



Growing
ideas
through
networks

Update from the COST Association to the Management Committee

Dr. Lucia Forzi - Science Officer

COST Member Countries

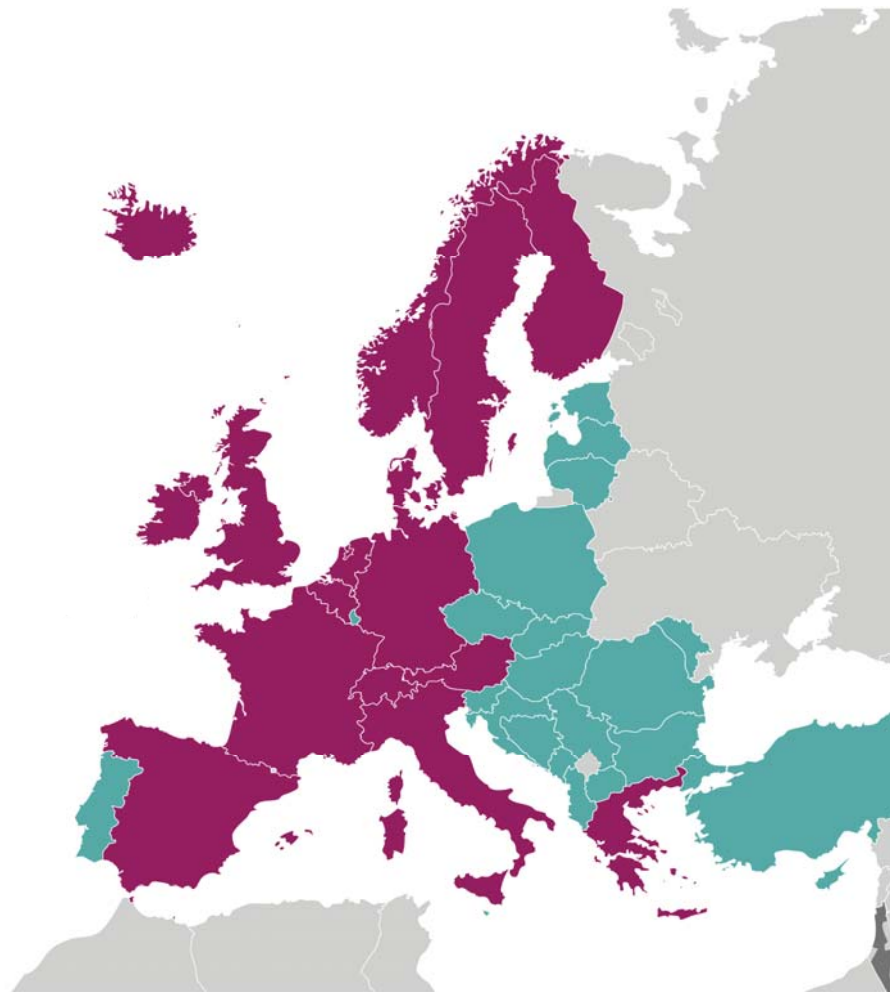
38 COST Full Members:

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, Moldova, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The countries in green are the less research-intensive COST countries, also known as **Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITCs)**

1 Cooperating State:

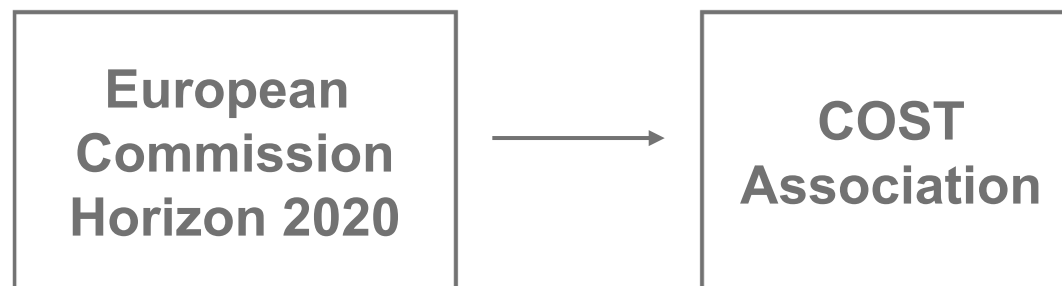
Israel





EUR 300 million for 7 years from two H2020 work programmes:

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





COST Policy

Additionally, specific objectives:

- SME and Industry cooperation
- International Cooperation





Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC)

- **COST aims to:**

- Connect “**pockets of excellence**” in S&T operating from diverse locations in Europe
- Encourage and enable researchers from **less research-intensive** countries to get more involved in all COST activities
- Counterbalance research communities **unequal access** to knowledge infrastructures, funding and resources distribution



Early Career Investigators & Gender Balance

Early Career Investigators → PhD + up to 8 years

- Strong involvement of Early Career Researchers in the Action

Good gender balance in the Action

- Strong involvement of underrepresented gender in the Action



Implementing COST policy in the Action

The Action should have a plan towards inclusiveness :

- **Geographical Coverage (ITC list)**
- **Early Career Investigator (ECI) involvement**
- **Gender Balance**

How?

- Leadership roles
- Organizing and locating Action meetings and events
- Benefiting from COST networking tools
- Promoting STSMs, Conference Grants
- Action Think Tank for ECI



SME and Industry Cooperation

Aiming to facilitate/ encourage industry participation

- Participation in networking activities
- Session dedicated to industrial participation at Action events
- Roundtable discussions with industrial partners at Action events
- STSMs with industry acting as home/ host institution



International Cooperation

Aiming to support the involvement of researchers from **Near Neighbour** and **International Partner Countries** in COST Actions on the basis of mutual benefit.

- Approved IPC and NNC Institutions can host STSMs
- Researchers from approved NNC Institutions can:
 - Apply for STSMs
 - Attend Training Schools
- Researchers from approved IPC and NNC Institutions can be Training School Trainers



Monitoring and Final Assessment of Actions

- Achievement of MoU objectives and deliverables
- Contribution to the COST Mission and implementation of COST policies
- Dissemination and exploitation of COST Action results

Monitoring and Final Assessment of Actions

Type	Time (months)	Content	Assessment / Evaluation by
Progress Review 1	12	Implementation of SC Recommendations & COST Policy on Excellence and Inclusiveness	Scientific Committee
Progress Review 2	24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress • Impacts and successes • Dissemination & Exploitation • Urgent needs for improvement 	Independent External Expert
Final Assessment	48	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MoU Achievements • Expected Impact & Successes • Dissemination & Exploitation • Added value of the networking • Success stories • Emerging themes/ potentially important future developments 	Independent External Expert



CA17116: Monitoring - PR1 (month 12)

- Timeline: October 2019
- e-COST based reporting by Action Chair on behalf of MC
- Data provided by the COST Association – Comments provided by the Action (% of ITC, ECIs, Gender in the Action MC and how these % are related to the allocation of Action leading roles)
 - Comparison between proposal stage and Action implementation, as well comparison to the average of all Actions
- **SC Recommendations & COST Policy on Excellence and Inclusiveness** (*from the proposal stage*)
- **SC analysis and outcome of PR1 either:**
 - implementation **sufficient**
 - implementation **insufficient but plans adequate** - *repeat policy implementation monitoring in 1 year*
 - implementation **insufficient and plans inadequate** - *Action to meet with SC*



MC meeting

Use this meeting to:

- 1) Ensure how to achieve the goals identified for GP1
 - 2) Start to identify goals for GP2
- The aim is to achieve the **MoU objectives** and **deliverables**



WBP (GP1)

Grant Agreement Period Goals

Number	Grant Agreement Period Goal	MoU Objective(s) it relates to
GAPG 1	Development of in vitro studies questionnaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Secondary objective 1• Secondary objective 8
GAPG 2	Development of in vivo preclinical studies questionnaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Secondary objective 2• Secondary objective 8
GAPG 3	Development of clinical trials questionnaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Secondary objective 3• Secondary objective 8
GAPG 4	Mapping of the regulatory landscape of placenta derivatives (regulatory classification of perinatal cells and derivatives)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Secondary objective 4• Secondary objective 9
GAPG 5	Create general public and professional awareness of SPRINT Cost Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Secondary objective 6• Secondary objective 7• Secondary objective 9

WBP (GP1)



COST Action CA17116, COST Association

International Network for Translating Research on Perinatal Derivatives into Therapeutic Approaches

Workplan status: AGA Signed COST

Assigned Grant Holder: Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Roma, Italy)

GH Manager/Administrative Representative: [Dr Filippo Elvino Leone](#)

COST Action CA17116 Annex A of the Grant Agreement (not editable) from 2018-11-01 to 2019-04-30

Networking Tools	Quantity	Budget
Meetings	1	EUR 77 125.00
Training Schools	0	EUR 0.00
Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM)	0	EUR 0.00
ITC Conference Grant	0	EUR 0.00
COST Action Dissemination	1	EUR 4 500.00
Other Expenses Related to Scientific Activities (OERSA)	0	EUR 0.00
Total Science Expenditure		EUR 81 625.00
Financial and Scientific Administration and Coordination (FSAC) - MAX. 15%	15 %	EUR 12 243.75
Total Grant		EUR 93 868.75



CA17116: Grant Periods

Following Grant Periods:

- GP2: From 01/05/2019 to 30/04/2020
 - Budget: 120 000 EUR
- GP3: From 01/05/2020 to 30/04/2021
- GP4: From 01/05/2021 to 30/04/2022
- GP5: From 01/05/2022 – 15/10/2022 (Action end date)

No carry over of underspent budget from one GP to the next!

Reminders

MC decision taking procedure

MC MEETINGS

Minimum once a year in COST Member participating in the Action

Typical duration ½ day

Decisions only valid if at least 2/3 of the COST Members participating are represented

Simple majority vote of MC Members - **1 vote / COST Members** participating in the Action

MC Chair does not have the right to vote

MC decision must be minuted and sent to the COST Association

E-VOTE

Initiated and managed by the MC Chair (or by the Vice-Chair when the Chair is affiliated with the Grant Holder)

All MC members are in the e-mail list

Vote open for 7 days

Simple majority vote of MC Members - **1 vote / COST Members** participating in the Action

MC decision must be included in the official MC minutes of the following MC Meeting



Dissemination

▪ Action Publication and Dissemination Activities

COST Action budget and paid by the Grant Holder

- Responsibility of the Management Committee
- Publication and dissemination strategy must be reflected in the Work and Budget plan of the specific Grant Period
- Eligible costs: Vademecum requirements

▪ Final Action Dissemination (FAD)

- Material (typically a publication) produced after the 4-years of the Action
- Additional grant (up to max 10 000 EUR) managed directly by Action GH
- Request **6 months** before the official end date of the Action
- Published and Invoice is paid no later than 12 months after the official end of the Action



Dissemination: Supporting Tools

- COST strategy, visual identity and how to acknowledge COST funding: our brand book

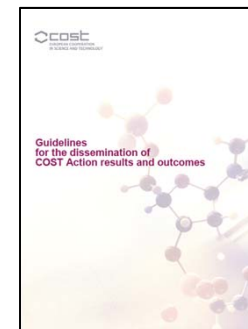
<http://www.cost.eu/visualidentity>

- Guidelines for Dissemination of COST Action results:

http://www.cost.eu/Action_dissemination_guidelines

- Science Communication How-to Toolkit

<http://www.cost.eu/module/download/65015>



Co-organised activities and sessions

■ Co-organised activities: expected

- Action participants (especially MC members) to constitute half of the SC of the conference
- Approx. 50% speakers and session Chairs to be Action participants (especially MC members and active WG members)
- Good representation of the Action participants in the audience
- LOS and invited speakers fairly shared between the Action and the external organisation/ body/ institution
- In the WBP describe the added benefits of this co-organisation

■ Session in a conference: expected

- Only the speakers of the session can be reimbursed
- Reimbursement must follow the rules of reimbursement based on the duration of the session, not of the conference



How IPCs, NNCs and Specific Organisation join an Action

- 1. Entity already included in the proposal = Founders**
 - After 1st MC: Chair encodes mutual benefit
 - Chair initiates MC approval in e-COST
 - 2. New Entity**
 - Chair encodes applicant details in e-COST
 - Applicant and Chair complete application form in e-COST
 - Online approval by MC and COST Association
- Once the **Institution** is approved the applicant becomes **MC Observer**

CA17116: NNCs & IPCs



COST Action CA17116, COST Association
International Network for Translating Research on Perinatal Derivatives into Therapeutic Approaches

The following are MC Observer requests being processed (click on one to see the Detail page).

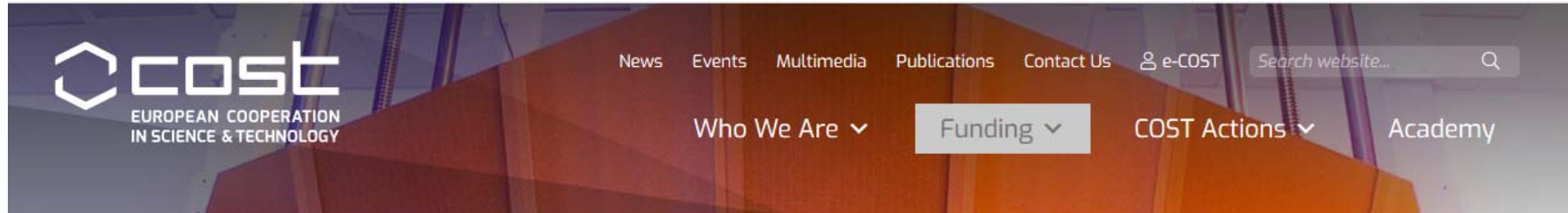
#	ID	Type	Action	Country	Institution	Status
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
1	3267	NNCF	CA17116	UA	Institute of Cell Therapy	Approved by MC decisions on 2018-12-21

List of Other participants from SESA Proposal that are not yet process (click to start processing).

#	CTRY	Type	Institution	City
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
1	CN	COST International Partners	Peking University Shenzhen Hospital	Shenzhen
2	CN	COST International Partners	Sichuan University	Chengdu
3	IN	COST International Partners	University of Madras	Chennai
4	IR	COST International Partners	Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences	Tehran
5	JP	COST International Partners	Nihon University School of Medicine	Tokyo
6	SA	COST International Partners	King Abdullah International Medical Research Center/ King Saud bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences	Riyadh
7	US	COST International Partners	Keck School of Medicine of USC	Los Angeles

COST: Important documents

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



Key documents



Vademecum

Download



Announcement Open Call 2019

Download



COST Open Call SESA guidelines

Download



Guidelines for Action management, monitoring and assessment

Download



Guidelines for the communication, dissemination and exploitation of COST Action results and outcomes

Download



Financial reporting - External user guide

Download

Documents and
Guidelines in brief:

The documents on this page
provide more information for
COST Action participants and
interested parties.

This information is also
provided on the relevant
pages of the COST website.



Reminders

- Any addition/revision of activities not in the approved WBP (Grant Agreement) needs MC and SO approval
- Ensure that total allocated budget is used
- Always send to COST Association (SO and AO) the minutes of the MC meetings and upload them in e-COST