

- ▶ COST Mission
- ▶ COST Strategy
- ▶ COST Organisation
- ▶ Scientific Committee
- ▶ **How COST works**
- ▶ COST Member States
- ▶ Who's Who
- ▶ Procurement

[Home](#) | [About COST](#) | [How COST works](#)

## How COST works

**COST funds pan-European, bottom-up networks of scientists and researchers across all science and technology fields. These networks, called 'COST Actions', promote international coordination of nationally-funded research.**



COST does not fund research itself, but provides support for networking activities carried out within COST Actions. COST Actions are **bottom-up science and technology networks open to researchers and stakeholders**, with a four-year duration and a minimum participation of **seven [COST Member States](#)**.

COST Actions are active through a range of networking tools, such as **meetings, workshops, conferences, training schools, short-term scientific missions (STSMs) and dissemination activities**. COST Actions are open to researchers from **universities, public and private research institutions, as well as to NGOs, industry and SMEs**. To learn more about participating in COST Actions, please visit the [Participate](#) page.

COST invites researchers throughout Europe to submit proposals for COST Actions through a continuous **Open Call**. Following a thorough evaluation and selection process, the decision for funding a proposal is taken by the COST Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) within eight months from the collection date. Successful proposals are approved to become COST Actions and can expect to 'kick-off' within three months thereafter. For more information on the next collection dates and on how to submit a proposal for a COST Action, please visit the [Open Call](#) page.

Researchers can also apply to [join an existing COST Action](#) or become involved in various COST Action activities.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) provides the formal basis for COST Action. The proposal for a new Action must fulfill certain formal and qualitative criteria, and if the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) approves the MoU, the COST Member States wishing to take part in the Action can agree to it. A COST Action is launched when at least seven COST Member States have agreed the MoU and starts with the first Management Committee (MC) meeting of the Action. A COST Action runs for an average of four years.

COST Actions are also open to [international cooperation](#), by allowing the participation of researchers from [Near Neighbour Countries](#) and [International Partner Countries](#) on the basis of mutual benefit.

## Related Documents

- ▶ [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 \(PDF, 2 MB\)](#)