



Universidad
Rey Juan Carlos

COST Actions

RAFAEL CAPILLA
REY JUAN CARLOS UNIVERSITY (MADRID, SPAIN)
rafael.capilla@urjc.es

ECSS Annual Summit, October 2025



INFORMATICS
EUROPE

About myself



- Full professor at Rey Juan Carlos University of Madrid (Spain)
- Adjunct professor at Lappeenranta University of Technology (LUT, Finland)
- PhD. in Computer Science



What are COST Actions ?

- Interdisciplinary research network...but focused on networking rather than on research
- Investigate a topic for 4 years with focus on innovation and excellence
- A pan European environment to connect experienced and young researchers
- Grow professional research networks and boost careers
- Open to all scientific and technological fields
- Gender (49% are women) and geographical inclusive
- A career accelerator for young researchers

The network

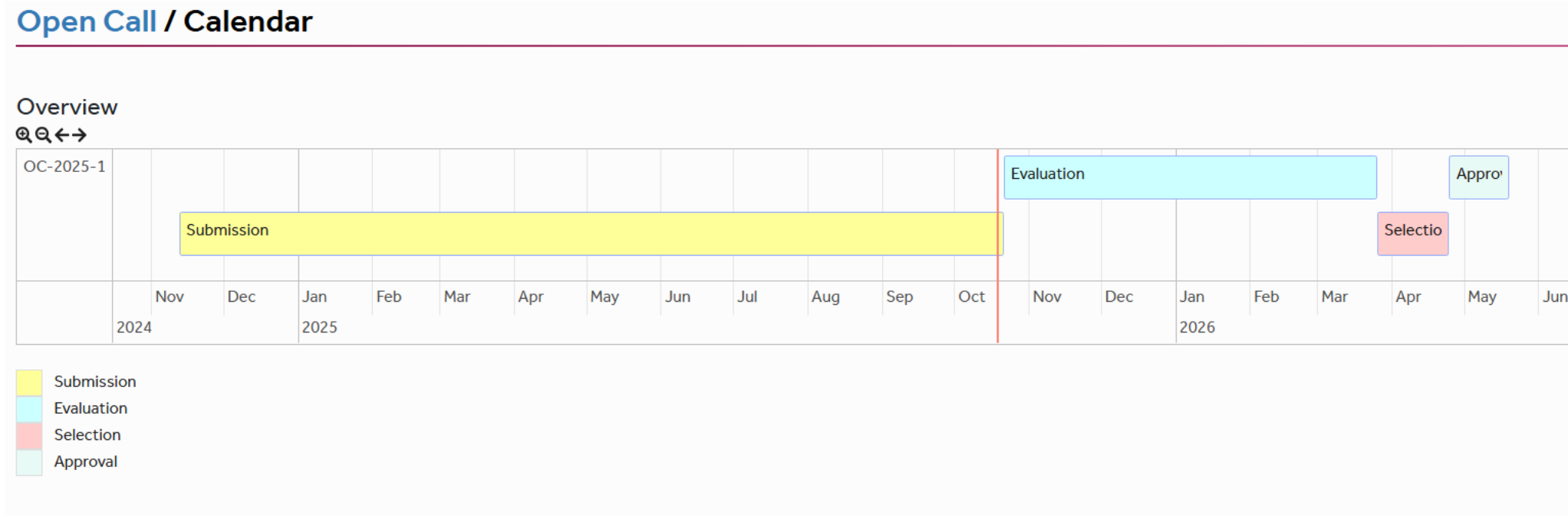
- At least 50% of the countries must be **ITC (Inclusiveness Target Countries)**
 - **ITC:** Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia
 - **EU members outermost regions: E.g. Canary Islands (Spain), Madeira (Portugal)**
 - **Full members not belonging to the E.U.:** Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye, Ukraine
- In principle, as many partners (institutions) and proposers you want
- One **Main Proposer (MC)** but you can have **Secondary Proposers (MC)** that are allowed to attend the Action Management Committee meetings
- **Types of organizations:** Universities and research centers, SME, large companies, EU institutions, EU agencies, European RTD organizations, Others

Main documents

- **Technical Annex:** Strict limit of 15 pages
 - 3 main sections: **EXCELLENCE IN S&T AND NETWORKING, IMPACT, IMPLEMENTATION**
 - **Excellence in S&T:** Define the goals and challenges of the network, objectives, rationale for funding, state-of-art, and critical mass
 - **Impact:** Impact regarding the objectives, stakeholders, and communication/dissemination
 - **Implementation:** Workplan and tasks, Deliverables, GANTT
- New template since 2025
- COST policies document
- Summary and references in text boxes
- The network where all partners and proposers must be invited manually one by one using their name and email

Timeline

- The submission is typically in the second half of October
- They answer by May/June the year after



Success of proposals

- Typically, 39% of the proposals are accepted
- Threshold 35 points over 50
- Each item in the proposal is ranked from 1 to 5 points
- We need items to be evaluated with 4/5 points

Funding

- Funding this year has been reduced from approximately 150-165K per year to 125 K the first year and 150 K the other for years
- Funding depends on the number of COST countries represented in the Working Groups
- Funding covers expenses for networking rather than research (e.g. Short-term Scientific Missions, Training Schools, communication activities, grants to attend interesting international conferences, and virtual networking tools)



The GREEN-T COST Action proposal

- A COST action network focused on GREEN IT/ICT technologies with focus on energy estimation metrics/technologies and sustainable goals
- We aim to suggest metrics and indicators (KPIs) to measure carbon emissions and energy consumption and advance existing green measures and measurement techniques
- We pursue expanding existing ICT-based solutions for detecting deviations from green practices like greenwashing
- Create a network of researchers in green practices

Origins

- The action comes from the Informatics Europe GREEN ITC Working Group led by Marco Aiello

Working Group

Outcomes

Current members:

- [Marco Aiello](#), University of Stuttgart, Germany (Chair)
- [Mina Alipour](#), University of Southern Denmark, Denmark
- [Vasilios Andrikopoulos](#), University of Groningen, the Netherlands
- [Manel Barkallah](#), University of Namur, Belgium
- [Mikkel Baun Kjaergaard](#), University of Southern Denmark, Denmark
- Nicolas Bique, SVIA SSIE SSII Schweiz - Verein für Informatik in der Ausbildung, Switzerland
- [Rafael Capilla](#), Rey Juan Carlos University, Spain
- [Lidia Fuentes](#), Universidad de Málaga, Spain
- [Gabriele Gianini](#), University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy
- [Kawsar Haghshenas](#), University of Groningen, the Netherlands
- [Brian Keegan](#), TU Dublin, Ireland
- [Monica Landoni](#), Università della Svizzera Italiana, Switzerland
- [Ciarán O'Leary](#), TU Dublin, Ireland
- [Gilles Perrouin](#), University of Namur, Belgium
- [Andrea Emilio Rizzoli](#), IDSIA USI-SUPSI, Switzerland
- [Lucía Serrano-Luján](#), Rey Juan Carlos University, Spain
- [Mahyar Turchi Moghaddam](#), University of Southern Denmark, Denmark
- [Monica Vitali](#), Politecnico di Milano, Italy
- [Sebastian Werner](#), TU Berlin, Germany

Our partners

- 34 partners from 17 countries including 77 proposers from
- 53% of ITC countries, 50.6% females
- 34 young researchers and innovators
- 3 large companies, 2 SME, 2 non-profit organizations

 Albania

- Polytechnic University of Tirana

► Prof Elinda Meçe

 Croatia

- Sveuciliste U Splitu, Prirodoslovno-matematicki Fakultet

► Prof Andrina Granic

 Cyprus

- University of Cyprus

► Dr George Angelos Papadopoulos

► Dr Eleni Constantinou

 Czech Republic

- Univerzita Karlova

► Dr Tomáš Bureš

Prof Rafael Capilla	Universidad Rey Juan Carlos [Informatics]	 Spain		COST Full Member	✓ Main Proposer (mc)
Prof Jorge Colinas	Universidad Rey Juan Carlos	 Spain		COST Full Member	✓ Secondary Proposer
Prof Elinda Meçe	Polytechnic University of Tirana [Computer Engineering Department; Faculty of Information Technology]	 Albania		COST Full Member	✓ Secondary Proposer (mc)
Dr George Angelos Papadopoulos	University of Cyprus [Computer Science]	 Cyprus		COST Full Member	✓ Secondary Proposer (mc)

COST Inclusiveness Target Countries

52.9 %

Number of Proposers

77

Gender Distribution

49.4% Males

50.6% Females

Previous submission

- The first proposal was submitted in 2024 and rejected getting 35 points

S&T EXCELLENCE			NETWORKING EXCELLENCE				IMPACT IMPLEMENTATION				Marks
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Total	
4	4	4	4	3	4	3	3	3	3	35	

Tips and recommendations

- Once the idea is ready, form a small team of people for each of the 3 main sections and a leader for each section
- Have someone (native English speaker) to review the style and language
- Don't let newcomers to start making changes or suggestions in the last weeks as they mainly fix typos and change few sentences rather than answering to comments or important questions
- Typically, many partners don't contribute or even answer but we need them to balance the countries
- Having bigger teams per partner doesn't mean they will get more money
- People should be responsible of their teams and pass the information to the main proposer
- Don't let people asking you to invite new team members in the last two weeks prior to the submission

Outlook

- We have strengthened the previous proposal and made some parts more concrete
- We have increased the number of proposers and young researchers
- We meet with COST eligibility criteria according to ITC, gender, etc
- We have involved 5 companies with explicit support to our challenges (i.e. Telefonica, TWT science and innovation, ABN AMRO Bank, Vermont Solutions, Rengen Power)
- If we fail again, someone else will replace me for another try
- Money distribution is still a mystery to me (Which criteria?)

Thank you for listening

- I will email you by May/June 2026

