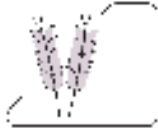


FA



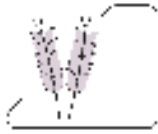
From an Exploratory Workshop to a COST Action

Dr. Ioanna Stavridou
Science Officer Life Science



What is a COST Action?

FA



Actions

networks centered around nationally funded research projects in fields that are of interest to at >5 COST countries.

The financial support ~ 100 000 euros per year for 4 years.



Characteristics of the Actions

- **Networking & Co-ordination**
- **Pan-European**
- **Focus on younger researchers**
- **National Financing of Researchers – national responsibility**
- **Bottom-up / Flexible**
- **“A la carte” participation (no fixed programmes / priorities)**
- **Multi-disciplinary: wide range of disciplines covered**
- **Open to global cooperation**

What does COST support through the Actions?

- Science management meetings (MC + WG)
- Scientific workshops, seminars and conferences
- Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs)
- Training Schools
- Conference Grants
- Dissemination



What is the purpose of having an Action?

Consider the Action as **seed money** with an **incubation time of 4 yrs**



Examples of successful Actions

Action 863

Euroberry Research: from Genomics to Sustainable Production, Quality & Health

Chair: Prof. Bruno Mezzetti



Berry production is an economically significant part of agriculture in most European countries. However, until recently the scientific knowledge necessary to support this sector lagged behind the competition from non-European markets. COST helped berry *growers to grow*.

As a result of the scientific achievements of Action 863, a topic for this specific area has been included in the FP.



COST strengthens research-industry partnership

Action 865 Bioencapsulation Multiscale Interaction Analysis

The screenshot shows the COST 865 website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for HOME, W01, W02, W03, W04, STSM, DOCUMENTS, MEETINGS, and FORUM. Below this is a header for "HOME - COST 865 ACTION OBJECTIVES".

On the left side, there is a vertical menu with four items: "welcome", "description", "objectives", and "organisation". The "objectives" item is highlighted in blue.

Below the menu is an illustration of a laboratory flask with a pipette and a small figure, representing the bioencapsulation process. At the bottom left, there is a logo for "EUROPEAN SCIENCE FOUNDATION" and the text "COST is managed by the European Science Foundation".

The main content area is divided into two columns: "Objectives" and "Activities".

Objectives

The main objective of the COST865 is to improve the knowledge on bioencapsulation in developing reliable, economical and safe industrial encapsulation processes and applications. The Action also aims to deepen cooperation in Europe, by regular meetings, scientific contribution to international conferences and collaboration with industries, in order:

Direct scientific and technological objectives:

1. To consider and integrate the multiscale and interactive dimension of the processes in designing bioencapsulation applications;
2. To identify the gaps in the knowledge and to propose concerted actions, such as round tables, to develop especially fundamental research, by involving experts even from outside of the bioencapsulation community;
3. To develop characterisation and analytical tools for evaluating performances and meeting high quality and safety requirements in industrial processes;
4. To provide method standardisation to insure safety, quality and reliability during bioencapsulation and

Activities

Workshops

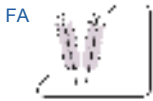
COST865 will organize annual international workshop allowing participants to present their work and meet other participants.

Expert meetings

Expert meetings allow subgroups to discuss and organize specific tasks, for example in the frame of the working groups (see organisation)

Short term Scientific meetings

STSMs allow researchers, especially students, to visit an other participant laboratory, learn a new technology, transfer a



From pre-proposal to Action

- **Continuous Call** with 2 collections / year (end of September and March) – next on **26th March 2010**

- **Pre-proposal** (~ 1500 words):

- BACKGROUND, PROBLEMS

- BENEFITS

- OBJECTIVES, DELIVERABLES AND EXPECTED SCIENTIFIC IMPACT

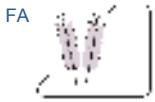
- SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME AND INNOVATION

- ORGANISATION



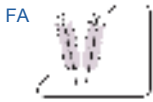
Criteria for the evaluation of pre-proposals

- Is **COST the best mechanism** for achieving the Action's objectives?
- **SCIENCE**: Does the proposed Action address real current problems/ scientific issues?
- **INNOVATION**: Is the proposed Action innovative?
- **IMPACT**: Would the proposed network make a significant difference in terms of knowledge, capacity building, social impacts, etc?
- **PRESENTATION**: Is the proposed Action presented in a clear, rational and understandable way?



From pre-proposal to Action

- **The best pre-proposals, as evaluated by the Domain Committee, are invited to submit a Full Proposal**



Full Proposal

(~10 000 words)

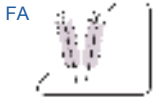
- **A. ABSTRACT**
- **B. BACKGROUND** (general, current state of knowledge, reasons for the Action, complementarity with other research programmes)
- **C. OBJECTIVES AND BENEFITS** (objectives, how these will be achieved, benefits, end users)
- **D. SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME** (focus, workplan –methods and means)
- **E. ORGANISATION** (coordination and organisation, Working Groups, liaison and interaction with other research programmes, gender balance and early stage researchers)
- **F. TIMETABLE**
- **G. ECONOMIC DIMENSION**
- **H. DISSEMINATION PLAN** (who, what, how)



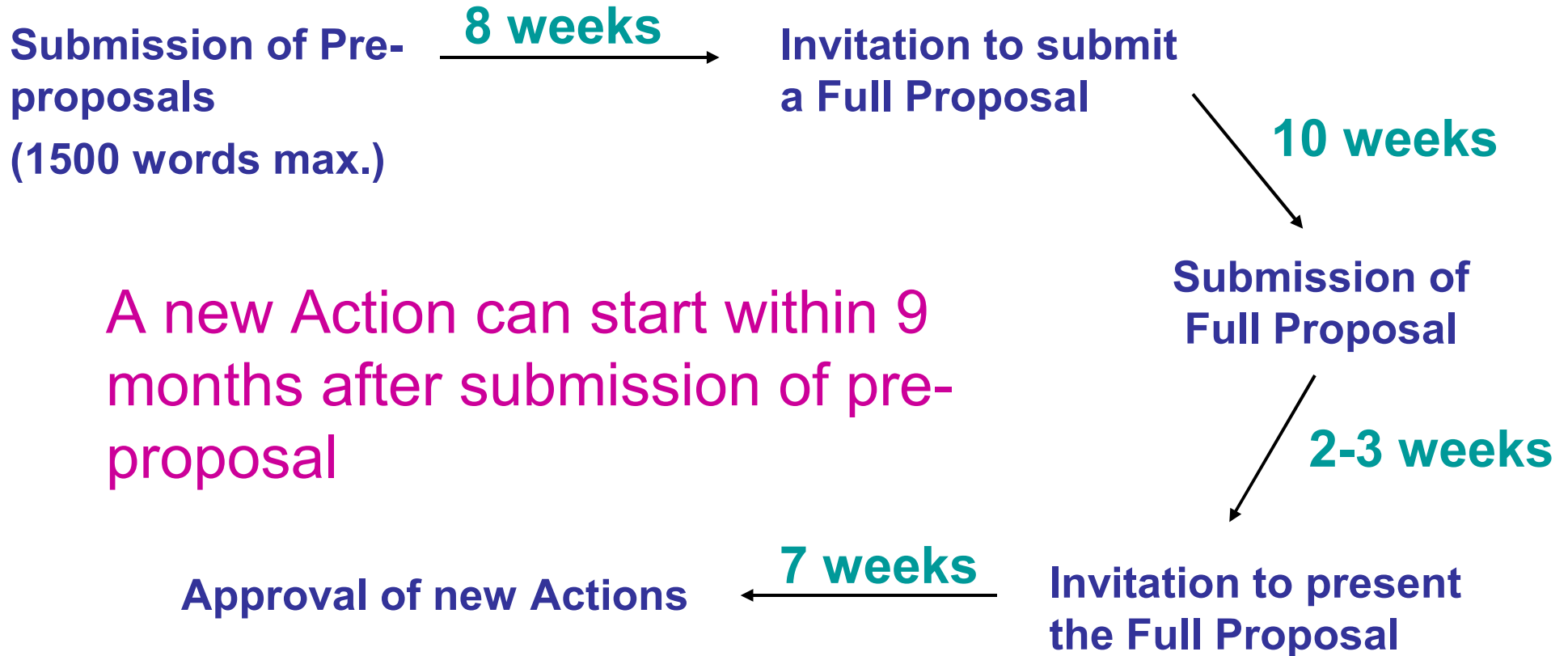
- Evaluators look for:

Novel, innovative proposals which

- Address current issues
- Are well –structured with clear goals
- Will deliver tangible results, i.e. have an economic, societal and/or contribute to the development of science and technology



Evaluation process in summary





Low input farming

- Is it a **hot** topic to generate interest for funding a new network, Action?
 - Can it be linked with other hot topics, e.g. sustainability, food security, climate change?
- Could a potential Action have a **high impact**?
- Is there interest from **5 COST countries**?
- Are there nationally –funded researchers **driven** enough to write a proposal?

We are here to help!