

# Management of COST Actions in Horizon Europe

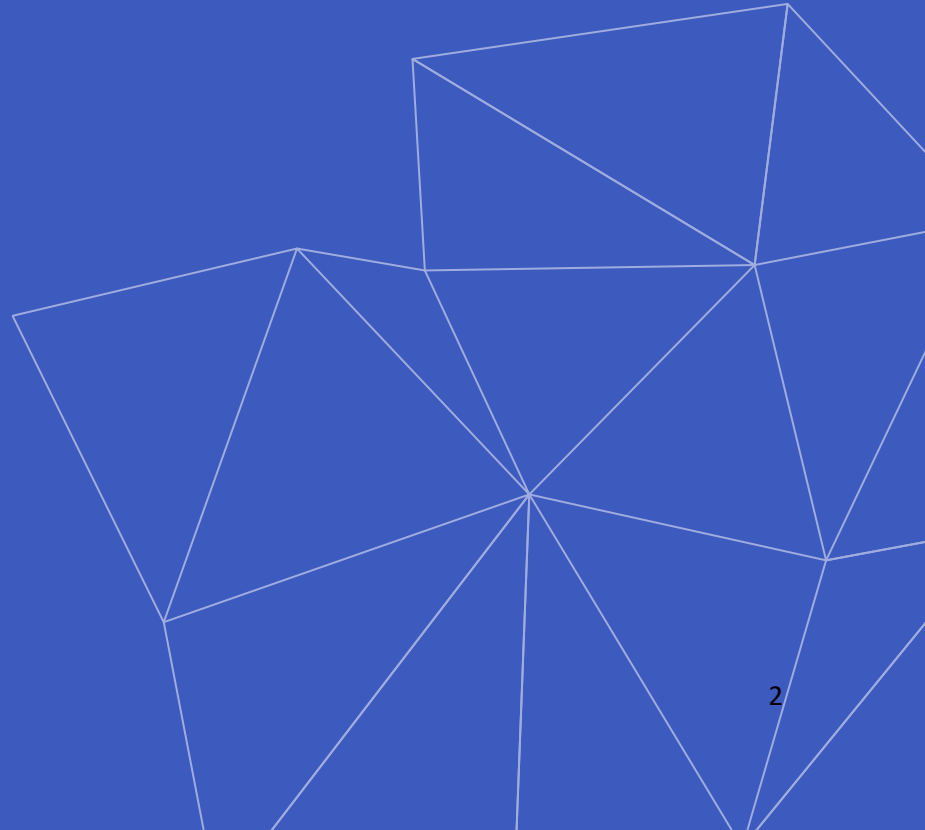
Webinar

29 June 2021



Ronald de Bruin

Welcome

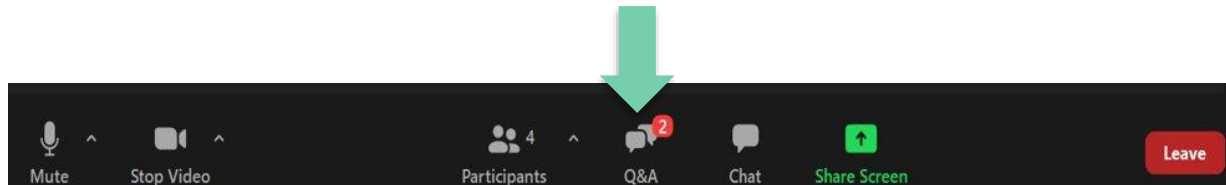


# Etiquette for today's Webinar

- This webinar will be recorded and shared among Action Chairs and Grant Holder Managers
- Your name will not be visible
- Participant audio/video are disabled
- Use chat function for technical issues

## Q&A Function

- Ask clear and concise questions related to the topic
- You can ask questions anonymously
- You can upvote others' question that you're interested in



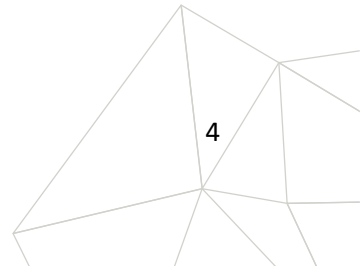
# Purpose of Today



- Briefly inform about the main changes to the rules impacting COST Actions.
- Become aware of the change management plan by the COST Administration.

## Agenda

- Main changes to Rules for COST Actions
- Next Steps
- Q&A



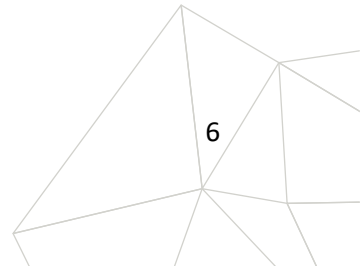
# Rules for COST Actions



# The rationale



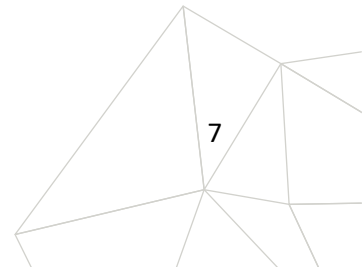
- **Simplification** strongly desired by all stakeholders
  - ***COST Actions*** - Grant Management Study and Customer Satisfaction Survey.
  - ***COST Association*** - become more efficient and provide better service to the Actions
- **Shift of focus:** from managerial tasks to science networking



# Main Changes affecting running Actions



- People and Countries
  - Membership of Actions (COST Members and Specific Organisations)
  - Participation of Individuals to COST Actions
- Leadership Positions
  - Overview
  - Grant Awarding Coordinator
- Management Committee
  - Composition, substitution and decision making
  - Nomination to the MC
- Eligibility
  - Reimbursement of individuals
  - Location of activities



# People and Countries

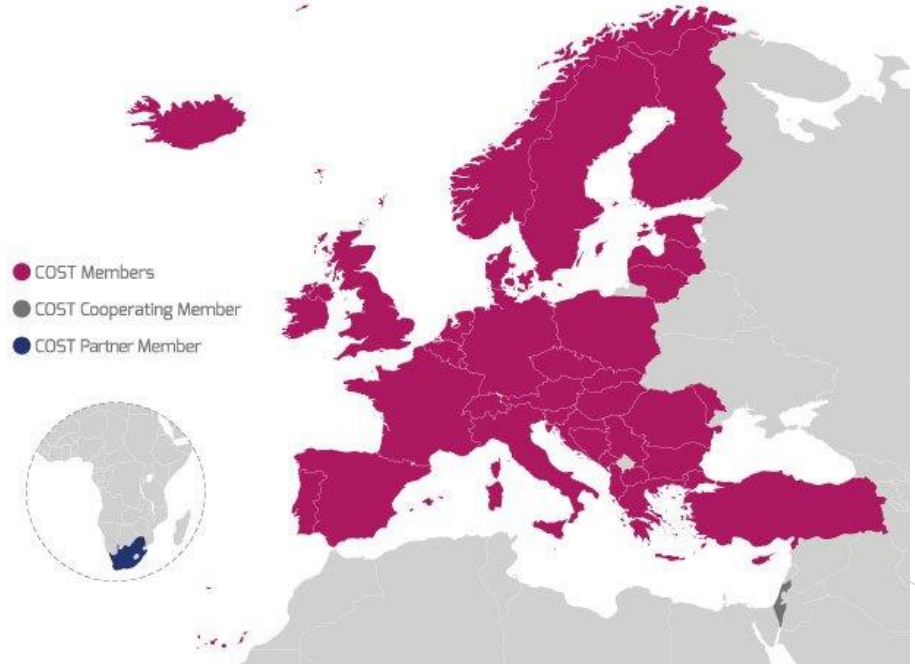




# Membership of Actions



- **COST Members**
  - Participate in all Actions
  - Any researcher and innovator from a COST Member can participate.
  - No obligation to nominate a MC member (or Observer, in the case of Partner Member).
- **Specific Organisations (multinational organisations)**
  - European RTDs
  - EU institutions
  - IO

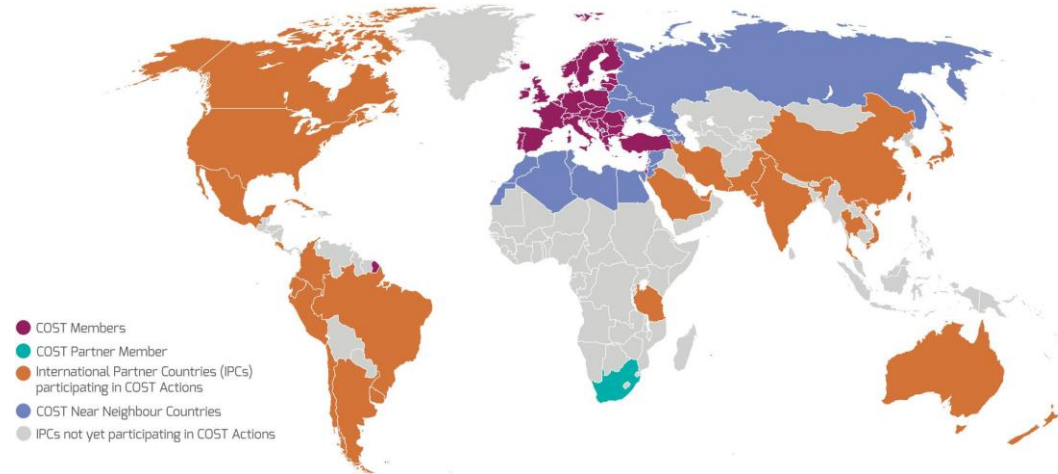


# Participation of Individuals



## WG member

- Open to any individual affiliated in a legal entity
- Subject to MC approval.
- New eCOST tool to support management of WG members. Information on COST website giving visibility to the concerned individuals.
- Does not entitle individual to be reimbursed for participating in COST Action activities. This remains a decision of the MC under the COST eligibility framework.



## Other Participants (ad hoc)



# Main changes

- Number of countries in a COST Action will be:
  - All 40: 38 Full members + 1 Cooperating Member + 1 Partner Member
- WG members will be registered on e- COST and visible on the COST website.

# Leadership Positions



# Leadership Positions



**Mandatory leadership positions** - needed to assure the good implementation of a COST Action.

COST Actions can establish **any other leadership positions (according to own needs)**.

**Only Chair, Vice Chair and GH SR need to be MC members.**

Affiliation to	Mandatory positions		Other leadership positions (e.g., WG co-leaders, international advisor, ...)
	Chair/Vice Chair GH SR Grant Awarding Coordinator	WG Leader Science Communication Coordinator	
Legal entity in a COST F/C Member*	✓	✓	✓
Legal entity in a COST Partner Member	✗	✓	✓
The EC, EU bodies, offices, and agencies (EC/EU)	✓	✓	✓
A European RTD Organisation	✓	✓	✓
An International Organisation	✗	✓	✓
Legal entity in an NNC	✗	✗	✓
Legal entity in an IPC/Third State	✗	✗	✓

# Grant Awarding Coordinator



- COST Actions will be able to award several types of grants to support the following networking activities:
  - Mobility of researchers and innovators
  - Attendance of conferences organised by 3<sup>rd</sup> parties –
    - Capacity building (limited to young researchers and innovators from ITC or NNC)
    - Dissemination of COST Actions' work and results. (NEW)
- 1 Mandatory position to coordinate the opening of calls, evaluation procedures, etc.
- Can be supported by other leadership positions (or committees) created by the Action.

# Main changes



- New Leadership Position will need to be elected –
  - Grant Awarding Coordinator
- No need to be an MC member to take up most of the Leadership positions
- Possibility for researchers in the Partner Member, the NNCs and IPCs/third states to take some leadership positions
- Action specific leadership positions will be encoded on eCOST and visible on the website.
- Dissemination Meeting – is now a Grant

# Management Committee





# Management Committee



## MC Members

up to 2 representatives per COST Full or Cooperating Member

## MC Observers

up to 2 representatives per the COST Partner Member

up to 1 representative per specific organisation that is a member of the Action

## Substitution of MC Members and Observers

- ✓ Among the WG members affiliated in the same COST Member or Specific Organisation.
- ✓ Indicated by the MC Member and Observer for a specific event or period.

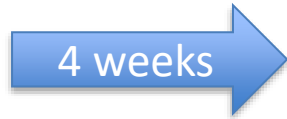
# Nomination to the MC



- ✓ At any time, from publication of the MoU until the Action end date.
- ✓ After MC1: tacit approval. 4 weeks to refuse based on a written S&T or Networking justification

## For COST Members

CNC nominates an individual and Action receives automatic notification



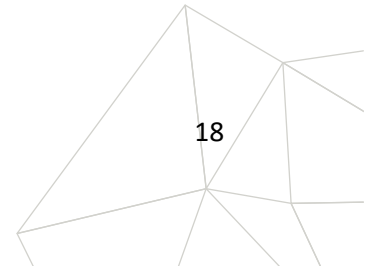
Action provides justification for rejection?



Individual becomes MC member

## For Specific Organisations

Similar process than today, simplified and aligned with the nomination from COST Members.

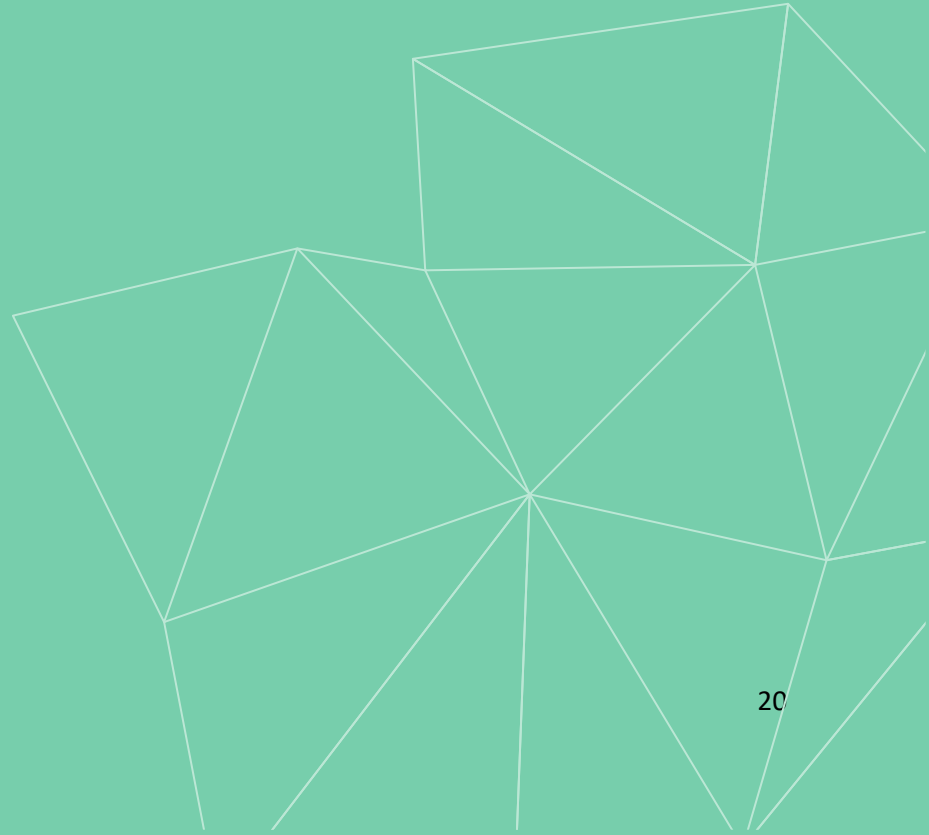




# Main changes

- No more permanent MC substitutes nor MC Observers from NNC or IPC
- Action to approve all MC members within 4 weeks

# Eligibility



# Reimbursement of individuals



- ✓ MC Meeting:
  - ✓ Open to any relevant participant (even if not MC member) as attendee.
  - ✓ MC can decide to reimburse only 1 MC member per country.
  
- ✓ Invited Speakers:
  - ✓ No more limit of 4 per event
  - ✓ Concept substituted by ad hoc participant

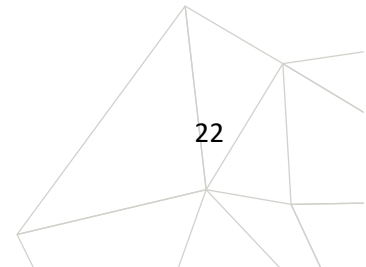
Affiliation to		Meetings		Training Schools			Other networking activities	
		Invited individual	Local Organiser	Trainer	Trainee	Local Organiser	ITC Conf Grant*	All others
COST Members	Legal entity in COST F/C Member	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Legal entity in CPM	At COST Partner Member's costs (dedicated budget line)						
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	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
NNC	Legal entity in a NNC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
IPC / Third States	Legal entity in an IPC	Once in the lifetime of the Action	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗

# Location of Activities

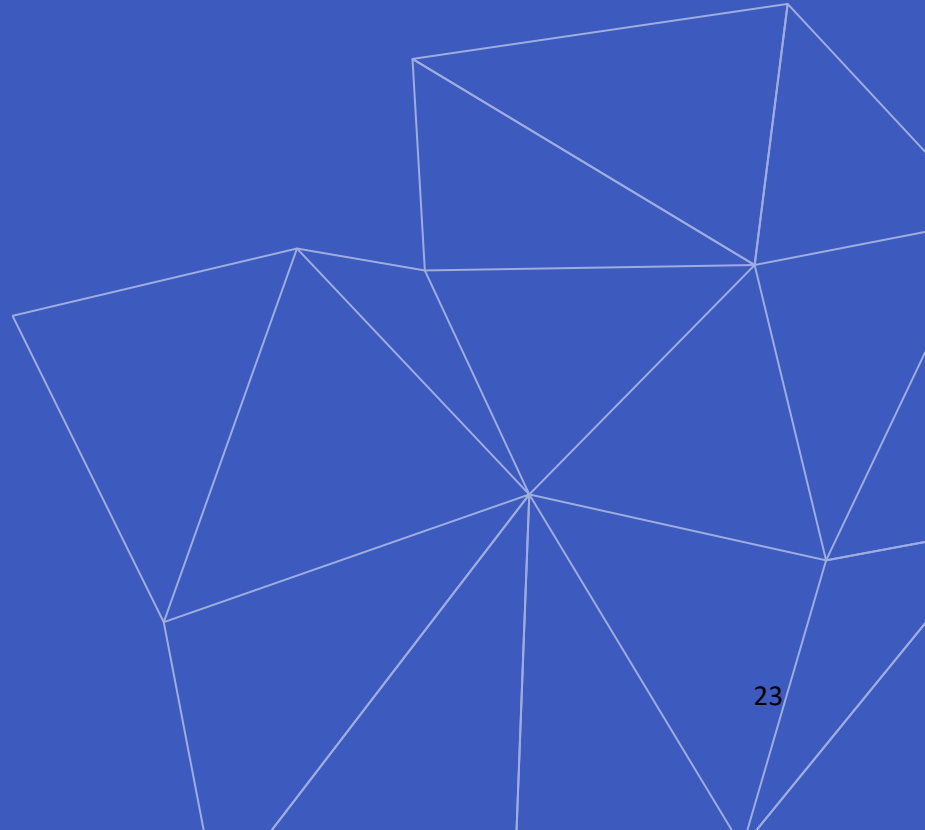


		Meetings	Training Schools and other networking activities
Virtual Environment		✓	✓
COST Members	Full or Cooperating Members	✓	✓
	Partner Member	✗	✓
NNC		✓	✓
IPC/Third State		✗	✓
Specific Organisations		Rule applicable to territory where it is vested	

✓ MC meeting: can be organised using virtual means.



# Next Steps



# Next Steps



- **Rules will apply as of Nov 1<sup>st</sup>.**
- **What you need to be aware:**
  - New WG membership tool.
  - MC Substitutes and MC Observers from IPC and NNC will be made automatically WG members.
  - Need to elect a Grant Awarding Coordinator.
- **Annotated Rules for COST Actions**
  - Merge 3 current documents: Vademecum, Action Management and Dissemination Guidelines.
  - **Release in September.**
  - New webinar planned (date to be confirmed).



# Q&A

