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Frequently Asked Questions

General

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- ▶ What is COST?
- ▶ What does COST do?
- ▶ What does COST fund?
- ▶ What is COST's budget?
- ▶ Where does COST get its budget from?

On COST Actions

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- ▶ How can I propose a COST Action?
- ▶ How can I join an Action?
- ▶ Where can I find the contact details of the National Coordinators?
- ▶ There is no National Coordinator in my country, who do I contact?
- ▶ How can I become Member of a working group of an Action?
- ▶ How can I participate as an "invited expert" to specific events of an Action (meetings of the MC, WG, workshop participation etc.)?

Open Call

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- ▶ When can I apply for COST funding?
- ▶ Can two or more departments of the same institution submit a joint proposal?
- ▶ What can I do before I submit my proposal?
- ▶ COST networks 'nationally-funded research' but I am funded by a charity/a devolved administration. Can I still apply for COST funding?
- ▶ Do I need to lobby for my proposal?
- ▶ How is my proposal evaluated?
- ▶ What are the assessors looking for?
- ▶ Do I have to demonstrate that I already have funding?
- ▶ Any style tips for my proposal?
- ▶ Some of the sections laid down in the guidelines are repetitive - can I cross-reference, or must I repeat them?
- ▶ Where can I find detailed information on how a COST Action works?
- ▶ What areas need attention for a successful proposal?
- ▶ Will my name and institution's details be made visible when my proposal is assessed?
- ▶ Will I get feedback on my proposal if it is not successful? Will I get guidance on how to improve it for next time?
- ▶ Will my proposal be made public anywhere if it is not selected? I would not want anyone to steal my ideas.
- ▶ If I am not successful, can I re-apply?

COST-ESF relations

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- ▶ What is the European Science Foundation?
- ▶ Why are some of your events called 'COST-ESF' events?

- ▶ [What does the sentence 'ESF provides the COST Office through a European Commission contract' on your website mean? What does 'implementing agent for COST' mean?](#)
- ▶ [Who decided on the implementing agent for COST?](#)
- ▶ [When will ESF end its period as implementing agent for COST? When will COST and the European Science Foundation separate?](#)
- ▶ [What if the European Science Foundation's structure changes before the end of FP7?](#)
- ▶ [Who will be the implementing agent for COST in the next programming period?](#)

About this site

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The Council of the European Union provides the COST Secretariat

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