COST - Promoting and Spreading Excellence

Dr Ronald de Bruin, Director COST Association
COST Info Day, Podgorica, 17 September 2019

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Funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme
of the European Union

COST - 45 years proven track record in research collaboration

- 38 COST Members

  Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, The Netherlands, The Republic of North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and United Kingdom

- 1 Cooperating Member

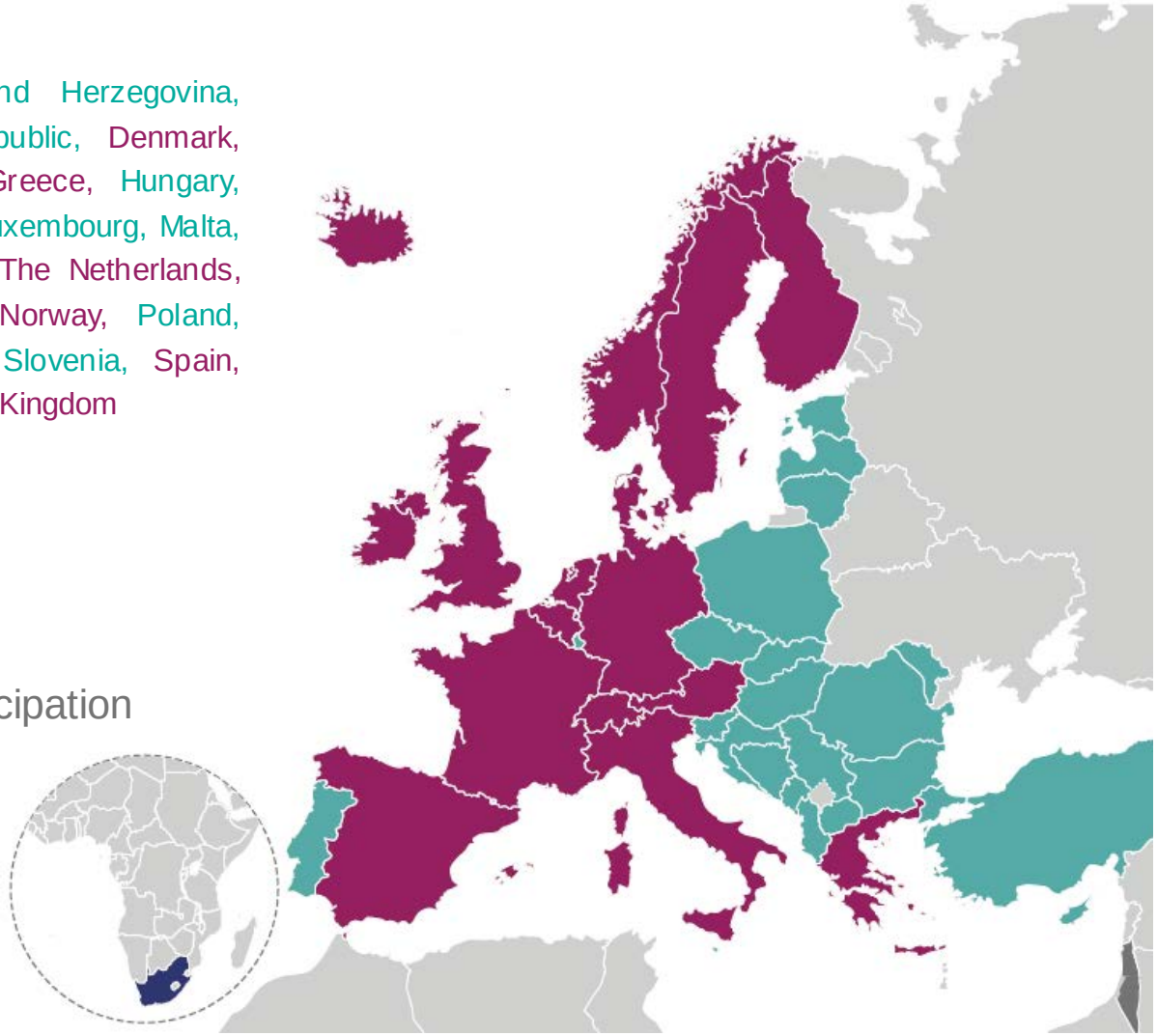
  Israel

- 1 Partner Member

  South Africa

- Near Neighbour Countries participation

  Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Kosovo*, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine**, Russia, Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine



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*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

**This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

- COST Members
- COST Members ITCs
- Other Countries
- COST Cooperating Member
- COST Partner Member

COST key figures of 2018

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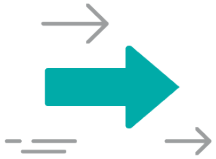
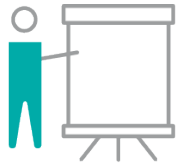


Running Actions

213



Training schools

€134,500

Average annual budget of a COST Action

2,457

Short-term scientific missions

45,000

Researchers involved in COST Actions

€300 million

COST budget (from Horizon 2020 for a 7 year period)

COST: The networking tool in the ERA and the pre-portal to other ERA funding schemes

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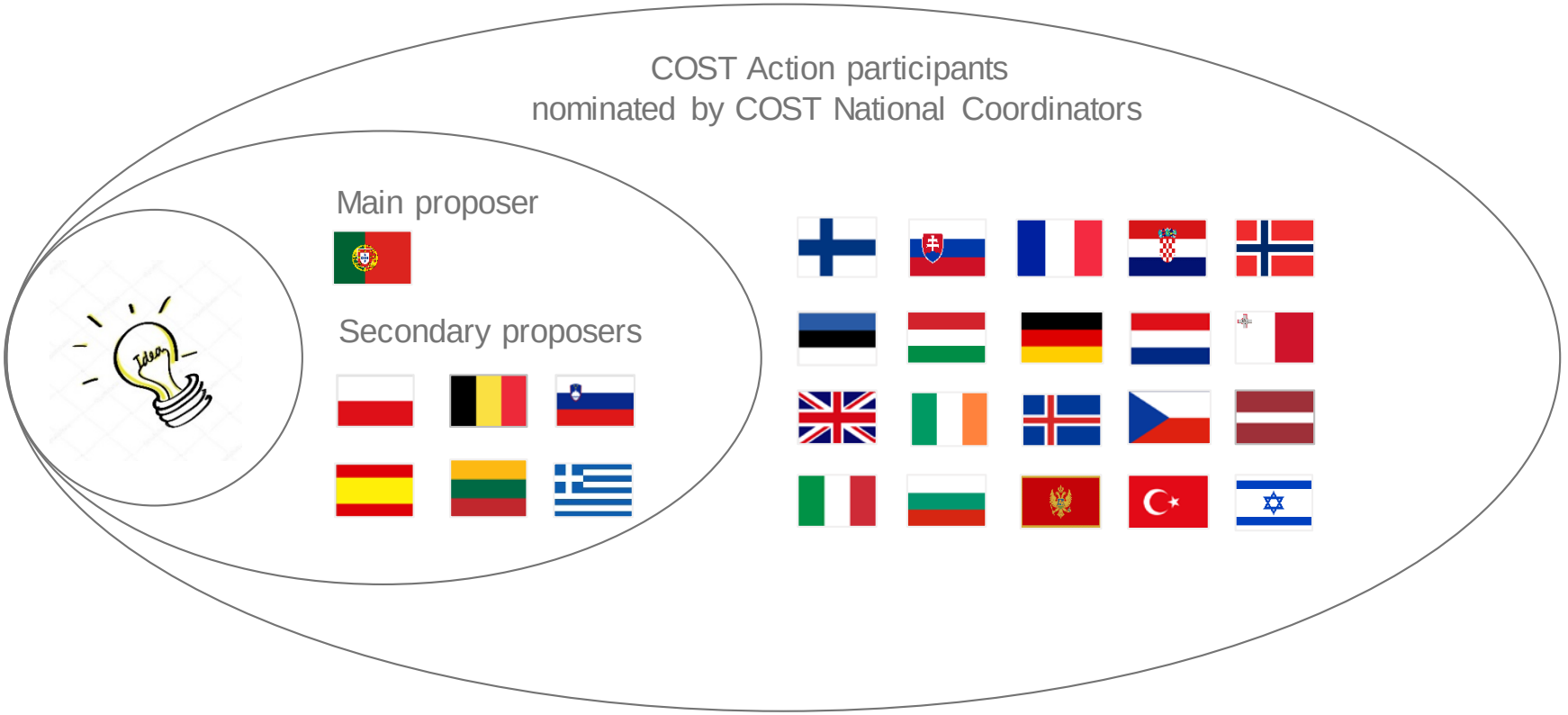
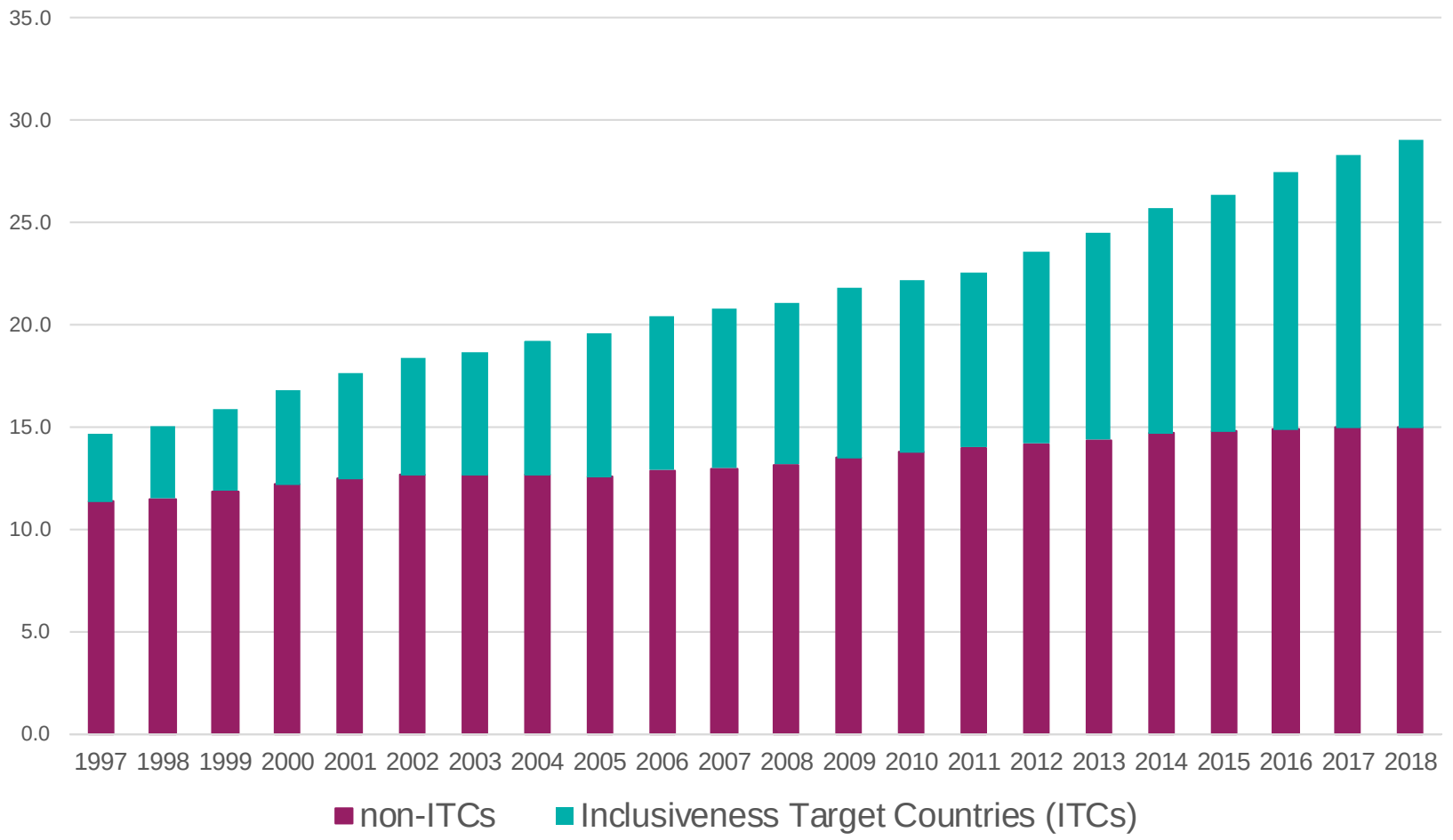
How it works?


COST Action participants
nominated by COST National Coordinators
Main proposer
Secondary proposers
Idea

Average participation in COST Actions, ITCs and other countries



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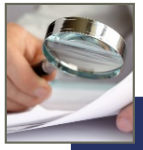
Dedicated measures for active ITC participation

COST Info Days

- Targeted to ITC
- combined with high-level meeting ITC government, including NCP



Proposals

- Eligibility
- External experts
- Inclusiveness policy

COST Actions

- COST Action Leadership
- Conference grant for PhD students and young researchers
- Pre-payment for STSM

COST Academy

- Leadership workshop
- Finance/Admin workshop
- Science Communication training
- Mentoring GH
- Mentoring Chair

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Example of COST success stories

- COST Action FP1106
- Running from 23/04/2012 - 22/04/2016
- STReESS - Studying Tree Responses to extreme Events: a SynthesiS
- Lead to establishment of new research facility, the DendroLab Novi Sad, Serbia

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Examples of COST Success Stories

"Innovative ideas will only come if we have a diverse culture. And if we join forces, we will be making bigger progress and deliver something to society."

Dr Andreja Kutnar, Associate Professor, Department of Technology, University of Primorska, Slovenia

"I always say that I have learnt more in these 3 years in COST than I would have in 10 years of my career."

Dr Lara Pajewski, Researcher, Engineering Department, "Roma Tre" University, Italy

"Industry needs to cooperate with academia just like in COST networks. Over there, knowledge transfer and getting results to industry happens in real time."

Mark de Boevere, Managing Director, Pulsemaster (SME), The Netherlands

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Example of COST success stories

- Bosnia & Herzegovina, the Czech Republic, Latvia, Montenegro, Switzerland, and Turkey provide additional national support to COST Action participants

- Budget is available for
  - Personnel cost of staff assigned to the project (focus on PhD)
  - Cost of new equipment
  - Cost of sub-contracting
  - ...

Role of COST in the ERA - 3 Strategic Priorities

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COST Acting as a pre-portal for FP funding

Horizon 2020 applications reported by finished COST Actions			
Total Actions with finished Final Action Report	Submitted H2020 proposals reported	Approved H2020 projects reported	Success rate
114	392	131	33 %

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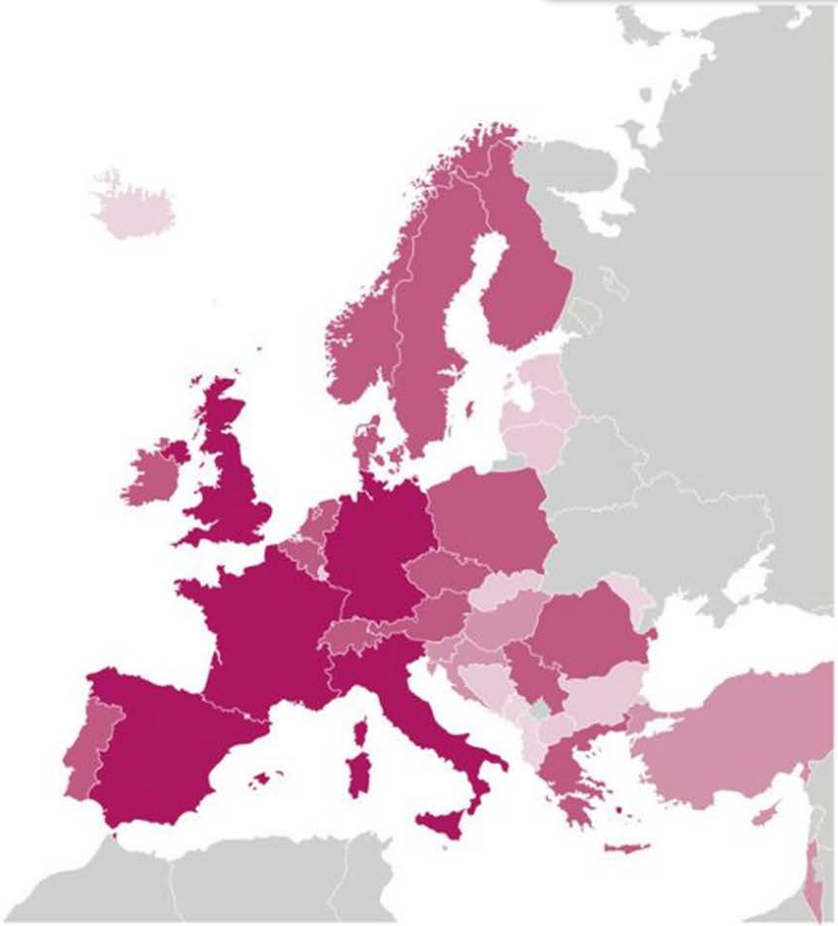
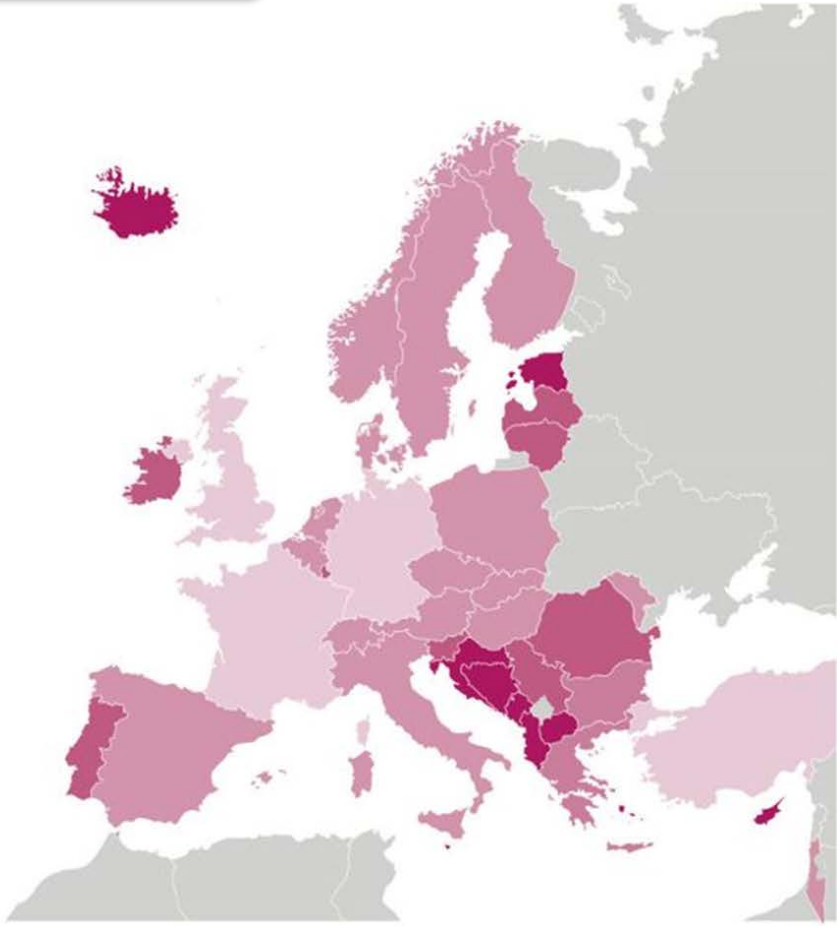
Priority 1. Promoting and spreading excellence

Everyone Benefits





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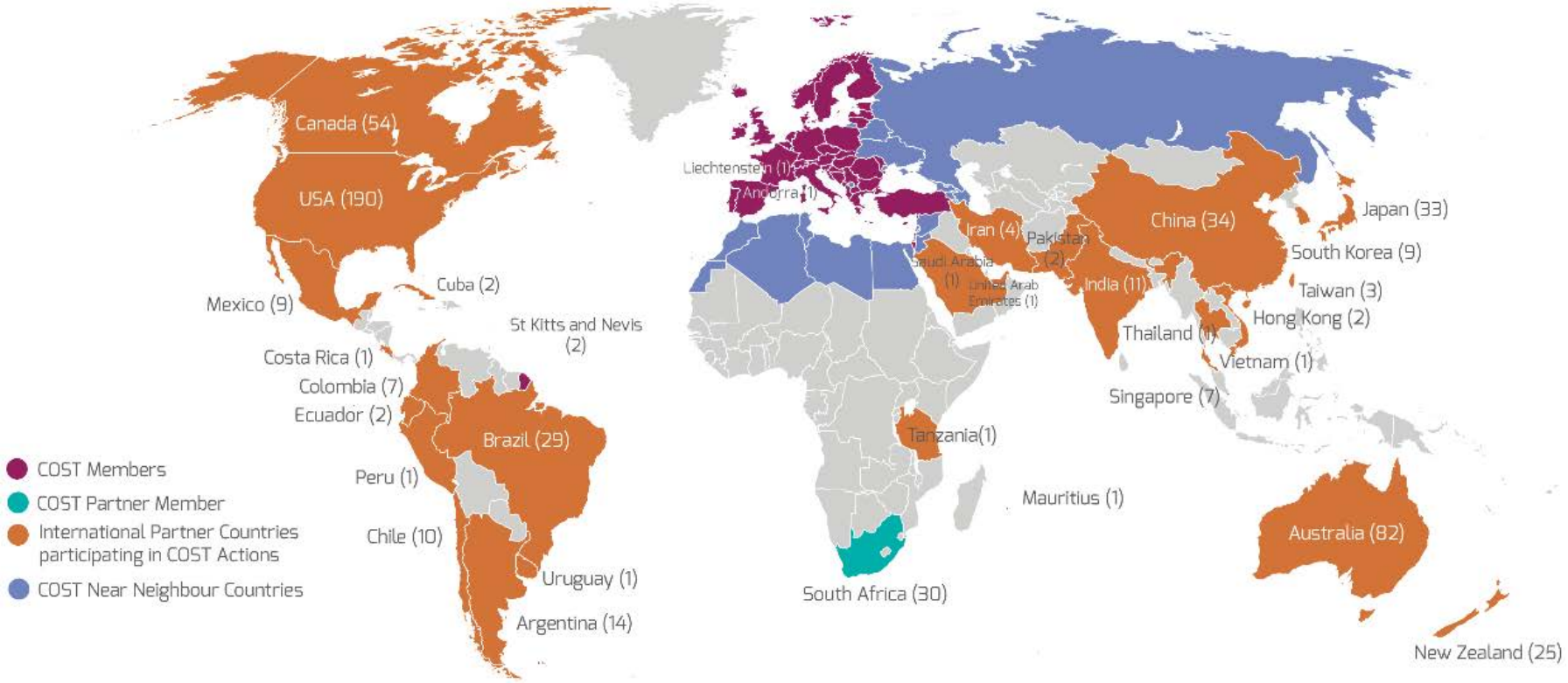
Priority 1. Promoting and spreading excellence



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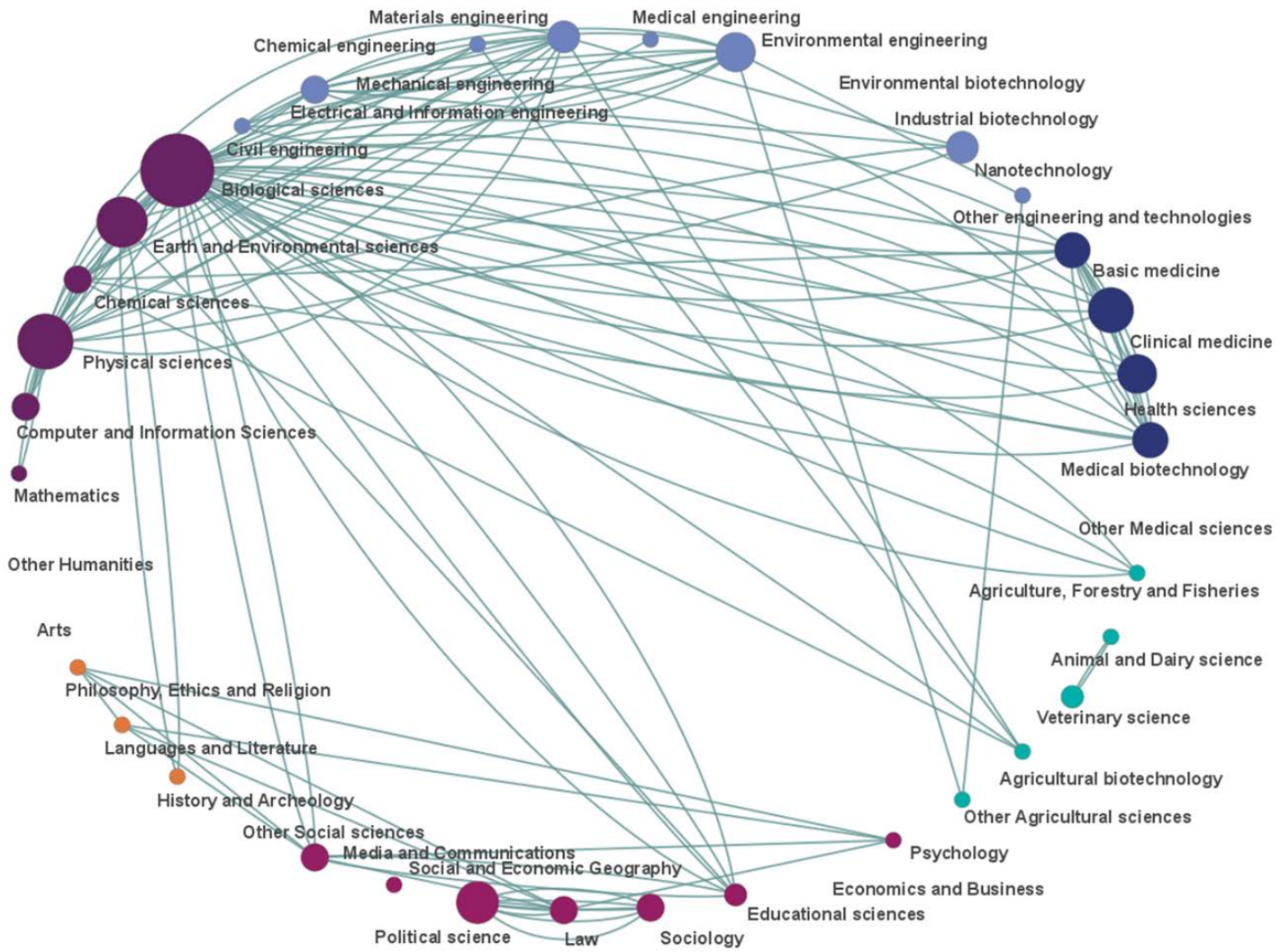
Priority 2. Fostering interdisciplinary research for breakthrough science



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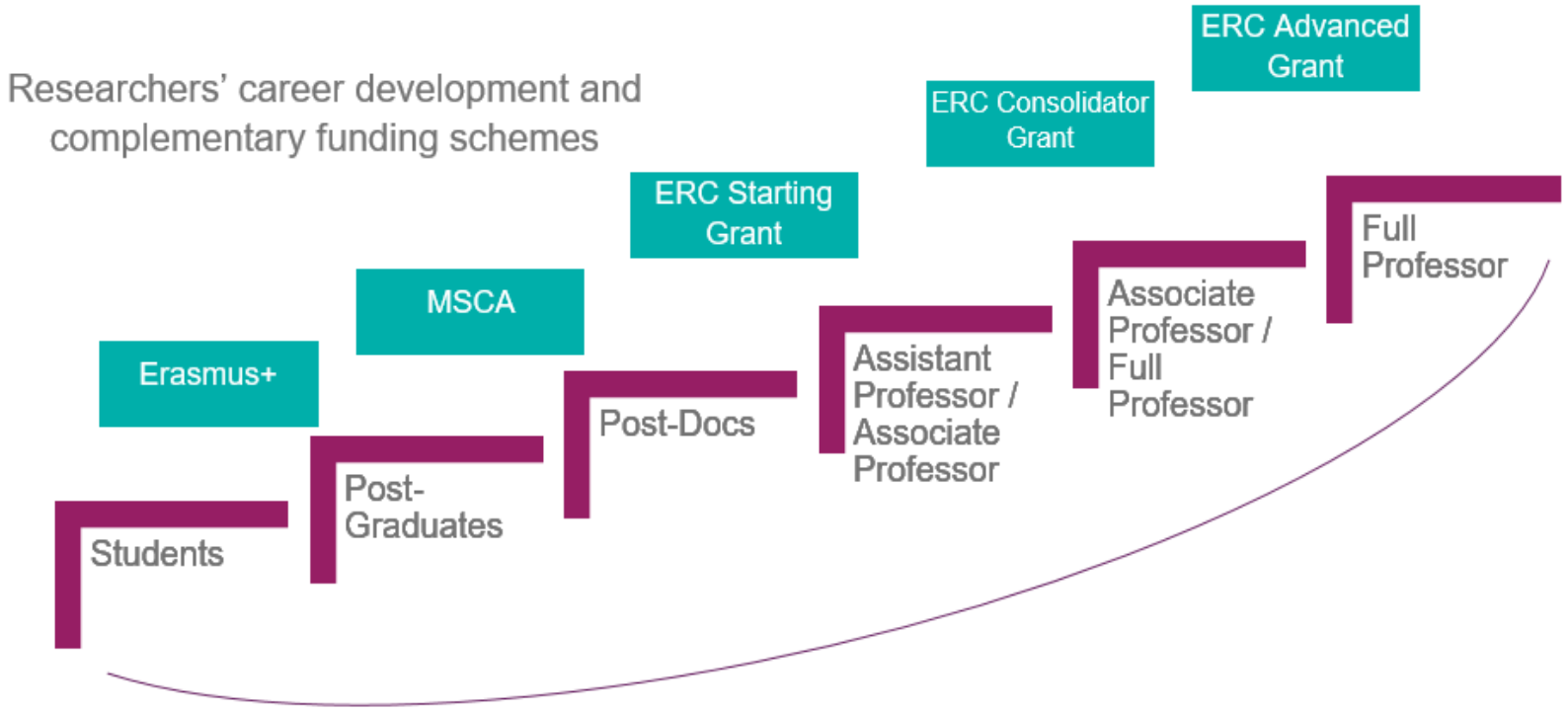
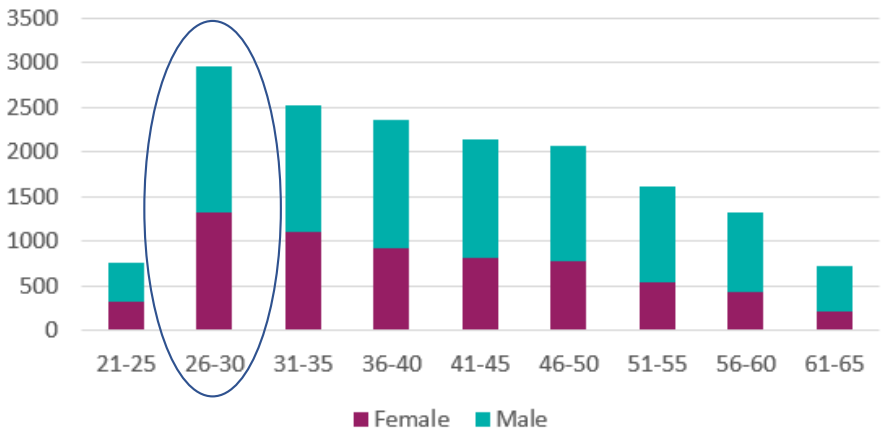
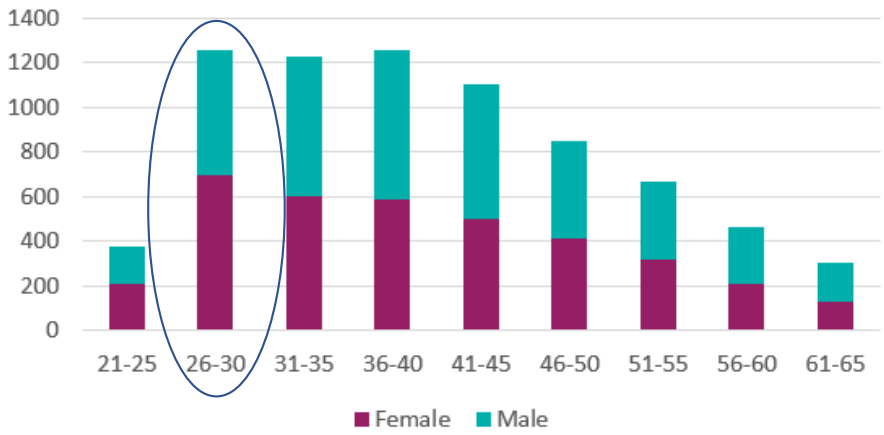
Boosting careers of young researchers



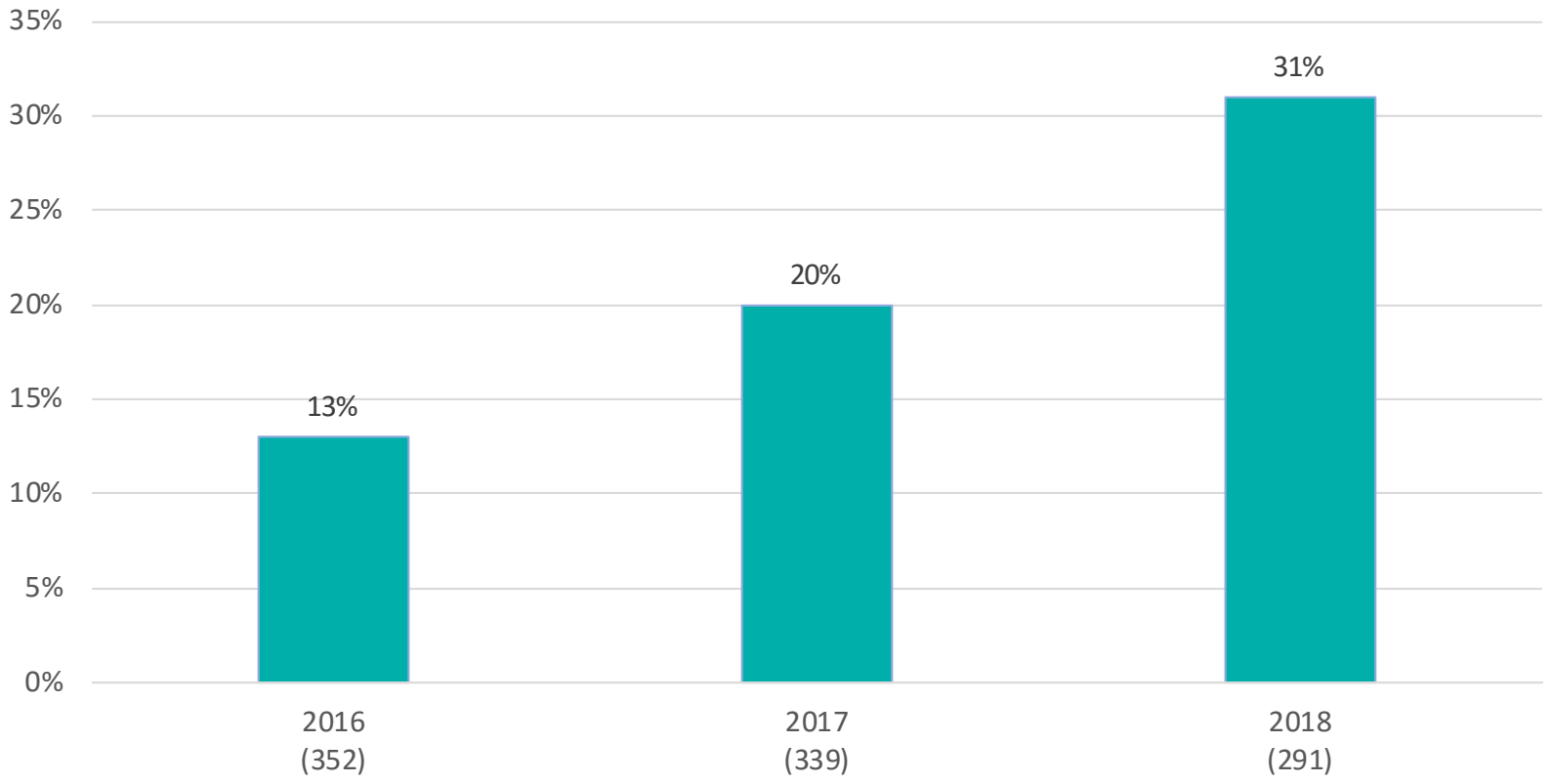
Bottom-up networking schemes

Boosting careers of young researchers



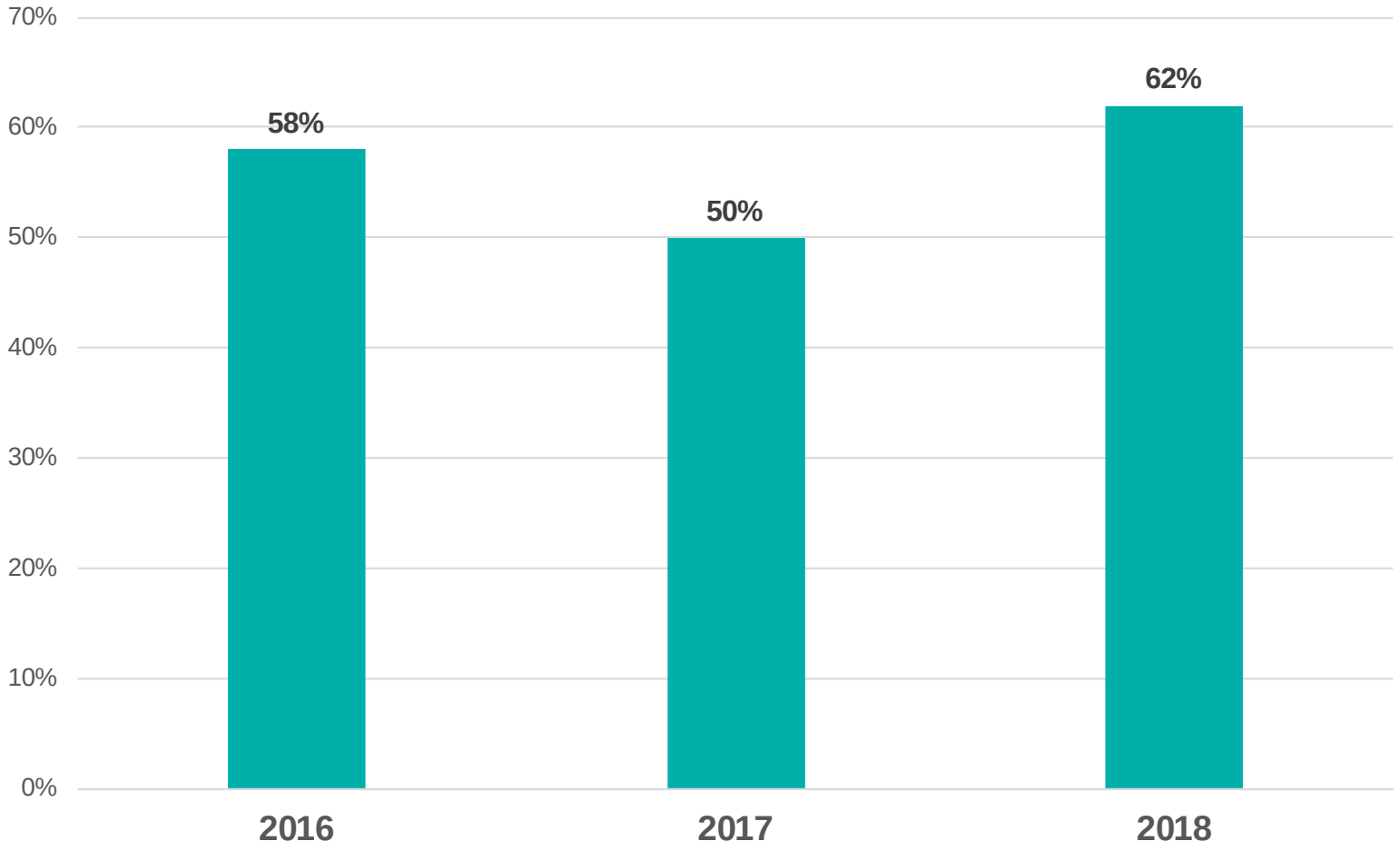


Participation in COST Actions from Montenegro



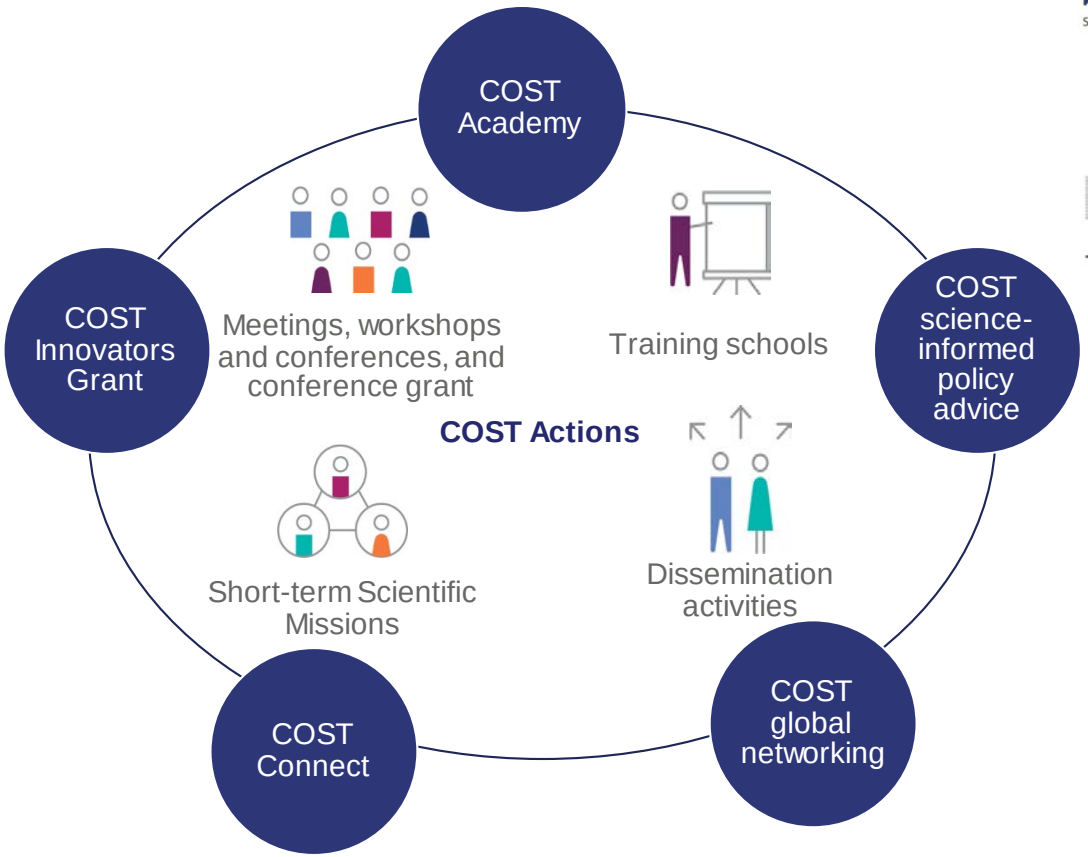
Graph 1. National participation in running Actions % (total number of running Actions in bracket)

Montenegrin participations in networking activities by Early Career Investigators 2012-2018



Graph 2. ECI share among participants in Actions' networking activities

Implementing COST's strategic priorities



Thank you!

Contact and engage with us!

@COST.Programme

@COSTprogramme

COST Association

COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology)

> *The opportunity for science lies in creating an unlimited space where crossovers between ideas and people can change the world for the better.*

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