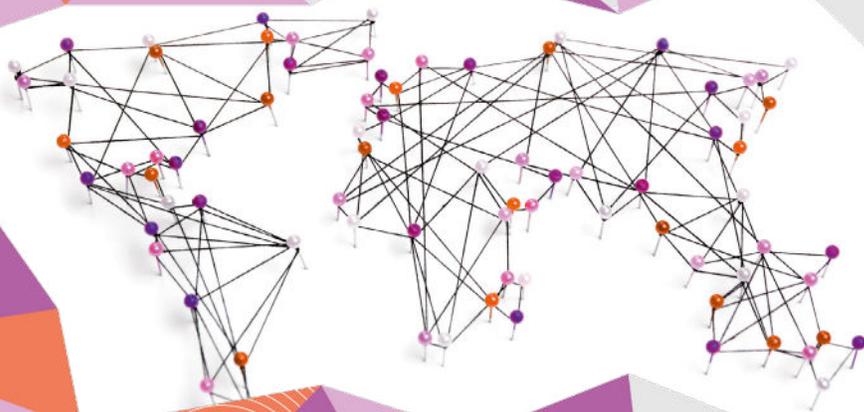


# GROWING IDEAS THROUGH GLOBAL NETWORKING



# WHAT IS THE 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, known as COST Actions, in Europe and beyond.

While COST does not fund research itself, it does provide support for networking activities, such as conferences, workshops, meetings, training schools and short-term scientific missions, on a wide range of scientific topics.

By creating open spaces where people and ideas can flourish, we unlock the full potential of science.

COST invites researchers from all over the world to establish networks. This can be done by submitting proposals for COST Actions in response to an ongoing Open Call, or by joining ongoing, already funded COST Actions in many fields of interest.

“With research cooperation, we overcome knowledge fragmentation, we break across the silos and promote collaborations of actors and stakeholders across continents, realising the global nature of the problems at hand.”

**Prof. Chrysi Laspidou,**  
University of Thessaly, Greece  
Chair of the COST Action NexusNet

COST is proud to serve the global network of researchers. Our bottom-up networks have proven to be a fertile ground for researchers to collaborate with their peers in Europe and around the world. The links and collaborations established through COST are important building blocks of science diplomacy and scientific excellence. These activities are characterised by the free circulation of knowledge and people, and this is how COST contributes to the global advancement of science.

# WHAT IS A COST ACTION?

- an interdisciplinary research network
- bringing researchers and innovators together
- based on a joint work programme lasting four years
- low barrier to entry

## A COST ACTION IS OPEN TO

- all fields of science and technology, including interdisciplinary, new, and emerging fields
- all types of participants, including those from academia, public institutions, SMEs/industry, NGOs, European/international organisations
- all career stages, both young and experienced researchers and innovators
- all COST Members, as well as Near Neighbour Countries, and Third States\* (International Partner Countries)

## BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

**Scientific:** work on emerging scientific topics to maximise the production of new knowledge and breakthrough discoveries; international recognition; co-publication; and access to research infrastructure, including databases

**Networking:** joint projects and identification of potential partners for future collaboration

**Mobility and visibility**

**Career advancement** and opportunities for training

**Financial support:** COST Near Neighbour Countries\* are eligible for COST funding. Third States\* have limited financial support and a COST Partner Member\* provides funding for its own participants

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\* See pages 6 and 7

# OUTREACH

## ● FULL 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, Türkiye, Ukraine, and United Kingdom

## ● 1 COOPERATING MEMBER:

Israel

## ● 1 INTERNATIONAL PARTNER MEMBER:

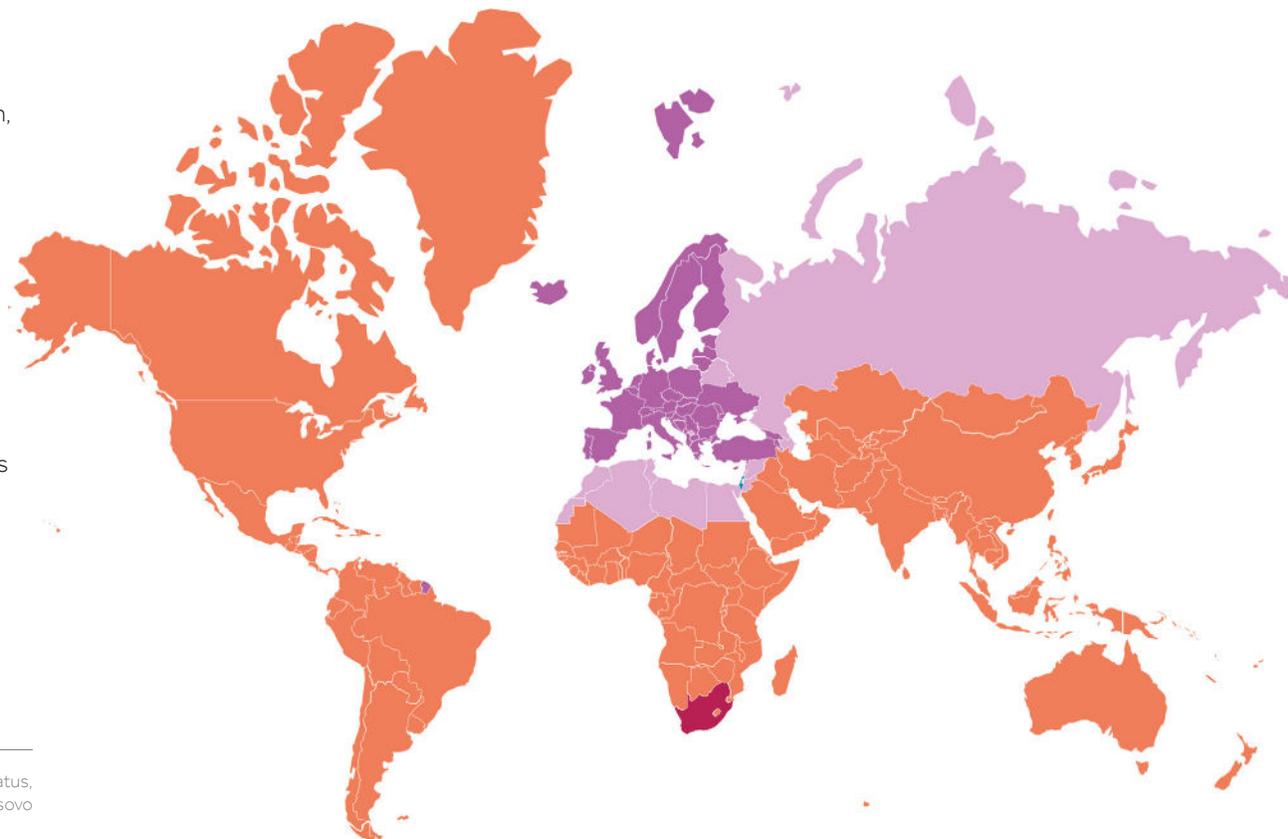
South Africa

## ● NEAR NEIGHBOUR COUNTRIES

Algeria, Azerbaijan, Belarus\*, Egypt, Jordan, Kosovo\*\*, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine\*\*\*, Russia\*, Syria, Tunisia

## ● THIRD STATES (INTERNATIONAL PARTNER COUNTRIES)

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 Full Members or Near Neighbour Countries.



\* Measures are taken to suspend cooperation with Russia and Belarus as of 6 May 2022 and as of 2 March 2023 respectively and until further notice. Among these measures, participation and eligibility of COST Action participants affiliated to a legal entity established in Belarus or in Russia are suspended for all COST Actions and COST activities.

\*\*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.

# NETWORKING TOOLS



## MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

Events organised by an Action's Management Committee to support networking, exchange, and knowledge sharing. They may be open to the wider community and provide opportunities to enhance the COST Action's visibility.



## TRAINING SCHOOLS

An intensive, hands-on training on a specific Action topic, hosted by one of the Action participants anywhere in the world.



## SHORT-TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS

Exchange visits between researchers in the network which enable participants to visit an institution or laboratory in any country in the world. The aim is to foster collaboration and share new techniques or research infrastructure that may not be available in a participant's home institution or laboratory.



## CONFERENCE GRANTS

Grants support Action participants to give oral presentations about their research network at high-level conferences. Two additional grants support attendance at external conferences not organised by the Action: one for young researchers and innovators (under 40) and one for researchers from Inclusiveness Target Countries.



## VIRTUAL NETWORKING GRANTS

They aim to promote virtual collaboration as a complement to traditional ways of cooperation, and to strengthen existing networks by enabling researchers to collaborate virtually, exchange knowledge, learn new techniques, disseminate and share Action results.



## DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

COST encourages and supports Actions to disseminate the outcomes of their research to the wider scientific community, policymakers, the media, and society at large, through publications, multimedia projects, press releases, policy briefs, etc.

# WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Researchers and innovators from universities, public and private institutions, NGOs, industry and SMEs.

Particular emphasis is placed on activities involving researchers from less research-intensive COST countries (also known as Inclusiveness Target Countries) with a view to increasing their participation.

Researchers from Near Neighbour Countries and International Partner Countries are also welcome to participate in COST Actions.

Check your eligibility for participation and reimbursement:  
[www.cost.eu/am-i-eligible](http://www.cost.eu/am-i-eligible)

## HOW CAN INTERNATIONAL RESEARCHERS PARTICIPATE?

### JOIN A RUNNING COST ACTION

- Become a working group member
- Host a short-term scientific mission
- Be a trainer at a training school
- Be an invited speaker at a workshop or conference

Browse the COST Actions on the COST website to find the network that best matches your scientific expertise: [www.cost.eu/cost-actions-event/browse-actions](http://www.cost.eu/cost-actions-event/browse-actions)

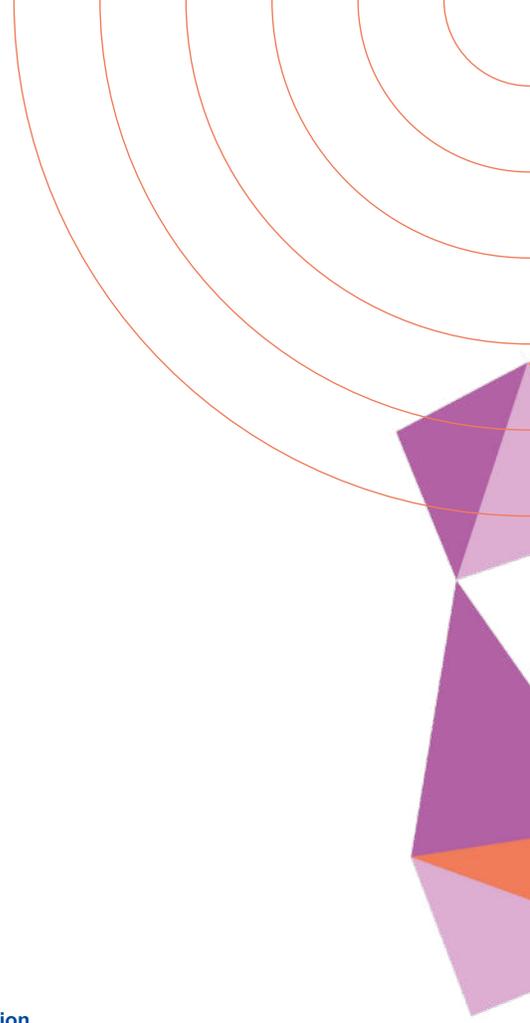
### BECOME A MEMBER OF A PROPOSING TEAM FOR A NEW COST ACTION

Individuals from non-COST countries cannot be the main proposer, but they can be part of a network of proposers for a new COST Action submitted to our annual Open Call. Proposers benefit from a one-stage submission via the online e-COST tool: [www.cost.eu/how-to-apply](http://www.cost.eu/how-to-apply)

### BECOME A COST EXTERNAL EXPERT

- Evaluate proposals submitted to the COST Open Call
- Assess progress of running COST Actions

Learn more about becoming an external expert: [www.cost.eu/experts](http://www.cost.eu/experts)



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the European Union