GROWING IDEAS THROUGH NETWORKS



IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

WHAT IS THE COST PROGRAMME?

"Participation in a COST Action has opened doors to innovative ideas and collaborations. It increased the international visibility of my organisation and created new partnerships and funding opportunities."

Dr Tatiana Sitchinava,

Institute of Demography and Sociology, Ilia State University, Georgia

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.

COST does not fund research itself but provides 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 grow, we are unlocking the full potential of science.

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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)*

YEARLY FUNDING

The average budget of a COST Action is, indicatively, EUR 150,000/year for a network with participants from around 30 COST Full/Cooperating Members.

The funds are provided via an annual grant agreement over a four-year period.

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^{*}See pages 10-11

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.



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.



TRAINING SCHOOLS

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



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.



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.



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

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

PARTICIPATE?

→ Take part in an ongoing Action

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

→ Create your own network

Submit a COST Action proposal to the annual Open Call. The submission, evaluation, selection and approval procedure ensures a simple, transparent and competitive evaluation and selection process, in line with COST's bottom-up, open and inclusive principles. Proposers benefit from a one-stage submission via the online e-COST tool: www.cost.eu/how-to-apply

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: www.cost.eu/experts

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)

Any other country worldwide that is not included in the previous lists.

EXCELLENCE AND INCLUSIVENESS POLICY

This policy is tailored to foster scientific excellence throughout Europe by providing cooperation opportunities for researchers and innovators from Inclusiveness Target Countries. COST helps connect people to knowledge hubs within the European Research Area.

"Networking accelerates opportunities to go further. Collaboration teaches us to keep trying despite failure. Ambitious goals and a vision bring people together and the group always wins over working isolated and alone. Networks facilitate contacts and communication for future opportunities."

Prof. Raphael Hirschi,

School of Chemical and Physical Sciences, Keele University, UK



The less research-intensive COST Members, also known as Inclusiveness Target 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.



