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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.

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▶ **Conference grants: a new COST networking tool**

Since COST's priority is enhancing research collaboration where ideas and people can grow without borders, we have added conference grants to our networking tools' list.

▶ **Researchers uncover the origins of ash tree dieback and set out ways to fight it**

In an attempt to reduce the impact of ash dieback, researchers in COST Action FRAXBACK joined forces and identified the origin and biology of the fungus. They are now proposing a series of guidelines that will help manage Europe's ash tree woodlands in a more sustainable way.

▶ **Unlocking the potential of medical imaging**

Hospitals across Europe can use magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to examine our organs and soft tissue such as breasts and brains, helping doctors to diagnose problems and plan treatment. Another sophisticated scanning technology known as positron emission tomography (PET) is used to diagnose diseases such as cancer by detecting gamma rays from 'tracer' molecules introduced to the body prior to scanning.

▶ **Targeting brain chemistry to beat disease**

Diagnosing and treating neuropsychiatric disorders are among the biggest challenges in modern medicine. While the brain is highly complex, scientists have been learning more about how it works – and what happens when things go wrong.

▶ **Borrowing nature's brightest idea**



Photosynthesis is the unique natural process that converts energy from sunlight into chemical energy. Understanding the photochemical reactions behind this essential phenomenon has the potential to deliver new sources of green energy as well as instruments that detect environmental pollution and food contamination.

▶ **Wood innovation shaping tomorrow's cities**

With half of the world's population now living in urban areas, the latest data show that the future's smart, sustainable cities will have to shelter around 6 billion people by 2050. This is already changing the way urban areas are designed and built.

▶ **A changing Sun, a changing climate?**

The Sun's impact on our planet's climate has recently been a hotly debated topic in the context of climate change. The controversy around this issue has led scientists across Europe to dig deeper into the claim that solar activity could be a major cause of global warming.

▶ **The robots are coming - and they are here to help**

As Europe's population ages, the number of people requiring rehabilitation following neurological diseases such as stroke is expected to rise. Specialist care from physiotherapists and

occupational therapists offers a chance of regaining independence by recovering lost movement.

► **Understanding the fate of food**

What exactly happens as we digest food and what are the implications for our health? Answering these questions will help design healthier foods that could curb the rising rates of obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

► **Measuring brain blood flow helps diagnose dementia**

Dementia is a major brain disease associated with memory loss, personality changes and confusion. It can rob people of their independence and cause profound distress for individuals and their families.

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