

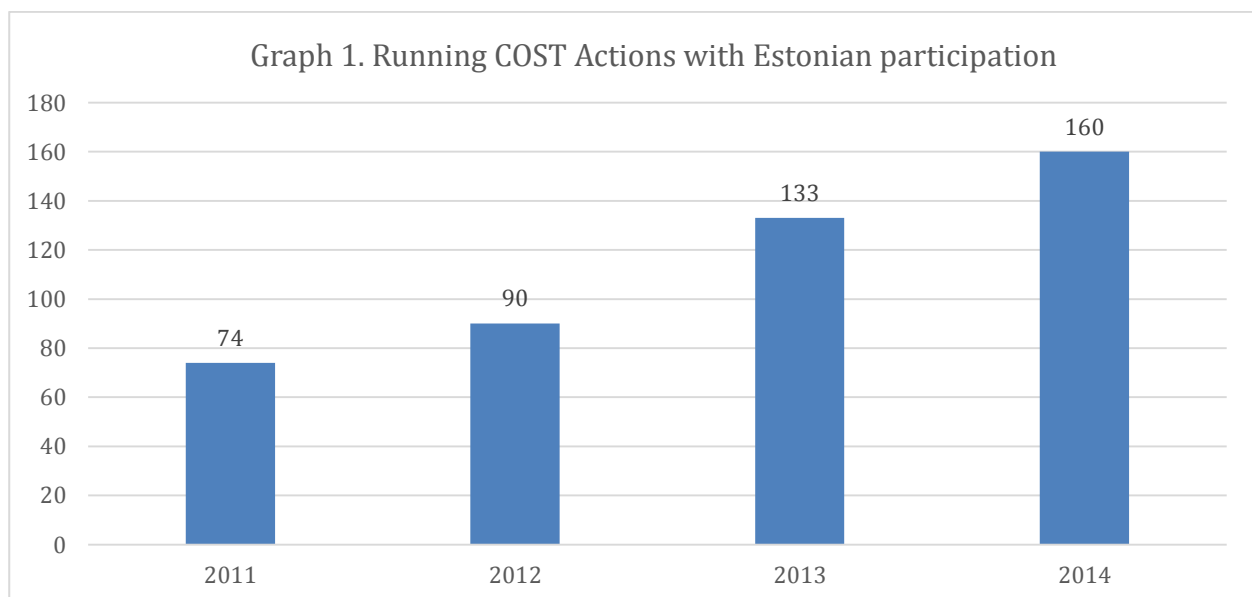
How can Estonian researchers and Estonian research and innovation system benefit from participation in COST?

The purpose of this 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.

COST Actions are flexible, effective and efficient pan-European networks for researchers, engineers and scholars to cooperate and coordinate nationally funded research activities allowing to jointly develop their own ideas and new initiatives in any science and technology field. Actions are open and inclusive to all researchers, irrespective of country, career stage or gender. In each Action, a Management Committee, composed of members nominated by the COST National Coordinator, is in charge of the Action coordination, implementation and management. Within the Action, a wide range of networking activities (tools) are supported by COST, such as meetings, workshops, STSM, and Training Schools. 370 Actions were running in 2014.

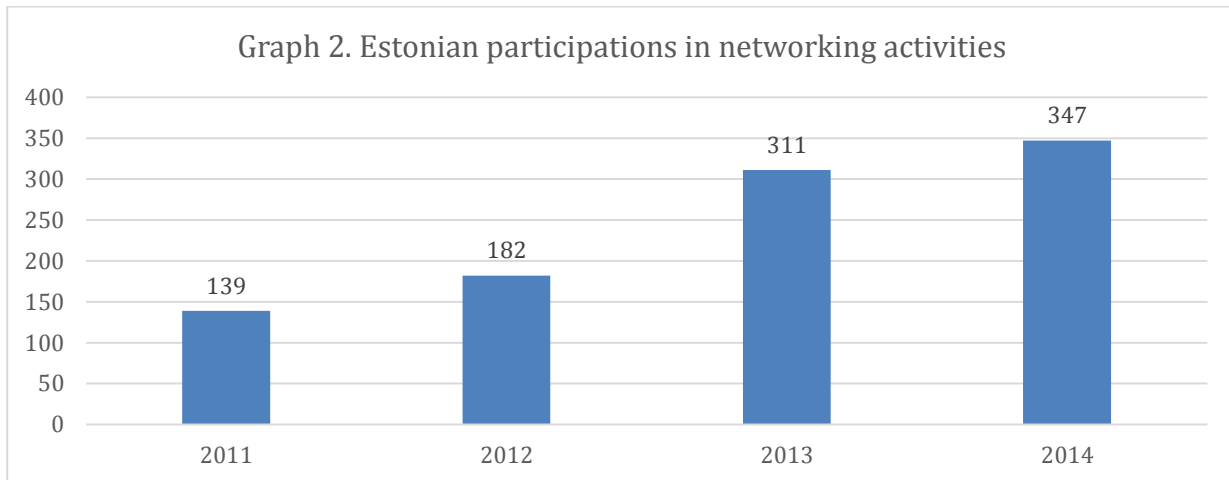
1. Participation in COST Actions

Since 2011 Estonia has participated in a constantly growing number of running COST Actions (Number of approved Memoranda of Understanding). In 2014, the Estonian research community not only participated in the Management Committee (MC) of 160 Actions (Graph 1), but had access to all their networking activities.



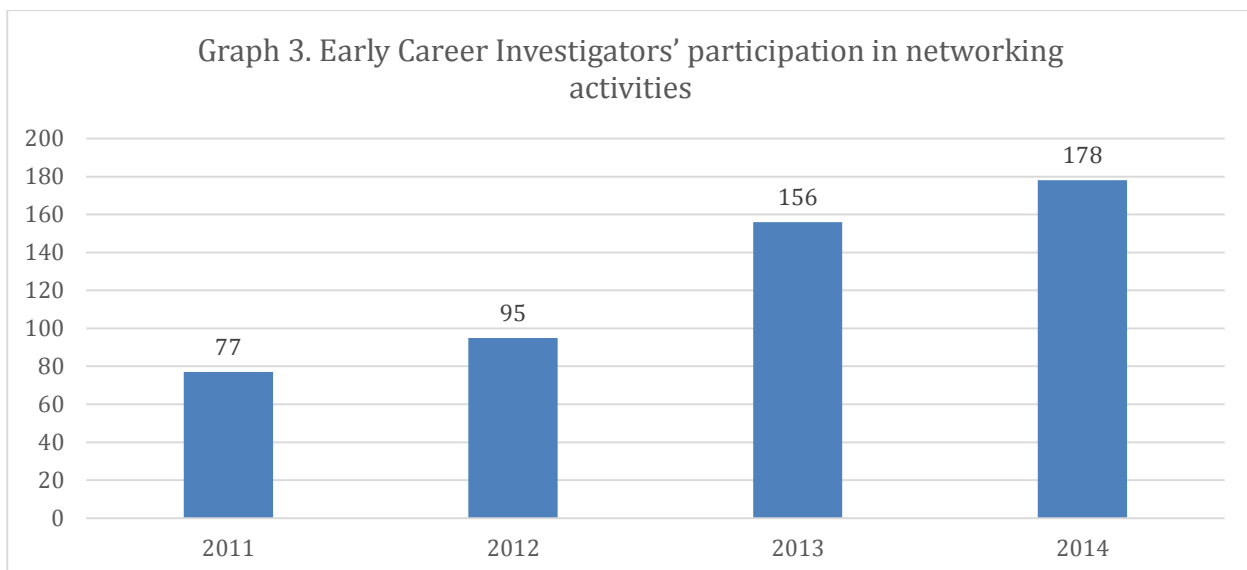
2. Participation in COST Action networking activities by Estonian researchers, engineers and scholars

The number of Estonian participations to networking activities (meetings, workshops, STSM, Training Schools) is growing since 2011 (Graph 2). In 2014, Estonians participated in 347 COST Action activities (any before mentioned category).



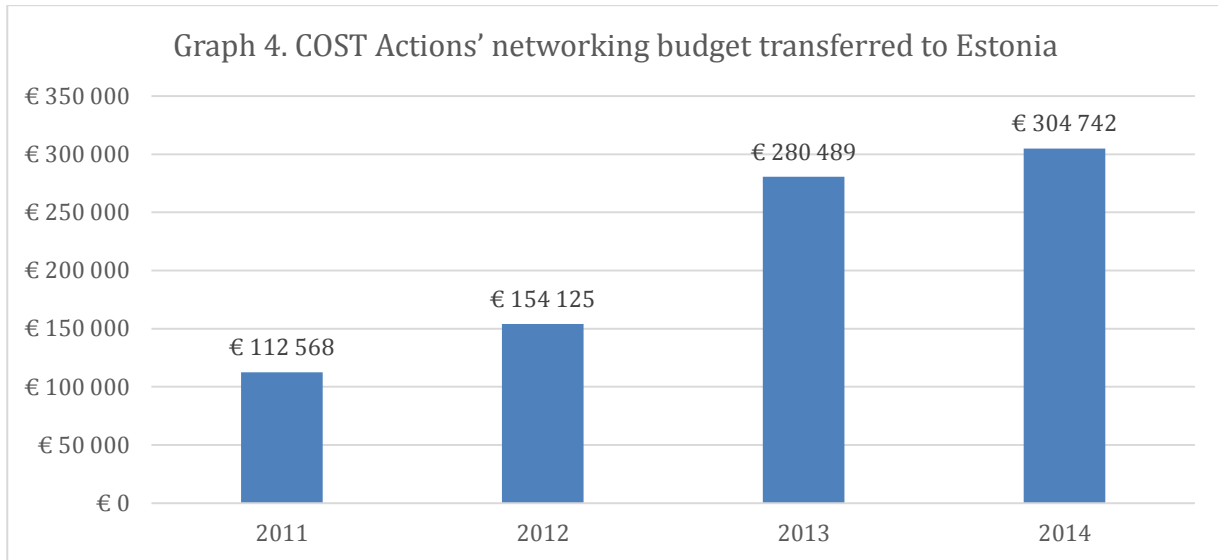
3. COST offers Early Career Investigators from Estonia an opportunity to increase their visibility and connect to Pan-European research networks – COST Actions

COST stimulates the participation of Early Career Investigators - ECI (less than PhD + 8 years) in all its networking activities (meetings, workshops, STSM, Training Schools). In 2014, more than half of Estonian participations in networking activities (as shown in the previous graph) were from Early Career Investigators-ECI (Graph 3).



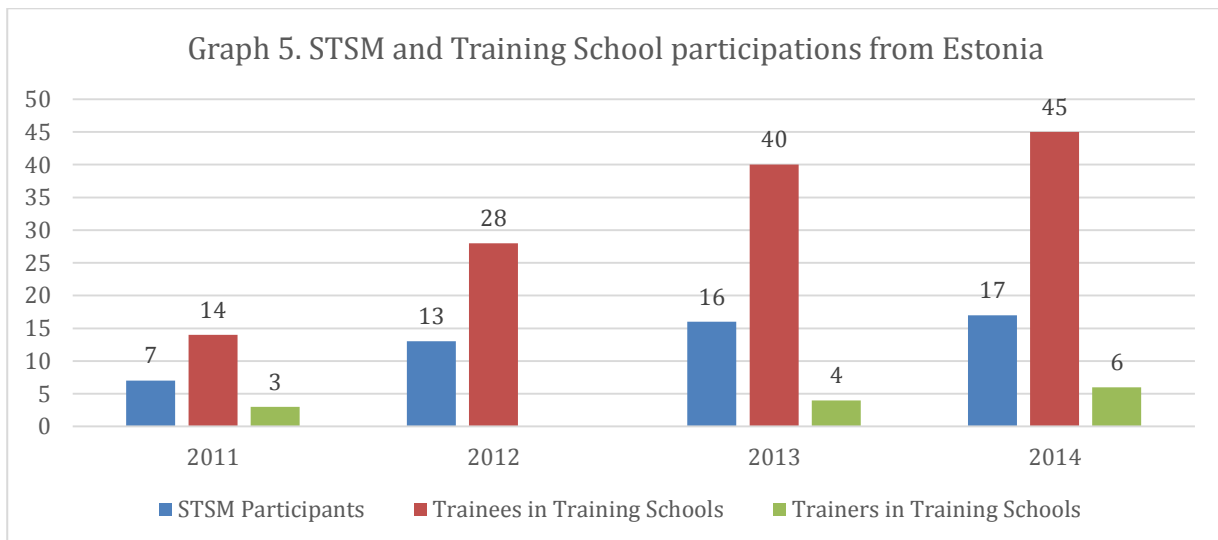
4. Estonian research and innovation system benefits more and more from COST Actions' budget

In 2014, around EUR 305,000 benefited Estonian researchers (Graph 4). This includes participations to meetings, workshops, STSM, Training Schools, Local Organiser Support, but also Estonian Grant Holder institutions' administrative support – FSAC. Payment's made directly by COST (such as participations to the first MC meeting, experts' honoraria) are not included.



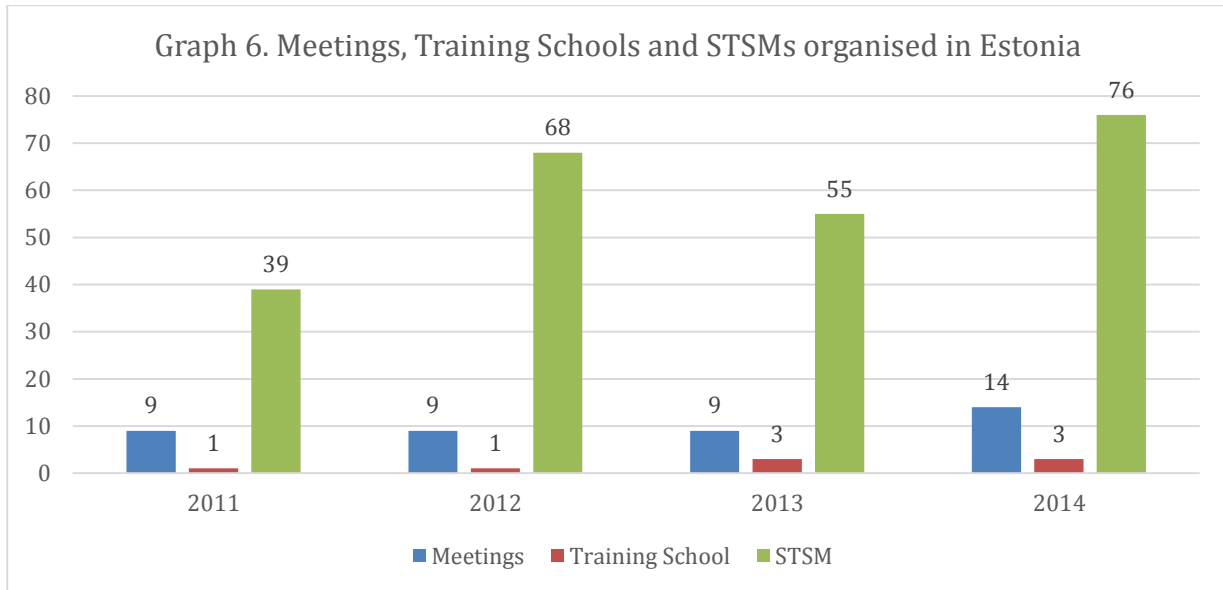
5. Estonian researchers establish more and more collaborative links via an increased participation in Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) and training schools organised through COST Actions

In 2014, Estonians participated in 17 Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs). 45 Estonian trainees and 6 Estonian trainers were involved in training schools (Graph 5).



6. Estonian institutions gain increasing visibility thanks to meetings, Training Schools and STSMs being hosted in their premises

In 2014, 14 COST meetings, 3 Training Schools and 76 STSMs were held in Estonia helping to strengthen the existing networks and foster collaboration links between researchers, institutions and ultimately countries. They also allow to increase the visibility of hosting institutions. Estonian institutions seem to be particularly attractive to researchers coming on STSMs (Graph 6).



7. Estonian participation in COST Action proposals

In the COST Open Call collection 2014-1, 94 Estonian researchers participated in COST Action proposals (Graph 7). 845 eligible proposals were submitted in total to the collection 2014-1 (all COST countries).

