Online COST Info Day

24 May 2023
Practicalities

- The webinar is being **recorded** and the **live streaming** can be viewed on COST's YouTube channel (@costoffice)
- The recording will be available on COST's YouTube channel after the webinar
- The slides will be made available on the **event page** after the webinar [www.cost.eu/cost-events/online-cost-info-day-2023](http://www.cost.eu/cost-events/online-cost-info-day-2023)
- Questions during the session?
  - Zoom attendees can post their questions on the webinar chat
  - YouTube viewers can post their questions on the live streaming chat
- Questions after the session? Contact us at [events@cost.eu](mailto:events@cost.eu)
Programme

10:00  Introduction about COST  
       Dr Ronald de Bruin, Director of the COST Association

10:15  Participation in a COST Action - Tips & tricks to submit a COST Action proposal  
       Dr Mickael Pero, COST Science Officer

10:45  Networking activities funded within COST Actions  
       Ms Jeannette Nchung Oru, COST Administrative Officer

10:55  Benefits of participating in a COST Action  
       Dr Gintarė Pocė, COST Action representative

11:15  Q&A

11:30  End of the session
Introduction about COST

Dr Ronald de Bruin, Director of the COST Association
COST provides networking opportunities for researchers and innovators in order to strengthen Europe’s capacity to address scientific, technological and societal challenges.

**Vision**

Europe's most empowering research programme

**Mission**

**Strategic Priorities**

Promoting and spreading excellence

Fostering interdisciplinary research for breakthrough science

Empowering and retaining young researchers
COST Membership

41 COST Members

- Albania
- Armenia
- Austria
- Belgium
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Georgia
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- The Republic of Moldova
- Montenegro
- The Netherlands
- The Republic of North Macedonia
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Serbia
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Turkey
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom

1 Cooperating Member
- Israel

1 Partner Member
- South Africa

- COST Members non-ITCs (Inclusiveness Target Countries)
- COST Members ITCs
- COST Cooperating Member
- COST Partner Member
Key figures

- **292** Running Actions
- **203** Training schools
- **€155,000** Average annual budget of a COST Action
- **2,320** Short-term scientific missions
- **45,000** Researchers involved in COST Actions
- **€153 million** COST budget (in Horizon Europe for a 3-year period)
How does it work?

Main proposer

Secondary proposers

COST Action participants nominated by COST National Coordinators
Role of COST in the ERA

1. Promoting and spreading **excellence**

2. Fostering **interdisciplinary** research for breakthrough science

3. Empowering and retaining **young researchers**
Priority 1

PROMOTING AND SPREADING EXCELLENCE

Researchers mobilised in COST (mid-2021)

Percentage of research community mobilised in COST
FOSTERING INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH FOR BREAKTHROUGH SCIENCE
Data from Horizon 2020 (2014-2021)

Other Countries

Inclusiveness Target Countries

Priority 3
EMPOWERING AND RETAINING YOUNG RESEARCHERS
85% of researchers participating in COST Actions indicate that participation has led to career advancement.

In the course of the Actions, co-publications between active COST Action participants see an increase of about 55% compared to general co-publications.

Horizon 2020 reported success rate lies at 39%. Yearly, around €390 million of approved common research projects spin off from ending Actions.
Examples of COST Success Stories

- COST Action MP1304
- Running from 16/05/2013 - 24/11/2017
- NewCompStar - Exploring fundamental physics with compact stars
- On 10 April 2019, the world discovered the first-ever picture of a black hole in stunning detail

"Neutron stars like to become black holes," says Action Chair Prof. Luciano Rezzolla of Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany, who also played a prominent role in the collaboration that had presented the first-ever image of a black hole. “The two have a lot in common, and so the expertise that was developed and nurtured in NewCompStar also provided fertile ground for this imaging work.”
Examples of Polish Success Stories

• Involved in COST Actions on material sciences and smart textiles (CA16122, CA18125)

• Awarded an ERC Starting Grant on light and more efficient thermal insulation, based on fibrous membranes (1.6 million EUR).

“I am the first person to have received an ERC Grant at my university, and COST really helped me to get to that point. During the Action meetings, I found partners for European research projects, which greatly helped me to write the proposal”
Participation in a COST Action
Tips & tricks to submit a COST Action proposal

Dr Mickael Pero, COST Science Officer
COST Actions
AN EFFICIENT NETWORKING TOOL

**COST provides funding** for research coordination and capacity building activities

COST is not funding research itself, but pooling resources and research results by networking

- Memorandum of Understanding
- 4 years
- Min 7 countries, average participation 30 countries
- Research coordination and capacity building activities
- ~ €600,000 over lifetime
COST ACTION STRUCTURE AND LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (MC)

- Action Chair
- Vice-Chair

HORIZONTAL GROUPS

- WG1
- WG2
- WG3

- WG4
- WG5
- WG6

GRANT HOLDER (GH)

- GH scientific rep.

WG leaders

Grant Awarding Coordinator

Science Comm. Coordinator

COST ASSOCIATION ADMINISTRATION
Networking Activities & Other Expenses

- MC & Core Group Meetings
- Working Group Meetings
- Training Schools
- Workshops & Conferences
- Short-Term Scientific Missions
- Virtual Networking Grants
- ITC Conference Grants for Young Researchers
- Dissemination Conference Grant
- Dissemination & Communication Products
- Other Expenses (LOS, OERSA)
- Networking Activities & Other Expenses
How to engage with COST?
How to engage with COST?

1. **As a participant** of a running Action

2. **As a proposer** of a new COST Action

3. **As expert** to evaluate submitted proposals / running Actions

All types of participation require having an e-COST account.
COST online tool: e-COST

www.cost.eu/ecost
As a participant in a running Action

FIND THE ACTION IN YOUR FIELD of interest on the COST website (www.cost.eu)

READ THE PROJECT PLAN (MoU) – identify your potential contribution

BROWSE THE ACTION’S OWN WEBSITE – check their activities

IDENTIFY THE OPPORTUNITIES to join the Action and your contact person
As a participant in a running Action

**AS A MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (MC) MEMBER**
(contact the COST National Coordinator)

**AS A WORKING GROUP (WG) PARTICIPANT**
(contact the WG leader + submit WG application)

**AS A PARTICIPANT IN ACTION ACTIVITIES**
short-term scientific mission, ITC conference grant, training school, workshop/conference,...
(check the Action’s website, contact the chair or the national MC member)
As proposer of a new COST Action

COST OPEN CALL

One-stage online submission of proposals (e-COST)

Proposal should focus on S&T Excellence, Networking Excellence, Impact and Implementation

70 COST Actions approved per collection

Main proposer + secondary proposer

Collection date:
25 October 2023
12:00 CET

www.COST.eu opencall@cost.eu
Proposals

GENERAL FEATURES

1. S&T Excellence
2. Networking Excellence
3. Impact
4. Implementation

TECHNICAL ANNEX
(www.cost.eu)

COST EXCELLENCE AND INCLUSIVENESS POLICY SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

NETWORK OF PROPOSERS
Evaluation

SESA

ELIGIBILITY!

- Anonymous
- Minimum 50% ITC
- Peaceful purpose
- Format
- English

STEP 1
EXTERNAL REMOTE EVALUATION
- 3 Independent External Experts
- Technical Annex

STEP 2
REVISION AND QUALITY CHECK BY REVIEW PANELS

STEP 3
SELECTION BY THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
COST policy and objectives

STEP 4
APPROVAL BY COST COMMITTEE OF SENIOR OFFICIALS
Results 7-8 months after submission
As external expert

As a COST Expert,
you will have the opportunity to

Contribute to the evaluation of COST Open Call proposals

Participate in the assessment of Action results and outcomes
Networking activities funded within COST Actions

Ms Jeannette Nchung Oru, COST Administrative Officer
What can be funded by COST?

Networking activities

- Events
- Meetings
- Training Schools
- Mobility of Researchers & Innovators
- STSMs
- Virtual Mobility
- External Conferences
- ITC Conference

Other expenses specifically supporting the Action

- Dissemination & Communication Products
- Dissemination Conference
- Expenses for the benefit of the network
Events

Meetings
- Management Committee Meetings
- Working Group Meetings
- Workshop / Conference

Funding

Training Schools
- Capacity building and Research Coordination
- Trainers / Trainees

Participants get reimbursed the expenses incurred for attending COST events
Short-Term Scientific Mission (STSM)

WHAT:

• Exchange visits aimed at supporting individual mobility, strengthening existing networks, fostering collaboration between COST Action participants
• Build capacity
• More than 90% of STSMs take place in COST countries, but can take place anywhere in the world

WHERE:

To a host organisation located in a different country than the country of affiliation

Grant AMOUNT:

Up to 4000 EUR, paid after report approval (after the STSM)
ITC or Dissemination Conference Grants

WHAT:

• Consists in a presentation of the own work given by a Young Researcher affiliated in an Inclusiveness Target Country / Near Neighbour Country for their participation in high-level conferences
• ITC Conference Grants support Young Researchers, establish a strong network and increase the visibility of the Action

WHERE:

To a high-level conference not organised by the Action itself

Grant AMOUNT:

Up to 2000 EUR or 500 EUR (virtual), paid after report approval
Virtual Mobility (VM) Grant

**WHAT:**
A collaboration in a virtual setting among Action researchers or innovators to exchange knowledge, learn new techniques, etc.

**Grant AMOUNT:**
Up to 1500 EUR, paid after report approval (after the VM)
Dissemination and Communication Products

WHAT CAN BE FUNDED

1. Scientific publication (Open Access)
2. Action website & logo
3. Dissemination / information materials
4. Multimedia
5. Booth at a conference

• Increase visibility, awareness and impact of COST Actions
• Make widely available the results of COST Actions to all types of potential users in COST Members and beyond

Users

• Action participants and COST Actions receive funding for promoting their work and activities
• Researchers outside the network and stakeholders, e.g., practitioners, policy makers, citizens, businesses, etc.
• General public is informed about scientific progress
• Potential to showcase the value of investing in EU Cooperation in Research
Benefits of participating in a COST Action

Dr Gintarė Pocė, COST Action representative, COREnet (CA20107)
About me

• Sociologist
• PhD awarded in 2020
• Researcher at Vytautas Magnus University in Lithuania
• Research areas: religion and media, religious diversity, discourse analysis, religion and migration, religion and gender
• COST Action COREnet’s Science Communication Coordinator
The COST Action ‘Connecting Theory and Practical Issues of Migration and Religious Diversity’ (COREnet) is an interdisciplinary network that aims to produce, exchange and build knowledge and collaborations across Europe on the topic of migration and religious diversity.

We seek to better explain, understand and analyse the pertinent issues and challenges, and, moreover, to forward viable solutions to support migrants, migration and religious diversity in an inclusive Europe.

Visit corenetcost.eu and find us in social media @COST Action COREnet.
Corenet aims to:

• Create arenas where researchers and practitioners can meet, discuss, and collaborate.
• Establish settings where researchers, practitioners and policymakers, together, can develop ideas that improve the integration of migrants into host societies.
• Provide platforms for European research alliances.
• Create a cross-European repository of data collection and research, including links to relevant websites and tools allowing for cross-country analysis.
Benefits of participating in a COST Action

- New contacts
- New relationships
- New knowledge
- Professional development
- Personal development
- New career perspectives

Photo by Product School on Unsplash
New relationships

NEW CONTACTS = NEW COLLABORATIONS
• Researchers
• Academics
• Stakeholders, practitioners

NEW COLLABORATIONS THAT LEAD TO:
• New project proposals
• Co-authorships for scientific publications
• New initiatives

HOW ARE NEW COLLABORATIONS MADE?
• Face-to-face, online meetings
• Survey -> database about Action’s participants’ research areas
• Other Action activities (Short-Term Scientific Mission, Training School, Narrative Café, COST workshop, etc.)
New knowledge

IMPLEMENTING ACTION GOALS, TASKS AND ACTIVITIES
  • Creating new knowledge

UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENT CONTEXTS
  • Understanding of what is going on in different countries

SHARING INFORMATION
  • Sharing information on Action’s members’ latest research, events, reports, etc.
Professional development

WORKING ON NEW KNOWLEDGE

LEARNING FROM EXPERTS OF THEIR FIELD

HOLDING LEADERSHIP POSITIONS
Personal development

YOU LEARN HOW TO WORK AND COMMUNICATE IN BIG TEAMS

YOU IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE ON HOW TO:

• Start a new project or initiative
• How to mobilise people for work
• How to motivate them
• Manage the resources (finance, people, etc.)
• Be better at time management
New career perspectives

NEW CONTACTS

NEW KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

EXPERIENCE IN LEADERSHIP POSITION

CAN

IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS

AND

BRING ATTENTION TO YOU AS A RESEARCHER
Thank you!

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COST Action COREnet (CA20107)
COREnetCOST.eu
Q & A

Contact email: events@cost.eu
Thank you!