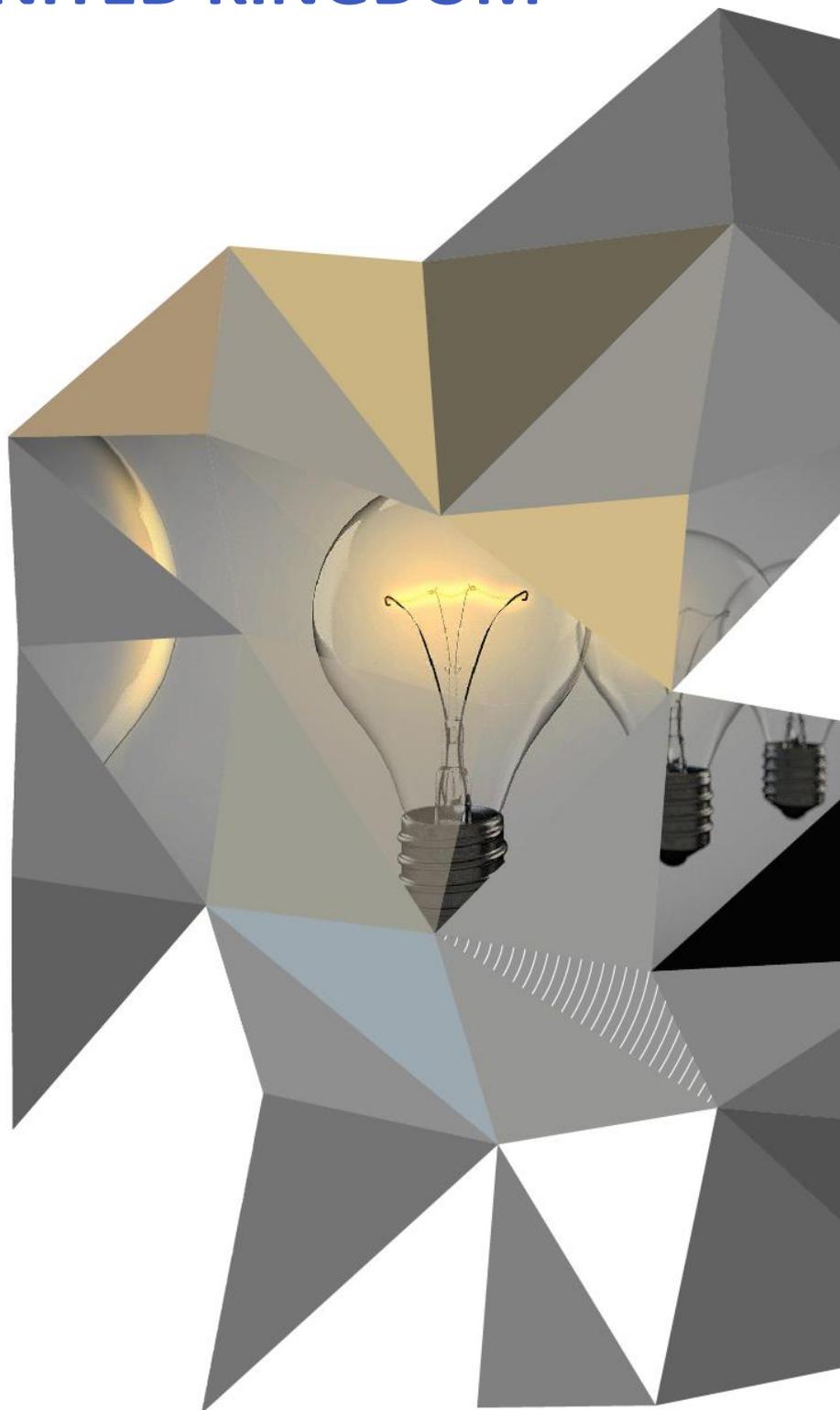


# *Growing ideas through networks*

## **COST & UNITED KINGDOM**

**INFO KIT**



# Empowering researchers from Europe and beyond - COST

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By providing networking opportunities for researchers and innovators, [The European Cooperation in Science and Technology](#) (COST) aims at strengthening Europe's capacity to address scientific, technological and societal challenges. For more than 50 years, the networks enabled by the COST programme, called [COST Actions](#), have offered an open space for collaboration among many scientists across Europe (and beyond), giving thereby impetus to research advancements and innovation. By being open, inclusive, and interdisciplinary, the COST actions advance science, stimulate knowledge-sharing while pooling resources, and build trust at pan-European level across different fields of science and technology. COST invites researchers across Europe to submit proposals for Actions through a continuous [open call](#), no matter what their field of interest. COST next open call deadline ends on **20 OCTOBER 2022**.

## Key benefits for researchers

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Funding research networking through COST Actions can translate in many diverse benefits for researchers and for the R&I sector more broadly. The key findings from the [Final Impact Assessment under Horizon 2020](#) noted that participation in COST Actions increases the likelihood of success when applying to other European programmes, making it an efficient pre-portal to other EU funding instruments.

On average, 37% of COST Action follow-up proposals under Horizon 2020 are successful.

### NETWORKING

Creating open spaces for the free circulation of researchers and ideas.



### CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Boosting careers of young researchers.

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

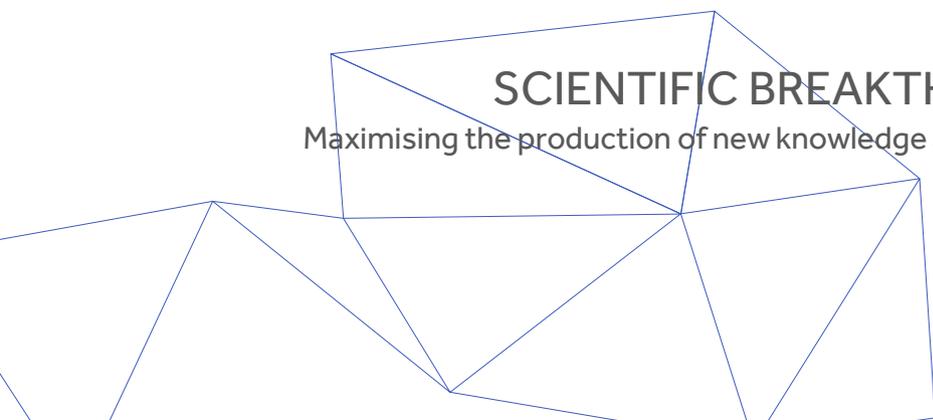
Allowing a low-entry barrier and successful pathways towards other cooperation schemes in the ERA.

### MOBILITY, VISIBILITY

Generating short-term mobility with long-term impact.

### SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGHS

Maximising the production of new knowledge and breakthrough discoveries.



# COST Actions & United Kingdom

United Kingdom, as a member of COST since 1971, has been a key player in COST Actions' activities for the last 50 years. Throughout the latest Horizon 2020 programme period (2014-2020), close to 700 COST Actions have involved British participation with 548 leadership positions amongst which almost half were women researchers. The research mobility and the promotion of excellence and inclusiveness enabled by the participation in COST Actions keeps helping to tackle many challenges while growing benefits for British researchers and society as a whole. View the H2020 UK factsheet [here](#).

## *Societal breakthrough: COST Action INOGOVI and climate governance*

[COST Action INOGOVI](#) has addressed the lack of coordination on policy innovation around climate issues. It was funded from 2014 until 2018, at the same time as COP21 in Paris, to defragment knowledge around these topics. INOGOVI was extremely productive: a book of its main findings has been downloaded over 90,000 times. It was also recognised by the COST Final Impact Assessment for Horizon 2020 as one of the [most impactful COST Actions](#) and its scientific excellence and policy impact achieved during this four year was highlighted.

### May 2022: INOGOVI receives the award for 'Partnership of the Year'

The work performed by INOGOVI continues to be acknowledged as Prof Andy Jordan, previous Chair of the COST Action, and Dr Johanna Forster received an "Innovation & Impact Awards" as the "Partnership of the Year". *"It means a lot to have won this award. It was a large project team who all worked so hard on this. I'm really thrilled."* said Prof Jordan.

The network continues its activities [here](#).



*"We are thrilled with what INOGOVI achieved, grateful for the opportunity (and funding) and eager to pass on our accumulated wisdom to the rest of the COST family. Prof Jordan, University of East Anglia / Norwich."*



## Breaking the internet with COST Action "Problematic Use of the Internet"

Launched in 2018 and operating full speed right in the middle of the COVID Pandemic, this timely [COST Action Problematic use of the internet](#) (PUI) tackled the growing health problem represented by PUI. The awareness activities undertaken by the network had a strong impact, reaching wide audiences by grasping interest of some of UK's most important media such as "The Guardian", "Telegraph" and "Reuters".



**Total reach:  
160 120 622**

*“By nurturing a broad and diverse multidisciplinary network of experts, drawn from around Europe and the rest of the world, working alongside citizens groups including young people who are most at risk, this COST Action has considerably raised the profile of PUI among scientists and the public at large and advanced the understanding of this emerging public health problem at a global level.”*



Prof Naomi FINEBERG, Chair of COST Action PUI, Hertfordshire.

## Boosting young researchers' careers

The [COST Action ALIEN-CSI](#) works at advancing the understanding of non-native and invasive species through citizen science. The Chair of this COST Action, Prof Helen Roy, has been involved in several COST Actions since her early career, and stresses how participating in COST Actions plays an active role for early careers investigators:



*“Perhaps the most enjoyable outcome from COST is seeing the early career researchers flourish – COST benefited me in so many ways through my early career and 25 years on I am delighted to be able to encourage others to benefit in similar ways.”*

Prof Helen ROY, Chair of COST Action ALIEN- CSI, Oxfordshire.

# Key figures in 2022

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227

Running COST  
Actions with British  
participation

160

British researchers in  
leadership positions

1192

British members  
throughout COST Actions

502

British women  
researchers involved in  
COST Actions

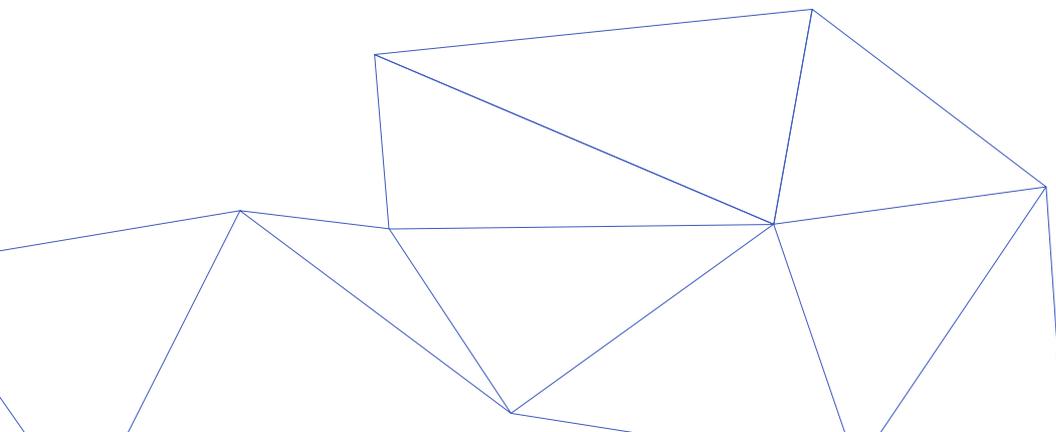
317

British young  
researchers involved  
as COST Members



*"COST is the perfect mechanism to  
get that cross disciplinary and  
interdisciplinary networking going."*

Prof Julian Richards, [CASEDDA](#)  
University of York, UK.



# General information

## COST OPEN CALL

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The [COST open call](#) is a simple one-step application process inviting participants to submit COST Action proposals contributing to the scientific, technological, economic, cultural or societal knowledge advancement and development of Europe. Multi- and interdisciplinary proposals are encouraged. The proposals can be submitted at any time and they are collected once a year. For 2022, this deadline is set on the **20 October 2022**.

The Open Call Action proposal submission, evaluation, selection and approval (SESA) procedure is fully science and technology-driven and will ensure a simple, transparent and competitive proposal evaluation and selection process, reflecting the bottom-up, open and inclusive principles of COST. Participants planning to submit a proposal for a COST Action will need to refer to the SESA guidelines and to the Open Call Announcement on the [Documents and Guidelines](#) page. Click on the hereunder boxes for more information.

How to apply?

What do we fund?

## More information about COST

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- About COST: : <https://www.cost.eu/about/about-cost/>
- COST mission: <https://www.cost.eu/about/cost-mission/>
- About COST Actions: <https://www.cost.eu/cost-actions/what-are-cost-actions/>
- COST Actions networking tools: <https://www.cost.eu/cost-actions-event/action-networking-tools/>
- Read the 2021 COST Actions booklet: [COST-Action-Booklet-220420.pdf](#)
- Read COST Corporate Brochure: [COST\\_CorporateBrochure\\_220404-1.pdf](#)
- Read COST Annual Report 2021: [COST\\_Annual\\_report\\_2021.pdf](#)

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