

## Innovations in water management, ecosystems and blue economy: from scarcity to resilience and growth

17-18 April 2024, Brussels, BE



### Event rationale

On 17-18 April 2024, COST organises a COST Connect event on **Innovations in water management, ecosystems and blue economy: from scarcity to resilience and growth**.

This workshop creates an open platform for COST Action researchers, innovators, and key stakeholders from diverse sectors, including academia, industry, policy-making, and civil society, facilitating a multidisciplinary dialogue and collaboration which are essential for addressing the multifaceted challenges of water scarcity, ecosystem degradation, and sustainable economic growth. By bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders, this COST Connect aims to stimulate a constructive exchange of ideas, enhance cooperation among different sectors, and identify synergies that can accelerate the transition to a more sustainable and resilient future. Furthermore, this event represents a crucial step towards influencing the direction of future funding opportunities on European level, ensuring that they are designed to address the most pressing environmental challenges while promoting economic growth and social well-being.

### Draft agenda

#### 17 April 2024 – Brussels, Belgium (venue TBD)

- TBD Registration
- 15:00 Welcome and Keynote, MEP Graça Carvalho
- 15:15 Introduction, COST President Prof. Salvatore Grimaldi
- 15:30 COST Actions and Stakeholder Presentations on water scarcity + Q&A (TBD)
- 16:00 COST Actions and Stakeholder Presentations on marine ecosystems + Q&A (TBD)
- 16:30 COST Actions and Stakeholder Presentations on blue economy + Q&A (TBD)
- 17:00 Towards a new KIC on water, EIT (TBD)
- 17:30 Closing

#### 18 April 2024 – COST Association, Brussels, Belgium

- 9:00 Registration
- 9:30 Welcome, COST Director Dr Ronald de Bruin
- 9:35 Identification of topics for discussion
- 10:15 COST World Café
- 11:30 Break
- 12:00 Summary of discussions
- 12:30 Next steps
- 13:00 Closing

## About COST

The European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST - [www.cost.eu](http://www.cost.eu)) is an EU-funded programme that enables researchers and innovators to set up their interdisciplinary research networks in Europe and beyond. Currently COST has more than 40 Members, one Cooperating Member and one Partner Member. Funds are provided for organising conferences, meetings, training schools, short-term scientific exchanges or other dissemination activities across a wide range of scientific topics.

COST has been creating networks of excellence in all scientific fields for more than 50 years, where knowledge is widely shared among different types of specialists, using bottom-up principles. Networks are composed of participants active in diverse disciplines from academia, industry and various stakeholders, including European and international organisations. COST nourishes free and open spaces where people and ideas can grow. This helps to internationalise the scientific community and leads to breakthroughs in science and technology in Europe and beyond, where COST strives to be an impactful player in scientific and policy debates.

## Invited COST Actions

A COST Action is an interdisciplinary research network that brings researchers and innovators together to investigate a topic of their choice for four years. COST Actions are typically made up of researchers from academia, SMEs, public institutions and other relevant organisations or interested parties. On average, COST Actions bring together researchers from more than 30 countries.

1. Science and management of intermittent rivers and ephemeral streams - CA15113
2. Advancing marine conservation in the European and contiguous seas - CA15121
3. Payments for ecosystem services (Forests for Water) - CA15206
4. Ocean governance for sustainability - Challenges, options and the role of science - CA15217
5. European transdisciplinary networking platform for marine biotechnology - CA18238
6. Developing new genetic tools for bioassessment of aquatic ecosystems in Europe - CA15219
7. Europe through textiles: network for an integrated and interdisciplinary Humanities - CA19131
8. Stem cells of marine/aquatic invertebrates: from basic research to innovative applications - CA16203
9. Natural flood retention on private land - CA16209
10. Harmonization of UAS techniques for agricultural and natural ecosystems monitoring - CA16219
11. Dryland facing change: interdisciplinary research on climate change, food insecurity, political instability - CA16233
12. Plastics monitoring detection remediation recovery - CA20101
13. A pan-European network for marine renewable energy - CA17105
14. Understanding and modeling compound climate and weather events - CA17109
15. Fair network of micrometeorological measurements - CA20108
16. The European aquatic animal tracking network - CA18102
17. Accelerating global science in tsunami hazard and risk analysis - CA18109
18. European MIC network – New paths for science, sustainability and standards - CA20130
19. Taste and odor in early diagnosis of source and drinking water problems - CA18225
20. Computational materials sciences for efficient water splitting with nanocrystals from abundant elements - CA18234
21. Conservation of freshwater mussels: a pan-European approach - CA18239

22. Unifying approaches to marine connectivity for improved resource management for the seas - CA19107
23. European network for Mediterranean cyclones in weather and climate - CA19109
24. Water isotopes in the critical zone: from groundwater recharge to plant transpiration - CA19120
25. Protection, resilience, rehabilitation of damaged environment - CA19123
26. Marine animal forest of the world - CA20102
27. Tomorrow's wheat of the sea: Ulva, a model for innovative mariculture - CA20106
28. Modular energy islands for sustainability and resilience - CA20109
29. Applications for zoosporic parasites in aquatic systems - CA20125
30. Network on water-energy-food nexus for a low-carbon economy in Europe and beyond - CA20138
31. Pan-European network for sustainable hydropower - CA21104
32. Offshore freshened groundwater: an unconventional water resource in coastal regions? - CA21112
33. Fruit tree crop responses to water deficit and decision support systems applications - CA21142
34. Enhancing small-medium islands resilience by securing the sustainability of ecosystem services - CA21158
35. Rethinking the blue economy: socio-ecological impacts and opportunities - CA22122
36. Supramolecular luminescent chemosensors for environmental security - CA22131
37. Sustainable use of salt-affected lands - CA22144
38. Reproductive enhancement of crop resilience to extreme climate - CA22157
39. Enhancing knowledge of biomolecular solutions for the well-being of European aquaculture sector - CA22160
40. FutureMed: a transdisciplinary network to bridge climate science and impacts on society - CA22162
41. Solving bottlenecks in eel reproduction to support sustainable aquaculture - CA22163
42. European network on extreme fire behavior - CA22164
43. Sustaining AGITHAR - Building a global tsunami model association - IG18109

**To learn about these Actions, please search each CA/IG code separately on [www.cost.eu](http://www.cost.eu).**