

[▶ Newsroom](#)[▶ **COST Stories**](#)[▶ Action dissemination guidelines and COST corporate identity](#)[▶ Publications](#)[▶ Multimedia](#)

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

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](#) ▶

▶ **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

▶ **New efforts to reduce lethal superbugs in hospitals show promise**

Innovative coatings that aim to fight drug-resistant superbugs may hold the key to reducing healthcare associated infections, which affect over 4 million people in Europe every year.

▶ **Linking lakes with an eye on the future**

The fragile nature of Europe's lakes and reservoirs has seen an increase in the level of monitoring of their current state. COST's role in linking up scientists across the continent has been crucial, with one researcher being inspired to raise awareness on a local level.

▶ **Novel tools to improve plant production could boost food security**

Food insecurity is deadly - 9 million people die of hunger and hunger-related illnesses annually. This problem is set to continue, with the global population predicted to rise from 6.9 billion in 2010 to 9.8 billion people by 2050.


▶ **Robots across Europe help children with disabilities play**

A network of 100 practitioners and researchers from 32 European countries is promoting the use of robots and other assistive technologies that help children with disabilities play on their own or with other children.

► **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.

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