COST Info
European **C**o**o**peration in **S**cience and **T**echnology

Universitat Illes Balears
22 abril 2015, Palma de Mallorca

1. What is COST and how does it work?

What is COST?

COST (CO-operation in Science and Technology) is a pan-European intergovernmental framework dedicated to networking activities for European researchers, enabling them to jointly develop their own ideas and new initiatives across all scientific disciplines through trans-European coordination of nationally funded research activities.

What is COST?

- The oldest and widest European intergovernmental framework for transnational Cooperation in Science and Technology, funded in 1971

- From 19 countries in 1971 to the 36 COST countries and beyond for more than 40 years

- One instrument: the COST Action, networks of partners from COST countries to support cooperation and coordination of research activities to fulfil its mission

COST Mission Statement

COST enables breakthrough scientific and technological developments leading to new concepts and products, and contributing to strengthen Europe's research and innovation capacities through trans-European networking of nationally funded research activities.

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Why is COST a success?

- **Building trust** with and within the scientific communities in Europe and beyond.

- Combining **stability with adaptability** while preserving its core mission

- Creating **knowledge** and facilitating its spreading and application

Knowledge sharing leads to...

- a common understanding of problems at hand

- coordinated activities

- reduced risk

- synthesis and re-combination of spread pieces of knowledge

- innovation

- synergies (1 + 1 > 2)

COST principles:

COST Actions based on the following principles:

bottom-up, openness, inclusiveness and excellence

All fields of S&T (highlight on trans-, multi-, interdisciplinary, new and emergent fields)

All partners (academia, public organisations, SME, industry, NGO, International Organisations)

All career stages (young and experienced researchers)

All countries
- COST Countries (COST Member Countries + Cooperating State (Israel)
- Global cooperation on the basis of mutual interest (NNC, IPC)
- Geographical balance

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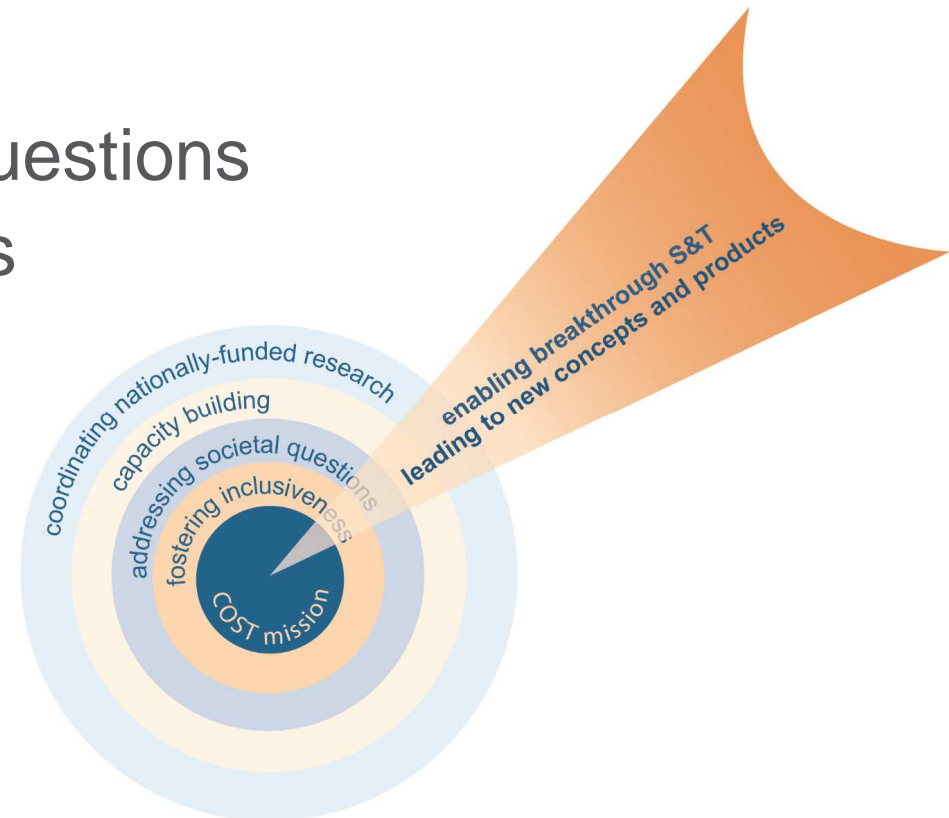
COST budget is provided by Horizon 2020

EUR 300 million budget (constant prices) for 7 years

Framework Partnership Agreement, FPA has been signed between the COST Association and the European Commission, duration 7 years

Financial commitment by **Specific Grant Agreements**, duration 1 year, with detailed description of the tasks to be done

COST Objectives under H2020

- Joining research efforts and developing common S&T programmes
- Building capacity
- Addressing societal questions
- Strengthening COST's Inclusiveness Policy

coordinating nationally-funded research

capacity building

addressing societal questions

fostering inclusiveness

COST mission

enabling breakthrough S&T leading to new concepts and products

To achieve these Objectives
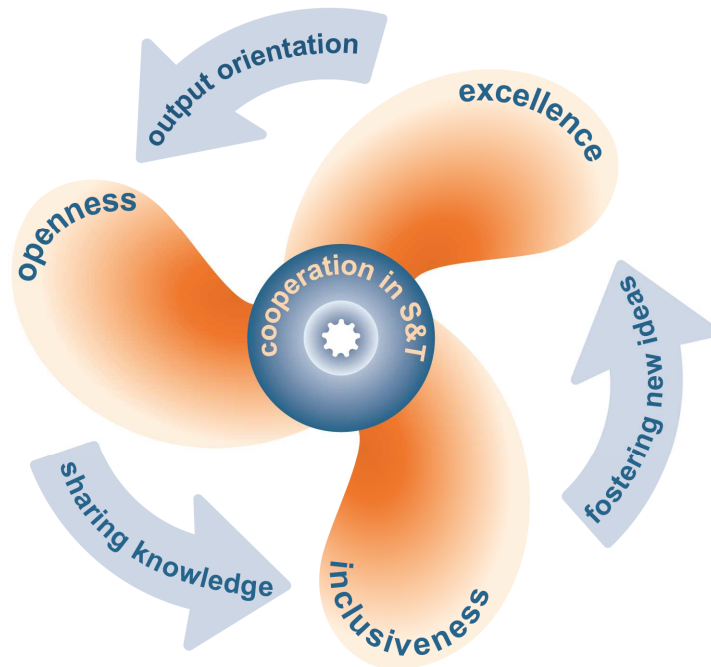
COST Key Principles

- Supporting excellence
- Being open
- Being inclusive

COST Driving Forces

- Fostering new ideas
- Sharing knowledge
- Output orientation

COST in key figures (2014)

- >350 Running Actions

- 30.000 European researchers involved in COST Actions' activities

- 18.000 participations in COST activities involving Early-Career Investigators (<PhD 8 years)

- 2550 Short-term Scientific Missions

- 4000 Trainees involved in training schools

- 8600 researchers involved in proposal in the last collection 2014-1 (845 eligible proposals – 40 funded)

COST Association organisation and relation with other actors

Ministerial Conferences (every five years)

COST Association

Committee Senior Officials (*General Assembly*)

Executive Board

COST Association Administration

Scientific Committee

COST National Coordinators

COST Actions

See: http://www.cost.eu/about_cost/who
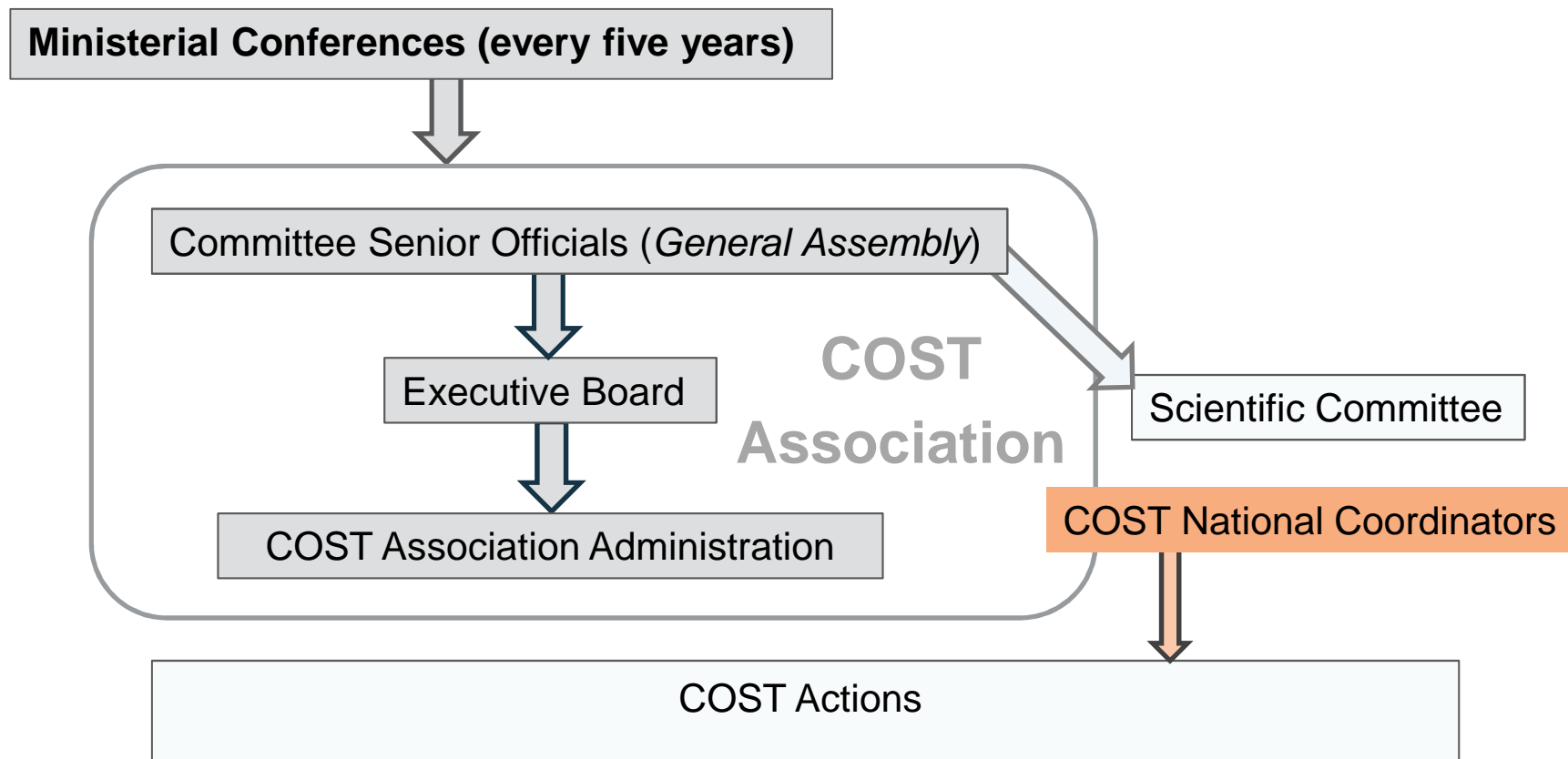
COST Policies

Openness
- All fields of S&T
- All kind of participation
- Academia, SME/Industry, …
- All countries

Excellence & Inclusiveness
- Geographical coverage
- Early Career Investigators (ECR)
- Gender balance

International dimension of COST

The participation of Institutions from Near Neighbour Countries (NNC) and International Partner Country (IPC) is welcome and is based on **mutual benefit**

❑ **Institutions in Near Neighbour Countries (NNC):**

Balkan countries (Albania and Montenegro),

Mediterranean countries (Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Jordan, Syria and Tunisia)

Eastern European Countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine)

❑ **Institutions in all other International Partner Countries (IPC)**

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COST is supported by the
EU Framework Programme
Horizon 2020

COST Near Neighbour Countries

231 participations in running COST Actions accros 17 countries

- Albania (19)
- Algeria (6)
- Armenia (10)
- Azerbaijan (5)
- Belarus (5)
- Egypt (10)
- Georgia (4)
- Jordan (2)
- Lebanon (4)
- Moldova (5)
- Montenegro (15)
- Morocco (16)
- Palestinian Authority (4)
- Syrian Arab Republic (2)
- Russia (58)
- Tunisia (16)
- Ukraine (50)
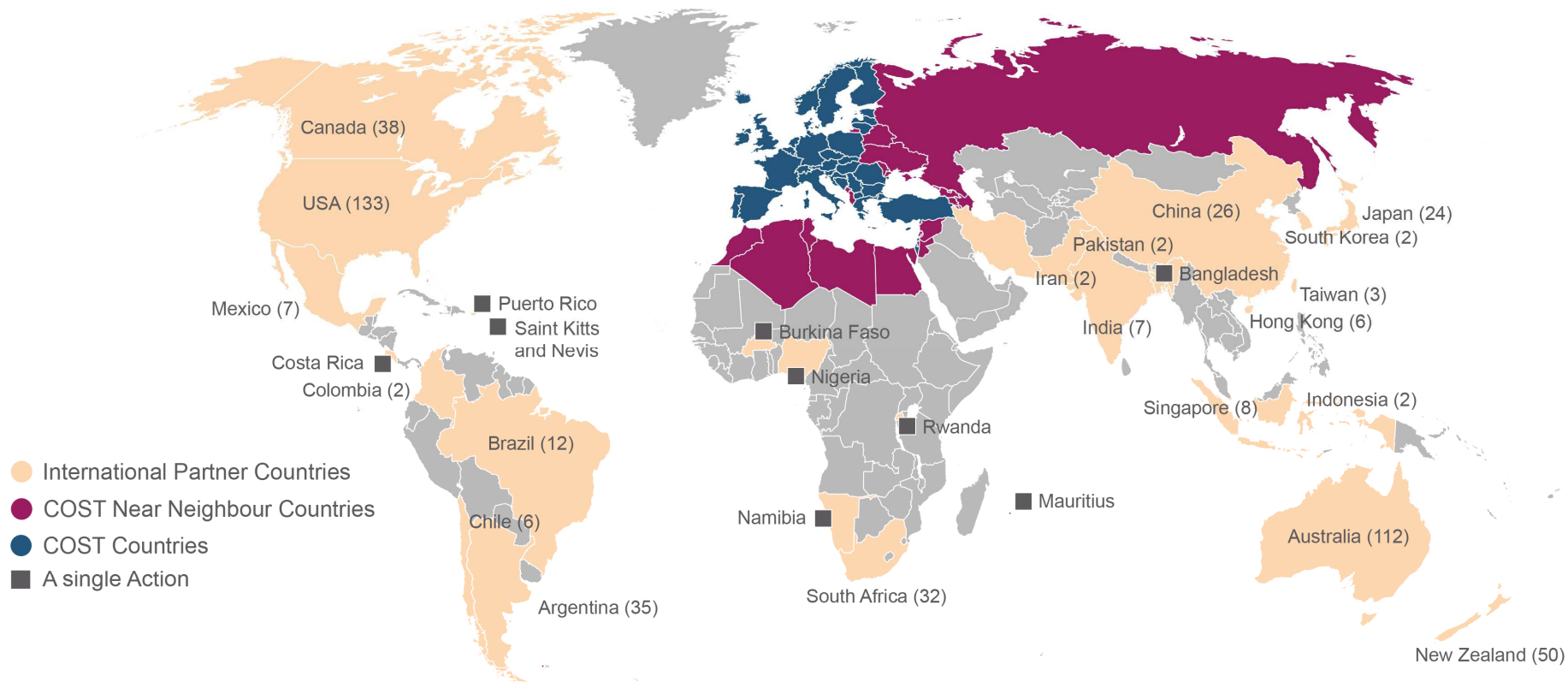
October 2014 data

COST Countries

Near Neighbour Countries

International Partner Countries

519 participations in running Actions across 29 countries

Canada (38)

USA (133)

Mexico (7)

Puerto Rico

Saint Kitts and Nevis

Costa Rica

Colombia (2)

Brazil (12)

Chile (6)

Argentina (35)

Namibia

South Africa (32)

Burkina Faso

Nigeria

Rwanda

Mauritius

China (26)

Japan (24)

South Korea (2)

Pakistan (2)

Iran (2)

Bangladesh

India (7)

Taiwan (3)

Hong Kong (6)

Singapore (8)

Indonesia (2)

Australia (112)

New Zealand (50)

- International Partner Countries
- COST Near Neighbour Countries
- COST Countries
- A single Action

October 2014 data

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COST Policies

Excellence & Inclusiveness

- Geographical coverage
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Openness

- All fields of S&T
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- All countries

Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy

- Encouraging and enabling **excellent researchers** from less research-intensive countries across Europe to set up, lead or join COST Actions

- **Counterbalancing** research communities' unequal access to knowledge infrastructures, funding and resources distribution

- Contributing to the realization of Horizon 2020 Widening Pillar objectives trough **COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy**

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COST Inclusiveness Target Countries

COST Member Countries	
EU Member States	Associated Countries to Horizon 2020
Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Croatia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia	the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, **Republic of Serbia**, Turkey, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Early Career Investigators

PhD* ≤ 8 years

- Address the difficulty in gaining visibility and recognition European-wide
- Entrusting young investigators with leader roles under their own responsibility

COST Inclusiveness Policy supports ECIs

*PhD or equivalent experience

Gender Balance

male/female

- Encourage and enable under-represented gender to be intensively involved in all COST activities
- Networking the way to gender equality in science and technology

COST Inclusiveness Policy supports Gender balance

COST – European Cooperation
in Science and Technology

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