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Call for COST Projects in Switzerland 2021

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 trans-, multi- and 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 CA182## and CA191##**, 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 substitute; otherwise 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;
 - 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, 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.

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 for projects associated with COST Actions CA191## and 36 months for projects associated with COST Actions CA182##.

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

² See art. 10 of the SNSF Funding Regulations

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, 2022. 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 320,000. 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 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%).

³ 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

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 **19 March, 2021**, 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 12 pages and 50,000 characters (with spaces); this includes everything except the bibliography.

⁴ The submission deadline for COST Project applications is **6 May, 2021, 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.

5.2 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 logo⁵ 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.

Hotlines for technical help with *my*SNSF:

- 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

Link: www.mynsf.ch

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

Annex: **Eligible COST Actions CA182## and CA191##**

More information about these Actions can be found here:

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

Action	Action Title
CA18201	An integrated approach to conservation of threatened plants for the 21st Century
CA18202	Network for Equilibria and Chemical Thermodynamics Advanced Research
CA18203	Optimising Design for Inspection
CA18204	Dynamics of placemaking and digitization in Europe's cities
CA18205	Worlds of Related Coercions in Work
CA18206	Glioma MR Imaging 2.0
CA18207	Biodiversity of Temperate forest Taxa Orienting Management Sustainability by Unifying Perspectives
CA18208	Novel tools for test evaluation and disease prevalence estimation
CA18209	European network for Web-centred linguistic data science
CA18210	Oxygen sensing a novel mean for biology and technology of fruit quality
CA18211	Perinatal Mental Health and Birth-Related Trauma: Maximising best practice and optimal outcomes
CA18212	Molecular Dynamics in the GAS phase
CA18213	Rural NEET Youth Network: Modeling the risks underlying rural NEETs social exclusion
CA18214	The geography of New Working Spaces and the impact on the periphery
CA18215	China In Europe Research Network
CA18216	Network for Research in Vascular Ageing
CA18217	European Network for Optimization of Veterinary Antimicrobial Treatment
CA18218	European Burden of Disease Network
CA18219	Research network for including Geothermal technologies into Decarbonized Heating and Cooling grids
CA18220	European network of FURan based chemicals and materials FOR a Sustainable development
CA18221	PEsticide RIsk AssessMent for Amphibians and Reptiles
CA18222	Attosecond Chemistry
CA18223	Future communications with higher-symmetric engineered artificial materials
CA18224	Green Chemical Engineering Network towards upscaling sustainable processes
CA18225	Taste and Odor in early diagnosis of source and drinking Water Problems
CA18226	New approaches in detection of pathogens and aeroallergens
CA18227	The Core Outcome Measures for Food Allergy
CA18228	Global Atrocity Justice Constellations
CA18229	NON-CONVENTIONAL YEASTS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF BIOPRODUCTS
CA18230	Interactive Narrative Design for Complexity Representations
CA18231	Multi3Generation: Multi-task, Multilingual, Multi-modal Language Generation
CA18232	Mathematical models for interacting dynamics on networks
CA18233	European Network for Innovative Diagnosis and Treatment of Chronic Neutropenias
CA18234	Computational materials sciences for efficient water splitting with nanocrystals from abundant elements
CA18235	PROfiling the atmospheric Boundary layer at European scale
CA18236	Multi-disciplinary innovation for social change
CA18237	European Soil-Biology Data Warehouse for Soil Protection
CA18238	European transdisciplinary networking platform for marine biotechnology

CA18239	Conservation of freshwater mussels: a pan-European approach
CA18240	ADHEsion GPCR Network: Research and Implementation Set the path for future Exploration
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