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COST is the longest-running European framework supporting trans-national cooperation among researchers, engineers and scholars across Europe.

It is a unique means for them to jointly develop their own ideas and new initiatives across all fields in science and technology, including social sciences and humanities, through pan-European networking of nationally funded research activities. Based on a European intergovernmental framework for cooperation in science and technology, COST has been contributing - since its creation in 1971 - to closing the gap between science, policy makers and society throughout Europe and beyond. As a precursor of advanced multidisciplinary research, COST plays a very important role in building a [European Research Area \(ERA\)](#).

It anticipates and complements the activities of the EU Framework Programmes, constituting a "bridge" towards the scientific communities of COST Inclusiveness Target Countries. It also increases the mobility of researchers across Europe and fosters the establishment of scientific excellence.

The former science organisation which was structured into nine science and technology domains has been replaced by a new organisation aiming at guaranteeing a fully open and bottom-up approach through the establishment of a single [Scientific Committee](#). This also includes a renewed evaluation and selection procedure aiming at identifying breakthrough ideas and favouring interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary projects.

Key Documents

- ▶ Growing ideas through networks - COST brochure (PDF, 6 MB)
- ▶ COST Actions booklet: 206 open spaces for your ideas (PDF, 2 MB)
- ▶ Annual Report 2016 (PDF, 7 MB)
- ▶ Annual Report 2015 (PDF, 16 MB)
- ▶ Annual Report 2014 (PDF, 9 MB)
- ▶ Annual Report 2013 (PDF, 72 MB)
- ▶ Annual Report 2012 (PDF, 180 MB)
- ▶ Annual Report 2011 (PDF, 6 MB)
- ▶ Annual Report 2010 (PDF, 1 MB)
- ▶ Annual Report 2009 (PDF, 2 MB)

Related Links

- ▶ [COST brochure on ISSU](#)
- ▶ [Horizon 2020](#)
- ▶ [FET - Future and Emerging Technologies](#)
- ▶ [Why European Research?](#)
- ▶ [European Research Area \(ERA\)](#)
- ▶ [Research at the European Commission](#)

