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## COST country focus: United Kingdom

The United Kingdom has been a COST country since the very beginning, joining at the start in 1971. The national COST Office is hosted by the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS).



The United Kingdom has participated to date in 830 COST Actions and is Action Chair for 79 of these.

Through the Actions which it chairs, the UK has cooperated in enhancing the scientific study of early autism, understanding chemistry in astronomical environments, assessing the impact of the internet on the mass media in Europe, as well as establishing a network of European researchers working on different aspects of maternal interaction with gametes and embryo in different species.

Through the COST Actions in which the UK has been involved, the country has contributed to new pavement monitoring equipment and methods, the application of ion beam analysis to art or archeological objects, quantifying the agricultural contribution to eutrophication as well as addressing the 'brain drain' by looking at Europe's integration and the labour force, amongst others.

Comprehensive information on all the COST Actions which the United Kingdom both chairs and participates in can be found on the new [COST country page](#).

This country focus is the last in a summer series in which we visited each COST country in alphabetical order to highlight its achievements in the COST Programme.

