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Abstract

COST – A unique framework for cooperation in all fields of Science and Technology

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COST is a unique means for European researchers to jointly develop their own ideas and new initiatives across all scientific disciplines through trans-European networking of nationally funded research activities. By funding bottom-up expansion of science and technology cooperation through so-called 'COST Actions', COST enables scientific breakthrough developments striving to provide innovative and cost-effective solutions, leading to new concepts and products, aiming at contributing to strengthen Europe's research and innovation capacities. To this end, COST currently funds over 300 COST Actions covering all scientific and technological areas. Moreover, COST encourages Near Neighbour Country participation and is open to International Partner Countries.

COST Actions are particularly suitable to nurture evolution towards converging technologies. In particular, COST fosters trans-disciplinary collaborations spanning several scientific fields, enabling integration of methodologies and allowing for the emergence of new fields in research and development. Interestingly, COST is testing through a pilot evaluation procedure the selection of particularly challenging trans-disciplinary Actions. Though different in their purposes these Actions demonstrate the role that COST plays in enabling advanced knowledge and innovative applications in converging fields of science and technology.

In this context, COST uniquely complements the priorities of the EU framework programmes, amplifies national research funding and connects pockets of excellence at a pan-European level.