

COST

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR FUNDS TO NETWORK YOUR RESEARCH? JOIN COST!

0. HISTORY

COST is the **longest-running European framework supporting trans-national cooperation** among researchers, engineers and scholars across Europe. Based on a European intergovernmental framework, COST has been contributing - since its creation in 1971 - to closing the gap between science, policy makers and societal challenges throughout Europe and beyond. As a precursor of advanced multidisciplinary research, COST plays a very important role in building a [European Research Area \(ERA\)](#).

1. WHAT IS IT (ABOUT)?

COST - European cooperation in Science and Technology - is an intergovernmental European framework for international co-operation between nationally funded research activities.

Rather than funding research itself, COST brings together research teams from different countries working on specific topics and supports networking through conferences, short-term scientific exchanges and publications. **The research itself has to be funded by the Member States.**

The coordination activities - named **COST Actions** - are supported from the EU RTD Framework Programme, Horizon 2020. A COST Action is an open network of researchers, technologists and other interested parties, collaborating across borders.

[COST has 36 Full Member States and one Cooperating Member State.](#)

Researchers explain in a video what it is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zdg5iovYR1I>

2. WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Anybody can propose and anybody can join. The only constraints are to involve multiple countries, focus on scientific excellence, and deliver high impact.

The members of a COST Action are the countries. Participation to the management committee of an Action is open to researchers in universities, research centres, industry, public and private organizations from all 36 COST Member Countries and its Cooperating State, from any science and technology field, at any career stage. As of 2017, there are about 300 different COST Actions ongoing, involving about 45.000 researchers.

On what level can I participate (Applicant/Programme/Project . . .)?

The [call for proposals](#) is constantly open; the proposals are collected and evaluated twice a year.

You can **write an Action proposal** as the main proposer or contribute to an Action proposal as a secondary proposer. You can initiate a network in any area - especially those excluded from other programmes as "risky" or outside the mainstream.

You can [join an Action, as a Belgian member in the Management Committee](#) of an existing Action AND/OR take part in an Action Working Group. You can join a COST Action at any time during its four-year run; you don't have to be in the starting team to participate.

You can [become an external expert](#) and evaluate Action proposals by joining the expert pool.

What is the number of participants needed? The participants in a COST Action are countries. Only seven member countries are required to participate, although in some Actions research teams from three to five times that number are involved ("à la carte" principle). Out of the seven, a minimum of three must be [Inclusiveness Target Countries](#).

3. WHY PARTICIPATE (return)?

What are the direct benefits? COST provides opportunities for researchers at any stage of their careers.

COST supports financially networking (meetings, conferences, seminars, workshops) and the organization of other activities (short-term scientific exchanges, training schools, publications and dissemination activities). The actual research is funded by COST Member States.

The **COST Action budget** depends on the number of COST Countries participating in the Action. On average a COST action consists of 22 participating countries and has an annual budget of 130.000 EUR. This funding is mainly used for the reimbursement of travel and lodging expenses, for the organisation of meetings and for short term scientific missions.

What are the indirect benefits?

COST provides **opportunities for less established researchers**.

COST is a unique European **bottom-up** collaborative instrument for Research and Innovation.

COST contributes to the identification of **new emerging topics** that can eventually be addressed through the national research and European framework programmes. COST *Actions often evolve into collaborative networks for Horizon 2020*

COST contributes to the priorities of the European Research Area (ERA), as well as **international** cooperation.

COST is an intergovernmental framework with a long experience of **managing research networks**.

COST contributes to increase the **uptakes of research results by industry** (including SMEs).

COST's international networking can provide a way for researchers to stay connected - and stay home, rather than to have to move abroad to advance your career.

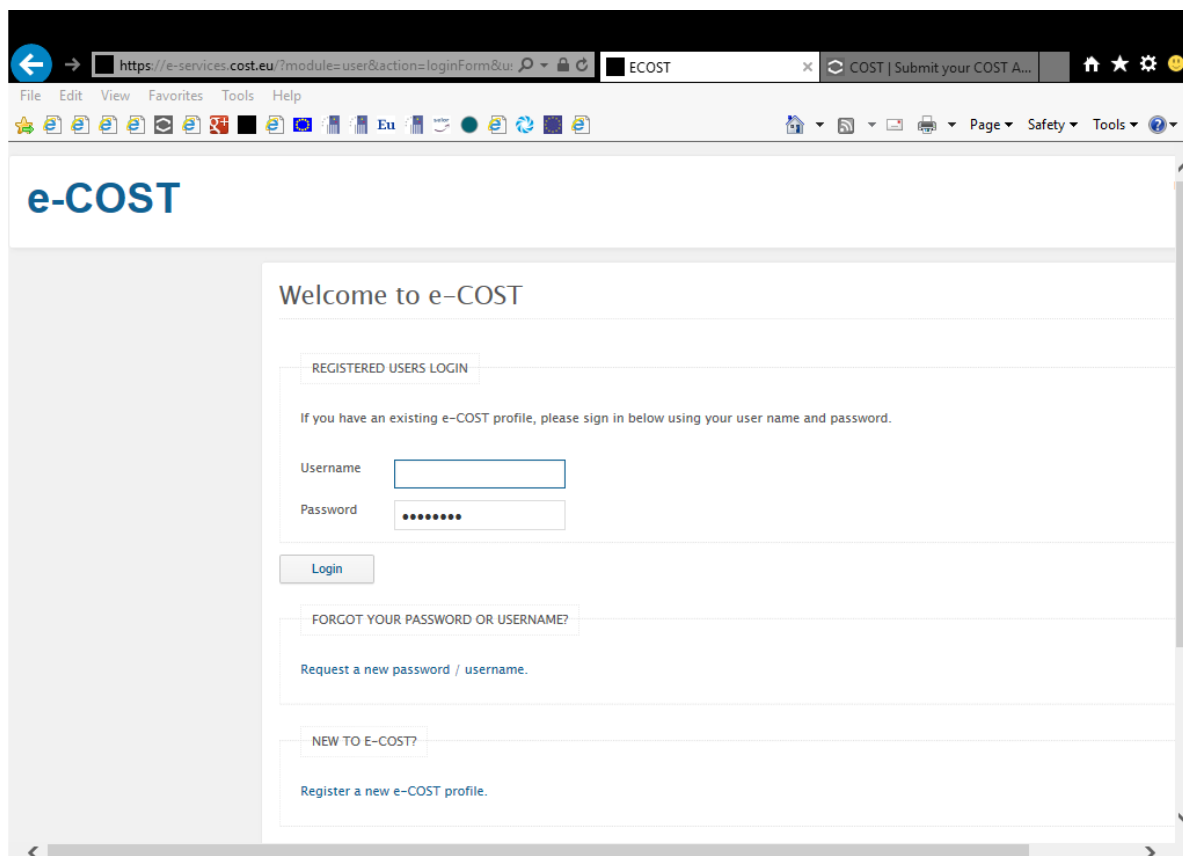
What is the Success rate? In general, approximately 1 in 10 proposals becomes an Action.

4. HOW TO APPLY?

COST has an Open Call website

The screenshot shows the COST website's 'Participate' page. The browser address bar displays 'http://www.cost.eu/participate/open_call'. The page features the COST logo (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) and a navigation menu with links to Home, FAQ, Contact, Sitemap, Glossary, Jobs, Restricted Area, and Links. A search bar is also present. The main content area is titled 'Submit your COST Action proposal' and includes a notice: 'The next collection date is expected to be 7 September 2017, 12:00 noon (CET). The e-COST submission tool is temporarily closed, which means applicants cannot submit any new proposals for the upcoming collection date on 7 September 2017. Please visit this page regularly for updates on the submission process. The final decision on the approval and funding of the Action proposals collected on 7 December 2016 is expected in June 2017. The Call is open to ideas in all fields of science and technology including humanities and social sciences. Multi- and interdisciplinary proposals are encouraged. COST invites proposals for Actions contributing to the scientific, technological, economic, cultural or societal knowledge advancement and development of Europe. The set of COST Implementation Rules outlines procedures and conditions for participating in and setting up COST Actions. The new Action Proposal Submission Evaluation Selection and'.

First of all, you need to register



If you want to:

- be the **Main Proposer** of an Action proposal: see 5. Where to find information and help.
- become a **member of an MC of an on-going Action**: find your contact person [here](#).
- become a **member of a Working Group of an on-going Action**: contact the Chair of the Action.

You can find your COST Action [here](#), by means of a text search or the Action number and choose for "running actions".

5. WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION AND HELP?

Where can I find information on the Belgian level?

If you are [the main proposer](#) of an Action proposal and you work **at the federal level**, you can contact the Belgian COST National Coordinator lieve.vandaele@belspo.be for help with your application.

Other applicants can find their contact persons [here](#) this link

Where can I find information on the European/International level: For general enquiries and technical problems: send a message to opencall@cost.eu

6. WHERE CAN I FIND BELGIAN PARTICIPANTS AND INSPIRING EXAMPLES?

Where to find contact information of Belgian participants

There are over 700 Belgian participations in the Management Committee of a COST Action. All Actions with Belgian participants can be found [via this link](#). Details on the Actions, the coordinates of the Chair and other information can be found [via](#)

Several COST running Actions have a Belgian Chair or a Vice Chair, 2 of them work at the federal level.

[TD1402](#), Multifunctional Nanoparticles for Magnetic Hyperthermia and Indirect Radiation Therapy (RADIOMAG), Chair [Dr Simo SPASSOV](#), Royal Meteorological Institute, [Action website](#)

The screenshot shows the homepage of the cost-radiomag.eu website. The browser address bar displays "http://www.cost-radiomag.eu" and the page title is "Radiomag COST Action". A cookie consent banner is visible at the top. The main navigation menu includes Home, About, STSM, Publications, Events, Jobs, News, and Links. The "Home" section features a "Participating Countries" list with 18 entries, a "Welcome to cost-radiomag.eu" message, and a detailed description of the project's goals. It also lists "Founding Members" and provides "News" and "Publications" sections with recent updates.

[FP1302](#), WOOD MUSICK, Vice Chair [dr Pascale Vandervellen](#), Royal Museums of Art and History, [Action website](#)

The screenshot shows the homepage of the woodmusick.org website. The browser address bar displays "http://woodmusick.org" and the page title is "WoodMusICK | COST Action...". The website features a large logo for "WoodMusICK" and the text "FPS COST Action FP1302". A navigation menu includes Home, About, Working Groups, Events, Exchange & Training, Dissemination, and Login. The main content area displays a photograph of a busy event space with many people. Below the photo, there is a "Welcome to WoodMusICK COST Action FP1302" message and a button for "Upcoming events".