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COST Strategy

COST's interdisciplinary bottom-up research and innovation networks are effectively bridging the innovation divide and participation gaps in Europe and are providing a large spectrum of opportunities for young generations of researchers and innovators. Involvement in COST Actions both anticipates and complements the activities of the EU Collaborative Framework Programme (FP), spreading excellence across Europe and beyond.

To continue as the leading networking instrument in the ERA, and in line with the COST Vision and Strategic Goals, COST has defined three priorities for its positioning in the remaining part of Horizon 2020 and FP9:

- 1) Promoting and spreading excellence
- 2) Fostering interdisciplinary research for breakthrough science
- 3) Empowering and retaining young researchers and innovators

The COST Strategy, elaborated in the COST Strategic Plan which was adopted by the COST Committee of Senior Officials in December 2017 follows-up on recent developments in research and innovation policies at European level, in particular the DG R&I's 'three O's' priorities (Open Science, Open Innovation, Open to the World), the "Lap-Fab-App" report and the "2017 Tallinn Call for Action".

The COST Strategic Plan defines clear targets and Key Performance Indicators for each strategic priority. Several instruments are at hand to monitor and measure the outputs, tangible results and scientific impact of COST Actions. COST will contribute to the European political goal of enhancing research and innovation excellence, mobilising the untapped potential, encouraging openness and thus boost the European scientific, economic and societal development.

To support the implementation and the monitoring of the goals set in the COST Strategic Plan, COST has revised its model for analysing the impact of COST Actions and their networking instruments. The revised impact assessment model is fully aligned with the goals and priorities set in the COST Strategic Plan. The model puts a particular emphasis on gathering and assessing mid-term results and outcomes of COST Actions; also, it lays out plans to develop tools of impact assessment tuned towards the networking nature of COST Actions.

Key Documents

- ▶ [COST Strategic Plan \(PDF, 1 MB\)](#)
- ▶ [COST Vision and Strategic Goals \(PDF, 596 kB\)](#)
- ▶ [COST FP9 Position Paper \(PDF, 254 kB\)](#)
- ▶ [COST Revised Impact Analysis Model \(DOCX, 447 kB\)](#)

