

COST NETWORKING EVENT

Wednesday 8th June 2022

Susan Cadbury lecture theatre and MBA lounge, Aston University
From 9.30 to 14:00

COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a bottom-up funding organisation for the creation of research and innovation networks, called COST Actions. With an inclusive, interdisciplinary, and multi-stakeholder approach, these networks seek to foster collaboration across Europe and beyond. In this way, COST Actions may be helpful for developing project proposals for calls under EU funding programmes.

This session aims to share practical information on funding opportunities for research and innovation projects as well as to provide an open space to bring together different research communities, public institutions and the innovation, scientific and technological sectors in the West Midlands to promote collaboration between them in pursuit of common interests.

TIME	PURPOSE	PEOPLE
9:30	Arrival and registration (Coffee and networking). Participants have an initial opportunity to mingle. We encourage all to arrive on time to take this opportunity to engage in potential networks and collaborations.	
10:00	Welcome and keynote speech	Simon Green, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research at Aston University
10:10	Birmingham Strategic Alliance presentation	Philip Piatkiewicz, Secretary General at West Midlands Europe Hub
10:15	UK's participation in COST programme	Bijan Hakimian, Head of European Programmes at BEIS
10:25	Introduction by COST association	Ronald de Bruin, Director at COST Association (video link)
10:30	Presentation of the COST Programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of COST mission, strategic priorities and main activities • How to participate in a COST Action • Which activities are funded? • How to submit a COST Action proposal • Q&A 	Judith Litjens, Policy Officer at COST Association
11:15	Comfort break	
11:30	Panel debate	<i>Moderator:</i> Ian Gittens, Research Development Manager at BCU

	<p>The debate will explore key aspects of COST Actions in the current context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their importance in order to keep cooperation alive. • Their strategical interest and benefits for actors involved in research and innovation in the region and in the UK for the present and future. • The value and opportunities that the programme brings. • Lessons and testimonials from successful experiences by COST members. • Q&A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corinne M. Spickett, Professor at Aston University - Peter Lund, Emeritus Professor of Molecular Microbiology at University of Birmingham - Judith Litjens, COST Policy Officer
12:30	Closing words	Paul Knobbs, EU and International Research Development Manager at Aston University
12:40	Light lunch and networking A moment to take up the conversations and share inspirational ideas!	