




Growing  
ideas  
through  
networks

## **COST - European Cooperation in Science and Technology**

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- 
- 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 less research-intensive COST countries, also known as inclusiveness target 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

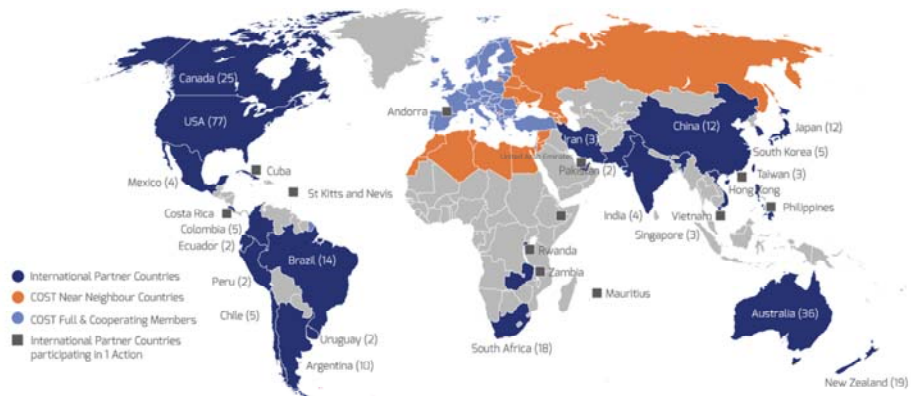
 €300 million  
COST budget (from Horizon  
2020 for a 7 year period)

COST: The networking tool in the ERA and the pre-portal to other ERA funding schemes

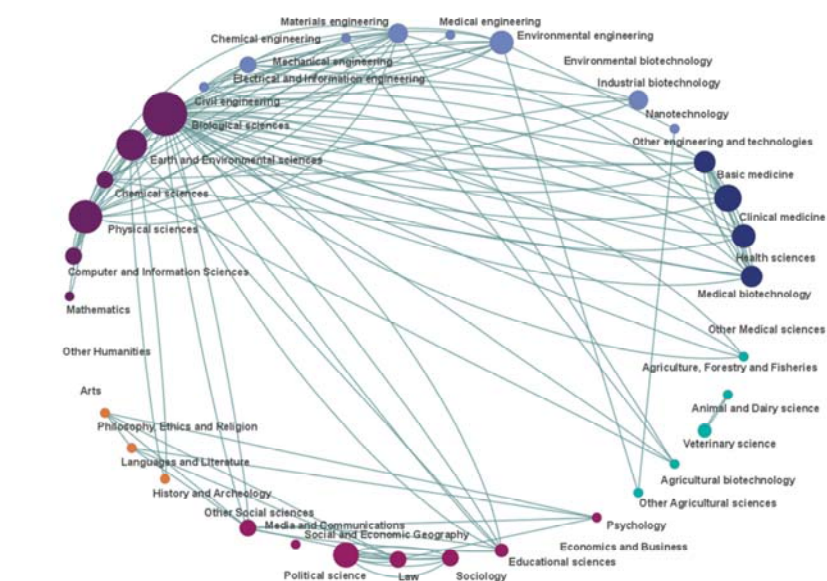
## Role of COST in the ERA - 3 Strategic Priorities



## Promoting and spreading excellence

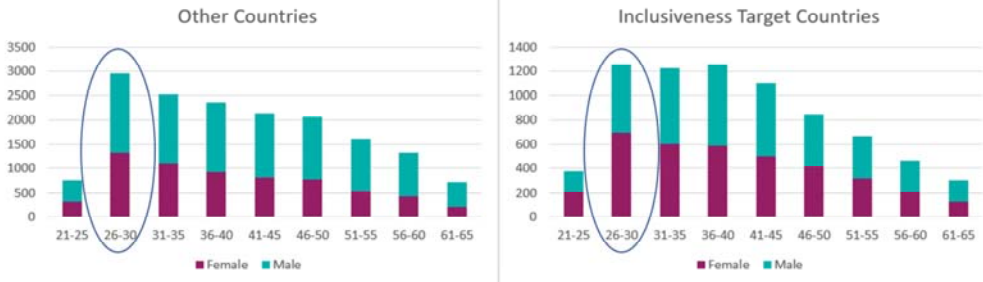


## Fostering interdisciplinary research for breakthrough science



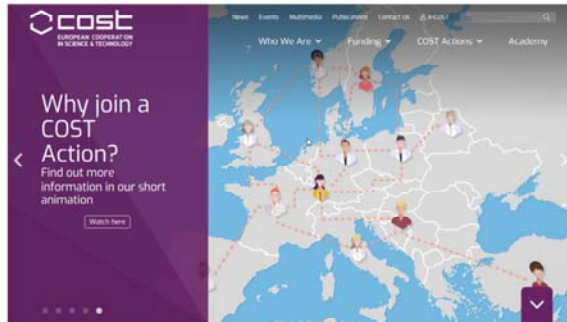


Boosting careers of young researchers



Overall participation in COST Actions

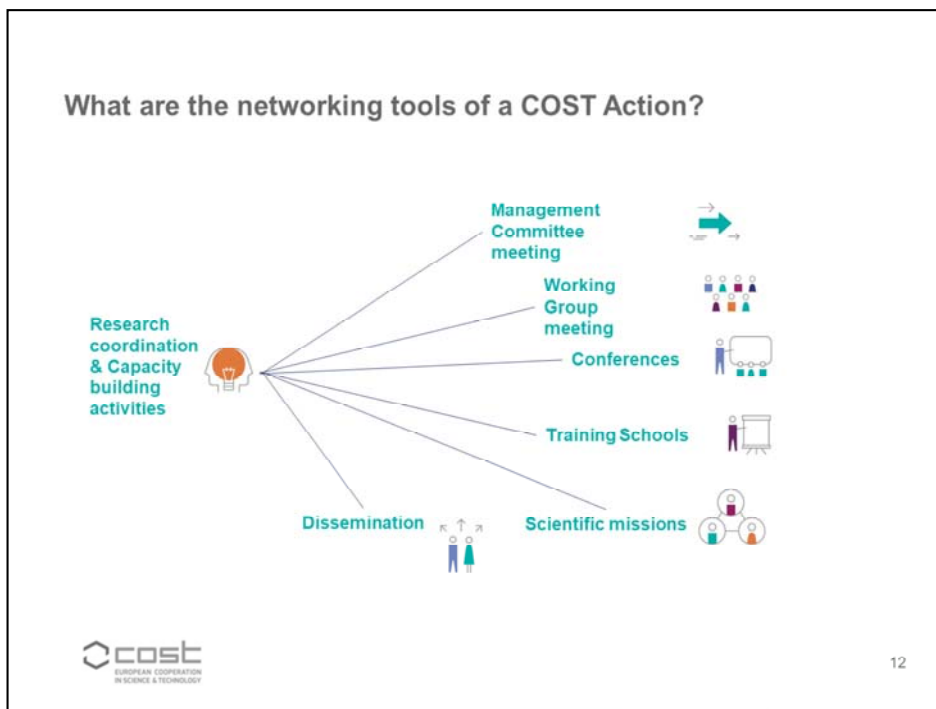
## How COST works - video



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SaaAVicddpA&t=93s>

## How it works?





- 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

scientific	career	networking
work on <b>topics not yet funded</b> by other sources	Get <b>experience</b> in scientific and/ or administrative <b>management</b> (i.e. leading/ organising training schools disseminating research results)	can participate in any <b>H2020</b> project at the same time
become <b>member of leading scientific networks</b> - without going through a possibly risky and exclusive proposal preparation	participating at <b>short term scientific missions</b>	can participate in more <b>COST Actions</b> at the same time "a la carte" access to existing networks by having an overview of all the running Actions <b>without going through a possibly risky and exclusive proposal preparation</b>
<b>publication</b>	<b>Increasing visibility</b> by hosting and/or participating at additional scientific events	<b>extend one's network</b>
engage with <b>peers</b>	becoming a <b>Grant Holder</b>	<b>reimbursement</b>



## COST acting as a pre-portal for FP funding

### Horizon 2020 applications reported by finished COST Actions

Total Actions with finished Final Action Report	Submitted H2020 proposals reported	Approved H2020 projects reported	Success rate
114	392	131	33 %



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Participation from non-COST countries



 Funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme  
of the European Union



## 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 CO
- CONTACT the Act

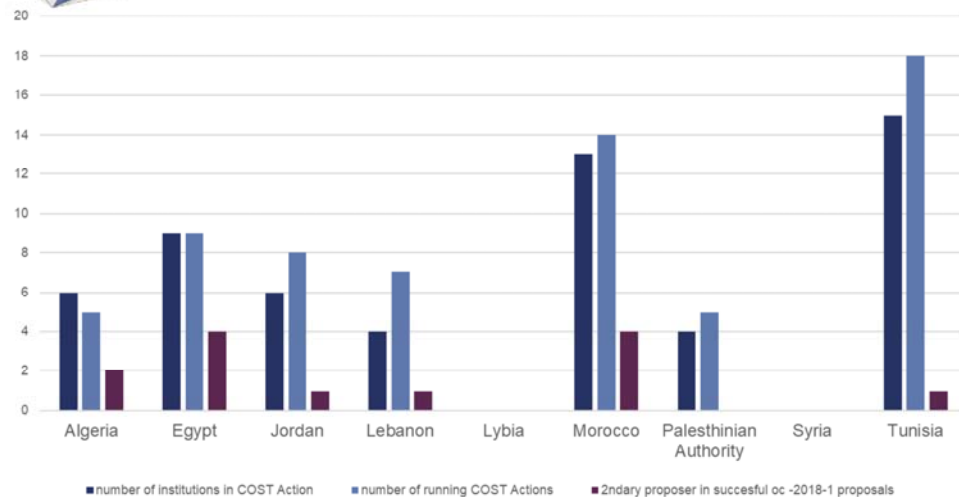
- DON'T UNDERES
- DON'T only shoot radar

<https://www.cost.eu/>

The screenshot shows the COST website's 'Browse Actions' page. The main content area lists several COST Actions, each with a title and a date range. The navigation menu at the top includes 'Who We Are', 'Funding', 'COST Actions', and 'Academy'. A sidebar on the right contains links like 'What are COST Actions?', 'Browse Actions', 'Participate in an ongoing Action', 'Become an external expert', 'Action Networking Tools', 'Success Stories', and 'Action participant directory'.

Action ID	Date Range	Action Title
CA17110	2016/01/01 - 2018/01/01	Standardizing output based surveillance to control non regulated diseases of cattle in the EU
CA17131	2016/01/01 - 2018/01/01	The Soft Science & Archæo-Geophysics Alliance: going beyond prospecting
CA17134	2016/01/01 - 2018/01/01	Optical synergies for spatiotemporal sensing of suitable ecophysiological traits
CA17103	2016/01/01 - 2018/01/01	Delivery of Antisense RNA Therapeutics

## COST Action participation





## 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](http://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](http://www.cost.eu/participate/experts)



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- 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  
[https://www.cost.eu/news/get\\_involve\\_in\\_the\\_40\\_brand\\_new\\_actions\\_starting\\_in\\_spring\\_2019/](https://www.cost.eu/news/get_involve_in_the_40_brand_new_actions_starting_in_spring_2019/)
  - 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.* ”