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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 countries 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

The 35 COST Member Countries 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](#), approved in June 2012, aims at increasing inclusiveness in COST activities while fostering scientific excellence throughout Europe

#### The COST Plan for Strategic Activities

It outlines objectives and defines procedures for setting up science and technology or policy-driven strategic activities. These activities cover conferences and events and more specifically Targeted Networks.

Specifically, CSO-driven COST Targeted Networks function similarly to COST Actions. There are four such Targeted Networks running since 2012:

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

#### Key Documents

- ▶ [Preamble to Framework Partnership Agreement \(PDF, 172 kB\)](#)
- ▶ [2014 COST Impact Assessment \(PDF, 5 MB\)](#)
- ▶ [Plan for COST Strategic Activities 2012-2014 \(COST 4111/13\) \(PDF, 346 kB\)](#)
- ▶ [Communication Plan 2012-2014 \(COST 4115/12\) \(PDF, 60 kB\)](#)
- ▶ [COST Action Plan \(COST 4156/12\) \(PDF, 29 kB\)](#)
- ▶ [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 Strategy for Early Stage Researchers \(COST doc. 295/09\) \(PDF, 53 kB\)](#)

