



Growing  
**ideas**  
through  
**networks**

# **COST Presentation**

Western Balkans Steering Platform on Research and Innovation

Dr. Bratislav Marinković , CNC and CSO member

Belgrade, Serbia - 27 September 2017



Funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme  
of the European Union

# What is COST?

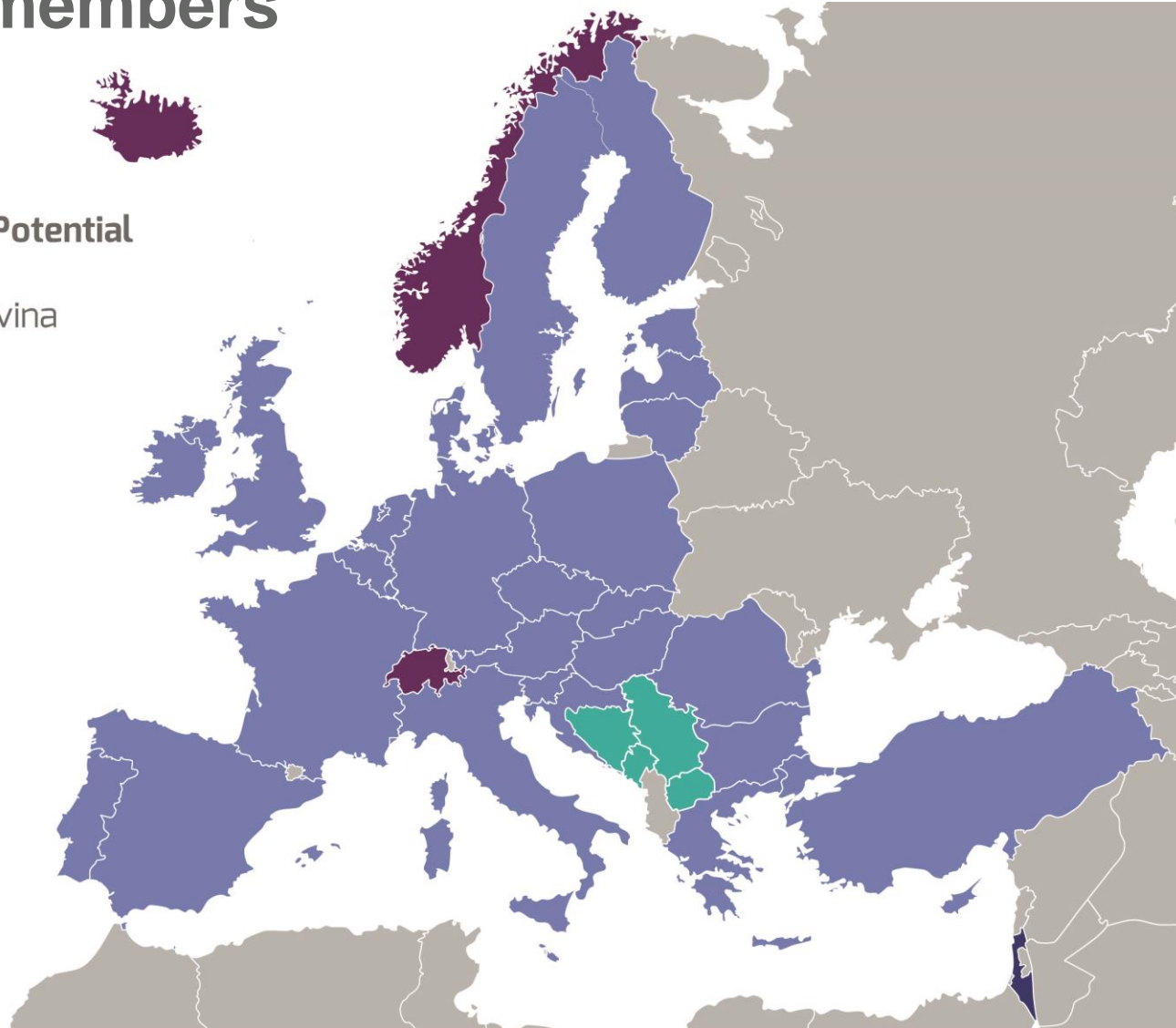
COST (CO-operation in Science and Technology) is the longest-running European framework supporting cooperation among researchers, engineers and scholars by enabling them to jointly develop their own ideas and new initiatives across all fields in science and technology, including social sciences and humanities.

# 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)

# 37 COST 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 Features

- Output oriented (open science, wide sharing of knowledge and results, open access, open innovation)
- Why Networks? Knowledge sharing leads to...
  - Common understanding of problems at hand
  - Coordinated activities
  - Pooling resources
  - Reduced risks
  - Synthesis and re-combination of spread pieces of knowledge
  - Innovation
  - Synergies ( $1+1>2$ )

# COST key figures

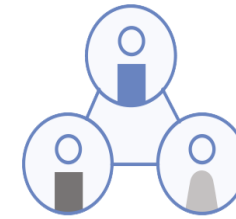
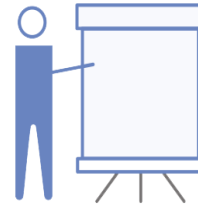
352



Running Actions

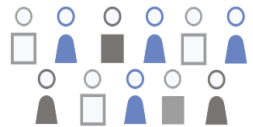
258

Training schools



2,705

Short-term scientific missions



48,000

Researchers involved



€129,000

Average annual budget of a COST Action

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



€300 million



## COST Actions – characteristics

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



## COST Actions – characteristics

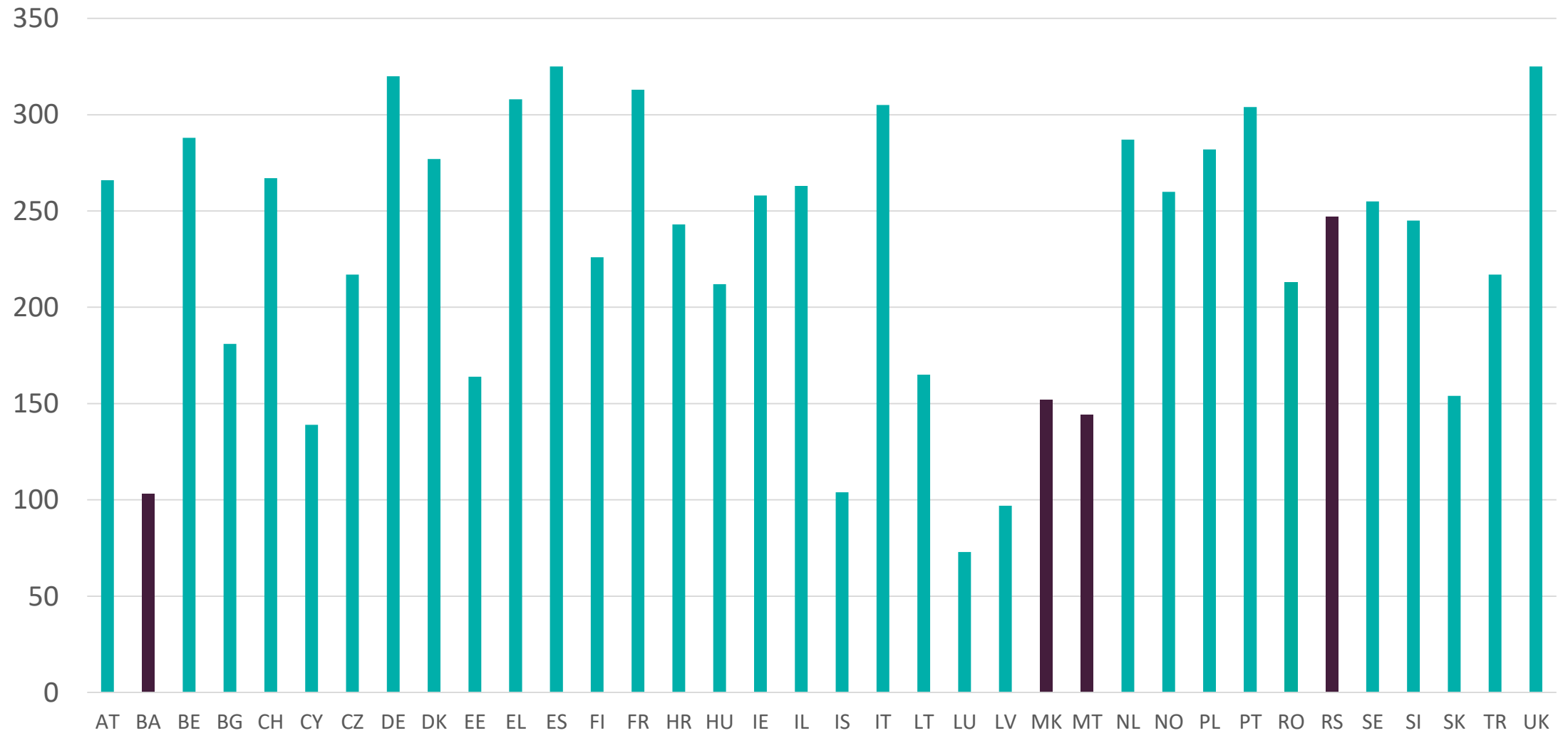
- Based on a 4 years joint work programme (MoU)
- Submitted, evaluated and selected through an Open Call for proposals
- Implemented through a range of networking activities (Meetings, Workshops, Short Term Scientific Missions, Training Schools, etc.)
- Average annual support of EUR 129 000



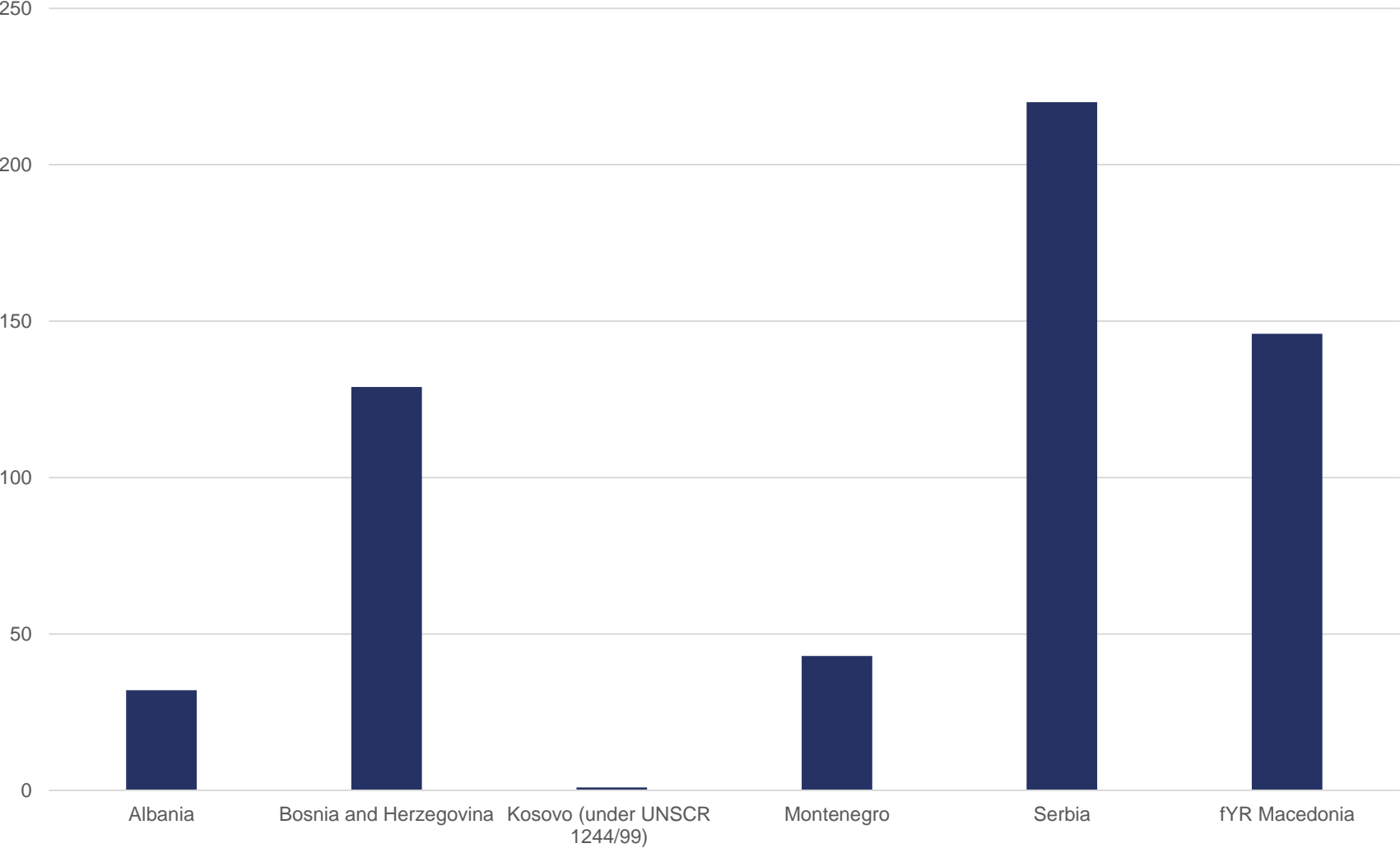
## Join an Action

- As a Management Committee (MC) member
- As a Working Group (WG) participant
- Short Term Scientific Missions
- Training school
- Workshop/Conference
- ...

# COST members' Action participation in 2016



# COST Action participation from Western Balkan countries



Country	Number of Actions
Albania	32
Bosnia and Herzegovina	129
Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244/99)	1
Montenegro	43
Serbia	220
fYR Macedonia	146

## Core policy



Excellence and inclusiveness (widening the European research base)

- Strengthening the excellence through cross-border networking of researchers
- Promoting geographical, age and gender balance throughout its activities and operations

## Specific objectives

- International cooperation (mutual benefit, NNC,...)
- Industrial dimension (dedicated dissemination and exploitation activities)



# COST Inclusiveness Target Countries

## ● EU 13

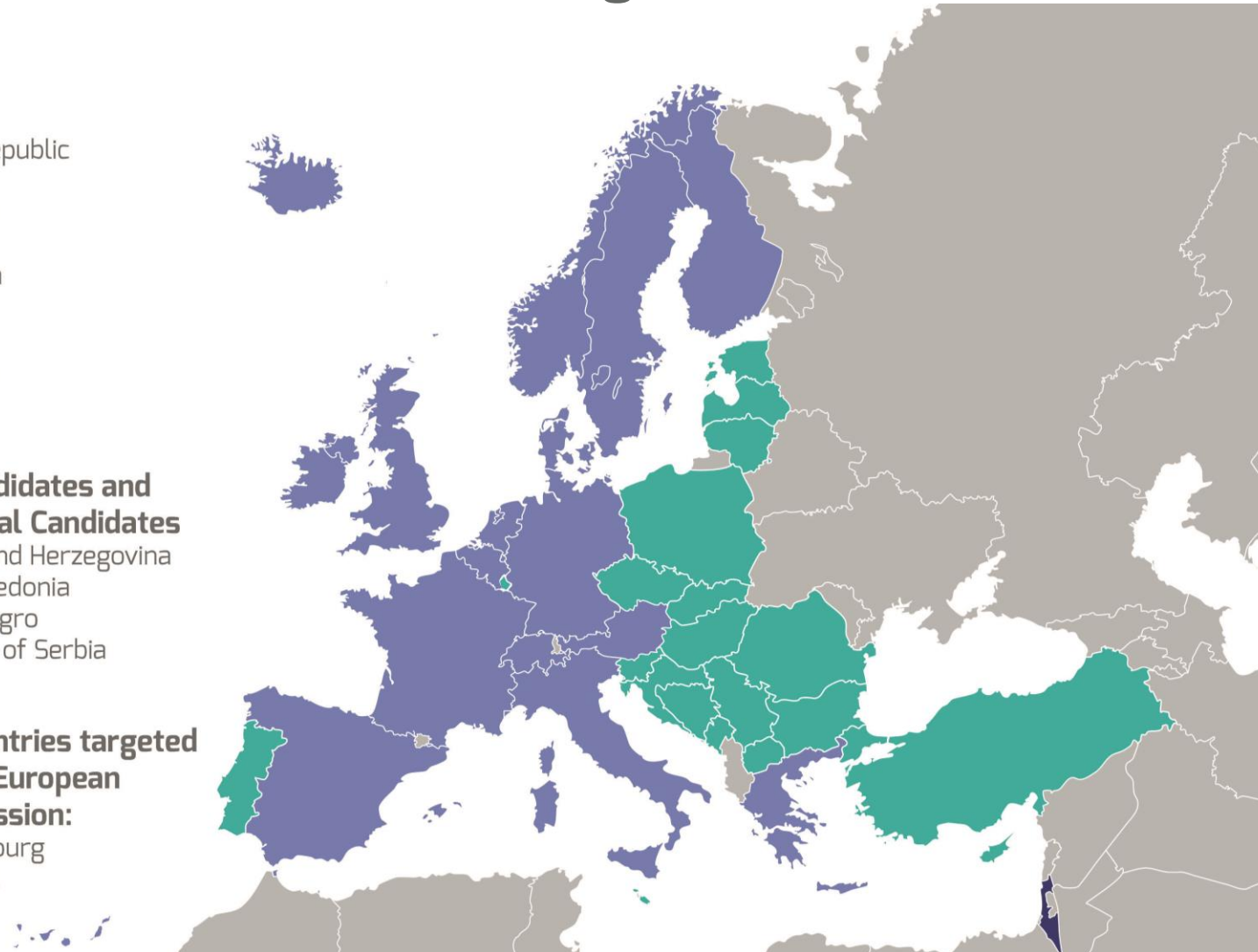
Bulgaria  
Croatia  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Estonia  
Hungary  
Latvia  
Lithuania  
Malta  
Poland  
Romania  
Slovakia  
Slovenia

## EU Candidates and Potential Candidates

Bosnia and Herzegovina  
fYR Macedonia  
Montenegro  
Republic of Serbia  
Turkey

## EU countries targeted by the European Commission:

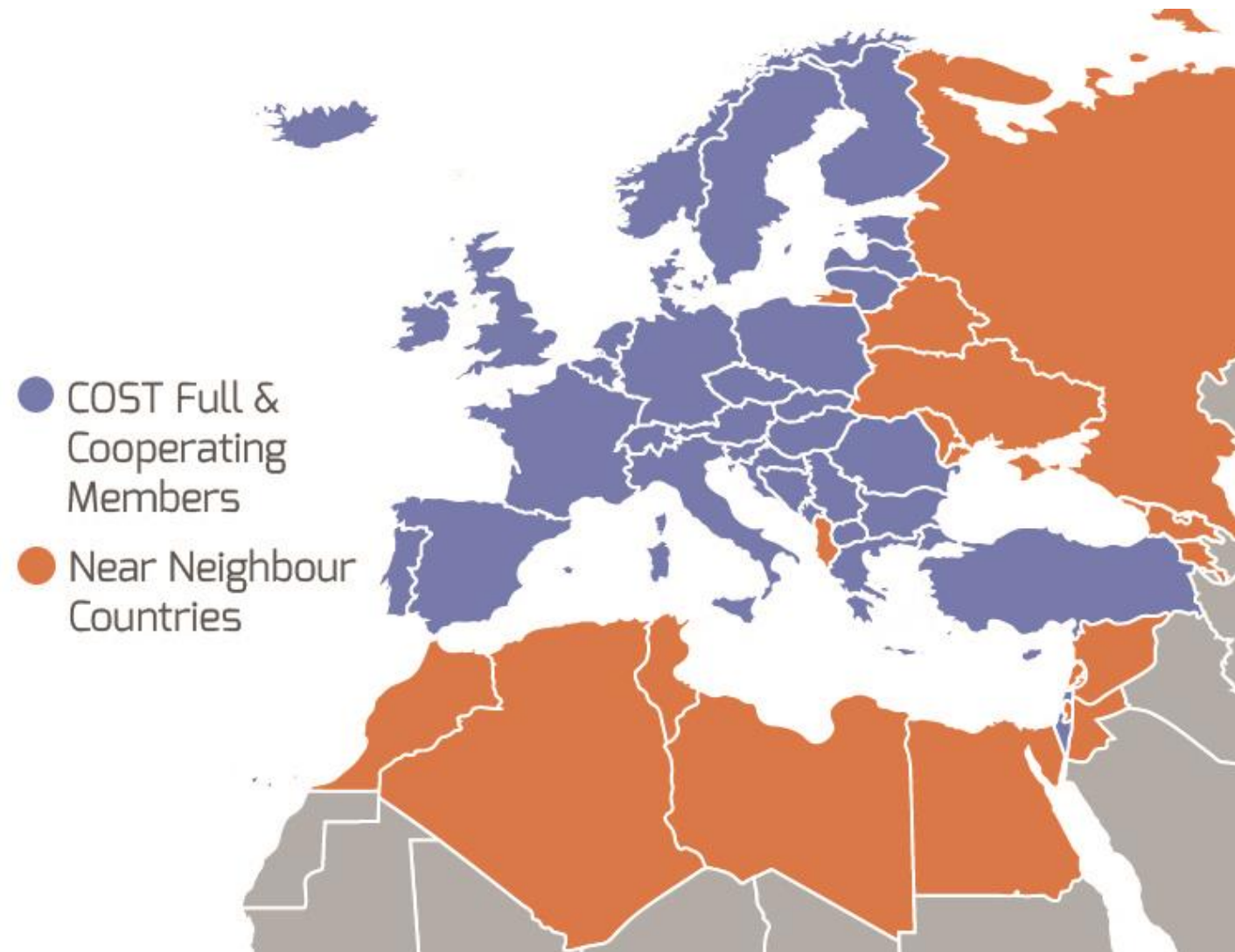
Luxembourg  
Portugal



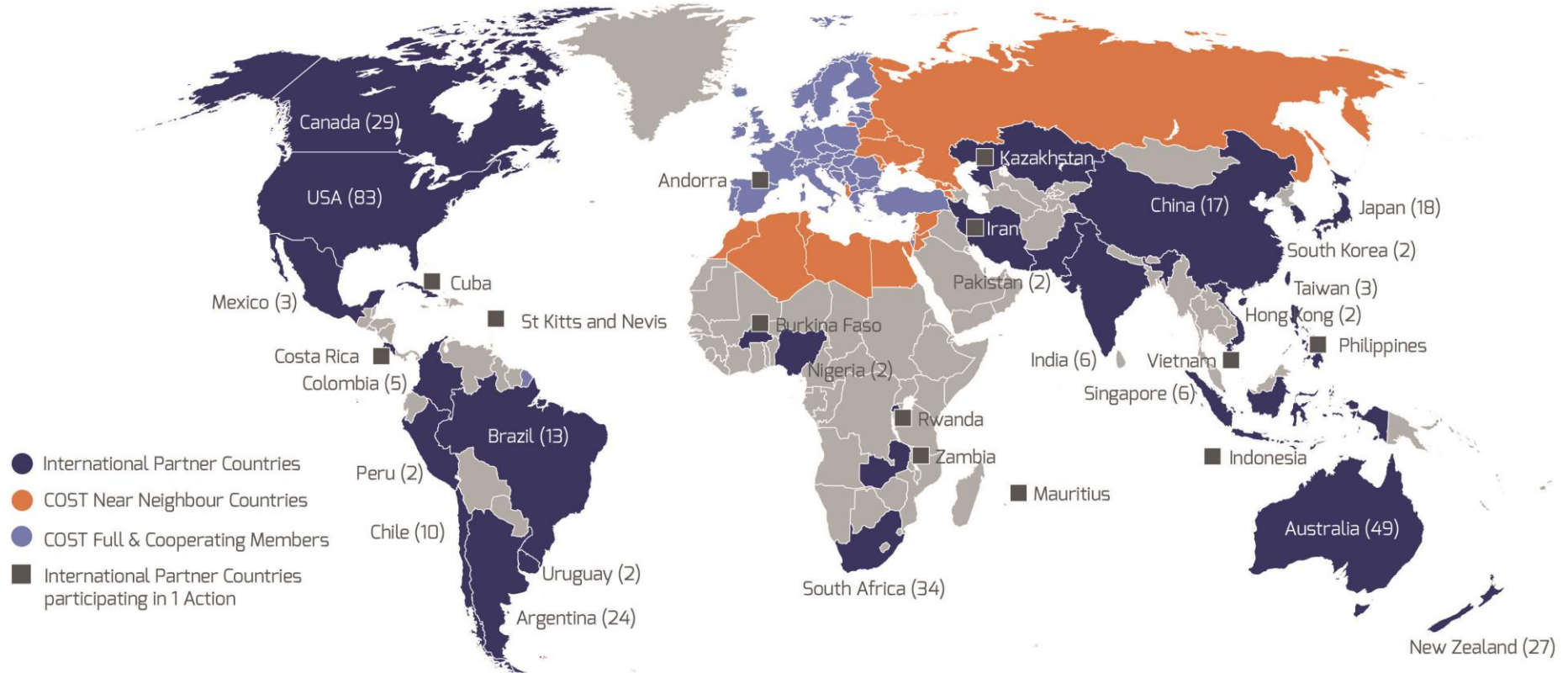
## Dedicated measures to reinforce Inclusiveness

- Conference grant for PhD students and young researchers
- Prepayment for ITC participants for STSMs
- Requirement for proposals: minimum 7 countries coupled with an obligatory minimum share of ITCs
- 1 of the COST Actions leading positions available only for ITC participants
- Selection among equally ranked proposals based on Inclusiveness
- Invite external experts from ITC – currently 35%
- COST Academy
- Targeted Info Days

# Near Neighbour Countries



# International Partner Countries





# 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 Kutner, 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

# 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

## Example of COST success stories

- Czech Republic, Switzerland and (soon) Germany 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
  - ...



# Contact and engage with us

- Sign up to our news: [www.cost.eu/subscribe](http://www.cost.eu/subscribe)
- Join us on our social networks:



[www.facebook.com/COST.Programme/](http://www.facebook.com/COST.Programme/)



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



[@COSTprogramme](https://twitter.com/COSTprogramme)



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

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