

[Home](#) | [Media](#) | [COST Stories](#)

- Newsroom
- COST Stories**
- Action dissemination guidelines and COST corporate identity
- Publications
- Multimedia

COST Stories

This section focuses on COST results mainly in terms of Actions and Domains.

The case studies reflect the impact COST has on European research, people and markets.

Page [1](#) | [2](#) | [3](#) | [4](#) | [5](#) | [6](#) | [7](#) | [8](#) | [9](#) 

► Imaging technologies turn up the focus on crime scenes

Combining multiple images and cutting-edge technology is helping forensic science to give law enforcement agencies, juries and the judiciary the clearest ever picture of what happens at the scene of a crime.

► Maths helping the numbers add up for industry

Academics from across Europe are working with industry to solve problems using the power of mathematics

► Urban gardens keep on growing

Urban allotment gardening has boomed since the global economic crisis erupted in 2008. However, research has revealed that a need to grow cheap fruit and vegetables was only part of the story in the Spanish city of Sevilla.

► Online dictionaries leaving books on the shelf

Academics and researchers from across Europe are getting together in a COST Action to study how the internet has completely changed the way we use dictionaries.

► New bug helps in annual hay fever battle

Hay fever sufferers in parts of Europe will welcome a new ally in their annual bout with the allergy. An insect never previously found in Europe has arrived with the taste for a weed that spreads pollen, but it may also affect plants that we like to have around. The COST Programme has funded a research network that has highlighted the issues around this new development. Their findings indicate clear benefits over risks

► Toxic flame retardants are a burning issue

Flame retardants are an integral part of creating products from plastics to textiles that are fire friendly. However, many of the flame retardants in use are toxic and damaging for the environment. Dr Giulio Malucelli has built a group that is 'greening-up' flame retardant chemicals.

► Could vitamins be creating disease?

Antioxidants are big business. An arsenal of preventative magic bullets that claim to prevent everything from hangovers to dementia. But could they be creating disease, not preventing it? One COST researcher has moved from one side of the world while trying to find out.

► Europe finding common cause over conspiracy theories

With conspiracy theories moving from the fringes of society to inspiring political rhetoric and policy making, COST is helping a network of academics to study this fascinating subject in greater depth than ever before.

► Bilateral tinnitus in men may be hereditary

European researchers have discovered that genetic factors play a role in some cases of tinnitus, particularly in men who have the condition in both ears.

► **Trees use Twitter to highlight global warming**

A network of trees in Europe is using Twitter to tell the world about how they are being affected by global warming

Page [1](#) | [2](#) | [3](#) | [4](#) | [5](#) | [6](#) | [7](#) | [8](#) | [9](#) [▶](#)

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