

**RECIPROCAL ARRANGEMENT  
TO FOSTER ARGENTINA - COST INTERACTIONS**

between the National Direction of International Relations of the Ministry of Science  
Technology and Innovative Production (MINCyT), Buenos Aires  
and the COST Office, Brussels

§1  
**The Agreement**

This agreement would establish the basis for the establishment of reciprocal cooperation, in the mutual interest, of Argentinean and European scientists in COST Actions. Under COST guidelines, Argentina would be regarded as a country with a reciprocal arrangement.

Reimbursements for any mutually agreed participation in a COST Action would comprise:

- (i) travel and subsistence expenses to and within Europe for Argentinean scientists; and
- (ii) travel and subsistence expenses to and within Argentina for European scientists participating and collaborating in the same COST Action

in line with the principles of the COST financial rules and procedures for Short Term Scientific Missions under this Reciprocal Agreement (RSTSMs) of COST.

All RSTSMs must be for five days minimum and three months maximum duration.

Funding of (i) above would be administered by the Argentinean Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovative Production's designated implementing agent, the National Direction of International Relations. Reimbursement for (ii) above would be made by the COST Office.

§2  
**Reciprocal Contributions**

Under the terms of this agreement, COST's contribution would be up to € 20,000 per annum, initially for a two year pilot period from 1 June 2010 until 31 May 2012, subject to the availability of reciprocal financing from Argentina each year. Argentina's contribution would be up to the equivalent of € 30,000 per annum.

The National Direction of International Relations would take primary responsibility for managing Argentinean involvement in COST, including making recommendations on particular applications, liaising directly with COST, supported by the Argentinean Science and Technol-



ogy Representative in Brussels on COST negotiations, and facilitating travel arrangements for Argentinean scientists travelling to Europe under COST Actions.

### §3

#### **RSTSM Financial Assistance**

The financial contribution provided by COST for a European scientist travelling to Argentina, in 2010 values this would be a fixed grant not exceeding € 2,500 per visit, except through special justification. This would comprise travel expenses of up to € 1,000 and a daily allowance of up to € 160 for accommodation and meals expenses, to a total not exceeding € 2,500.

For Argentinean researchers travelling to Europe, the total grant in 2010 values would not exceed € 3.000 per visit, covering a return airfare of up to € 1.500 and daily living allowances. Daily living allowances, covering accommodation and meals would be provided at the rate of € 120.00 per day or a maximum of € 1.500 per month, whichever is the smaller amount.

### §4

#### **Application procedure**

Participants in COST Actions involving official participations from Argentina are eligible to draw on these funds. Applications for funding would be made by the scientists seeking funding, or by their employers. Applications for funding will be processed as follows:

- for participants from the COST countries wishing to travel to Argentina the application will be submitted to the COST Office and a statement of support from the Chair of the Action will be required along with a work plan and budget breakdown as per Section 10 of the COST Vademecum Part A; and
- for participants from Argentina wishing to travel to Europe for COST Action meetings the application will be submitted to the National Direction of International Relations according to the procedures outlined on its web page.

From time to time priority areas may be agreed by Argentina and COST under the auspices of the Argentina – European Union Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee or at such other time as the parties may agree.

Applications would be considered independently by the COST Office and the National Direction of International Relations in accordance with each party's financial rules and procedures. Until such time as priority areas or other criteria such as giving priority to first time applicants are agreed applications will be treated in order of receipt. The COST Office and the National Direction of International Relations will each form their own views as to the applications' suitability for funding, and accordingly approve or otherwise, consulting with each other in this process only as each party deems necessary.



Once an exchange visit is approved:

- (i) The COST Office would grant an amount following § 3 to the European scientist, for travel and subsistence expenses to and within Argentina; and
- (ii) The National Direction of International Relations would grant an amount following § 3 to the Argentinean scientist, for travel and subsistence expenses to and within Europe.

§5

**Entry into force**

This agreement will enter into force 1 June 2010.

Brussels, 20 May 2010



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Directress  
for the National Direction of International  
Relations



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for the COST Office