

Swiss COST Project Call

(COST = European Cooperation in Science and Technology)

Call for proposals

1. Introduction

COST aims to enable breakthrough scientific developments leading to new concepts and products. It thereby contributes to strengthening Europe's research and innovation capacities.

COST brings together European researchers 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 from different fields and horizons such as universities, universities of applied science, research centers, companies, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as other relevant actors.

COST activities are carried out in the form of networks, called COST Actions, which are essentially coordinated research endeavors. COST Actions are the result of an international bottom-up programming process. A COST Action lasts for four years.

COST does not fund research itself, but supports networking via different tools such as meetings, short-term scientific exchanges, training schools and dissemination activities as parts of COST Actions. Research funding has to be provided by national funding sources.

For many years, Switzerland has been highly committed to scientific cooperation in the framework of COST. The funding of COST research projects in Switzerland happens through various national funding sources. Additionally, Swiss researchers are entitled to apply for research funding through a specific budget-line for COST, implemented by the SNSF. This funding is intended as specific support to young researchers (PhD students and postdocs) to establish broad international networks at an early stage in their career.

This call covers research proposals that have to be actively related to the COST Actions given in Appendix 1. All applicants will have to prove active participation in one of these COST Actions.

The general “Funding Regulations” and the “General implementation regulations for the Funding Regulations” of the SNSF (<http://www.snf.ch/en/funding/documents-downloads/Pages/default.aspx#Regulations>) are applicable.

2. Guiding principles for the Swiss COST projects

Through the COST projects, salary and research costs of PhD/doctorate or postdoctoral students and other collaborators can be funded. Guiding principles for the Swiss COST projects are:

- The project has to be embedded in an eligible COST Action (see Appendix 1).
- Scientific excellence has to be given
- Normally, the research has to be carried out in Switzerland.

3. Application details

3.1 Who can apply

A researcher can submit a proposal to the COST call even when she or he holds another SNSF grant or has applied for one. This clause includes the career instruments “Eccellenza”, “Ambizione” or “Prima”.

Applicants must hold a PhD/doctorate and have at least two years of subsequent research experience or have equivalent qualifications (a minimum of five years in total of a primary research activity since obtaining their higher education degree).

Each applicant can submit one application per COST call as main applicant as well as one as co-applicant.

3.2 What kind of research can be funded

Applications can be made in any field of research covered by the COST Actions given in Appendix 1. In particular, submission of proposals of an interdisciplinary nature, which cross the boundaries between different fields of research, pioneering proposals addressing new and emerging fields of research or proposals introducing unconventional, innovative approaches and scientific inventions are encouraged.

Please be aware that some frontier research activities and methodologies may have ethical implications or may raise questions that will require sound ethical assessment in order to ensure that research supported by a Swiss COST project respects the fundamental ethical principles.

Cases of scientific misconduct such as plagiarism and fabrication or misrepresentation of data will be considered as breaches of fundamental ethical principles, and the proposals concerned will be excluded. The SNSF may, in such cases initiate proceedings according to SNSF’s regulations on scientific misconduct and may impose sanctions.

3.3 Duration

The maximum duration of the projects is 48 months. The earliest possible start of funding is on *1 January, 2019 tbc.*

3.4 Funding

The maximum amount for a four-year project is CHF 320,000. The funding may be adapted for a shorter project, respecting the level of experience of the employed scientists. Overall, a budget of CHF 4.0 million will be available.

Normally, projects have to start within 6 months after the funding decision.

3.3.1 Research costs

Eligible costs:

- Salaries, social security contributions and other salary related costs for the scientific staff (PhD/doctorate or postdoc)
- Research funds: all funds needed to carry out the project, such as consumables necessary for the proposed work, publication costs, travel costs (if not covered by the COST Action), field expenses and unavoidable sundry expenses
- Subcontracting costs and costs to access large facilities owned by third parties that are not used on the grantees' premises (maximum 10%).

Ineligible costs:

- Expenditure incurred before and after the dates of the project
- Overhead
- Material of enduring value (equipment).

3.5 Scientific staff members

The scientific staff members employed through the project should be either PhD/doctorate students, postdocs or people with equivalent qualifications.

4. Submission procedure

Proposals must be submitted online via the mySNF portal. User registration can be obtained on the *mySNF* homepage: www.mysnf.ch.

This call document and the relevant provisions, templates for the research plan, regulations and guidelines for the submission of proposals via the *mySNF* portal can be downloaded from the SNSF website (www.snf.ch). The evaluation will be conducted in a single stage procedure.

Proposals must be submitted in English since they will be evaluated by internationally recognized experts.

4.1 Documents to be submitted

The following documents have to be entered directly on the mySNF portal:

- Full research proposal, maximum 12 pages
- Budget in CHF
- CV of the applicant(s)
- List of publications in leading or major international peer-reviewed scientific journals, peer-reviewed conference proceedings and/or monographs of the respective research fields, highlighting the five most important publications.

4.2 Call dates

The call will be opened on 15 February 2018. The closing date of the call will be 4 May, 2018 17.00h Swiss local time.

5. Selection of projects; evaluation criteria

5.1 Eligibility check

The International and Interdisciplinary Co-operation division (InterCo) at the SNSF Administrative Offices will check whether the proposals meet the formal criteria, such as integration in an eligible COST Action, number of years of experience, etc. Proposals that do not meet the formal criteria will not be evaluated.

5.2 Evaluation

Proposals for Swiss COST projects will be reviewed according to international peer review standard procedures. The external experts will be designated by the SNSF and by the members of a dedicated COST panel.

The criteria used to evaluate the scientific quality and relevance of the proposals are (in order of priority)

- Scientific relevance
- Added value through participation in the respective COST Action
- Appropriateness of the methodology and feasibility
- Originality
- Track record and expertise of applicants

The evaluation results will be communicated to the researchers as soon as the final decision is taken.

6. Implementation of the Swiss COST projects

6.1 SNSF decision

The SNSF decides about the projects based on the proposals and the recommendation of the evaluation bodies. The decision comes in the form of an appealable ruling.

6.2 Portability

The Swiss COST projects fall under the “money follows researcher”-scheme of the SNSF.

6.3 Project progress reporting

Scientific reporting: Main applicants are required to send scientific reports to the SNSF every 24 months and at the end of the project. These reports inform the SNSF about the progress and milestones achieved in the project. Specific outputs from the project should be included (e.g. publications).

Financial reporting: PIs are required to send financial reports every 12 months, justifying the use of the funds.

The SNSF has to be informed about any changes affecting the grantees (e.g. moves, changes to employment terms) and changes of personnel.

6.4 Payments

Payments are made in several instalments as advance payments at the beginning of each project year.

6.5 Publication and application of results

Acknowledgement of support: whenever results generated by SNSF-funded research are published (for example, in journals, patents, presentations, etc.) the applicants should bring attention to the financial support provided by the SNSF and the support through COST/the COST Action. This may imply a written acknowledgment and/or visible SNSF and COST logos:

The research leading to these results was funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation under the programme “COST” n° [xxxxxx], COST Action “number” and “title”.

The SNSF may publish information on projects, which it supports financially. This could include the name and affiliation of the applicants and host institution, the project’s objectives and the amount of funding awarded.

7. Contact persons and information

For questions concerning the submission and evaluation procedure, please contact the programme coordinator: Dr. Eva M. Klaper, COST@snf.ch.

Technical help with *mySNF* and electronic submissions -> Hotline:

- Tel. + 41 31 308 22 88 (English)
- Tel. + 41 31 308 22 99 (Français)
- Tel. + 41 31 308 22 00 (Deutsch)

E-mail: mynsf.support@snf.ch

mySNF homepage: www.mynsf.ch

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Annex 1: SNSF COST Call 2018-: COST Actions

More information about these Actions can be found here:

http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/all_actions

Action	Action Title
CA16201	Unraveling new physics at the LHC through the precision frontier
CA16202	International Network to Encourage the Use of Monitoring and Forecasting Dust Products
CA16203	Stem cells of marine/aquatic invertebrates: from basic research to innovative applications
CA16204	Distant Reading for European Literary History
CA16205	European Network on Understanding Gastrointestinal Absorption-related Processes
CA16206	Empowering the next generation of social enterprise scholars
CA16207	European Network for Problematic Usage of the Internet
CA16208	Knowledge conversion for enhancing management of European riparian ecosystems and services
CA16209	Natural Flood Retention on Private Land
CA16210	Maximising Impact of research in Neuro-Developmental Disorders
CA16211	Reappraising Intellectual Debates on Civic Rights and Democracy in Europe
CA16212	Impact of Nuclear Domains On Gene Expression and Plant Traits
CA16213	New Exploratory Phase in Research on East European Cultures of Dissent
CA16214	The multi-messenger physics and astrophysics of neutron stars
CA16215	European network for the promotion of portable, affordable and simple analytical platforms
CA16216	Network on the Coordination and Harmonisation of European Occupational Cohorts
CA16217	European network of multidisciplinary research to improve the urinary stents
CA16218	Nanoscale coherent hybrid devices for superconducting quantum technologies
CA16219	Harmonization of UAS techniques for agricultural and natural ecosystems monitoring
CA16220	European Network for High Performance Integrated Microwave Photonics
CA16221	Quantum Technologies with Ultra-Cold Atoms
CA16222	Wider Impacts and Scenario Evaluation of Autonomous and Connected Transport
CA16223	Leukaemia Gene Discovery by data sharing, mining and collaboration
CA16224	European Raptor Biomonitoring Facility
CA16225	Realising the therapeutic potential of novel cardio-protective therapies
CA16226	Indoor living space improvement: Smart Habitat for the Elderly.
CA16227	Investigation and Mathematical Analysis of Avant-garde Disease Control via Mosquito Nano-Tech-Repellents
CA16228	European Network for Game Theory
CA16229	European Network for Environmental Citizenship
CA16230	Combatting anthelmintic resistance in ruminants
CA16231	European Network of Vaccine Adjuvants
CA16232	European Energy Poverty: Agenda Co-Creation and Knowledge Innovation
CA16233	Drylands facing change: interdisciplinary research on climate change, food insecurity, political instability
CA16234	European Cleft and Craniofacial Initiative for Equality in Care
CA16235	Performance and Reliability of Photovoltaic Systems: Evaluations of Large-Scale Monitoring Data