HOW TO DEAL WITH THE ANONYMITY CRITERIA WHEN PREPARING YOUR PROPOSAL FOR A COST ACTION?

OPEN CALL - OC-2015-2

http://www.cost.eu/participate/open_call

COST is supported
by the EU Framework Programme

Eligibility criteria - Anonymity

Anonymity is one of the eligibility criteria that applies to proposals for COST Actions.

Anonymity is described in the CSO document B.1. COST Action Proposal Submission Evaluation Selection and Approval (133/14) (page 9, section 6) and explained in the SESA Guidelines (Page 10, Section 3.2).

Particular attention should be paid to the following sections of the Technical Annex:

- 1.4 Added value of networking
- 3.1 Description of the Work Plan and
- 3.3. Network as a whole

As well as the "References" section in the proposal.

S&T Excellence

1.4 Added value of networking

- 1.4.2 In relation to existing efforts at European and/or international level

ATTENTION: You need to describe, in a general way, the different initiatives that are taking place at European and/or international level and explain how the proposed Action will complement the existing efforts.

DO NOT link these projects with specific participants or institutions within the network of proposers.

Example of Anonymity Breach:

The proposal mentions that proposers participate in another project, which clearly links to the identities of project participants (for instance, through a Google search of the project website).

Implementation

3.1 Description of the Work Plan

- 3.1.1 Description of Working Groups
- 3.1.2 GANTT Chart
- 3.1.3 PERT - Program (Project) Evaluation and Review Technique (optional)

ATTENTION: DO NOT INCLUDE ANYWHERE IN THE PROPOSALS ACRONYMS/NAMES OF ANY INSTITUTION PARTICIPATING IN THE NETWORK OF PROPOSERS

Note that Working Groups does not mean the research teams involved in the proposal, but the way/topics the action is going to organize itself.

Implementation

3.3 Network as a whole

ATTENTION: In this section you need to describe the features of the network of proposers (i.e. the statistics extracted from the eCOST profile).

FOR EXAMPLE:

- *Is the size of the network (i.e. number of proposers and countries) appropriate to all the tasks envisaged to solve the Challenge)?*
- *Is the Core Expertise of the participants in the Network appropriate for the envisaged tasks?*
- *Are all the countries with a stake in the Challenge participating in the network?*

DO NOT LIST ANYWHERE IN THE PROPOSAL NAMES OF RESEARCHERS OR INSTITUTIONS.

THE EXCEPTION IS FOR THE CASE OF PROPOSALS WITH IPC OR NNC WHERE THE NAME OF THE INSTITUION/PARTICIPANT CAN BE DISCLOSED FOR THE DESCRIPTION OF THE MUTUAL BENEFIT IN SECTION 3.3.

REFERENCES

In the "References" section of the proposal, it is possible to quote one's own publication, only provided that: a) there is no evidence that the publication is authored by one or more of the proposers and b) it is one of a set of other bibliographical references

***DO NOT**: the participants in the network have shown that … (Smith et al.)*
***INSTEAD**: previous studies have shown that … (Smith et al.)*

***DO NOT**: cite all references with authors name and anonymise your own with XXX, as this would make it obvious that the XXX is your own publications, easily found with a google search.*

- *J. Blog et al., research on topic, journal name*
- *XXX et al., research on topic, journal name*

INSTEAD:

- *J. Blog et al., research on topic, journal name*
- *Proposer Initial and Name et al., research on topic, journal name*

REFERENCES (cont)

In the "References" section of the proposal, it is possible to quote one's own publication, only provided that: a) there is no evidence that the publication is authored by one or more of the proposers and b) it is one of a set of other bibliographical references

***DO NOT**: highlight references of the proposers (main and/or secondary), as shown below:*

- *J. Blog et al., research on topic, journal name*
- ***Proposer Initial and Name et al.,** research on topic, journal name*

INSTEAD:

- *J. Blog et al., research on topic, journal name*
- *Proposer Initial and Name et al., research on topic, journal name*

***DO NOT**: cite submitted papers which are not available online and thus only authors could have the knowledge of it, as it indicates your identity.*

LAST CONSIDERATIONS

Before submitting your proposal please check:

- Is there in the proposal a direct reference to a name and/or institutions of any of the proposers (main and secondary)?
- Are any of the proposers identifiable through a direct reference to previous or ongoing grants, applications to grants, EU projects, Networks, etc.?
- Is there a clear self-citation? I.e. a cited bibliography that is explicitly attributed to the participants in the network of proposers.
- From the information in the proposal, do you think that an external expert can clearly identify one or more participants in the network of proposers?

SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY QUESTION
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