



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

# Update from the COST Association to the Management Committee

**Dr. Lucia Forzi - Science Officer**

# COST Member Countries

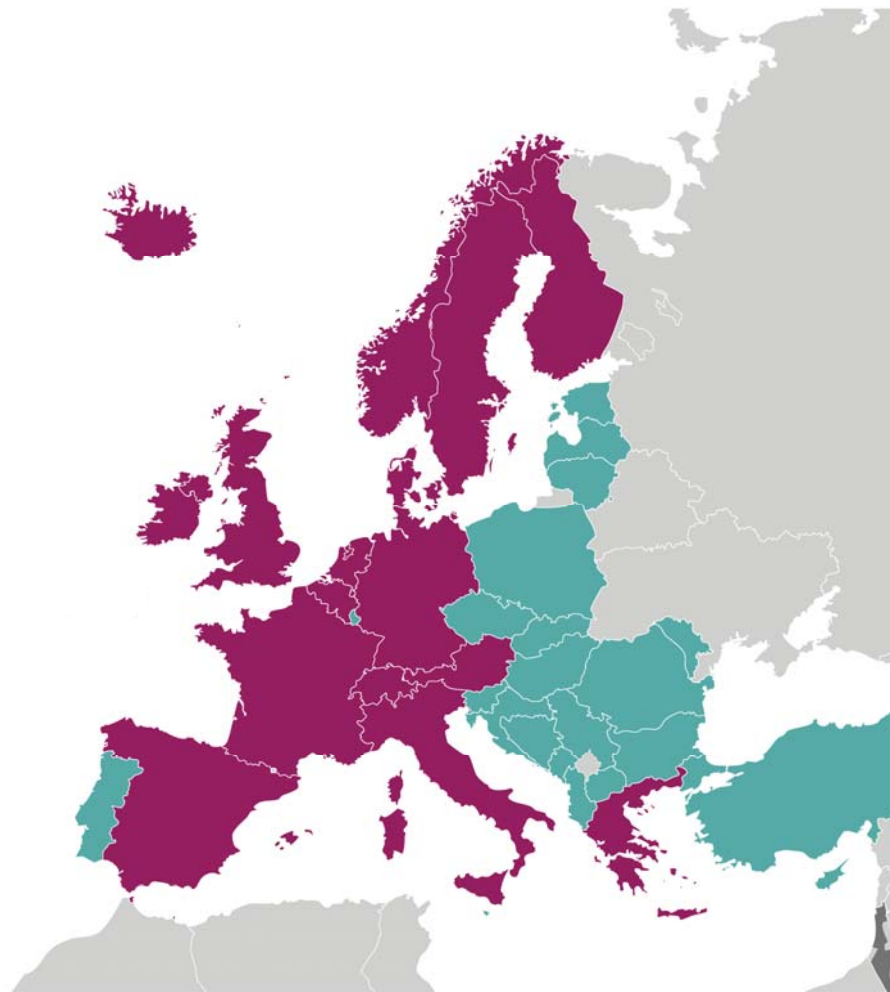
## 38 COST Full Members:

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 Republic of North Macedonia

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

## 1 Cooperating State:

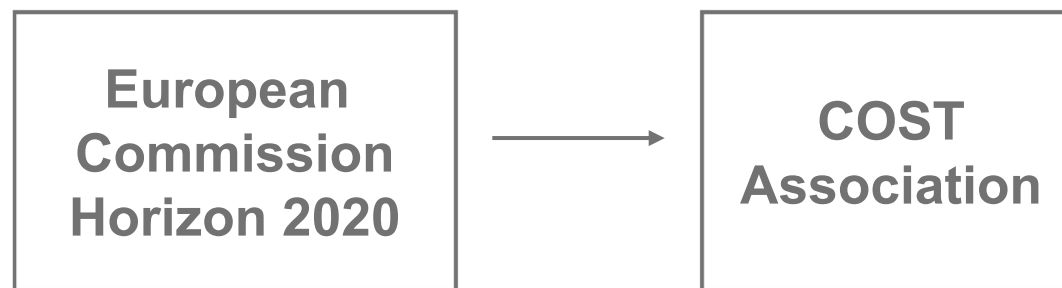
Israel





## 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



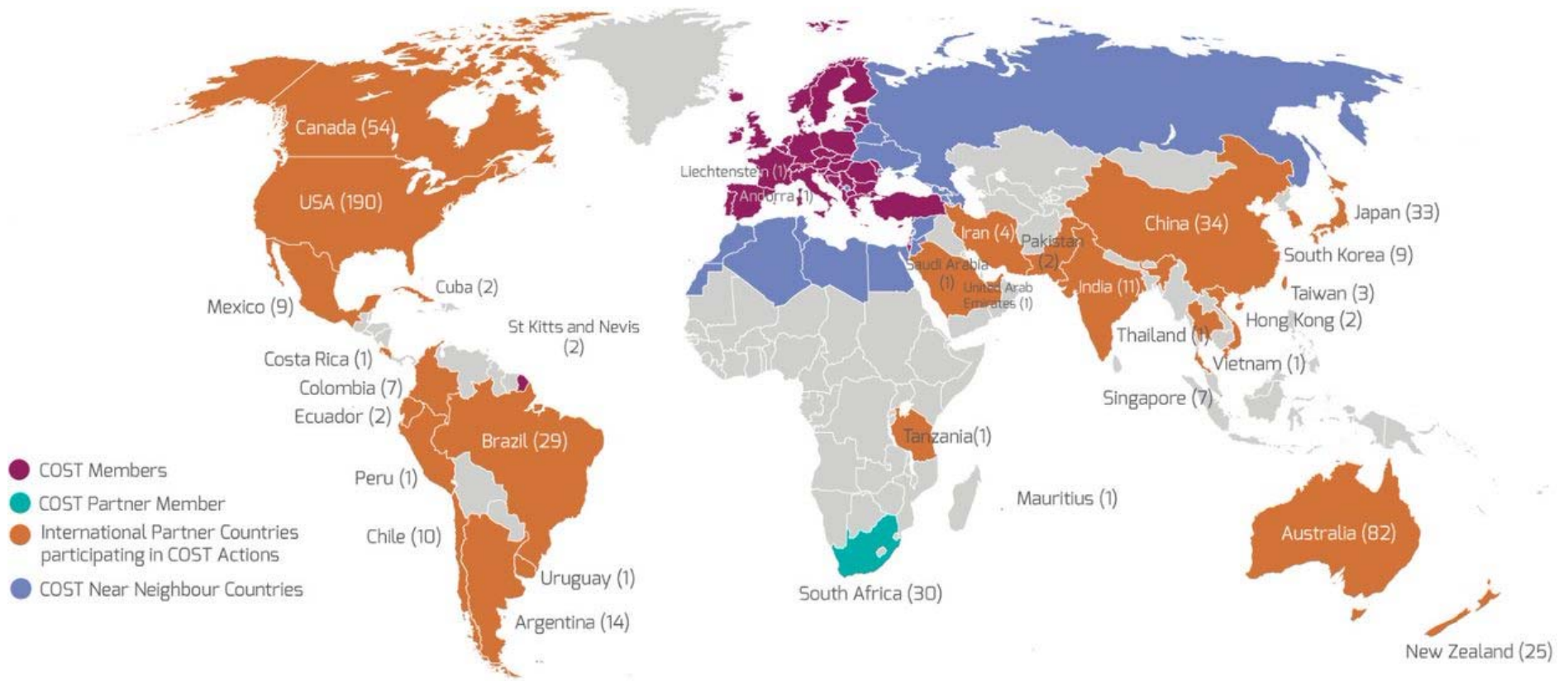


## International Cooperation


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





# NNC and IPC



# CA17140: NNCc & IPCs

 COST Action CA17140, COST Association  
Cancer nanomedicine - from the bench to the bedside

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

#	ID	Type	Action	Country	Institution	Status
		▼	▼	▼		
1	3225	NNCF	CA17140	 BY	Clinics at the MAZ Company	Approved
2	3226	NNCF	CA17140	 RU	Institute of Chemical Biology and Fundamental Medicine	Approved
3	3227	NNCF	CA17140	 RU	Russian National Research Medical University	Approved
4	3256	NNCR	CA17140	 UA	Chuiko Institute of Surface Chemistry of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine	Approved
5	3257	NNCR	CA17140	 RU	Institute of Bioengineering, ITMO University, St Petersburg	Approved
6	3258	IPCR	CA17140	 AU	Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences	Approved
7	3507	IPCR	CA17140	 CA	Université du Québec à Montréal	MC Approval



## 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	<b>Scientific Committee</b>
Progress Review 2	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>	<b>Independent External Expert</b>
Final Assessment	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>• Success stories</li> <li>• Emerging themes/ potentially important future developments</li> </ul>	<b>Independent External Expert</b>

# WBP (GP1)

## Actions / CA17140 / Period 2 / AGA / Workplan Summary



COST Action CA17140, COST Association  
Cancer nanomedicine - from the bench to the bedside

Workplan status: AGA Signed COST

Assigned Grant Holder: UNIWERSYTET LODZKI (Lodz, Poland)  
GH Manager/Administrative Representative: [Ms Joanna Korczyńska](#)

COST Action CA17140 Annex A of the Grant Agreement (not editable) from 2019-05-01 to 2020-04-30

Networking Tools	Quantity	Budget
Meetings	3	EUR 84 560.00
Training Schools	0	EUR 0.00
Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM)	30	EUR 57 000.00
ITC Conference Grant	2	EUR 5 000.00
COST Action Dissemination	1	EUR 280.00
Other Expenses Related to Scientific Activities (OERSA)	1	EUR 116.00
<b>Total Science Expenditure</b>		<b>EUR 146 956.00</b>
Financial and Scientific Administration and Coordination (FSAC) - MAX. 15%	15 %	EUR 22 043.40
<b>Total Grant</b>		<b>EUR 168 999.40</b>



## CA17140: Grant Periods

- GP1: From 01/10/2018 to 30/04/2019
- GP2: From 01/05/2019 to 30/04/2020
- GP3: From 01/05/2020 to 30/04/2021
- GP4: From 01/05/2021 to 30/04/2022
- GP5: From 01/05/2022 – 27/09/2022 (Action end date)

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



# 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

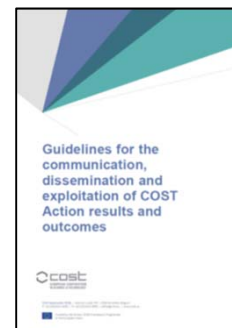




## Dissemination: Supporting Tools

- Eligible costs ➔ *Vademecum*
- COST strategy and visual identity: our brand book
- Guidelines for the Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation of COST Action results and outcomes
- Communicating your Action How-to Kit

You can find all documents are on this page: <https://www.cost.eu/visual-identity/>



# Co-organised activities and sessions

## ■ Co-organised activities: expected

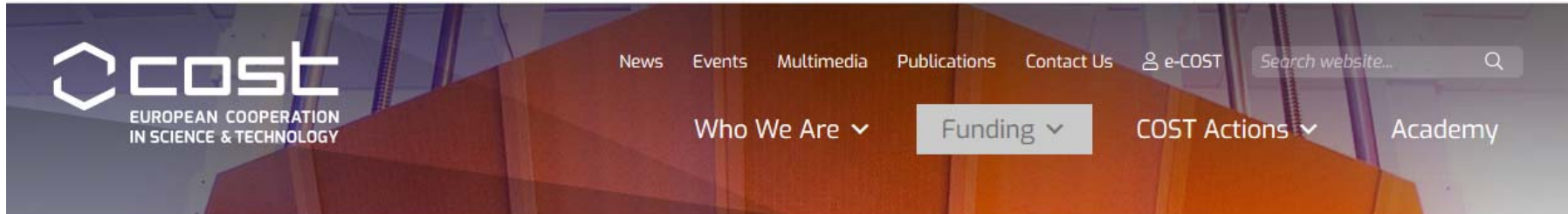
- Action participants (especially MC members) to constitute half of the SC of the conference
- Approx. 50% speakers and session Chairs to be Action participants (especially MC members and active WG members)
- Good representation of the Action participants in the audience
- LOS and invited speakers fairly 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





# COST: Important documents

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



### Key documents

Rectangular Strip

 <b>Vademecum</b> <a href="#">Download</a>	 <b>Guidelines for Action management, monitoring and assessment</b> <a href="#">Download</a>	 <b>Guidelines for the communication, dissemination and exploitation of COST Action results and outcomes</b> <a href="#">Download</a>	 Financial reporting - External user guide <a href="#">Download</a>
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## Reminder

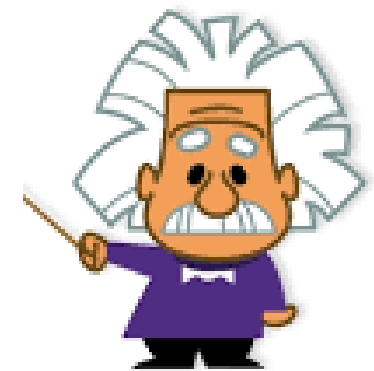
- Any addition/revision of activities not in the approved WBP (Grant Agreement) needs MC and SO approval
- Ensure that total allocated budget is used
- Always send to COST Association (SO and AO) the minutes of the MC meetings and upload them in e-COST



**As a COST Expert, you will have the opportunity to:**

- **contribute to the evaluation of COST Open Call proposals**
- **participate in the assessment of Action results and outcomes**

**[www.cost.eu/cost-actions/participate-external-expert/](http://www.cost.eu/cost-actions/participate-external-expert/)**



> What are COST Actions?

> Browse Actions

> Participate in an ongoing Action

> Action networking tools

Additional activities for Actions

> **Become an external expert**

> Success stories

> Action participant directory

Login

## Become an external expert

Home > Who we are > Working with us > Become an external expert

### Call for COST external experts

We invite experts from all scientific areas to participate in the evaluation of proposals for COST Actions collected twice a year through the COST Open Call.

By being available for occasional, short-term assignments, you will contribute to fair, inclusive and fully transparent scientific project assessment at European level.

A COST external expert must not necessarily belong to academic institutions. However, a university degree and considerable scientific or professional experience in the specific areas of expertise are a requirement.

Experts coming from non-COST countries are also welcome.

### Why become a COST expert?

As a COST external expert, you will have the opportunity to:

- Contribute to the evaluation of COST Open Call proposals.
- Participate in the assessment of Action results and outcomes.

You will:

- Gain insight into the latest scientific and technological developments put forward by COST scientific communities.
- Build on your reputation in the research community through the recognition of your role as a COST expert.
- Contribute to the impact and success of our COST programme.

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- Sign up to our news: [www.cost.eu/subscribe](http://www.cost.eu/subscribe)
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<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.* ”