



COST Open Call for new Research Networks

COST invites researchers throughout Europe to submit proposals for research networks and to use this unique opportunity to exchange knowledge and to embark on new European perspectives. COST's main objective is to stimulate new, innovative and interdisciplinary scientific networks in Europe. COST brings together researchers and experts in different countries working on specific topics. It finances networking of nationally funded research activities in supporting meetings, conferences, short term scientific exchanges and outreach activities. COST, therefore, does NOT fund research itself. COST Actions are carried out by research teams to strengthen the foundations for building scientific excellence in Europe.

COST went through a phase of reforms to remain a flexible, fast, effective and efficient bottom-up player in the European Research and Innovation Area ERA. In the course of these reforms the open call in its present form has been established in 2006.

COST invites proposals for new COST Actions contributing to the scientific, economic, cultural or societal development of Europe. Proposals should include researchers from a minimum of five COST-member states. Proposals playing a precursor role for other European programs involving young groups' ideas are especially welcome.

Currently more than 200 Actions are supported. Every year approximately 50 new Actions will be approved.

On average financial support of some € 90.000 p.a. as grant for normally 4 years can be expected. A two stage process will be followed to assess proposals. Preliminary Proposals should provide a brief overview of the proposal and its impact. A pre-selection will rank the Preliminary Proposals of which some 75 per collection date will be invited to submit a Full Proposal.

This continuous call is thematically open. The next collection date for Preliminary Proposals is **30 March 2012 at 17:00 Brussels time.**

More information about COST and the Open Call is available from the COST Office website <http://www.cost.eu> or from the website of the State Secretariat for Education and Research <http://www.sbf.admin.ch> (http://www.sbf.admin.ch/htm/themen/international/cost_de.html).

Contact in Switzerland: cost@sbf.admin.ch