



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

# COST - Promoting and Spreading Excellence

Katalin Alföldi COST Association  
Sarajevo, 26 March 2019




Funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme  
of the European Union



## **COST mission**

***“COST provides networking opportunities for researchers and innovators in order to strengthen Europe’s capacity to address scientific, technological and societal challenges”.***

- 
- What is COST?
  - How does COST work?
  - The benefit of participating in COST activities?
  - How to participate in COST activities?
  - Participation figures of the Western Balkan countries



- **What is COST?**

# COST - 45 years proven track record in research collaboration

## 38 COST 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, Moldova, Montenegro, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and the Republic of North Macedonia

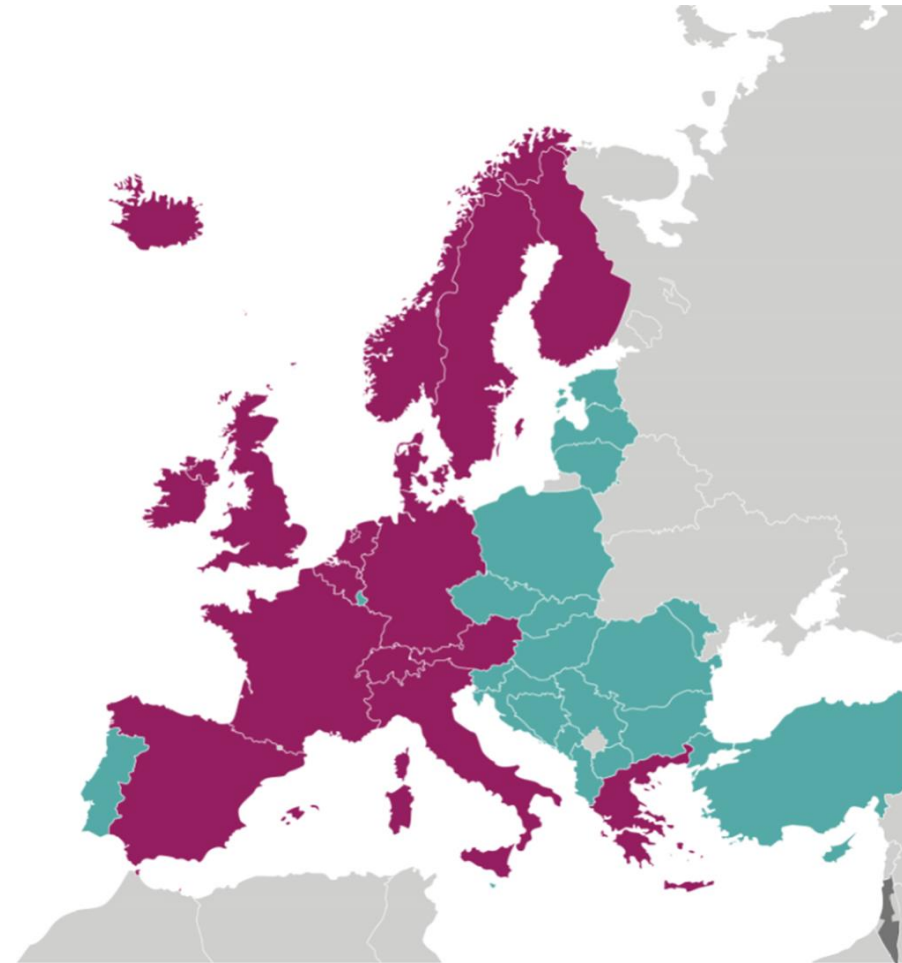
## 1 Cooperating Member

Israel

## Near Neighbour Countries participation

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 Members
- COST Members (ITCs)
- COST Cooperating member

# COST key figures of 2018

339   
Running Actions

213   
Training schools

 €134,500  
Average annual budget  
of a COST Action

 2,339  
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 ERA funding schemes

# Role of COST in the ERA - 3 Strategic Priorities

- 1 Promoting and spreading excellence
- 2 Fostering interdisciplinary research for breakthrough science
- 3 Boosting careers young researchers

# Dedicated measures for active ITC participation



## COST Info Days

- Targeted to ITC
- combined with high-level meeting ITC government, including NCP



## Proposals

- Eligibility
- External experts
- Inclusiveness policy



## COST Actions

- COST Action Leadership
- Conference grant for PhD students and young researchers
- Pre-payment for STSM

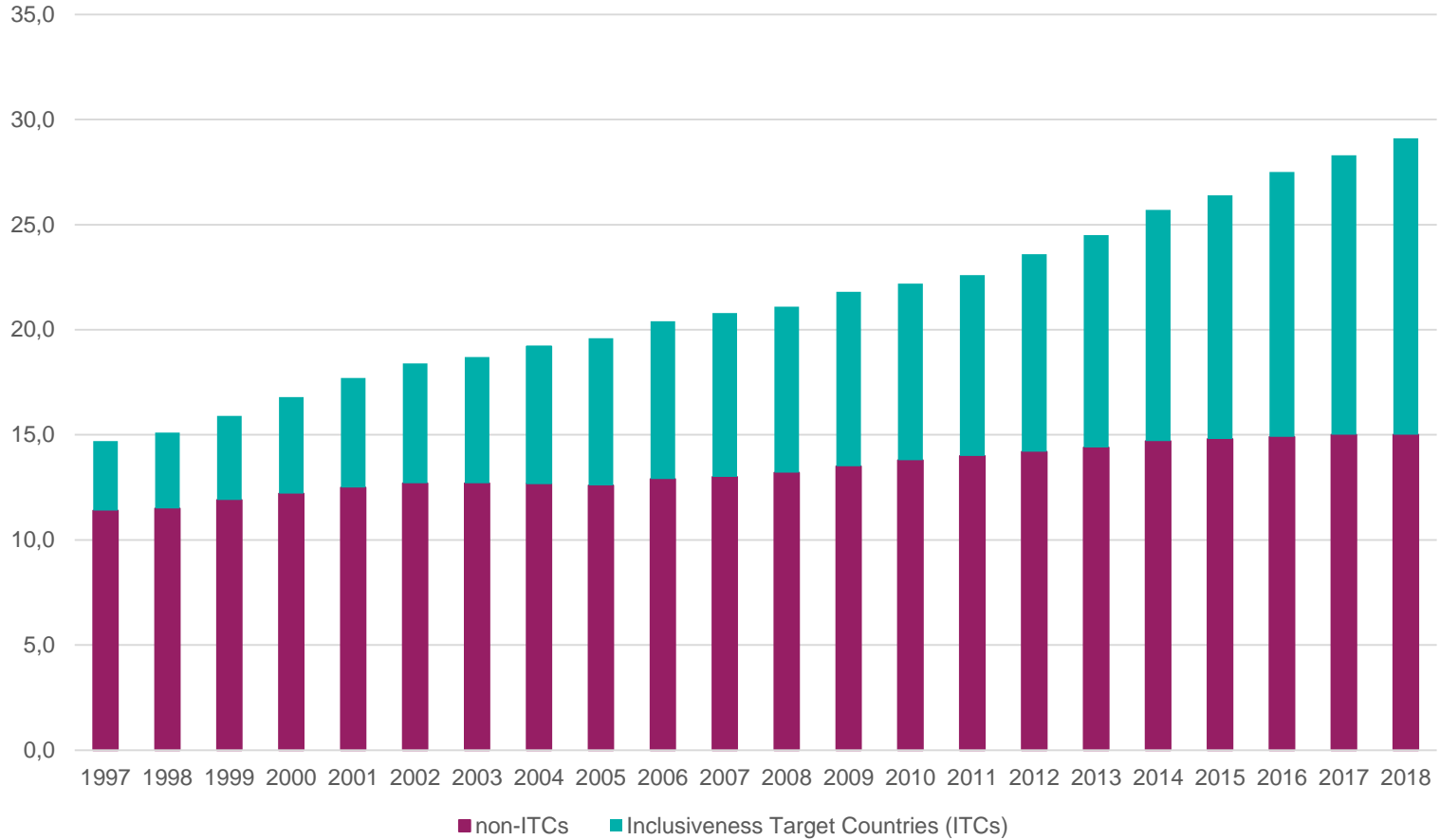


## COST Academy

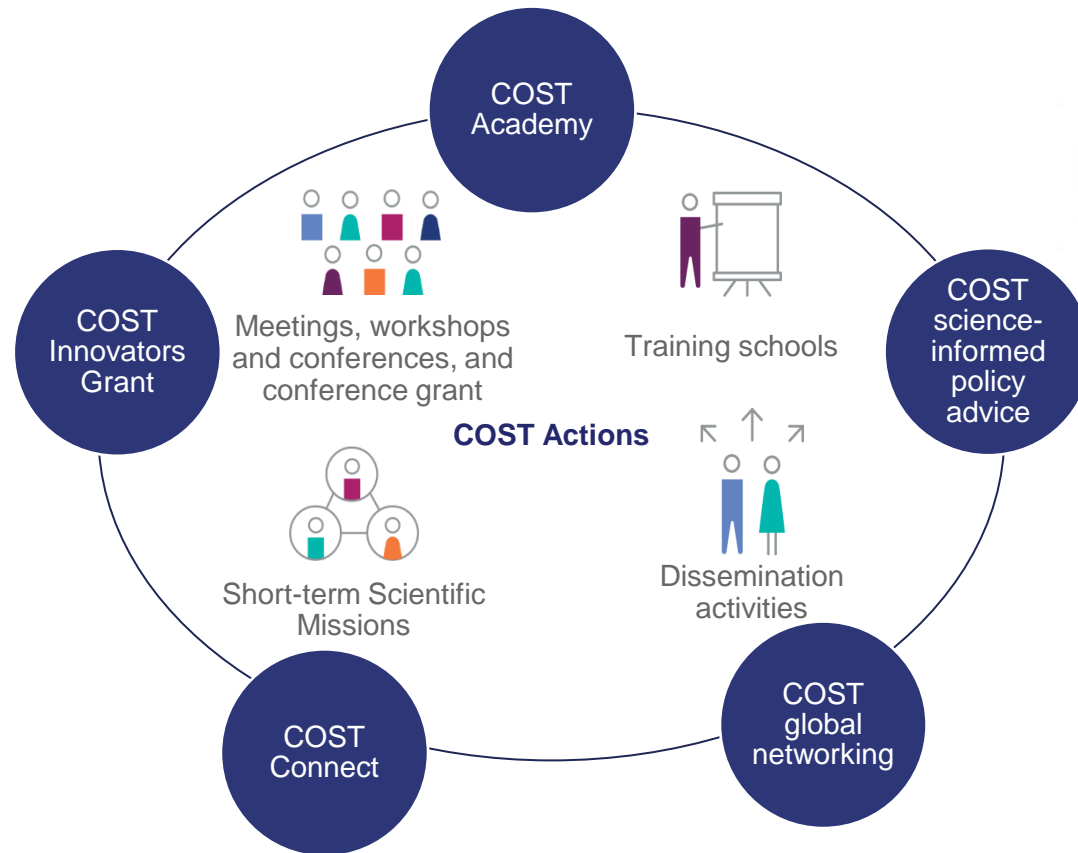
- Leadership workshop
- Finance/Admin workshop
- Science Communication training
- Mentoring GH
- Mentoring Chair



# Average participation in COST Actions, ITCs and other countries



# Implementing COST's strategic priorities





# How does COST work?

# How it works?

COST Action participants  
nominated by COST National Coordinators



Main proposer



Secondary proposers

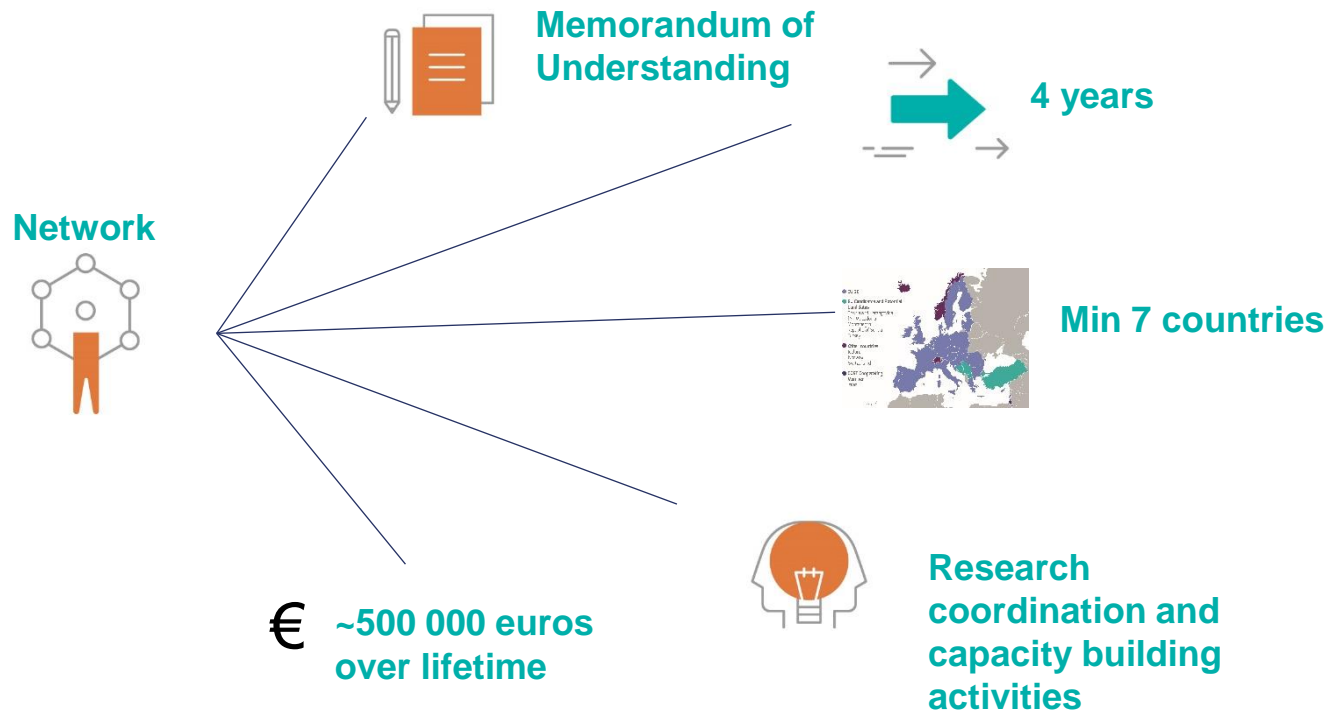




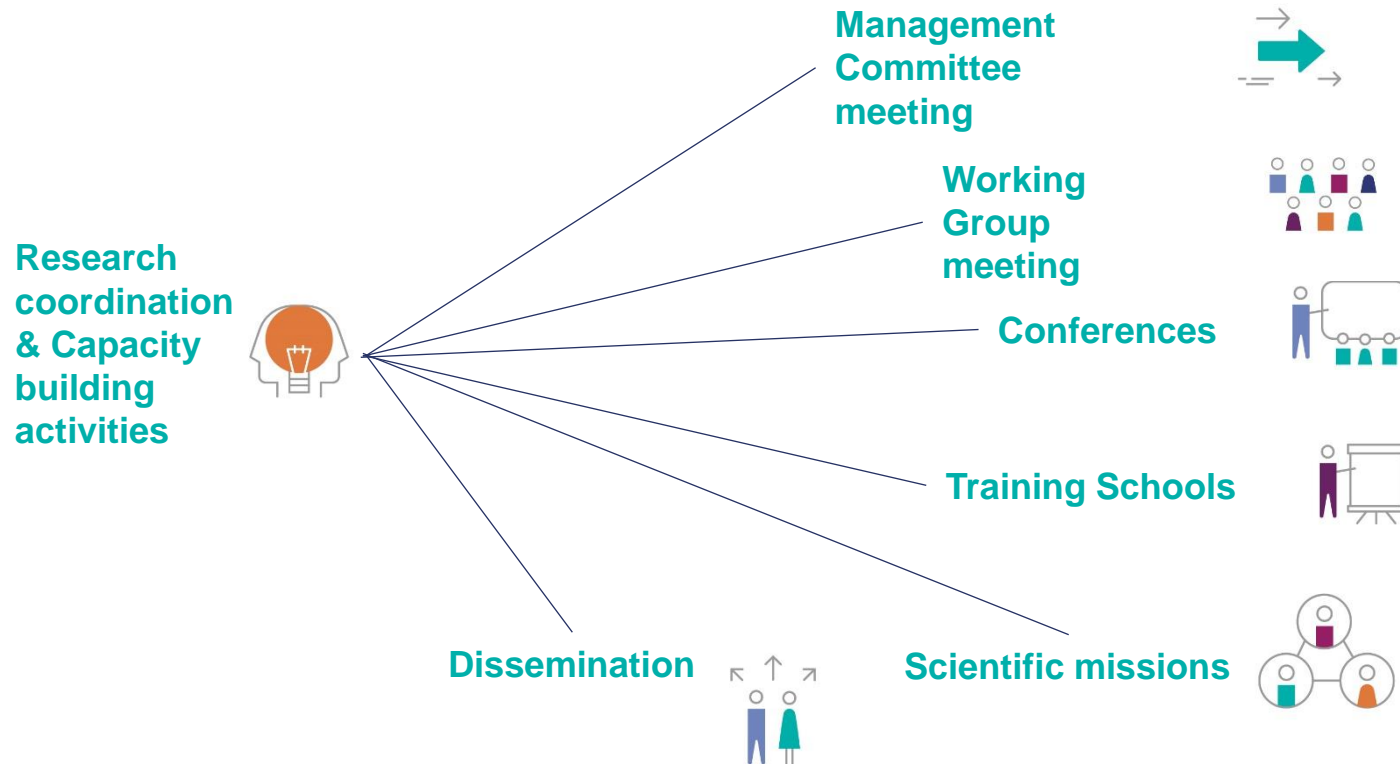
## Example of COST members national support

- Czech Republic and Switzerland 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
  - ...

# What are the COST Actions?



# What are the networking tools of a COST Action=?





# The benefit of participating in COST activities



# Benefits of participation in a COST Action

scientific	career	networking
work on <b>topics not yet funded</b> by other sources	Get <b>experience</b> in scientific and/ or administrative <b>management</b> (i.e. leading/ organising training schools disseminating research results)	can participate in any <b>H2020</b> project at the same time
become <b>member of leading scientific networks</b> - without going through a possibly risky and exclusive proposal preparation	participating at <b>short term scientific missions</b>	can participate in more <b>COST Actions</b> at the same time “a la carte” access to existing networks by having an overview of all the running Actions <b>without going through a possibly risky and exclusive proposal preparation</b>
<b>publication</b>	<b>Increasing visibility</b> by hosting and/or participating at additional scientific events	<b>extend one’s network</b>
engage with <b>peers</b>	becoming a <b>Grant Holder</b>	<b>reimbursement</b>

# COST acting as a pre-portal for further European funding

## Horizon 2020 applications reported by finished COST Actions

Total Actions with  
finished Final Action  
Report

114

Submitted H2020  
proposals reported

392

Approved H2020  
projects reported

131

Success rate

33 %



# How to participate in COST activities

1. As **proposer** of a COST Action
2. As **participant** of a COST Action
3. As **expert** to evaluate submitted proposals

Next cut off date 5 September 2019

## Propose a COST Action

### Proposals



#### General features

- Technical Annex
- 1. S&T excellence\*
- 2. Impact
- 3. Implementation



- COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy
- Specific objectives



#### Network of proposers



#### Eligibility!

- Anonymous\*
- Min ITC
- Format
- Peaceful purpose
- English

# JOIN running COST Actions/ COST activities

- DO your research of COST Actions

<https://www.cost.eu/cost-actions/browse-actions/>

- INVEST your time
- IDENTIFY the CO
- CONTACT the Act

- DON'T UNDERES
- DON'T only shoot radar

<https://www.cost.eu/>

The screenshot shows the COST website's 'Browse Actions' page. The header includes the COST logo and navigation menus for 'Who We Are', 'Funding', 'COST Actions', and 'Academy'. A search bar is also present. The main content area features a search box for 'Action number or Text' and a list of actions. The actions listed are:

- CA17110 | 29/10/2018 - 28/10/2022: Standardizing output-based surveillance to control non-regulated diseases of cattle in the EU
- CA17131 | 26/10/2018 - 25/10/2022: The Soil Science & Archaeo-Geophysics Alliance: going beyond prospection
- CA17134 | 24/10/2018 - 23/10/2022: Optical synergies for spatiotemporal sensing of scalable ecophysiological traits
- CA17103 | 23/10/2018 - 22/10/2022: Delivery of Antisense RNA Therapeutics

# 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](http://www.cost.eu/experts)

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

- As a COST expert, you will have opportunity to:
  - Contribute to the evaluation of COST OC proposals;
  - Participate in the assessment of Action results and outcomes;
  - Take a part in the assessment of COST strategic activities.

More on COST Experts: [www.cost.eu/participate/experts](http://www.cost.eu/participate/experts)

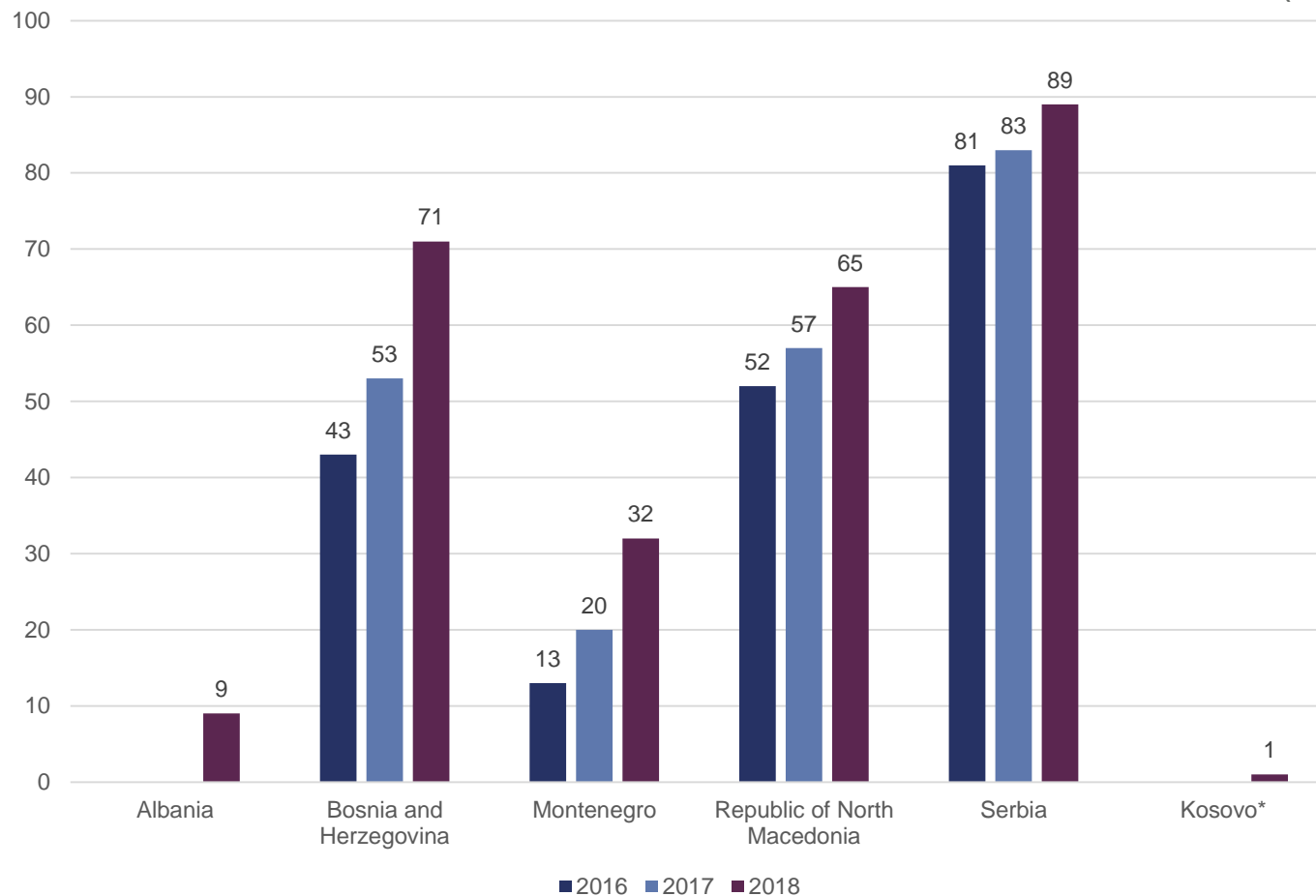




# Participation figures of the Western Balkan countries

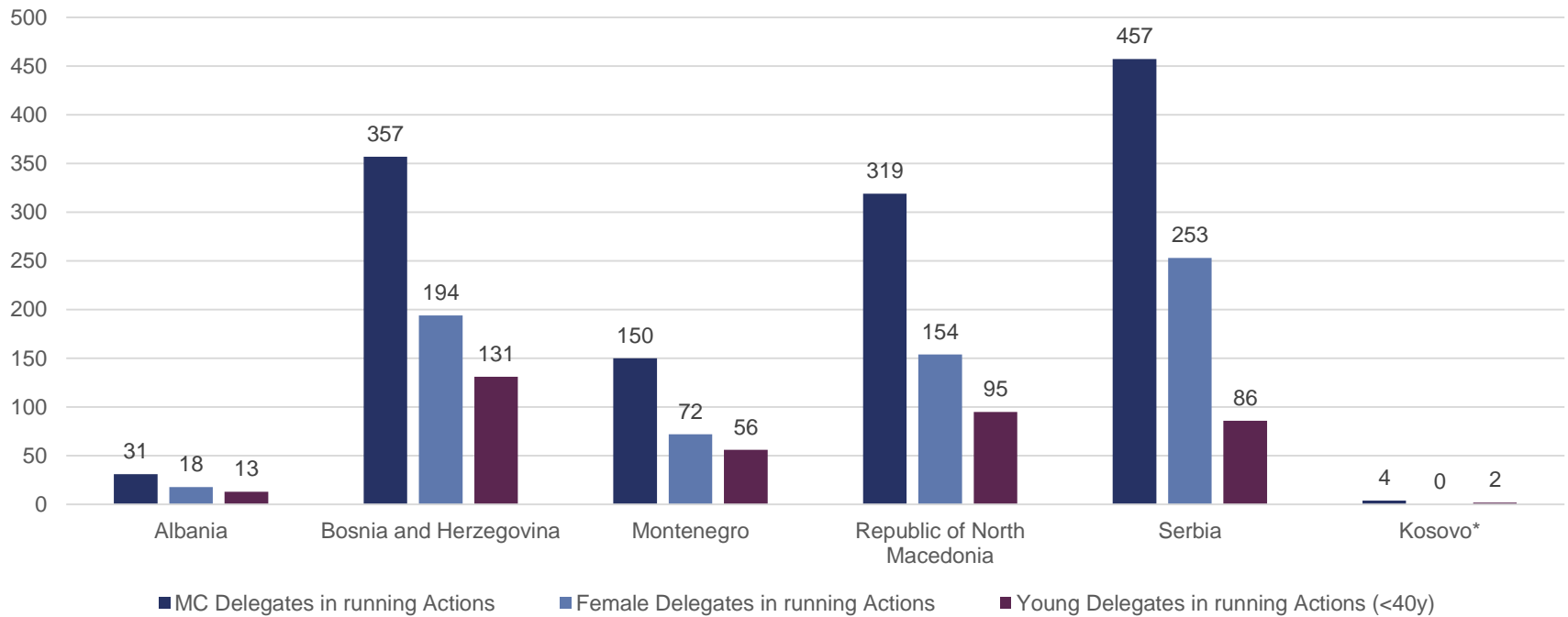


# Participation in running Actions 2016-18 (in%)

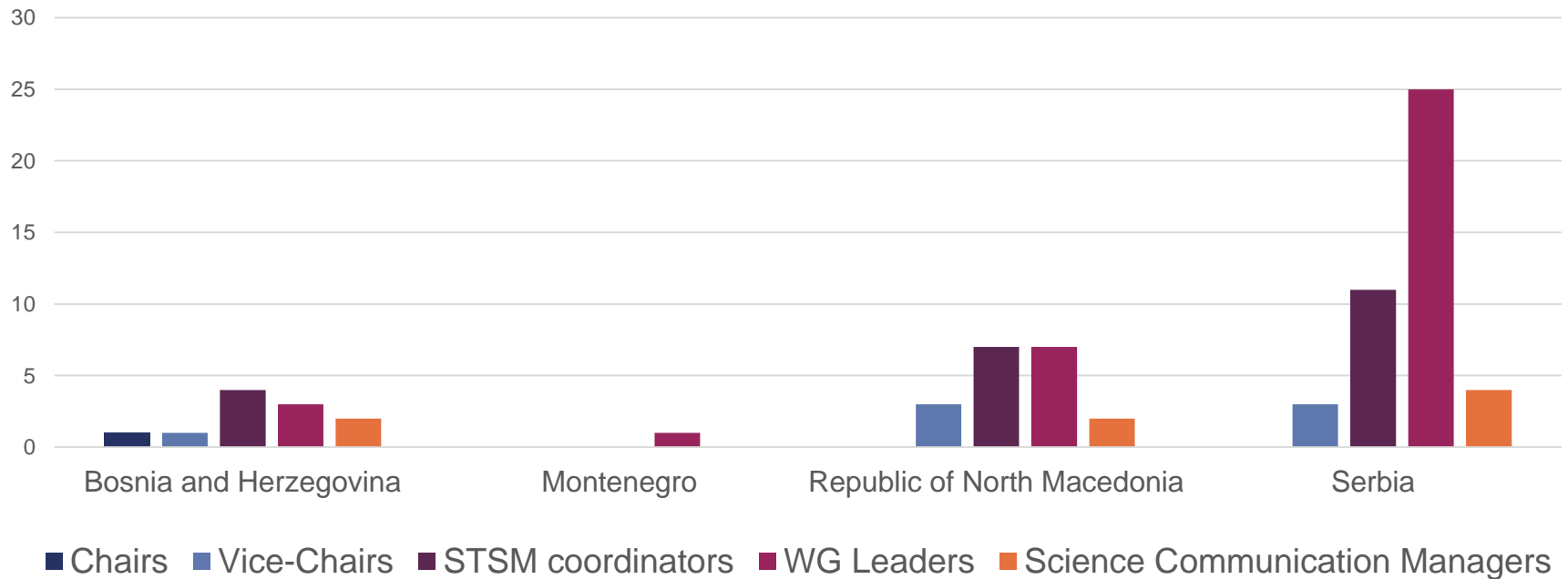


Number of running COST Actions per year	
year	n of Actions running
2016	352
2017	339
2018	291

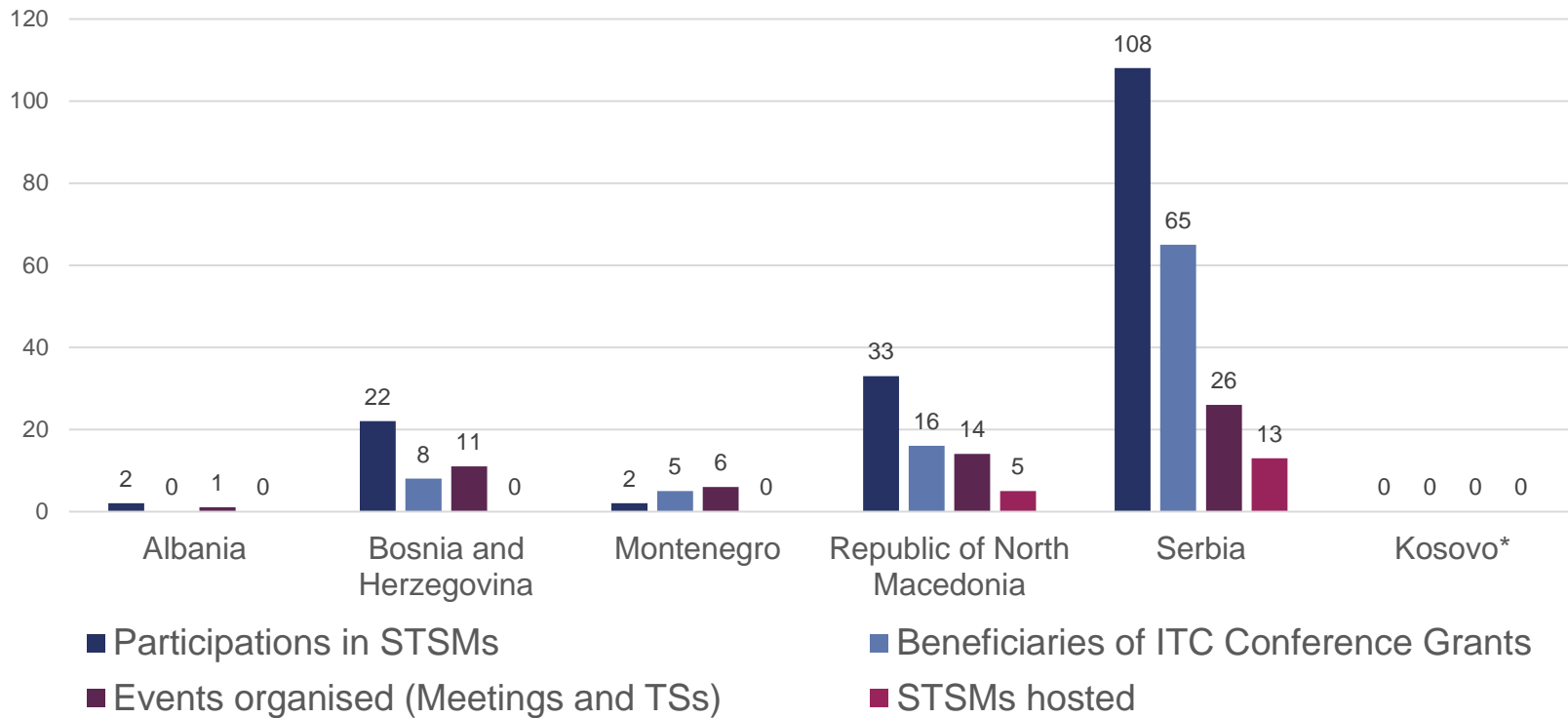
# Management committee members - 2018



# Leadership positions in running Actions - 2018



# Networking tools used - 2018





# Summary

- High level of MoU acceptance
- High level of management committee participation
- Leadership positions to be better exploited (COST Academy)
- Networking tools use (also hosting) to be increased
- Number of proposers to be increased
- Time to join new COST Actions to be decreased



# Results to be expected

- stronger network engagement
  - increased budget share


# Thank you!

## Contact and engage with us!

 @COST.Programme

 @COSTprogramme

 COST Association

 COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology)

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