

European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST)

OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS – COLLECTION OC-2026-1

COST invites you to submit proposals for COST Actions addressing scientific, technological and societal challenges, by promoting and spreading excellence, fostering interdisciplinary research for breakthrough science and empowering and retaining young researchers and innovators¹.

The COST Open Call is a one-stage submission process where proposals may be registered and submitted between **31 July 2026 at 12:00 - noon (CEST)** and the Collection Date. The 2026-1 Collection Date is **28 October 2026 at 12:00 - noon (CET)**. Up to 80 new COST Actions are to be approved, subject to available budget.

Please note that there are new rules and guidelines for OC-2026-1

The [COST Open Call - Proposers' Guidelines](http://www.cost.eu/open-call-proposers-guidelines) are available on the COST website (<http://www.cost.eu/open-call-proposers-guidelines>) under [Funding Documents & Guidelines](#). Proposals must be submitted electronically via the [e-COST](#) online submission tool.

COST Actions are Science and Technology (S&T) networks open to researchers and innovators, and other relevant stakeholders, affiliated to a legal entity such as: a public entity (national, regional, local public authority or any other kind of public entity), universities, research centres, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), large companies, Non-Governmental Organisation (NGOs), as well as any other form of legal entity recognised under a national or international framework.

COST Actions are **Pan-European, Bottom-up, Open** throughout their lifetime to new members and are **adaptable** in terms of internal organisation and strategy; well-suited to promote **Multi-, Inter- and Transdisciplinary collaborations, Output and Impact-Oriented**. COST supports networking via different activities such as meetings, short-term scientific missions, training schools and dissemination products as part of COST Actions, to achieve bottom-up defined challenges. COST does not fund research itself.

Proposals should align with the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy, which aims to provide collaboration opportunities to all researchers and innovators in COST Members; encourage and enable researchers from less research-intensive countries across Europe to set up or join COST Actions; counterbalance research communities unequal access to knowledge, infrastructures, funding and resources; provide strong means to increase the visibility and integration of researchers to the leading knowledge hubs of Europe, as well as to acquire their necessary leadership skills, regardless of their location, age or gender.

Proposals for a COST Action are evaluated against criteria of Excellence in S&T and Networking, Impact, and Implementation. Proposals must represent a network composed of:

¹ COST receives financial support from the EU RTD framework programme, Horizon Europe. The COST Association, integrating governance, management and implementing functions, provides for the administrative, scientific and technical support in the operation of COST rules and procedures and the management of COST Actions.

- At least seven (7) COST Full or Cooperating Members amongst which at least fifty per cent ($\geq 50\%$) shall be from COST Inclusiveness Target Countries²;
- At least forty per cent ($\geq 40\%$) of individuals who are Young Researchers and Innovators³.

Proposers are encouraged to contact their COST National Coordinator (CNC) for additional information and guidance – see www.cost.eu/cnc.

² [Annex I – Level A: Country and Organisations table](#). NB: for the participation in the network of proposers, the ITC status of researchers and innovators from EU Member States Outermost Regions will be counted as the EU Member State they are linked to e.g., Guadeloupe will be counted as France (non-ITC), researchers affiliated in a legal entity in Azores will be counted as Portugal (ITC). The European Commission and EU bodies, offices or agencies, European RTD Organisations and International Organisations do not count as COST Full or Cooperating Members, independently of their geographical location in one of the COST Full or Cooperating Members

³ see the [Glossary](#)