



**European Cooperation
in the field of Scientific
and Technical Research
- COST -**

Brussels, 27 September 2006

Secretariat

COST 287/06

NOTE

To : COST Committee of Senior Officials (CSO)

Subject : Terms of Reference for a mandate of a COST Domain Committee in the field of Information and Communication Technologies ¹

Delegations will find attached the "Terms of Reference for a mandate of a COST Domain Committee in the field of Information and Communication Technologies" as approved by the CSO at its 164th meeting on 29/30 March 2006, and the domain descriptor, as approved by the CSO at its 165th meeting on 27/28 June 2006 (in Annex 1).

¹ This document replaces previous version as set out in doc. COST 242/06.

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE MANDATE
OF THE COST DOMAIN COMMITTEE
IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES**

1. The COST Domain Committee in the field of Information and Communication Technologies, hereinafter referred to as "the DC"¹, is established by the COST Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) for a period of four years as of 1 June 2006.
2. At the end of this period, and on receipt of a report by the DC, the CSO shall decide whether to extend the mandate of the DC for an additional period of time and, in that case, review these Terms of Reference.
3. The CSO may at any time amend these Terms of Reference or terminate the mandate of this DC.
4. The DC will adopt its Rules of Procedure on the basis of the model set out in doc. COST 236/06 or in any new document amending or replacing it.
5. The DC is responsible for general oversight of COST activities within its domain, including the development of strategic initiatives, and, in particular, for the quality assurance of new Action proposals, for monitoring progress of ongoing Actions and for evaluating completed Actions.
6. Within the framework of the COST Continuous Open Call and the two stage submission process, the DC will assess proposals for new COST Actions assigned to its domain. This assessment will be in accordance with the "Guidelines for Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation of COST Actions" in the Vademecum (<http://www.cost.esf.org/index.php?id=38>). The DC will be responsible for the assessment and selection of preliminary proposals and for implementing quality control, through external peer review, of full proposals and for making recommendations for new Actions to the CSO.

¹ The detailed descriptor of the domain is set out in Annex to this document.

7. COST Actions should:
 - a. have an innovative character and a high scientific/technological standard and contribute substantially to the coordination of research efforts;
 - b. give a strong and visible contribution to the European Society; through being of potential interest across Europe to scientific communities and research organisations; public environmental authorities; policy institutions; and to private companies and industry;
 - c. be based on careful considerations of interests, resources and budgetary consequences in the interested countries, as well as on assessments of the added value expected to be achieved through the coordination;
 - d. be broad and flexible enough to permit an interdisciplinary approach and later inclusion of activities not foreseen during the preparation, taking due consideration of point 10 below;
 - e. identify and take into account R&D efforts in other fora;
 - f. assist in the mobility of European young researchers.

8. When submitting a new Action to the CSO for approval:
 - a. the COST Office should ensure that the Technical Annex to the Memorandum of Understanding is structured as set out in the "Guide for Proposers of new COST Actions" in the Vademecum (<http://www.cost.esf.org/index.php?id=38>).
 - b. the DC should provide the CSO with an Assessment Report and any additional information that the CSO may need for making a decision on the Action.

9. The DC will:
 - a. monitor the implementation of its COST Actions to ensure that the objectives as set out in their Memoranda of Understanding are met;
 - b. ensure coordination and exchange of information, as required, as well as complementarity and synergy between its Actions as well as with relevant activities in other Domain Committees in COST, the Community R&D programmes, EUREKA, the European Science Foundation, other European cooperative research frameworks and standardisation bodies and will appoint members of the DC as liaisons with these bodies, as appropriate;
 - c. take account of interdisciplinarity within its domain and with other domains and of new developments in its domain.

10. The DC should give an opinion to the CSO on any proposal pertaining to one of its COST Actions and concerning:
 - a. an extension or prolongation of an Action,
 - b. a change of the title or a modification of the objectives of an Action, or
 - c. participation of an international organisation or an institute from a non-COST country in an Action.

Such an opinion shall be given with full knowledge of the views of the Management Committee of the Action concerned; a decision on the proposal will then be taken by the CSO.

11. The DC advises the Actions assigned to its domain with regard to the scientific aspects within the objectives as laid down in the respective MoU.

12. The DC is responsible for the evaluation of its COST Actions on completion of each Action, according to the "Guidelines for Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation of COST Actions" in the Vademecum (<http://www.cost.esf.org/index.php?id=38>).

13. The DC should take all the measures it considers necessary to ensure efficient dissemination and/or exploitation of the results of its COST Actions, in close cooperation with the relevant Management Committees and taking account of the COST Policy on Dissemination and Monitoring the Impact of COST Results as set out in doc. COST 327/05 or in any new document amending or replacing it.
 14. The DC will be represented by its Chair or by an appointed substitute at all meetings convened between the CSO President, the CSO or the JAF Group and the Chairs of the DCs.
 15. The DC will report on its activities, as requested, to the CSO and will provide an overview report to the CSO at the end of each mandate period.
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INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICT)

Domain descriptor

The Domain INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES covers scientific and technical research in all areas of information and communication science and technologies. The ICT research area is best summarized as treating the processing, transmission, storage, retrieval, management, usage, and exchange of information and knowledge, with emphasis on fundamental aspects and pre-competitive technology development.

The following research areas are covered in this Domain. The scope of the Domain is not restricted to these activities.

Information science and technologies. The area covers all the aspects related with the foundations, design, analysis, development, and application of hardware and software systems. Related areas are foundations of computer science, software development technologies, software engineering, intelligent systems, advanced interfaces, user aspects, information management, high performance computing, and open, embedded, and distributed systems.

Communication technologies. Research in this area concentrates on the transfer of information from source to sink. Fundamental aspects cover physical, electromagnetic and functional modelling of all elements of information and communication systems such as terminals, antennas, transmission channels, networks, devices, components and materials. Research concerning photonic devices and the modelling and synthesis of electromagnetic meta-materials involves materials research, both in the optical and the submillimeterwave region. Here, cross-border interaction with Materials, Physical, and Nanosciences is required.

Societal aspects of ICT. Research in this area covers both the influence of ICT on society and the requirements imposed by society on the ICT infrastructure. Interdisciplinary cooperation with disciplines dealing with societal needs is essential for the development of this research area. Therefore, an important area for this domain is multidisciplinary research – with an ICT core – in fields like sustainable development, health, attention to the elderly and the disabled, culture, learning, bioinformatics, and many others, performed in cooperation with the corresponding COST domains.

New ideas and initiatives are welcome as well those with high interdisciplinary elements and close links and overlaps with other domains.