

**COST (European Cooperation in Science & Technology)**

**COST Action IS1312**

**TextLink: Structuring Discourse in Multilingual Europe**

**1st Management Committee Meeting**

Dr Luule Mizera  
Science Officer  
Individuals, Societies, Cultures and Health (ISCH)  
COST Office, Brussels, 11.04.2014


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**Agenda (morning)**

- Adoption of the agenda
- Status of the COST Action
- Presentation of the delegates (tour de table)
- General information on COST mechanism and on the funding & reporting of coordination activities
- Agreement on the internal rules of procedure for the MC
- Election of the Chair
- Election of the Vice-Chair
- Selection of the Grant Holder


Lunch




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**Agenda (afternoon)**

- Work plan for the implementation of the COST Action
  - Objectives and working programme
  - Working method / organisation & management
  - Distribution of tasks and election of WG Leaders
    - STSM Manager?
    - Training School Manager?
    - Communication Manager?
  - Promotion of gender balance & ESRs (coordinators?)
  - Time table
  - Budget plan for the first period
- Approval of IPC participation, if any
- Place and date of next meeting
- AOB



 **EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**IS1312: TextLink: Structuring Discourse in Multilingual Europe**

**Status of the Action**

**CSO approval:** 15/11/2013

**Start of Action:** 11/04/2014

**End of Action:** 10/04/2018

**Duration:** 4 years

**Parties:** Currently 19 (BE, CH, CZ, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, NL, NO, PL, PT, TR, UK)

**Indicative budget:** 129,000 EUR

**1st Grant Period:** 1/06/2014 - 31/05/2015


**MC Chair:** to be elected at 1st MC Meeting

**MC Vice Chair:** to be elected at 1st MC Meeting

**DC Rapporteur:** Dr Marc CABALL (IE)

**Evaluator:** to be nominated towards the end of the Action

**Presentation of the delegates**

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## About COST

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## What is COST?

Founded in Brussels in 1971 by Ministerial Conference of 19 European states, COST is the first 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 36 Member countries and beyond

COST is open to all disciplines and all novel and ground-breaking S&T ideas, and to all categories of partners where mutual benefit is real

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## COST Mission Statement

COST enables break-through scientific developments leading to new concepts and products and thereby **contributes to strengthen Europe's research and innovation capacities**



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## COST in Figures

- From 19 countries in 1971 to currently 36 countries.
- From 7 Actions to over 310 ongoing Actions
- From 7 Domains in to 9 Domains plus Trans-Domain Pilot

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>30 000</b>      | The number of researchers benefiting from COST Actions every year                   |
| <b>130 000</b>     | The average annual budget of a COST Action (EUR)                                    |
| <b>250 000 000</b> | The COST budget over the 7 years of FP7 (EUR)                                       |
| <b>5 billion</b>   | The amount of national research funding leveraged by COST over 7 years of FP7 (EUR) |

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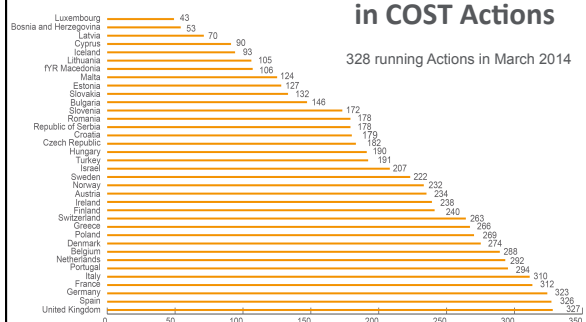
## COST Countries (35+1)



- The 28 EU Member States
- EU Acceding & Candidate Countries
  - ▶ former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
  - ▶ Iceland
  - ▶ Republic of Serbia
  - ▶ Turkey
- Other Countries
  - ▶ Bosnia and Herzegovina
  - ▶ Norway
  - ▶ Switzerland
- COST Cooperating State
  - ▶ Israel

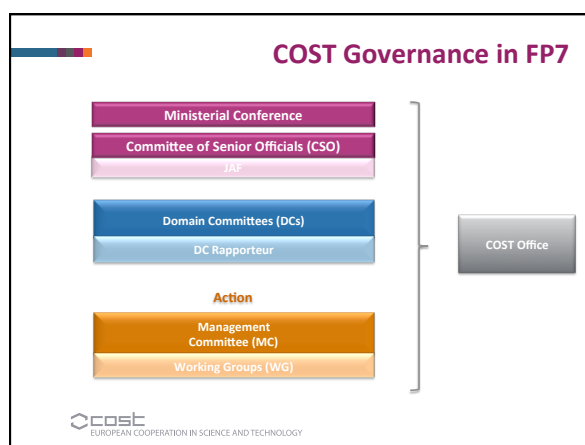
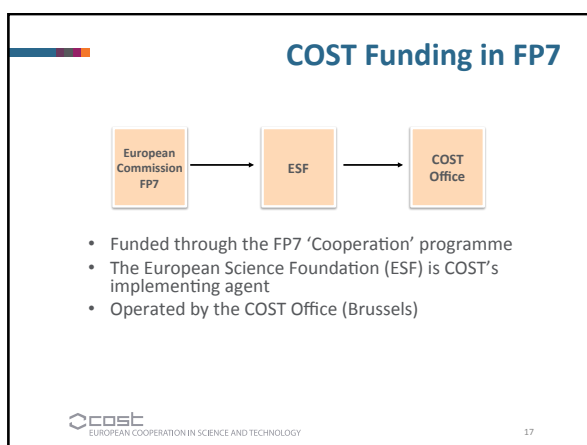
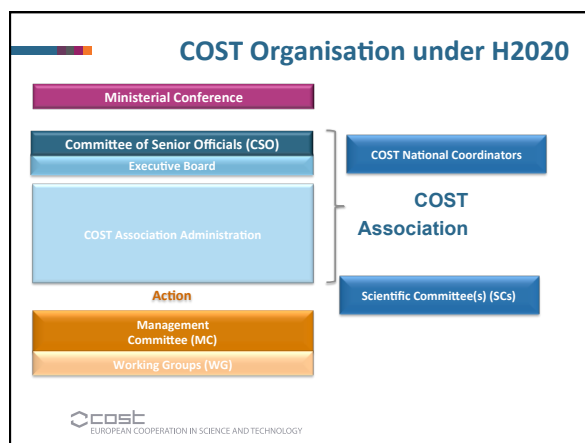
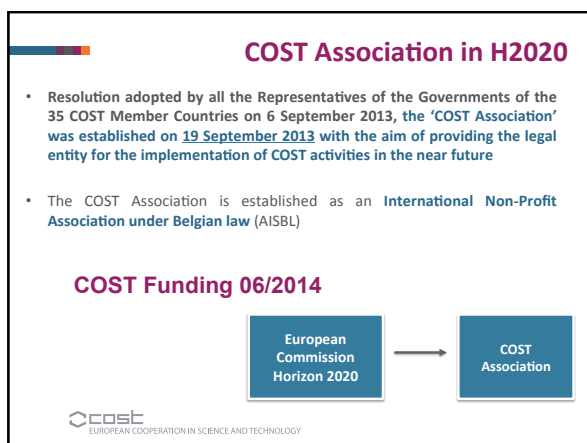
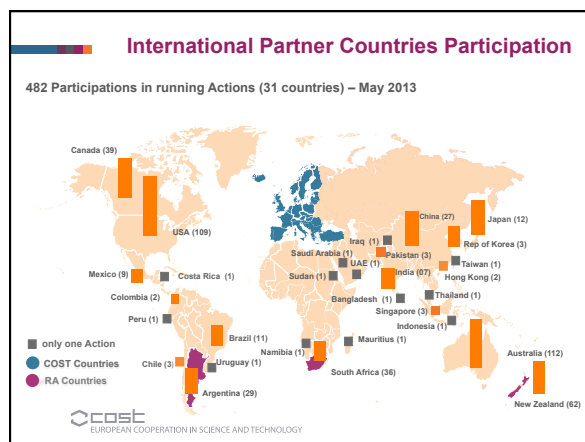
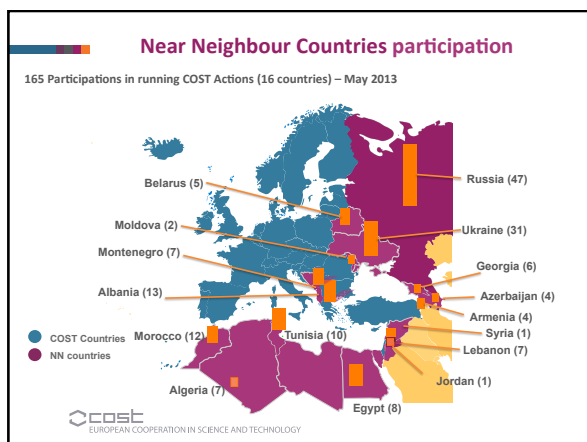
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## Country participation in COST Actions



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## COST Committee of Senior Officials (CSO)

- Main decision-making and governing body of COST
- Representatives of the 35 COST Member Countries and one Cooperating State.
- Each COST Member Country appoints up to two representatives to the CSO (one is the COST National Coordinator - CNC)
- Formulates the general strategy of COST
- Appoints the COST Domain Committees
- Approves the new COST Actions to be launched.
- Approves participation from participants in International Partner Countries

CSO President: Dr Ángeles Rodríguez-Peña  
CSO Vice-President: Dr Primož Pristovšek

## Domain Committee (DC)

- Evaluates proposals for new COST Actions (not in TDP)
- Monitors running COST Actions through Rapporteurs
- Assesses completed COST Actions through Final Assessment Panels
- Proposes strategic initiatives in its Domain
- Disseminates and highlights COST activities
- Promotes synergies between and among all COST Domains, the European Commission (EC) and other relevant stakeholders
- Chair of the DC ISCH: Dr. Marc Caball (University College Dublin, Ireland)

## COST Scientific Domains

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

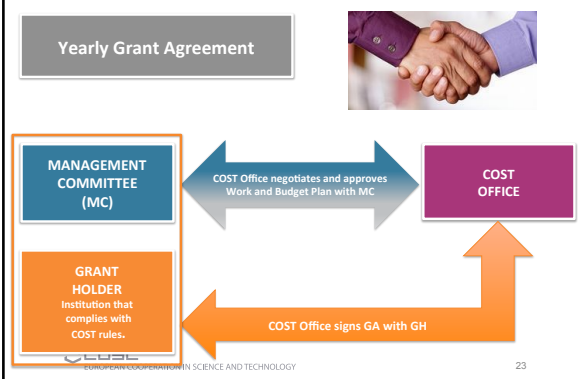
In addition, *Trans-Domain Proposals* (TDP) allow for broad, trans-disciplinary proposals covering several fields of science and technology

## What is a COST Action?

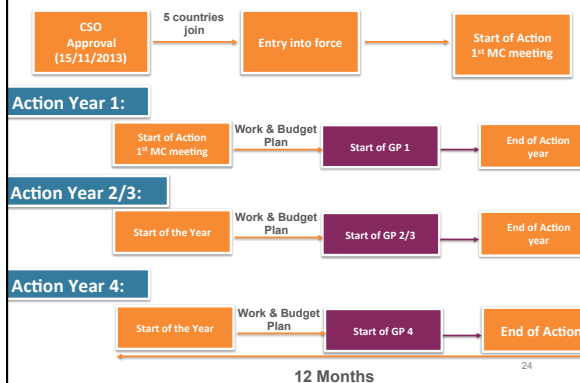
**Science and Technology Network** with a duration of four years and a minimum participation of five COST Member Countries, and is organised through a range of **networking tools**:

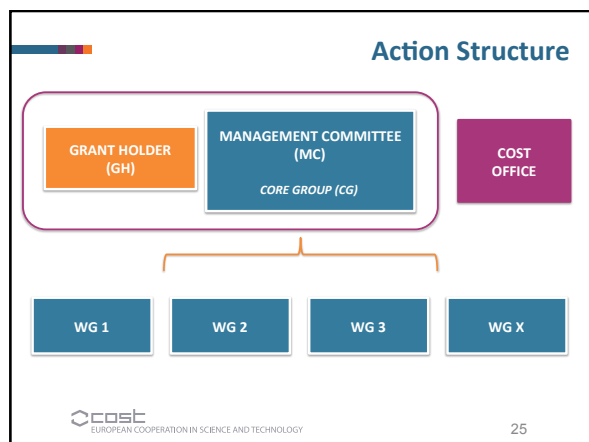
- Meetings (MC, WG)
- Conferences
- Workshops,
- Short-term scientific exchanges
- Training schools,
- Publications & dissemination activities

## How are COST Actions funded?

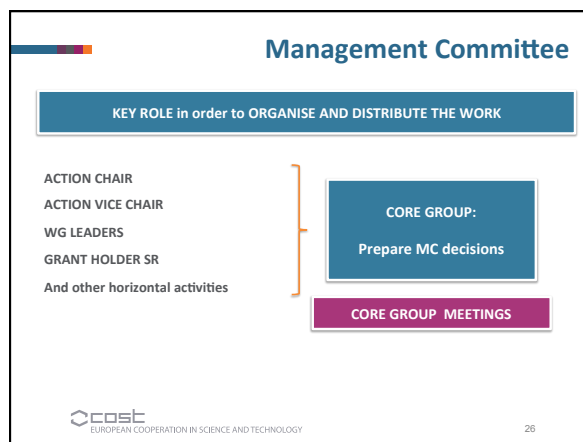


## COST Action Life time

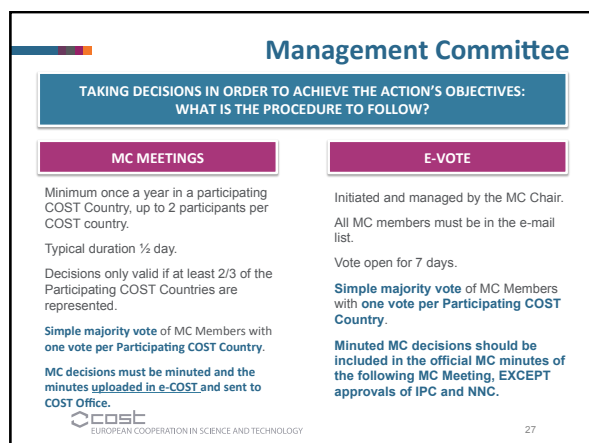




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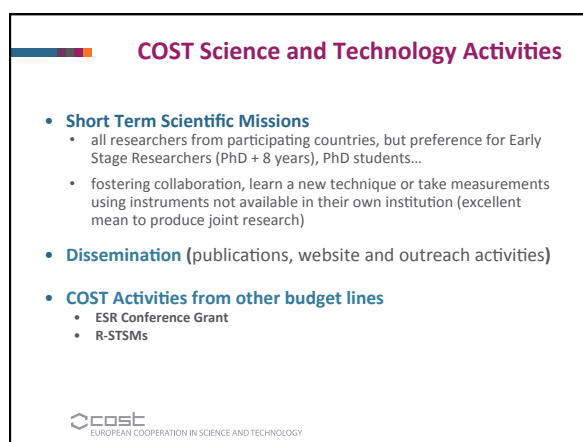
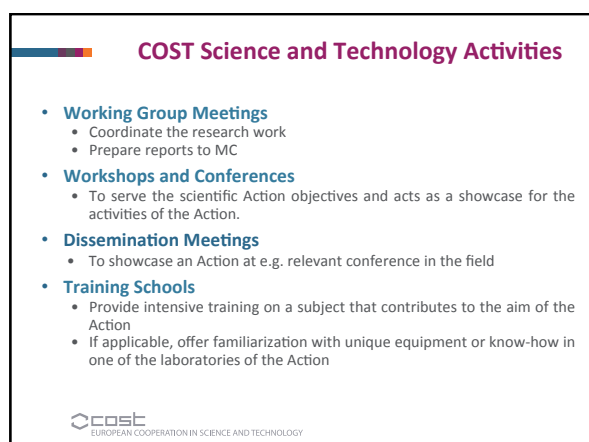
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## Monitoring/Evaluation of Actions

- **Monitoring of Actions is carried out via:**
  - Annual Monitoring Progress Reports (MPR)
  - Attendance of Action meetings by the DC Rapporteurs assigned to each Action
  - Annual Progress Conference =>
- **Annual Progress Conference (APC):**
  - MC Chairs present Action progress
  - ISCH APC 2014: 5-6 May 2014 in Malta
- **Final Assessment Panel meeting:**
  - Assessment Panel takes part in the Final Event of the Action and the Panel meeting

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Under revision for H2020

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## DC Rapporteur

### ROLE

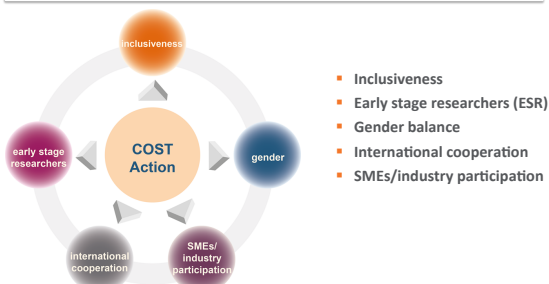
To evaluate the Actions scientific progress and output in relation to the objectives defined in the MoU, and to provide updates to the DC and the COST Office.

- The level of achievement of the Action objectives;
- The Work and Budget Plan implementation against the scientific and/or technological objectives;
- The effective use of the appropriate COST Networking Tools to achieve the scientific objectives;
- Reasons and justifications of possible deviations from achieving the Actions scientific objectives;
- Country balance, gender balance and ESR participation;
- Effective dissemination of scientific and technological outputs and the generated impact.

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## COST Policies under H2020

COST has identified its priorities and developed its policies on:



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## Inclusiveness

### Originated from:

- Political context of Horizon 2020.
- Geographical context of the COST Member Countries.

### With the aim to:

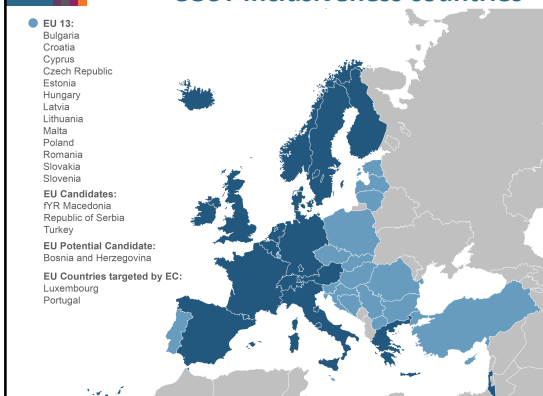
- Encourage and enable researchers from less research-intensive countries across the COST Member Countries to set up and/or join COST Actions and get more intensively involved in all COST activities.
- Counterbalancing research communities' unequal access to knowledge infrastructures, funding and resources distribution.

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## COST Inclusiveness countries

- EU 13:  
Bulgaria  
Croatia  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Estonia  
Hungary  
Latvia  
Lithuania  
Malta  
Poland  
Romania  
Slovakia  
Slovenia
- EU Candidates:  
FYR Macedonia  
Republic of Serbia  
Turkey
- EU Potential Candidate:  
Bosnia and Herzegovina
- EU Countries targeted by EC:  
Luxembourg  
Portugal



## Inclusiveness

### IMPLEMENTATION at MC Level:

The ACTION should have a plan towards inclusiveness that should be revised and updated at every MC meeting.

### SOME EXAMPLES:

- Leadership roles at Action level.
- Locating Action meetings, workshops & conferences.
- Promoting STSMs tool in these countries.
- Benefiting from COST networking tools.
- Strategy of the Action in order to attract top-scientist from these countries.

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## Early Stage Researchers

ESR = < 8 Years PhD\*

To address the difficulty in developing independent careers and to establish their first research group under their own responsibility.



**COST Strategy  
Support  
ESR**

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\*PhD or equivalent experience<sup>7</sup>

## Early Stage Researchers

IMPLEMENTATION at MC Level:

The ACTION should have a plan for the involvement of ESR that should be revised and updated at every MC meeting.

SOME EXAMPLES:

- Set a target figure, from which a percentage of the Action budget shall be used for ESRs-STSMs.
- Special STSMs for Early Stage Researchers: up to 6 months with a grant of up to 3.500 EUR.
- Specific Support for Training Schools.
- An early stage researchers' network may be created within the Action as a "think tank".
- Leadership roles at Action level (WG leaders...)

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## Gender balance

With the aim to:

- Encourage and enable under-represented gender to be intensively involved in all COST activities.
- Networking the way to gender equality in science and technology.

IMPLEMENTATION at MC Level:

SOME EXAMPLES:

- Leadership roles at Action level (WG leaders...)
- Gender balance in allocation of STSMs
- Active promotion of STSMs to ESRs of under-represented gender
- Gender balance in allocation of Training School Trainee grants
- Gender balance in allocation of meeting reimbursement places

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## International Cooperation

With the aim to:

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

IMPLEMENTATION at Action Level:

SOME EXAMPLES:

- Approved IPC and NNC institutions can host STSMs
- Researcher from Approved NNC institutions can:
  - Apply for STSM
  - Attend Training Schools
- Researchers from Approved IPC and NNC institutions can be trained

COST 4115/13: COST International Cooperation Rules

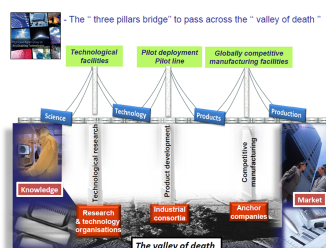
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[http://www.cost.eu/about\\_cost/cost\\_countries/international\\_cooperation](http://www.cost.eu/about_cost/cost_countries/international_cooperation)



## SMEs & Industry

- Facilitate/ encourage industry/ stakeholder participation – eg programme has a half/ full day focussed just on industry-relevant issues



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## Joining an Action

- COST countries:**
  - Membership in a new Action is open to all COST countries within 12 months of Action approval
  - After that, MC approval is required
  - Any researcher from a participating COST country can join the WGs
- International Partner Countries (IPC)**
  - Applicants should directly contact Chair of the Action
  - If mutual benefit exists, then several approval steps (Action, Domain and COST CSO) taking about 6 months
- Near Neighbour Countries (NNC)**
  - “geographically close” to COST countries
  - Top-up based on effective attendance of approved NNC participants

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## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

- 'Institutions' from **COST Member Countries, Near Neighbour Countries and International Partner Countries**, including:
  - Government Organisations, except Intergovernmental Organisations
  - Universities and Associated Organisations
  - Business Enterprises (ranging from SMEs to multinationals)
  - Private Non-Profit Organisations/NGOs (even if international)
  - Standards Organisations (even if international)
- **European Commission and EU Agencies**
- **European RTD Organisations**, including: CERN, EMBL, ESA, ESO, ESRF, European XFEL, ILL, EFDA JET;
- **International Organisations** (i.e. intergovernmental organisations whose members are countries), excluding European RTD Organisations

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## The Individuals, Societies, Cultures and Health (ISCH) Domain in COST

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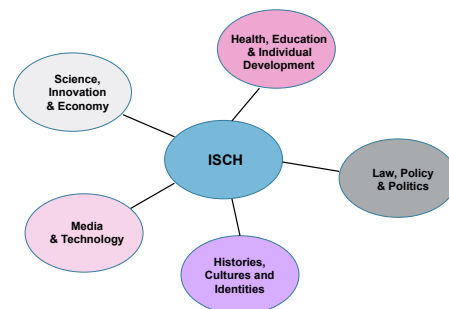
## Scope



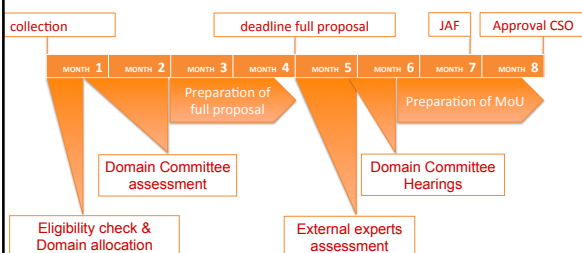
- **Coordinate long-term research within Social Sciences, Humanities and Public Health on:**
- The development, behaviour and health of individuals and groups
- Social, economical, political, cultural, historical and technological structures and processes
- Cultural diversity and a common European future

## ISCH Portfolio

40 running Actions + starting Actions

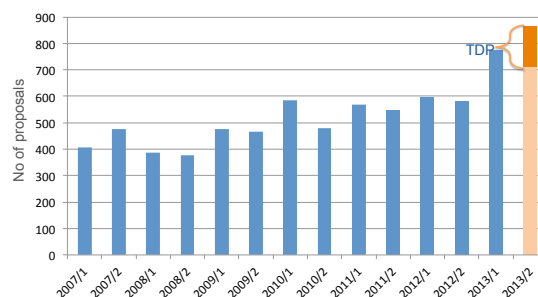


## Selection Procedure Life cycle of a collection

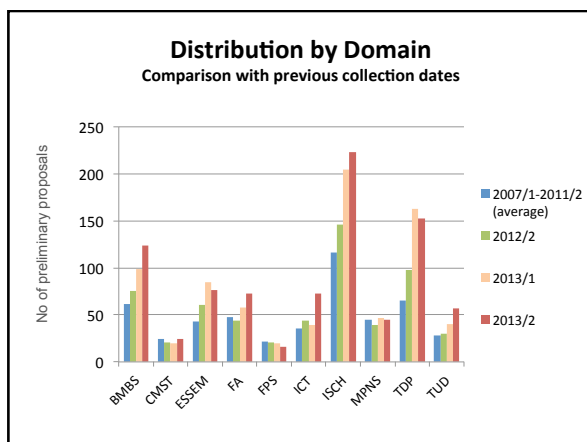


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## Total number: 863 (711 + 152 TDP) Comparison with previous collection dates







## 2nd Call Collection 2013: oc-2013-2

Six new ISCH Actions will have their kick-offs in spring:

1. IS1307 New Materialism: Networking European Scholarship on "How Matter comes to Matter"
2. IS1308 Populist Political Communication in Europe: Comprehending the Challenge of Mediated Political Populism for Democratic Policies
3. IS1309 Innovations in Climate Governance: Sources, Patterns, and Effects
4. IS1310 Reassembling the Republic of Letters, 1500-1800. A Digital Framework for Multi-Lateral Collaboration on Europe's Intellectual History
5. IS1311 Intergenerational Family Solidarity across Europe
6. **IS1312 TextLink: Structuring Discourse in Multilingual Europe**

## Your role as a MC Member

- It is **YOU**, who has been nominated to be a MC member
- **YOU** are representing your **Country** in this Action
- The **SUCCESS** of this COST Action is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY
- Be **OPEN**. Be **PROACTIVE**.
- **HELP. OFFER** yourself for activities
- Bring in your **EXPERTISE** (scientific, regional, etc.)
- Pass forward information, **SHARE** knowledge
- It is your chance
  - to create or enlarge your **NETWORK**
  - to be **RECOGNIZED** as working in this COST Action

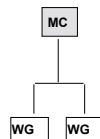
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## COST Action Actor

### Management Committee:

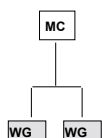
- The MC is composed of delegates nominated by their respective COST National Coordinator (CNC).
- Up to 2 representatives per COST country.
- It is in charge of the coordination, implementation and management of an Action with a view to achieving the Action's scientific and technological objectives.
- MC Meetings shall be officially held only if at least two-thirds of the Participating COST Countries are represented.
- Decisions of the MC shall be taken by simple majority vote of MC Members present or represented at the meeting, with one vote per Participating COST Country.
- MC minuted decisions are the only legal basis for expenditures, and must respect COST rules



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## COST Action Organization



### Working Group:

- It is highly advisable that every MC Member is appointed as Working Group Member.
- Members are selected from amongst MC Members, or MC Observers from NNC, IPC, Specific Organisations, as well as any researchers from Participating COST Member Countries.
- The objectives of Working Groups are to perform the necessary tasks required for the Action to fulfil its objectives as defined in the MoU.
- Production and exchange of Research
- Reimbursement of travel expenses of individual participants is decided by the MC, subject to budget availability

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Thank you and all the best  
for the next 4 years!

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