Séance d'information HES-SO sur les Actions COST et SPIRIT du FNS

Stephanie Hoppeler

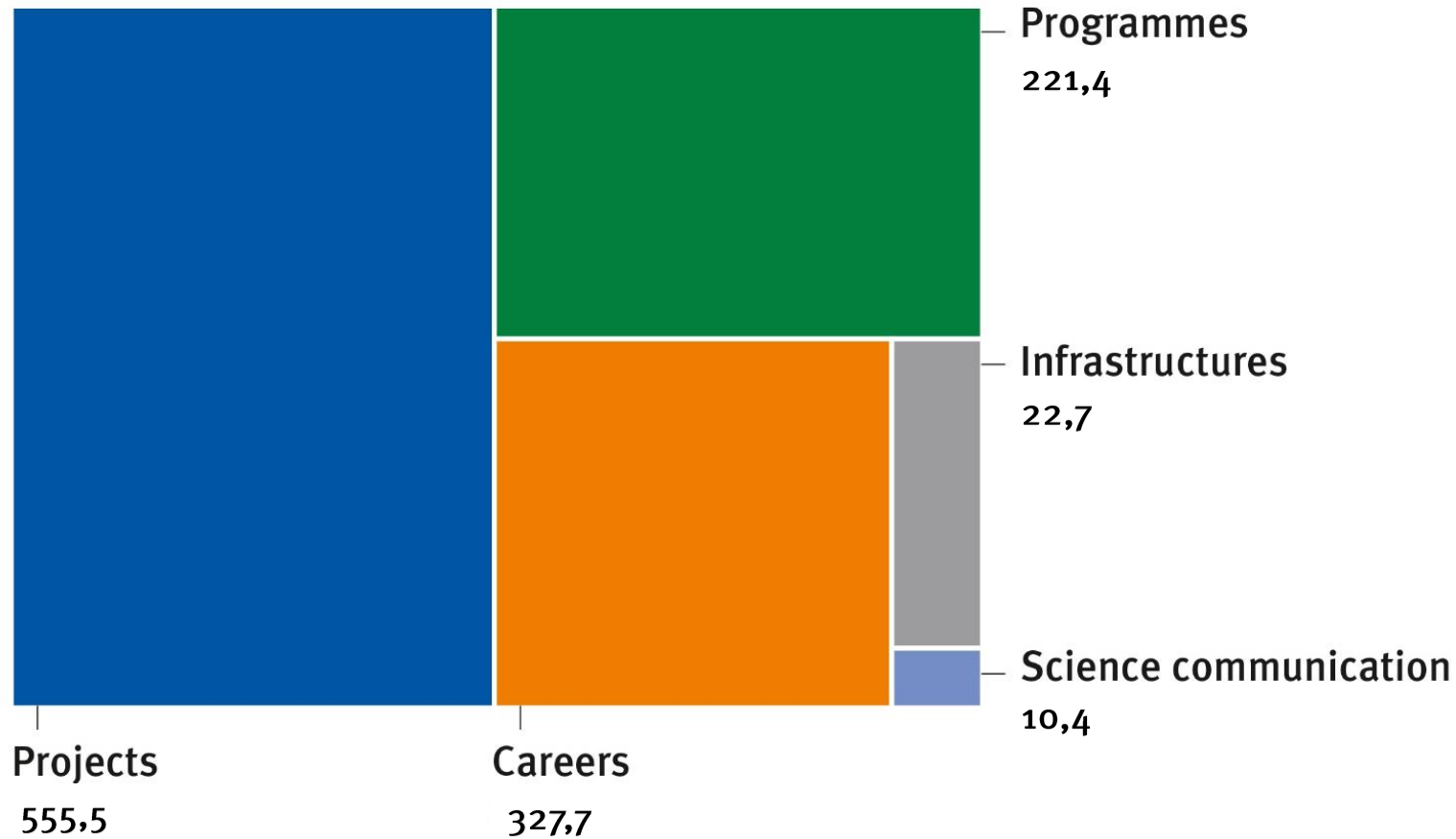Georges Klein

Contents

- The SNSF

- SNSF international co-operation strategy

- Funding schemes
  - Projects
  - Supplementary measures
  - Careers
  - Programmes
  - Infrastructures
  - Science communication

Research creates knowledge.

Mandate of the Confederation to the SNSF

The SNSF focuses on the funding of:

- excellent research projects

- highly qualified young researchers

- research infrastructures which serve the development of fields of expertise in Switzerland and which are not within the remit of the higher education research centres or the Confederation

- international research cooperation in accordance with the Confederation's relevant goals and measures

The SNSF in figures

Funding by scheme
Approved amounts in CHF and as
share of total funding amount

Programmes
221,4

Infrastructures
22,7

Science communication
10,4

Projects
555,5

Careers
327,7

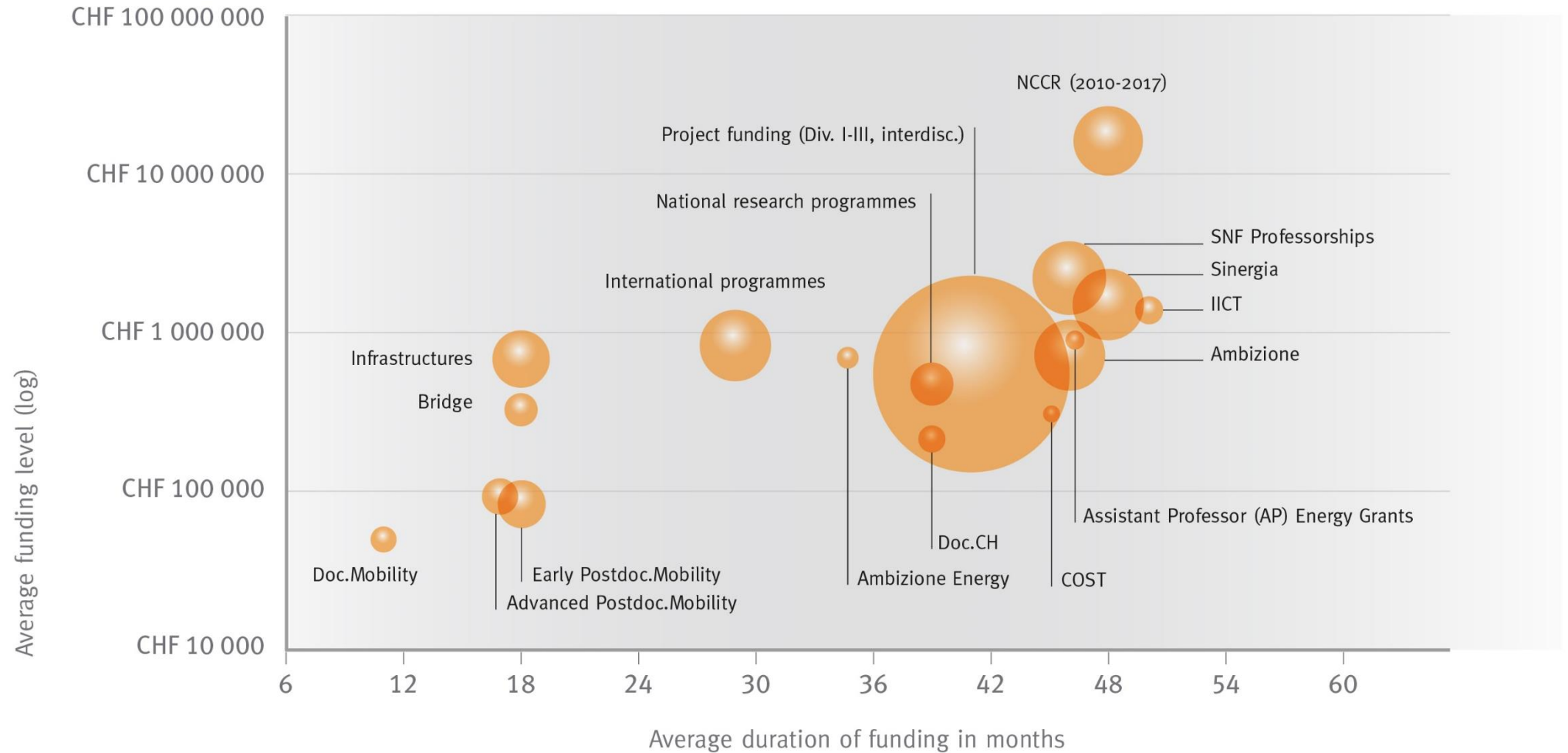**1,138**
CHF million

16,300
Researchers in projects

Switzerland – Key facts

International higher education and research

- 25% of students are from abroad

- 55% of PhD candidates are from abroad

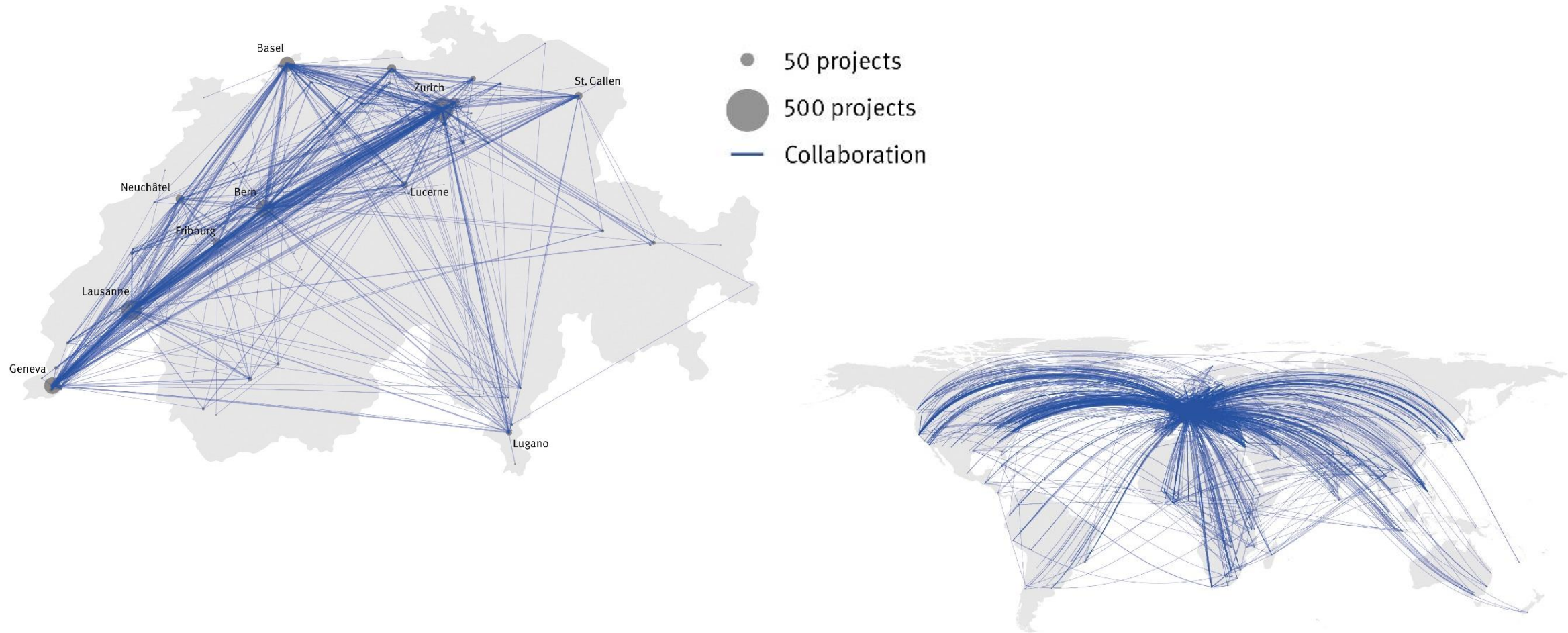- 39% of teaching staff at universities are from abroad

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Approved funding – average grant amount and duration by funding scheme

Average funding level (log)

CHF 100 000 000
CHF 10 000 000
CHF 1 000 000
CHF 100 000
CHF 10 000

NCCR (2010-2017)

Project funding (Div. I-III, interdisc.)

National research programmes

SNF Professorships
Sinergia
IICT

International programmes

Ambizione

Infrastructures

Bridge

Assistant Professor (AP) Energy Grants

Doc.CH

Early Postdoc.Mobility
Doc.Mobility

Ambizione Energy

COST

Advanced Postdoc.Mobility

Average duration of funding in months

6   12   18   24   30   36   42   48   54   60

Data 2017

Collaboration at Swiss and international level

50 projects
500 projects
— Collaboration

Data 2017

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SNSF international co-operation

International cooperation

Joint projects with international partners
218

Network activities*
1297

Fellowships abroad
453

USA

478 · 1108 · 76 · **Germany**

124 · 642 · 171 · **UK**

*Network activities are, for example, information exchanges, joint publications and the sharing of infrastructures. Such international network activities are carried out within the scope of joint projects with international partners and fellowships abroad, as well as in many other SNSF projects.

280 · 635 · 65 · **France**

89 · 318 · 21 · **Italy**

43 · 218 · 45 · **Canada**

Ongoing SNSF projects

6,500

62 · 198 · 35 · **Netherlands**

77 · 165 · 15 · **Austria**

32 · 148 · 26 · **Australia**

50 · 139 · 19 · **Spain**
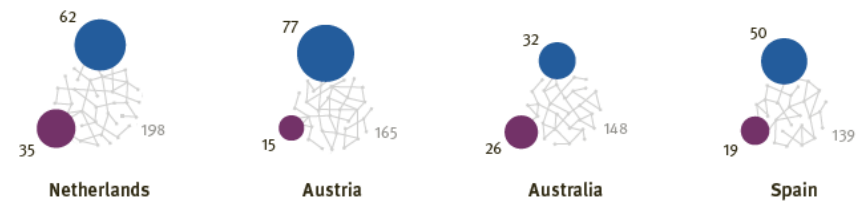
International cooperation strategy

Objectives of the SNSF's international cooperation activities

- **Global approach**: connect researchers globally

- **Multilateral knowledge transfer**: promote brain circulation and the resulting exchange of ideas

- **Academic freedom**: support the principle of research freedom

Research creates knowledge.

International cooperation strategy

Basic principles

- Scientific excellence

- Free choice of topics, interdisciplinary collaboration and scientific autonomy

- High ethical standards

- Simple procedures and multilateral approaches, including international collaboration and mobility into regular research funding whenever possible

- Free access to publications and data

Funding: international mobility

With any country:

Mobility grants in project funding (PhD students)

Mobility fellowships
Doc.Mobility, Postdoc.Mobility

Scientific Exchanges
Short and mid-term individual mobility grants

Money follows researcher
Continuation of SNSF project abroad

Data: Fellowships by Host Country (2005-2017). p3.snf.ch

Funding: international research collaboration

With any country:

Project partners in SNSF-funded projects can be based abroad (up to 20% of the project budget); lead-agency, Intl. Co-Investigator Scheme

Sinergia (max. 1 applicant abroad among 3-4 applicants)

Specific:

International programmes
(e.g. bilateral programmes)

SPIRIT

Data: Collaboration by Country (2001-2017). p3.snf.ch

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Programmes for international collaboration

Bilateral programmes of the Swiss Confederation
Bilateral research cooperation programmes with Argentina, Brazil, China, India, Japan, Russia, South Africa and South Korea

Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development (r4d programme)
Joint funding initiative by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the SNSF

Participation in multilateral research Initiatives
COST, ERA-NETs, Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs), etc.

Research creates knowledge.

Growing
ideas
through
networks

COST
European Cooperation in Science and Technology

Georges Klein (Swiss COST representative)

Contents

- COST

- COST Actions & ways for scientists to get involved

- What the SNSF offers: support & funding for projects

What is COST?

2 instruments:

- COST Actions

  -> international

- COST Projects

  -> in Switzerland

What is COST?

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

- **The three strategic priorities:**
  1) Promoting and spreading excellence
  2) Fostering interdisciplinary research for breakthrough science
  3) Empowering and retaining young researchers and innovators

- COST funds bottom-up, excellence-driven, open and inclusive **networks (=Actions)** for peaceful purposes in all areas of science and technology. COST only funds networking activities

- COST itself is mainly funded by H2020 with €300M for 7 years and managed by the COST Administration in Brussels

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COST – over 45 years supporting collaborations

COST Association:

- ## 38 Full 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

- ## Near Neighbour Countries

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

  *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.
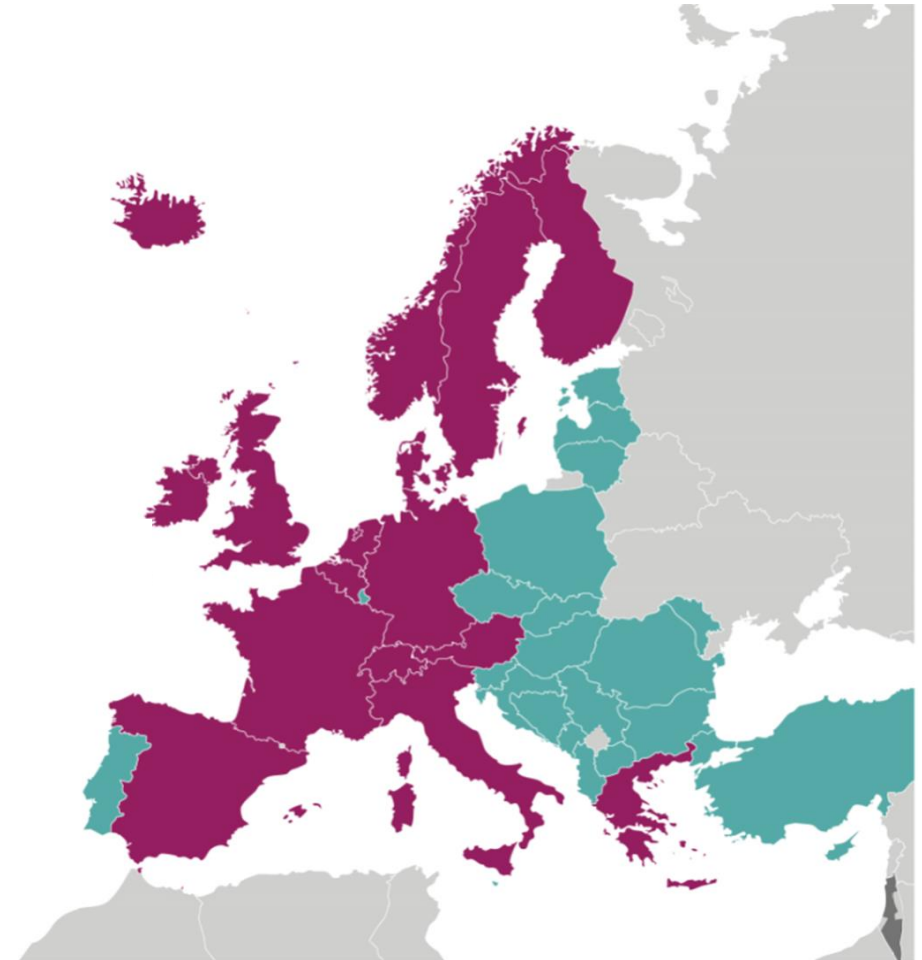
- COST Full Members
- COST Full Members (ITCs)
- COST Cooperating member

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What is a COST Action?

COST Actions

- Support networks collaborating on a topic of interest to at least 7 Full/Coop. Members (50% ITC)

- last 4 years based on a common Memorandum of Understanding

- have each ~ EUR 130'000 funding per year

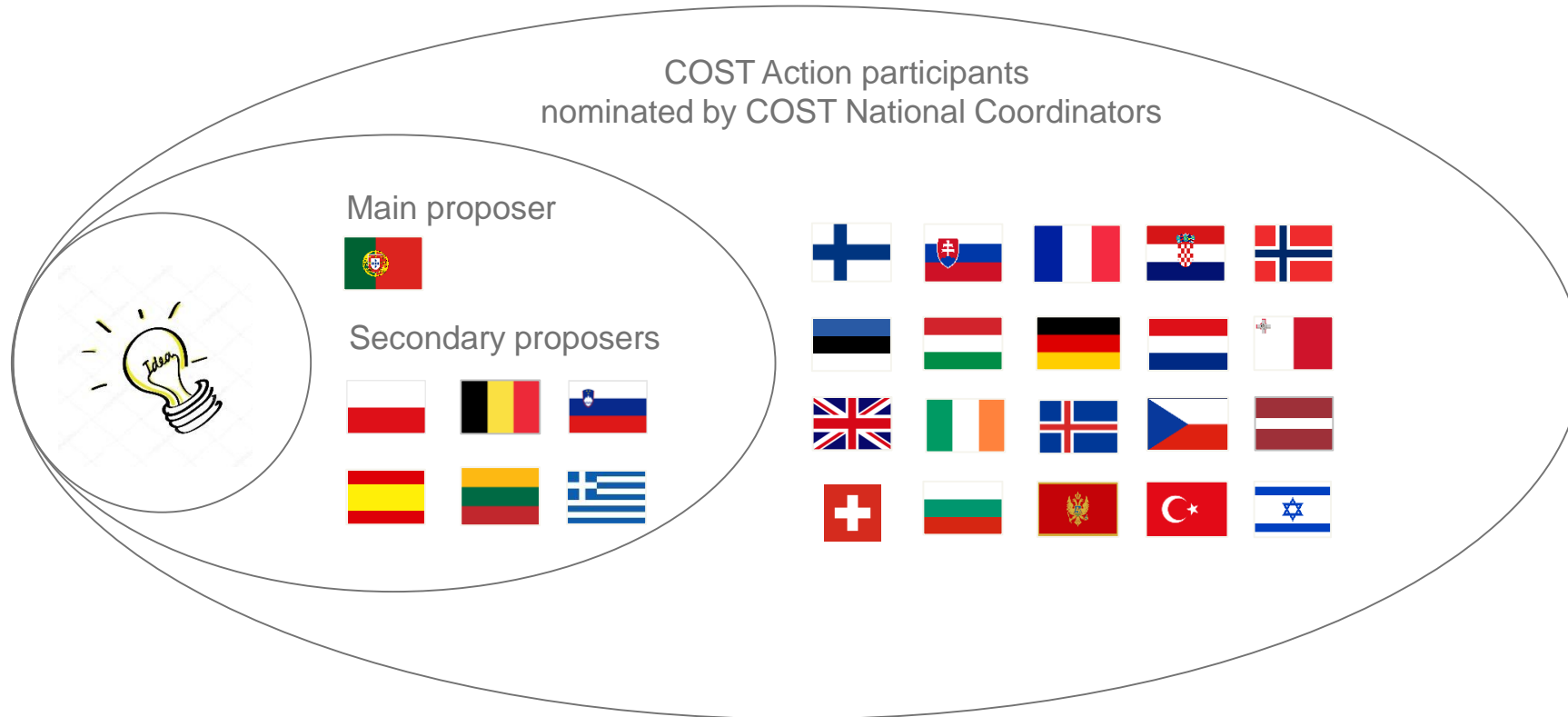- involve on average 28 Member countries

A COST Action is open to all

- researchers, scientists, scholars and innovators of all career stages

- science and technology fields (including SSH)

- institutions (academia, public institutions, SME/industry, NGO, European/international organisations, etc.)

- COST Members and non-COST Members on the basis of mutual benefit

International Partner Countries

How it works?

COST Action participants
nominated by COST National Coordinators

Main proposer
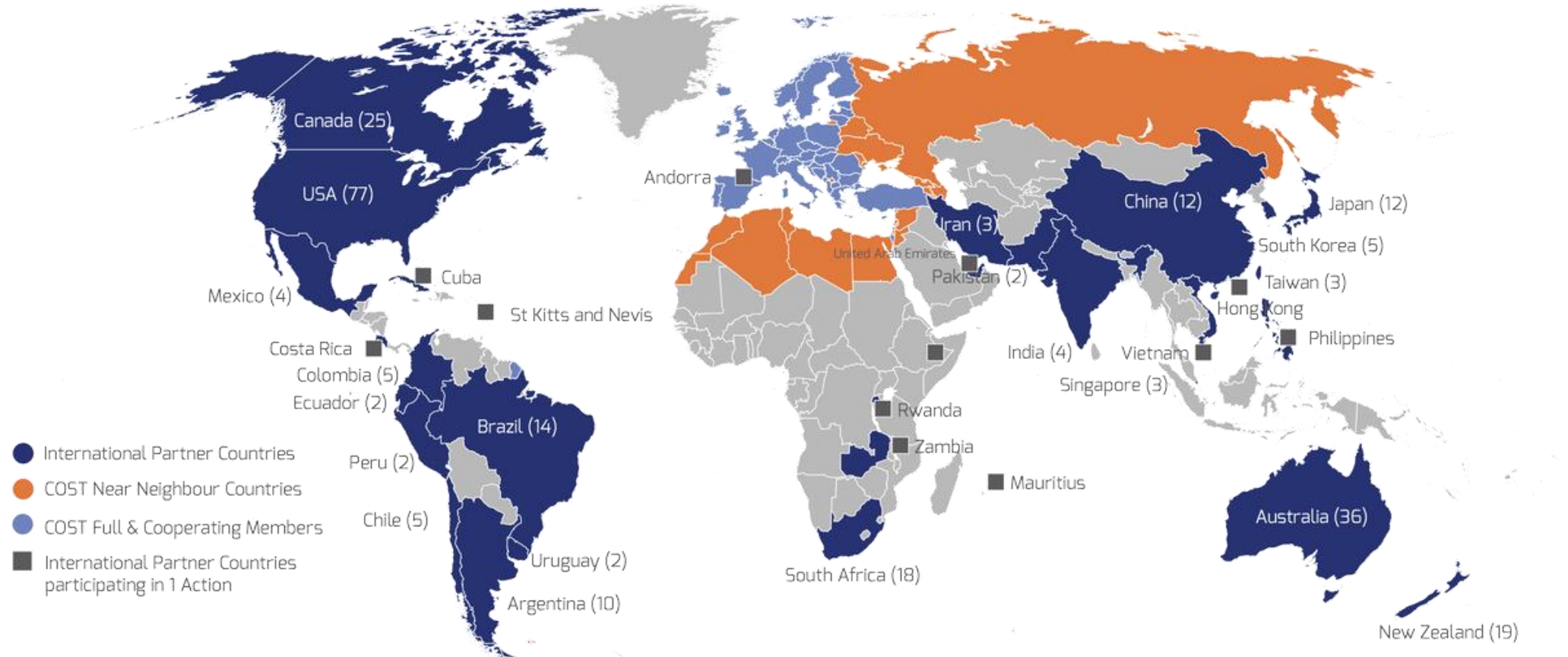
Secondary proposers

Currently 90% of all ongoing Actions have a Swiss-based participant

Networking tools

Research coordination & Capacity building objectives

Management Committee meetings

Working Group meetings

Conferences

Training Schools

Dissemination

Scientific missions
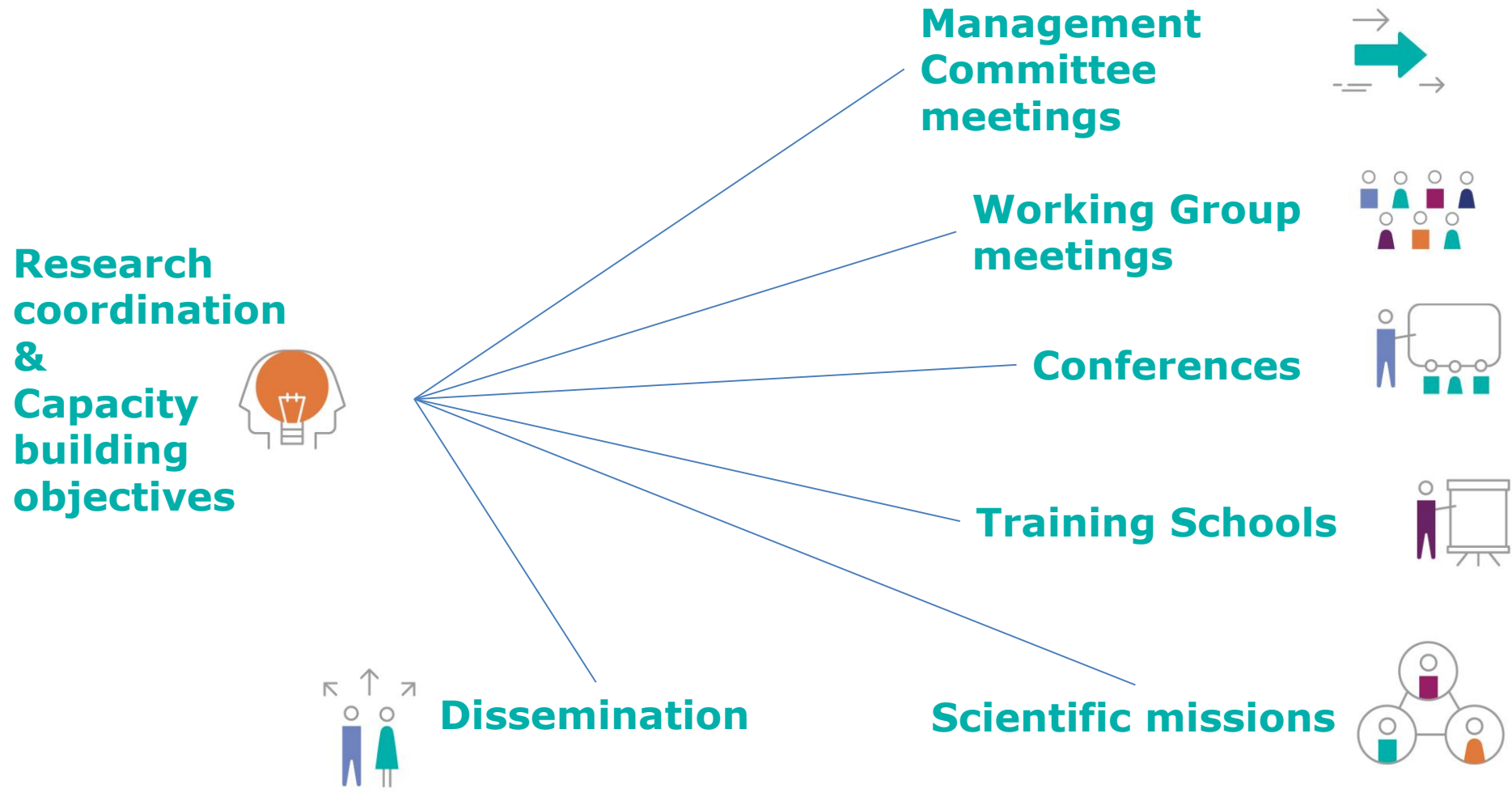
Implementing COST's Strategic Priorities

COST key figures of 2018

291 → 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)
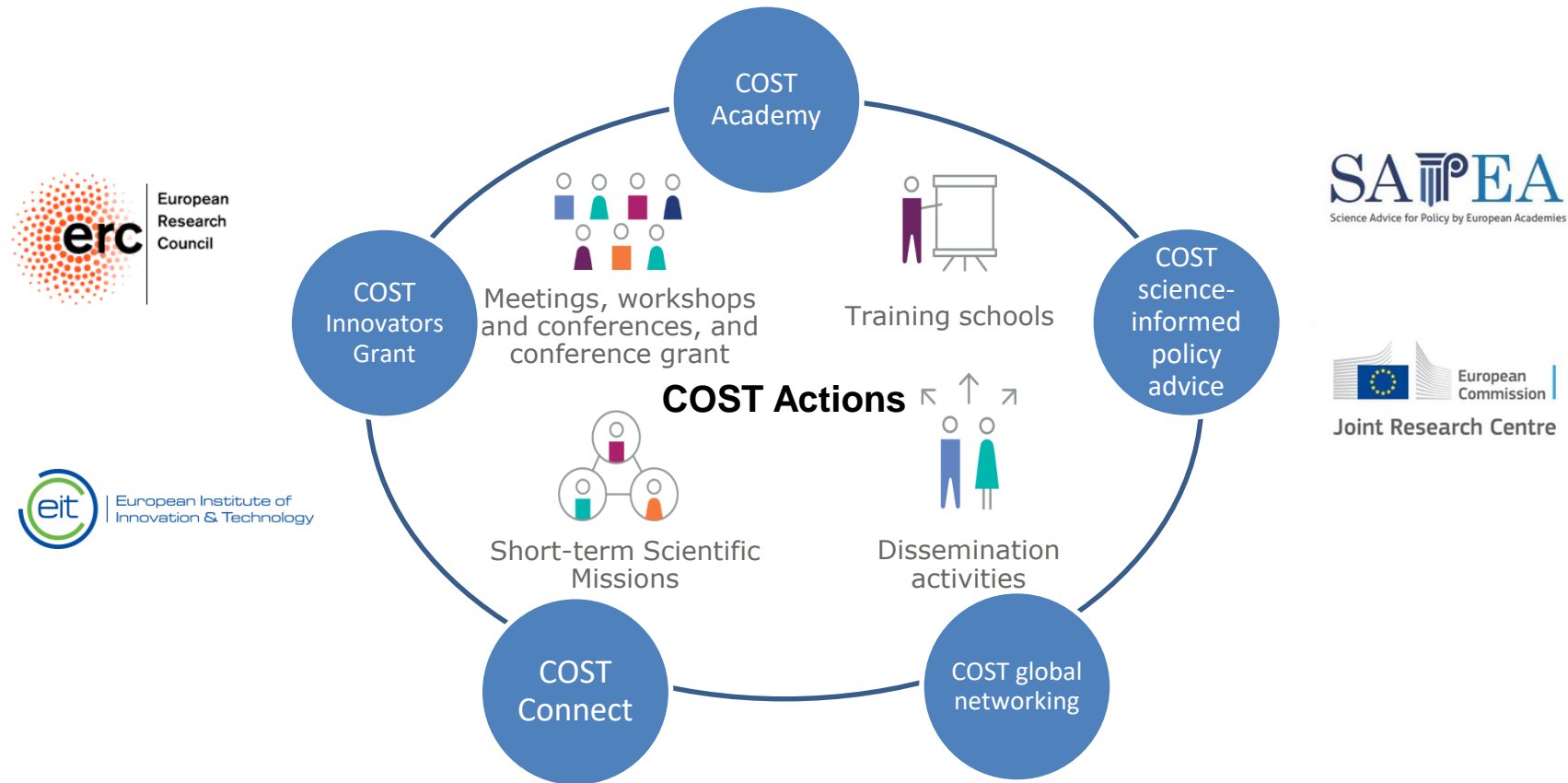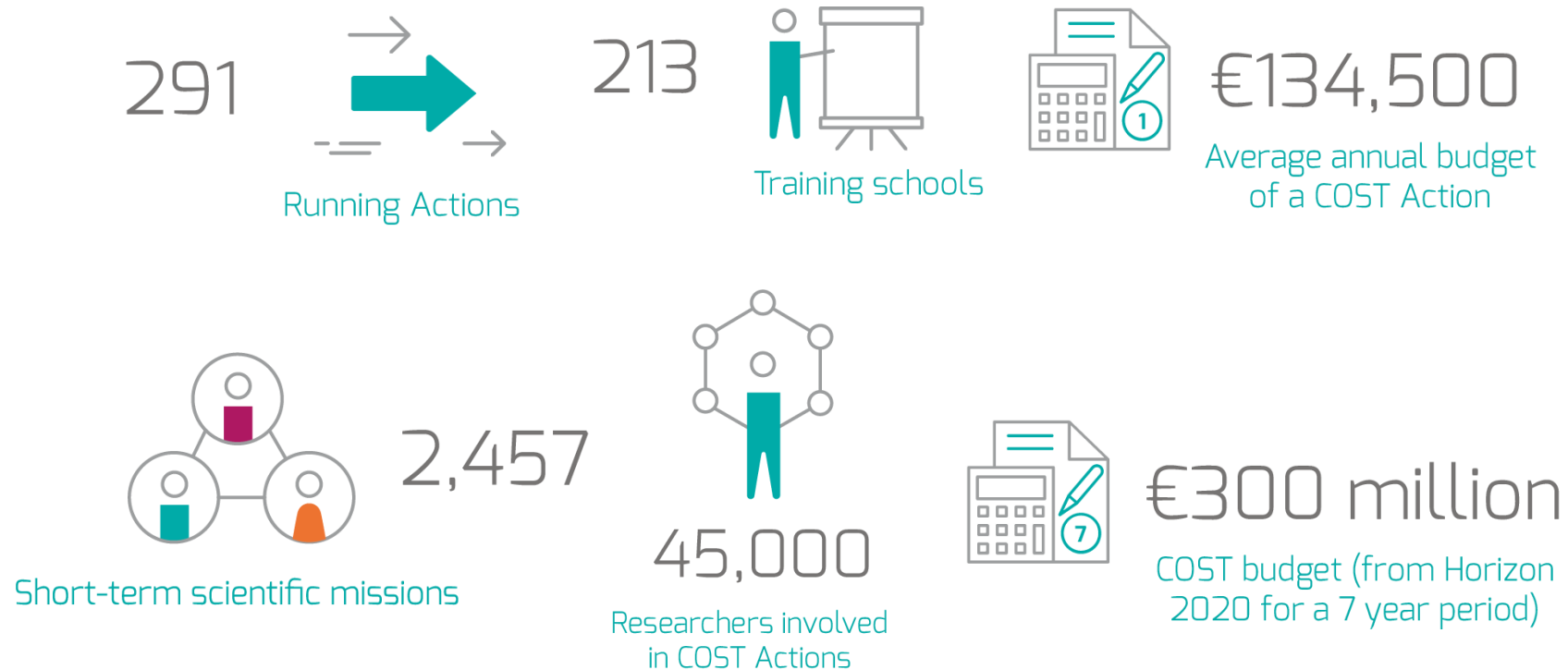
COST: THE networking tool in the ERA and the pre-portal to other funding schemes

COST Action Structure & Positions

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (MC)

GRANT HOLDER (GH)

Action Chair
Vice Chair

GH Scientific Rep.

WG1
WG2
WG3
WG4
WG5
WG6

WG leaders

Horizontal groups

STSM coordinator
Scientific Com. Manager

COST Administration
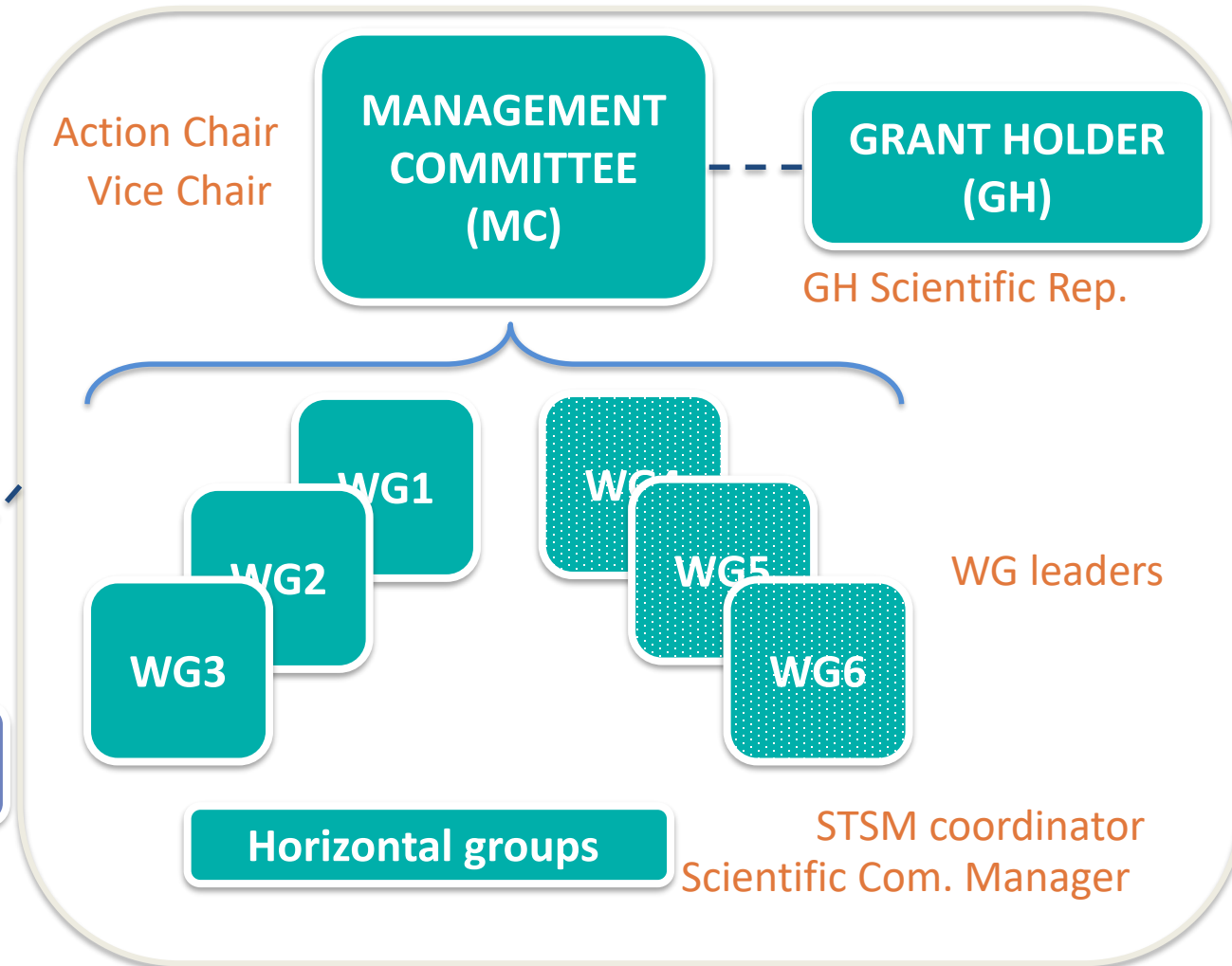
Positions per country

- 2 MC positions

- 3 MC substitutes

- Collaborator of MC
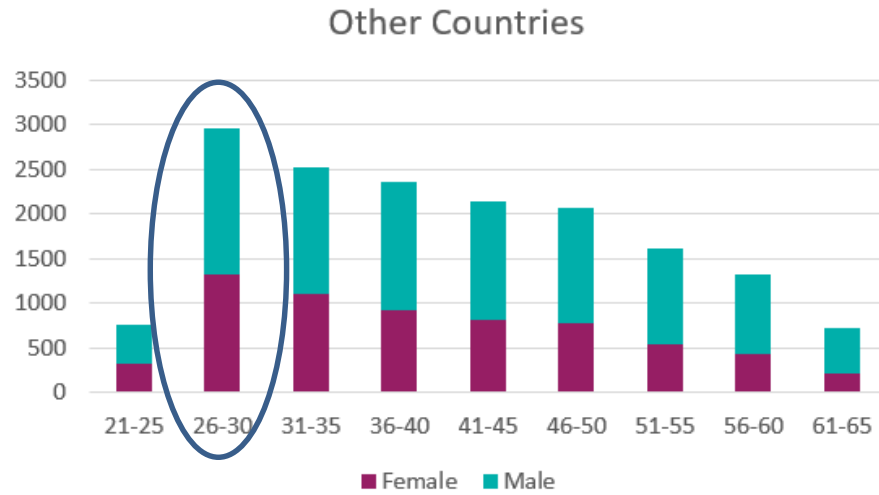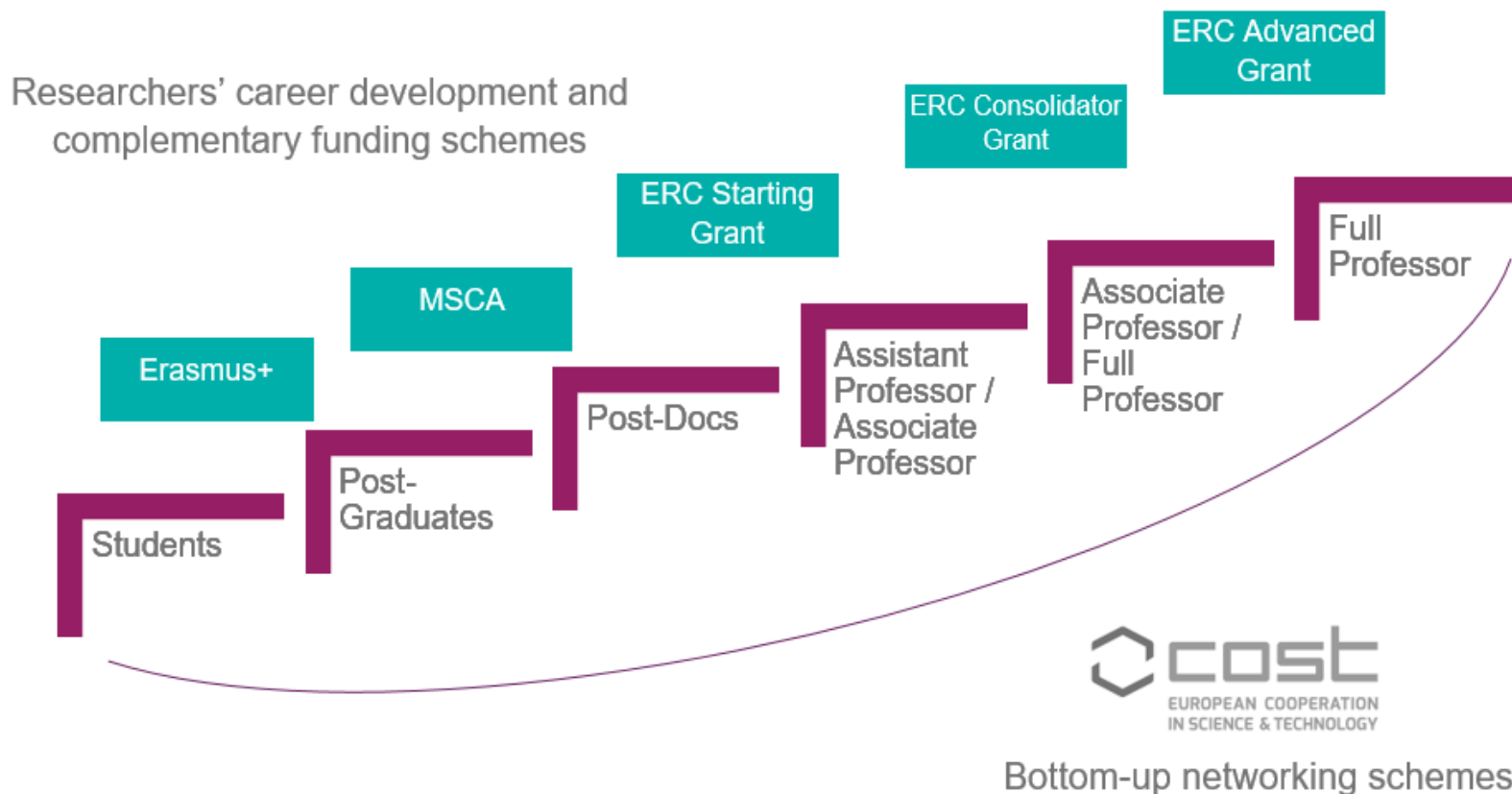
- Evaluation panel

Promoting and spreading excellence

Average participation in COST Actions, ITCs and other countries

■ Other countries   ■ Inclusiveness Target Countries
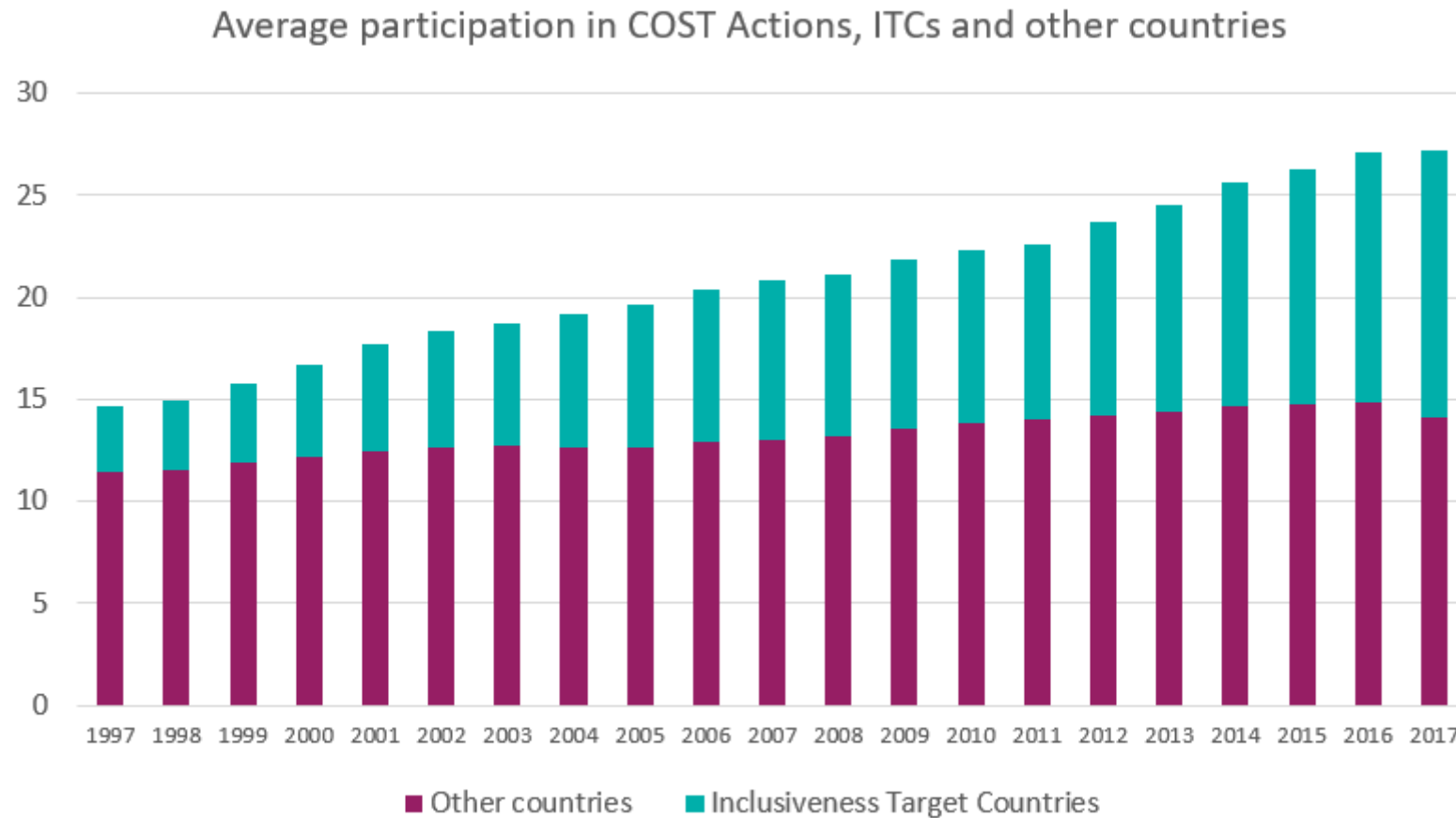
Fostering interdisciplinary research for breakthrough science
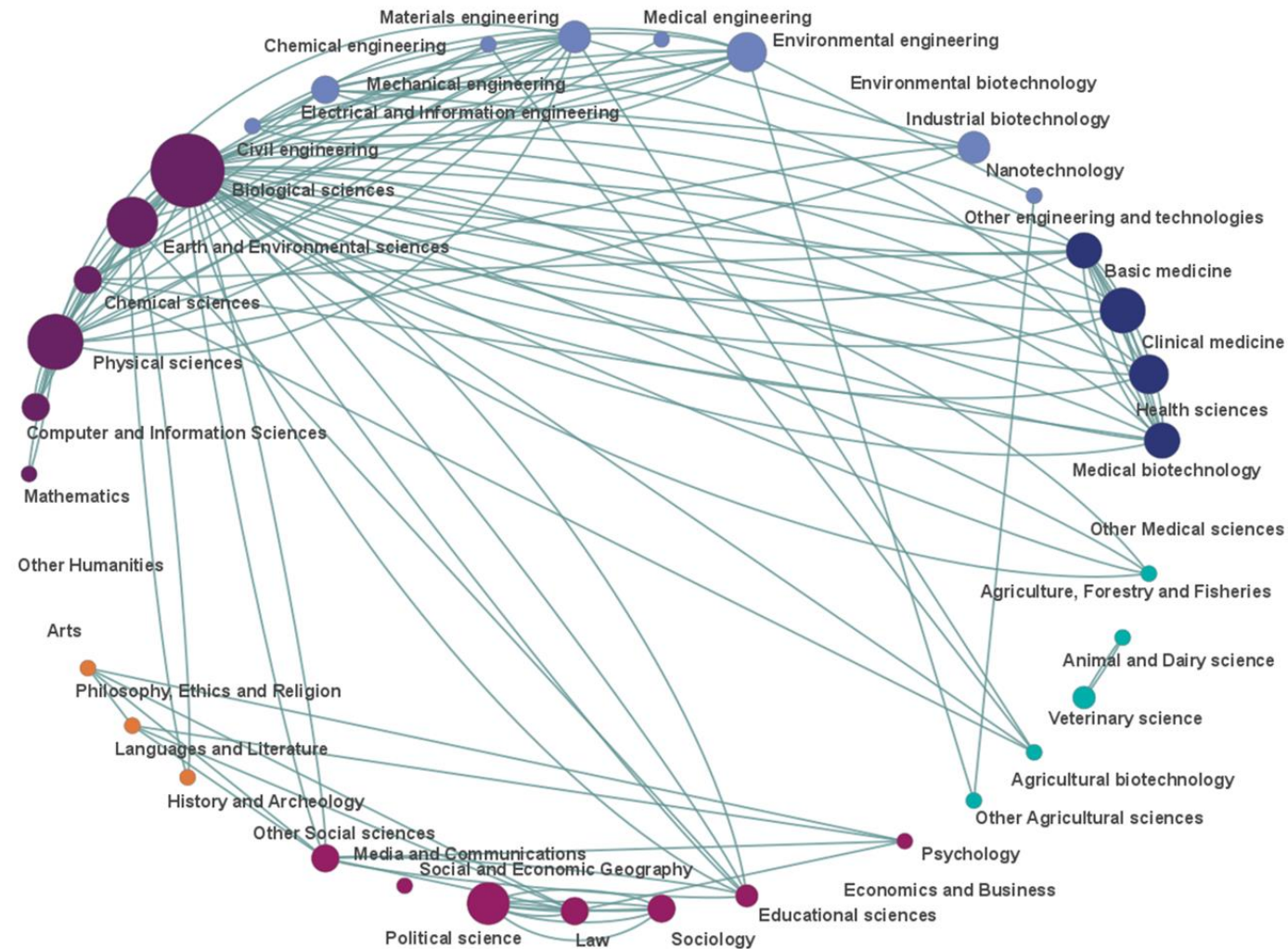
Boosting careers of young researchers
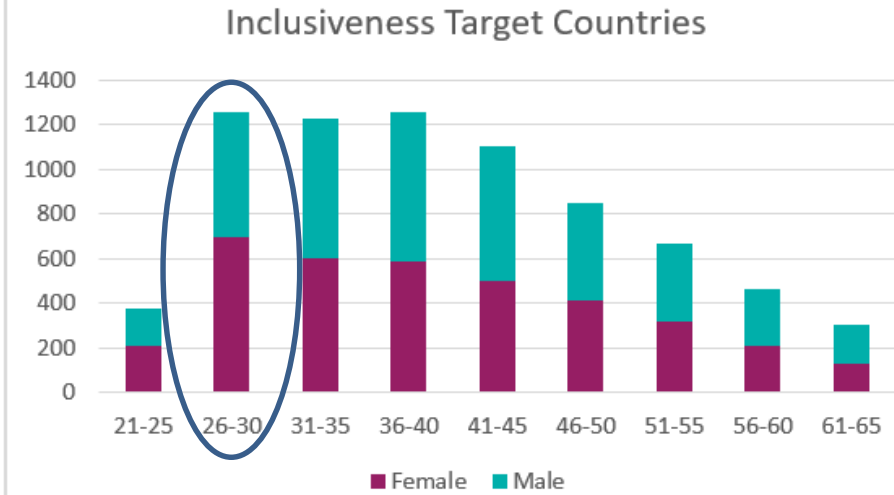
Boosting careers of young researchers

COST as pre-portal to ERA

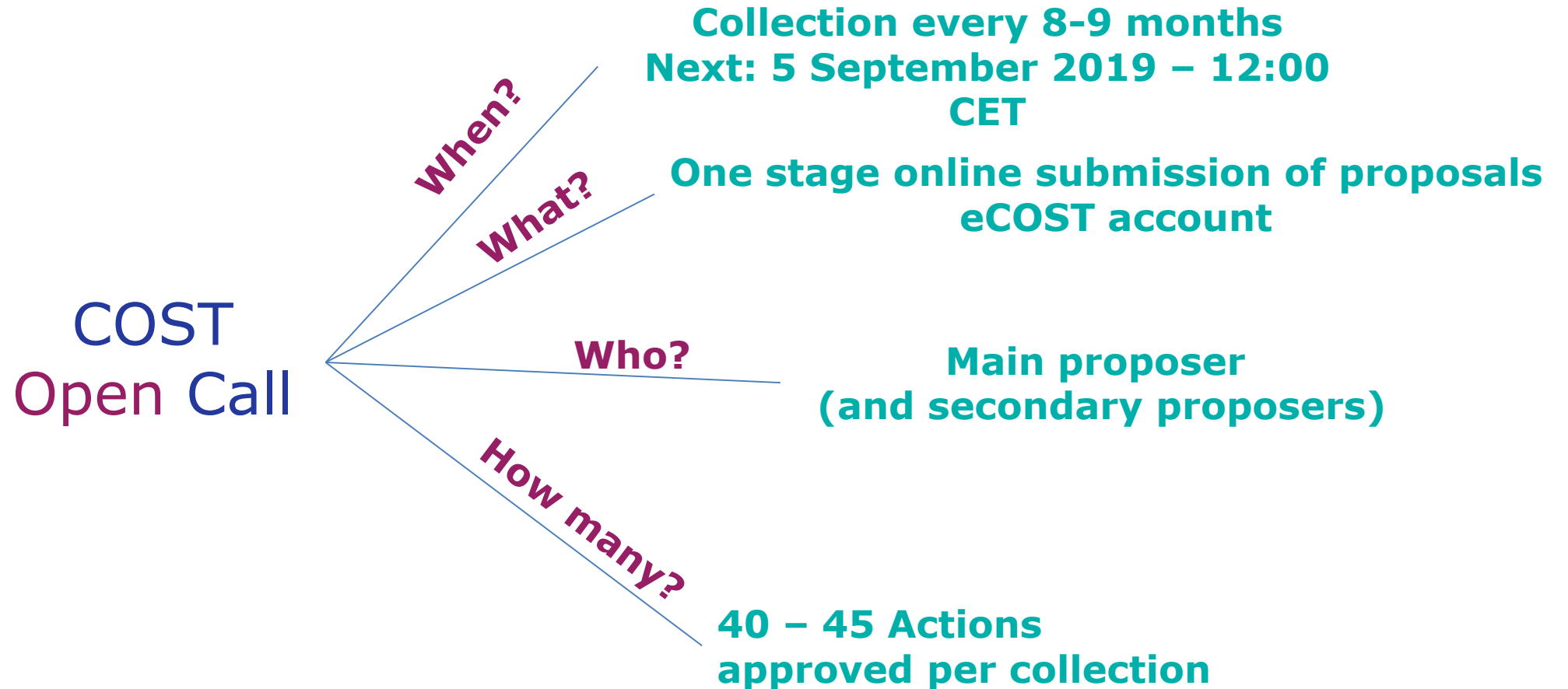| Horizon 2020 applications reported by finished COST Actions			
Total Actions with finished Final Action Report	Submitted H2020 proposals reported	Approved H2020 projects reported	Success rate
114	392	131	33 %

Participation of SMEs

Participation of SMEs allows COST Actions to:

• widen the network

• close the TRL gap

• have access to new perspectives and knowledge

• get insights in real-life applications

• redefine research questions

• facilitate access to policy-makers (Business Associations)

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How to apply for a COST Action

COST Open Call

When? Collection every 8-9 months
Next: 5 September 2019 – 12:00 CET

What? One stage online submission of proposals
eCOST account

Who? Main proposer
(and secondary proposers)

How many? 40 – 45 Actions approved per collection

Research creates knowledge.

Evaluation criteria for COST Actions

a.

S&T EXCELLENCE	NETWORKING EXCELLENCE	IMPACT	IMPLEMENTATION
- Soundness of the Challenge - Progress beyond the state-of-the-art	- Added value of networking in S&T Excellence - Added value of networking in Impact	- Impact to science, society and competitiveness, potential for innovation/ break-through - Measures to maximise impact	- Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan

b. COST Inclusiveness policy

c. Applied on equal steps:
  i. COST Early Career Investigators policy
  ii. Compliance with COST Gender balance policy

d. Balanced COST Actions' portfolio and promoting interdisciplinarity

Documents

- Documents about COST
  https://www.cost.eu/who-we-are/about-cost/

    o Booklet of ongoing Actions

    o Annual reports

    o etc

- Main documents about Actions
  https://www.cost.eu/funding/how-to-get-funding/documents-and-guidelines/

    o SESA & SESA guidelines (submission, evaluation, selection and approval)

    o Vademecum: explains how Actions work

    o Proposal template

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Proposals

General features

Technical Annex
1. **S&T excellence***
2. **Networking Excellence**
3. **Impact**
4. **Implementation**

COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy Specific objectives

Network of proposers

Eligibility!

Anonymous
Min ITC
Format
Peaceful purpose
English

COST in Switzerland in a nutshell

Roles of the SNSF (Annemarie Renier & Georges Klein)

- Full member in the **Committee of Senior Officials (CSO):** decision-making body as General Assembly of the COST Association

- **COST National Coordinator (CNC)**
  - Advise and inform scientists and institutions on COST: Actions, open participation opportunities, proposals, calls, …
  - Nominate Review Panel members, but no involvement in the evaluation of Action proposals
  - Nominate national members to Action Management Committees (MC) accepting the Actions Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

- Organisation of **yearly calls for research projects** associated with COST Actions

SNSF project funding associated with COST Actions

**Call for COST Projects in Switzerland**

- COST does not fund research itself, but supports networking
  - o Research funding has to be provided by national funding sources

- The SNSF organizes yearly calls for researchers based in Switzerland who are actively involved in *recently* approved COST Actions
  - o Project duration up to 4 years
  - o Funding up to CHF 320'000 for 4 years
  - o 12 pages research plan
  - o Project partners from abroad are welcome
  - o Typical eligible costs for SNSF-projects, but no equipment, no overhead
  - o Evaluation by dedicated evaluation panel

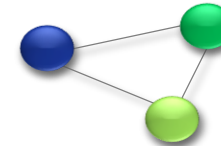# 3 complementary "widening" measures managed by Euresearch

(1) Teaming (institutional building)
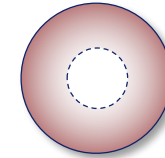
(2) ERA chairs (bringing excellence to institutions)
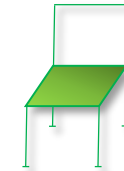
(3) Twinning (institutional networking)

For all three Measures: the coordination has to be by the Widening country

Switzerland is eligible for participation and funding but not coordination

Contact: cornelia.spycher@euresearch.ch
NCP for "Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation" in H2020

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Contact

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

- **COST**
  - Webpage: www.cost.eu
  - Call: https://www.cost.eu/funding/how-to-get-funding/open-call/
    - Contact: opencall@cost.eu
  - Browse Actions: https://www.cost.eu/cost-actions/browse-actions/
  - Action participants: https://www.cost.eu/cost-actions/actions-directory/

- **SNSF**
  - Webpage: www.snsf.ch/cost
  - Contact & Feedback: cost@snf.ch (Annemarie Renier & Georges Klein)

www.facebook.com/COST.Programme/

https://www.linkedin.com/company-beta/1050548/

@COSTprogramme

https://www.youtube.com/user/COSTOffice

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SPIRIT

Swiss **P**rogramme for **I**nternational **R**esearch by Scientific **I**nvestigation **T**eams

- Collaborative projects

- Researchers in Switzerland and in partner countries

- 2-step evaluation process

- No thematic restrictions

- Project duration 2-4 years

Research creates knowledge.

Aims

- Foster cross-border collaboration without disciplinary restrictions

- Provide more opportunities for researchers in Switzerland to collaborate with partners in many countries around the world

- Promote gender awareness and equal opportunities

- Contribute to the increase of research capacity in Switzerland and abroad

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Duration and Budget

- 2 to 4 years

- Maximum amount: CHF 500'000

- Minimum amount: CHF 50'000

- 30% rule

- Eligible costs:
  - Like in project funding
  - No applicants' salaries in Switzerland and/or in the partner countries

30% | ⟷ | 30%

in CH   in partner country
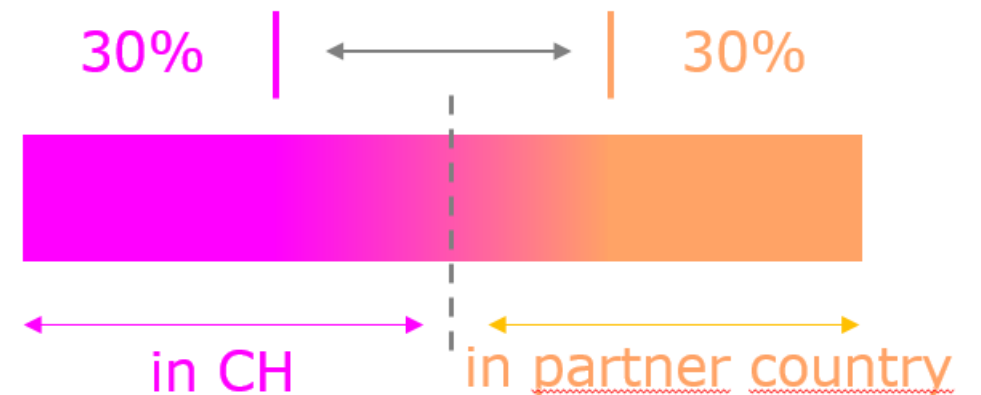
Research teams

- 2 to 4 applicants

  - Applicant 1: researcher in Switzerland

  - Applicant 2: researcher in a partner country

  - (Applicants 3-4: researchers in Switzerland or in a partner country)

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Partner countries

- selection based on list of countries receiving development assistance, issued by the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD

- Exceptions
  - Member states of the European Union
  - Countries associated to Horizon 2020, the European Union's 8th Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) or subsequent programmes
  - Countries collaborating on a bilateral call with the SNSF

- Complete list available on www.snsf.ch/spirit

Eligibility

- Requirements as in project funding, for applicants in Switzerland and abroad

- Only 1 SPIRIT grant per person and period for all applicants

- Compatible with project funding applications or grants

- No overlap with Ambizione or PRIMA grants

- Eccellenza grantees and SNSF professors may submit a SPIRIT application 2 years after starting the Eccellenza grant or SNSF professorship at the earliest.

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Evaluation criteria

- scientific relevance

- originality of the aims and objectives

- suitability of the methodology, feasibility

- track record and expertise of the researchers

- complementarity of the research partners

- contribution to increasing scientific capacities in the relevant research field

- contribution towards raising gender awareness and promoting equal opportunities.

Research creates knowledge.

Evaluation procedure

- If proposals are deemed to be equal in terms of their scientific quality, proposals submitted by female applicants, or proposals that show better gender awareness, are given priority

- 2 phases: pre-proposals and full proposals

- Only full proposals are peer reviewed

- Evaluation commission: Pre-proposals and full proposals are evaluated by the SPIRIT Evaluation Commission (SEC)
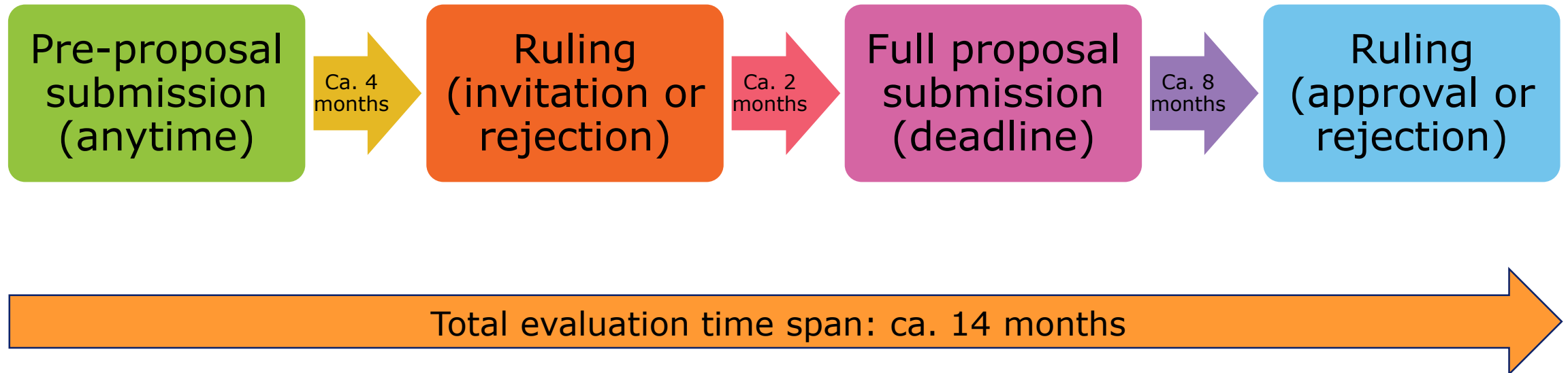
Submission

- Pre-proposals: anytime

- If pre-proposal is rejected: all applicants are barred from submission for 6 months

- If pre-proposals is assigned to one of the three lowest ranking categories out of six: all applicants are barred from submission for 18 months

- Full proposals: upon invitation after approval of the pre-proposal

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Evaluation time span

Pre-proposal submission (anytime) → Ca. 4 months → Ruling (invitation or rejection) → Ca. 2 months → Full proposal submission (deadline) → Ca. 8 months → Ruling (approval or rejection)

Total evaluation time span: ca. 14 months

SPIRIT

www.snsf.ch/spirit

spirit@snf.ch

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