

# Call for Applications

## Shifting Perspectives: How Gender and Intersectionality Drive Frontier Research

Frontier research depends on perspective! Over three intensive days, **participants explore how sex, gender and intersectionality shape blind spots, data, methodologies and impact** — and how integrating these perspectives can strengthen originality, robustness and explanatory power. The focus is not only on adding a “gender dimension” but on rethinking the project as a whole. Through keynotes, hands-on workshops and peer mentoring, participants sharpen their research before reviewers do.

**When?** 27–29 April 2026

**Where?** *Impact Hub, Athens, Greece*

## About the Workshop

This intensive, co-creative workshop brings together researchers who are considering submitting a European Research Council proposal, or an MSCA proposal with a strong frontier research orientation, and who are interested in strengthening their projects through the integration of sex, gender and/or intersectional perspectives.

The workshop is aimed at researchers who understand research excellence as the ability to advance knowledge by asking sharper questions, challenging established assumptions and opening new analytical or methodological pathways. Rather than treating sex, gender and intersectionality as add-ons, the workshop focuses on how these perspectives can function as drivers of frontier research, opening new questions, refining methods, and improving reproducibility as well as explanatory power.

Through guided peer exchange, expert input, and hands-on proposal work, participants will critically reflect on their project ideas and explore how integrating these perspectives can strengthen their scientific ambition, methodological rigor, and impact narrative, in line with MSCA and ERC evaluation criteria.

## Who Can Apply

The workshop is open to researchers who:

- are considering submitting an **MSCA proposal** (with a strong frontier research orientation) or an **ERC proposal** (Starting, Consolidator or Advanced Grant); and
- want to **integrate sex, gender and/or intersectionality** in a way that strengthens the scientific quality, originality, and ambition of their proposal.

**All participants must be affiliated with a research organisation based in a COST member or COST near-neighbour country** and must comply with COST eligibility requirements (see [Annex-I-level-A-Country-and-Organisations-Table-Version-1.7.pdf](#)).

We welcome applications from a **diverse group of researchers** across disciplines, career stages, countries, ethnicities, (dis)abilities, genders, and sexual orientations.

# Application Requirements

Please [submit a single PDF](#) containing the following information:

1. **Academic / Organisational Affiliation:** name and address of organisation; current role and title; department, institute, research centre, or group.
2. **Extended Abstract (max. 300 words):** please provide a concise description of your research profile and proposal context related to your intended MSCA or ERC application.

*You are not required to disclose confidential or highly innovative core ideas.*

## Please address the following points:

- a) Your main area(s) of expertise and current research focus.
- b) The thematic area/panel/domain in which you intend to apply (e.g. ERC panel, MSCA field).
- c) The type of grant and call you are targeting (e.g. MSCA PF, ERC Starting/Consolidator/Advanced Grant) and your intended submission timeline.
- d) The broader scientific context and relevance of your planned research agenda.
- e) *Optional:* Where you see potential for integrating sex, gender and/or intersectional perspectives at the level of research questions, design, data, or interpretation.

**This information will be used to support tailored feedback, peer matching, and thematic clustering during the workshop.**

3. **Motivation for Participation (max. 200 words):** why you wish to participate and how the workshop is expected to support and enhance your proposal (e.g., research design, excellence, originality/frontier character, and competitiveness).
4. **Optional:** any additional personal or contextual information you consider relevant for participation (*voluntary*).

## Funding

Travel, accommodation, and subsistence expenses of selected participants will be reimbursed after the event in accordance with **COST reimbursement rules** (see A1-3 in [COST-094-21-Annotated-Rules-for-COST-Actions-Level-C-V3.0-25-IX-2025.pdf](#)).

## Important Dates

**Application deadline:** 23 February 2026

**Notification of acceptance/rejection:** by 13 March 2026

**Confirmation of participation:** by 20 March 2026

**Workshop dates:** 27–29 April 2026



COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a funding agency for research and innovation networks. Our Actions help connect research initiatives across Europe and enable scientists to grow their ideas by sharing them with their peers. This boosts their research, career and innovation.

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