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Call for COST Projects in Switzerland 2023

COST - European Cooperation in Science and Technology

1 Introduction

¹ COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) aims at enabling 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 interdisciplinary approaches by integrating researchers from different fields and horizons such as universities, universities of applied sciences, research centres, companies, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as other relevant actors.

² COST activities are carried out in the form of networks, called COST Actions, which are essentially coordinated research endeavours. 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.

³ For many years, Switzerland has been highly committed to scientific cooperation in the framework of COST. The research related to COST Actions is funded through various sources. Researchers based in Switzerland are entitled to apply at the SNSF for funding. This funding is intended as specific support to COST Actions. This should also enable young researchers to establish broad international networks at an early stage of their career.

⁴ **This call covers research applications that are actively related to the COST Actions CA201## and CA211##** given in the Annex. At the time of the submission of the project proposal, all applicants have to prove active participation in one of these COST Actions. They are either member of the Action's Management Committee, or member of a working group; other active involvement must be confirmed by the Chair of the Action.

2 Guiding principles for COST Projects

¹ Through COST Projects, salaries of employees engaged for the project and research costs can be funded. The guiding principles for COST Projects are:

- a. The project is embedded in an eligible COST Action (see the Annex);
- b. The "Funding Regulations" and the "General implementation regulations for the Funding Regulations" of the SNSF¹ are applicable, therefore, in particular,
 - i. The research is carried out in Switzerland²;

¹ <http://www.snsf.ch> > Funding > How to > Funding Regulations

² See art. 10 of the SNSF Funding Regulations

- ii. The project only involves scientific research and does not follow directly commercial purposes³.

3 Application details

3.1 Eligibility criteria for applicants

¹ An applicant can submit an application even if she or he holds any other SNSF grant or has applied for one, provided the research projects clearly address separate topics or pursue different project goals in the context of programmes; and the applicants are in a position to make substantial contributions to each of the research projects⁴. This clause includes the career instruments “Eccellenza”, “Ambizione” and “PRIMA”.

² Applicants must hold a doctorate and have at least one year of subsequent research experience or have equivalent qualifications (a minimum of four years in total of a primary research activity since obtaining a higher education degree) at the moment of submission.

³ Applicants may only submit one application per submission date.

⁴ Researchers can hold at most one COST Project associated with any given COST Action.

3.2 Project partners

¹ Project partners are researchers who make a partial contribution to a research project through cooperation without being responsible for the project. Their contribution does not serve any commercial purposes. In particular, researchers at higher education institutions, public institutions and non-profit organisations may be accepted as project partners, also if they are located outside Switzerland. Researchers who participate in the same COST Action as the one of the applicant can also be accepted as project partners if they fulfil the eligibility criteria of project partners. They may not refer to the support received from the SNSF as a grant they have acquired themselves.

² The costs generated by project partners must be of minor significance compared to the total budget for the project. They should generally correspond to no more than 20% of the overall grant.

3.3 Fundable research

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

3.4 Duration and start of the grant

¹ The maximum duration of the projects is 48 months.

³ See art. 13 of the SNSF Funding Regulations

⁴ See art. 17 of the SNSF Funding Regulations

² The earliest possible start date is 1 January, 2024. Projects should start within 6 months after the funding decision, in order to be aligned as well as possible with the associated COST Action.

3.5 Funding

¹ The maximum funding for a four-year project is CHF 360,000. This amount is reduced accordingly for a project of shorter duration.

² Eligible costs:

- a. Salaries, social security contributions and other salary related costs for the employees engaged for the project;
- b. Research funds: all funds needed to carry out the project, such as material of enduring value (equipment), consumables necessary for the proposed work, collaboration costs (only if not covered by the COST Action), and field expenses;
- c. Costs generated by project partners, subcontracting costs and costs to access large facilities owned by third parties that are not used on the grantees' premises (maximum 20% of the overall grant).

³ Ineligible costs:

- a. The applicants' own salary;
- b. The salaries of the project partners;

3.6 Re-submission

The SNSF only considers a re-submitted application if it is a significantly modified version of the rejected application. Moreover, the re-submitted project must be embedded in an eligible COST Action of the present call; see the Annex.

4 Submission procedure

¹ Applications must be submitted via *mySNF* (Programmes/COST) and in English, since they will be evaluated by internationally recognized experts.

² Pre-registration: In order to facilitate the composition of the evaluation panel, main applicants are highly encouraged to open their COST Project application in *mySNF* by **3 March 2023** and to indicate the COST Action associated with the application, the disciplines and an outline summary of the planned research. Only the data containers corresponding to the above mentioned information need to be filled out in *mySNF* by this pre-registration deadline, the proposal does not need to be submitted, and can be further processed after this deadline.

³ Guidelines for the electronic submission of applications are provided in *mySNF*. In particular, the research plan must not exceed 14 pages and 55,000 characters (with spaces); this includes everything except the bibliography (see Annex 2).

⁴ The applicants must submit the new standardized CV of the SNSF.⁵

⁵ <http://www.snsf.ch> > Funding > How to > CV format

⁵ The submission deadline for COST Project applications is **20 April 2023, 17:00** Swiss local time.

5 Evaluation

5.1 Evaluation process

¹ The SNSF Administrative Offices does not consider applications that do not meet all formal requirements.

² The SNSF asks external experts to provide a written scientific assessment of the proposal.

³ An international multidisciplinary panel evaluates the applications, also based on the written scientific assessments provided by the external experts.

⁴ The SNSF Research Council approves COST-projects based on the outcome of the scientific evaluation and the available finances.

⁵ The evaluation results will be communicated to the applicants at the latest by mid-December 2023.

5.2 Evaluation criteria

¹ The criteria used to evaluate the scientific quality and relevance of the applications are (in order of priority)

- a. Scientific relevance, topicality and originality;
- b. Added value through participation in the respective COST Action;
- c. Suitability of methods and feasibility;
- d. Scientific qualifications of the researchers: scientific track record and ability to carry out the research project.

² For applications in use-inspired basic research, the project's broader impact is considered in the evaluation.

6 Implementation of COST Projects

6.1 Grants

¹ COST Project grants are awarded and managed according to the applicable rules of the SNSF, in particular according to the Funding Regulations of the SNSF and its Implementation Regulations.

6.2 Reporting

¹ Grantees of COST Project grants are obliged to submit to the SNSF reports in accordance with the requirements stipulated by the SNSF.

² In particular, output data must be provided 18 months after the start of the project at the latest and a final report upon conclusion of a project.

6.3 Publication of research results

¹ Grantees are obliged to meet the requirements regarding open access and open data of the SNSF.

² Grantees are obliged to mention the SNSF grant in all scientific publications and communication activities relating to research projects, particularly in press releases.

³ Grantees must use the phrase "funded by the SNSF" if the project is being or has been funded with an SNSF grant. The SNSF logo⁶ must be placed alongside the said phrase whenever possible. It should also appear in all other forms of publication, such as presentations, posters, conferences, brochures, papers and books.

⁴ The financial support provided by the SNSF as well as the support through COST/the COST Action should be acknowledged. 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"'.

7 Contact persons and information

For questions concerning the submission and evaluation procedure, please contact cost@snf.ch or telephone:

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For specific questions related to www.mysnf.ch, please contact the support team by e-mail (mysnf.support@snf.ch) or telephone:

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

⁶ <http://www.snsf.ch> > About us > Contact > Logo SNSF

Please note that you need a user account in order to submit proposals via mySNF. To open an account on mySNF, please register with the SNSF as a user. Applicants with existing user accounts need not apply for new ones.

Link: www.mysnf.ch

Annex 1: Eligible COST Actions CA201## and CA211##

More information about these Actions can be found here:

<https://www.cost.eu/cost-actions/browse-actions/>

Action	Titre de l'Action
CA20101	Plastics monitoring detection remediation recovery
CA20102	Marine Animal Forest of the world
CA20103	Biosecurity enhanced through training, evaluation and raising awareness
CA20104	Network on evidence-based physical activity in old age
CA20105	Slow Memory: Transformative Practices for Times of Uneven and Accelerating Change
CA20106	Tomorrow's 'wheat of the sea': Ulva, a model for an innovative mariculture
CA20107	Connecting Theory and Practical Issues of Migration and Religious Diversity
CA20108	FAIR Network of micrometeorological measurements
CA20109	Modular energy islands for sustainability and resilience
CA20110	RNA communication across kingdoms: new mechanisms and strategies in pathogen control
CA20111	European Research Network on Formal Proofs
CA20112	Platform of policy evaluation community for improved EU policies and better acknowledgment
CA20113	A sound proteome for a sound body: targeting proteolysis for proteome remodelling
CA20114	Therapeutical applications of Cold Plasmas
CA20115	European network on international student mobility: connecting research and practice
CA20116	European Network for Innovative and Advanced Epitaxy
CA20117	Converting molecular profiles of myeloid cells into biomarkers for inflammation and cancer
CA20118	Three-dimensional forest ecosystem monitoring and better understanding by terrestrial-based technologies
CA20119	European andrology network– research coordination, education and public awareness
CA20120	Intelligence-Enabling Radio Communications for Seamless Inclusive Interactions
CA20121	Bench to bedside transition for pharmacological regulation of NRF2 in noncommunicable diseases
CA20122	Harmonizing clinical care and research on adrenal tumours in European countries
CA20123	Intergovernmental Coordination from Local to European Governance
CA20124	Maximising impact of multidisciplinary research in early diagnosis of neonatal brain injury
CA20125	Applications for zoosporic parasites in aquatic systems
CA20126	Network for research, innovation and product development on porous semiconductors and oxides
CA20127	Waste biorefinery technologies for accelerating sustainable energy processes
CA20128	Promoting Innovation of fermented foods
CA20129	Multiscale irradiation and chemistry driven processes and related technologies

CA20130	European MIC Network – New paths for science, sustainability and standards
CA20131	Efficient Justice for All: Improving Court Efficiency through EU Benchmarking
CA20132	Urban Tree Guard - Safeguarding European urban trees and forests through improved biosecurity
CA20133	Cross-border transfer and development of sustainable resource recovery strategies towards zero waste
CA20134	Traces as Research Agenda for Climate Change, Technology Studies, and Social Justice
CA20135	Improving biomedical research by automated behaviour monitoring in the animal home-cage
CA20136	Opportunistic precipitation sensing network
CA20137	Making Early Career Researchers' Voices Heard for Gender Equality
CA20138	Network on water-energy-food nexus for a low-carbon economy in Europe and beyond
CA20139	Holistic design of taller timber buildings
CA20140	CorEuStem: The European Network for Stem Cell Core Facilities
CA21101	CONFINED MOLECULAR SYSTEMS: FROM A NEW GENERATION OF MATERIALS TO THE STARS
CA21102	Toolkit of Care
CA21103	Implementation of Circular Economy in the Built Environment
CA21104	Pan-European Network for Sustainable Hydropower
CA21105	Blastocystis under One Health
CA21106	COSMIC WISPerS in the Dark Universe: Theory, astrophysics and experiments
CA21107	Work inequalities in later life redefined by digitalization
CA21108	European Network for Skin Engineering and Modeling
CA21109	Cartan geometry, Lie, Integrable Systems, quantum group Theories for Applications
CA21110	Building an open European Network on OsteoArthritis research
CA21111	One Health drugs against parasitic vector borne diseases in Europe and beyond
CA21112	Offshore freshened groundwater: An unconventional water resource in coastal regions?
CA21113	Genome Editing to Treat Humans Diseases
CA21114	CLIL Network for Languages in Education: Towards bi- and multilingual disciplinary literacies
CA21115	Iron-sulphur (FeS) clusters: from chemistry to immunology
CA21116	Identification of biological markers for prevention and translational medicine in pancreatic cancer
CA21117	The role of IMMUnity in tackling PARKinson's disease through a Translational NETwork
CA21118	Platform Work Inclusion Living Lab
CA21119	International network for harmonization of atmospheric aerosol retrievals from ground based photometers
CA21120	History of Identity Documentation in European Nations: Citizenship, Nationality and Migration
CA21121	European Network for the Mechanics of Matter at the Nano-Scale
CA21122	PRoMoting GeRiAtric Medicine IN countries where it is still eMerGing

CA21123	Cancer- Understanding Prevention in Intellectual Disabilities
CA21124	LIFT: Lifting farm animal lives – laying the foundations for positive animal welfare
CA21125	A European forum for revitalisation of marginalised mountain areas
CA21126	Carbon molecular nanostructures in space
CA21127	Techno-economic analysis of carbon mitigation technologies
CA21128	PROton BOron Nuclear fusion: from energy production to medical applicatiOns
CA21129	What are Opinions? Integrating Theory and Methods for Automatically Analyzing Opinionated Communication
CA21130	P2X receptors as a therapeutic opportunity
CA21131	Enabling multilingual eye-tracking data collection for human and machine language processing research
CA21132	European Swine Influenza Network
CA21133	Globalization, Illicit Trade, Sustainability and Security
CA21134	Towards zer0 Pesticide AGRiculture : European Network for sustainability
CA21135	Modelling immunotherapy response and toxicity in cancer
CA21136	Addressing observational tensions in cosmology with systematics and fundamental physics
CA21137	Ethics in Dementia
CA21138	Joint effects of CLimate Extremes and Atmospheric depositioN on European FORESTs
CA21139	3Rs concepts to improve the quality of biomedical science
CA21140	Interception of oral cancer development
CA21141	Grassroots of Digital Europe: from Historic to Contemporary Cultures of Creative Computing
CA21142	Fruit tree Crop REsponses to Water deficit and decision support Systems applications
CA21143	Transnational Family Dynamics in Europe
CA21144	SUPERCONDUCTING NANODEVICES AND QUANTUM MATERIALS FOR COHERENT MANIPULATION
CA21145	European Network for diagnosis and treatment of antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections
CA21146	Fundamentals and applications of purple bacteria biotechnology for resource recovery from waste
CA21147	European Network on Optimising Treatment with Therapeutic Antibodies in chronic inflammatory diseases
CA21148	Research and International Networking on Emerging Inorganic Chalcogenides for Photovoltaics
CA21149	Reducing acrylamide exposure of consumers by a cereals supply-chain approach targeting asparagine
CA21150	Parental Leave Policies and Social Sustainability
CA21151	GENERATION OF HUMAN INDUCED PLURIPOTENT STEM CELLS FROM HAPLO-SELECTED CORD BLOOD SAMPLES
CA21152	Implementation Network Europe for Cancer Survivorship Care
CA21153	Network for implementing multiomics approaches in atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease prevention and research

CA21154	Translational control in Cancer European Network
CA21155	Advanced Composites under High STRAIN rates loading: a route to certification-by-analysis
CA21156	European network for Fostering Large-scale Implementation of energy Geostructure
CA21157	European Network for Innovative Woody Plant Cloning
CA21158	Enhancing Small-Medium Islands resilience by securing the sustainability of Ecosystem Services
CA21159	Understanding interaction light - biological surfaces: possibility for new electronic materials and devices
CA21160	Non-globular proteins in the era of Machine Learning
CA21161	A new ecosystem of early music studies
CA21162	Establishing a Pan-European Network on Computational Redesign of Enzymes
CA21163	Text, functional and other high-dimensional data in econometrics: New models, methods, applications
CA21164	Towards an improvement in diagnostics and treatment strategies for TB control
CA21165	Personalized medicine in chronic kidney disease: improved outcome based on Big Data
CA21166	Social Sciences and Humanities for Transformation and Climate Resilience
CA21167	Universality, diversity and idiosyncrasy in language technology
CA21168	Improving outcome of Juvenile Inflammatory Rheumatism via universally applicable clinical practice strategies
CA21169	Information, Coding, and Biological Function: the Dynamics of Life
CA21170	Prevention, anticipation and mitigation of tick-borne disease risk applying the DAMA protocol

Annex 2: Guidelines for writing the research plan (scientific part of the proposal)

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

The research plan must **not exceed 14 pages and max. 55,000 characters (with spaces)**; this includes title, summary, footnotes, illustrations, formulae, tables (and, if applicable, the table of contents), but not the bibliography. A minimum of point 10 font size and 1.5 line spacing must be used. The research plan may not contain any annexed documents.

The research plan needs to be structured as follows:

1. Summary of the research plan (max. 1 page)

In your summary, please present the **background and rationale** of the project, list its **overall objectives** and **specific aims**, mention the **methods to be used**, and briefly discuss the **expected results** and their **impact** for the field and the COST Action. The summary (max. 1 page) must be written in English.

2. Research plan

2.1 Current state of research in the field

Describe your project in the context of the current state of knowledge in your field. Make reference to the most important publications, particularly by other authors. Please describe:

- Which previous insights provided the starting point and basis for the planned studies
- In which areas research is needed, and why
- Which important, relevant research projects are currently underway in Switzerland and abroad.

2.2 Current state of own research

Please present the research work you have already undertaken in the relevant field, describe the results obtained so far as well as the relevance of these preliminary undertakings for your project. For a follow-up to an already approved project, please report on the work conducted within the scope of the previous project and the results obtained.

2.3 Detailed research plan

Based on the information provided under 2.1 and 2.2, please specify the approach you are taking and the concrete objectives that you aim to achieve in the period of funding.

- Describe the studies and experiments envisaged to reach the set goals. Assess the risks involved and propose alternatives if necessary.

- Characterise existing sources and datas and describe the data collection strategy and possible alternative strategies.
- Explain the role of each member of the research team (incl. applicants, employees, project partners and other collaborations).

Your description should be as detailed as is necessary to enable an expert to assess whether your methodology is appropriate and your project feasible. Please refer to the work described here in the budget you submit via mySNF.

2.4 Schedule and milestones

Please compile a schedule that includes the most important milestones.

2.5 Relevance, added value in the COST Action and impact

Scientific relevance: Please describe the expected impacts of your project for the discipline and for science as a whole (research and education/teaching). Please mention the form in which you wish to publish your research results (articles in scientific journals, monographs, conference papers, etc.).

Added value through participation in the respective COST Action: Please explain the importance of the Action for the proposal and inversely. Consider highlighting the interactions between your proposal and the COST Action itself, the possible collaborations with other participants of the Action and the added value through participation in the respective COST Network (note evaluation criteria).

Broader impact: If you have submitted your application in use-inspired research, please indicate to what extent the proposed project will have a broader impact and what this impact will be. The following points should be addressed:

- Define the need for research as perceived by practitioners/industry. Are there any knowledge gaps? What innovations and improvements are expected?
- To what degree can the expected research results be put into practice?
- In which spheres outside science could the implementation of the research results entail changes and what is the nature of these changes?

3. Bibliography

List the sources of all concluded and/or ongoing work referred to in the research plan. Give the full reference, especially the title, source and full author list. The bibliography is not included in the max. number of pages (14) and characters (55,000) count.

The research plan needs to be uploaded to mySNF as a PDF (not write-protected). Please name the document "SciencePart_[Name of responsible applicant].pdf", e.g. "Science-Part_Smith.pdf".

Revised applications

If this application is a revised version of a rejected application, please upload together with the research plan, a separate document (word-document). In this word-document you will respond point-for-point to the critique raised in the rejection letter. This statement should generally not be longer than 3 pages, it must be written in English and it must be named "revision_notes_[name of applicant].pdf". Point out significant changes/additions in the research plan, if applicable. The re-submitted project must be embedded in an eligible COST Action of the present call; see the Annex 1 of the call document.