

Brussels, 15 December 2021

European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST)

OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS – COLLECTION OC-2022-1

COST provides networking opportunities for researchers and innovators in order to strengthen Europe's capacity to address scientific, technological and societal challenges.¹

In order to achieve its mission and goal, COST has identified three strategic priorities: promoting and spreading excellence, fostering interdisciplinary research for breakthrough science and empowering and retaining young researchers and innovators:

COST brings together European researchers and innovators from different COST countries to jointly develop their own ideas and new initiatives across all science and technology fields through pan-European cooperation. COST encourages and fosters trans-, multi- and interdisciplinary approaches by integrating researchers and innovators from different fields and horizons such as universities, research centres, companies, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as other relevant actors.

COST does NOT fund research itself, but supports networking via different tools such as meetings, short-term scientific missions, training schools and dissemination activities as part of COST Actions. COST invites proposals for Actions aiming at contributing to the scientific, technological, economic, cultural or societal knowledge advancement and development of Europe to close the gap between science, policy makers and society throughout Europe and beyond.

Proposals should reflect the main characteristics of COST Actions, namely, providing for knowledge sharing, creation and application, being excellence-driven, open and output-oriented while aiming at strengthening the scientific and technological basis of the proposed topic(s).

Proposals should also respond to the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness policy, which aims to provide collaboration opportunities to all researchers and innovators in countries that are COST Members, encourage participation among young talents and next generation leaders, in particular promoting working opportunities for young researchers and innovators, and ensure gender balance, paving the way towards breakthrough developments and innovations.

Proposals are evaluated against criteria of S&T excellence, networking excellence, impact and implementation.

¹ COST receives financial support from the EU RTD framework programme, Horizon Europe. The COST Association, integrating governance, management and implementing functions, provides for the administrative, scientific and technical support in the operation of COST rules and procedures and the management of COST Actions.

Proposals for a COST Action must represent a network composed of proposers from at least seven (7) COST Members² amongst which a minimum number shall be from COST Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC)³.

Proposers are invited to consult the set of COST Implementation Rules, approved by the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO), the general assembly of the COST Association⁴.

The COST Action Proposal Submission, Evaluation, Selection and Approval (SESA) rules and procedure are based on the bottom-up, excellence-driven, open and inclusive principles of COST and will ensure a transparent and competitive evaluation and selection of proposals (see documents [COST 101/21 – COST Action Proposal Submission, Evaluation, Selection and Approval](#) and [COST 103/21 – COST Open Call – Applicant’s Guidelines \(Submission, Evaluation, Selection and Approval – SESA\)](#))³.

Proposers benefit from a one-stage submission based upon a proposal of up to 15 pages.

Submitted proposals will be checked against eligibility criteria and can be declared ineligible at any point of the process should any breach of eligibility criteria be identified during the evaluation as defined in the rules. Similarly, any attempt not to respect the rules on conflict of interest can lead to the immediate exclusion of the proposal from the evaluation, selection and approval process.

Proposals will be evaluated remotely by a minimum of 3 Independent External Experts in the S&T field(s), sub-field(s) and research area(s) chosen by the proposers. Ad-hoc Review Panels shall ensure the quality of the Independent External Expert evaluation outcome, resolve potential differences in their opinions and prepare a shortlist of proposals for examination and selection by the Scientific Committee. The Scientific Committee shall select, among the list of proposals presented by the Review Panels, those that respond best to COST mission and policies. The Scientific Committee will establish the shortlist of proposals that shall be presented to the CSO for approval.

The 2022-1 Collection Date is set on 20 October 2022 at 12:00 (CET) – Noon.

Up to 70 new COST Actions are expected to be approved, subject to available budget.

The [Proposal Template \(Technical Annex\)](#) is available under <https://www.cost.eu/funding/how-to-get-funding/documents-and-guidelines>. The Guidelines for submitting COST Action proposals are available on the same page. Proposals must be submitted electronically via the [e-COST](#) online submission tool. Proposers will be able to submit proposals anytime throughout the year.

Proposers may wish to contact their COST National Coordinator (CNC) for information and guidance – see www.cost.eu/cnc.

² The full list of COST Members is available at <https://www.cost.eu/who-we-are/members>

³ See list of ITC countries at <https://www.cost.eu/who-we-are/cost-strategy/excellence-and-inclusiveness> and the minimum number of ITC in the network in annex B in the Document [COST 101/21: COST Action Proposal Submission, Evaluation, Selection and Approval](#) at <https://www.cost.eu/funding/how-to-get-funding/documents-and-guidelines>.

⁴ See Documents COST 088/21 and 101/21 under <https://www.cost.eu/funding/how-to-get-funding/documents-and-guidelines>.