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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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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.

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.

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.

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