Deadline	**Thur 20 Oct 2022 12:00 CET** (IOCB deadline for final proposal: Thu 13 Oct 2022)
Call name	**COST Association: COST Action**
www	www.cost.eu/funding/how-to-get-funding/open-call/
Focused on	Networking: meetings, workshops, conferences, training schools, short term scientific missions, dissemination activities; Strengthening Europe´s research and innovation capacities
PI	Network of proposers (top management, senior researchers, project managers) represented by a main proposer
Eligible organisation	Consortium of at least 7 institutions from at least 7 COST Member States, half of which have to be from COST Inclusiveness Target Countries Research institutions, public higher education institutions, research infrastructures, international organisations, public authorities, regional bodies, private law subjects: companies, SMEs, NGOs, foundations...
Target group	Network of stakeholders: research institutions, universities, research infrastructures, companies, SMEs... Researchers, engineers, scholars, innovators from all career levels, degrees of specialisation and professional backgrounds, from PhD students to Nobel Prize winners
Expected outputs	Breakthrough scientific developments; interdisciplinary bottom-up networks New ideas, initiatives, concepts, services, products Codified knowledge (publications, patents, websites), tacit knowledge (not formalised knowledge), technology (software, new materials, prototypes, databases), societal applications, proposals to the ERC/large collaborative EU projects Meetings: AMC/WG meetings, workshops, conferences: organised by the Action, open to the whole scientific community. Training Schools (TS): intensive training in research and innovation topics. Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSM): exchange visits between researchers and innovators within the COST Action. Dissemination activities: to disseminate outputs to other COST S&T networks, policymakers, media, society… Conference Grants: helping PhD students and early-career investigators from ITCs to attend international conferences. Deliverables (Action´s objectives): reports, documents, technical diagrams, S&T papers and contributions, content for training schools, input to standards, best practices, white papers, etc.
Call opens	Dec 2022
IOCB deadline	**Thur 13 Oct 2022**
Final deadline	**Thur 20 Oct 2022 12:00 CET**
Evaluation results	Apr 2023
Signature of agreement	NA
Earliest date of implementation	Expected May/Jun 2023 (the first Action MC meeting of the Action marks the official start date of the Action)
Latest date of implementation	-
Sustainability	website for 2 years after completing the project
Reporting	3 progress reports: at month 12, 24, 48 (Final Achievement Report) Intermediate Financial Report (IFR) submitted when requesting the second payment around month 8 of the Grant Period Final Financial Report (FFR) submitted within 45 calendar days from the end of each Grant Period (12 months)
Project duration (min-max)	**48 months** (4 years)
Allocation for the call	up to 70 new COST Actions per call
Project budget (min-max)	~expected average annual budget of **134 000 €**
Success rate	15 %

Eligible costs	Direct costs: personnel costs, travel expenses, accommodation, meal expenses, trainee grants, local organiser support, equipment, goods & services, fees… Indirect costs: overheads max 15%
	Dissemination meetings: travel, accommodation and meal expenses, conference fees **Meetings**: travel (up to 1200 €), local transport- bus, shuttle, train, metro, tram, ferry (25 €), taxi (up to 80 €, before 7 am, after 10 pm), parking, visa, accommodation (up to 120 €/p/n), meal (20 €/m, max 2m/d) expenses; medical illness and/or Force Majeure; organisational expenses **Training schools**: up to 4 trainers/invited speakers (travel, accommodation, meal expenses), trainees (fixed grant up to 1500 €, travel, accommodation, meal expenses); LOS, materials **Local Organiser Support** (LOS): (1) a lump sum of up to 20 €/p/d, max 5000 €; (2) expenses justified by detailed invoices, max 10000 €; rental of rooms and technical equipment; photocopying & printing; phone, fax & mailing for announcements; up to 15% of LOS to support the administrative & secretarial expenses; field trip expenses; coffee breaks, refreshments & light lunches (wraps, sandwiches, finger food etc.); one single networking dinner; consumables such as laboratory materials, scientific equipment **Short Term Scientific Missions** (STSM) for PhD students & postdocs: up to 3500 €/p, up to 160 €/d for accommodation & meal, up to 300 € for travel costs **Conference grants** for PhD students & ECI from ITCs, oral/poster presentation: up to 2500 €/p, up to 160 €/d for accommodation & meal, up to 500 € for conference fees **Communication tools**: creation, development, hosting, maintenance of website up to 9000 €; graphic design up to 1000 €; flyers, leaflets, posters, pens; multimedia content; conference booths; publications co-authored by at least 3 FM up to 10000 € in total funded by COST Association; Open Access licences; production & distribution of publications; proofreading, layout & editing expenses **Final Action Dissemination** (FAD) funded by the COST Association, apply no later than 6 months before the official end date of the Action: a fixed grant up to 10000 €
Reimbursement	**100 %**
Mode of funding	Ex-ante & ex-post First instalment of 50 % after signature of the Grant Agreement Second instalment of 35 % reimburses after submission of IFR month 8 Third instalment of 15 % reimburses after submission depends on submission of FFR
Language of application	English
Provider	COST Association Avenue du Boulevard – Bolwerklaan 21, 1210 Brussels, www.cost.eu, opencall@cost.eu
Call identifier	COST-2022
Call info	COST aims to enable breakthrough scientific developments leading to new concepts, services and products. It thereby contributes to strengthening Europe´s research and innovation capacities. Objectives: (1) 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. (2) Building capacity by providing networking and leadership opportunities for emerging talents and thereby strengthening and building up excellent S&T communities. (3) Addressing Societal Questions by promoting transdisciplinary, new approaches and topics and identifying early warning signals of unforeseen societal problems aiming to contribute to Societal Challenges. (4) 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 Europe. COST encourages and fosters trans-, multi- and interdisciplinary approaches by integrating researchers, engineers and scholars from different fields and horizons. COST Actions are: pan-European, bottom-up, open, unique, multi-, inter- and transdisciplinary, output & impact-oriented
Conditions / Restrictions	Proposal of up to 15 pages. 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. At least 50 % of the budget has to be spent in widening countries (Inclusiveness Target Countries, ITCs). Network of proposers from at least 7 different COST Full or Cooperating Members with a minimum 50% of ITCs.

	Proposal has to be anonymous (in order to comply with the double-blind principle of the evaluation). There can be more than one proposer per institution, as long as it is clearly beneficial for the proposed Action. All proposers must have a registered and updated e-COST profile and specified expertise.

40 **COST full members** (FM): Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Republic of North Macedonia, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom plus EU Member States Outermost Regions (French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, Reunion Islands and Saint-Martin (FR), Azores and Madeira (PT), Canary Islands (ES))
25 **Inclusiveness Target Countries** (ITCs): Albania, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey, Ukraine plus all the EU Member States Outermost Regions
1 **Cooperating Member**: Israel
1 **Partner Member**: South Africa (observer rights)
14 **Near Neighbour Countries** (NNC): Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Jordan, Kosovo, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Russia (suspended as of 6 May 2022 until further notice), Syria, Tunisia
COST ACTION STRUCTURE:
Action MC members (MCM) = up to 2 persons for each FM nominated by the CNC, have voting rights within the AMC
Action MC substitutes (MCS) = up to 3 persons for each FM nominated by the CNC, replace MCM when necessary
MC observers (MCO) = Action participants affiliated to partner members, accepted MoU, based in NNCs, IPCs, EC, EU bodies, offices or agencies, International Organisations, European RTD Organisations (Eiroforum)
WG members = Action participants appointed by the AMC, contribute to the achievement of the Action objectives
Ad hoc participants = individuals selected by the AMC to contribute to the Action activities: STSM grantees, trainees & trainers in Training Schools, invited speakers
Action Management Committee (AMC) = decision-making body, responsible for the coordination, implementation & management; composed of up to 2 representatives of FM that have accepted Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
Working Groups (WGs) = are in charge of developing activities needed to achieve the Action objectives
Chair = elected by the AMC, responsible for the coordination and implementation of the Action
Vice-chair = elected by the AMC, assists when requested to do so by Chair, can substitute Chair when required or mandated to do so
Grant Holder = the legal entity responsible for the scientific, administrative and financial implementation of the Action
Group Leaders = appointed by the AMC
COST National Coordinators (CNCs) = individuals appointed by COST Members in charge of confirming participation of their COST Member to a COST Action by means of the acceptance of the MoU and nominating AMC members
Action Grant Agreement (AGA) & annual Work and Budget Plans (W&BPs) = detailing the activities designed to achieve the objectives defined in the MoU |
| Proposal consists of | 1) General features (online): Title, Acronym, Summary, Key expertise, Keywords (applicant)
2) Technical Annex: Science & technology excellence, Networking excellence, Impact, Implementation (use template, save final version as a PDF) (applicant & Project Office)
3) References (online, not-mandatory, max 500 words) (applicant)
4) COST Mission, Policy and rules (online, mandatory max 1000 words) (applicant)
5) Network of proposers (online, mandatory, e-COST profile) (applicant & Project Office) |
| Evaluation criteria | Single-round evaluation
STEP 1: Proposal peer-review evaluation by at least 3 independent external experts => 3 evaluation reports => consensus report (0–50 points, overall threshold 34 points)
Excellence: soundness of the challenge; progress beyond the state-of-the-art (15 points) |

	Q1: Does the proposal demonstrate a comprehensive command of the state of the art in the field and present a relevant and timely challenge? Q2: Does the proposal describe an innovative approach to the challenge that advances the state of the art in the field? Q3: Are the objectives presented relevant to the challenge, clear and ambitious? **Networking excellence**: added value of networking (15 points) Q4: Does networking bring added value in tackling the challenge in relation to existing efforts at the European and/or international level? Q5: Does the proposed network contain, or present a credible plan for securing, the critical mass and expertise for achieving the objectives and thus addressing the challenge? Q6: Does the proposal identify the most relevant stakeholders and present a clear plan to involve them as Action's participants? **Impact**: to science, society, competitiveness, potential for innovations, measures to maximise impact (15 points) Q7: Does the proposal clearly identify relevant and realistic impacts for science, society and/or competitiveness (including potential innovations and/or breakthroughs) Q8: Does the proposed networking clearly contribute to knowledge creation, transfer of knowledge and career development? Q9: Is the plan for dissemination and/or exploitation of results clear and attainable and does it contribute to the dialogue between science and the general public or policy? **Implementation**: coherence and effectiveness of the work plan (5 points) Q10: Is the work plan (WGs, tasks, activities, timeframe, deliverables and risk analysis) appropriate to ensure the achievement of the objectives? **STEP 2:** Revision and quality check by ad hoc review panel **STEP 3:** Proposal selection by COST Scientific Committee (high-level experts one from each FM/CM) **STEP 4:** Final decision on approval and funding by the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO)
Research areas	All scientific and technological fields Natural Sciences: (1) Mathematics, (2) Computer and Information Sciences, (3) Physical Sciences, (4) Chemical Sciences, (5) Earth & Environmental Sciences, (6) Biological Sciences Engineering & Technology: (7) Civil Engineering, (8) Electrical, Electronic, Information Engineering, (9) Mechanical Engineering, (10) Chemical Engineering, (11) Materials Engineering, (12) Medical Engineering, (13) Environmental Engineering, (14) Environmental Biotechnology, (15) Industrial Biotechnology, (16) Nano-technology, (17) Other E&T Medical & Health Sciences: (18) Basic Medicine, (19) Clinical Medicine, (20) Health Sciences, (21) Medical Biotechnology, (22) Other Medical Sciences Agricultural Sciences: (23) Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, (24) Animal & Dairy Science, (25) Veterinary Science, (26) Agricultural Biotechnology, (27) Other Agricultural Sciences Social Sciences: (28) Psychology, (29) Economics & Business, (30) Educational Sciences, (31) Sociology, (32) Law, (33) Political Science, (34) Social & Economic Geography, (35) Media & Communications, (36) Other Social Sciences Humanities: (37) History & Archaeology, (38) Languages & Literature, (39) Philosophy, Ethics, Religion, (40) Arts, (41) Other Humanities
Call workshop	NA
IOCB contact	Please inform the IOCB Projects Office (https://intraweb.uochb.cas.cz/130.html) about your intention to apply. Do not hesitate to contact us anytime for consulting, discussion or help on projectoffice@uochb.cas.cz. Veronika Palečková, veronika.paleckova@uochb.cas.cz, +420 220 183 266 Jitka Šilerová, jitka.silerova@uochb.cas.cz, +420 220 183 229 Blanka Collis, blanka.collis@uochb.cas.cz, +420 220 183 527
Download documents	2022_COST_summary 2022_COST_infographic 2022_COST_announcement 2022_COST_guidelines 2022_COST_Vademecum (April 2021) 2022_COST_Technical-Annex