

COST

Overview

Intergovernmental framework for European Cooperation in Science and Technology, allowing the coordination of nationally funded research on a European level and beyond.

- Programme duration: unlimited
- Funded by the European Commission (Horizon Europe)
- Swiss contact: cost@snf.ch

Goal

To enable researchers to set up their interdisciplinary research networks sharing, creating and applying knowledge in Europe and beyond, strengthening the scientific and technological bases of the European Research Area (ERA). COST Actions are open to all fields of science and technology, and

- support networking of fundamental and pre-competitive research
- recognise and take up upcoming and recent scientific developments
- allow for broad, multidisciplinary research activities to strike across several scientific domains

Topics of COST Actions are defined by the group of proposers ('bottom-up'). COST Actions that demonstrate innovation potential can be extended by one year via a COST Innovators Grant.

Eligibility

Application for new COST Actions:

Researchers, engineers and scholars from a legal entity (uni-versities, universities of applied science, research centers, and companies, in particular SMEs, and legal entities such as NGOs) based in a COST Member State can apply for COST Actions.

Switzerland is a COST Member State. Swiss-based scientists are fully eligible for all COST activities.

Project Partners

Collaboration within a running COST Action:

Individual scientists from COST member countries and any other country worldwide may join Actions on the basis of as-certained mutual benefit.

The application for a COST Action requires a minimum participation of 7 scientists from 7 different COST Member States and at least 50% of them have to come from a "widening" country.

Typical size of a consortium for a COST Action: 28 countries.

Financial Support

Funding for networking activities: Management committee meetings, working group meetings, conferences, short term exchanges, training schools, virtual network-

Further Details/ Contact

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ing, dissemination etc.

- EUR ~ 130k per COST Action per year

Except for special cases, only researchers based in a COST Member country can receive funding.

The actual research carried out within a COST Action is not funded by COST, but has to be funded nationally (CH: SNSF, InnoSuisse, etc.).

The SNSF typically opens yearly calls for COST Projects associated with recently approved COST Actions. Researchers actively participating in a COST Action can apply for the funding of a research project for up to four years.

Time Frame

- Applications for COST Actions: one deadline per every 8-12 months
- Funding decision: ~ 6 months
- Duration of a COST Action: 4 years (optional +1 year with Innovator Grant)

Applications for COST Projects at the SNSF: typically one deadline per year.

