GROWING **IDEAS**
THROUGH **GLOBAL NETWORKING**

What is COST Programme?

COST (the European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is an EU-funded programme which enables researchers and innovators to set up interdisciplinary research networks in Europe and beyond. We provide funds for organising conferences, meetings, training schools, short scientific missions and other networking activities on a wide range of scientific topics.

By creating open spaces where people and ideas can grow, we are unlocking the full potential of science. COST does not fund research itself but provides support for networking activities carried out within COST Actions.

COST invites researchers from all over the globe to create networks of researchers by forming in Europe and beyond to submit proposals for COST Actions through a continuous open call, no matter what their field of interest.

COST is proud to serve the global networking of researchers. Our bottom-up networks have shown to be fertile grounds for researchers to collaborate with their peers from Europe and beyond. The connections and collaborations established via COST are important building blocks of science diplomacy and excellent science. These activities are characterised by a free circulation of both knowledge and people, which is how COST makes a valuable contribution to the global advancement of science.

"COST provides great opportunities to share knowledge and publish together with peers. It also gives a profound insight how European projects work."

Hajer Gahbiche Msakni, Assistant Professor - University of Kairouan, Tunisia CA19121, CA19117

"COST networking has so many non-tangible positive consequences. Suddenly people know about your work and are asking you to evaluate papers, join editorial boards, and participate in collaborations."

Dr Andreas Gombert, Assistant Professor - University of Campinas, Brazil CA18229

What is COST Action?

Since its creation, COST has operated according to one main instrument, the COST Action.

A COST ACTION IS A NETWORK:

• welcoming researchers and innovators;

• collaborating in fields of science and technology of common interest to at least seven COST Members/ Cooperating Member* and additional partners from non-COST members;

• based on a joint work programme lasting four years;

• answering to the COST open call for proposals.

*See pages 6 and 7.

A COST ACTION IS A OPEN TO:

• all fields of science and technology (including interdisciplinary and new and emerging fields);

• all types of institutions (academia, public institutions, SME/industry, NGO, European/ international organisations, etc.);

• all career stages (both young and experienced researchers and innovators);

• all COST Members, as well as COST Near Neighbour Countries* and Third States (International Partner Countries)*. Participants in those countries can take part in all networking activities.

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION:

Scientific: work on emerging scientific topics, maximising the production of new knowledge and breakthrough discoveries, international recognitions, co-publication, facilitating access to research infrastructure including databases.
Networking: connectedness, common projects, identifying potential partners for future collaboration.
Mobility, visibility.
Career advancement and opportunities for training.
Financial support: COST NNCs* are eligible for COST funding, Third States* have limited financial support, a COST Partner member* provides national funding.

Networking tools

MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

These are organised by Management Committees (MC) in any COST Member participating in the network. They may be open to the wider community and provide opportunities to enhance the COST Action's visibility.

TRAINING SCHOOLS

They offer intensive training on an Action topic at the premises of one of the participating institutions from any participating countries.

SHORT-TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS (STSMS)

These are exchange visits between researchers in the network which enable scientists to visit an institution or laboratory in another participating country.

DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

COST encourages and supports Action participants to disseminate the outcome of their research to other COST networks, the wider scientific community, policymakers, the media, and society at large, through publications, online media, news releases, events, success stories, etc.

VIRTUAL NETWORKING GRANTS

These are two types of grants:

• Virtual Networking Support (VNS) Grants: aimed at promoting virtual collaboration to complement traditional ways of collaboration within the research and innovation communities;

• Virtual Mobility (VM) Grants: aimed at strengthening the existing networks by allowing researchers to foster collaboration in a virtual setting, to exchange knowledge, learn new techniques, disseminate, and share Action results.

Who can participate?

Researchers and innovators from universities, public and private institutions, NGOs, industry and SMEs.
Researchers from Near Neighbour Countries and Third States/International Partner Countries are also welcome to participate in COST Actions.
For more information on international cooperation, please see:

COST Global Networking | COST

How do I participate?

There are two ways to take part in a COST Action:
• Participate in an existing Action. Download our COST Action's booklet here to find the network that best matches your scientific expertise and visit the
COST Action web page.

• Join a network of proposers. Proposers benefit from a one-stage submission via the online e-COST tool. The COST Open Call Applicants' Guidelines for the Submission, Evaluation, Selection Approval (SESA) as well as the technical annex template, are available on the open call page:
Open Call:
A Simple One-Step Application Process | COST.

How to become an external expert?

Experts from all scientific areas can participate in the evaluation of proposals for COST Actions collected once a year through the COST Open Call. Learn more about becoming an external expert on our website.

Programme outreach

● **COST Near Neighbour Countries**

Algeria, Azerbaijan, Belarus[1] , Egypt, Faroe Islands, Jordan, Kosovo*, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, Palestine**, Russia[2], Syria, Tunisia.

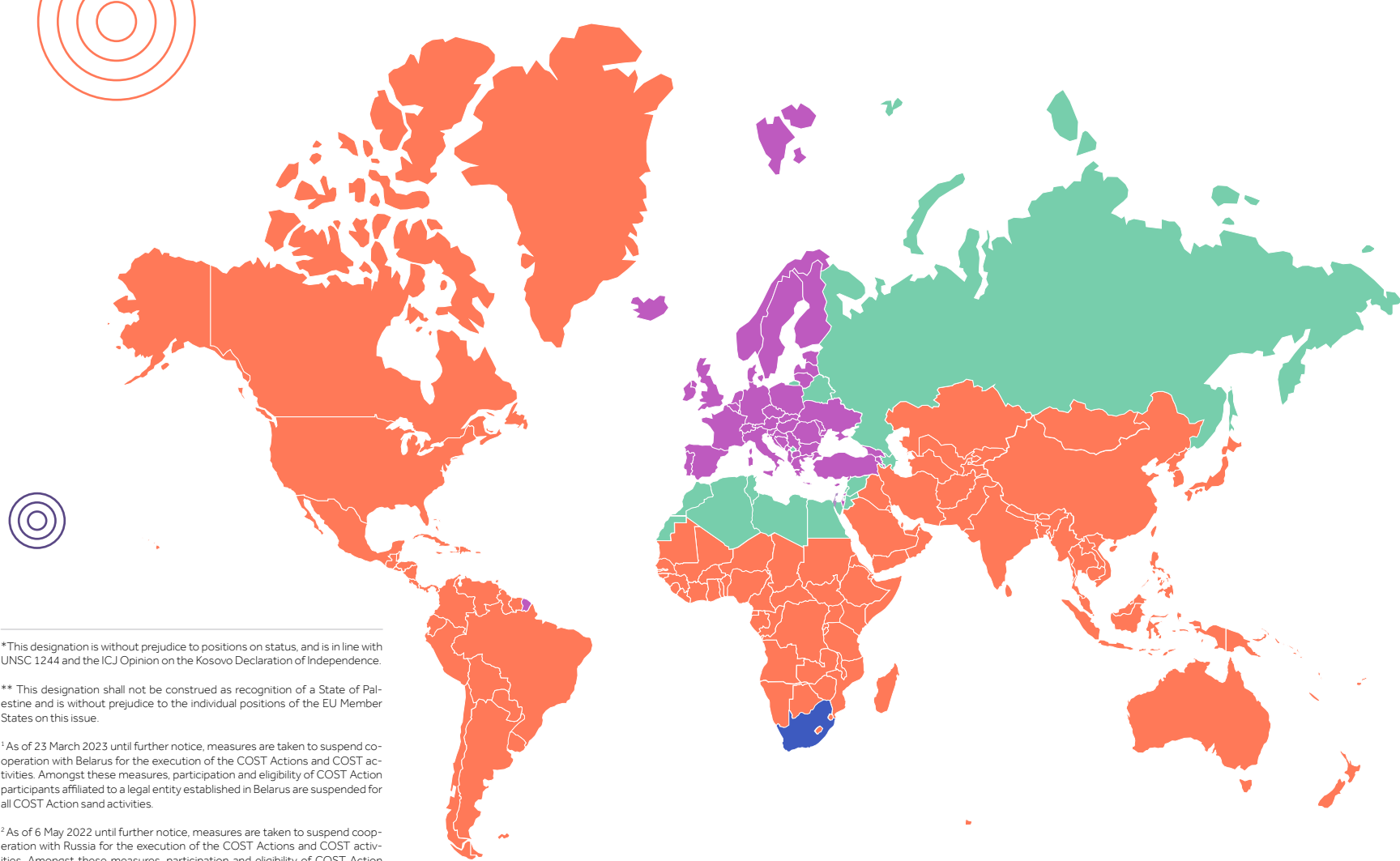● **Third States (International Partner Countries)**

Third States are countries from any of the seven continents, Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe, and Australia, that are not included in the lists of COST Members or COST Near Neighbourhood Countries.

● **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, Moldova, Montenegro, the Netherlands, The Republic of North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom.

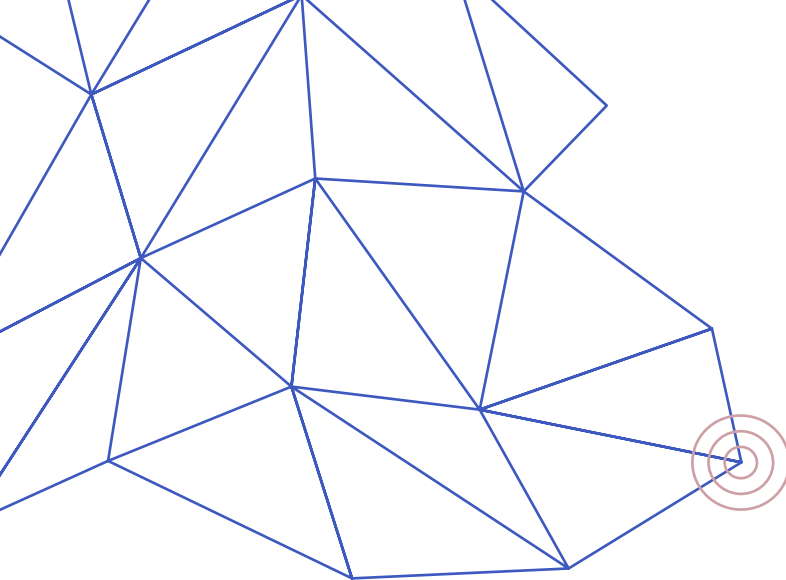● **1 Cooperating Member:** Israel

● **1 Partner Member:** South Africa

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSC 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

** This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the EU Member States on this issue.

[1] As of 23 March 2023 until further notice, measures are taken to suspend cooperation with Belarus for the execution of the COST Actions and COST activities. Amongst these measures, participation and eligibility of COST Action participants affiliated to a legal entity established in Belarus are suspended for all COST Action sand activities.

[2] As of 6 May 2022 until further notice, measures are taken to suspend cooperation with Russia for the execution of the COST Actions and COST activities. Amongst these measures, participation and eligibility of COST Action participants affiliated to a legal entity established in Russia are suspended for all COST Action sand activities.

COST

EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

**Funded by
the European Union**