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## 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

- ▶ [Join our Actions booklet \(PDF, 8 MB\)](#)
- ▶ [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 \(PDF, 2 MB\)](#)