Widening, COST

Tóth Orsolya
NKFIH Nemzetközi Főosztály
Improved access to excellence

**Expected impact:**

- Increased science and innovation capacity for all actors in the R&I system in Widening countries;
- Structural changes leading to modernised and more competitive R&I systems in eligible countries;
- Reformed R&I systems and institutions leading to increased attractiveness and retention of research talents;
- Mobilisation of national and EU resources for strategic investments;
- Higher participation success in Horizon Europe and more consortium leadership roles;
- Stronger links between academia and business and improved career permeability;
- Strengthened role of the Higher Education sector in research and innovation;
- Greater involvement of regional actors in the R&I process;
- Improved outreach to international level for all actors.
Twinning

- **Call opening:** 25 April 2023
- **Deadline:** 28 September 2023
- **Project budget:** 0,8-1,5 million EUR
- **Funded projects:** 80 + 20
- **Type of action:** CSA
- **Topic A:** The (usual) Twinning Bottom-Up
- **Topic B:** The Twinning Green Deal

Twinning aims to enhance networking activities between the research institutions of the Widening countries acting as co-ordinators and top-class leading counterparts at European Union level by linking it with at least two research institutions from two different Member States or Associated Countries.

- A research / innovation component not exceeding **30%** of the total Horizon Europe grant may include a research / innovation project. At least **50% of the budget** for the research / innovation component must be allocated to the coordinator.

- The presence of a gender equality plan is an eligibility criterion
- Lump sum
Teaming for Excellence

- **Call opening:** 10 January 2023
- **Deadline:** 12 April 2023 (1st Stage), 7 March 2024 (2nd Stage)
- **Project budget:** 8-15 million EUR
- **Funded projects:** 18
- **Type of action:** CSA

The Teaming action is designed to support the creation of new centres of excellence or upgrading the existing ones in low R&I performing countries.

It is building on partnerships between leading scientific institutions in the European landscape and the main beneficiary institutions in low R&I performing countries that display the willingness to engage together for this purpose.

1st stage: R&I excellence and the conceptual approach for the centres of excellence will be evaluated

Complementary source of funding from a national (or regional or European or private source) is required
Excellence Hubs

- Call opening: 28 September 2023
- Deadline: 7 March 2024
- Project budget: 2-6 million EUR
- Funded projects: 12
- Type of action: CSA

Proposal must involve at least two Widening Country R&I ecosystems.

- Each Widening Country R&I ecosystem must comprise four different categories of actors i.e. a) academic institutions (universities and/or non-university research centres or labs), b) business entities (active established firms with relevant revenues), c) public authorities or authorised agencies operating at regional or local level and d) societal actors (civil society organisations, associations, citizens, end users, media, cultural actors etc.)
European Excellence Initiative

- **Call opening:** 10 January 2023
- **Deadline:** 12 April 2023
- **Project budget:** 2-5 million EUR
- **Funded projects:** 20
- **Type of action:** CSA

Applications must be submitted by a consortium including at least three but not limited to – independent legal entities in three different EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries, at least one of which established in a Widening Country.

- **Expenditures for research and innovation activities** (such as seed funding for collaborative research projects, activities linked to joint doctoral and postdoctoral research, knowledge valorisation activities, etc.) cannot exceed a maximum of 20% of the total budget.

- Raise excellence in science and in value creation through deeper and geographically inclusive cooperation in alliances of higher education institutions, such as – European Universities alliances selected under Erasmus+, with a particular focus on Widening countries.

- **Improve global competitiveness and visibility** of Europe’s higher education institutions, creating critical mass in key areas such as the green transition and Horizon Europe mission areas.
European Cooperation in Science & Technology

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
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**
- 40 COST Members
  + 1 Cooperating Member
- 14 Near Neighbour Countries
- Global cooperation
Role of COST in the ERA

1. Promoting and spreading excellence
2. Fostering interdisciplinary research for breakthrough science
3. Empowering and retaining young researchers

3 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES
Key figures

- 292 Running Actions
- 203 Training schools
- €134,500 Average annual budget of a COST Action
- 2,320 Short-term scientific missions
- 45,000 Researchers involved in COST Actions
- €153 million COST budget (in Horizon Europe for a 3-year period)
How it works?

Main proposer

Secondary proposers

Country representatives nominated by COST National Coordinators
COST Membership

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

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
Dedicated measures for active ITC participation

**COST Info Days**
- Targeted to ITC
- Combined with high-level meeting ITC government, including CNC

**COST Actions**
- COST Action leadership
- Conference grant for PhD students and young researchers
- Pre-payment for STSM

**Proposals**
- Eligibility
- External experts
- Inclusiveness policy

**COST Academy**
- Leadership workshop
- Finance/admin workshop
- Science communication training
- Mentoring grant holder
- Mentoring chair
Priority 1

PROMOTING AND SPREADING EXCELLENCE

COST Members
COST Partner Member
COST Near Neighbour Countries
Third States/International Partner Countries

- South Africa (34)
- Algeria (16)
- Armenia (44)
- Azerbaijan (18)
- Belarus (33)
- Egypt (15)
- Jordan (18)
- Kosovo* (36)
- Lebanon (12)
- Morocco (36)
- Palestine** (7)
- Russian Federation (91)
- Syrian Arab Republic (1)
- Tunisia (55)

- Argentina (14)
- Australia (69)
- Bangladesh (1)
- Brazil (40)
- Canada (63)
- Chile (12)
- China (30)
- Colombia (11)
- Costa Rica (5)
- Cuba (1)
- Ecuador (3)
- Ethiopia (1)
- Hong Kong SAR (2)
- India (13)
- Iran (8)
- Japan (47)
- Kazakhstan (2)
- Kenya (2)
- Kuwait (1)
- Mexico (11)

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- Colombia (11)
- Costa Rica (5)
- Cuba (1)
- Ecuador (3)
- Ethiopia (1)
- Hong Kong SAR (2)
- India (13)
- Iran (8)
- Japan (47)
- Kazakhstan (2)
- Kenya (2)
- Kuwait (1)
- Mexico (11)

- Malaysia (2)
- Nepal (1)
- New Zealand (13)
- Nigeria (3)
- Pakistan (2)
- Peru (2)
- Republic of Rwanda (1)
- Saudi Arabia (2)
- Senegal (1)
- Singapore (10)
- South Korea (7)
- Taiwan (2)
- Uganda (1)
- United Arab Emirates (4)
- United States (211)
- Uruguay (2)
- Uzbekistan (1)
- Venezuela (1)
- Vietnam (2)
Benefits of participating in a COST Action

- Scientific
- Networking
- Career opportunities
- Financial support
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 30 countries
- Research coordination and capacity building activities
- ~ €600,000 over lifetime
The value of networking

Participation in COST Actions

Follow-up proposals have a success rate of more than 37%
Useful links

- https://www.horizon-europe-infodays2021.eu/event/era-widening
- https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home
- https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/horizon/hop-on
- www.cost.eu
Thank you!

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