



Brussels, 15 December 2014

European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST)

Open Call for Proposals

COST aims to enable breakthrough scientific developments leading to new concepts and products. It thereby contributes to strengthening Europe's research and innovation capacities.

In order to achieve its mission and goal, COST has identified a set of objectives aiming at supporting high quality, collaborative networks in all fields of science and technology while facilitating focus on existing but less prevailing areas allowing to increase COST overall impact:

- Joining research efforts and developing common S&T programmes by coordinating nationally funded research activities led by pan-European, high quality, collaborative S&T networks.
- Building capacity by providing networking and leadership opportunities for emerging talents and thereby strengthening and building up excellent S&T communities.
- Addressing Societal Questions by promoting trans-disciplinary, new approaches and topics and identifying early warning signals of unforeseen societal problems aiming at contributing to Societal Challenges.
- Strengthening COST Inclusiveness Policy by fostering better access and integration of less research intensive countries' researchers to the knowledge hubs of the European Research Area aiming at contributing to the Widening Pillar of Horizon 2020.

COST brings together European researchers, engineers and scholars from different COST countries to jointly develop their own ideas and new initiatives across all science and technology fields through trans-European cooperation. COST encourages and fosters trans-, multi- and interdisciplinary approaches by integrating researchers, engineers and scholars from different fields and horizons such as universities, research centers, companies, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as other relevant actors.

COST does NOT fund research itself, but supports networking by the means of different tools such as meetings, short term scientific missions, training schools and dissemination activities through COST Actions.

COST invites proposals for Actions aiming at contributing to the scientific, technological, economic, cultural or societal knowledge advancement and development of Europe to close the gap between science, policy makers and society throughout Europe and beyond.

Proposals should reflect the main characteristics of COST Actions, namely providing for knowledge share, knowledge creation and application, being open and output oriented while aiming at strengthening the scientific and technological basis of the proposed topic(s).

Proposals should also respond to COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy that aims to provide collaboration opportunities to all researchers, engineers and scholars in COST countries, encourage participation of young talents and next generation leaders, in particular promoting working opportunities for early career investigators, and ensure gender balance, paving the way towards break-through developments and innovations.

Proposals will be evaluated against criteria of S&T excellence, impact and implementation.



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COST Association

Avenue Louise 149 | 1050 Brussels, Belgium
t: +32 (0)2 533 3800 | f: +32 (0)2 533 3890
office@cost.eu | www.cost.eu

Proposals for a COST Action must represent a network of proposers from at least 5 COST countries (COST Member Countries or Cooperating State).

Selected proposals for COST Actions will get a financial support in the range of EUR 130.000 p.a., normally for four years, subject to available budget.

Proponents are invited to consult the new set of “COST Implementation Rules” that have been approved by the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO), the general assembly of the COST Association, and will enter into force on 1 January 2015 (see www.cost.eu/opencall)¹.

The new “COST Action Proposal Submission, Evaluation, Selection and Approval” rules and procedure is based on the bottom-up, open and inclusive principles of COST and will ensure a simple, transparent and competitive evaluation and selection of proposals. (see document B1 “COST Action Proposal Submission, Evaluation, Selection and Approval” on www.cost.eu/opencall)

Proponents benefit from a one-stage submission based upon a proposal of up to 15 pages.

Submitted proposals will be checked against eligibility criteria and can be declared as non-eligible at any point of the process should any breach of those be identified during the evaluation as defined in the rules. Similarly, any attempt to not respect the conflict of interest rules can lead to immediate exclusion of the proposal from the evaluation, selection and approval process.

Proposals will be evaluated remotely by a minimum of 3 independent External Experts in the S&T field(s), sub-field(s) and research area(s) chosen by the proponents. Ad-hoc Review Panels will carry out a quality check, convene how to manage differences in opinions, arbitrate and establish a ranked list of proposals having passed the overall threshold. The Scientific Committee will select among the ranked list of proposals received from the Review Panels by discriminating among proposals with the same marks taking into account the COST mission and policies. The Scientific Committee will submit the final ranked list of selected proposals to the CSO for approval.

The COST Open Call will continue having the spring and autumn Collection Dates, when all submitted proposals are gathered and evaluated.

The first Collection Date will be **24 March 2015 at 12 noon** (CET).

The final decision on approval and funding for new COST Actions will be taken by the CSO in October 2015. Approximately 42 new Actions will be approved, subject to available budget.

The provisional Proposal Template is available on www.cost.eu/opencall. The Guidelines for submitting COST Action proposals will be available on the same page in January 2015.

Proposals must be submitted electronically via e-COST. Proponents will be able to submit proposals anytime throughout the year via the e-COST new online submission tool. The new online submission tool will be available in February 2015.

The next Collection Date is envisaged for September 2015.

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

COST receives financial support from the EU RTD framework programme, Horizon 2020. 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.

¹ Documents A, B1, B2, B3