

ERAC meeting

COST contribution

4 June 2020



ERAC informal video conference – 4 June 2020

COST's contribution to agenda point 3 – ERA Governance:

ERAC will be briefed on the state of play of actions in the response to the COVID-19 crisis in the ERA from the *activities of the ERA-related groups (based on an overview of actions undertaken by the ERA groups on COVID-19)*.

COST in the ERA

For almost 50 years, COST has offered European researchers and innovators a simple and flexible pathway to take part in the best science and technology networks in Europe and beyond. To this end, COST has been providing funding for bottom-up, excellence-driven, interdisciplinary, open and pan-European networks (the COST Actions).

These activities had an enormous impact on closing the innovation divides and stimulating brain circulation in Europe. In the next Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, Horizon Europe, COST will further enhance its position as the leading networking instrument, enabling (young) researchers and innovators to prepare and empower themselves with more self-confidence and motivation to stay in Europe for their next career steps in research and innovation. COST creates, maintains and safeguards the fabric that allows R&I to thrive during the crisis and beyond.

Sharing of knowledge and connecting researchers and innovators is at the heart of COST. It is also at the heart of the ERA. By this, COST can be seen as a Living Lab for ERA related objectives and deliverables. Just like the ERA, COST is characterized by a free circulation of researchers, knowledge and technology – a true internal market for researchers and knowledge producers with the aim to strengthen and circulate knowledge production, dissemination and usage.

COST has long been, and remains today, one of the largest frameworks for transnational research collaboration in Europe. Since its creation in 1971, about half a million researchers have participated in the programme. Each COST networking activity had been designed to enable brain circulation long before the term even existed. Despite its long history, COST has never been so topical.

Out of the 250 running Actions, more than 190 COST Actions can be linked to the 16 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and 69 COST Actions could be linked to the suggested EU R&I missions for Horizon 2020. This showcases the relevance of COST in tackling relevant societal challenges, making it an indispensable player in the ERA.

The COST 'Network of Actions' on COVID-19 related topics

Over the course of the COVID-19 crisis European and national authorities have highlighted several essential prerequisites for an effective response to the vast number of COVID-19 challenges, including the need to connect researchers and innovators, enhance cross-border collaborations, support bottom-up and inter-disciplinary research and share expertise. COST brings all these prerequisites together as crucial elements of a COST Action. Through its Actions, COST offers the key tools that respond to the needs of this challenging time.

Due to their bottom-up nature, several COST Actions have already identified possible new and effective collaborations on crucial challenges, many of which are directly linked to COVID-19, including the societal challenges emerging as a result of the pandemic. COST introduced a 'light touch' coordination initiative, the 'Network of Actions', which facilitates bottom-up collaborations between COST Actions that wish to join forces in finding scientific solutions to the COVID-19 challenges.

Initiated in April, this 'Network of Actions' has so far attracted 64 COST Actions that are actively looking for collaborations to address COVID-19 and other pandemic related challenges. The number of Actions participating in this initiative is still expected to increase, as the opportunity to join remains open. A full

overview of the Network of Actions will shortly be available on the COST website. In the meantime, please find in Annex 2 an overview of COST Actions that have joined this initiative so far.

Due to its voluntary nature, this initiative benefits from a great drive. The high number of COST Actions already participating in this initiative demonstrates that there is a serious appetite from the COST community to contribute to research focused solutions.

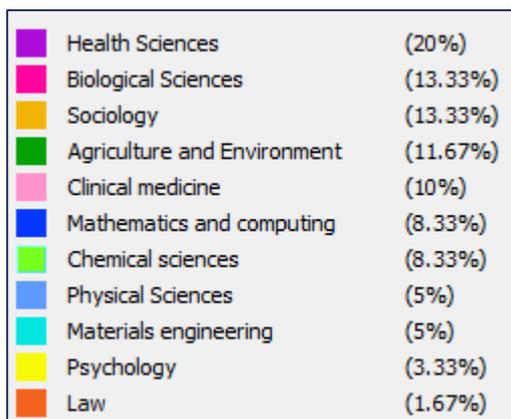
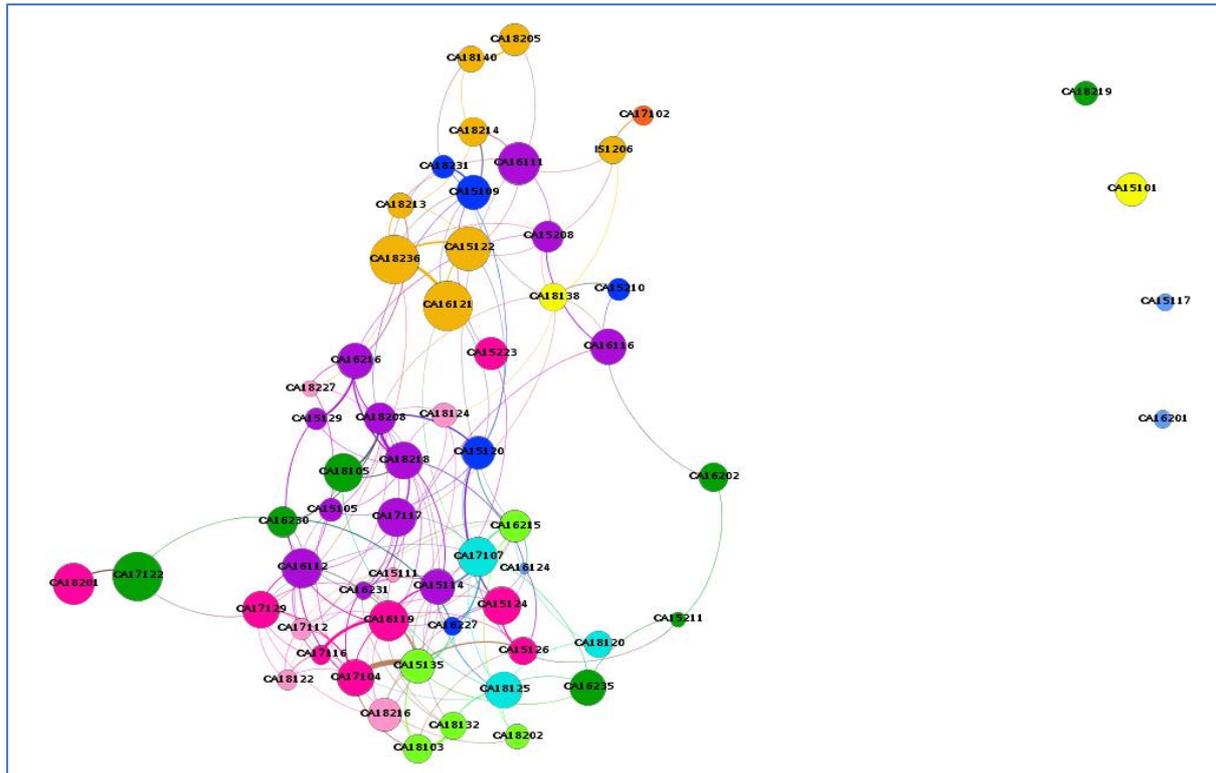
COST newsletter series on COVID-19

In April COST introduced its first newsletter¹ on COVID-19 related research initiatives. The newsletter features multiple stories about COST Actions which are working on COVID-19 related projects with topics ranging from conspiracy theories to anti-microbial coatings.

¹ <http://qopg.mjt.lu/nl2/qopg/mi119.html?>

ANNEX 1

REPRESENTATION OF ACTIONS COLLABORATING ON COVID-19 (28/05/2020)



- Colours legend: Percentage in brackets shows relative representation in the network, i.e. 20% of the participating Actions have the core scientific field of Health Sciences.
- The size of the bubble is proportionate to the size of the Management Committee.
- Actions participating in COVID-19 Network of Actions (see Annex 2). Links between the Actions represent MC members or substitutes being in those Actions. The thicker the lines the higher the number of shared MC members or substitutes.

ANNEX 2

NETWORK OF COST ACTIONS ON COVID-19 RELATED TOPICS

Action #	Action Title
CA15101	Comparative Analysis of Conspiracy Theories (COMPACT)
CA15105	European Medicines Shortages Research Network - addressing supply problems to patients (Medicines Shortages)
CA15109	European Cooperation for Statistics of Network Data Science (COSTNET)
CA15111	European Network on Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (EUROMENE)
CA15114	Anti-Microbial Coating Innovations to prevent infectious diseases (AMICI)
CA15117	Cosmology and Astrophysics Network for Theoretical Advances and Training Actions (CANTATA)
CA15120	Open Multiscale Systems Medicine (OpenMultiMed)
CA15122	Reducing Old-Age Social Exclusion: Collaborations in Research and Policy (ROSEnet)
CA15124	A new Network of European Biolmage Analysts to advance life science imaging (NEUBIAS)
CA15126	Between Atom and Cell: Integrating Molecular Biophysics Approaches for Biology and Healthcare (MOBIEU)
CA15129	Diagnosis, Monitoring and Prevention of Exposure-Related Noncommunicable Diseases (DiMoPEX)
CA15135	Multi-target paradigm for innovative ligand identification in the drug discovery process (MuTaLig)
CA15208	Rationing - Missed Nursing care: An international and multidimensional problem
CA15210	European Network for Collaboration on Kidney Exchange Programmes
CA15211	Atmospheric Electricity Network: coupling with the Earth System, climate and biological systems
CA15223	Modifying plants to produce interfering RNA
CA16111	International Ethnic and Immigrant Minorities' Survey Data Network
CA16112	Personalized Nutrition in aging society: redox control of major age-related diseases
CA16116	Wearable Robots for Augmentation, Assistance or Substitution of Human Motor Functions
CA16119	In vitro 3-D total cell guidance and fitness
CA16121	From Sharing to Caring: Examining Socio-Technical Aspects of the Collaborative Economy
CA16124	Brillouin Light Scattering Microspectroscopy for Biological and Biomedical Research and Applications
CA16201	Unraveling new physics at the LHC through the precision frontier
CA16202	International Network to Encourage the Use of Monitoring and Forecasting Dust Products
CA16215	European network for the promotion of portable, affordable and simple analytical platforms

Action #	Action Title
CA16216	Network on the Coordination and Harmonisation of European Occupational Cohorts
CA16227	Investigation and Mathematical Analysis of Avant-garde Disease Control via Mosquito Nano-Tech-Repellents
CA16230	Combatting anthelmintic resistance in ruminants
CA16231	European Network of Vaccine Adjuvants
CA16235	Performance and Reliability of Photovoltaic Systems: Evaluations of Large-Scale Monitoring Data
CA17102	Police Stops
CA17104	New diagnostic and therapeutic tools against multidrug resistant tumors
CA17107	European Network to connect research and innovation efforts on advanced Smart Textiles
CA17112	Prospective European Drug-Induced Liver Injury Network
CA17116	International Network for Translating Research on Perinatal Derivatives into Therapeutic Approaches
CA17117	Towards an International Network for Evidence-based Research in Clinical Health Research
CA17122	Increasing understanding of alien species through citizen science
CA17129	Catalysing transcriptomics research in cardiovascular disease
CA18103	Innovation with Glycans: new frontiers from synthesis to new biological targets
CA18105	Risk-based meat inspection and integrated meat safety assurance
CA18120	Reliable roadmap for certification of bonded primary structures
CA18122	EUROPEAN CHOLANGIOCARCINOMA NETWORK
CA18124	European Sexual Medicine Network
CA18125	Advanced Engineering and Research of aeroGels for Environment and Life Sciences
CA18132	Functional Glyconanomaterials for the Development of Diagnostics and Targeted Therapeutic Probes
CA18138	Research Innovation and Sustainable Pan-European Network in Peripartum Depression Disorder
CA18140	People in Motion: Entangled Histories of Displacement across the Mediterranean (1492-1923)
CA18201	An integrated approach to conservation of threatened plants for the 21st Century
CA18202	Network for Equilibria and Chemical Thermodynamics Advanced Research
CA18205	Worlds of Related Coercions in Work
CA18208	Novel tools for test evaluation and disease prevalence estimation
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
CA18216	Network for Research in Vascular Ageing

Action #	Action Title
CA18218	European Burden of Disease Network
CA18219	Research network for including geothermal technologies into decarbonized heating and cooling grids
CA18227	The Core Outcome Measures for Food Allergy
CA18231	Multi3Generation: Multi-task, Multilingual, Multi-modal Language Generation
CA18236	Multi-disciplinary innovation for social change
IS1206	Femicide across Europe