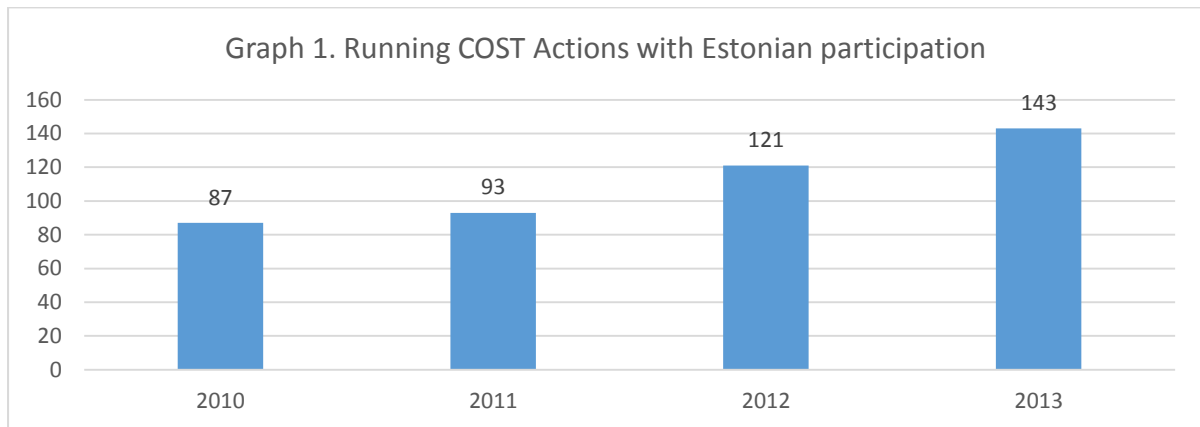


## How Estonian researchers and Estonian research and innovation system can benefit from participation in COST Association?

The purpose of this short note is to present evidence based information on benefits that COST can offer to the research community in Estonia, and through them to the Estonian research and innovation system.

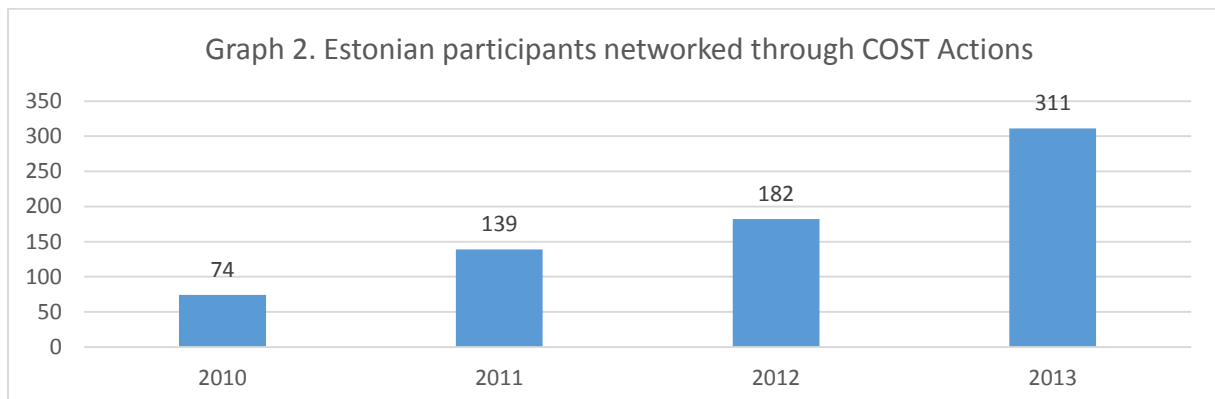
### 1. Each year COST allows Estonian scientific community to connect to a constantly increasing number of Pan-European research networks - COST Actions.

Since 2010 Estonian participants (researchers, SMEs, government representatives) were involved in Management Committees of a constantly increasing number of COST Actions that reached 143 COST Actions in 2013 (Graph 1). It means that the Estonian scientific community has access to 143 pan-European S&T networks where knowledge is pooled and shared in the pursuit of common objectives and where members collaborate effectively becoming a trans-national team built on trust.



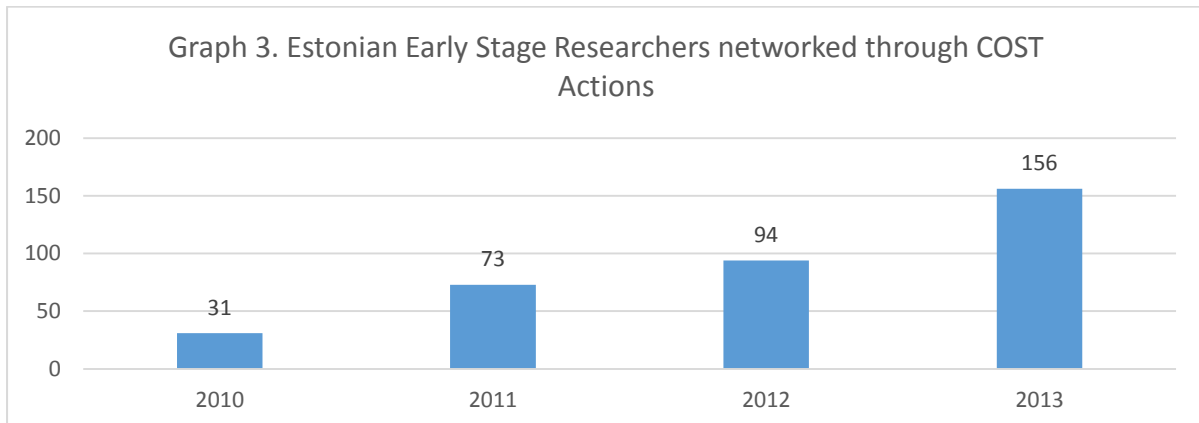
### 2. More and more researchers from Estonia benefit each year from networking activities offered by COST Actions.

The number of times when the Estonian participants could benefit from networking activities offered through COST Actions increased by a factor of 4 since 2010 (Graph 2). In 2013, Estonians went 311 times to a meeting/conference or a short term scientific mission/training school organised in a framework of a COST Action. As of 2014, this numbers are foreseen to increase thanks to new measures targeting researchers from inclusiveness countries. These measures will be introduced in order to contribute to the widening objective of Horizon 2020.



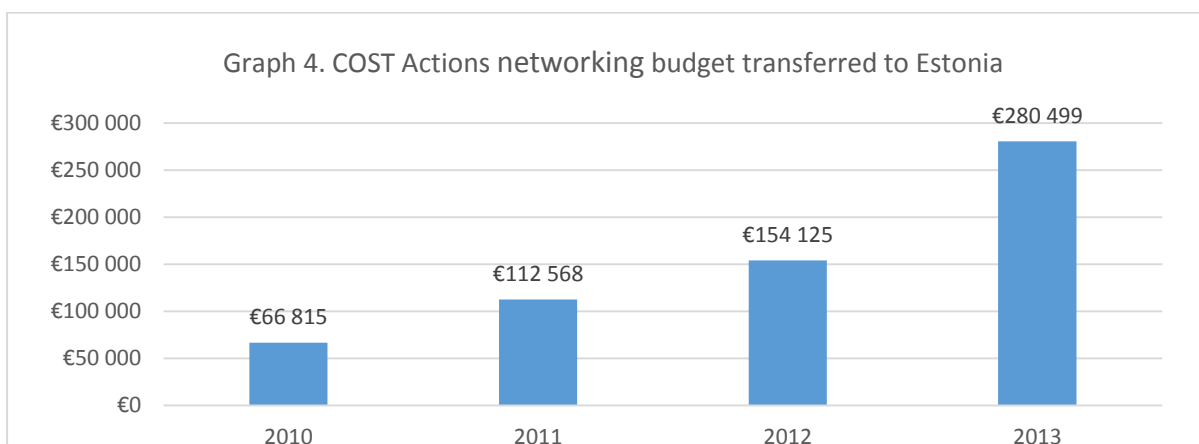
### 3. COST offers Early Stage Researchers from Estonia an opportunity to increase their visibility and connect to Pan-European research networks

Almost half of Estonian participants networked through COST Actions were Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) (Graph 3). COST Actions offer ESRs an opportunity to gain visibility and experience, including leadership experience, through engagement in the management of COST Actions as Management Committee Chairs or Working Group Chairs or in other positions holding clear responsibilities that enable their advancement becoming leading scientists and experienced science managers. Within COST Actions different measures were introduced to stimulate participation of ESR, i.e. ESR conference grant or a Short Term Scientific Mission.



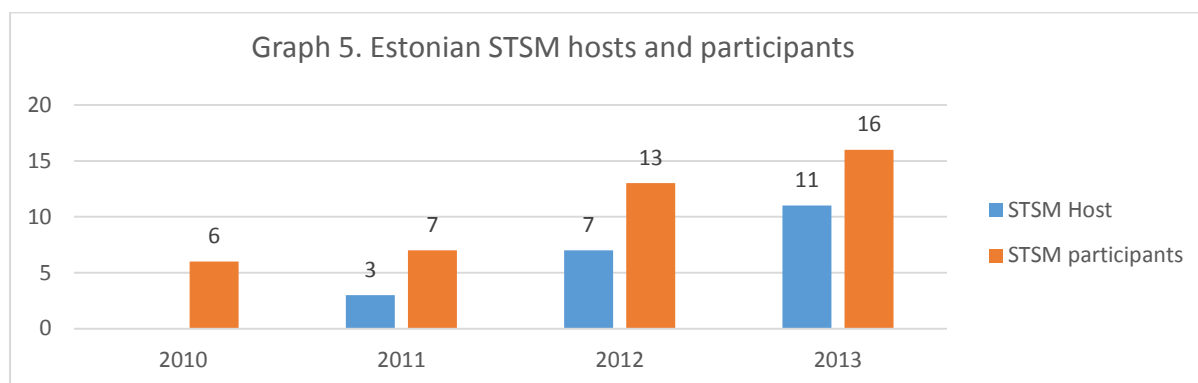
### 4. Estonian research and innovation system benefits more and more from COST Actions' budget

In 2013 more than EUR 280,000 benefited Estonian researchers, but also Estonian institutions acting as COST Action Grant Holders and organising scientific meetings, workshops and training schools. Within COST Actions, Estonian researchers and institutions gain visibility and experience, including in the management of international S&T collaboration projects.



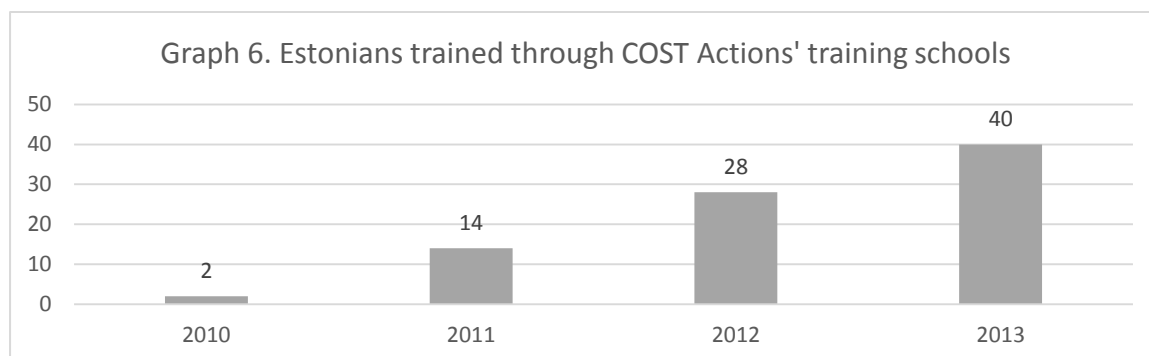
### 5. Estonian researchers establish more and more collaborative links via and increased participation in Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) organised through COST Actions

STSMs organised in a framework of COST Actions aim at strengthening the existing networks and foster collaborations by allowing researchers to visit an institution, laboratory or any organization in another country for a period of maximum 3 months. The Estonians are taking more and more advantage of this networking tool in both ways: through hosting and sending researchers to a new partner institution (Graph 5).



### 6. More and more Estonian Early Stage Researchers are being trained through training schools organised within COST Actions

The Estonians benefit more and more from the training schools organised in the framework of COST Actions. The number of trainees increased from 2 in 2010 to 40 in 2013 (Graph 6).



### 7. In Estonia, the demand for participation in COST Actions is increasing

Each year an increasing number of Estonian researchers joins so called “networks of proposers” applying for becoming a COST Action. In 2013, Estonians took part in 118 proposals (Graph7).

