



Annual COST Seminar -

COST in FP7 and ISCH (individuals, Societies, Cultures and Health) Domain

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Paide, Estonia, 28/08/2014



What is COST?

Founded in Brussels in 1971 by Ministerial Conference of 19 European states, COST is the first and widest European intergovernmental framework for transnational Cooperation in Science and Technology

For 40 years COST has supported networking of research activities across all its 36 Member countries and beyond

COST is open to all disciplines and all novel and ground-breaking S&T ideas, and to all categories of partners where mutual benefit is real

COST Mission Statement

COST enables break-through scientific developments leading to new concepts and products and thereby **contributes to strengthen Europe's research and innovation capacities**





COST in Figures

- From 19 countries in 1971 to 36 countries in FP7 (Luxembourg has not yet joined for Horizon 2020).
- From 7 Actions to over 310 ongoing Actions
- From 7 Domains in to 9 Domains plus Trans-Domain Pilot

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| 30 000 | The number of researchers benefiting from COST Actions every year |
| 130 000 | The average annual budget of a COST Action (EUR) |
| 250 000 000 | The COST budget over the 7 years of FP7 (EUR) |
| 5 billion | The indicative amount of national research funding leveraged by COST over 7 years of FP7 (EUR) |

COST Countries (35+1)



■ The 28 EU Member States

■ EU Acceding & Candidate Countries

- ▶ former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- ▶ Iceland
- ▶ Republic of Serbia
- ▶ Turkey

■ Other Countries

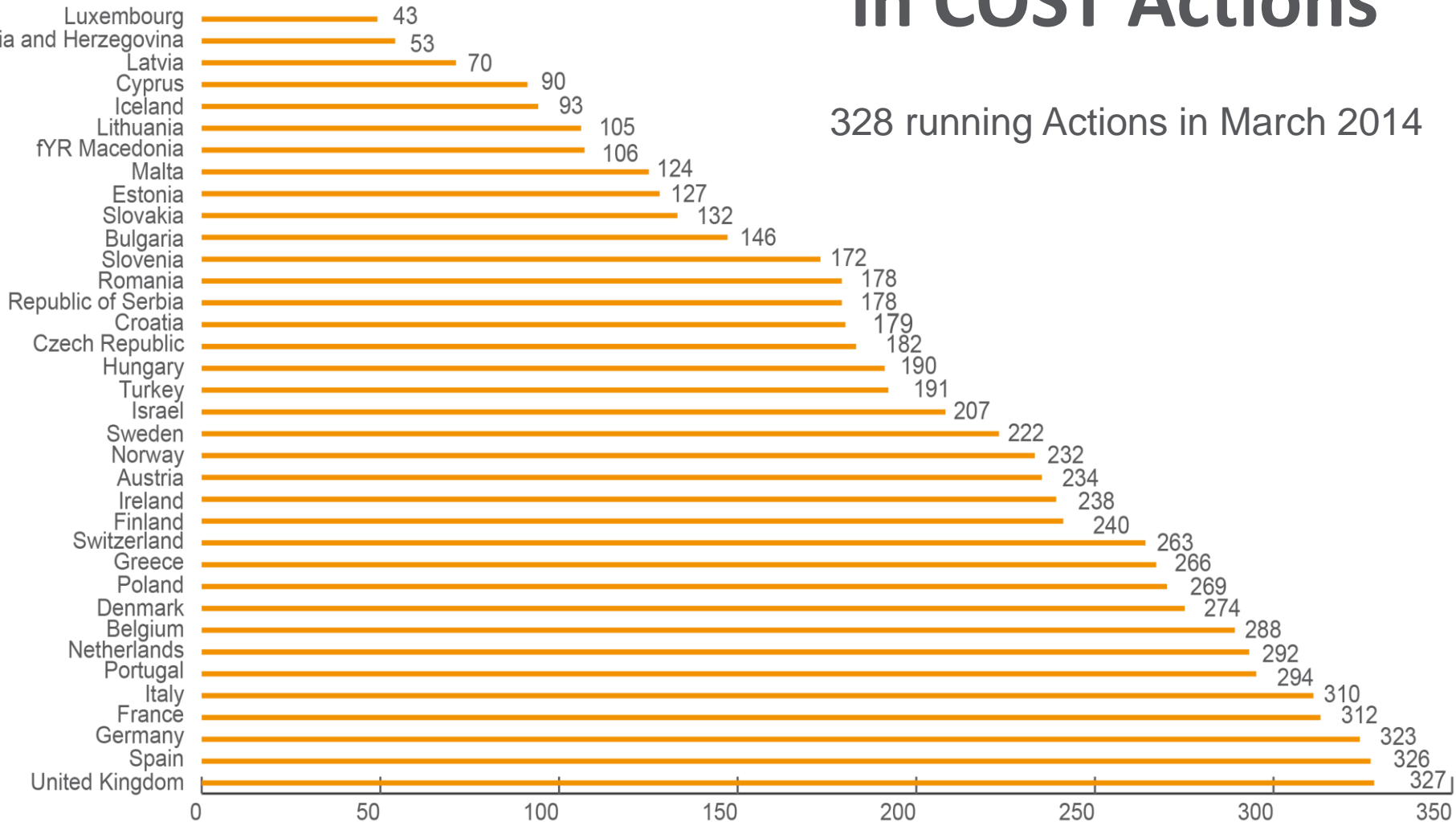
- ▶ Bosnia and Herzegovina
- ▶ Norway
- ▶ Switzerland

■ COST Cooperating State

- ▶ Israel

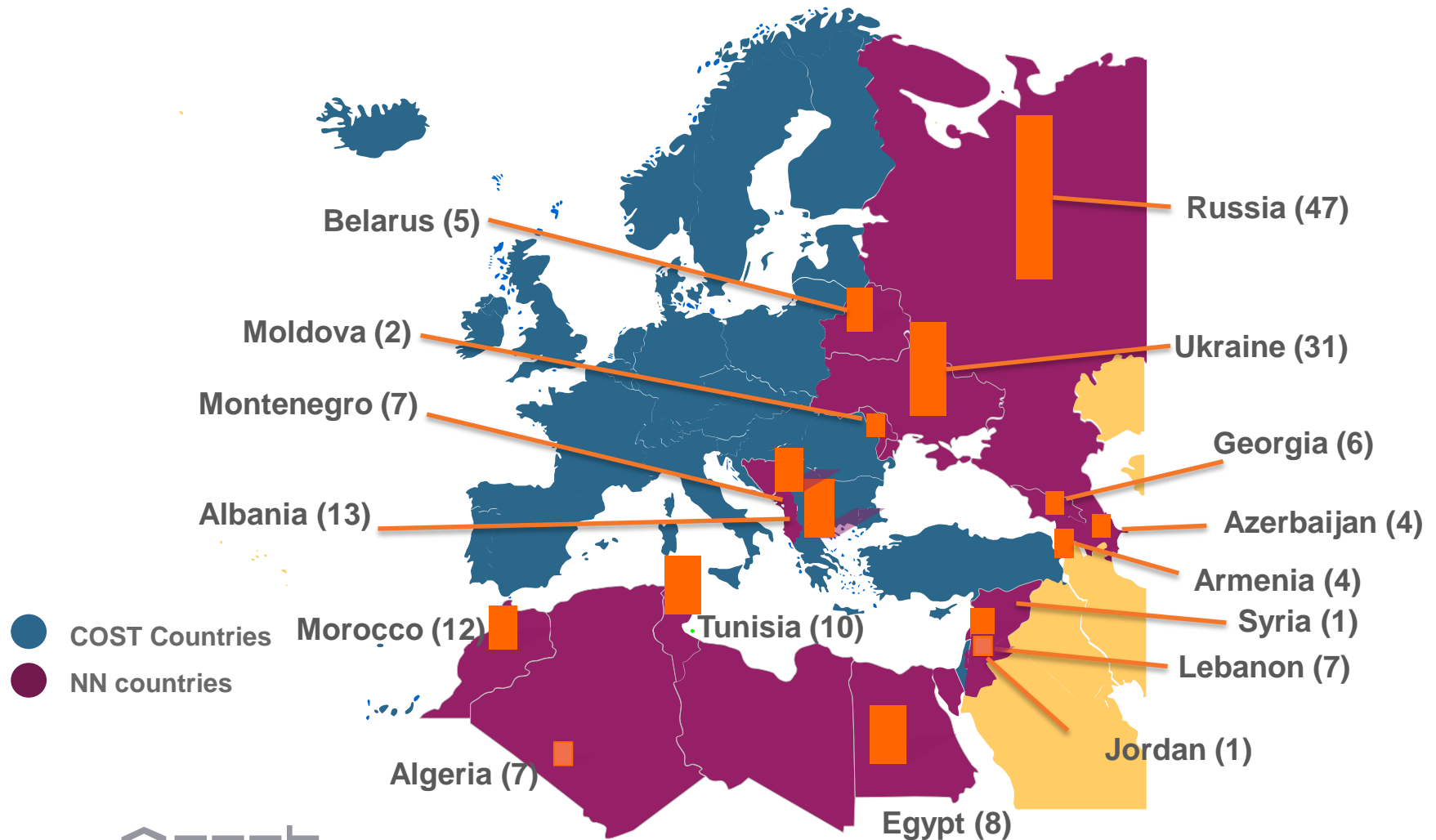
Country participation in COST Actions

328 running Actions in March 2014



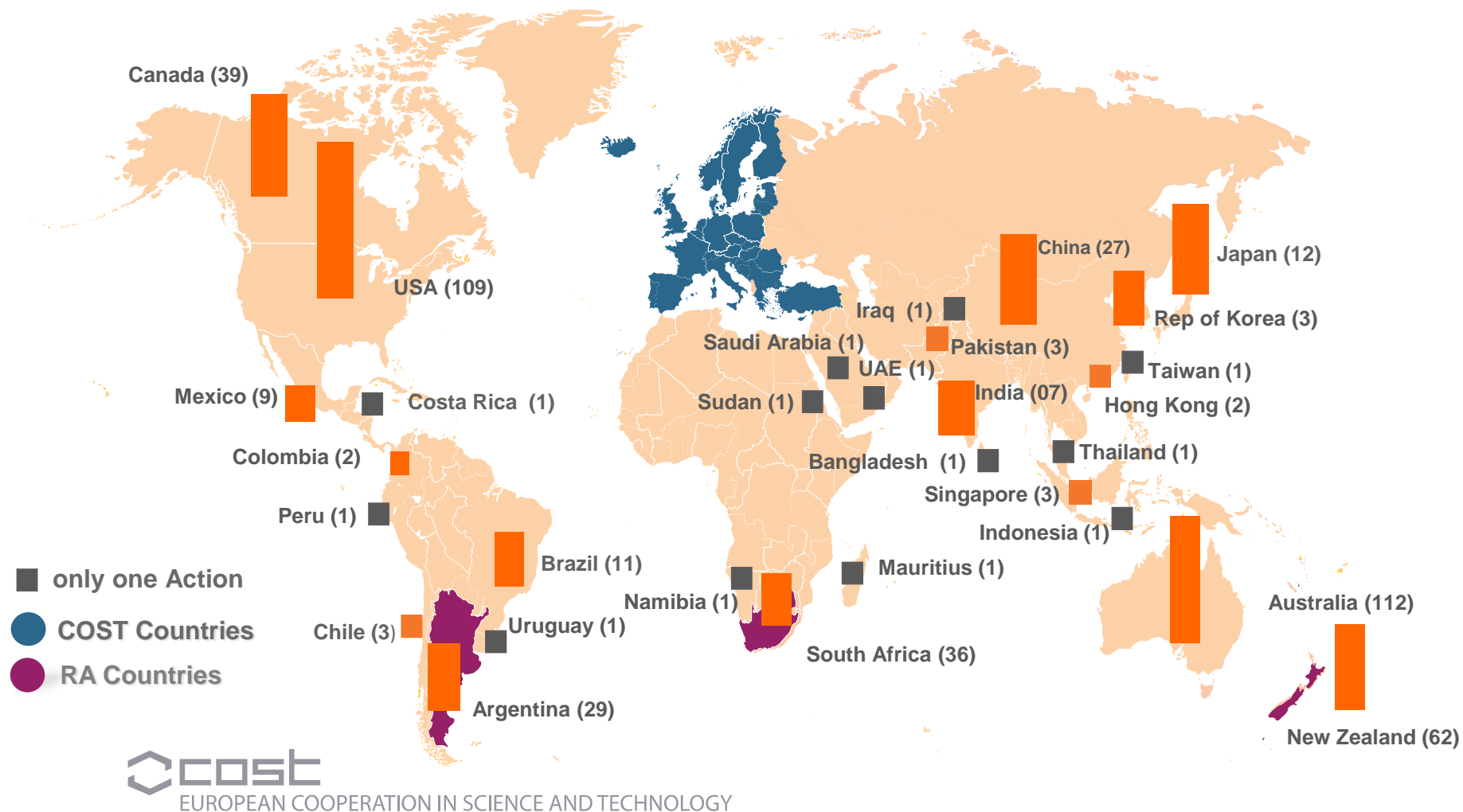
Near Neighbour Countries participation

165 Participations in running COST Actions (16 countries)



International Partner Countries Participation

482 Participations in running Actions (31 countries)



COST Funding in FP7



- Funded through the FP7 'Cooperation' programme
- The European Science Foundation (ESF) is COST's implementing agent
- Operated by the COST Office (Brussels)

COST Governance in FP7



COST Committee of Senior Officials (CSO)

- **Main decision-making and governing body of COST**
- Representatives of the 35 COST Member Countries and one Cooperating State.
- Each **COST Member Country appoints up to two representatives to the CSO (one is the COST National Coordinator - CNC)**
- Formulates the general strategy of COST
- Appoints the COST Domain Committees
- Approves the new COST Actions to be launched.
- Approves participation from participants in International Partner Countries

CSO President: Dr Ángeles Rodríguez-Peña

CSO Vice-President: Dr Primož Pristovšek



Domain Committee (DC)

- **Evaluates proposals for new COST Actions** (not in TDP)
- **Monitors running COST Actions** through Rapporteurs
- **Assesses completed COST Actions** through Final Assessment Panels
- **Proposes strategic initiatives** in its Domain
- Disseminates and highlights COST activities
- **Promotes synergies** between and among all COST Domains, the European Commission (EC) and other relevant stakeholders

COST Scientific Domains

| | |
|-------------|--|
| BMBS | Biomedicine and Molecular Biosciences |
| CMST | Chemistry and Molecular Sciences and Technologies |
| ESSEM | Earth System Science & Environmental Management |
| FA | Food and Agriculture |
| FPS | Forests, their Products and Services |
| ICT | Information & Communication Technologies |
| ISCH | Individuals, Societies, Cultures & Health |
| MPNS | Materials, Physical & Nanosciences |
| TUD | Transport & Urban Development |

In addition, ***Trans-Domain Proposals (TDP)*** allow for broad, trans-disciplinary proposals covering several fields of science and technology

What is a COST Action?

Science and Technology Network with a duration of four years and a minimum participation of five COST Member Countries, and is organised through a range of **networking tools**:

- **Meetings (MC, WG)**
- **Conferences**
- **Workshops,**
- **Short-term scientific exchanges**
- **Training schools,**
- **Publications & dissemination activities**

Action General Strategy

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Describes the Action objectives and the added value of networking.

Two parts: Memorandum proper & Technical Annex.

Accepted by a minimum of 5 different COST Member Countries and/or Cooperating State.

At the end of the COST Action, what am I expected to deliver?

Your Action was funded based on the Objectives stated in the MoU and these are expected to be achieved.



How are COST Actions funded?

Yearly Grant Agreement



**MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE
(MC)**

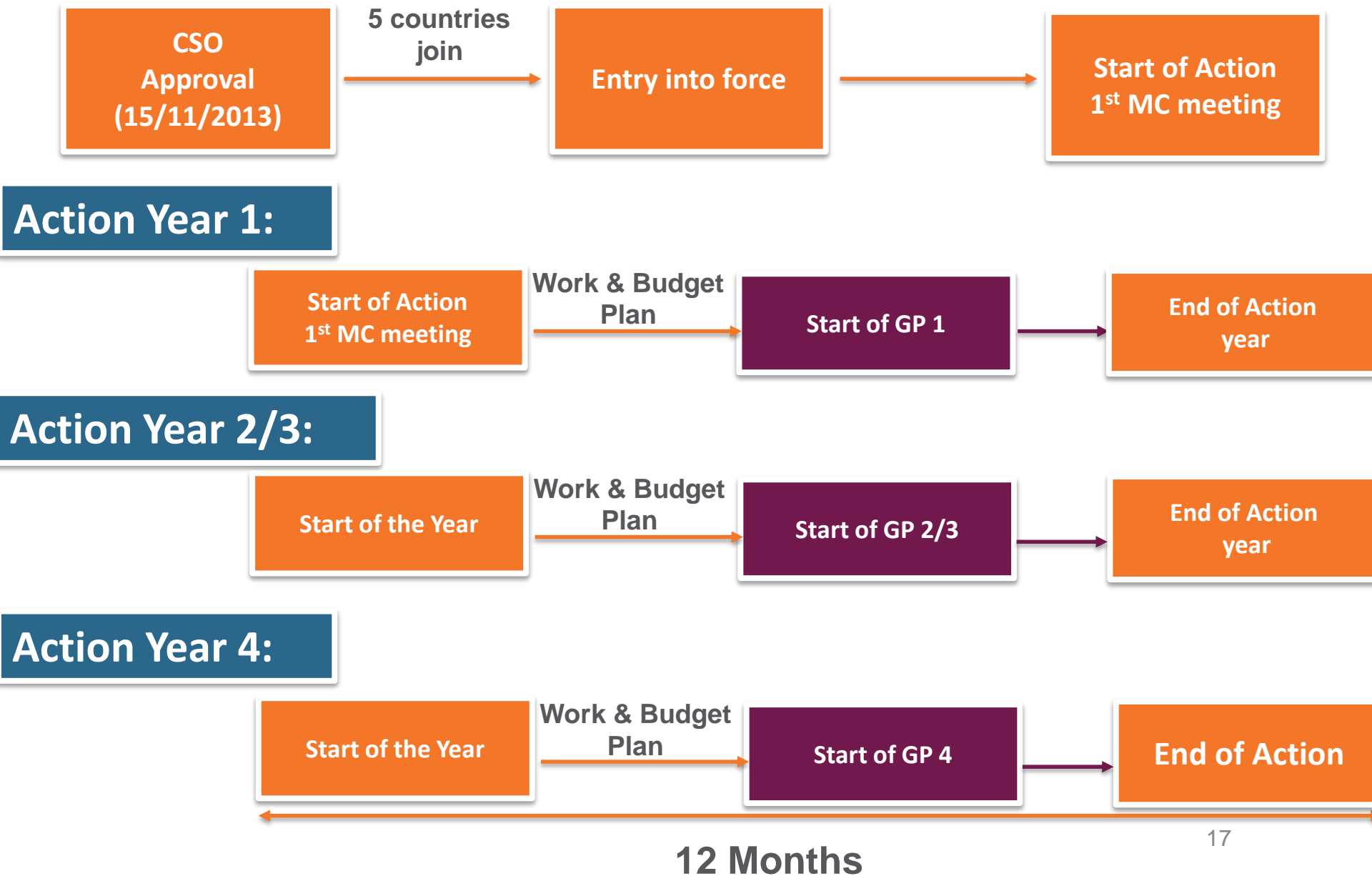
COST Office negotiates and approves
Work and Budget Plan with MC

**COST
OFFICE**

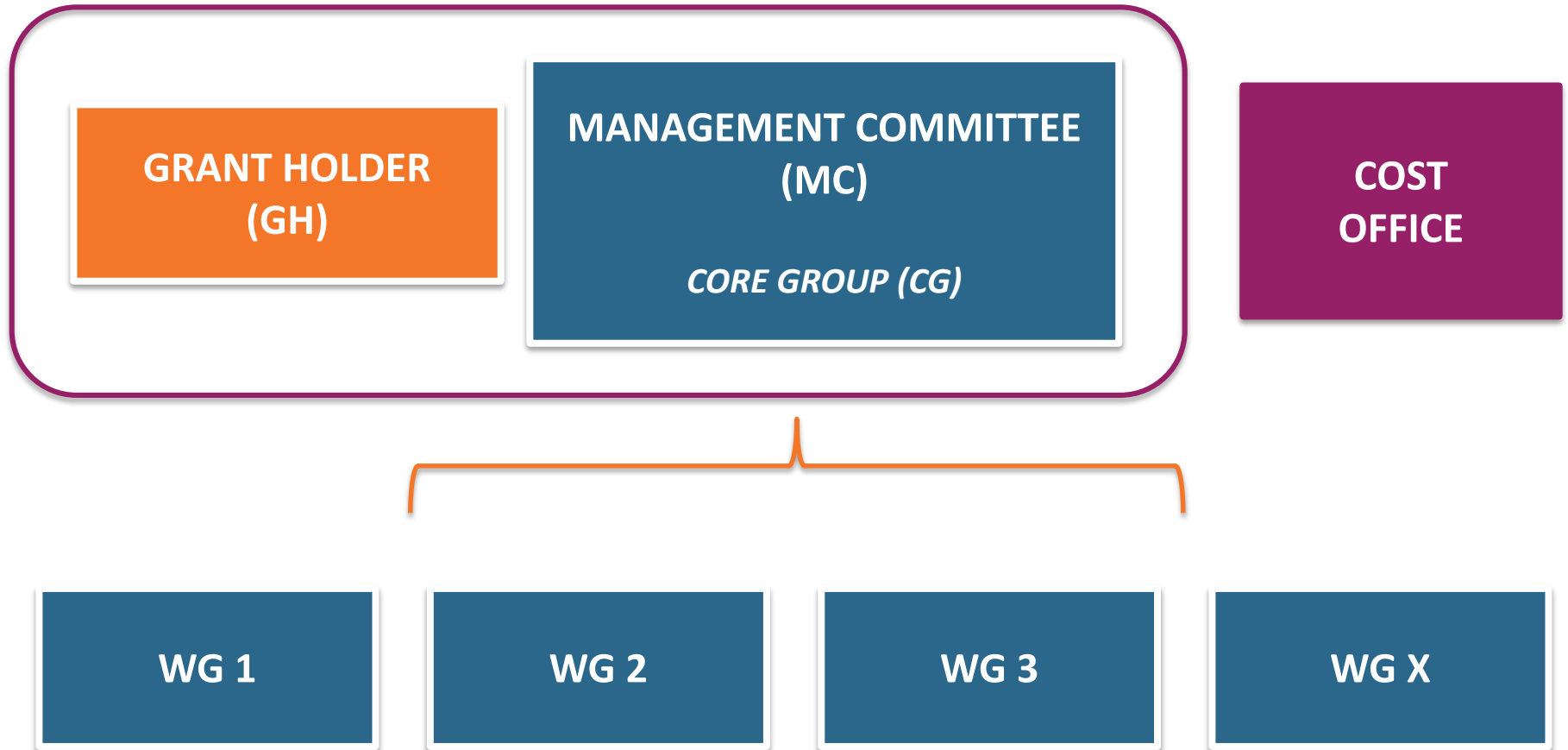
**GRANT
HOLDER**
Institution that
complies with
COST rules.

COST Office signs GA with GH

COST Action Life time



Action Structure



Management Committee

KEY ROLE in order to ORGANISE AND DISTRIBUTE THE WORK

ACTION CHAIR

ACTION VICE CHAIR

WG LEADERS

GRANT HOLDER SR

And other horizontal activities



CORE GROUP:

Prepare MC decisions

CORE GROUP MEETINGS



Your role as a MC Member

- It is **YOU**, who has been nominated to be a MC member
- **YOU** are representing your **Country** in this Action
- The **SUCCESS** of this COST Action is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY
- Be **OPEN**. Be **PROACTIVE**.
- **HELP. OFFER** yourself for activities
- Bring in your **EXPERTISE** (scientific, regional, etc.)
- Pass forward information, **SHARE** knowledge
- It is your chance
 - to create or enlarge your **NETWORK**
 - to be **RECOGNIZED as working in this COST Action**

Management Committee

TAKING DECISIONS IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE ACTION'S OBJECTIVES: WHAT IS THE PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW?

MC MEETINGS

Minimum once a year in a participating COST Country, up to 2 participants per COST country.

Typical duration ½ day.

Decisions only valid if at least 2/3 of the Participating COST Countries are represented.

Simple majority vote of MC Members with **one vote per Participating COST Country**.

MC decisions must be minuted and the minutes uploaded in e-COST and sent to COST Office.



EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

E-VOTE

Initiated and managed by the MC Chair.

All MC members must be in the e-mail list.

Vote open for 7 days.

Simple majority vote of MC Members with **one vote per Participating COST Country**.

Minuted MC decisions should be included in the official MC minutes of the following MC Meeting, EXCEPT approvals of IPC and NNC.

WORKING GROUPS

PRODUCTION & EXCHANGE OF RESEARCH

The objectives of Working Groups are to perform the necessary tasks required for the Action to fulfil its scientific objectives as defined in the MoU.

WG Leaders must be MC Members.

Working Group Meetings: Coordinating production and exchange of research, preparing reports for MC. WG Meetings have specific agendas and minutes.

COMPOSED BY:

Any researchers from Participating COST Member Countries.

MC Members, or MC Observers from NNC, IPC, Specific Organisations.

Every MC Member must join a Working Group and actively participate as a Working Group Member.





COST Science and Technology Activities

- **Working Group Meetings**
 - Coordinate the research work
 - Prepare reports to MC
- **Workshops and Conferences**
 - To serve the scientific Action objectives and acts as a showcase for the activities of the Action.
- **Dissemination Meetings**
 - To showcase an Action at e.g. relevant conference in the field
- **Training Schools**
 - Provide intensive training on a subject that contributes to the aim of the Action
 - If applicable, offer familiarization with unique equipment or know-how in one of the laboratories of the Action



COST Science and Technology Activities

- **Short Term Scientific Missions**
 - all researchers from participating countries, but preference for Early Stage Researchers (PhD + 8 years), PhD students...
 - fostering collaboration, learn a new technique or take measurements using instruments not available in their own institution (excellent mean to produce joint research)
- **Dissemination** (publications, website and outreach activities)
- **COST Activities from other budget lines**
 - ESR Conference Grant
 - R-STSMs



Monitoring/Evaluation of Actions

- **Monitoring of Actions is carried out via:**
 - Annual Monitoring Progress Reports (MPR)
 - Attendance of Action meetings by the DC Rapporteurs assigned to each Action
 - Annual Progress Conference =>
- **Annual Progress Conference (APC):**
 - MC Chairs present Action progress
 - ISCH APC 2014 took place on 5-6 May 2014 in Malta
- **Final Assessment Panel meeting:**
 - Assessment Panel takes part in the Final Event of the Action and the Panel meeting

ROLE

To evaluate the Actions scientific progress and output in relation to the objectives defined in the MoU, and to provide updates to the DC and the COST Office.

- The level of achievement of the Action objectives;
- The Work and Budget Plan implementation against the scientific and/or technological objectives;
- The effective use of the appropriate COST Networking Tools to achieve the scientific objectives;
- Reasons and justifications of possible deviations from achieving the Actions scientific objectives;
- Country balance, gender balance and ESR participation;
- Effective dissemination of scientific and technological outputs and the generated impact.

How COST countries join an Action

Before Action Start and less than one year after CSO Approval



If New COST COUNTRIES joining the Action



OPTION 1: NNC & IPC Already Included at the proposal = FOUNDERS

- Chair encodes applicant details in eCOST.
- Needs MC approval.

Not for TDP Pilot Actions

OPTION 2: NEW NNC & IPC

- Applicant contacts Chair
- Chair encodes applicant details in eCOST
- Applicant and Chair complete application form in eCOST
- eCOST manages the process of Management Committee (MC), Domain Committee (DC) and JAF approvals where necessary
- Applicant receives an email notifying them of the outcome.

e-COST International Cooperation management tool
SEE ANNEX of the PRESENTATION

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

- ‘Institutions’ from **COST Member Countries, Near Neighbour Countries** and **International Partner Countries**, including:
 - Government Organisations, except Intergovernmental Organisations
 - Universities and Associated Organisations
 - Business Enterprises (ranging from SMEs to multinationals)
 - Private Non-Profit Organisations/NGOs (even if international)
 - Standards Organisations (even if international)
- **European Commission and EU Agencies**
- **European RTD Organisations**, including: CERN, EMBL, ESA, ESO, ESRF, European XFEL, ILL, EFDA JET;
- **International Organisations** (i.e. intergovernmental organisations whose members are countries), excluding European RTD Organisations



COST Open Call

Outcome of the 16th Collection

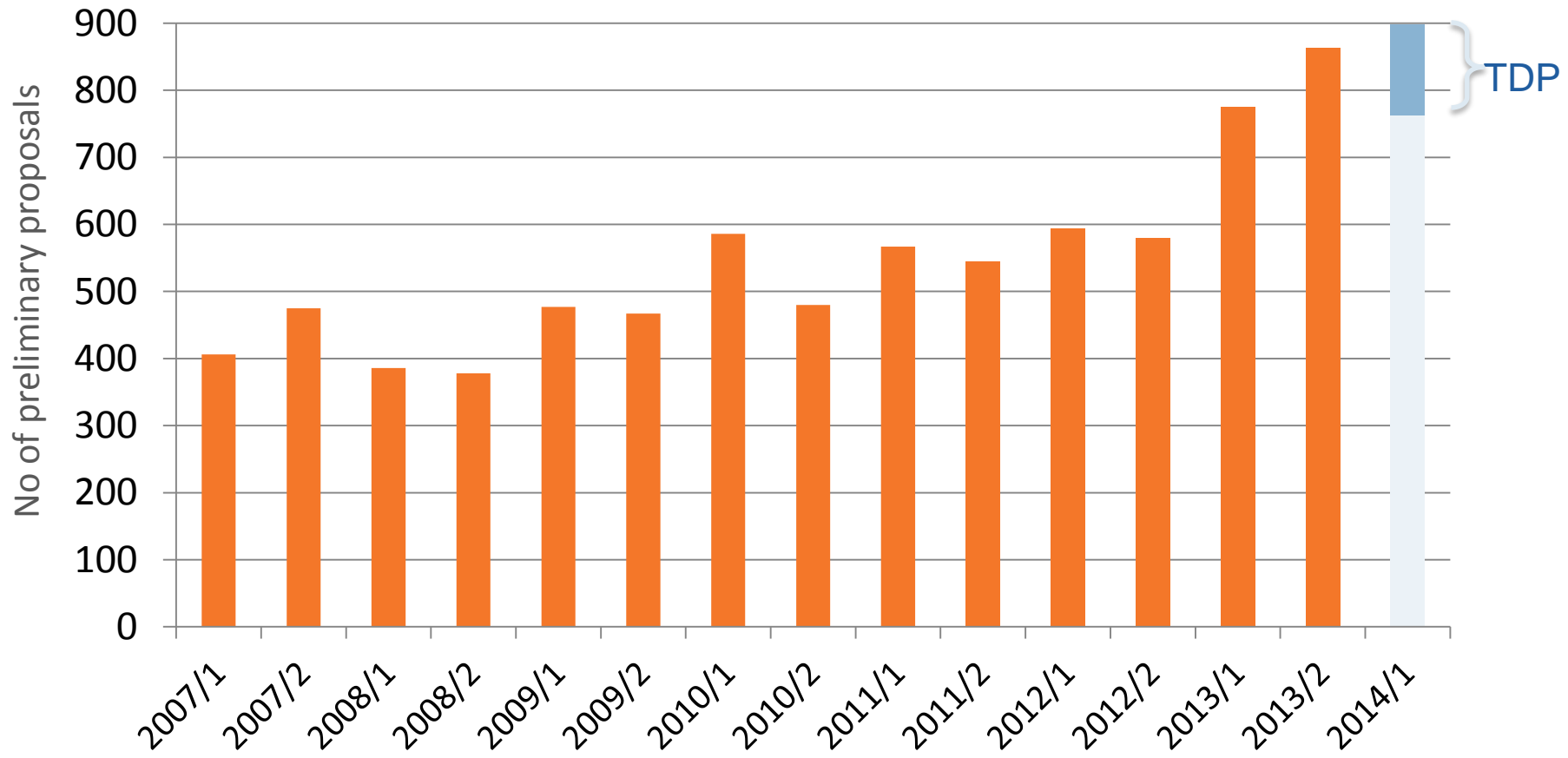
OC-2014-1

(28/03/2014)

Preliminary Proposals

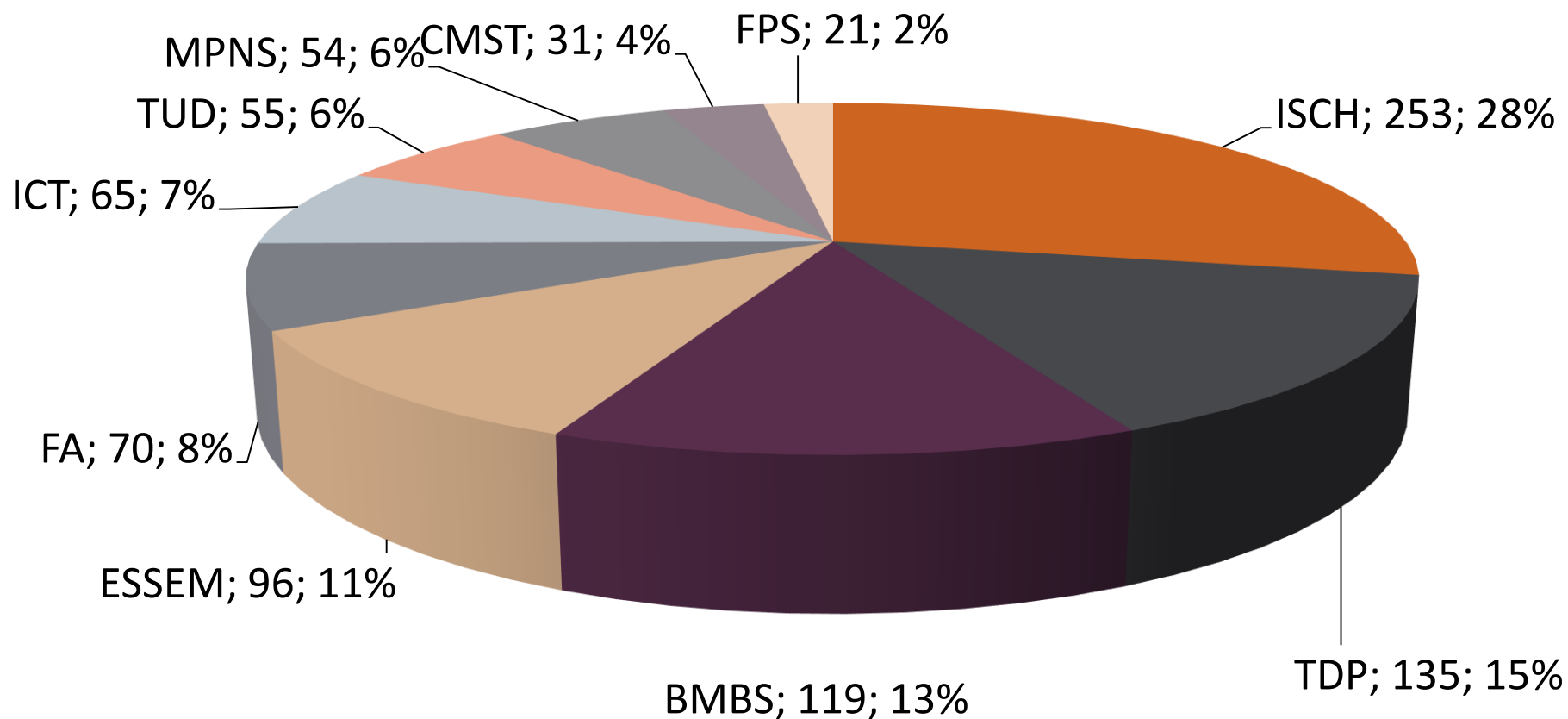
Total number: 899 (764 + 135 TDP)

Comparison with previous collection dates

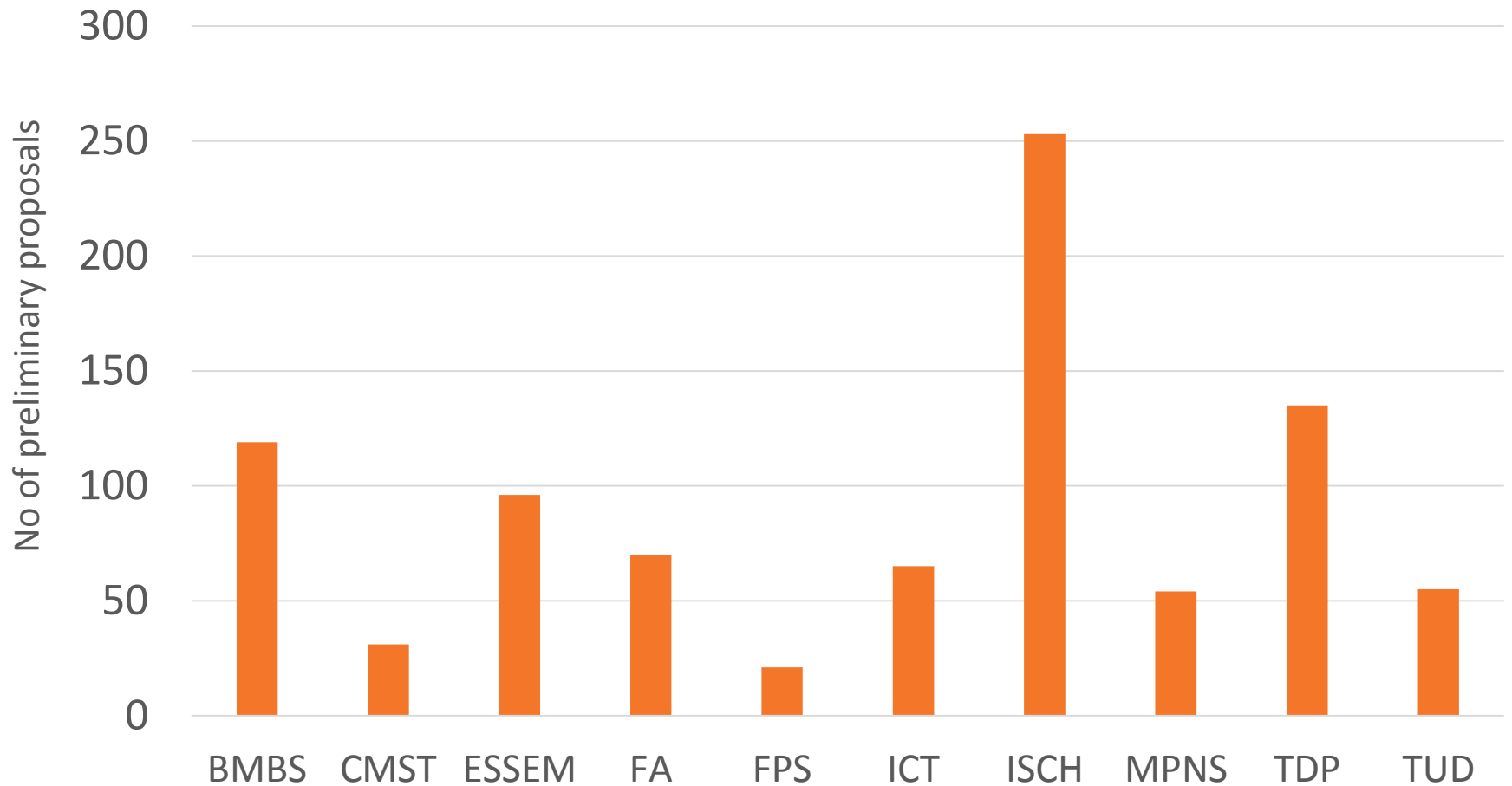


Distribution by Domain

(number of preliminary proposals, share in %)

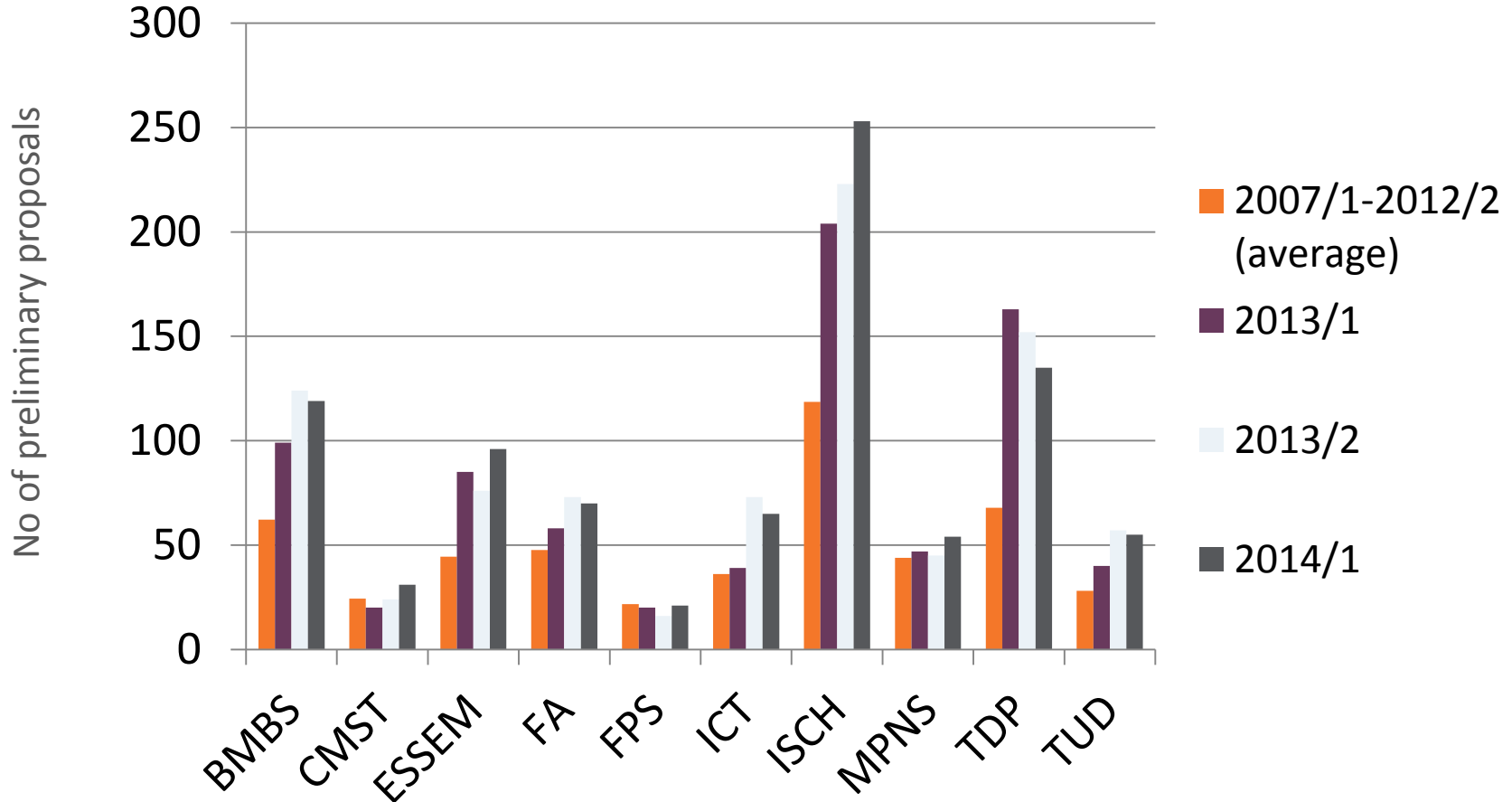


Distribution by Domain (number of preliminary proposals)

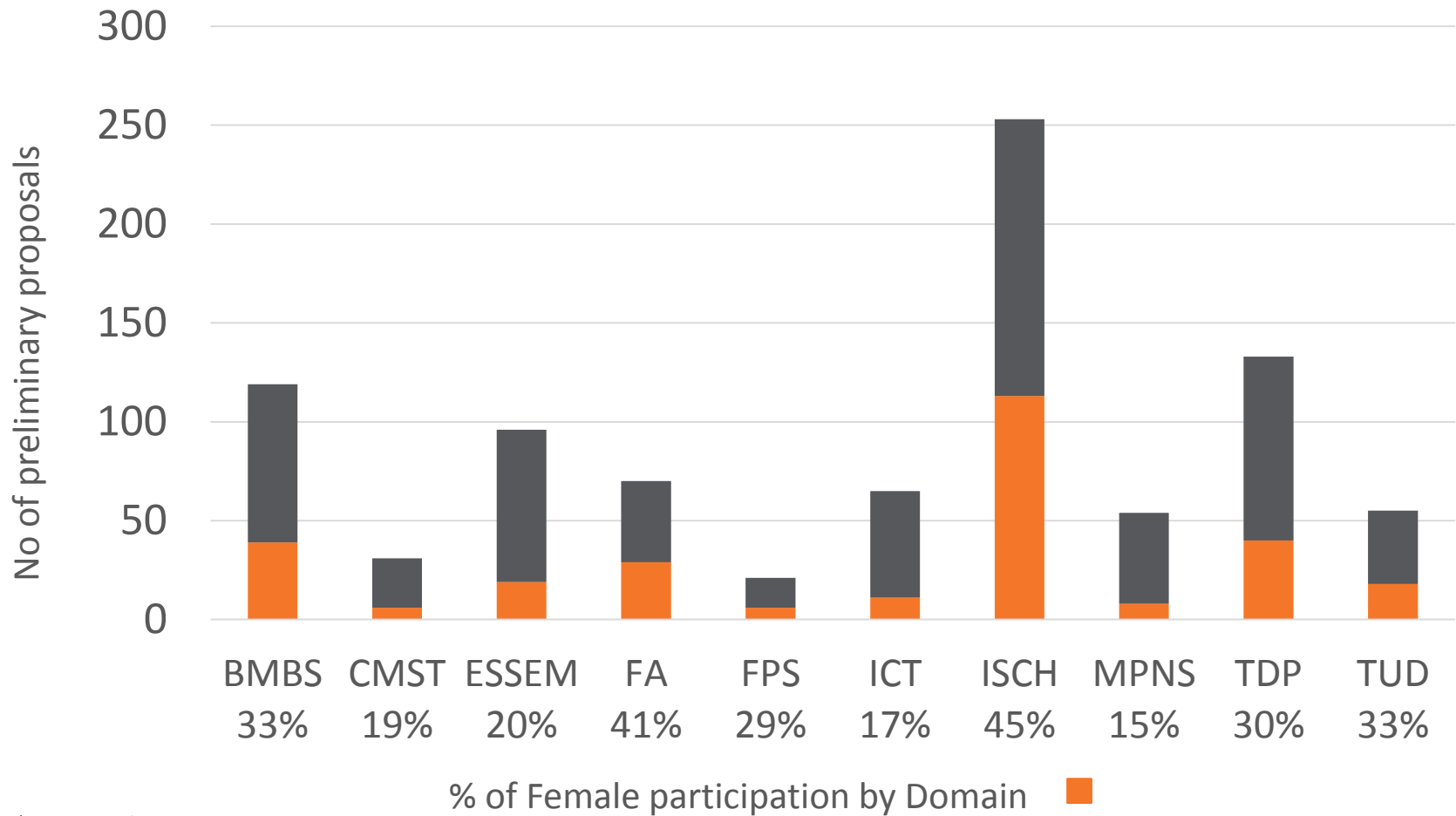


Distribution by Domain

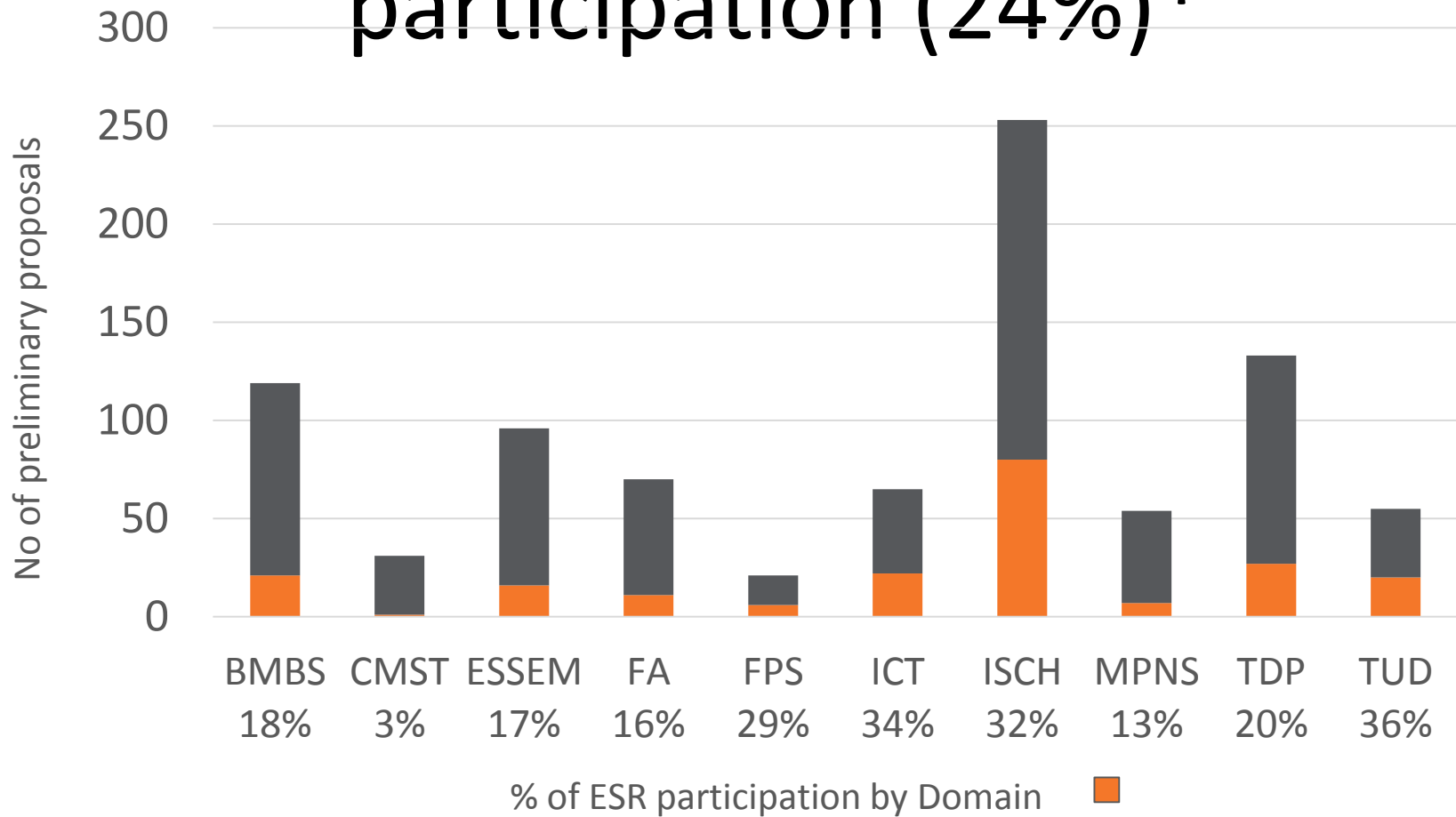
Comparison with previous collection dates



Female participation (32%)*

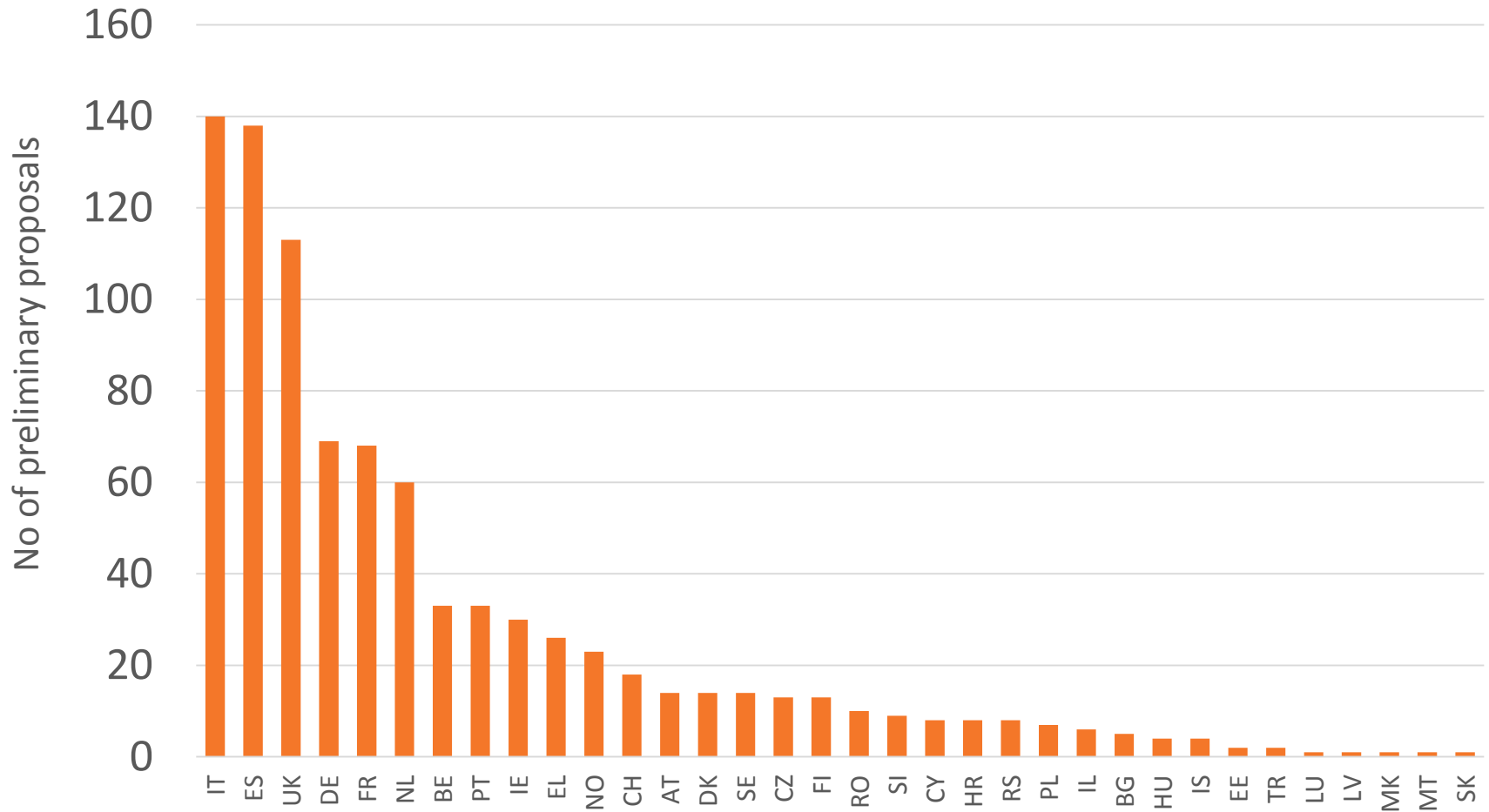


Early Stage Researchers participation (24%)*



*2013-2: 23%

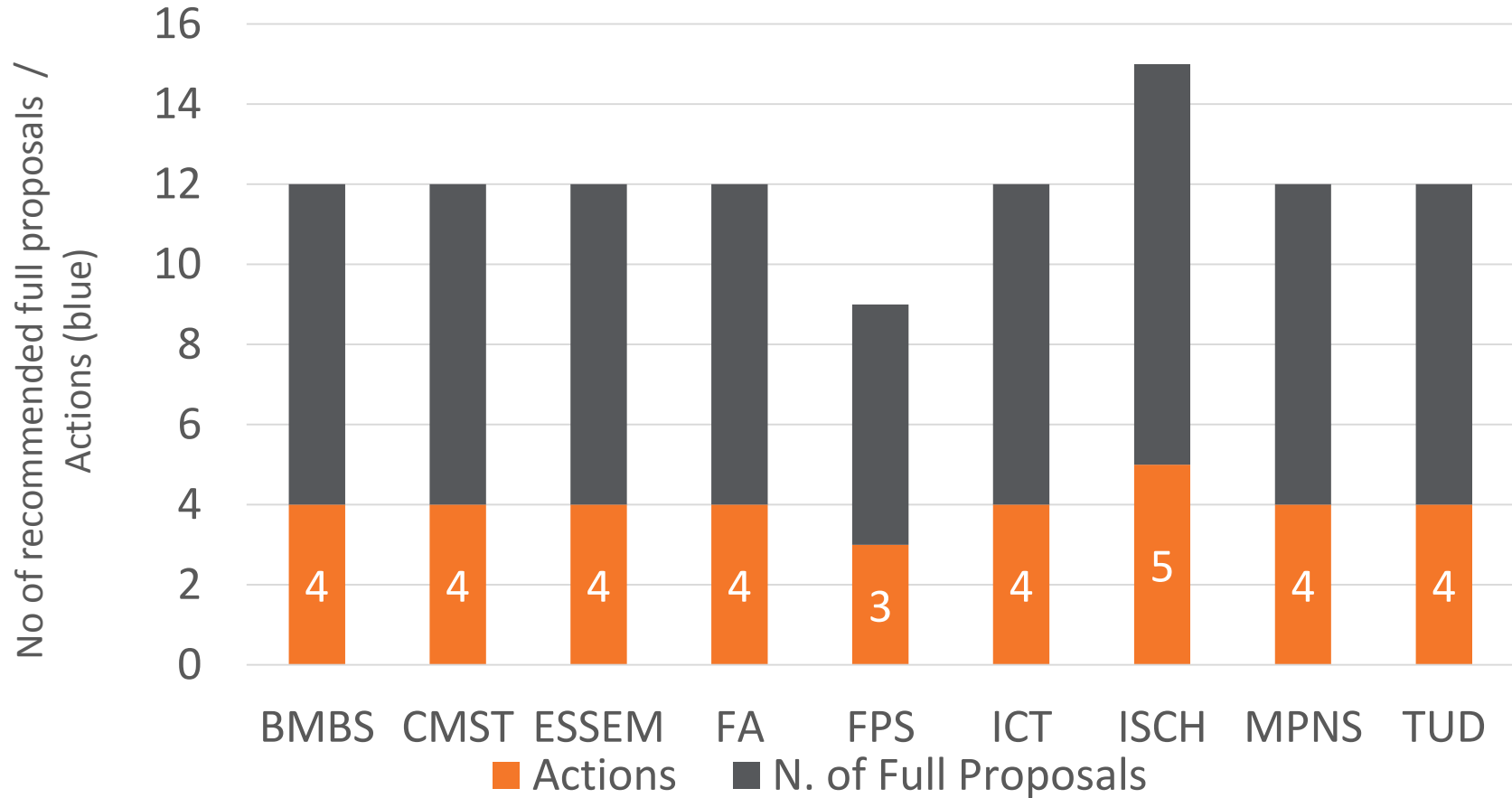
Country participation (Proposer)



Full Proposals / Actions

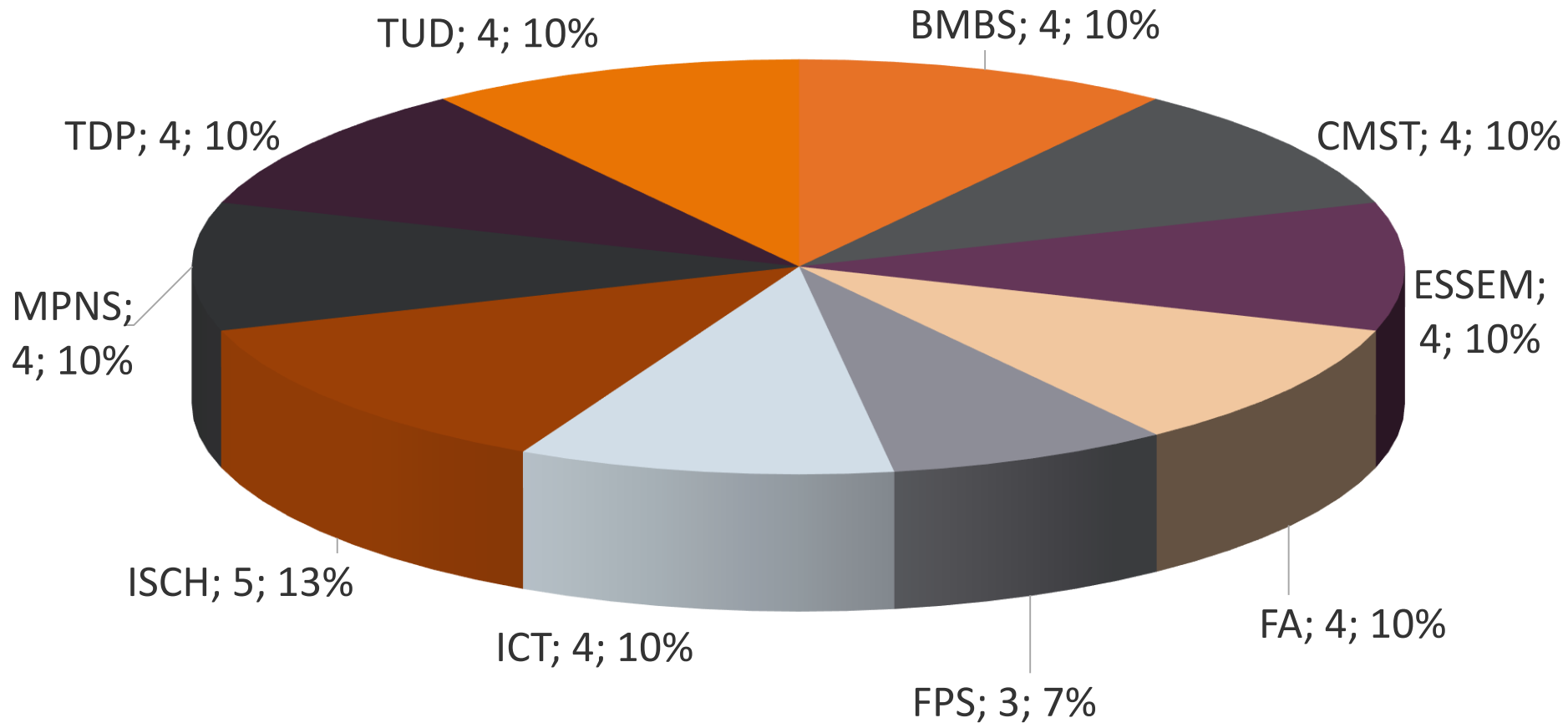
9 Domains: 108 recommended Full Proposals / 35 Actions

Total Actions: 40 (36 in 9 Domains + 4 TDP)



Action Distribution by Domain

(number, share in %)





The Individuals, Societies, Cultures and Health (ISCH) Domain in COST

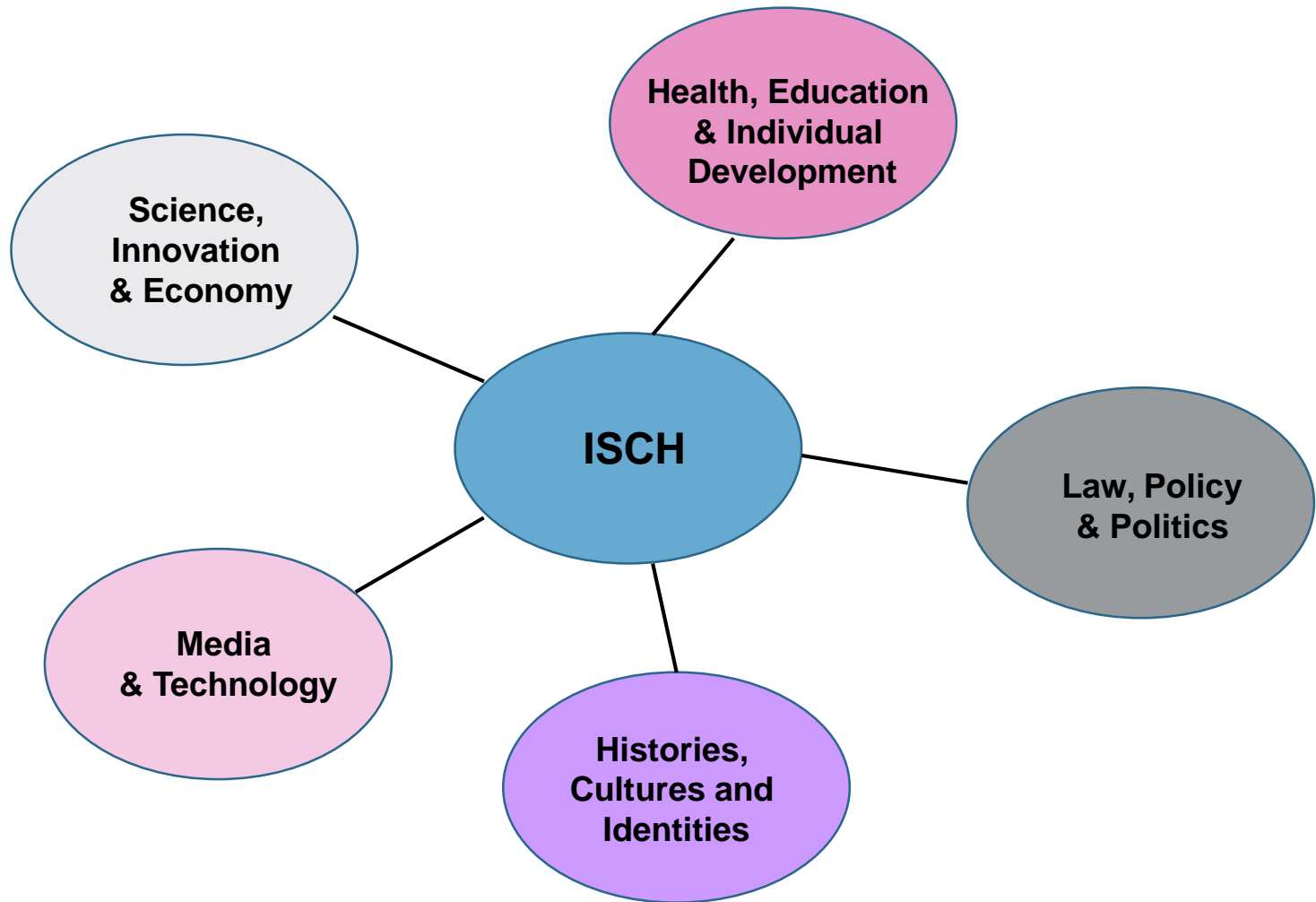
Scope



- **Coordinate long-term research within Social Sciences, Humanities and Public Health on:**
- The development, behaviour and health of individuals and groups
- Social, economical, political, cultural, historical and technological structures and processes
- Cultural diversity and a common European future

ISCH Portfolio

40 running Actions + starting Actions





2nd Call Collection 2013: oc-2013-2

Five new ISCH Actions will have their kick-offs in autumn:

- IS1401 | Strengthening Europeans' capabilities by establishing the European literacy network | 27 August 2014 - 13 May 2018
- IS1402 | Ageism - a multi-national, interdisciplinary perspective | 27 August 2014 - 13 May 2018
- IS1403 | Oceans Past Platform (OPP) | 27 August 2014 - 13 May 2018
- IS1404 | Evolution of reading in the age of digitisation (E-READ) | 27 August 2014 - 13 May 2018
- IS1405 | Building Intrapartum Research Through Health - an interdisciplinary whole system approach to understanding and contextualising physiological labour and birth (BIRTH) | 27 August 2014 - 13 May 2018



Thank you and all the best in
Horizon 2020!

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