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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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### ▶ **Getting under the skin**

Using optical imaging could improve the diagnosis of skin cancer, without the need for a biopsy. For Nikola Vukovic, a PhD student at the University of Belgrade, Serbia, involvement in a COST Action on skin cancer detection using laser imaging has been "extremely valuable" and enabled him to continue his research in his native Serbia.

### ▶ **Interview with Dr Gabriella Colucci, finalist for the EU Prize for Women Innovators 2018**

COST Action participant and finalist for the EU prize for Women Innovators 2018, Dr Gabriella Colucci gives a short interview on her work, career and the benefits of scientific networking.

### ▶ **Two-way symmetry in molecular physics**

As a recent doctoral graduate, Hungarian Csaba Fábri moved to Switzerland for a postdoctoral position. A COST Action gave him the opportunity to return to his home country and contribute to a scientific breakthrough in his field - symmetry in molecular theory.

### ▶ **A different take on prostitution could improve policy effects locally**

Taking a closer look at prostitution could improve the real-life impact of European policies on sex work, a network of researchers points out.

### ▶ **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.


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