

Statement of the COST Scientific Committee

5 August 2022

COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a funding organisation for research and innovation networks. The modest funding provided helps researchers in any topic come together to collaborate and share ideas. COST Actions are bottom-up networks with a duration of four years that boost research, innovation and careers.

As members of the COST Scientific Committee, appointed by our respective government representatives, we would like to raise awareness of the benefits of participating in a COST Action. A recent academic study, the results of which will be published shortly, showed that:

- Researchers participating in COST Actions have, on average, **55% more co-publications** than researchers who do not participate in COST
- The **positive effect** on co-publications and productivity **continued several years after the duration** of the COST Action
- This increase was even **more pronounced** for **younger researchers** and researchers from **widening countries**

Furthermore, other data showed that participants in COST Actions **increase their success rate** in obtaining other funding **threefold**. This data also indicates that COST funding has a **twelvefold multiplier effect** after the end of the Action.

In our recent selection of new COST Actions, unfortunately we had to reject a large number of excellent proposals. Increasing COST funding would enable us to support some of those excellent proposals, so that the researchers in these proposals might also enjoy the impacts as described above.

We would therefore like to **strongly urge** the COST Member States to ask the European Commission to **increase funding for the COST Programme**. Considered that COST is a very efficient funding instrument, we are convinced that this will be money well spent.

For the COST Scientific Committee



Luciano Mule'Stagno
Chair of the Scientific Committee



Órla Murphy
Vice-Chair of the Scientific Committee