The European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST)Programme

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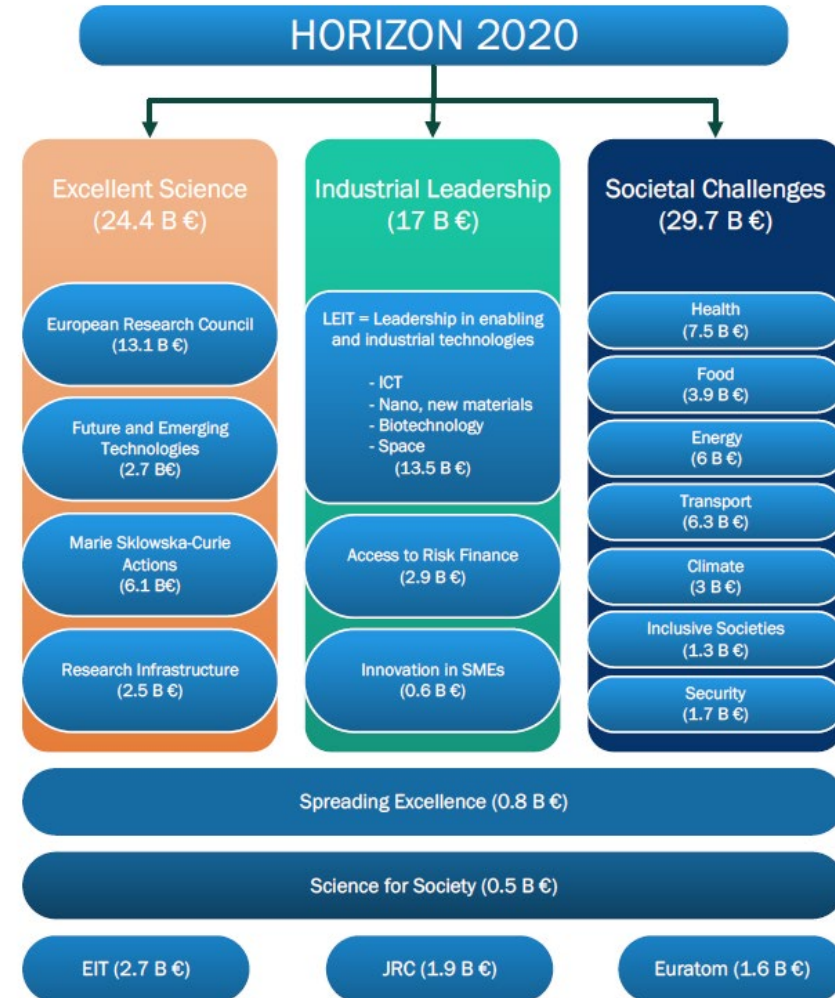
Overview of COST and Application Process

Horizon 2020

- EC's main Funding Programme for Research and Innovation projects
- Budget 80 billion €
- Both mono and multi beneficiary projects
- Both top down and bottom up topics

Brief Overview

In a nutshell: Funding organisation for the creation of research networks, called COST Actions

COST MISSION:

- *"COST provides networking opportunities for researchers and innovators in order to strengthen Europe's capacity to address scientific, technological and societal challenges."*

- The three strategic priorities:
  – Promoting and spreading excellence
  – Fostering interdisciplinary research for breakthrough science
  – Empowering and retaining young researchers and innovators

- COST implements its mission by funding bottom-up, excellence-driven, open and inclusive networks for peaceful purposes in all areas of science and technology.

- Benefits: Knowledge exchange, interdisciplinary and intersectoral (academic and industry), development of new ideas.

Why Get Involved ?

- Improve and extend your EU and international networks

- Develop new research ideas (and convert these ideas into new research funding opportunities)

- Promotion of your research field (at the EU/global level)

- Relatively easy (and more than one way) to participate. More on that later....

- Improve chances for Horizon 2020 /Horizon Europe applications (statistics show 33% success rate of COST Action proposals compared to 15% of applications from non-COST network applicants)

- Something in it for everyone at all career stages

- Opening up to many „invitation only" training and multi action COST Action networking opportunities

Basic Features of a COST Action

- 4 years of funding for a joint work programme

- Funding for :
  - ➤ organising meetings
  - ➤ training schools
  - ➤ short term scientific missions (up to six months)
  - ➤ other networking activities (conference grants)

- Average financing is EUR 130,000 per annum (dependent on budget availability, renewed each year) for participation by typically 25 COST Members.

- A COST Action proposal can be submitted at any time of the year
- Normally two collection dates per year
- ~~29th April~~ new deadline 29th October. Only one cut off now this year (December cut off cancelled)
- One-stage submission via the e-COST submission tool
- The proposal requires filling in a few sections online and uploading a technical annex of up to 15 pages
- Proposal Template (max. 15 pages)
  - Scientific & Technological Excellence (15)
  - Networking Excellence (15)
  - Impact (15)
  - Implementation (5)
- Guidelines: https://www.cost.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/COST_Open_Call_SESA_guidelines.pdf

Eligibility

- The Network of Proposers must represent at least 7 proposers affiliated to entities located in at least 7 different COST Full or Cooperating Members (one Main Proposer plus at least 6 Secondary Proposers) amongst which a minimum number (4, but depends on number of proposers) shall be from COST Inclusiveness Target Countries

- Proposals are anonymous. Proposals may not contain any direct or indirect reference to people and/or institutions participating in the Network of Proposers

- There is also a style guide

- Look at Memorandums of Understanding: these were the applications!

Getting Involved Without Applying

Join an Action!

- 2 Management Committee Members per Country

- Running actions which are open to new Austrian participants : Source: FFG
  https://www.ffg.at/europa/cost/bereiche-at-offen

- Expression of interest to Cost National Coordinator FFG

Actions Open in the Humanities Field

Nummer	Titel
CA15221	Advancing effective institutional models towards cohesive teaching, learning, research and writing development.
CA16105	European Network for Combining Language Learning with Crowdsourcing Techniques
CA16204	Distant Reading for European Literary History
CA17131	THE SOIL SCIENCE & ARCHAEO-GEOPHYSICS ALLIANCE: GOING BEYOND PROSPECTION
CA18110	Underground Built Heritage as catalyser for Community Valorisation
CA18119	Who Cares in Europe?
CA18136	European Forum for Advanced Practices
CA18137	European Middle Class Mass Housing
CA18204	Dynamics of placemaking and digitization in Europe´s cities
CA18231	Multi3Generation: Multi-task, Multilingual, Multi-modal Language Generation

Participate in a Networking Activity

Training School	Short Term Scientific Mission
Trainees from COST Full Members	Applicants from PARTICIPATING COST Full Member
1,500 EUR grant	2,500 / 3,500 EUR
160 EUR meals / accommodation / day	160 EUR meals / accommodation / day
https://www.cost.eu/cost-actions/browse-actions/	https://www.ffg.at/europa/cost/bereiche-at

Source: COST Association, 2018 /FFG

- **COST Connect** are a series of thematic events, which provide an open space for researchers, policy makers and research and innovation (R&I) stakeholders to network and grow their ideas. It brings together a broad set of actors from the European Research Area (ERA) and beyond with the aim to stimulate and strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships.

- **COST Academy** is an initiative that offers training, workshops and mentoring that better the performance of Action networks. The Academy is focusing on developing the skills of young and/or Inclusiveness Target Country researchers.

- **COST Science** informed policy advice is an initiative to connect COST experts into science-informed policy advice on relevant EU topics.

- **COST Innovators Grant** will be available with the implementation of Horizon Europe, the next framework programme.

Brief Information on Implementation

- COST Actions should start within 3 months of approval

- Six Month Work Programmes

- Management Committee meetings

- Open to new members (first three years)

- Vademecum (financial rules)

Become an Evaluator

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 the COST Programme.

- https://www.cost.eu/who-we-are/working-with-us/participate-external-expert/

Horizon Europe

- Commission proposal for budget: €100

billion (2021-2027)

- Mission orientated and impact driven

- First Work Programmes probably December 2020

- Orientations towards first Strategic Plan

https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/research_and_in
novation/strategy_on_research_and_innovation/docume
nts/ec_rtd_orientations-he-strategic-plan_122019.pdf

Horizon Europe: Preliminary structure
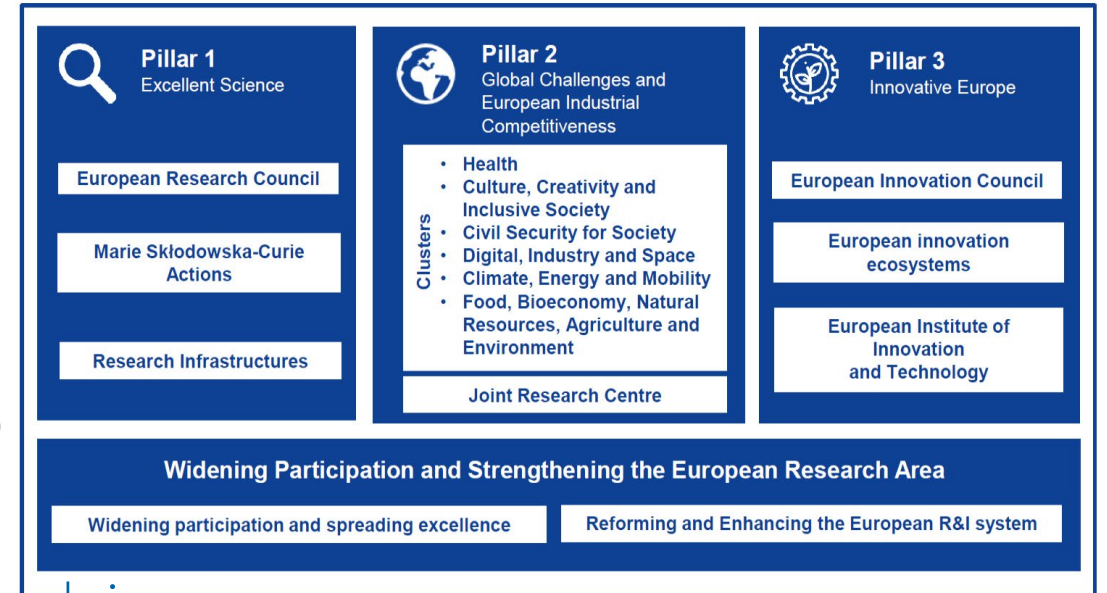
About the DLE Research Services and Career Development

Who are we?

Research Services and Career Development
- Centre for Doctoral Studies
- Research Services
  - EU/International Funding
  - National Funding
- Technology Transfer Office
- Legal Team (for 3rd party funding)
- Project Management Services

How We Can Support You
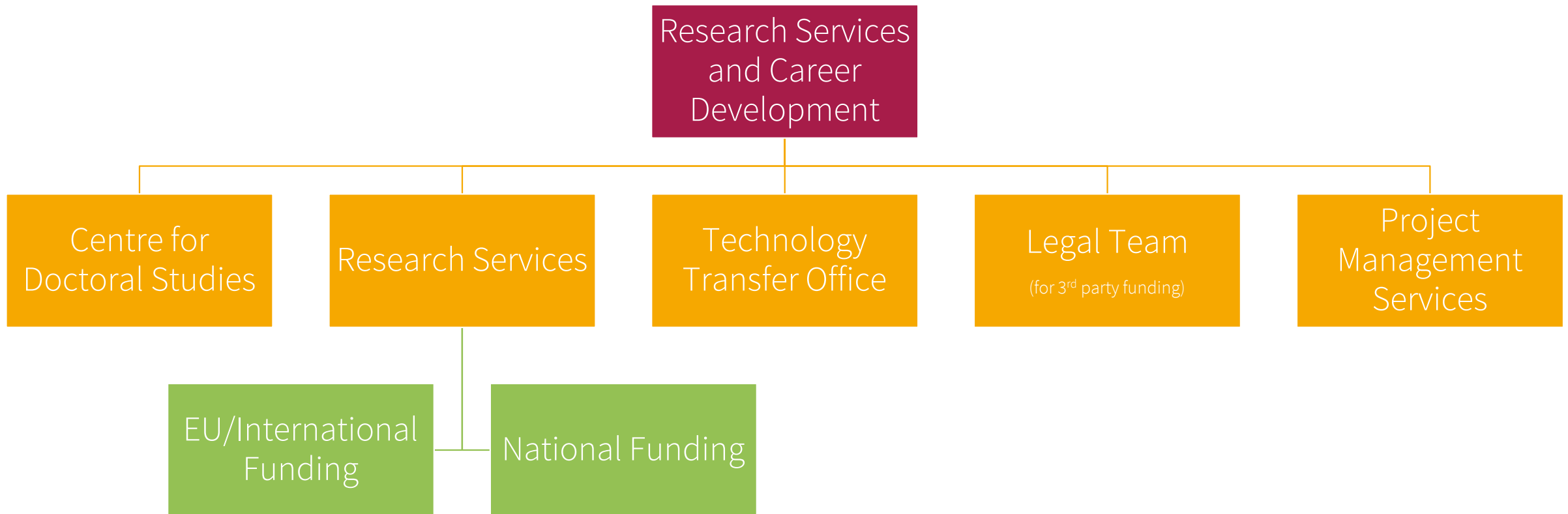
- Proposal Checking

- Project Management

- Application documents (set text, budget tools, FAQs)

- Workshops and Information Events

- Policy and Funding Information

- One to One Meetings

Female Postdoc Programme REWIRE Call 2 is open: https://rewire.univie.ac.at/ (deadline 30th April)

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Member Countries

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

ITC Countries

- Albania, BosniaHerzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Republic of Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Near Countries

- Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Kosovo, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Russia, Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine.

Number of COST Members	Minimum number of ITC
7	4
8	4
9	5
10	5
11	6
12	6
13	7
14	7
15	8
16	8
17	9
18	9
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