

# European Cooperation in Science and Technology “COST”

Jornada informativa nacional

Madrid, 3 de junio de 2026





### Pilar 1

Ciencia excelente

Consejo Europeo de Investigación

Acciones Marie Skłodowska-Curie

Infraestructuras de investigación



### Pilar 2

Desafíos mundiales y competitividad industrial europea

Ciudades

- Salud
- Cultura, creatividad y sociedad inclusiva
- Seguridad civil para la sociedad
- Mundo digital, industria y espacio
- Clima, energía y movilidad
- Alimentación, bioeconomía, recursos naturales, agricultura y medio ambiente

Centro Común de Investigación



### Pilar 3

Europa innovadora

Consejo Europeo de Innovación

Ecosistemas europeos de innovación

Instituto Europeo de Innovación y Tecnología

Ampliar la participación y fortalecer el Espacio Europeo de Investigación

Ampliar la participación y difundir la excelencia

Reformar y mejorar el sistema europeo de I+i

*WIDERA program*

# PROGRAMA HORIZON EUROPE 2021-2027



 **cost**  
EUROPEAN COOPERATION  
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

# EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



COST



“ *The opportunity for science lies in creating an unlimited space where crossovers between ideas and people can change the world for the better.* ”



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

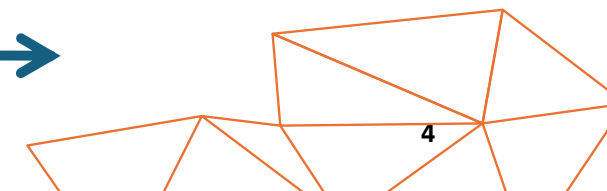
**VISION**  
*Europe's most empowering research programme*

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

Promoting and spreading excellence

Fostering interdisciplinary research for breakthrough science

Empowering and retaining young researchers



# About COST & Strategic Priorities



# European Cooperation in Science & Technology

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



## ALL FIELDS OF S&T

(mono- or interdisciplinary, new and emerging fields)



## ALL PARTNERS

(academia, public organisation, industry, NGO, International Organisations)



## BOTTOM-UP APPROACH



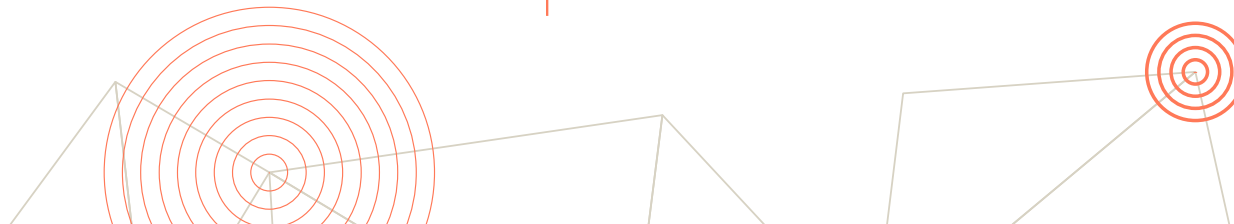
## ALL CAREER STAGES

(young and experienced researchers)



## ALL COUNTRIES

- 41 COST Members  
+ 1 Cooperating Member
- 14 Near Neighbour Countries
- Global cooperation



# COST Membership

## 41 Full COST Members

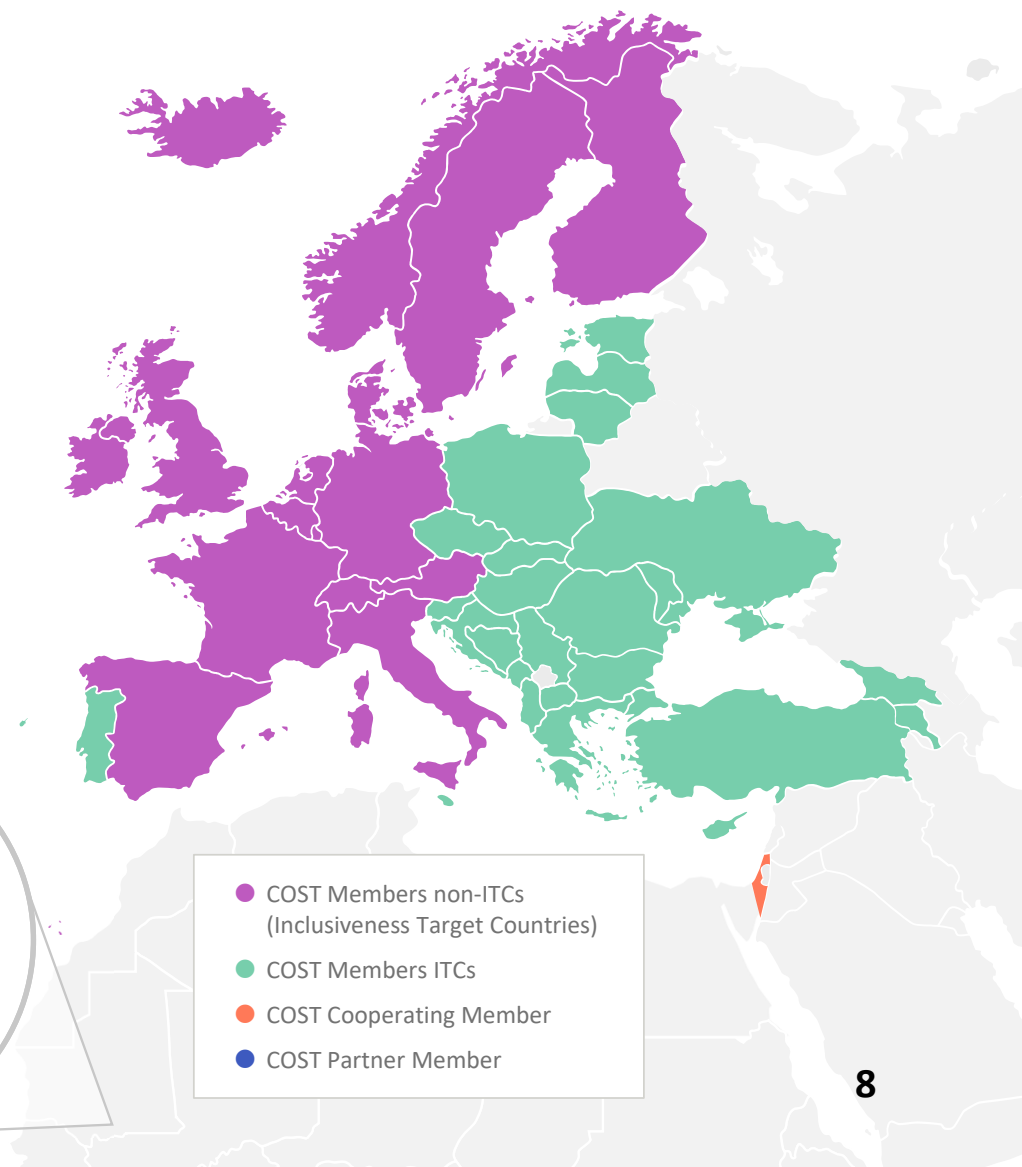
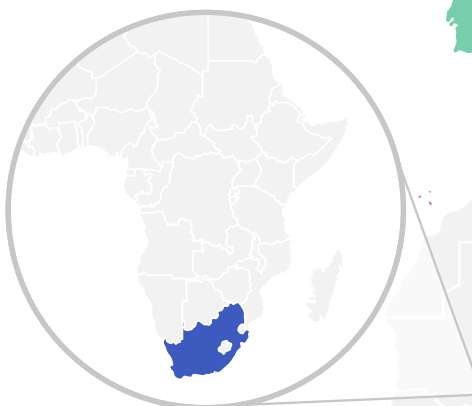
- |                          |                                   |                  |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| ● Albania                | ● Germany                         | ● Norway         |
| ● Armenia                | ● Greece                          | ● Poland         |
| ● Austria                | ● Hungary*                        | ● Portugal       |
| ● Belgium                | ● Iceland                         | ● Romania        |
| ● Bosnia and Herzegovina | ● Ireland                         | ● Serbia         |
| ● Bulgaria               | ● Italy                           | ● Slovakia       |
| ● Croatia                | ● Latvia                          | ● Slovenia       |
| ● Cyprus                 | ● Lithuania                       | ● Spain          |
| ● Czech Republic         | ● Luxembourg                      | ● Sweden         |
| ● Denmark                | ● Malta                           | ● Switzerland    |
| ● Estonia                | ● The Republic of Moldova         | ● Türkiye        |
| ● Finland                | ● Montenegro                      | ● Ukraine        |
| ● France                 | ● The Netherlands                 | ● United Kingdom |
| ● Georgia                | ● The Republic of North Macedonia |                  |

## 1 Cooperating Member

- Israel

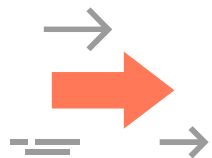
## 1 Partner Member

- South Africa



- COST Members non-ITCs (Inclusiveness Target Countries)
- COST Members ITCs
- COST Cooperating Member
- COST Partner Member

# Key figures



**292**  
Running Actions



**262**  
Training schools



**€170,000**  
estimate annual budget  
of a COST Action



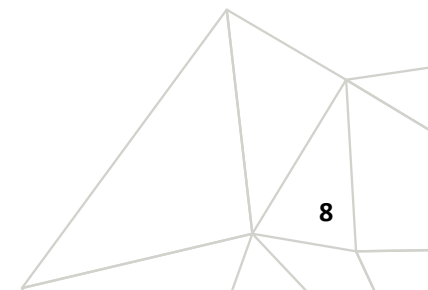
**2,150**  
Short-term  
scientific missions



**60,000**  
Researchers involved  
in COST Actions

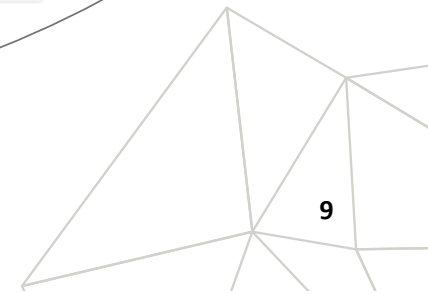
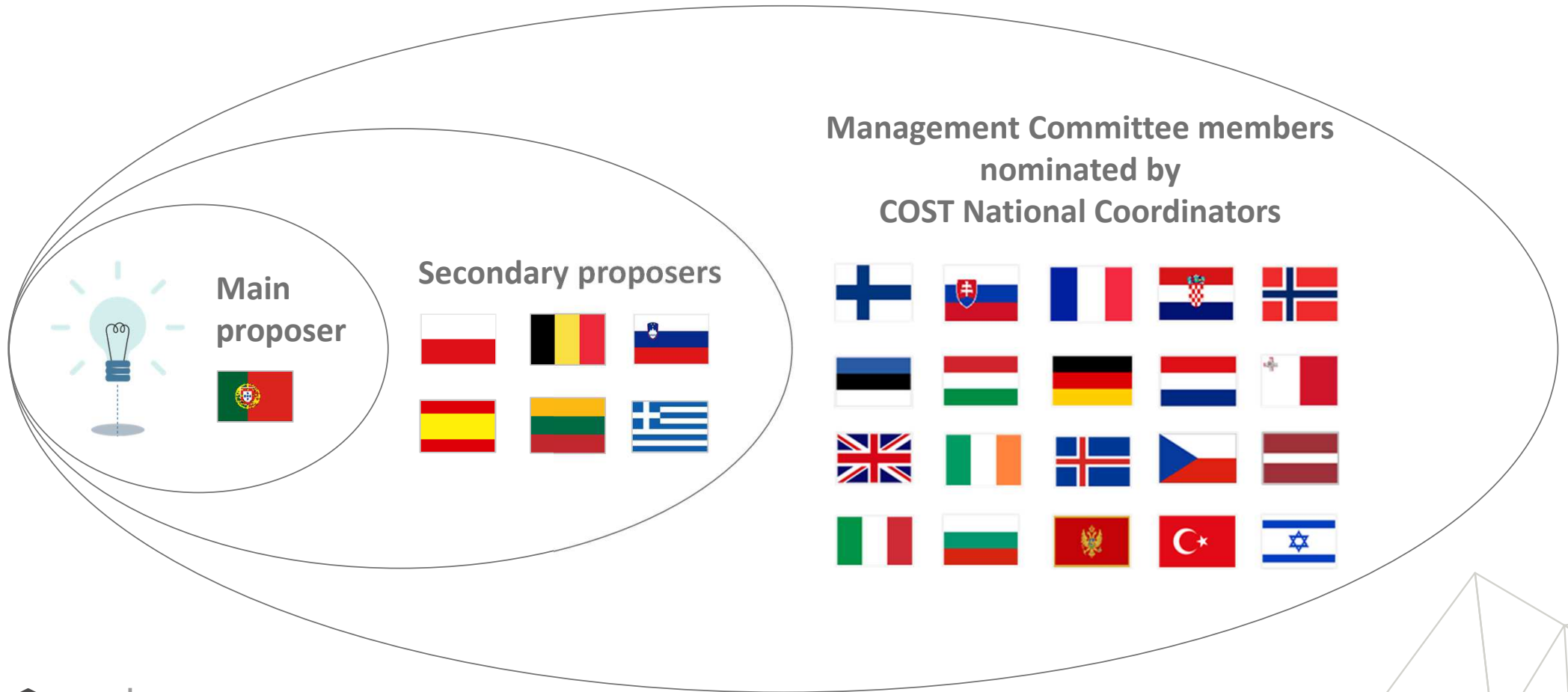


**€273 million**  
COST budget  
(in Horizon Europe for a 5-year period)





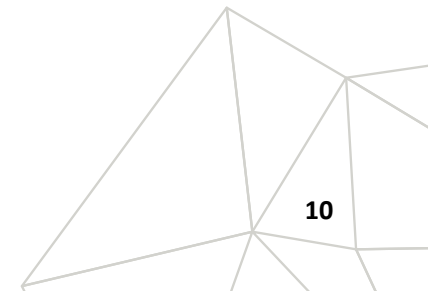
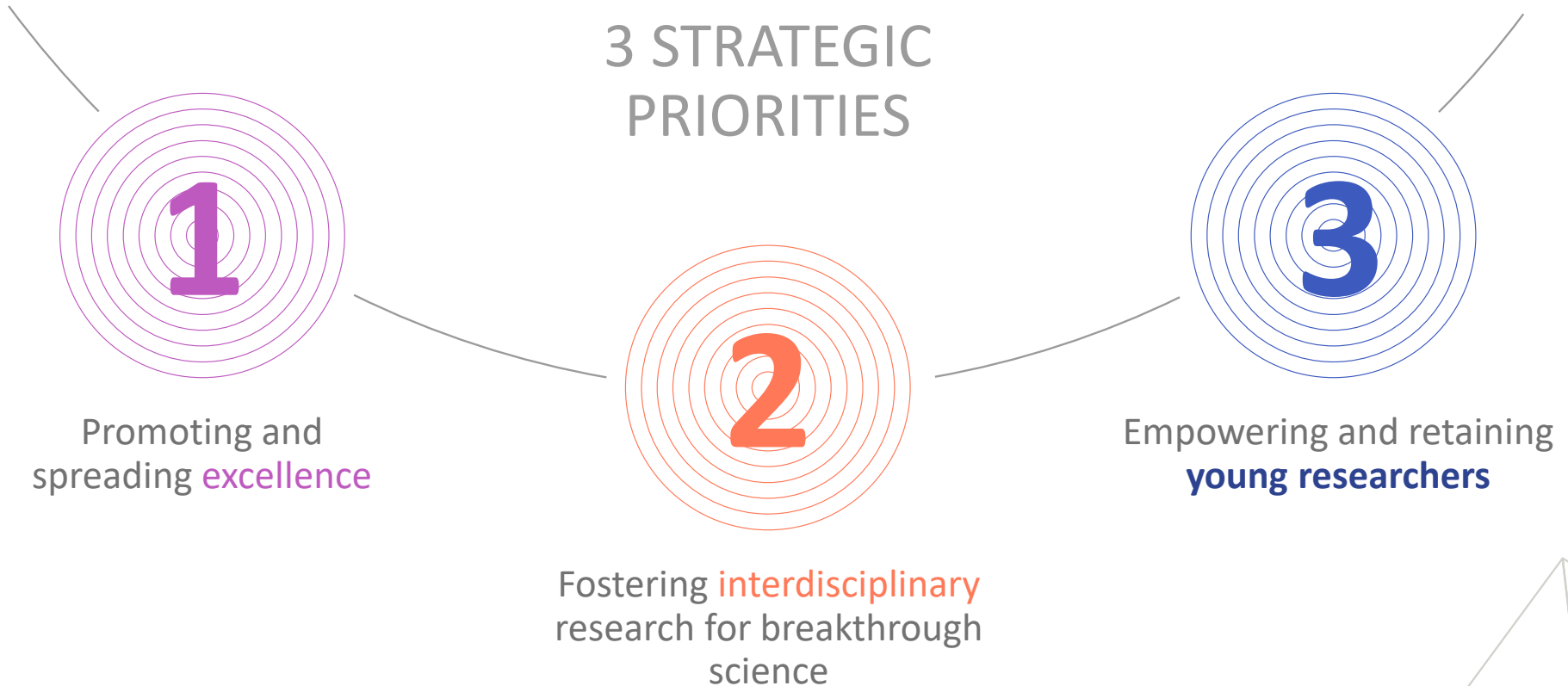
# How it works?



# Role of COST in the ERA



## 3 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



# COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy

## PROMOTING



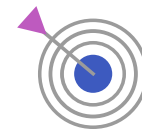
**GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD** (ITC)



**CAREER STAGE:** involving young researchers (YRI)



**GENDER BALANCE** throughout its activities

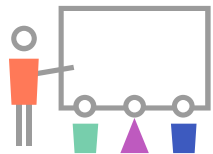


## OBJECTIVES

- 1.** Identifying excellence in science and technology across Europe
- 2.** Increasing research communities' access to funding and infrastructures
- 3.** Triggering structural changes in COST Members' national research systems



# Dedicated measures for active Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC) participation



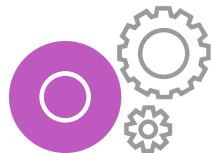
## COST Info Days

- Targeted to ITC
- Combined with high-level meeting ITC government, including CNC



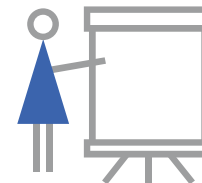
## Proposals

- Eligibility
- External experts
- Inclusiveness policy



## COST Actions

- COST Action leadership
- Conference grant for researchers and innovators
- Pre-payment for short-term scientific missions



## COST Academy

- Leadership programme
- COST Action Chairs' forum
- Science communication workshops and trainings
- Grant Holder workshop, seminar, and forum



## COST Academy

- **New** Young Researchers module
- **More** leadership training sessions

## COST Actions, communication, impact and monitoring

- New rule: **one YRI leadership position**
- **Promotion** within the Actions of the importance of engaging YRIs across all Action activities
- New **monitoring** of YRIs by networking tool
- **Impact assessment** focused on career development for YRIs
- **External communication activities** will have an increased focus on COST opportunities for young talents and next generation of leaders



## Dedicated events

- Develop a **Cross-Cutting Activity** on career development for YRIs
- Organise specific **COST Connect** events for YRIs

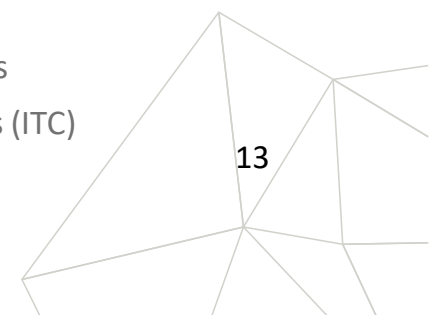
## Key Performance Indicators (KPI)

- **New KPI** to have at least one YRI in a leadership position
- **Increased target for share of YRI** in:
  - **COST Actions** (40% ↗ 45%)
  - **Leadership positions** (20% ↗ 25%)

## COST Actions networking tools

- **New** Young Researcher conference grants
- **Refocused** Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC) conference grant

**at least 40% of proposers must be Young Researchers and Innovators**



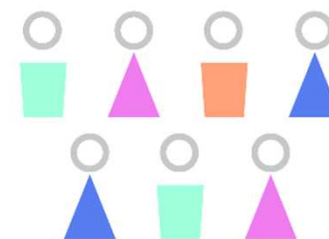
# Gender Equality Plan for COST Activities

## This GEP outlines guiding targets that help to promote gender balance in:

- Participation in COST Actions for both ITC and non-ITC participants and young researchers;
- COST Action leadership positions

## What is expected from a COST Action?

- Monitor gender balance in the research networks;
- **Identify and invite participants from the under-represented groups;**
- Nominate a Gender Equality Advisor;
- **Develop a COST Action Gender Equality Plan;**
- Organise Action events with a gender focus;
- **Use gender inclusive language in all network communications;**
- Participate in gender equality events organised by COST e.g. COST Academy and COST Connect.



[GEP for COST activities](#)

Visit the [COST web page on gender equality](#) to learn more about gender equality at COST

# Implementing COST's strategic priorities



## COST ACTIONS



# COST Impact Model

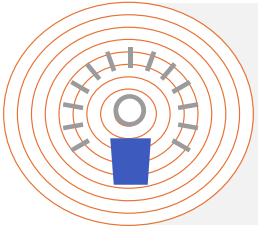


# Impact



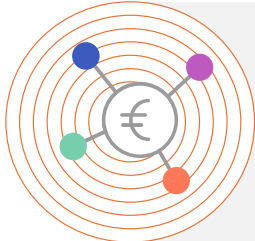
## Scientific and societal impact

- Scientific discoveries and breakthroughs, development of new research infrastructures, adoption of common standards, technological applications in the form of products and services, etc.



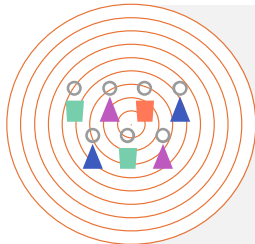
## Research careers

- 85% of researchers participating in COST Actions indicate that participation has led to career advancement



## Follow-up funding

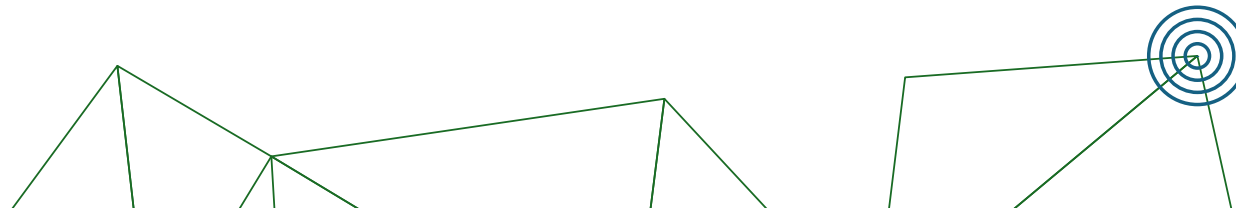
- Horizon 2020 reported success rate: 39% (on a yearly basis, around €450 million of approved common research projects spin off from ending Actions)



## Co-Publications

- Co-publications between active COST Action participants see an increase of about 55% compared to general co-publications

# Benefits of participating in a COST Action



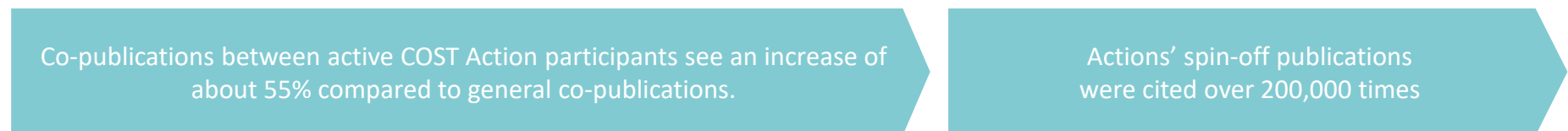
## ✓ COST promotes brain circulation



## ✓ COST boosts careers



## ✓ COST increases scientific productivity



## ✓ COST is a pre-portal to follow-up funding





COST Actions

# An efficient networking tool

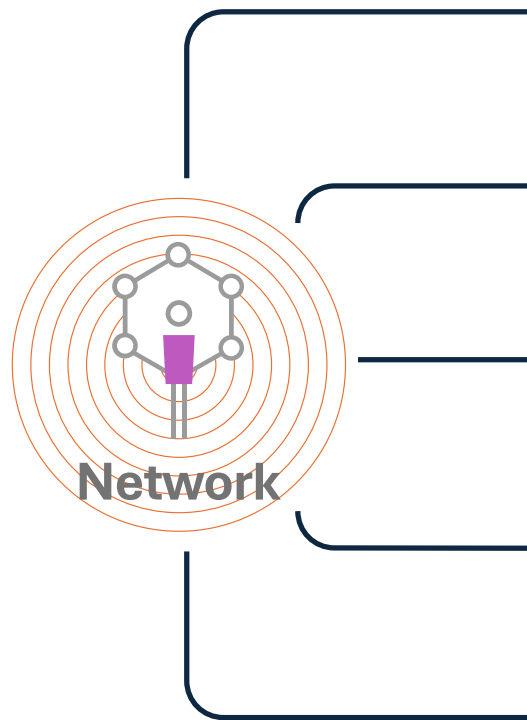


# COST Actions

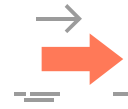
*AN EFFICIENT NETWORKING TOOL*

**COST provides funding** for research coordination and capacity building activities

COST is not funding research itself, but pooling resources and research results by networking



Memorandum of Understanding



4 years



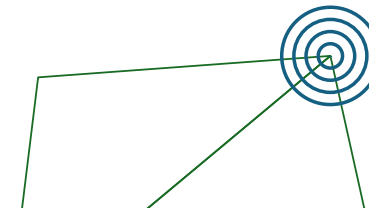
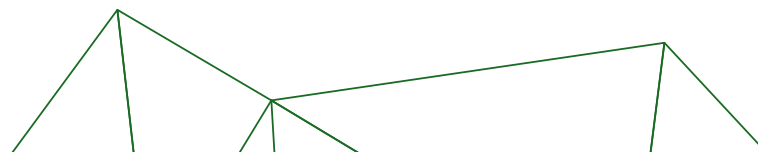
Min 7 countries, average participation 34 countries



Research coordination and capacity building activities



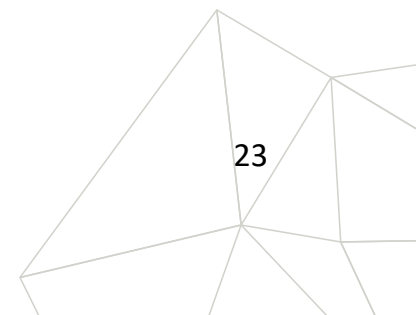
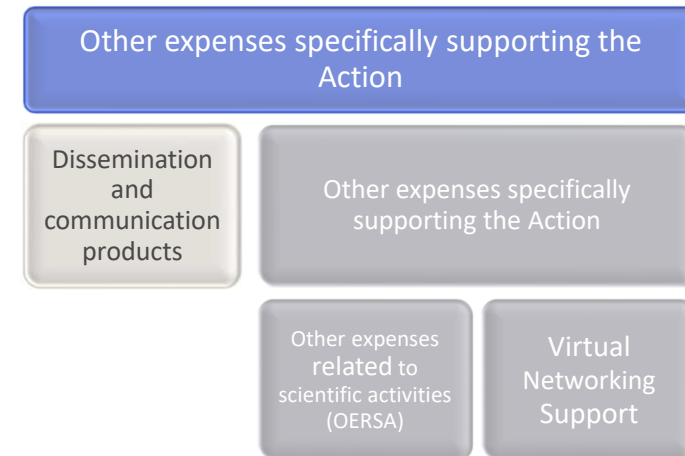
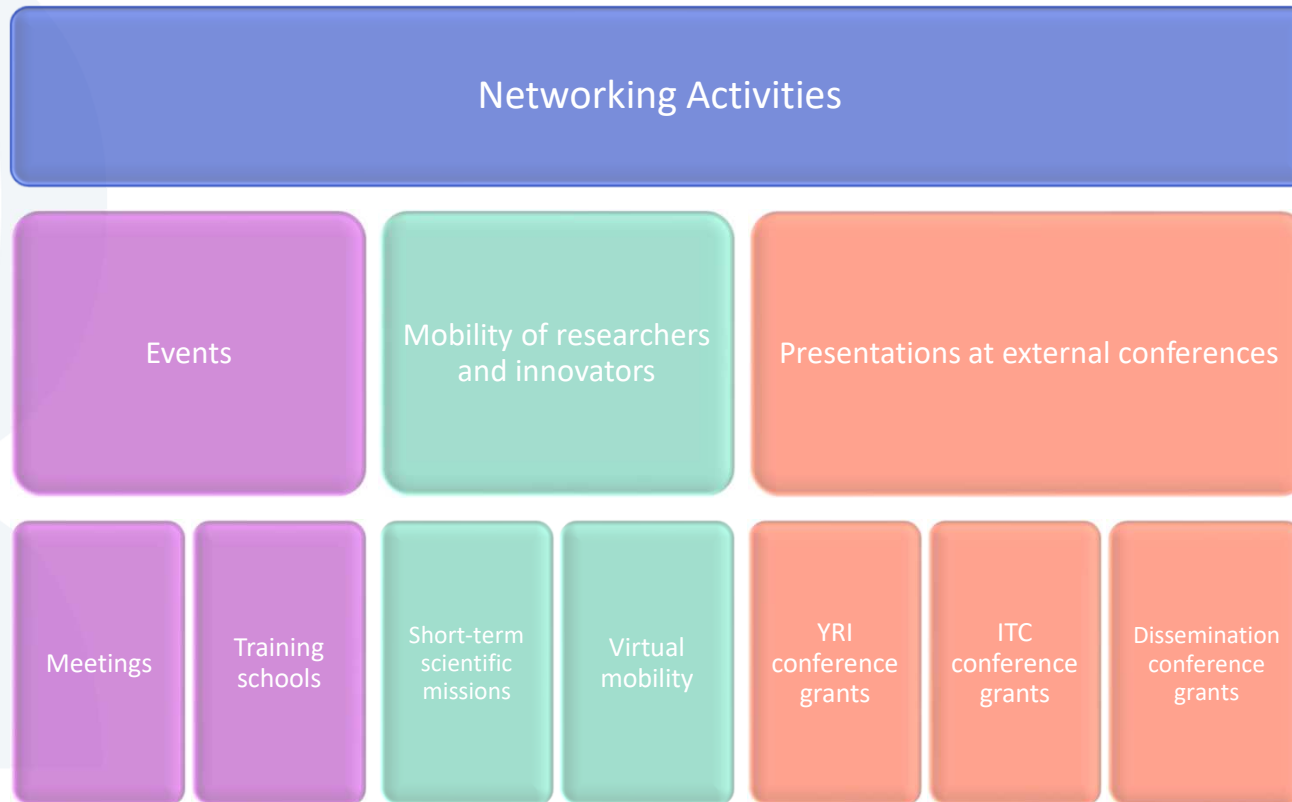
~ €650,000 over lifetime







# What can be funded by COST



# Open Research Europe

- ORE is the European Commission's Open Access publishing platform for research results stemming from EU funding;
- COST Actions can submit directly to ORE, free of charge. Many article types are possible from all fields of science;
- Must be original content (not be submitted anywhere else) and stem from a COST Action;
- ORE offers rapid publication, open peer review, and indexing in databases such as Scopus and PubMed;
- COST Actions can create Collections (a compilation of content relating to a specific community) and there is no deadline;
- Complementary to the existing Open Access expenses covered by the COST rules.

**For more info visit:** <https://open-research-europe.ec.europa.eu/>

# How to engage with COST?



As a **participant** of a running Action



As a **proposer** of a new COST Action



As **expert** to evaluate submitted proposals



# 1. As a participant in a running Action (2/2)



## **AS A MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (MC) MEMBER**

(contact the COST National Coordinator)



## **AS A WORKING GROUP (WG) PARTICIPANT**

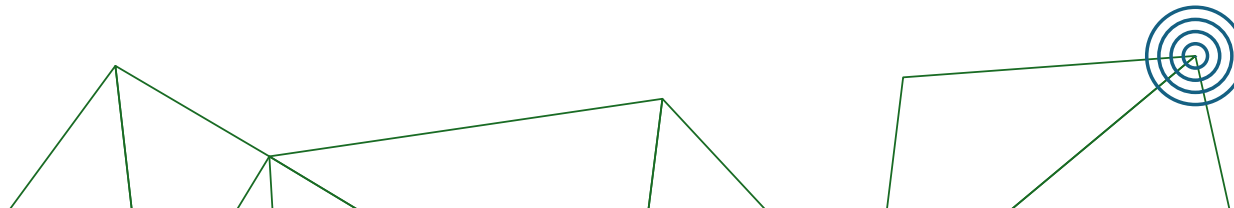
(contact the working group leader)



## **AS A PARTICIPANT IN ACTION ACTIVITIES**

Short-term scientific mission, conference grant, training school, workshop/conference,...

(check the Action's website, contact the chair or the national Management Committee member)





# 2. As a proposer of a new COST Action

## COST OPEN CALL

One-stage **online submission** of proposals (e-COST)

Proposal should focus on Excellence in S&T and Networking, Impact and Implementation

Up to **80** COST Actions approved per collection

Main Proposer + secondary proposer

Collection date:  
**28 October 2026, 12:00 CET**

[www.COST.eu](http://www.COST.eu)  
[opencall@cost.eu](mailto:opencall@cost.eu)

**Open Call**  
for new COST Actions

Collaborative science and technology networks steering the circulation of knowledge worldwide

### 1. Idea & Team

Bottom-up approach: build your innovative idea on a specific challenge leading to an S&T breakthrough

The network must include at least seven proposers from seven COST Full or Cooperating Members of which at least 50% Inclusiveness Target Countries, and at least 40% of proposers must be Young Researchers and Innovators

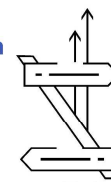
In each Open Call, an individual may participate either as Main or Secondary Proposer in one proposal only



### 2. Proposal & Submission

Submit online your anonymous proposal via the e-COST platform, open from 31 July 2026 at 12:00 noon CEST

Info and guidelines:  
[www.cost.eu/opencall](http://www.cost.eu/opencall)



Watch our video 'Tips for submitting a winning COST Action proposal!'

[www.cost.eu/video-tips](http://www.cost.eu/video-tips)

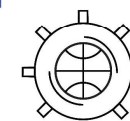


Collection date 2026



### 3. Evaluation & Selection

Independent External Experts carry out the evaluations of proposals, a consensus and quality check is performed, and the COST Scientific Committee makes the selection of proposals



### 4. Approval & Launch

The decision of approval and four-year funding for new Actions relies on the COST Committee of Senior Officials

New COST Actions kick off in the following Autumn with the first meeting of each Management Committee



# Open Call: How to apply?

E-COST

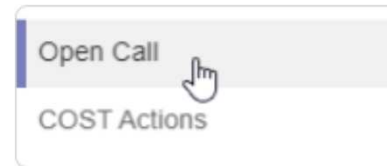


1

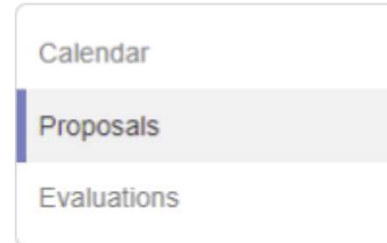
Create a COST account:  
<https://www.cost.eu/ecost>

2

> Open Call



> Proposals

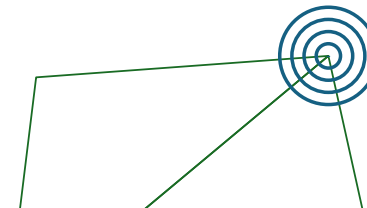
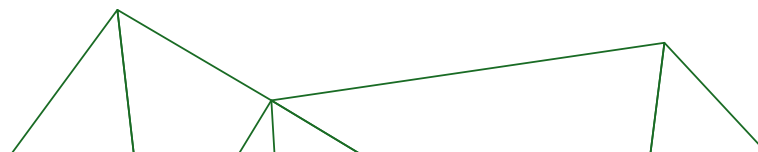


> Create new proposal



3

Online registration  
and submission:  
General information  
+ online Technical Annex

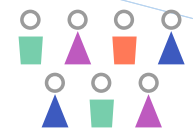




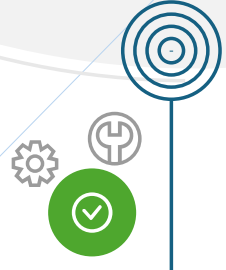
# Proposals




**GENERAL FEATURES**

**NETWORK OF PROPOSERS**



## TECHNICAL ANNEX (E-COST)

1. Excellence in S&T and Networking
2. Impact
3. Implementation

- **Excellence in S&T and Networking**
  - A. Main challenge
  - B. Objectives
  - C. State-of-the-art
  - D. Rationale for choosing networking to address the main challenge
  - E. Critical mass of the network
- **Impact**
  - A. Impact related to objectives
  - B. Involvement of stakeholders
  - C. Communication, dissemination and valorisation
- **Implementation**
  - A. Action Structure
  - B. Work plan (tasks, activities and timeframe)
  - C. Deliverables
  - D. Gantt chart

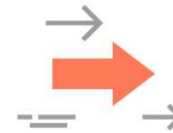




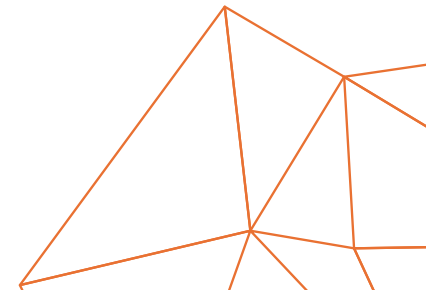
### 3. As external expert

**As a COST Expert,**  
you will have the opportunity to

**Contribute** to the  
evaluation of COST Open  
Call proposals

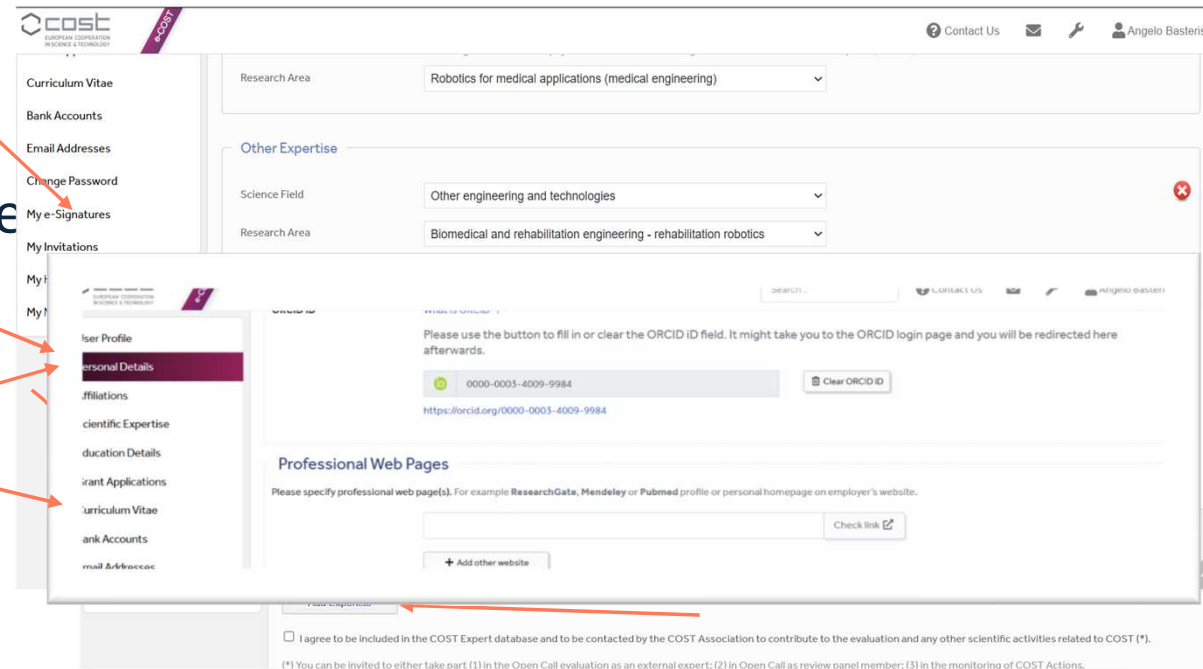


**Participate** in the  
assessment of Action  
results and outcomes



# Please update your e-COST profile

1. Visit the [COST Expert](#) section on your Profile
2. Verify that all your *Core* and *Other Expertise* are listed
3. Mark your availability to be included in the COST Expert database and save your profile
4. If available, add:
  - ORCID ID
  - professional webpage(s)
  - Curriculum Vitae



# Casos de éxito COST

<https://www.cost.eu/working-together-to-better-protect-children-in-europe/>

## Continuing the work beyond the Action

Although the formal COST Action has ended, the impact of **Euro-CAN** continues through new collaborations and initiatives. Many members are involved in the **Horizon Europe project SERENA**, which is based on Euro-CAN's work of strengthening multi-sector data systems to improve access to health and social care for children affected by abuse.

Current initiatives include the development and evaluation of clinical protocols in hospitals and outpatient settings across Europe, with a focus on trauma-informed care. Euro-CAN alumni contribute to a learning network in which clinicians and academics share data, experience and best practice. Collaborative education continues via the International Course on Child Abuse Paediatrics ([InterCAP](#)), promoting professional development and standardising training across Europe.

Furthermore, Andreas Jud also co-leads the Child Maltreatment Data Collection Working Group of [ISPCAN](#), ensuring the network maintains an international presence and visibility through co-located congress activities.



*I would never had imagined that the spark of a proposal I was drafting with the support of a few colleagues would ever lead to a widely recognizable beacon lit by 130+ members network with academics and professionals from different disciplines, an output of an edited book, a large list of papers, policy impact, ... and lasting friendships – particularly among early-career researchers – that would not have existed without this proposal's spark. The close bonds that emerged were essential to transfer the network's flame onto new projects.*



**Prof. Andreas Jud**  
Zurich University of Applied Sciences  
Chair of Euro-CAN Action



# Casos de éxito COST

<https://www.serena-horizon.eu/>

For Laura Cowley and Eva Mora-Theuer, the COST Action was more than just a network; it was a stepping stone to leadership roles and a prestigious follow-up project, [SERENA](#), funded by the Horizon Europe programme.



Dr Laura Cowley,  
Swansea University, UK,  
Euro-CAN WG co-Leader

*"Being part of the COST Action gave me the opportunity to co-lead a working group and to lead meetings and work packages," explains Laura. "This did wonders for my confidence and my ability to lead teams and collaborate internationally. The Action helped me secure a promotion to Senior Research Officer. It also greatly expanded my professional network and opened opportunities for new projects and grant proposals."*

Laura presented her research across Europe, completed scientific missions, and contributed to two landmark papers, including one as lead author. *"My participation in the international e-Delphi study on child maltreatment definitions was especially meaningful and was only possible through the energetic collaboration of the working group and the support of the Action. This led to my first-authored publication in The Lancet Regional Health – Europe, of which I am extremely proud,"* she adds.

Eva Mora-Theuer also gained confidence and skills by leading an Action working group.



*"Through collaborations, I learned far more than I had ever imagined possible. This process allowed me to significantly strengthen my skills as a young researcher, particularly in contributing to the evidence base within our research field. It was truly hands-on training that neither my PhD nor any other collaboration could have provided in such a comprehensive way."*

The screenshot shows the SERENA project website. At the top is the SERENA logo with three stylized figures. Below it is a navigation menu with links for Home, The R&D project, Publications, Resources, News, and Join SERENA!. The main heading is "SERENA project (2025-2029)" with the subtitle "Assessing and improving access to health and social care services for children rendered vulnerable by abuse". Below this is an illustration of three people (two women and one child) sitting at a table. Text below the illustration reads: "An Horizon Europe R&D project funded by the European Commission". Further down, it states: "SERENA is a project funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe Health program under grant agreement 101151854. Started in January 2025 for five years, it brings together 22 European partners." At the bottom, a paragraph reads: "Child maltreatment remains a widespread and underreported issue across Europe. Despite existing health and social care services, many children continue to face barriers to accessing effective support."

# Procedimiento de nominaciones al MC

21/05/2026

On 19 May 2026, COST's governing board, the Committee of Senior Officials, confirmed the funding of 80 new COST Actions, that will officially start in Autumn 2026.

The 80 new COST Actions in figures:



## RESULTADOS OPEN CALL 2025

<https://www.cost.eu/80-new-cost-actions-oc20251/>

<https://www.horizonteeuropa.es/resultados-convocatoria-cost-y-las-80>

## LEER CON ATENCIÓN PROCEDIMIENTO DE NOMINACIONES

22- 8 junio se reciben candidaturas en: <https://horizonteeuropa.es/excelencia/cost-eois-2026>

9 – 16 junio se Configuran los MCs

## ¿QUÉ PASA SI NO SOY SELECCIONADO COMO MC MEMBER?

Nos complace comunicar que se acaban de publicar los resultados de la convocatoria del programa COST de 2025 (Open Call 2025). En esta ocasión, se han aprobado 80 nuevas Acciones COST, de las cuales España ha conseguido coordinar 5 de ellas ocupando los primeros puestos en el ranking de países coordinando acciones COST. En esta convocatoria 24 países han conseguido coordinar alguna de las 80 acciones COST y España se posiciona como el 4º país con 5 acciones COST coordinadas, tan sólo por detrás de Reino Unido con 10, Italia con 8 y Alemania con 7. Además, otro indicador del éxito de participación española dentro del programa COST, es la elevada representación de nuestro país contando con casi 300 participantes de instituciones españolas en 69 acciones COST de las 80 que han resultado financiadas en esta convocatoria. Esto supone una representación de algo más del 86% en las acciones COST de reciente aprobación.

Algunos datos a destacar de las 80 acciones COST de reciente aprobación son:

- El 29 % de los principales proponentes son jóvenes investigadores e innovadores.
- El 53 % de los principales proponentes son mujeres.
- El 70 % de las propuestas cuentan con participantes de la industria/pymes.
- El 38 % de los principales proponentes provienen de un país objetivo de inclusión (ITC).
- El 71 % de las futuras redes han atraído a participantes de todo el mundo (países socios internacionales de COST, países vecinos cercanos y miembros socios de COST).
- El 61 % de todas las acciones abarcan al menos dos campos de ciencia y tecnología de la OCDE (Organización para la Cooperación y el Desarrollo Económicos), mientras que el 20 % abarca al menos tres campos.
- Las ciencias naturales lideran la representación (en el 50 % de las Acciones), seguidas de las ciencias sociales (40 %), la ingeniería y la tecnología (33 %), las ciencias médicas y de la salud (31 %), las ciencias agrícolas (16 %) y las humanidades (15 %).

La tasa de éxito es del 7 %.

COST

COST Actions approved by the Committee of Senior Officials on 19 May 2026

Open Call - collection date 21 October 2025 (OC-2025-1)

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER OF A COST ACTION'S MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Selection of members to the Management Committee (MC) from Spain is under the responsibility of Science, Innovation and Universities (MCIU).

Full /Cooperating and Partner participants in all COST Actions by default. Spain is a Full Member and the approval of the COST Action is considered the MoU signature. It is mandatory for Full Members to nominate members to the Management Committee (MC) to the Chair, Vice Chair and Grant Holder Scientific Representative (GH SR) of the COST Action.

# Gracias

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