

- ▶ How Does COST Work?
- ▶ COST Governance
- ▶ **COST Structure**
- ▶ Mission and Goals
- ▶ COST Countries
- ▶ Reciprocal Agreements
- ▶ Training Schools
- ▶ COST Stories
- ▶ Who's Who

COST Structure

COST is governed by the COST Member States. This section gives an overview of the entire COST structure. The organisation of COST reflects its intergovernmental nature.

COST Ministerial Conferences

Key decisions are taken at COST Ministerial Conferences, which are held on average every five years. The latest COST Ministerial Conference took place on 15 June 2010 in Palma de Mallorca, Spain.

Committee of Senior Officials (CSO)

The Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) is the main decision-making body responsible for the strategic development of COST. It decides, amongst other things, on the proposed new Actions following the Open Call.

Each COST Member State appoints two representatives to the CSO, one of whom is usually the COST National Coordinator (CNC).

The role of a CSO member is to

- Liaise with the ministries and offices of his/her country
- Liaise with the COST Office and the COST Secretariat

A CSO member may have a country-specific portfolio of information or support measures.

COST National Coordinator (CNC)

The role of the COST National Coordinator (CNC) is to

- Nominate delegates to Domain Committees (DC) and Management Committees (MC)
- Advise on all COST related matters (e.g. Actions, participation, Open Call)
- Provide the liaison between the scientists and institutions in his/her country

A CNC may have a country-specific portfolio of information or support measures.

Executive Group of the CSO (JAF)

The Executive Group of the CSO, referred to as JAF, prepares the CSO meetings and some every day decisions delegated by the CSO. The group consists of the President and the Vice-President of the CSO as well as five other delegates from the CSO chosen to represent different COST countries for a maximum duration of three years.

Domain Committee (DC)

Domain Committees (DC) consist of experts from the respective domain and are nominated by the CNC. The DC reports to the CSO and is responsible for the quality control of the allocated Actions (assessment, monitoring, evaluation). The DC also supervises the strategic development of their respective domains.

Additional experts can be announced per domain and COST country. These experts form a "pool of expertise" that can be used in an ad hoc manner, e.g. for assessments.

Management Committee (MC)

The Management Committees (MC) - one for each Action - are formed by national experts nominated by the countries participating in the Action, coordinate the activities of the Action and report to the relevant Domain Committee.

COST Secretariat

Related Information

- ▶ [General documents on the About COST page](#)

COST Ministerial Conference 15 June 2010

- ▶ [COST Ministerial Declaration 15 June 2010 \(PDF, 41 kB\)](#)
- ▶ [Summary of Discussions Ministerial Conference \(PDF, 25 kB\)](#)
- ▶ [Keynote address Dr Francesco Fedi at Ministerial Conference \(PDF, 36 kB\)](#)

COST-EC Documents

- ▶ [Partnership COST-European Commission \(COST doc. 270/04 12 May 2004\) \(PDF, 154 kB\)](#)

COST-ESF Documents

- ▶ [Memorandum of Understanding - COST-ESF \(COST 262/02\) \(PDF, 152 kB\)](#)
- ▶ [Addendum to Memorandum of Understanding \(COST 291/06\) \(PDF, 54 kB\)](#)
- ▶ [Agreement COST-ESF \(PDF, 43 kB\)](#)

Relevant FP7 documents

- ▶ [The Council Decision of 19 December 2006 \(PDF, 450 kB\)](#)
- ▶ [FP7 Grant Agreement - Annex II General Conditions \(PDF, 189 kB\)](#)

Information


The COST section of the Council of the European Union's website

- ▶ [The COST Secretariat maintains a database of all the official COST documents.](#)

The [General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union](#) provides the secretariat for the [GSO](#) and the Executive Group of the [GSO](#).

COST Office

The COST Office in Brussels is provided by the European Science Foundation (ESF) – the implementing agent for COST. It supports the scientific activities, e.g. the DCs and [Actions'](#) activities, and implements [CSO](#) decisions.

Last updated: 18 August 2011 



COST is supported by the EU RTD Framework Programme



ESF provides the COST Office through a European Commission contract



The Council of the European Union provides the COST Secretariat

- [▶ Legal Notice](#)
- [▶ Accessibility](#)
- [▶ Sitemap](#)