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## **Call for COST Projects in Switzerland 2022**

**COST - European Cooperation in Science and Technology**

## 1 Introduction

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> **This call covers research applications that are actively related to the COST Actions CA191## and CA201##** 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

<sup>1</sup> 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 SNSF<sup>1</sup> are applicable, therefore, in particular,
  - i. The research is carried out in Switzerland<sup>2</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.snsf.ch> > Funding > Documents & downloads > Regulations

<sup>2</sup> See art. 10 of the SNSF Funding Regulations

- ii. The project only involves scientific research and does not follow directly commercial purposes<sup>3</sup>.

## 3 Application details

### 3.1 Eligibility criteria for applicants

<sup>1</sup> 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 projects<sup>4</sup>. This clause includes the career instruments “Eccellenza”, “Ambizione” and “PRIMA”.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Applicants may only submit one application per submission date.

<sup>4</sup> Researchers can hold at most one COST Project associated with any given COST Action.

### 3.2 Project partners

<sup>1</sup> 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, also if they are located outside Switzerland. They may not refer to the support received from the SNSF as a grant they have acquired themselves.

<sup>2</sup> 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

<sup>1</sup> The maximum duration of the projects is 48 months for projects associated with COST Actions CA201## and 36 months for projects associated with COST Actions CA191##.

<sup>2</sup> The earliest possible start date is 1 January, 2023. Projects should start within 6 months after the funding decision, in order to be aligned as well as possible with the associated COST Action.

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<sup>3</sup> See art. 13 of the SNSF Funding Regulations

<sup>4</sup> See art. 17 of the SNSF Funding Regulations

### 3.5 Funding

<sup>1</sup> The maximum funding for a four-year project is CHF 320,000. This amount is reduced accordingly for a project of shorter duration.

<sup>2</sup> 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 consumables necessary for the proposed work, collaboration costs (only if not covered by the COST Action), and field expenses;
- c. Subcontracting costs and costs to access large facilities owned by third parties that are not used on the grantees' premises (maximum 10%).

<sup>3</sup> Ineligible costs:

- a. The applicants' own salary;
- b. The salaries of the project partners or their employees;
- c. Material of enduring value (equipment).

### 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

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

<sup>2</sup> 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 **18 March 2022** 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.

<sup>3</sup> Guidelines for the electronic submission of applications are provided in *mySNF*. In particular, the research plan must not exceed 12 pages and 50,000 characters (with spaces); this includes everything except the bibliography (see Annex 2).

<sup>4</sup> The submission deadline for COST Project applications is **5 May 2022, 17:00** Swiss local time.

## 5 Evaluation

### 5.1 Evaluation process

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

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

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

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

<sup>5</sup> The evaluation results will be communicated to the applicants at the latest by mid-December 2022.

### 5.2 Evaluation criteria

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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

<sup>1</sup> 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

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

<sup>2</sup> 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

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

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

<sup>3</sup> Grantees must use the phrase "funded by the SNSF" if the project is being or has been funded with an SNSF grant. The SNSF logo<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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](mailto:cost@snf.ch) or telephone:

Ladina Knapp

SNSF Interdisciplinary and International Co-operation division

Wildhainweg 3, P.O. Box 8232

CH-3001 Bern

Phone: +41 (0)31 308 23 56

Annemarie Renier

SNSF Interdisciplinary and International Co-operation division

Wildhainweg 3, P.O. Box 8232

CH-3001 Bern

Phone: +41 (0)31 308 21 39

For specific questions related to [www.mysnf.ch](http://www.mysnf.ch), please contact the support team by e-mail ([mysnf.support@snf.ch](mailto: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)

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.snsf.ch> > The SNSF > Contact > SNSF Logo

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](http://www.mysnf.ch)

## Annex 1: Eligible COST Actions CA191##, CA201##

More information about these Actions can be found here:

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

Action	Action Title
CA19101	Determinants of Physical Activities in Settings
CA19102	Language In The Human-Machine Era
CA19103	LGBTI+Social and Economic (in)equalities
CA19104	advancing Social inclusion through Technology and EmPowerment
CA19105	Pan-European Network in Lipidomics and EpiLipidomics
CA19106	Multi-Sectoral Responses to Child Abuse and Neglect in Europe: Incidence and Trends
CA19107	Unifying Approaches to Marine Connectivity for improved Resource Management for the Seas
CA19108	High-Temperature SuperConductivity for AcceLerating the Energy Transition
CA19109	European network for Mediterranean cyclones in weather and climate
CA19110	Plasma applications for smart and sustainable agriculture
CA19111	European Network on Future Generation Optical Wireless Communication Technologies
CA19112	Women on the Move
CA19113	The European Researchers' Network Working on Second Victims
CA19114	Network for Optimized Astatine labelled Radiopharmaceuticals
CA19115	Network for blood pressure research in children and adolescents
CA19116	Trace metal metabolism in plants
CA19117	Researcher Mental Health
CA19118	High-performance Carbon-based composites with Smart properties for Advanced Sensing Applications
CA19119	Investigation on comics and graphic novels in the iberian cultural area
CA19120	WATer isotopeS in the critical zONe: from groundwater recharge to plant transpiration
CA19121	Network on Privacy-Aware Audio-and Video-Based Applications for Active and Assisted Living
CA19122	European Network for Gender Balance in Informatics
CA19123	Protection, Resilience, Rehabilitation of damaged environment
CA19124	RETHINKING PACKAGING FOR CIRCULAR AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS OF THE FUTURE
CA19125	EPIgenetic mechanisms of Crop Adaptation To Climate cHange
CA19126	Positive Energy Districts European Network
CA19127	Cognitive decline in Nephro-Neurology: European Cooperative Target
CA19128	Pan-European Network for Climate Adaptive Forest Restoration and Reforestation



CA19129	Decolonising Development: Research, Teaching and Practice
CA19130	Fintech and Artificial Intelligence in Finance-Towards a transparent financial industry
CA19131	Europe Through Textiles: Network for an integrated and interdisciplinary Humanities
CA19132	European Network to Advance Best practices & technology on medication adherence
CA19133	Fostering and Strengthening Approaches to Reducing Coercion in European Mental Health Services
CA19134	Distributed Knowledge Graphs
CA19135	Connecting Education and Research Communities for an Innovative Resource Aware Society
CA19136	International Interdisciplinary Network on Smart Healthy Age-friendly Environments
CA19137	Sudden cardiac arrest prediction and resuscitation network: Improving the quality of care
CA19138	Lobular Breast Cancer: Discovery Science, Translational Goals, Clinical Impact
CA19139	Process-based models for climate impact attribution across sectors
CA19140	Focused Ion Technology for Nanomaterials
CA19141	Integrating Neandertal Legacy: From Past to Present
CA19142	Leading Platform for European Citizens, Industries, Academia and Policymakers in Media Accessibility
CA19143	Global Digital Human Rights Networks
CA19144	European Venom Network
CA19145	European Network for assuring food integrity using non-destructive spectral sensors
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 acknowledgement
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 zoospore 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

## 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 12 pages and max. 50,000 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 data 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 and impact

**Scientific relevance:** Please describe the expected impacts of your project for the discipline, the COST Action 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.).

**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 maximum number of pages (12) and characters (50,000) 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.