



Growing
ideas
through
networks

COST - European Cooperation in Science and Technology

Introduction to the COST Framework Programme, UKRO conference 23 June 2017

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of the European Union



I get by with a
little help from my
friends...

life is short
- AND THE WORLD IS WIDE -

Big
Things
often
have
SMALL
beginnings



Networking
is not
collecting
contacts!

Networking
is about
planting
relations.

- MiSha.at

Outline

- What is COST and how does it work?
- What are the COST Actions?
- How to become a COST Action participant?
- What are the benefits and who gains from COST?
- How the UK is involved in COST?



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What is COST and how does it work?



What is COST?

An organisation, the COST Association,

- Organisation that runs the COST framework
- Maintains the relations with its Member States
- Informs and organises Info Days

A funding framework supporting the networking of researchers

- Receives and organises the evaluation and selection of proposals
- Manages the funded COST Actions



The COST framework budget

- The COST Association has signed with the European Commission a **Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA)** strategic Action Plan for the seven years under Horizon 2020 and successive Specific Grant Agreements for its implementation
- **EUR 300 million budget** (constant prices) for 7 years drawn from two Horizon 2020 work programmes, Challenge 6 “Europe in a changing world - inclusive, innovative and reflective Societies” and “Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation”

COST Features

- One networking instrument: the Action
- Open participation (involve all stakeholders, type of institutions, career levels, countries, at any time)
- Bottom-up approach (researcher driven, any topic/ multiple topics)
- Flexible (adaptable research and activities)
- Output oriented (open science, wide sharing of knowledge and results, open access, open innovation)



Empowerment

“95% of COST participants say their careers developed and their prospects improved due to their involvement”

- Connections and relationships
- Personal development - soft skills
- Mastering other scientific codes and languages
- Management and leadership expertise
- Springboard for jobs in academia and in the private sector



Building bridges

- Academia and public/private sector > 50% private sector
- Cultures and nationalities > 22 countries, 37.4% young researchers, 41% women
- Science and policy; Science and citizens
- Europe and the world > 60%, with an average of 4 international partners

“Anticipates and complements the activities of the EU FPs”

Key figures

347 COST Actions

266 Training Schools

2962 Short term visits

45.000 Researchers involved

129.000 € Per COST Action

37 500.000 € Annual budget

0.38% of H2020 budget



37 COST Full and Cooperating Members

● EU 28

● EU Candidates and Potential Candidates

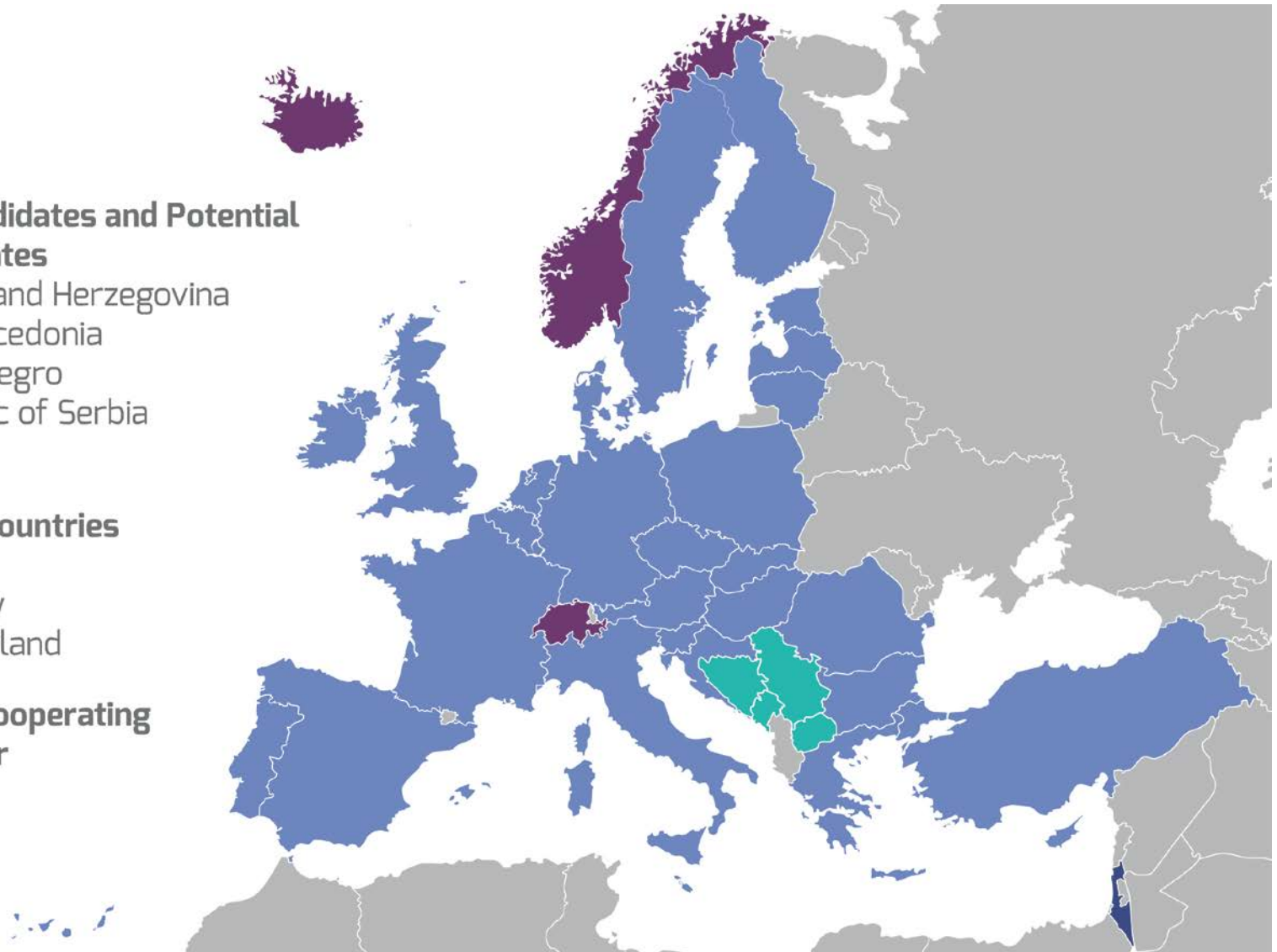
Bosnia and Herzegovina
fYR Macedonia
Montenegro
Republic of Serbia
Turkey

● Other countries

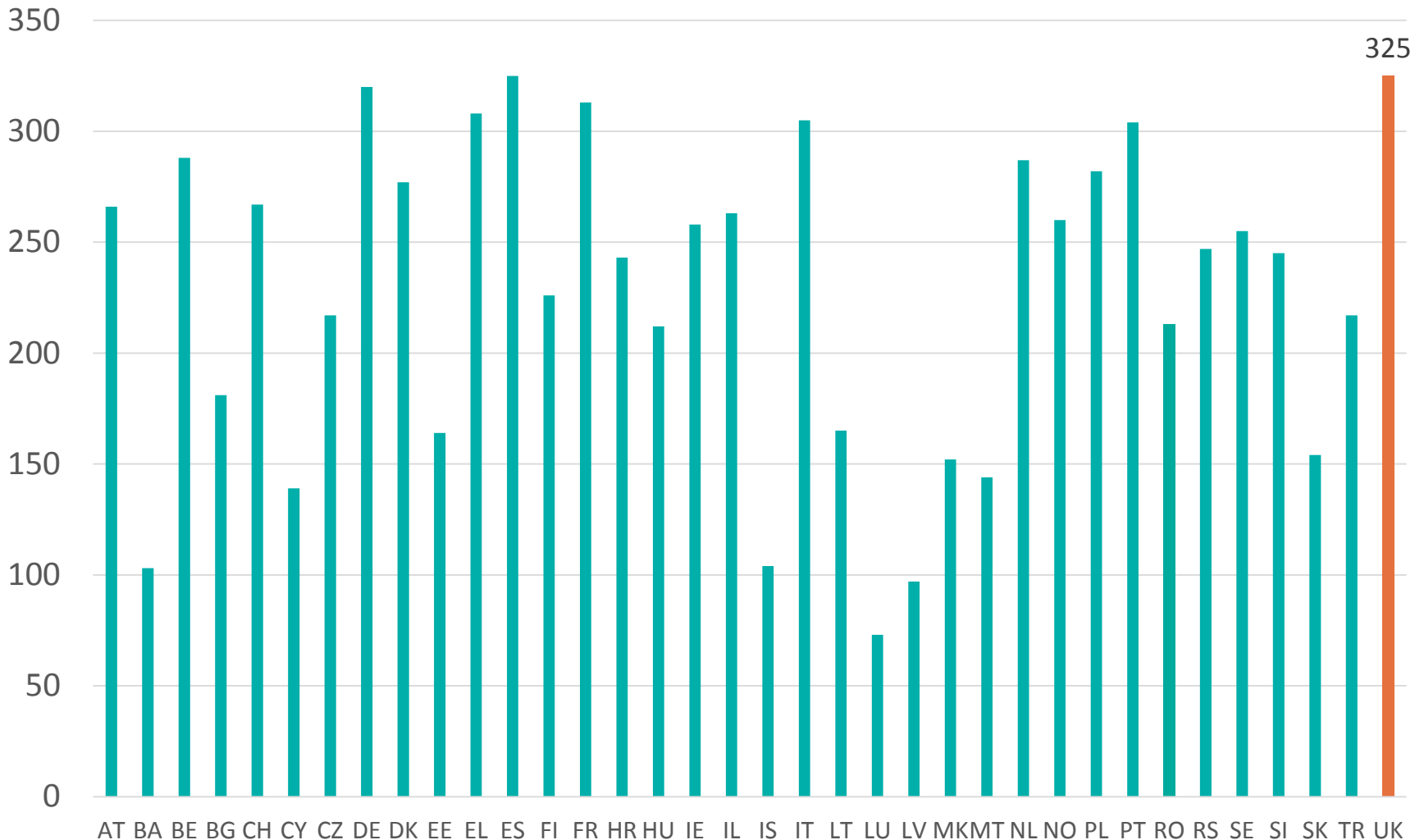
Iceland
Norway
Switzerland

● COST Cooperating Member

Israel



COST Full Members' participation in 2016



Objectives and commitments

Excellence and inclusiveness (widening the European research base)

- Strengthening the excellence through cross-border networking of researchers
- Empowering researchers from less connected innovation ecosystems
- Promoting geographical, age and gender balance throughout its activities and operations

Aiming to

- Increase the **participation of COST Inclusiveness Target Countries**
- Enable international cooperation

COST Inclusiveness Target Countries

● EU 13

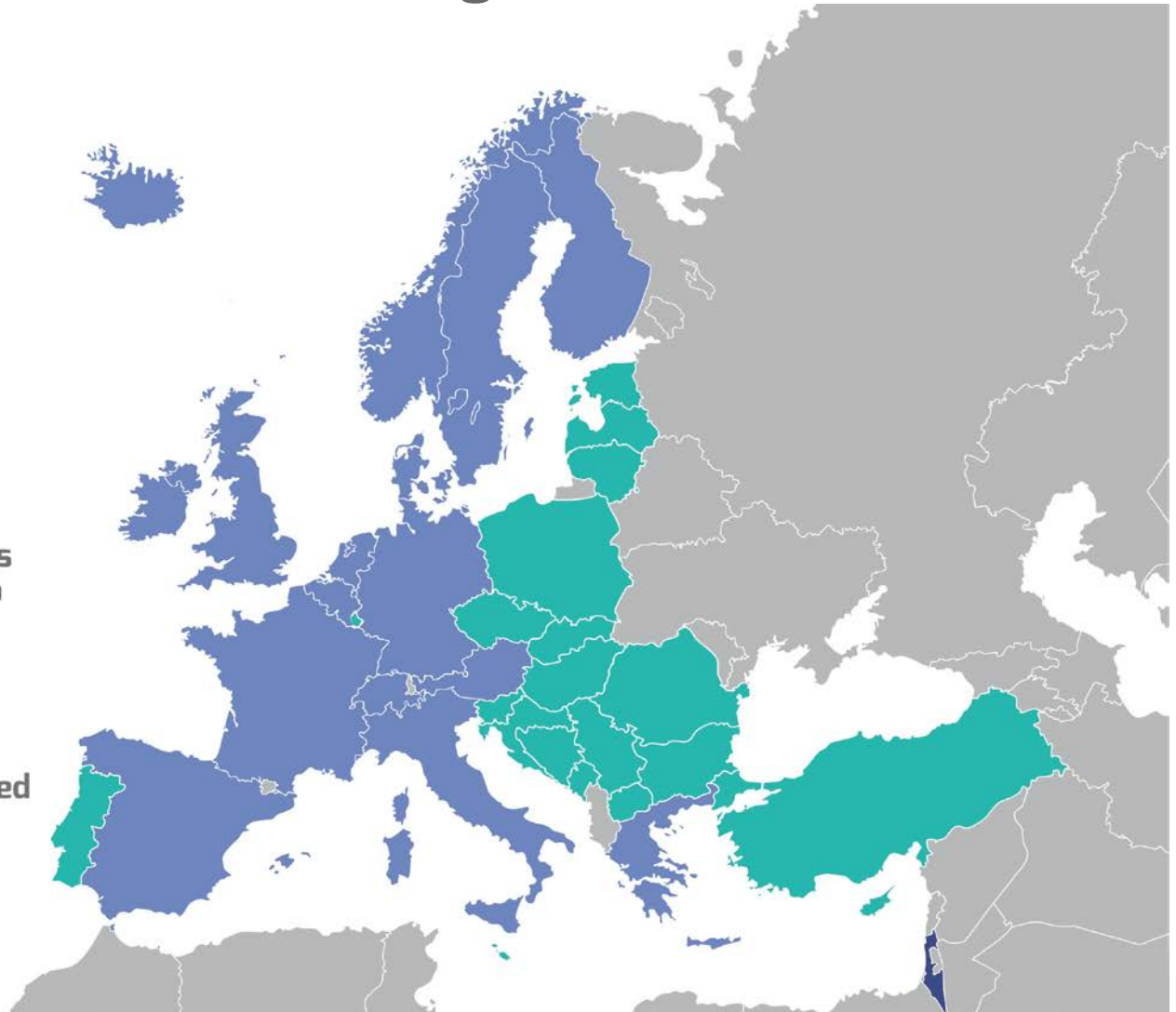
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Estonia
Hungary
Latvia
Lithuania
Malta
Poland
Romania
Slovakia
Slovenia

EU Candidates and Potential Candidates

Bosnia and Herzegovina
fYR Macedonia
Montenegro
Republic of Serbia
Turkey

EU countries targeted by the European Commission:

Luxembourg
Portugal

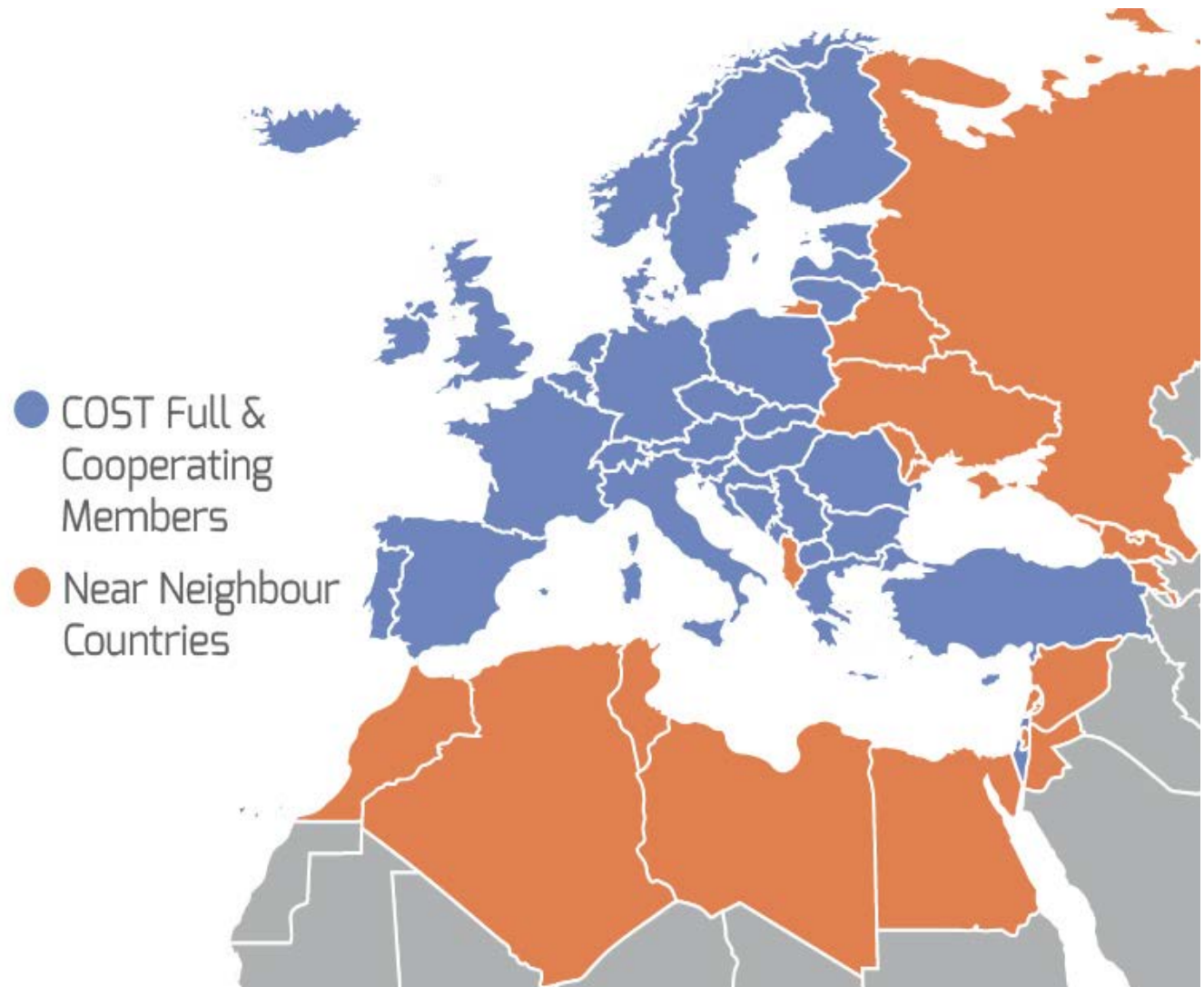


Dedicated measures to increase spending for researchers from ITC

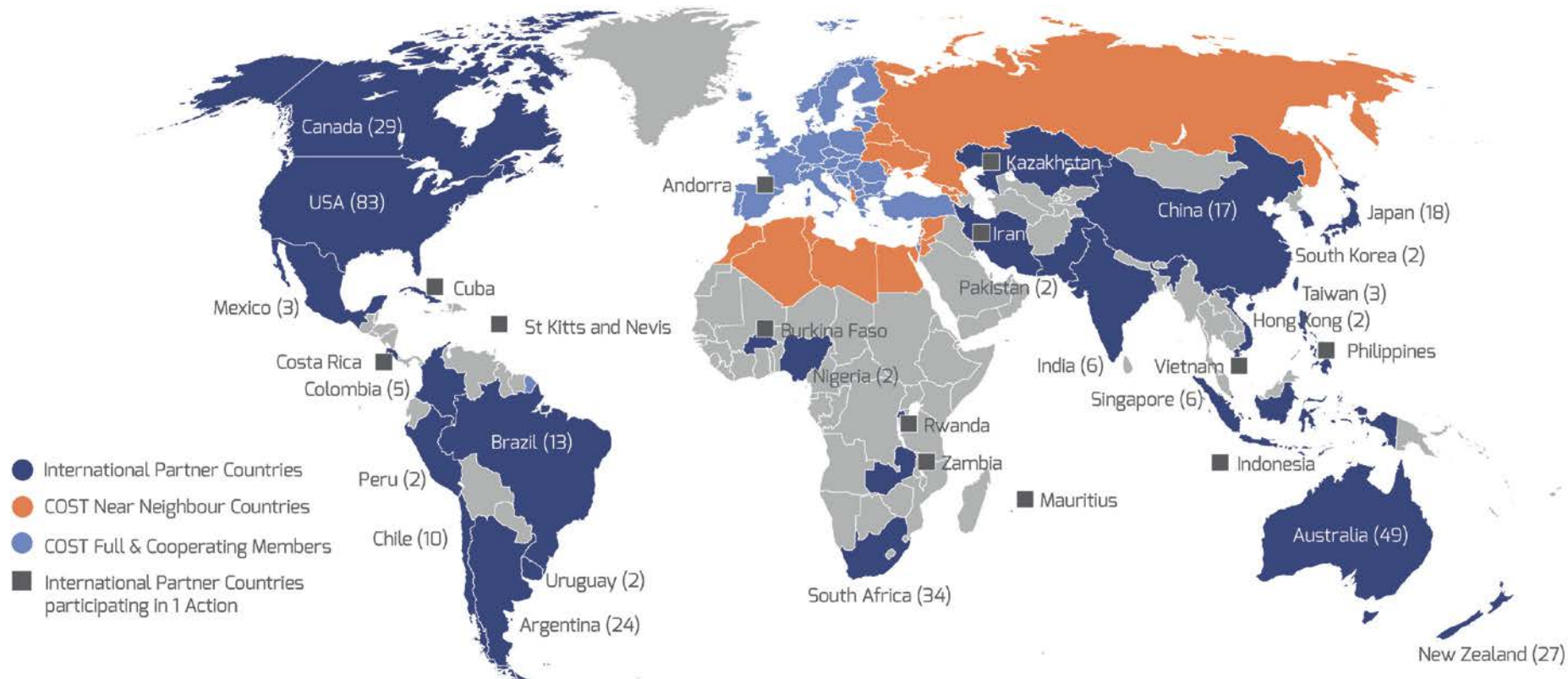
- COST Action **proposals** have to have a **minimum of 7 COST Full members** represented in the proposal, as well as a **minimum of ITCs** amongst represented countries in the proposal, according to a **lookup table**
- At least **1 of the key Action positions** available per Action is reserved for participants from **ITCs**
- **Conference grant for PhD** students and Early Career Investigators
- **Mentoring** scheme is being designed targeting young ITC researchers

Near Neighbour Countries

Albania 28
Algeria 5
Armenia 34
Belarus 13
Egypt 11
Georgia 6
Jordan 5
Lebanon 4
Morocco 10
Palestinian Auth 6
Moldova 11
Russia 78
Tunisia 21
Ukraine 62



International Partner Countries





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What are the COST Actions and how to participate in them?

COST Actions – characteristics

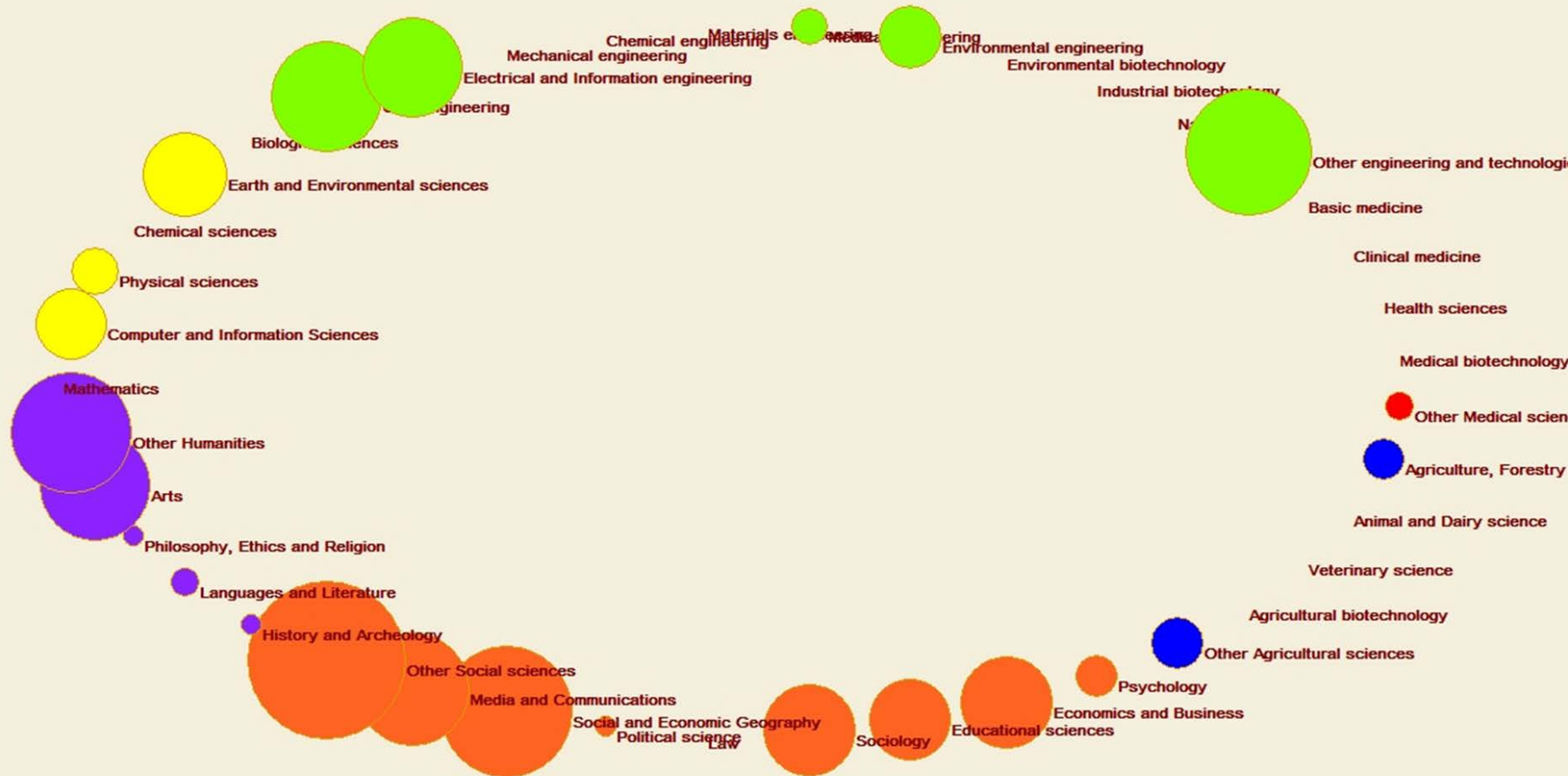
- A network of researchers, engineers and scholars with nationally funded research
- From at least seven COST Full/ Cooperating Member
- Collaborating in S&T fields of common interest
- Expandable to new participants



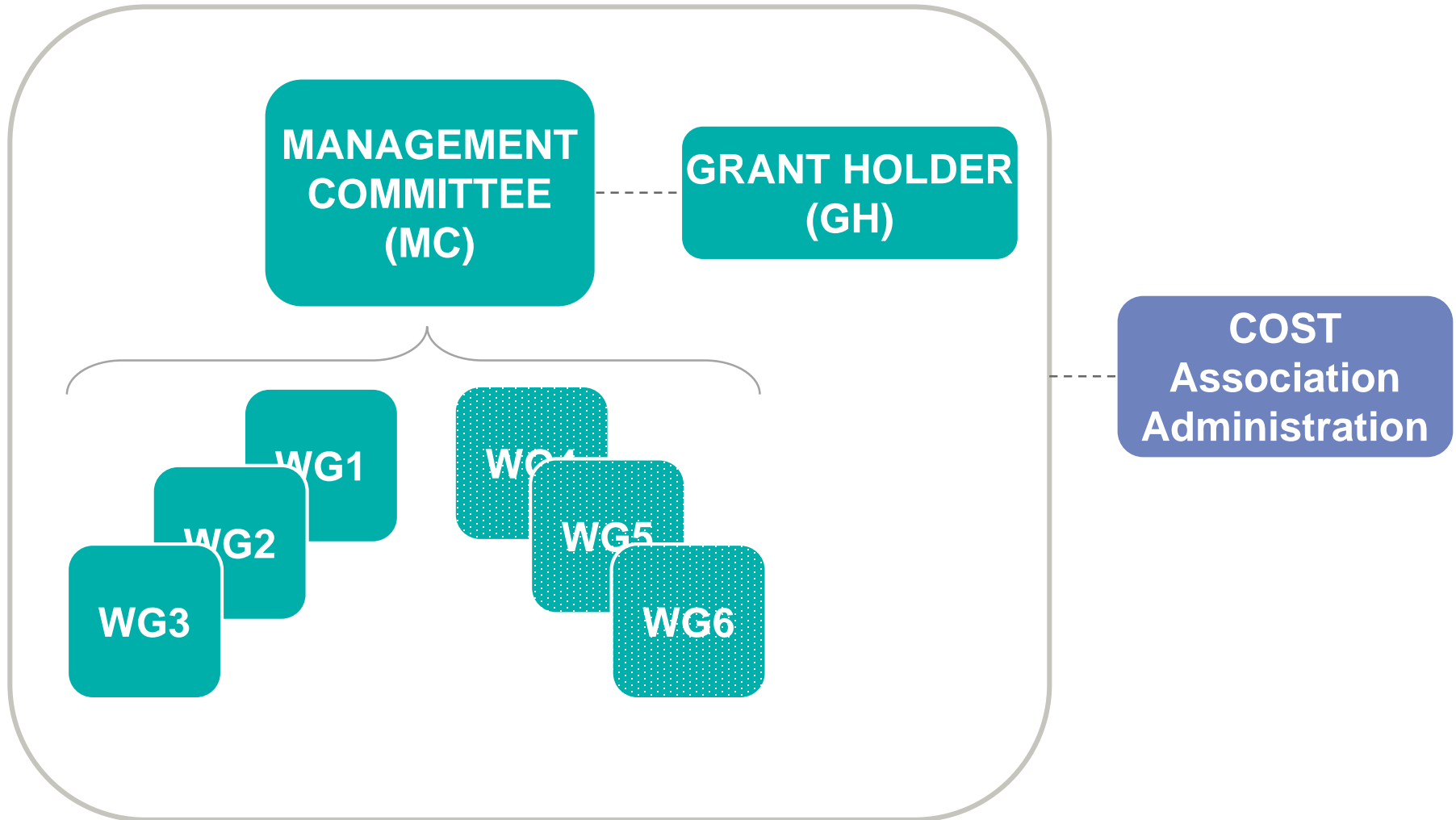
COST Actions – characteristics

- Based on a 4 years joint work programme (MoU)
- Submitted, evaluated and selected through an Open Call for proposals
- Implemented through a range of networking activities (Meetings, Workshops, Short Term Scientific Missions, Training Schools, etc.)
- Average annual support of EUR 129 000

Multi- and Inter-disciplinarity in Actions: TU1306



COST Action Structure





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How to become a OCST Action participant?

Join an Action

- As a Management Committee (MC) member
 - Contact: CNC (and MC Chair)
- As a Working Group (WG) participant
 - Contact: national MC representative or WG leader
- As a beneficiary of a networking instrument:
 - Short Term Scientific Missions
 - Training school
 - Workshop/Conference

Contact: see Action website

T Action?

All Actions

This section gives an overview of all past and directly. Click on the Action of your interest.

Search tips:

Type a single keyword in the "Full text search

To search for Actions that were part of the form Domain under "Action Number". Results will "CM" for CMST, "ES" for ESSEM, "FA" for FA, "TU" for TUD).

Search for COST Action

Full text search

☐ search in title only

Action number

☐ only Action Chairs

from [Inclusiveness](#) [Target Countries](#)

Full text search

chemistry

☐ search in title only

Action number

☐ only Action Chairs

from [Inclusiveness](#) [Target Countries](#)

Approval Year

YYYY

e.g. 2010

Open Call Collection Date

YYYY

starting both

e.g. 2010

Who's who

- ▶ COST Association
- ▶ COST National Coordinators (CNC)
- ▶ Scientific Committee (SC)
- ▶ All contacts

Search contact

Name

Search

▶ show all Actions

the search found 1



Dr Mara de Joannon

Action involvement:

[CM1404](#)

Consiglio Nazionale delle
Ricerche
P.le Tecchio n°80
80125 Naples
Italy

Tel. +390812391709
Fax +390812391709
dejoannon@irc.cnr.it

- ▶ CA16123 | Bio...
2017 - 14 Mar
- ▶ CA16124 | Bio...
Applications |
- ▶ CA15209 | European Network on NMR R...
- ▶ CA15216 | European Network of Bioadhe...
Technologies | 21 October 2016 - 20 Oct
- ▶ CA15103 | Uncovering the Mediterranean
- ▶ CA15106 | C-H Activation in Organic Syn
- ▶ CA15135 | Multi-target paradigm for innov...
April 2016 - 17 April 2020
- ▶ CM1404 | Chemistry of Smart Energy Ca...
2019
- ▶ CM1405 | Molecules in motion (MOLIM) |
- ▶ CM1407 | Challenging organic syntheses...
| 16 March 2015 - 15 March 2019
- ▶ CM1401 | Our Astro-Chemical History | 2

partners will support the optimization of tools developed in the Action exploiting the way that smart energy carriers could be utilised at the macro-scale in advanced combustion technology devices. This interaction will lead to the identification of standards and criteria for development of a searchable database and Internet tool devoted to integration of experimental and numerical combustion chemical/physical data which will provide an easy access to such information relevant to smart energy carrier components.

(Descriptions are provided by the Actions directly via e-COST.)

d Molecular
Technologies
CM1404

mittee

nation

on:
NON (IT)

Action:
(EL)

of the Action:

[Dr Lucia FORZI](#)

Administrative officer of the Action:
[Ms Svetlana VOINOVA](#)

Downloads*

Action Fact Sheet
[Download AFS as RTF](#)

Memorandum of Understanding
[Download MoU as PDF](#)

Websites*

Action website:
<http://www.smartcats.eu>

Submit a proposal via the Open Call

- submission is anytime
- **next collection: 7 Sept.2017 - 12:00 noon (CET)**
- 25 to 40 Actions approved in each collection, subject to budget availability
- one-stage online submission
- by a Main Proposer (on behalf of a network)
- 7~8 months evaluation period
- guidelines and template on cost.eu/opencall

Open Call for proposals

New **Submission, Evaluation, Selection** and **Approval** (SESA) procedure follows the subsequent phases:

- **Submission:** by a Main Proposer on behalf of a network of proposers
- **Evaluation:**
 - External Remote Evaluation by Individual External Experts
 - Revision and Quality Check by *Ad hoc* Review Panels
- **Selection:** COST Scientific Committee (SC)
- **Approval:** COST Committee of Senior Officials (CSO)

Open Call for proposals – key documents

e-COST

e-COST is a portal for COST Action participants' registration and financial reporting

▶ Link to e-COST portal

Source: cost.eu/opencall

- Online submission
- Guidelines
- Proposal template

Key Documents

▶ COST Open Call – Submission, Evaluation, Selection and Approval (SESA) Guidelines (PDF, 236 kB)

▶ Technical Annex (DOCX, 176 kB)

Open Call for proposals - eligibility

- coordinated by a main proposer in a COST Full or Cooperating Member state
- represent a network of proposers from at least 7 COST Full/Cooperating Member states (min. ICT)
- anonymous: no reference to the participants in the network of proposers
- peaceful purposes
- respect the word or page limits
- written in English

Become a COST Expert!

As a COST Expert, you will have the opportunity to:

- **Contribute to the evaluation of COST Open Call proposals**
- **Participate in the assessment of Action results and outcomes**
- **Be invited to take part in the assessment of COST strategic activities**

New experts can express their interest via the COST Expert online registration form: www.cost.eu/experts

An updated Curriculum Vitae with a list of publications is required to demonstrate competence in specific areas of expertise

More on COST Experts: www.cost.eu/participate/experts





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What are the benefits and who gains from COST?

Benefits of participation in a COST Action

- member of leading scientific networks
- “a la carte” access to existing networks
 - by having an overview of all the running Actions
 - without going through a heavy proposal preparation
- can participate in more COST Actions at the same time
- can participate in any H2020 project at the same time



Benefits of participating in a COST Action

- As a scientist
 - work on topics not yet funded by other sources
 - lead/ organise training schools
 - participate at short term scientific missions
 - disseminate research results
- As an institute be connected by
 - become a host of an event
 - become a Grant Holder



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How the UK is involved in COST?



UK participation in COST activities (2012 – 16 average)

- Participation in COST Actions (signed MoUs): 100%
- Participation in COST Actions networking tools (number of reimbursed participants): 2000 persons/ year
- Early career investigators participation in COST Actions networking tools: 33%
- COST Actions budget transferred to UK participants: 9,6%

UK representative

Madhuri Vadgama

European Programmes & Engagement

Department for Business, Energy &
Industrial Strategy

Email: cost@beis.gov.uk



My role as COST National Coordinator (CNC) for UK

- Interface between COST and UK community
- Accept MoUs for Actions UK want to participate in
- Nominate the MC Members for each Action
- Recommend national experts to be part of the selection/evaluation process
- Arrange COST Info Days in UK



ANONYMITY CRITERIA AND WE CAN GET CAUGHT OUT

- proposal makes a direct reference to a name and/or institutions of any of the proposers (main and secondary)
- proposers identifiable through a direct reference to previous or ongoing grants, applications to grants, EU projects, Networks, etc.
- a cited bibliography that is explicitly attributed to the participants in the network of proposers
- information in the proposal clearly identify one or more participants in the network of proposers

Important Dates Coming Up

- 26 June – announcement of successful Actions from last call (December)
- 7 Sept 2017 – next collection date
- 25 April 2018 – following collection date

HMT underwrite – funding for all Actions which are successful up to the point where we leave EU (March 2019)



Thank you

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www.cost.eu



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