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# SOME INPUT ON COST ACTIONS

# WHAT IS A COST ACTION?

not your typical grant!

COST Actions are funded by the COST Association, which is under the European Commission, but separate from the European Research Council



<https://www.cost.eu/>

**COST does not fund research, but networking**

funds can be used for

- Organizing in-person **workshops** (local expenses + travel costs for participants)
- Organizing in-person **training schools**
- Supporting scientific exchanges “Short Term Scientific Missions” (**STSM**)
- Supporting participation to third-party conferences (**Conference Grants**)
- **Publishing** costs and communication **materials** (flyers, posters, pins...)

# HOW AND HOW MUCH?

COST Actions last for **4 years** (Grant Periods), starting Nov 1st

For the 1st GP, all receive 125 k€ incl. overheads (15%)

For the subsequent GPs the budget is established **“dynamically”** every year, based on network size and previous performance (max O(200k))

**“Top-ups”** are possible around April (COMETA got +40k€ last year)

At the end of a GP, unspent budget is **returned** to COST

# GRANT HOLDER

The **Grant Holder** is the institution that receives and administers the grant

- 👉 requires dedicated admins (1 person at ~50-60%)  
O(150) payments / year to process  
can be a burden for offices with prior duties
- 👉 admins need to be trained on COST rules.  
sometimes non-obvious how to reconcile COST, National and institute rules

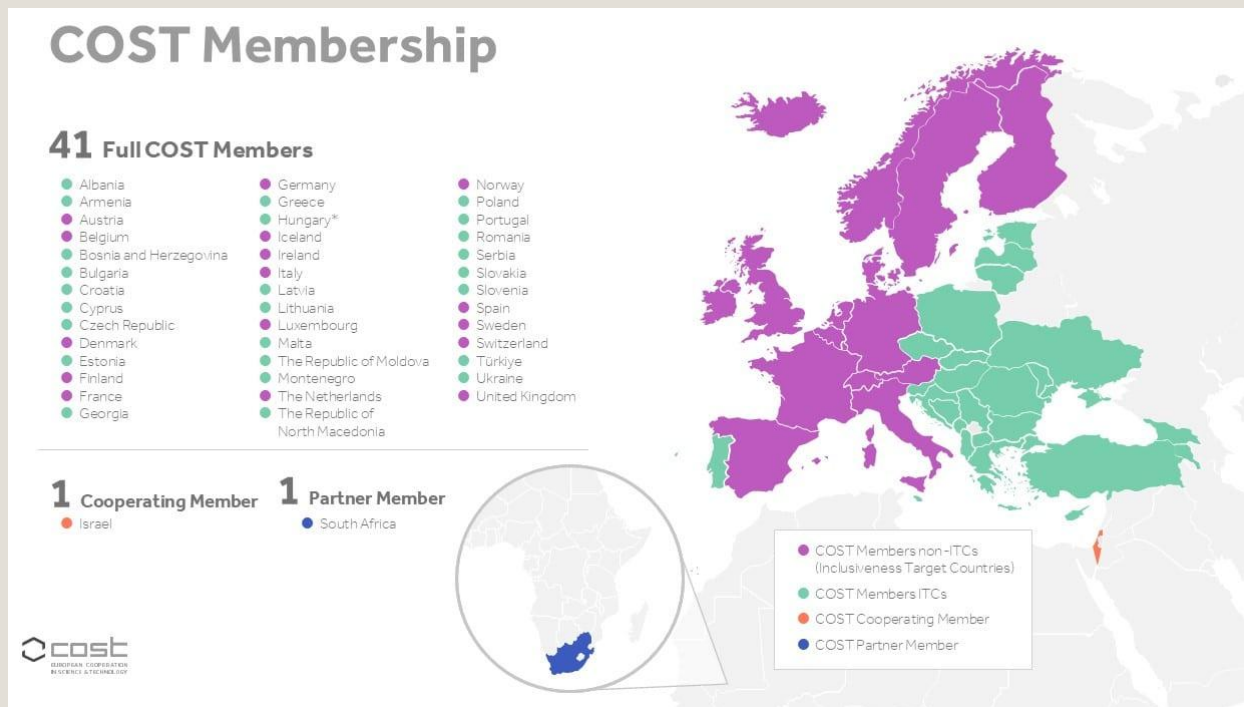
COMETA is managed by **Fondazione Alma Mater (UniBo)**

# COST COUNTRIES

Participation to a COST Action is **not** defined by Institution, but by Country of affiliation

COST is an intergovernmental framework participated by 41 European Countries

<https://www.cost.eu/about/members/>



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The country a person is affiliated in **determines their eligibility** to receive COST support

👉 people affiliated in the US can only be paid once in the lifetime of the Action

👉 mobility (conf. / STSM) to non-European destinations is allowed

# STRUCTURE

## Management Committee

- Formed by up to 2 representatives per Country
- Approves budget, elects leaderships...

## Scientific Officer

- Main reference person at COST
- Oversees science activities
- Controls yearly budget

## Administrative Officer

- Manages grant on COST side

## Core Group

Chair + Vice-Chair

Working Group leaders

Science Communication  
Coordinator

Grant Awarding Coordinator

## Action Members

- Enter at any time, via application
- Network constantly growing!
- Sign up to Working Groups

Being a member is not required to receive support

Other leaderships:  
Grant Awarding committee  
ECI committee  
Diversity coordinator

....

# INCLUSIVENESS

COST Actions are expected to implement **inclusiveness policies** along 3 dimensions

- Career Stage: Young Researchers and Innovators (YRI) = **U40**
- Gender Balance: in our case, **Female** scientists
- Geographical Diversity: researchers based in Inclusiveness Target Countries (**ITC**)

Examples:

- 👉 50% of the countries represented in the proposal must be ITC
- 👉 min 1 leadership position should go to each category
- 👉 Action inclusiveness is constantly monitored for the 4 years
- 👉 Actions are expected to implement policies to increase participation from these categories





COMprehensive Multiboson Experiment-Theory Action

<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA22130/>

Started in November 2023. So far: 270 members in 41 countries

WG1: Theoretical framework, precision calculations and simulation

WG2: Technological innovation in data analysis

WG3: Experimental measurements

WG4: Management and event organization

WG5: Inclusiveness and Outreach

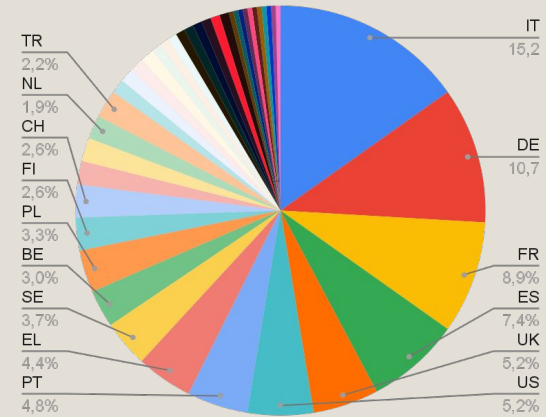
Management Comm. has 25 Countries, represented by 45 members

Core Group formed by 15 people

Organizing:

- 1 general meeting + 1 training school + 4 topical workshops / year
- Outreach events
- Virtual WG meetings
- Online colloquia, youtube channel, communication on social media, newsletter...

COMETA Members per Country



# HOW TO APPLY

[https://www.cost.eu/how-to-apply/COST Actions rulebook](https://www.cost.eu/how-to-apply/COST%20Actions%20rulebook)

Next deadline: October 21 at 12.00

1. Build a **network** of proponents respecting inclusiveness rules
2. Prepare the **proposal**
  - 15 pages document
  - It has to be **anonymous!** No references, no hints to who you are.  
Only inclusiveness stats on network of proponents is seen by evaluators.
  - Find a **compelling networking argument**

all winning proposals are public!  
They become MoU  
[but beware of changing rules]

COST funds projects that require establishing new connections  
Consider including other scientific communities (QI, math, condensed matter?)