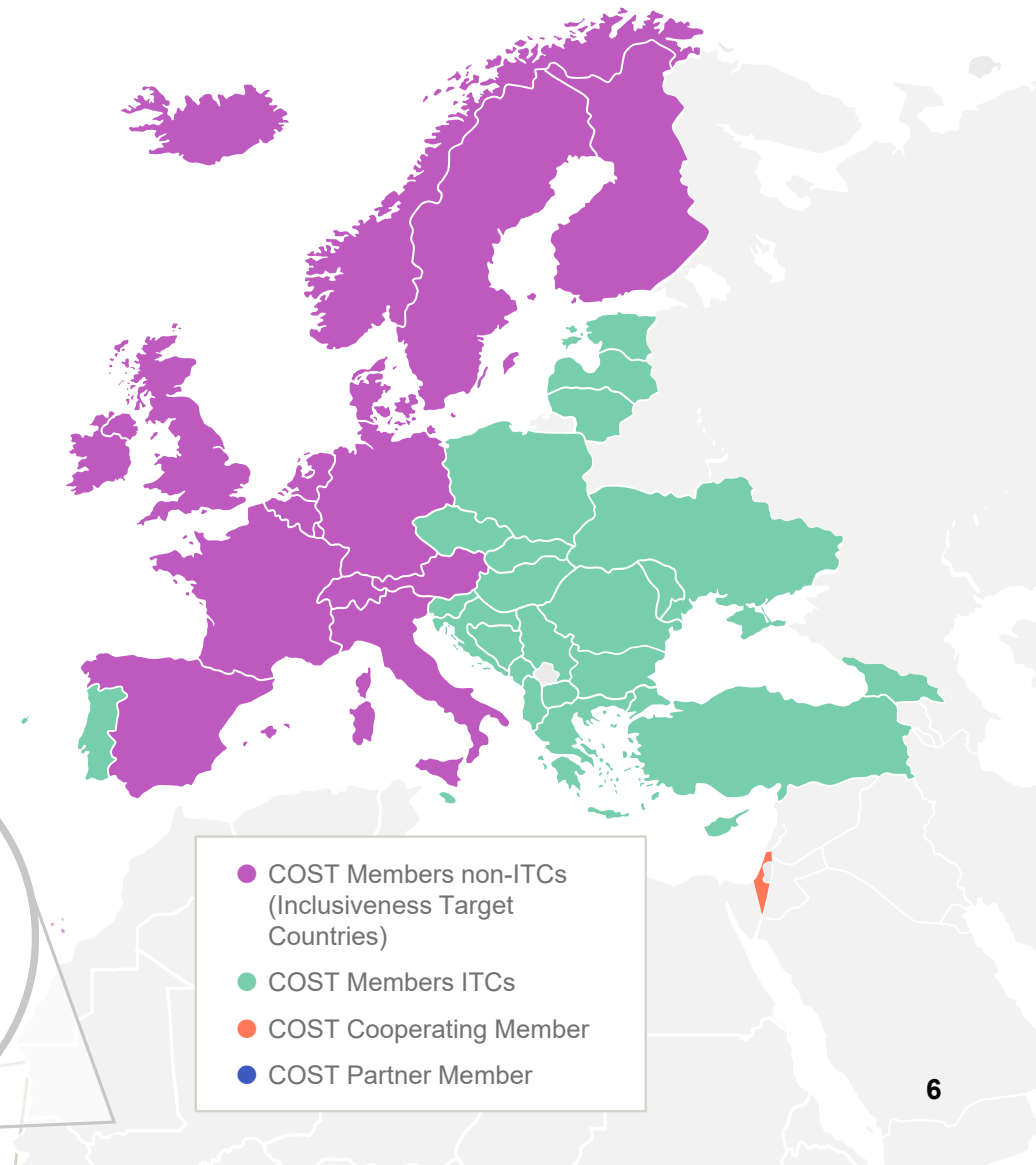
- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| ● Albania | ● Greece | North Macedonia |
| ● Austria | ● Hungary | ● Norway |
| ● Belgium | ● Iceland | ● Poland |
| ● Bosnia and Herzegovina | ● Ireland | ● Portugal |
| ● Bulgaria | ● Italy | ● Romania |
| ● Croatia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

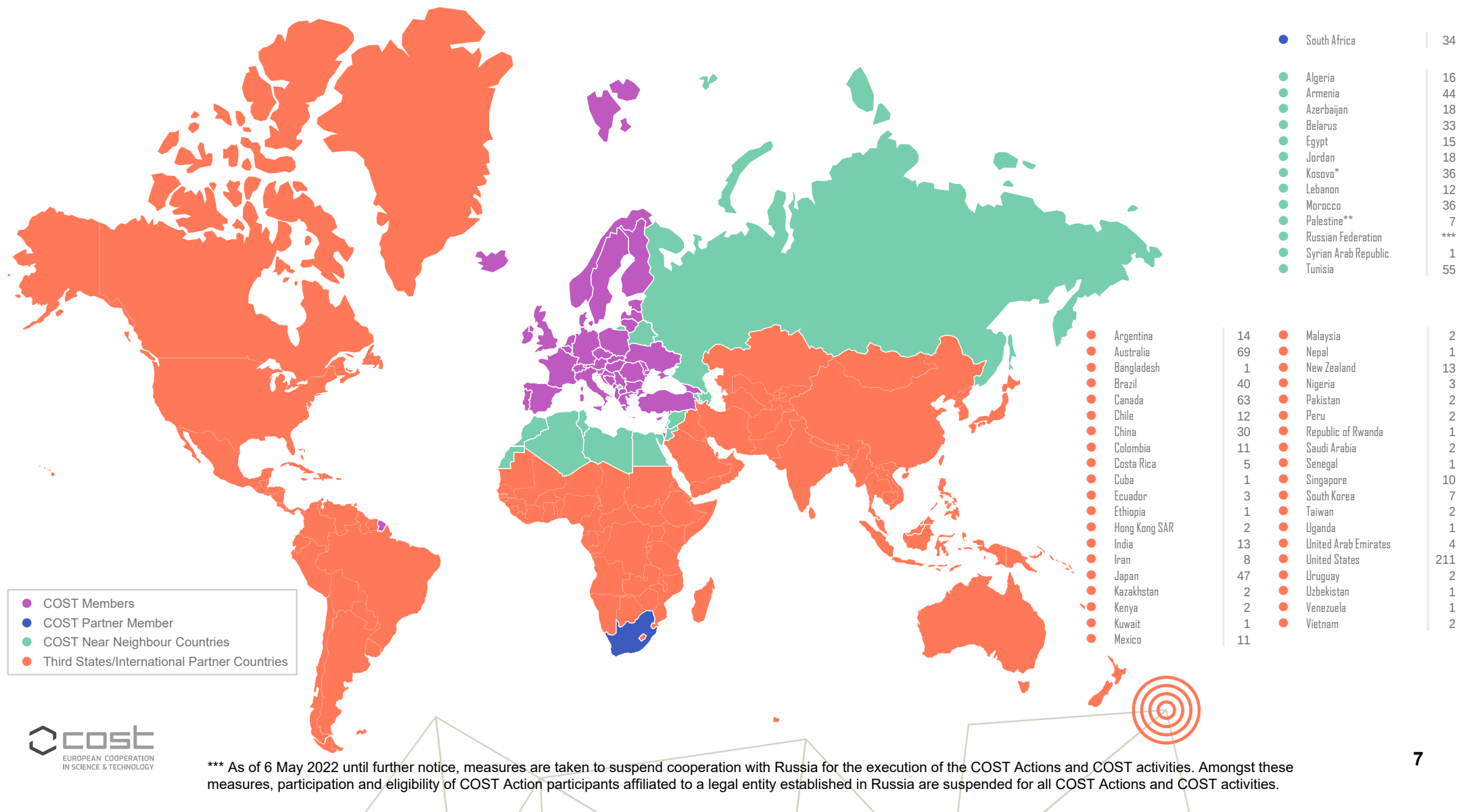
1 Cooperating Member

● Israel

1 Partner Member

● South Africa





COST Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITCs)

COST Inclusiveness Target Countries are as follows:

EU Member States	EU Member States Outermost Regions ⁴	Full Members that are not EU Member States
Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary ⁵ , Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia	French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, Reunion Island and Saint-Martin (France), Azores and Madeira (Portugal), and the Canary Islands (Spain)	Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye, Ukraine

COST Near Neighbour Countries:

Algeria, Azerbaijan, [Belarus]⁶, Egypt, the Faroe Islands, Jordan, Kosovo⁷, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine⁸, [Russia]⁹, Syria, and Tunisia.



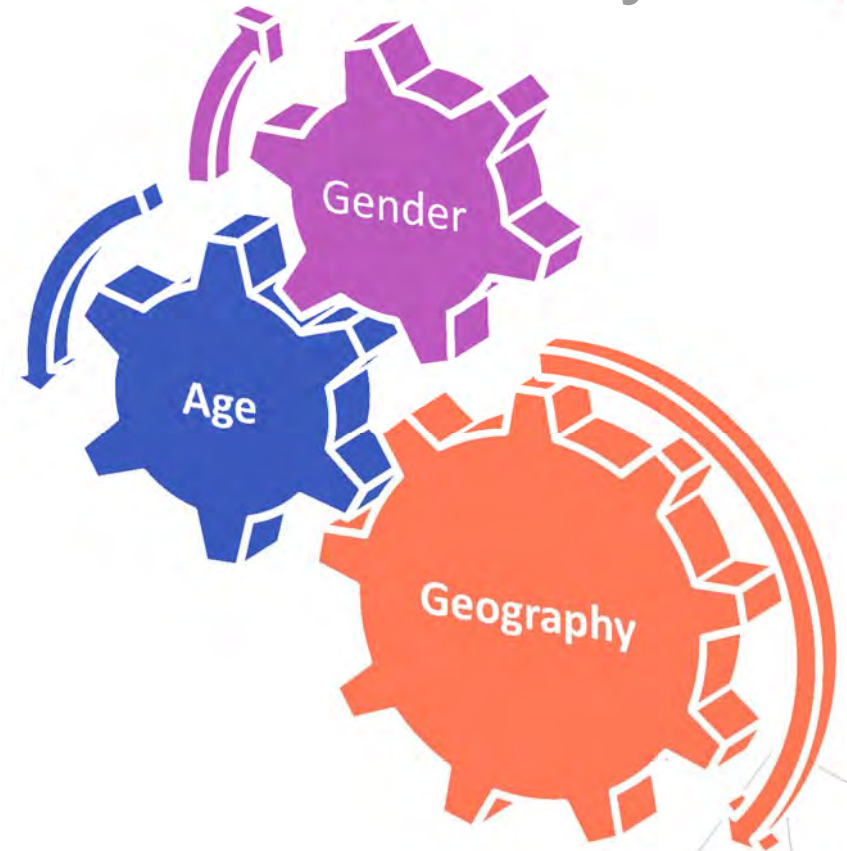
COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy



Special measures to Young Researchers and Innovators

A researcher or innovator under the age of 40

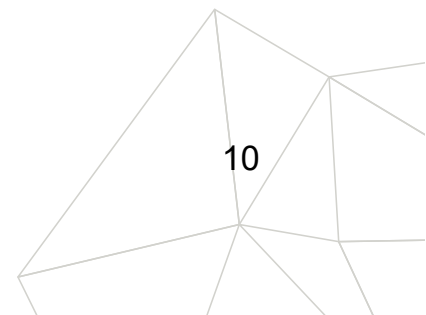
Special measures to Inclusiveness Target countries in Horizon Europe



Working Group (WG) Members



- Contribute to the realization of the Action's objectives
- An individual with an affiliation in a legal entity anywhere in the world approved by the Management Committee (via e-COST)



Eligibility to receive funding



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)						

Eligibility to receive funding – continued



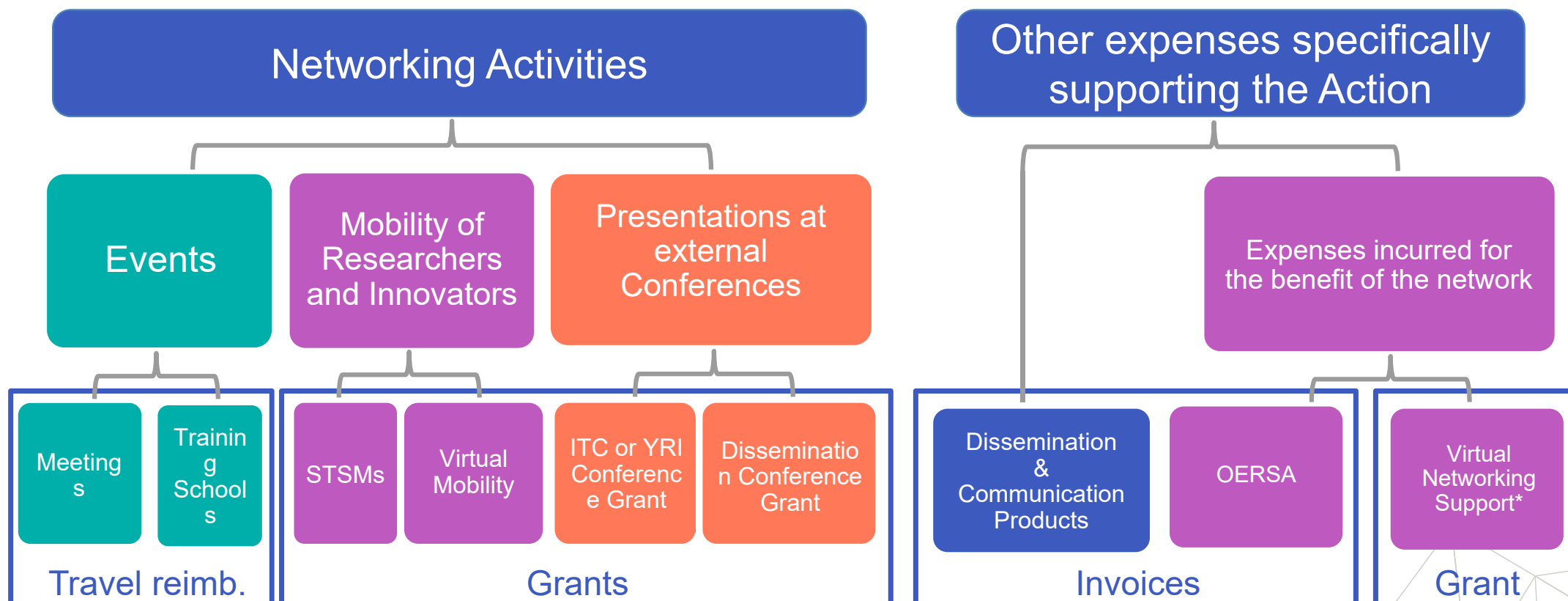
Affiliation to		Meetings		Training Schools			Other networking activities	
		Invited individual	Local Organiser	Trainer	Trainee	Local Organiser	ITC Conf Grant*	All others
Specific Organisations	EC/EU	At EC, EU body, office or agency cost (minimisation of cascade funding)						
	Eur. RTD Org.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
	IO	Once in the lifetime of the Action	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗

Eligibility to receive funding – continued

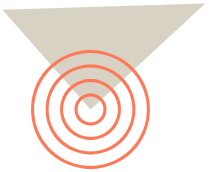


Affiliation to		Meetings		Training Schools			Other networking activities	
		Invited individual	Local Organiser	Trainer	Trainee	Local Organiser	ITC Conf Grant*	All others
NNC	Legal entity in a NNC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
IPC / Third States	Legal entity in an IPC	Once in the lifetime of the Action	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗

Reimbursement modalities



Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSMs)



WHERE:

To a host organization located in a **different** country than the country of affiliation

Grant AMOUNT:

Up to **4000 EUR**
Paid after report approval (after the STSM)

ITC, YRI or Dissemination Conference Grants

WHERE:

To high-level conference **not organised by the Action itself**

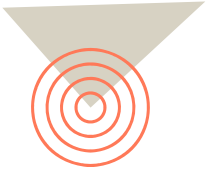
Grant AMOUNT:

Up to **2500 EUR** or **500 EUR** (virtual)
Paid after report approval



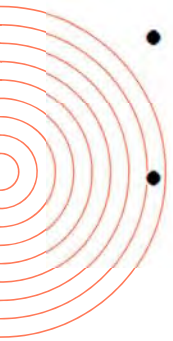
Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) grants

Virtual Mobility (VM) grants

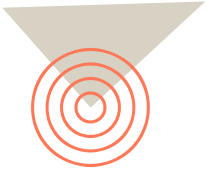


Short-Term Scientific Missions and Virtual Mobility grants:

- Support capacity building and transfer of knowledge through bilateral/multilateral collaborations;
- Support specific / general topic that can help achieving the Action MoU objectives and deliverables (research coordination);
- Are very flexible and inclusive networking activities crucial to establish new collaborations or reinforce existing collaborations across disciplines and different sectors (e.g., academia and industry / SMEs) with possible impact on career development;
- Outcomes (e.g. spin-off publications and (funded) projects) contribute to the visibility and impact of the COST Actions, encouraging other researchers to join.



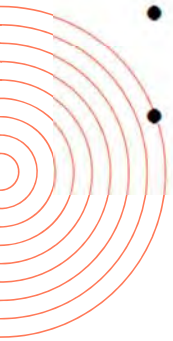
Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) grants



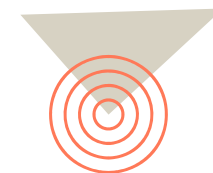
Short-Term Scientific Mission grant funds a visit to a host organization located in a different country than the country of affiliation (for Affiliation, see Article 4.1.1.1.1) by a researcher or innovator for specific work to be carried out and for a determined period of time.

Short-Term Scientific Missions grant **benefits to:**

- **STSM Grantee:** receives funding for implementing a project with an international team and gains new knowledge or access to equipment or techniques not available in the home institution;
- **STSM Host:** receives an international partner in their institution and can develop long lasting collaboration.



Conference grant types – ITC Conference Grant



ITC Conference grant funds an **oral** presentation of their own work **within the scope of the Action** by **an Action Participant affiliated to a legal entity located** in an Inclusiveness Target Country / Near Neighbour Country in a high-level conference fully organized by a third party, i.e. not organized nor co-organized by the COST Action.

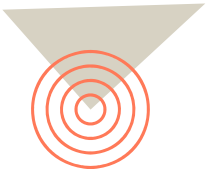
ITC Conference grant:

- Serve COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy;
- Supports **Action Participant** affiliated to a legal entity located in an Inclusiveness Target Countries/ Near Neighbour Countries to establish a strong network and increase their visibility in the research community through sharing their work and to gain knowledge;
- Can contribute to increasing visibility of the Action.

ITC Conference grant **benefits to:**

- **ITC Conference Grantee:** receives support for attending and presenting their **own work within the scope of the Action** (oral presentation) in a conference and can establish new contacts for future collaborations.

Conference grant types – YRI Conference Grant



YRI Conference grant funds a presentation (poster/oral presentation) of their own work by a Young Researcher and Innovator (YRI) in a high-level conference fully organized by a third party, i.e. not organized nor co-organized by the COST Action.

YRI Conference grant:

- Serves COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy;
- Supports Young Researchers and Innovators to establish a strong network and increase their visibility in the research community through sharing their work and to gain knowledge;
- Can contribute to increasing visibility of the Action.

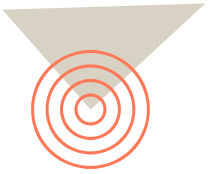
YRI Conference grant **benefits to:**

- **YRI Conference Grantee:** receives support for attending and presenting their own work within the scope of the Action (poster/oral presentation) in a conference and can establish new contacts for future collaborations.

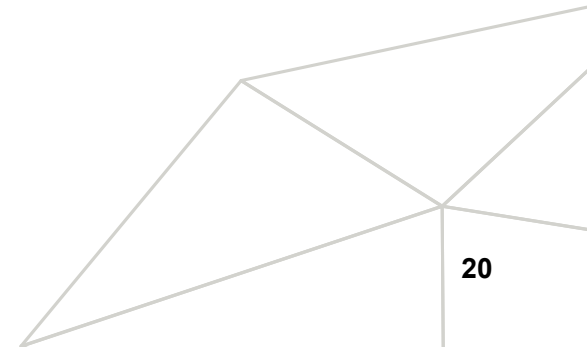
Important grant changes

New Annotated Rules for COST Actions

from 25/09/2024



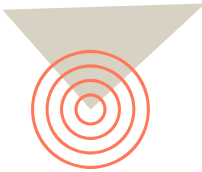
- **ITC Conference Grants** - **oral presentation** now mandatory, previously a poster contribution was acceptable
- **YRI Conference Grants** - **new** grant type for Young Researchers and Innovators in conferences fully organized by a third party, **poster or oral presentation** acceptable



What to include in the application?

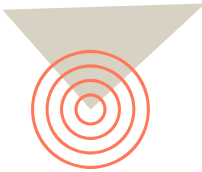
Networking Activity	Information to be provided in the application
STSM	<u>To be filled in e-COST:</u> • Title • Start and end date (within the active Grant Period, i.e. no overlap across two consecutive Grant Periods) • Budget requested by the applicant; • Information about the host institution and contact person. Location of host institution must be in a different country than the country of affiliation of the applicant; <u>To be uploaded to e-COST:</u> • Application form (template available on e-COST) describing: Goals, description of the work to be carried out by the applicant, expected outcomes and description of the contribution to the Action MoU objectives; • Confirmation of the host on the agreement from the host institution in receiving the applicant;

What to include in the application?



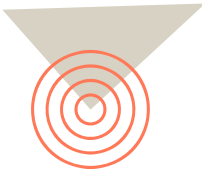
ITC Conference	<u>To be filled in e-COST:</u> • Title of the presentation • Conference title, date (within the active Grant Period, i.e.no overlap across two consecutive Grant Periods) and country; • Budget requested; • Attendance Type (face to face or online) <u>To be uploaded to e-COST:</u> • Application form (template available on e-COST) describing: Relevance of the conference topic to the Action and Motivation describing the potential for impact on the applicant's career. • Copy of the abstract of the accepted oral presentation; • Acceptance (or invitation) letter from the conference organisers; • Other documents required by the Action (e.g. recommendation letter, etc...)
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What to include in the application?



YRI Conference	<u>To be filled in e-COST:</u> • Title of the presentation • Conference title, date (within the active Grant Period, i.e.no overlap across two consecutive Grant Periods) and country; • Budget requested; • Attendance Type (face to face or online) <u>To be uploaded to e-COST:</u> • Application form (template available on e-COST) describing: Relevance of the conference topic to the Action and Motivation describing the potential for impact on the applicant's career.
	• Copy of the abstract of the accepted poster or oral presentation; • Acceptance (or invitation) letter from the conference organisers; • Other documents required by the Action (e.g. recommendation letter, etc...)

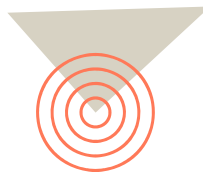
What to include in the application – COSY rules



- an important criterium on which the evaluation of the application will depend is the compatibility of the objectives of the planned activity with the objectives of COSY itself as well as with the goals of the working groups (WGs) in the running Grant Period
- applicants should mention in their application, as well as in the final report, both the (main) WG to which their activity belongs, as well as the scientific objectives their STSM is supposed to address
- exact details on the objectives can be found at the links:

<https://cost-cosy.eu/objectives/fourth-grant-period-goals/>
<https://cost-cosy.eu/objectives/general-objectives-of-cosy>
<https://cost-cosy.eu/objectives/deliverables>

What is funded and how much?



STSM Grant	Providing a contribution for travelling, accommodation and subsistence expenses, implementation of the project, delivery of the report to the COST Action MC and overall effort.	Up to EUR 4 000,00 per grant
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What is funded and how much?

ITC Conference Grant	Providing a contribution for travelling, accommodation and subsistence expenses, registration fee and overall effort.	Up to EUR 2 500,00 per grant for face-to-face conferences
Dissemination Conference Grant		OR EUR 500.00 for online conferences
YRI Conference Grant	Providing a contribution for travelling, accommodation and subsistence expenses, registration fee, printing	Up to EUR 2 500,00 per grant for face-to-face conferences OR

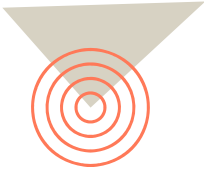
✓ Daily Allowance is based on the country of the event (Meeting or Training School)

✓ It can be lowered (e.g., due to lack of budget)

Country	Daily allowance	Country	Daily allowance	Country	Daily allowance
Albania	185	Greece	199	Poland	200
Austria	205	Hungary	196	Portugal	201
Belgium	236	Iceland	236	Romania	192
Bosnia and Herzegovina	201	Ireland	217	Serbia	196
Bulgaria	196	Israel	201	Slovakia	194
Croatia	201	Italy	207	Slovenia	192
Cyprus	210	Latvia	196	Spain	197
Czech Republic	196	Lithuania	187	Sweden	236
Denmark	215	Luxembourg	211	Switzerland	215
Estonia	197	Malta	197	North Macedonia	196
Finland	213	Moldova	185	Türkiye	196
France	201	Montenegro	187	Ukraine	196
Georgia	196	Netherlands	217	United Kingdom	236
Germany	218	Norway	236	Any other country	222



What to do after the activity?



Reporting and claim for payment of the grant:

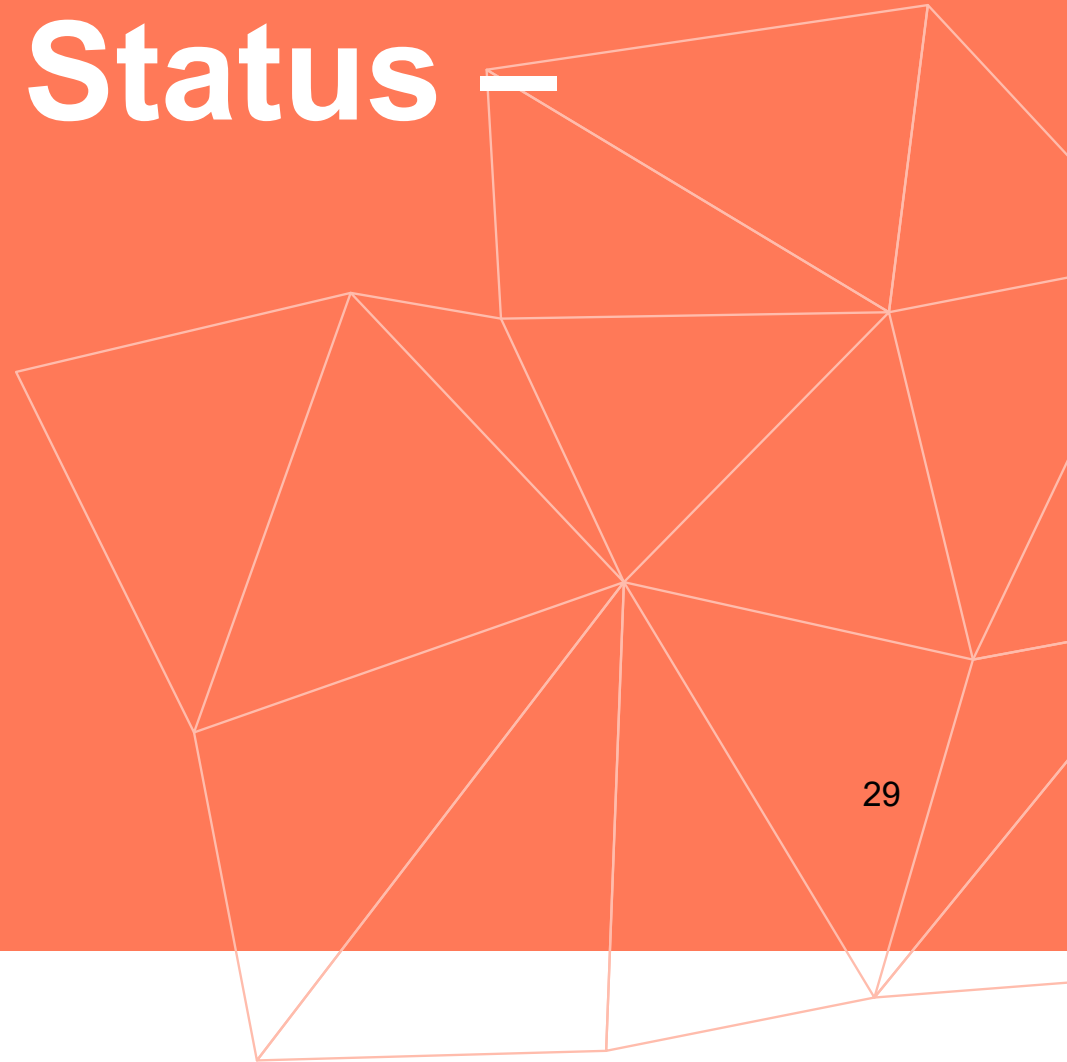
- Once the activity has ended, the grantee submits the required reports and relevant documentation in e-COST within 30 days after the end date of the activity or 15 days after the end of the Grant Period, whichever date comes first;
- Claim the payment by submitting the report via e-COST;

Receiving payment of the grant:

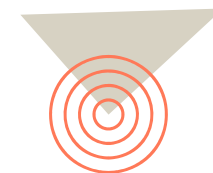
- Grants are paid by the Grant Holder Institution after the completion of the activity and approval of all required report/documentation.

However, STSMs grantees may request up to 50% pre-payment of the approved grant. This amount is subject to availability of funds and approval by the Grant Holder Institution. The request of pre-payment shall be submitted to the Grant Holder Manager.

Grant Awarding Status – COSY



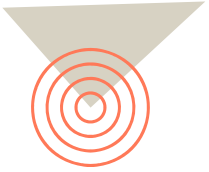
Grant Awarding by COSY – 1st, 2nd and 3rd GP



- Short-term scientific missions (STSMs):
 - 1st GP: 16 approved, 44 % from ITC, 31 % female, 60 % young
 - 2nd GP: 29 approved, 52 % from ITC, 41 % female, 92 % young
 - 3rd GP: 35 approved, 37 % from ITC,* 49 % female, 97 % young
- ITC Conference Grants:
 - 1st GP: 2 approved, 100 % female, 100 % young
 - 2nd GP: 4 approved, 75 % female, 100 % young
 - 3rd GP: 2 approved, 0 % female, 100 % young
- Dissemination Conference Grants:
 - 1st GP: 2 approved, 50 % from ITC, 50 % female
 - 2nd and 3rd GP: 0 approved



Grant Awarding by COSY – 4th GP so far

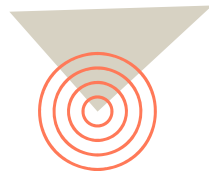


- Short-term scientific missions (STSMs):
 - **5** approved, **2** pending applications
- ITC Conference Grants:
 - **1** pending application
- YRI Conference Grants:
 - **no** applications yet
- Dissemination Conference Grants:
 - **not** planned in the 4th GP (lack of interest)

around 12 000 EUR
still available until
the end of the 4th GP

PLEASE APPLY!

More information



Annotated Rules for COST Actions:

<https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/02/COST-094-21-V2.0-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C.pdf>

COST Grant Awarding User guide:

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2025/01/COST-Grant-Awarding-user-guide.pdf&ved=2ahUKEwjEs6XLjYqOAxVG7rsIHUW0BC4QFnoECAkQAQ&usg=AOvVaw01wEuLv5Ydhel6qn-m6ELK>

More details on the official COSY website:

<https://cost-cosy.eu/grants/>

