COST – new strategy on inclusiveness

Nicole Schmidt, FFG
IMPLEMENTATION OF COST INCLUSIVENESS POLICY

• Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) → contractual obligation

• Working group of Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) members

Non ITCs
Austria
Germany

ITCs
Estonia
Turkey
Serbia
Hungary
Malta

+ COST Association

• Mandate for 2 years
IMPLEMENTATION OF COST INCLUSIVENESS POLICY

COST National Coordinator (CNC) questionnaire

Action Plan „Analysis of ITC participation in COST“
CNC Questionnaire (Mid 2015)

1. What are your main expectations on COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy?

2. Performance of COST
   a. Are you satisfied with the performance of COST Activities in your country?
   b. Please list the three main barriers of the current performance of COST Activities in your country.
   c. What are the bottlenecks in your country regarding the involvement of research communities in COST? How could they get better aware of COST?

3. To increase the performance of Inclusiveness Targeted Countries (ITC): What should be improved or introduced from your point of view on
   a. Strategic policy level (e.g. synergies with other EU or networking instruments)
   b. COST Action level /COST Activity level

4. Can you mention additional means which could be used to strengthen the participation of researchers from ITC in COST?

5. What should be the role of CNC with respect to foster
   a. Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy in your country
   b. The participation of researchers from ITC in COST Activities and Actions

6. How could a non ITC contribute to the E & I policy from your point of view?
• Analysis of current situation / statistical data
• Challenges faced specifically by ITCs
• Recommendations
• Future work / timelines
FINDINGS – current situation / statistical data

participation in running COST Actions
FINDINGS – current situation / statistical data

Number of proposers of COST Actions, for the first two open calls under SESA
FINDINGS – current situation / statistical data

COST budget spent at the benefit of ITCs, 2015

- COST budget proportion paid to ITC participants
- COST budget proportion paid to ITC participants and networking tools hosted in ITCs
- COST budget proportion paid to ITC participants, networking tools and meetings hosted in ITCs
FINDINGS – challenges faced specifically by ITCs

- **VAT**: not an eligible cost in COST
- **Grant Holder positions**: distribution of flat rates not accepted due to national legislation
- **Human resources**: issues in terms of time and number of researchers
- **Financial resources**: lack of financial support for the hosting of events
- **Institutional support**: lack of capacity to support leadership roles
- **Country specific issues**: visa
on the level of..

- **EU / National / Scientific Committee** – policy focused

- **COST Association / COST Actions** – more practical approach

- *currently under discussion* -
FUTURE WORK

- task force
- feasibility study
- September 2016: Executive Board meeting

Implementation

Impact Assessment
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