

Brussels, 03 December 2020

## EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (COST)

### OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS – COLLECTION OC-2021-1

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

In order to achieve its mission, 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 implements its mission by funding bottom-up, excellence-driven, open and inclusive networks for peaceful purposes in all areas of science and technology.

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 trans-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 centers, 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 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 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 COST countries, encourage participation among young talents and next generation leaders, in particular promoting working opportunities for early career investigators, and ensure gender balance, paving the way towards breakthrough developments and innovations.

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

#### COST Association AISBL

Avenue du Boulevard 21 (box 2) | 1210 Brussels, Belgium  
T +32 (0)2 533 3800 | [office@cost.eu](mailto:office@cost.eu) | [www.cost.eu](http://www.cost.eu)



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COST Association  
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Proposals for a COST Action must represent a network composed of proposers from at least seven (7) COST Members<sup>1</sup> amongst which a minimum number shall be from COST Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC)<sup>2</sup>.

Selected proposals for COST Actions will get a financial support in the range of EUR 129.000 p.a., normally for four years, subject to available budget.

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 Association<sup>3</sup>.

The COST Action Proposal Submission, Evaluation, Selection and Approval (SESA) rules and procedure are based on the bottom-up, open and inclusive principles of COST and will ensure a simple, transparent and competitive evaluation and selection of proposals (see document COST 133/14 REV4 – COST Action Proposal Submission, Evaluation, Selection and Approval)<sup>3</sup>.

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 as non-eligible at any point of the process should any breach of those be identified during the evaluation as defined in the rules. Similarly, any attempt not to respect the conflict of interest rules 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 identify, among the list of proposals presented by the Review Panels, those that respond best to COST mission and policy. The Scientific Committee will establish the shortlist of proposals that shall be presented to the CSO for approval.

The 2021-1 Collection Date is set to 29 October 2021 at 12:00 (CET) – Noon.

45 new Actions are expected to be approved, depending on receipt of sufficient EC budget.

The Proposal Template (Technical Annex) is available under <https://www.cost.eu/funding/how-to-get-funding/documents-and-guidelines><sup>4</sup>. The Guidelines for submitting COST Action proposals are available on the same page. Proposals must be submitted electronically via [e-COST](#). Proposers will be able to submit proposals anytime throughout the year via the e-COST new online submission tool.

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

COST receives financial support from the EU RTD framework programme, Horizon 2020 and should be financed under 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.

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<sup>1</sup> The full list of COST Members is available at <https://www.cost.eu/who-we-are/members>

<sup>2</sup> 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 the annex 2 (page 16) in the Document COST 133/14 REV4: COST Action Proposal Submission, Evaluation, Selection and Approval at <https://www.cost.eu/funding/how-to-get-funding/documents-and-guidelines>.

<sup>3</sup> See Documents COST 132/14 REV6, 133/14 REV4, 134/14 REV3, 135/14 REV2 under <https://www.cost.eu/funding/how-to-get-funding/documents-and-guidelines>.

<sup>4</sup> See Technical Annex.docx.