- What is COST?
- How does COST work?
- Why and how to participate in COST activities?
COST mission

“COST provides networking opportunities for researchers and innovators in order to strengthen Europe’s capacity to address scientific, technological and societal challenges”.
COST - 45 years proven track record in research collaboration

38 COST Countries:
Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The countries in blue are the least research-intensive COST countries, also known as Incomplete/missing Targeted countries (ITCs)

1 Cooperating State:
Israel

Near Neighbour Countries:
Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Kosovo*, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Russia, Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR
1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the-Kosovo declaration of independence
COST key figures of 2017

- 339 Running Actions
- 233 Training schools
- €134,000 Average annual budget of a COST Action
- 2,339 Short-term scientific missions
- 45,000 Researchers involved in COST Actions
- €300 million COST budget (from Horizon 2020 for a 7 year period)

COST: The networking tool in the ERA and the pre-portal to other ERA funding schemes
Role of COST in the ERA - 3 Strategic Priorities

1. Promoting and spreading excellence
2. Fostering interdisciplinary research for breakthrough science
3. Boosting careers young researchers
Promoting and spreading excellence
Fostering interdisciplinary research for breakthrough science
Overall participation in COST Actions
How COST works - video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SaaAVicdpA&t=93s
How it works?

COST Action participants
nominated by COST National Coordinators

Main proposer
Secondary proposers
COST Actions are bottom-up science and technology networks, open to researchers and stakeholders.

They are active through a range of networking tools, such as workshops, conferences, training schools, short-term scientific missions (STSMs), and dissemination activities.

COST does not fund research itself.

Around 260 COST Actions are currently ongoing.

**Researcher-driven**

In terms of proposed topics, objectives and work organisation; researchers choose their own topics; all decision are entrusted to the Action’s Management Committees

**Open and Inclusive**

Open to all researchers, engineers and scholars, irrespective of gender, field or career stage. Actions can expand, as researchers from new countries can join in during the first three years

**Multi- and interdisciplinary**

Building, bridging and expanding multi- and interdisciplinary science and technology research communities.
## Benefits of participation in a COST Action

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<tr>
<th>Scientific</th>
<th>Career</th>
<th>Networking</th>
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<tr>
<td>work on topics not yet funded by other sources</td>
<td>Get experience in scientific and/or administrative management (i.e. leading/organising training schools, disseminating research results)</td>
<td>can participate in any H2020 project at the same time</td>
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<tr>
<td>become member of leading scientific networks - without going through a possibly risky and exclusive proposal preparation</td>
<td>participating at short term scientific missions</td>
<td>participate in more COST Actions at the same time</td>
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<tr>
<td>publication</td>
<td>Increasing visibility by hosting and/or participating at additional scientific events</td>
<td>extend one’s network</td>
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<tr>
<td>engage with peers</td>
<td>becoming a Grant Holder</td>
<td>reimbursement</td>
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COST acting as a pre-portal for FP funding

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Total Actions with finished Final Action Report</th>
<th>Submitted H2020 proposals reported</th>
<th>Approved H2020 projects reported</th>
<th>Success rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>114</td>
<td>392</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>33 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Participation from non-COST countries
Participation from Near Neighbour Countries, NNCs

- COST Actions are open to welcome non-COST country participants
- Participation is based on ascertained mutual benefit
- Funding conditions: researchers from NNCs are eligible for reimbursement. COST Actions with NNC participants receive a top-up to their allocated budget
- Engaging to COST Actions: secondary proposer, joining an existing Action
Approval process for non-COST country participants

- Letter of intent, based on mutual benefit, to the COST Action Chair
- Internal approval procedure, appr. 15 days

The request for joining an Action is made by the institution of the researcher assigning the individual scientist to the Action.
JOIN running COST Actions/ COST activities

- DO your research of COST Actions
  https://www.cost.eu/cost-actions/browse-actions/

- INVEST your time
- IDENTIFY the COST Action
- CONTACT the Action

- DON'T UNDERESTIMATE
- DON'T only shoot for the radar

https://www.cost.eu/
Become a COST 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
• Be invited to take part in the assessment of COST strategic activities

New experts can express their interest via the COST Expert online registration form: www.cost.eu/experts

An updated Curriculum Vitae with a list of publications is required to demonstrate competence in specific areas of expertise

- As a COST expert, you will have opportunity to:
  • Contribute to the evaluation of COST OC proposals;
  • Participate in the assessment of Action results and outcomes;
  • Take a part in the assessment of COST strategic activities

More on COST Experts: www.cost.eu/participate/experts
- COST Awareness Day for NNCs 03/04/2019, Brussels, inviting the National Contact Persons (NCP) of H2020
- 40 new COST Actions approved on 13/11/2018
- Researchers coming to Brussels are welcome to contact COST and are encouraged to pay COST a visit
Thank you!
Contact and engage with us!

@COST Programme

@COSTProgramme

COST Association

COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology)

“The opportunity for science lies in creating an unlimited space where crossovers between ideas and people can change the world for the better.”