

# Online COST Info Day

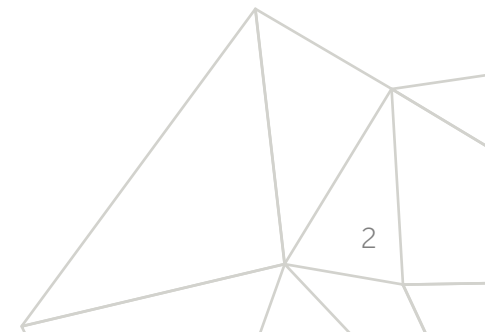
24 May 2023





# Practicalities

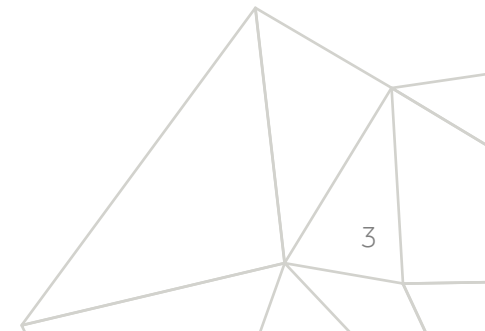
- The webinar is being **recorded** and the **live streaming** can be viewed on COST's YouTube channel ([@costoffice](#))
- The recording will be available on COST's YouTube channel after the webinar
- The slides will be made available on the **event page** after the webinar  
[www.cost.eu/cost-events/online-cost-info-day-2023](http://www.cost.eu/cost-events/online-cost-info-day-2023)
- Questions during the session?
  - Zoom attendees can post their questions on the webinar chat
  - YouTube viewers can post their questions on the live streaming chat
- Questions after the session? Contact us at [events@cost.eu](mailto:events@cost.eu)





# Programme

- 10:00 **Introduction about COST**  
Dr Ronald de Bruin, Director of the COST Association
- 10:15 **Participation in a COST Action - Tips & tricks to submit a COST Action proposal**  
Dr Mickael Pero, COST Science Officer
- 10:45 **Networking activities funded within COST Actions**  
Ms Jeannette Nchung Oru, COST Administrative Officer
- 10:55 **Benefits of participating in a COST Action**  
Dr Gintarė Pocė, COST Action representative
- 11:15 **Q&A**
- 11:30 **End of the session**





# Introduction about COST

Dr Ronald de Bruin, Director of the COST Association

# European Cooperation in Science & Technology

## MISSION

COST provides networking opportunities for researchers and innovators in order to strengthen Europe's capacity to address scientific, technological and societal challenges

## VISION

*Europe's most empowering research programme*

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Promoting and spreading excellence

Fostering interdisciplinary research for breakthrough science

Empowering and retaining young researchers

# COST Membership

## 41 COST Members

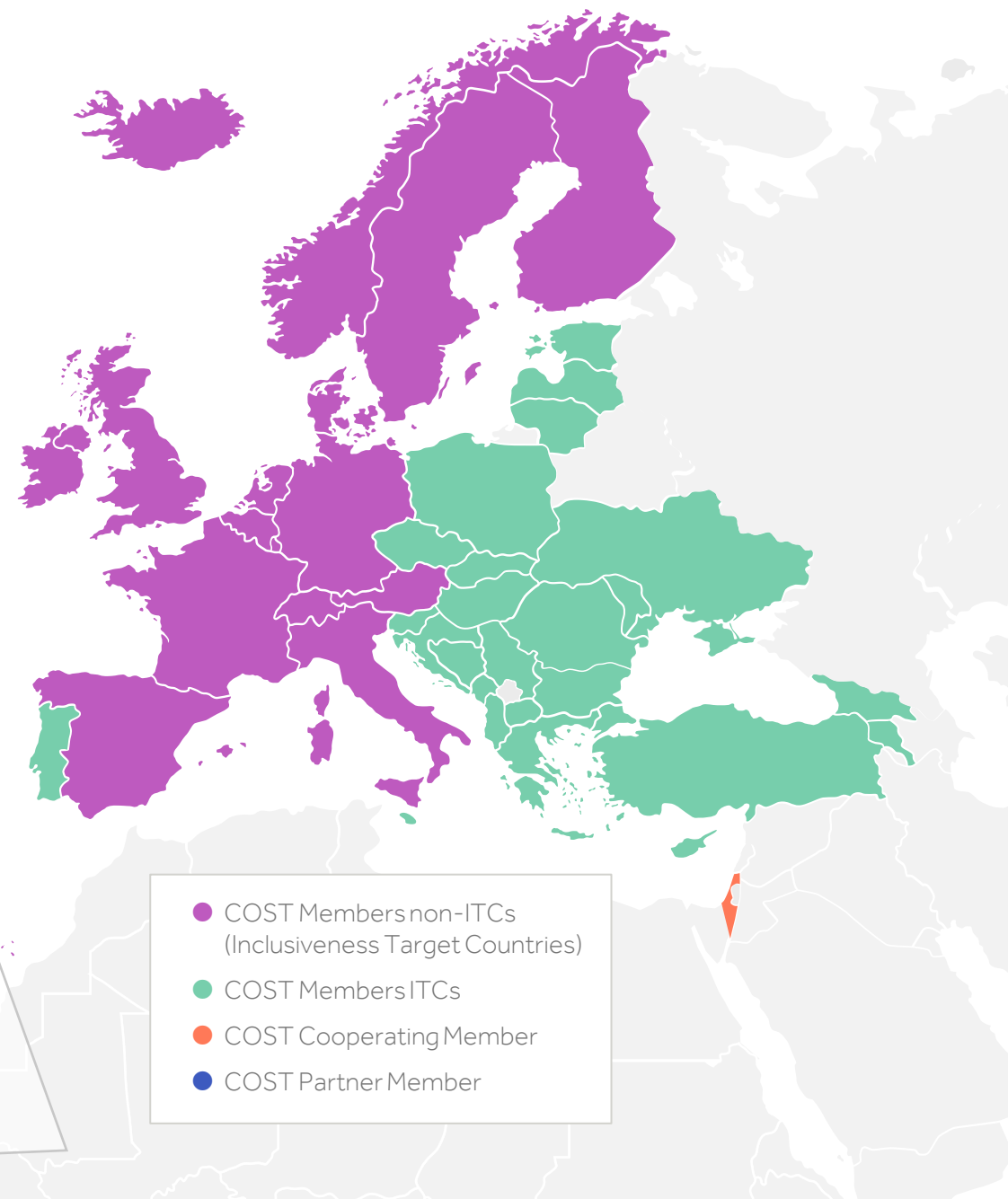
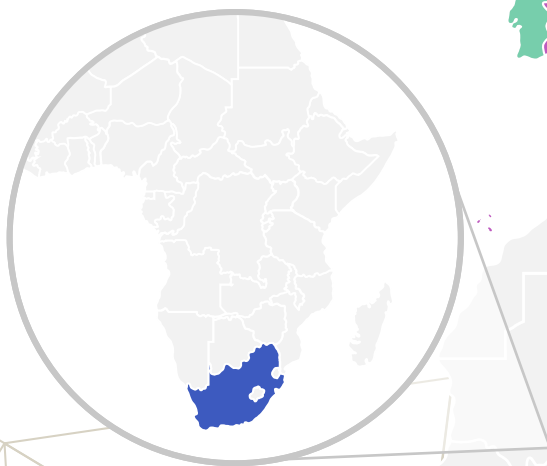
- |                          |                                   |                  |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| ● Albania                | ● Germany                         | ● Norway         |
| ● Armenia                | ● Greece         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

### 1 Cooperating Member

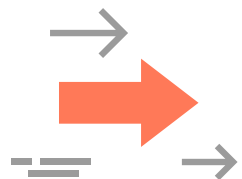
● Israel

### 1 Partner Member

● South Africa

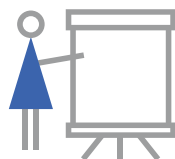


# Key figures



**292**

Running Actions



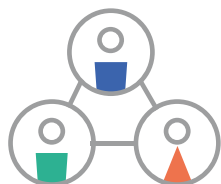
**203**

Training schools



**€155,000**

Average annual budget of a COST Action



**2,320**

Short-term scientific missions



**45,000**

Researchers involved in COST Actions

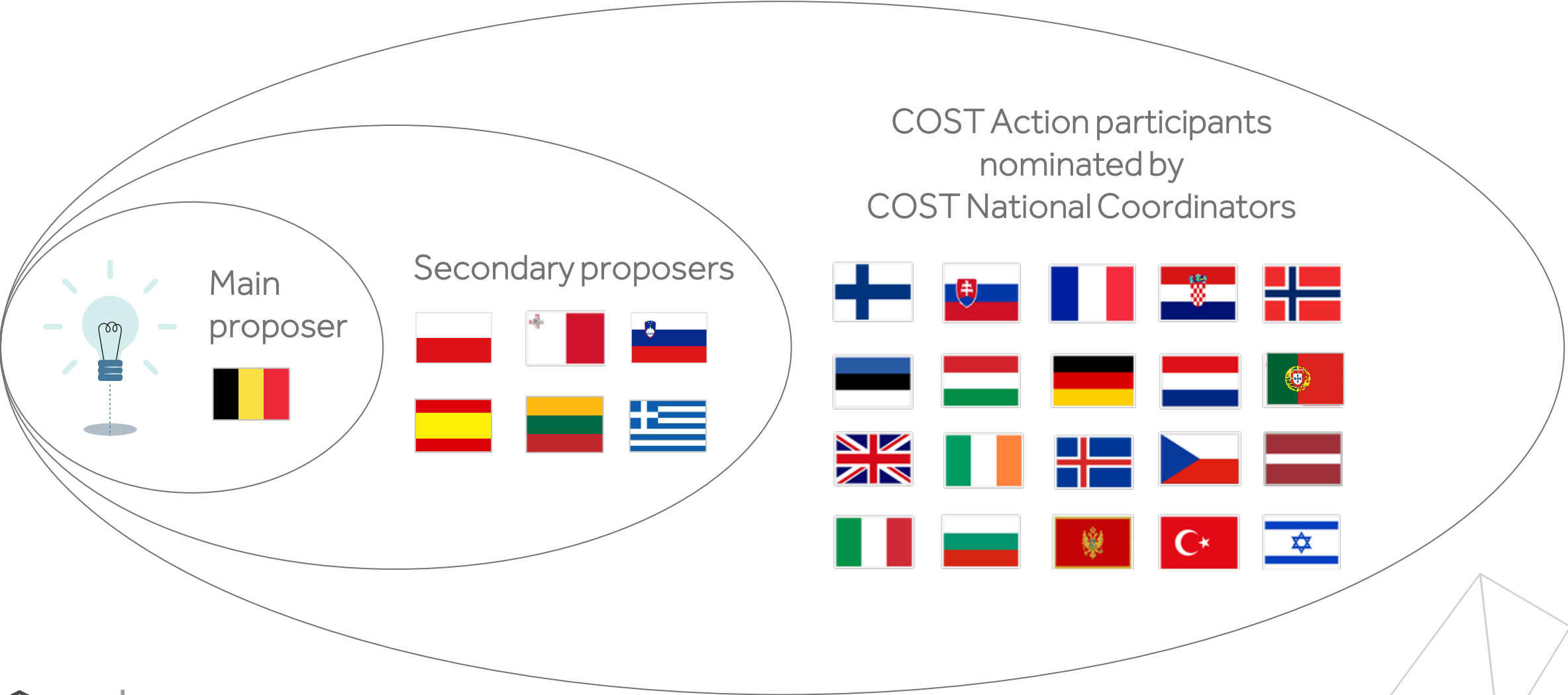


**€153 million**

COST budget (in Horizon Europe for a 3-year period)



# How does it work?

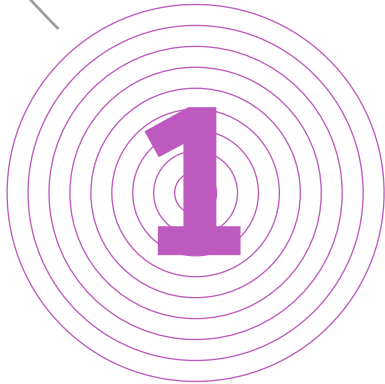




# Role of COST in the ERA



## 3 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Promoting and spreading **excellence**



Fostering **interdisciplinary** research for breakthrough science

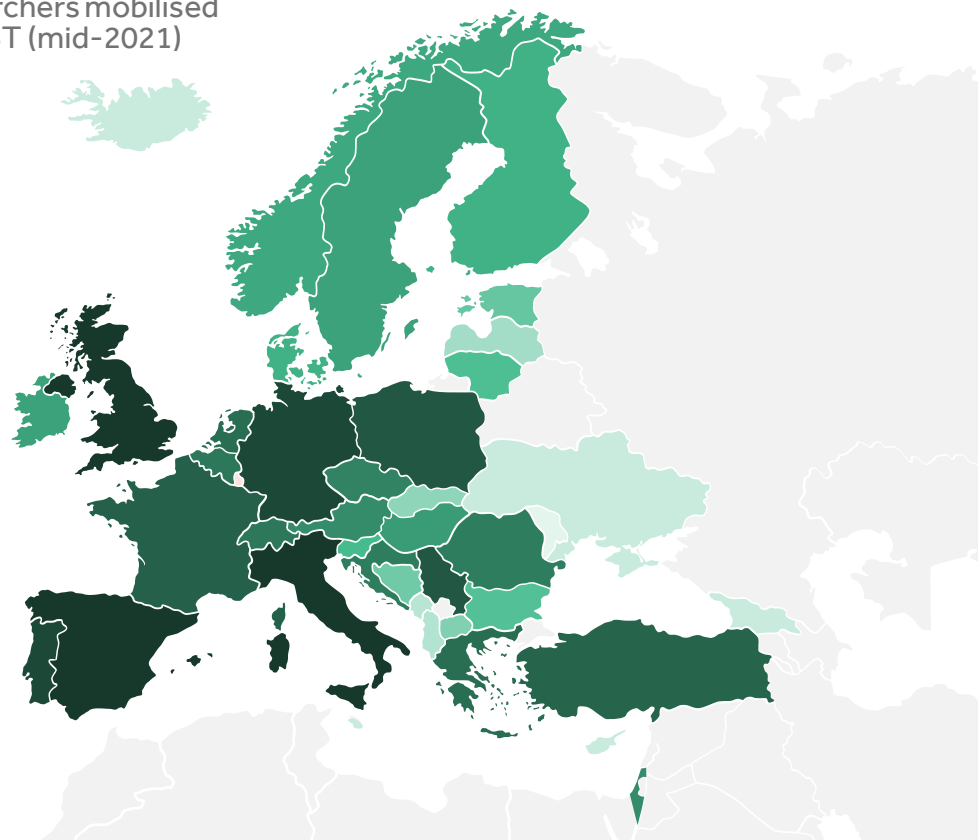


Empowering and retaining **young researchers**

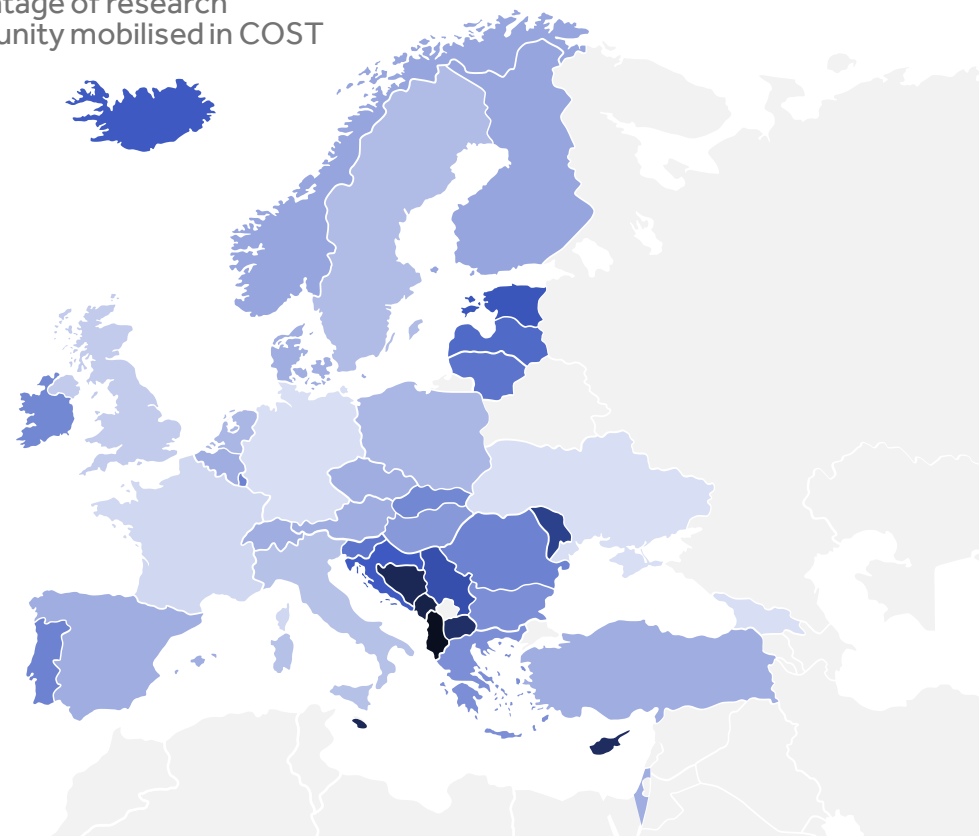
# Priority 1

## PROMOTING AND SPREADING EXCELLENCE

Researchers mobilised  
in COST (mid-2021)

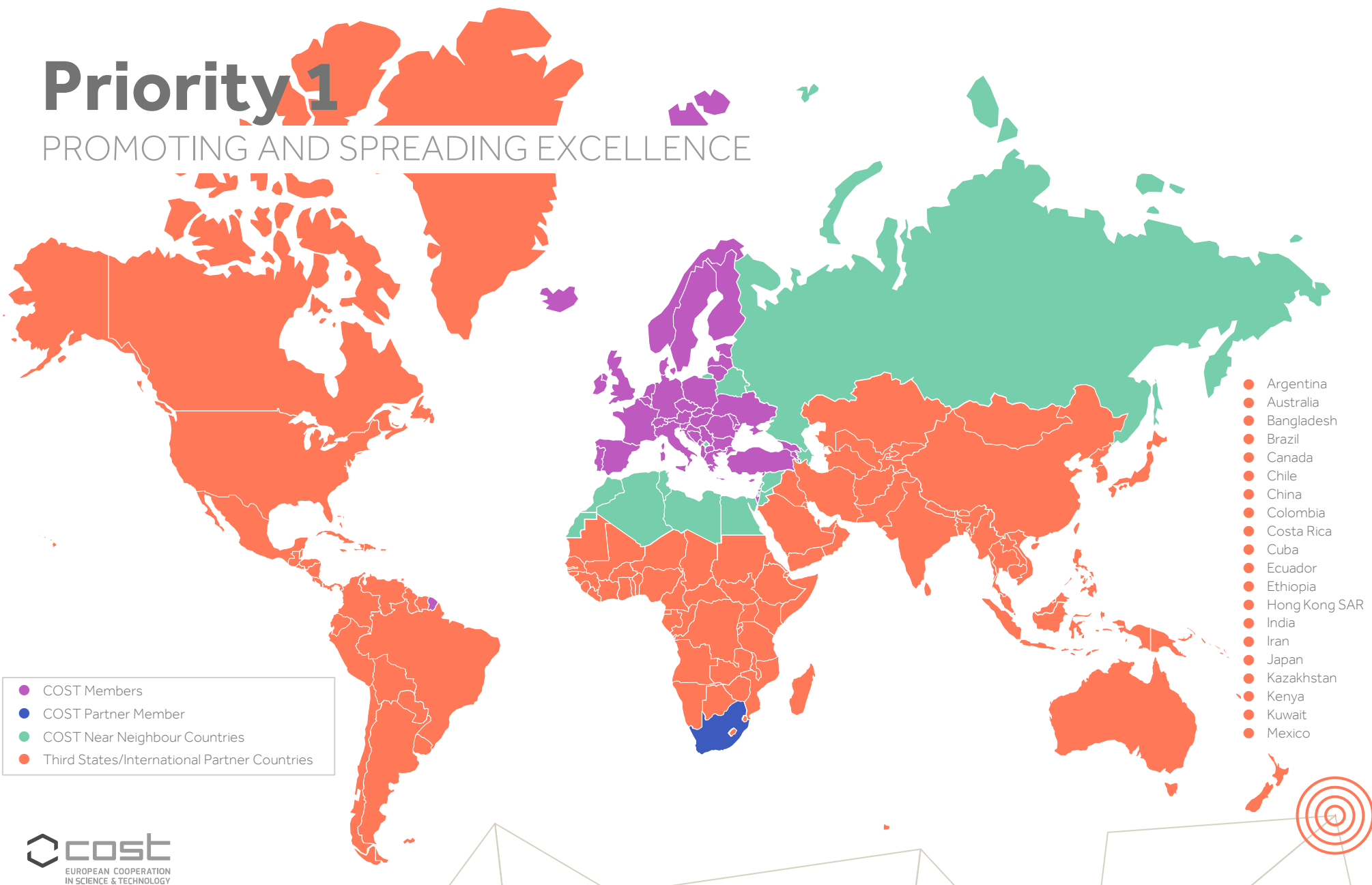


Percentage of research  
community mobilised in COST



# Priority 1

PROMOTING AND SPREADING EXCELLENCE



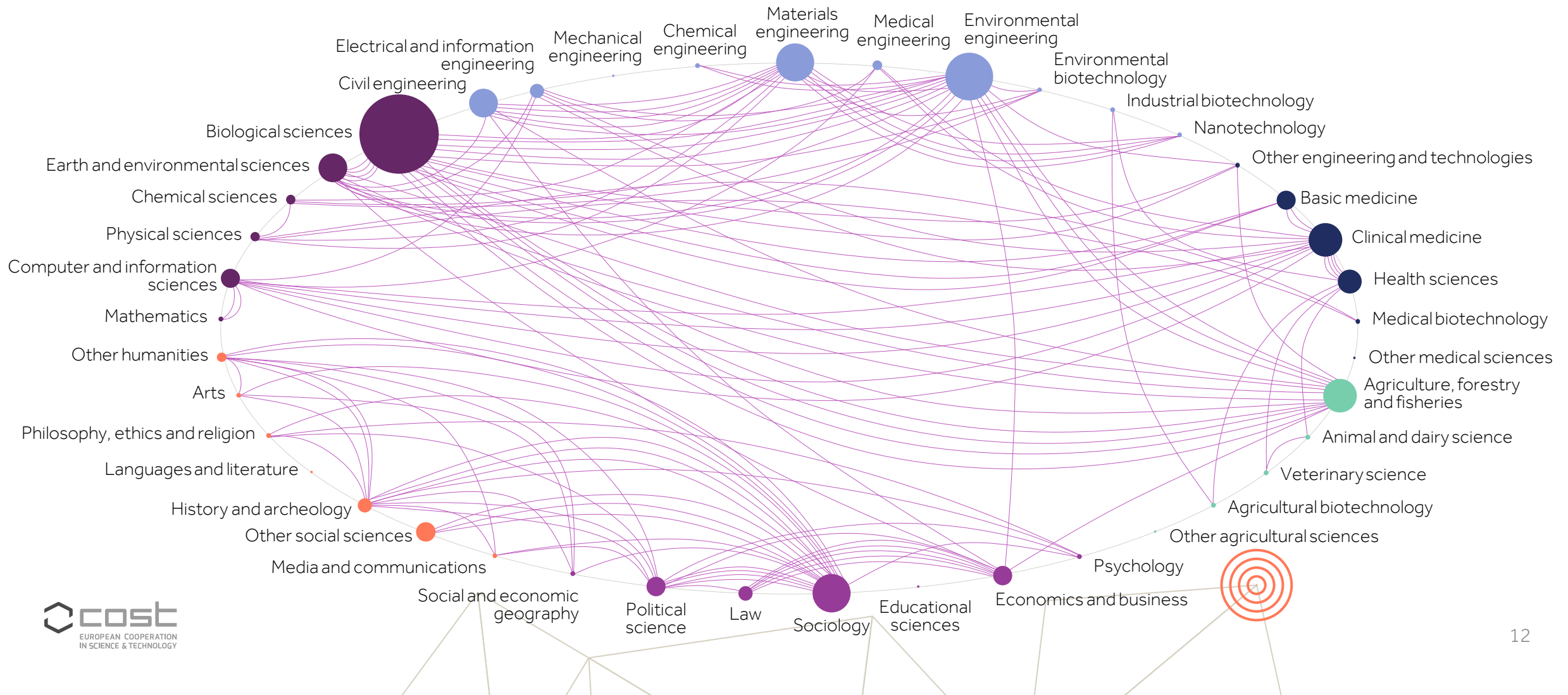
- COST Members
- COST Partner Member
- COST Near Neighbour Countries
- Third States/International Partner Countries

● South Africa	34
● Algeria	16
● Azerbaijan	18
● Belarus	***
● Egypt	15
● Faroe Islands	
● Jordan	18
● Kosovo*	36
● Lebanon	12
● Morocco	36
● Palestine**	7
● Russian Federation	***
● Syrian Arab Republic	1
● Tunisia	55

14	● Malaysia	2
69	● Nepal	1
1	● New Zealand	13
40	● Nigeria	3
63	● Pakistan	2
12	● Peru	2
30	● Republic of Rwanda	1
11	● Saudi Arabia	2
5	● Senegal	1
1	● Singapore	10
3	● South Korea	7
1	● Taiwan	2
2	● Uganda	1
13	● United Arab Emirates	4
8	● United States	211
47	● Uruguay	2
2	● Uzbekistan	1
2	● Venezuela	1
1	● Vietnam	2
11		

# Priority 2

FOSTERING INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH FOR BREAKTHROUGH SCIENCE



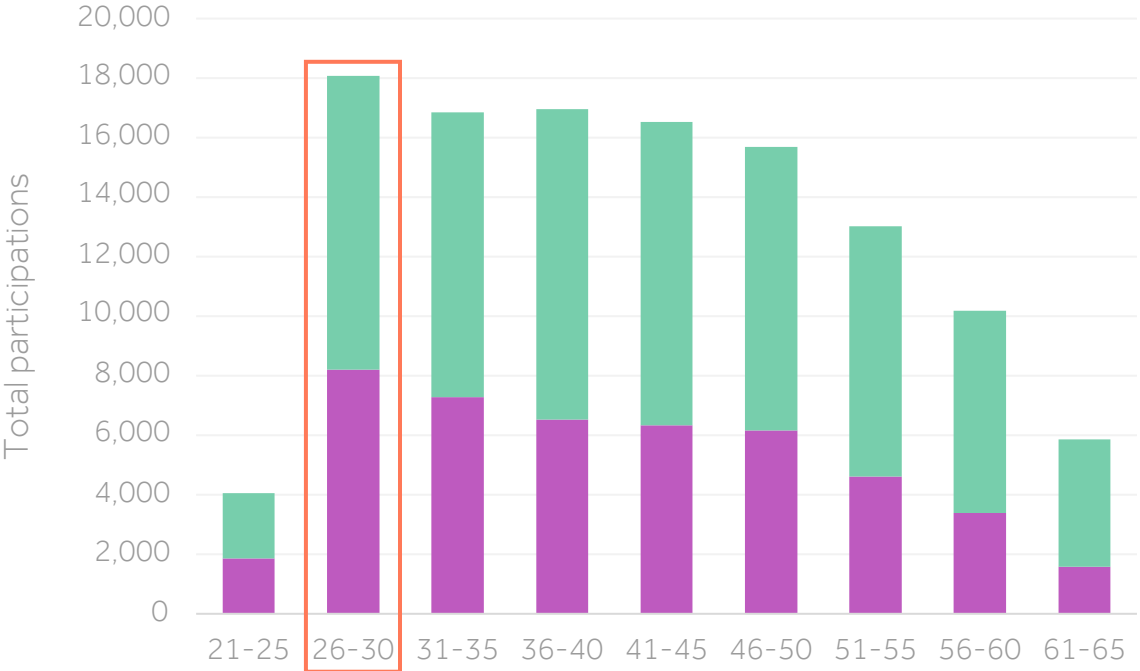


# Priority 3

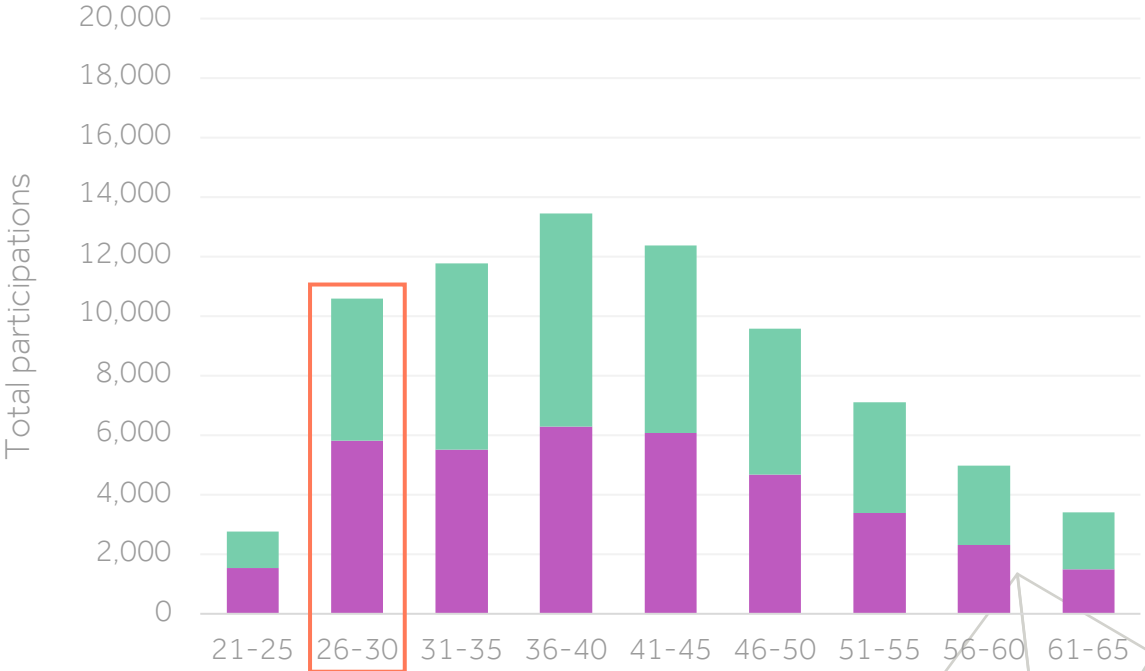
EMPOWERING AND RETAINING YOUNG RESEARCHERS

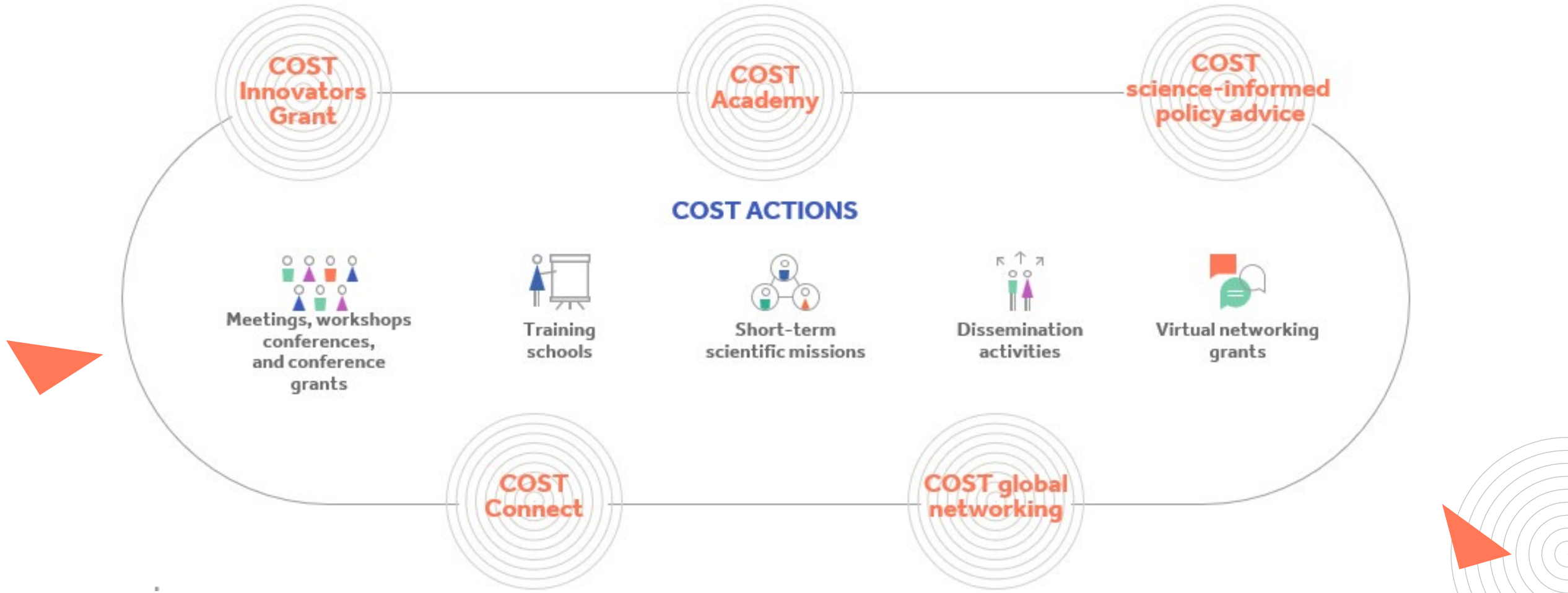
Data from Horizon 2020 (2014-2021)

Other Countries



Inclusiveness Target Countries





85% of researchers participating in COST Actions indicate that participation has led to career advancement.

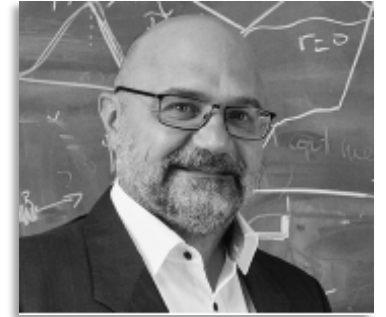
In the course of the Actions, co-publications between active COST Action participants see an increase of about 55% compared to general co-publications.

Horizon 2020 reported success rate lies at 39%. Yearly, around €390 million of approved common research projects spin off from ending Actions.

# Examples of COST Success Stories



- COST Action MP1304
- Running from 16/05/2013 - 24/11/2017
- **NewCompStar** - Exploring fundamental physics with compact stars
- On 10 April 2019, the world discovered the first-ever picture of a black hole in stunning detail



"Neutron stars like to become black holes," says Action Chair Prof. Luciano Rezzolla of Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany, who also played a prominent role in the collaboration that had presented the first-ever image of a black hole. "The two have a lot in common, and so the expertise that was developed and nurtured in NewCompStar also provided fertile ground for this imaging work."



# Examples of Polish Success Stories




- Involved in COST Actions on material sciences and smart textiles (CA16122, CA18125)
- Awarded an ERC Starting Grant on light and more efficient thermal insulation, based on fibrous membranes (1.6 million EUR).



"I am the first person to have received an ERC Grant at my university, and COST really helped me to get to that point. During the Action meetings, I found partners for European research projects, which greatly helped me to write the proposal"





# **Participation in a COST Action**

## **Tips & tricks to submit a COST Action proposal**

Dr Mickael Pero, COST Science Officer

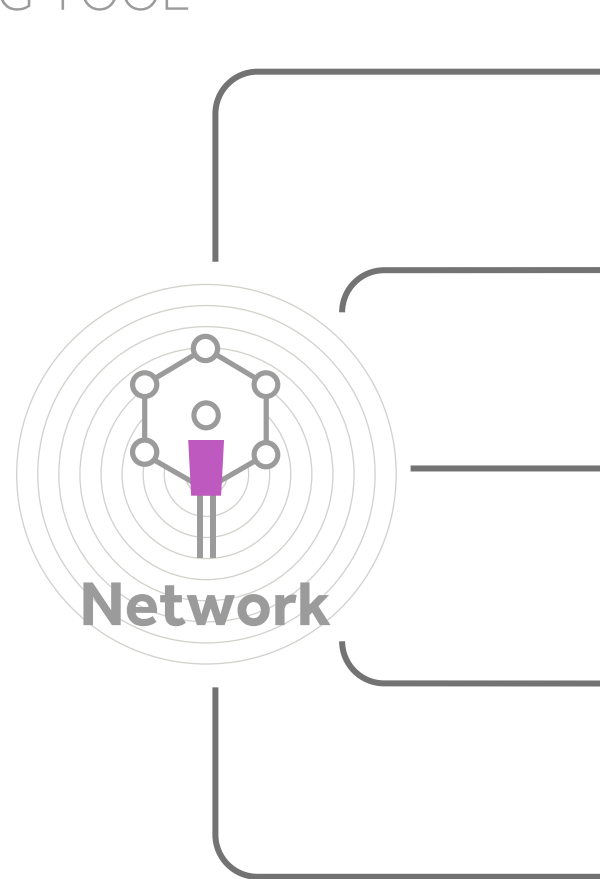


# COST Actions

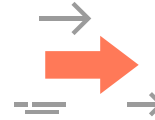
AN EFFICIENT NETWORKING TOOL

**COST provides funding**  
for research coordination  
and capacity building  
activities

COST is not funding  
research itself,  
but pooling resources  
and research results  
by networking



Memorandum  
of Understanding



4 years



Min 7 countries, average  
participation 30 countries

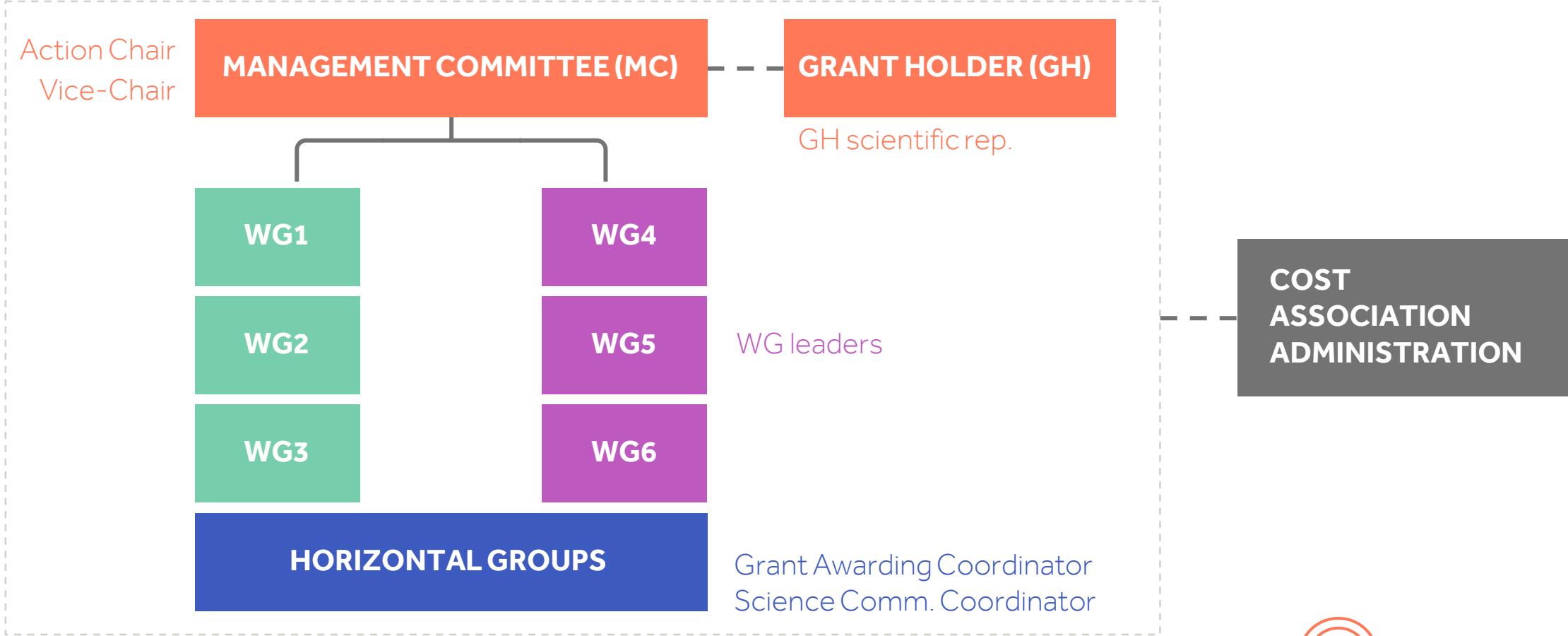


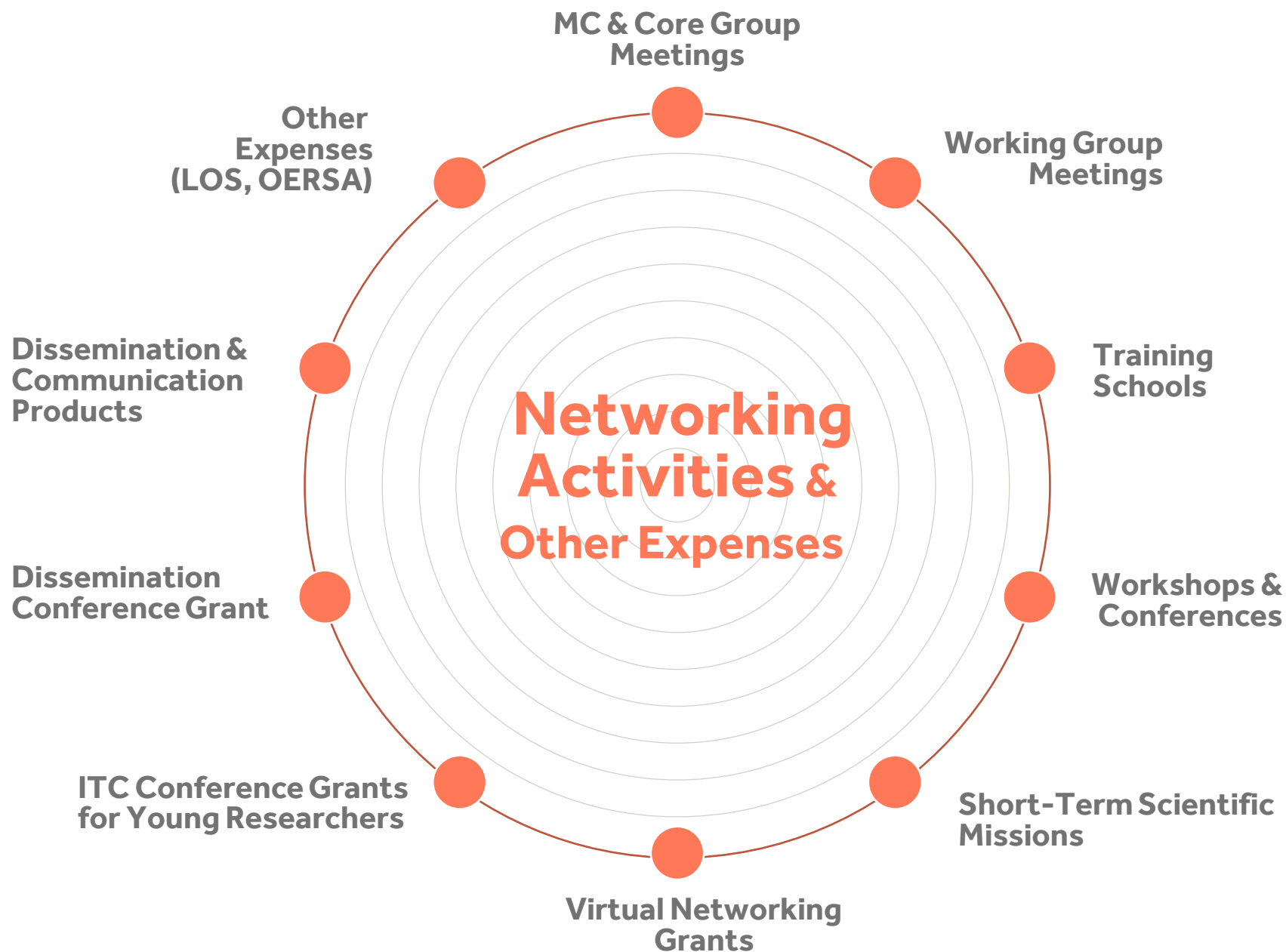
Research coordination  
and capacity building activities



~ €600,000 over lifetime

# COST ACTION STRUCTURE AND LEADERSHIP POSITIONS



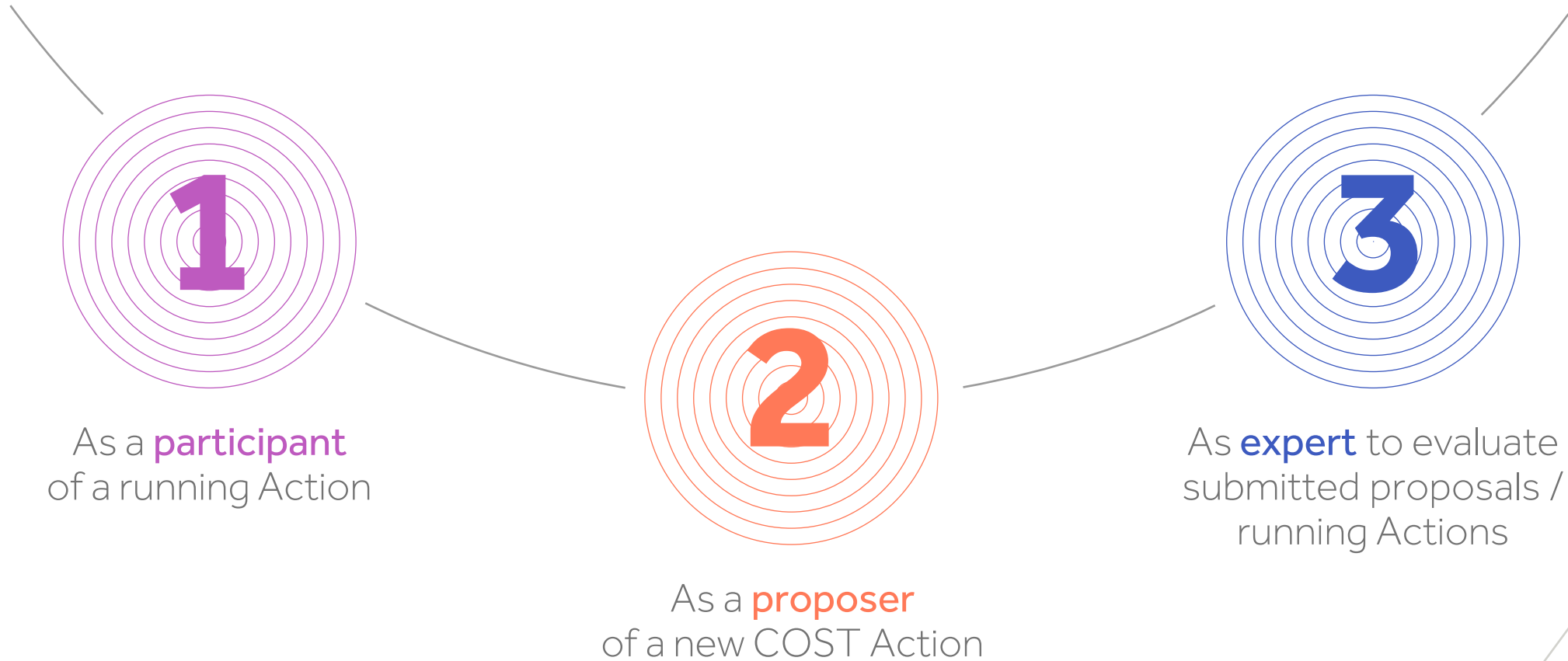


# How to engage with COST?



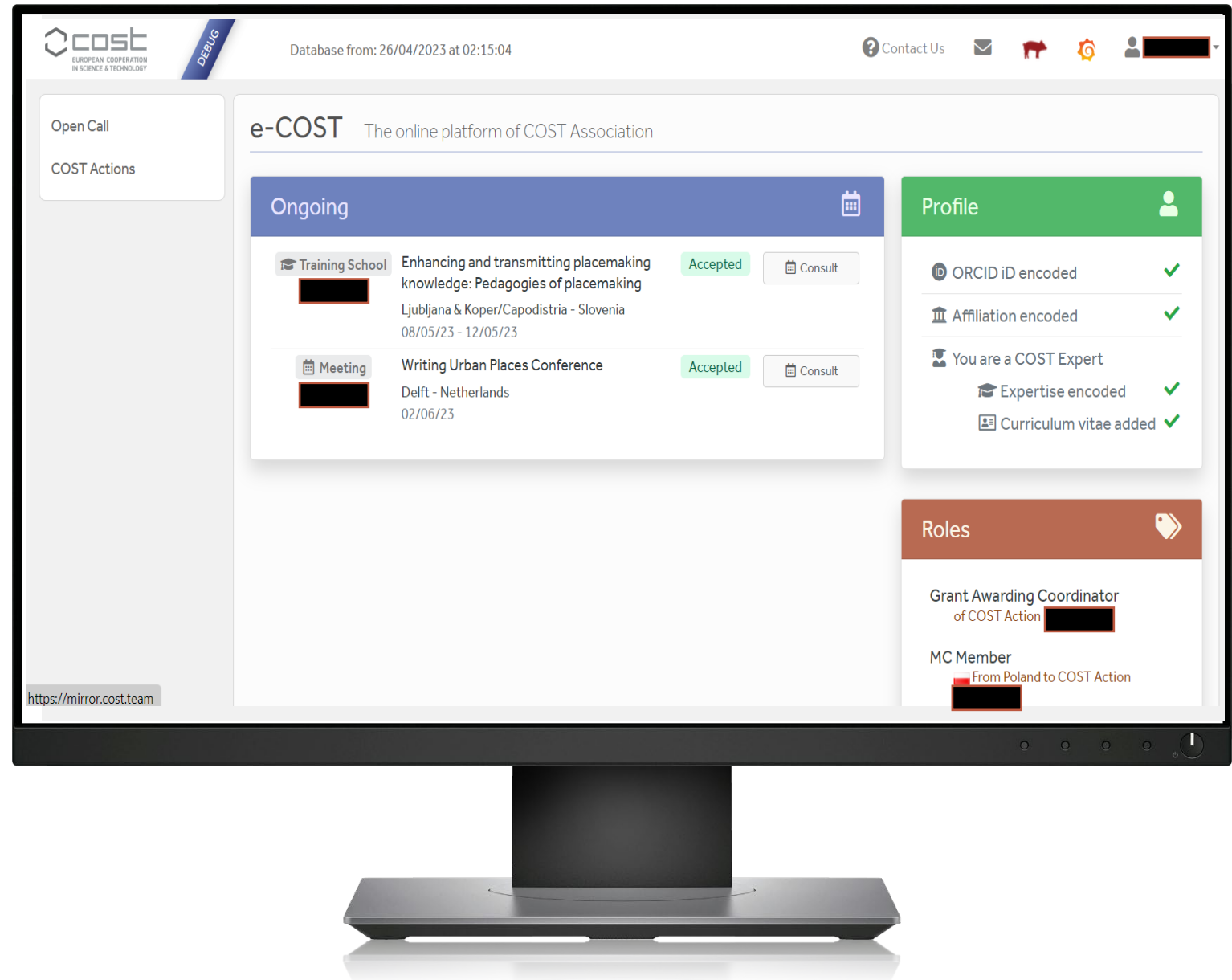


# How to engage with COST?

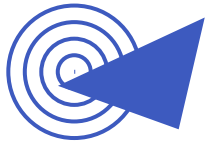


# COST online tool: e-COST

[www.cost.eu/ecost](https://www.cost.eu/ecost)



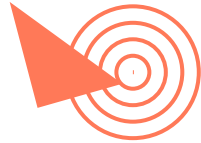
# As a participant in a running Action



## **FIND THE ACTION IN YOUR FIELD**

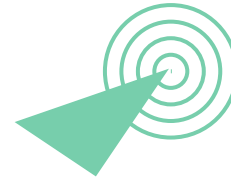
of interest on the  
COST website

([www.cost.eu](http://www.cost.eu))



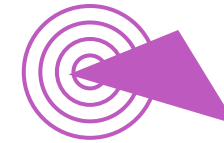
## **READ THE PROJECT PLAN**

(MoU) – identify  
your potential  
contribution



## **BROWSE THE ACTION'S OWN WEBSITE**

– check their  
activities



## **IDENTIFY THE OPPORTUNITIES**

to join the Action  
and your contact  
person



# As a participant in a running Action



## **AS A MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (MC) MEMBER**

(contact the COST National Coordinator)



## **AS A WORKING GROUP (WG) PARTICIPANT**

(contact the WG leader + submit WG application)



## **AS A PARTICIPANT IN ACTION ACTIVITIES**

short-term scientific mission, ITC conference grant, training school, workshop/conference,...

(check the Action's website, contact the chair or the national MC member)



# As proposer of a new COST Action

COST OPEN CALL



One-stage **online submission** of proposals (e-COST)

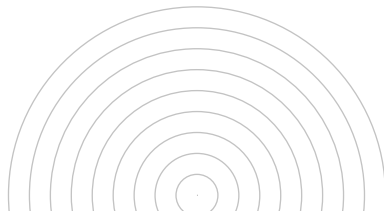
**Proposal should focus on** S&T Excellence, Networking Excellence, Impact and Implementation

**70 COST Actions** approved per collection

**Main** proposer + **secondary** proposer

**Collection date:**  
25 October 2023  
12:00 CET

[www.COST.eu](http://www.COST.eu)  
[opencall@cost.eu](mailto:opencall@cost.eu)





# Proposals



## GENERAL FEATURES



## TECHNICAL ANNEX

([www.cost.eu](http://www.cost.eu))

1. S&T Excellence
2. Networking Excellence
3. Impact
4. Implementation



## NETWORK OF PROPOSERS



## COST EXCELLENCE AND INCLUSIVENESS POLICY SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

# Evaluation

SESA



## ELIGIBILITY!

- Anonymous
- Minimum 50% ITC
- Peaceful purpose
- Format
- English

### STEP 1

#### EXTERNAL REMOTE EVALUATION

- 3 Independent External Experts
- Technical Annex

### STEP 2

#### REVISION AND QUALITY CHECK BY REVIEW PANELS

### STEP 3

#### SELECTION BY THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

COST policy and objectives

### STEP 4

#### APPROVAL BY COST COMMITTEE OF SENIOR OFFICIALS

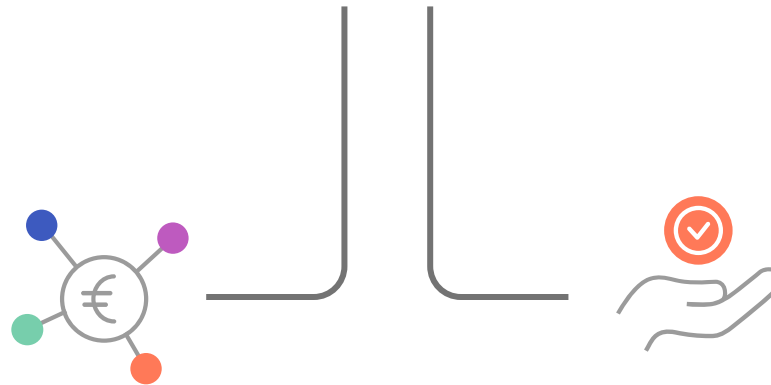
Results 7-8 months after submission



# As external 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

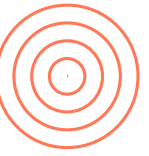


# Networking activities funded within COST Actions

Ms Jeannette Nchung Oru, COST Administrative Officer



# What can be funded by COST?



Networking activities

Other expenses specifically supporting the Action

Events

Mobility of  
Researchers &  
Innovators

External Conferences

Dissemination &  
Communication Products

Expenses  
for the  
benefit of  
the  
network

Meetings

Training  
Schools

STSMs

Virtual  
Mobility

ITC Conference

Dissemination  
Conference

# Events



## Funding

### Meetings

- Management Committee Meetings
- Working Group Meetings
- Workshop / Conference

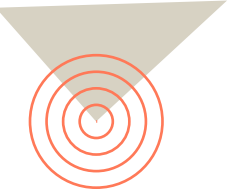
### Training Schools

- Capacity building and Research Coordination
- Trainers / Trainees

Participants get reimbursed the expenses incurred for attending COST events

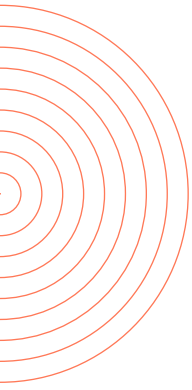


# Short-Term Scientific Mission (STSM)



## WHAT:

- Exchange visits aimed at supporting individual mobility, strengthening existing networks, fostering collaboration between COST Action participants
- Build capacity
- More than 90% of STSMs take place in COST countries, but can take place anywhere in the world



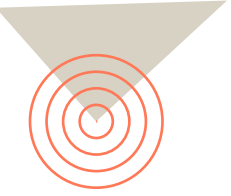
## WHERE:

To a host organisation located in a **different** country than the country of affiliation

## Grant AMOUNT:

Up to 4000 EUR,  
paid after report approval  
(after the STSM)

# ITC or Dissemination Conference Grants



## WHAT:

- Consists in a presentation of the own work given by a Young Researcher affiliated in an Inclusiveness Target Country / Near Neighbour Country for their participation in high-level conferences
- ITC Conference Grants support Young Researchers, establish a strong network and increase the visibility of the Action



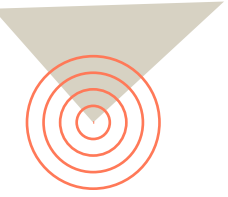
## WHERE:

To a high-level conference  
not organised by the Action itself

## Grant AMOUNT:

Up to 2000 EUR or 500 EUR (virtual),  
paid after report approval

# Virtual Mobility (VM) Grant

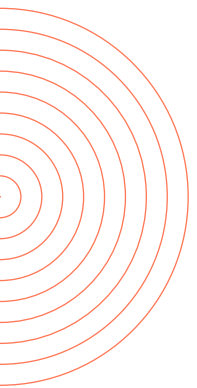


## WHAT:

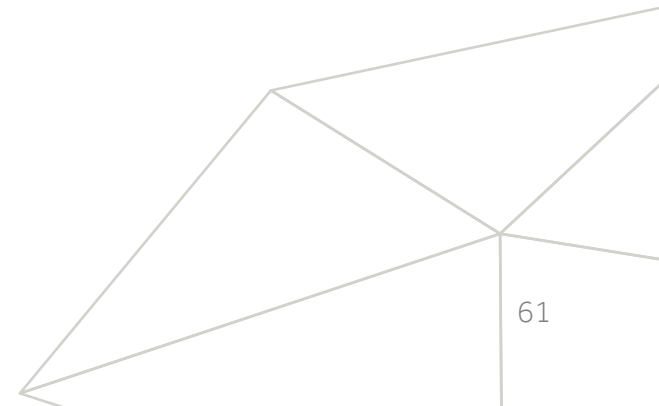
A collaboration in a virtual setting among Action researchers or innovators to exchange knowledge, learn new techniques, etc.

## Grant AMOUNT:

Up to 1500 EUR,  
paid after report approval (after the VM)



■





## Dissemination and Communication Products



- Increase visibility, awareness and impact of COST Actions
- Make widely available the results of COST Actions to all types of potential users in COST Members and beyond



### WHAT CAN BE FUNDED

1. Scientific publication (Open Access)
2. Action website & logo
3. Dissemination / information materials
4. Multimedia
5. Booth at a conference



### USERS

- Action participants and COST Actions receive funding for promoting their work and activities
- **Researchers outside the network and stakeholders**, e.g., practitioners, policy makers, citizens, businesses, etc.
- **General public** is informed about scientific progress
- Potential to showcase the value of investing in EU Cooperation in Research



# Benefits of participating in a COST Action

Dr Gintarė Pocė, COST Action representative,  
COREnet (CA20107)





# About me

- Sociologist
- PhD awarded in 2020
- Researcher at Vytautas Magnus University in Lithuania
- Research areas: religion and media, religious diversity, discourse analysis, religion and migration, religion and gender
- COST Action COREnet's Science Communication Coordinator



The COST Action 'Connecting Theory and Practical Issues of Migration and Religious Diversity' (COREnet) is an interdisciplinary network that aims to produce, exchange and build knowledge and collaborations across Europe on the topic of migration and religious diversity.

We seek to better explain, understand and analyse the pertinent issues and challenges, and, moreover, to forward viable solutions to support migrants, migration and religious diversity in an inclusive Europe.

Visit [corenetcost.eu](https://corenetcost.eu) and find us in social media @COST Action COREnet.

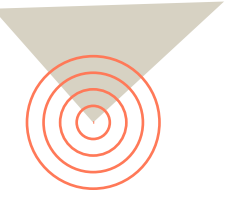


# Corenet aims to:

- Create arenas where researchers and practitioners can meet, discuss, and collaborate.
- Establish settings where researchers, practitioners and policymakers, together, can develop ideas that improve the integration of migrants into host societies.
- Provide platforms for European research alliances.
- Create a cross-European repository of data collection and research, including links to relevant websites and tools allowing for cross-country analysis.

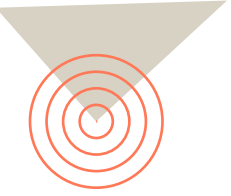


# Benefits of participating in a COST Action



- New contacts
- New relationships
- New knowledge
- Professional development
- Personal development
- New career perspectives

# New relationships



NEW CONTACTS = NEW COLLABORATIONS

- Researchers
- Academics
- Stakeholders, practitioners

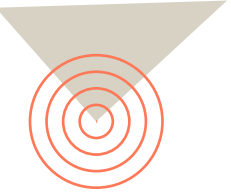
NEW COLLABORATIONS THAT LEAD TO:

- New project proposals
- Co-authorships for scientific publications
- New initiatives

HOW ARE NEW COLLABORATIONS MADE?

- Face-to-face, online meetings
- Survey -> database about Action's participants' research areas
- Other Action activities (Short-Term Scientific Mission, Training School, Narrative Café, COST workshop, etc.)

# New knowledge



## IMPLEMENTING ACTION GOALS, TASKS AND ACTIVITIES

- Creating new knowledge

## UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENT CONTEXTS

- Understanding of what is going on in different countries

## SHARING INFORMATION

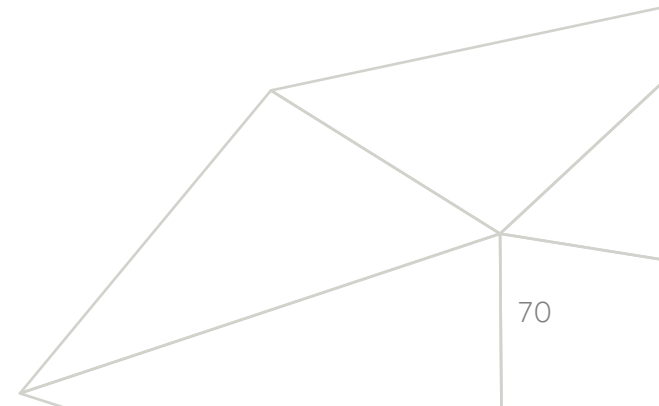
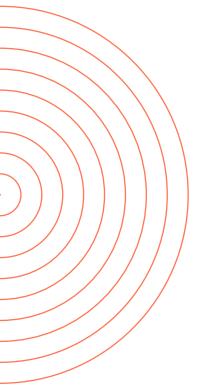
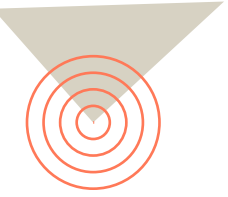
- Sharing information on Action's members' latest research, events, reports, etc.

# Professional development

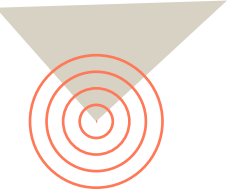
WORKING ON NEW KNOWLEDGE

LEARNING FROM EXPERTS OF THEIR FIELD

HOLDING LEADERSHIP POSITIONS



# Personal development



YOU LEARN HOW TO WORK AND COMMUNICATE IN BIG TEAMS

YOU IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE ON HOW TO:

- Start a new project or initiative
- How to mobilise people for work
- How to motivate them
- Manage the resources (finance, people, etc.)
- Be better at time management

# New career perspectives

NEW CONTACTS

NEW KNOWLEDGE/EXPERTISE

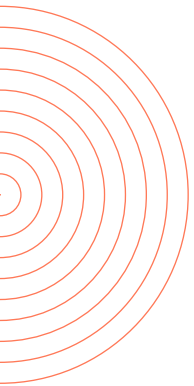
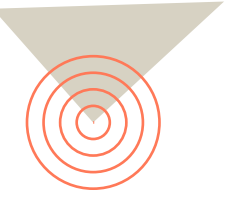
EXPERIENCE IN LEADERSHIP POSITION

CAN

IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS

AND

BRING ATTENTION TO YOU AS A RESEARCHER





# Thank you!

Dr Gintarė Pocė  
[gintare.poce@vdu.lt](mailto:gintare.poce@vdu.lt)

Facebook: Gintarė Pocė

COST Action COREnet (CA20107)  
[COREnetCOST.eu](http://COREnetCOST.eu)



# Q & A

Contact email: [events@cost.eu](mailto:events@cost.eu)



# Thank you!

