2020 Open Call for COST Actions

What are COST Actions?

A COST Action is an interdisciplinary research network dedicated to scientific collaboration. Through the COST Programme, COST Actions receive funds for four years to organise meetings, workshops, conferences, short-term scientific exchanges and other dissemination activities.

Main characteristics

Openness
- All fields of science, including interdisciplinary, new and emerging fields
- Any novel or original idea
- The chance to join ongoing COST Actions

Inclusiveness
Actively engaging the whole research community across countries, generations and gender

Who can submit?

researchers and innovators

- Universities
- Research centres
- Industry and SMEs
- Other relevant partners

Benefits

Solely science and technology driven
- Open to all scientific and technological fields
- Focus on excellence

Simple
- One submission stage
- User-friendly IT tools

Transparent
- Straightforward process
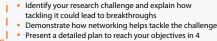- Independent peer review

KEY DATES

The COST open call is open all year round.

Collection dates are organised every year, when proposal enter the evaluation process.

The next collection date is 29 October 2020 (12:00 CET).

Collection date
29 October

Your way to a COST Action

1 Idea and team

You propose an innovative idea linked to a specific challenge in your field of expertise, potentially leading to a scientific or technological breakthrough. You need to have at least seven (7) peers interested in the idea, from at least seven (7) COST Members.

TIPS
- Identify your research challenge and explain how tackling it could lead to breakthroughs
- Demonstrate how networking helps tackle the challenge
- Present a detailed plan to reach your objectives in 4 years
- Show you are able to engage the right stakeholders, having a balanced European participation, gender representation and various career stages
- Explain how you will maximise the impact of your idea

2 Proposal completion

Complete your proposal via e-COST, the online submission tool.

Guidelines available on www.cost.eu/opencall

3 Proposal collection

Proposals are collected at the end of October 2020.

4 External experts

Three independent external experts evaluate each proposal's focus on excellence in science and technology, on impact and implementation, and draw up a consensus report.

5 Review Panel

An ad hoc group of experts - they take a final decision on proposals where consensus was not reached (step 4). They also set up a proposal ranking.

6 Scientific Committee

A committee of independent, high-level experts selecting the proposals best reflecting COST's mission and policies. They set up a final list of proposals for the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO).

7 CSO decision

The Committee of Senior Officials (CSO), the governing board of COST, approves the shortlisted Actions to receive funding.

8 Decision communication

If approved, you are now informed about the CSO decision.

9 COST Action starts

With the first meeting of its decision making body (Management Committee).

29 October
April