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## COST Strategy

Since 2011, COST has been shaping its future and preparing for the new challenges to be taken up under Horizon 2020.

### COST at a turning point

COST has established its next seven-year framework, strategy and roadmap for pan-European science and technology cooperation, demonstrating its commitment to European values.

### Major building blocks

- COST Strategy for preparing the future (2011)
- COST Position Paper: "The COST Framework – A Cornerstone of the ERA" and Action Plan for Inclusiveness and Excellence (2012)
- COST Association, a dedicated legal entity integrating governance, management and support functions to best serve COST mission (2013)
- Framework Partnership Agreement, a strategic roadmap for the next seven years, signed with the European Commission (July 2014)
- Specific Grant Agreement, a description of the first year's work plan, signed with the European Commission (July 2014)
- Transfer of ESF-COST Office to the COST Association, acted between the ESF and the COST Association (September 2014)

### COST goals

- Steering COST Actions towards **new concepts** and **products**, a result of the networks' science- and technology-driven nature and support for innovative ideas
- Enabling **inclusive** and **open cooperation** within COST Member States and beyond
- Measuring COST Action **results, outcomes and impact**, as reflected in the [2009](#) and [2014 impact assessment studies](#)
- Ensuring **quality performance in implementing** its activities, as reflected in the [2014 customer satisfaction survey](#)

### COST Position Paper

All the COST Member States approved this paper in March 2012 to emphasise the unique role of COST within the European Research Area (ERA) and anticipate its contribution to the future EU Research and Development Framework Programme.

### COST Action Plan for Inclusiveness and Excellence

As a follow-up of the COST Position Paper, the [COST Action Plan to increase inclusiveness](#), approved in June 2012, aims at increasing inclusiveness in COST activities while fostering scientific excellence throughout Europe

### Targeted Networks

CSO-driven, COST Targeted Networks function similarly to COST Actions. Four have been running since 2012, initially part of the [2012-2014 Plan for Strategic Activities](#):

- [genderSTE](#)
- [Sci-GENERATION](#)
- [BESTPRAC](#)
- [CAPABAL](#)

### Key Documents

- ▶ COST FP9 Position Paper (PDF, 254 kB)
- ▶ Preamble to the Framework Partnership Agreement (PDF, 172 kB)
- ▶ COST Communication Strategy 2015-2017 (027/15) (PDF, 337 kB)
- ▶ 2014 COST Impact Assessment (PDF, 5 MB)
- ▶ 2014 COST Customer Satisfaction Survey (PDF, 347 kB)
- ▶ COST Action Plan to increase Inclusiveness (COST 4156/12) (PDF, 29 kB)
- ▶ COST Position Paper (COST 4106/12) (PDF, 158 kB)
- ▶ COST Strategy: Renewing our strengths, shaping our future (COST 4157/11) (PDF, 35 kB)
- ▶ COST response to EC Consultation (COST 4151/11) (PDF, 86 kB)



COST is supported by the EU Framework Programme  
Horizon 2020

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