Promoting and Spreading Research Excellence: Perspectives from the European Association for Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST)

Sierd Cloetingh
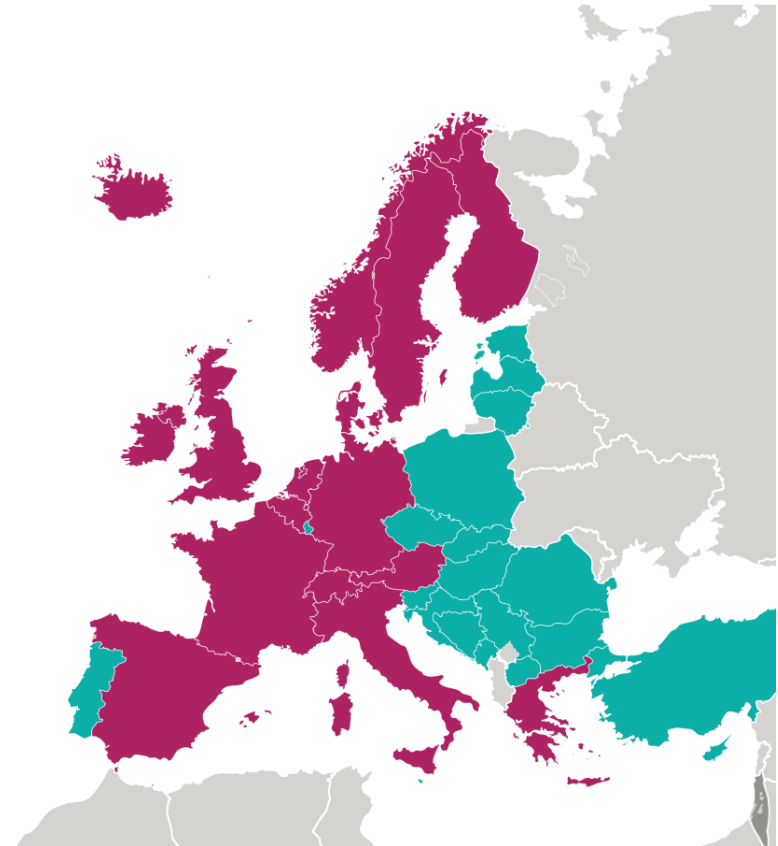
Athens, 27 March 2018

COST – 45 years proven track record in research collaboration
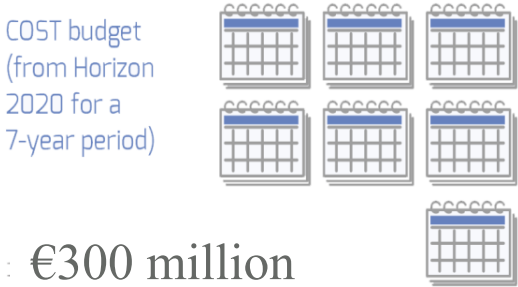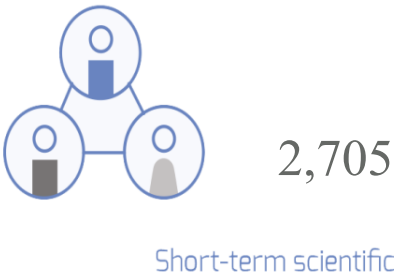
- **36 COST Members**

  Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

- **1 Cooperating Member**

  Israel

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

COST in a nutshell: facts and figures for running Actions in 2016

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)
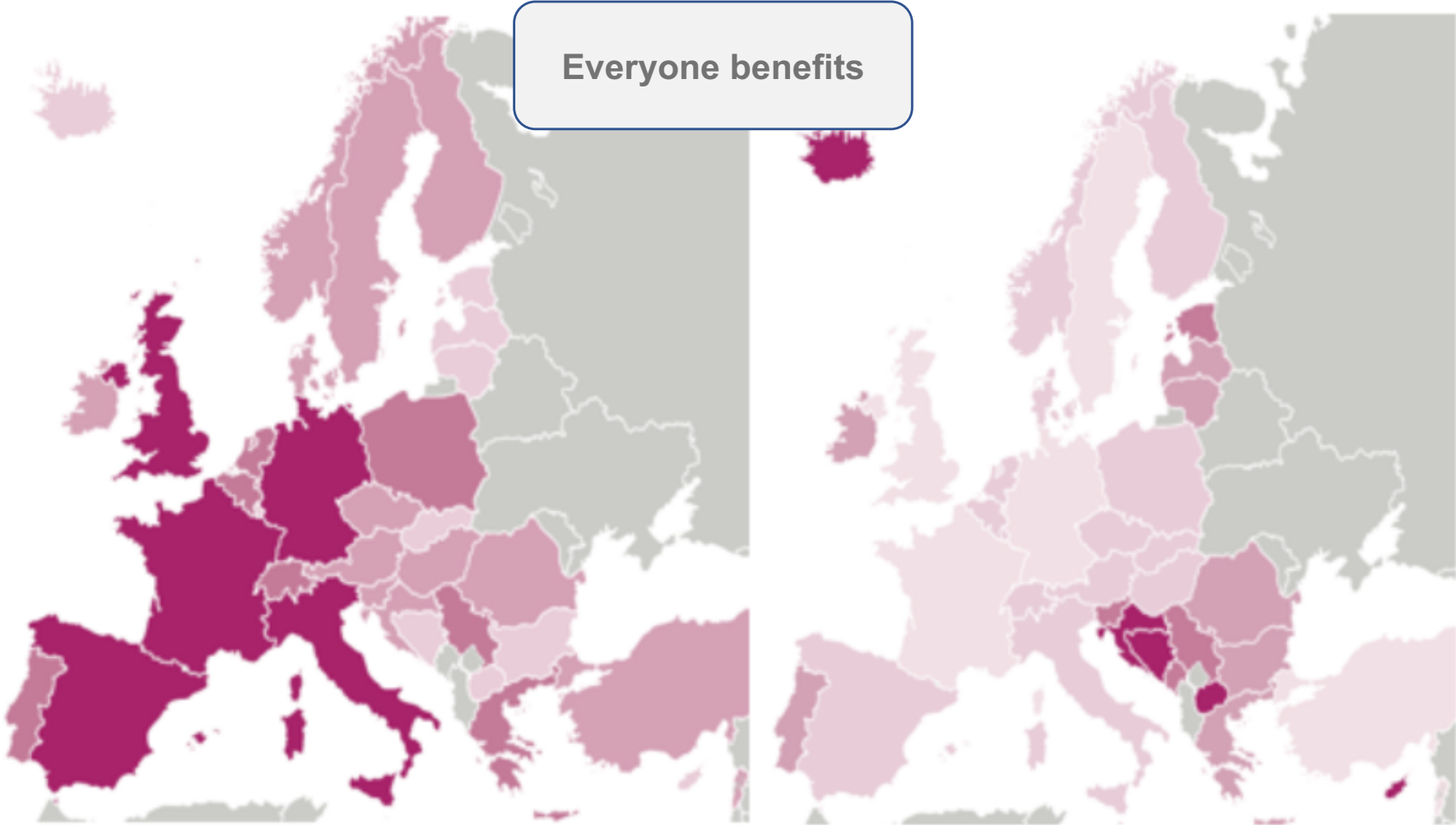
€300 million

COST: The networking tool in the ERA and the pre-portal to other ERA funding schemes

*Data throughout the year 2016
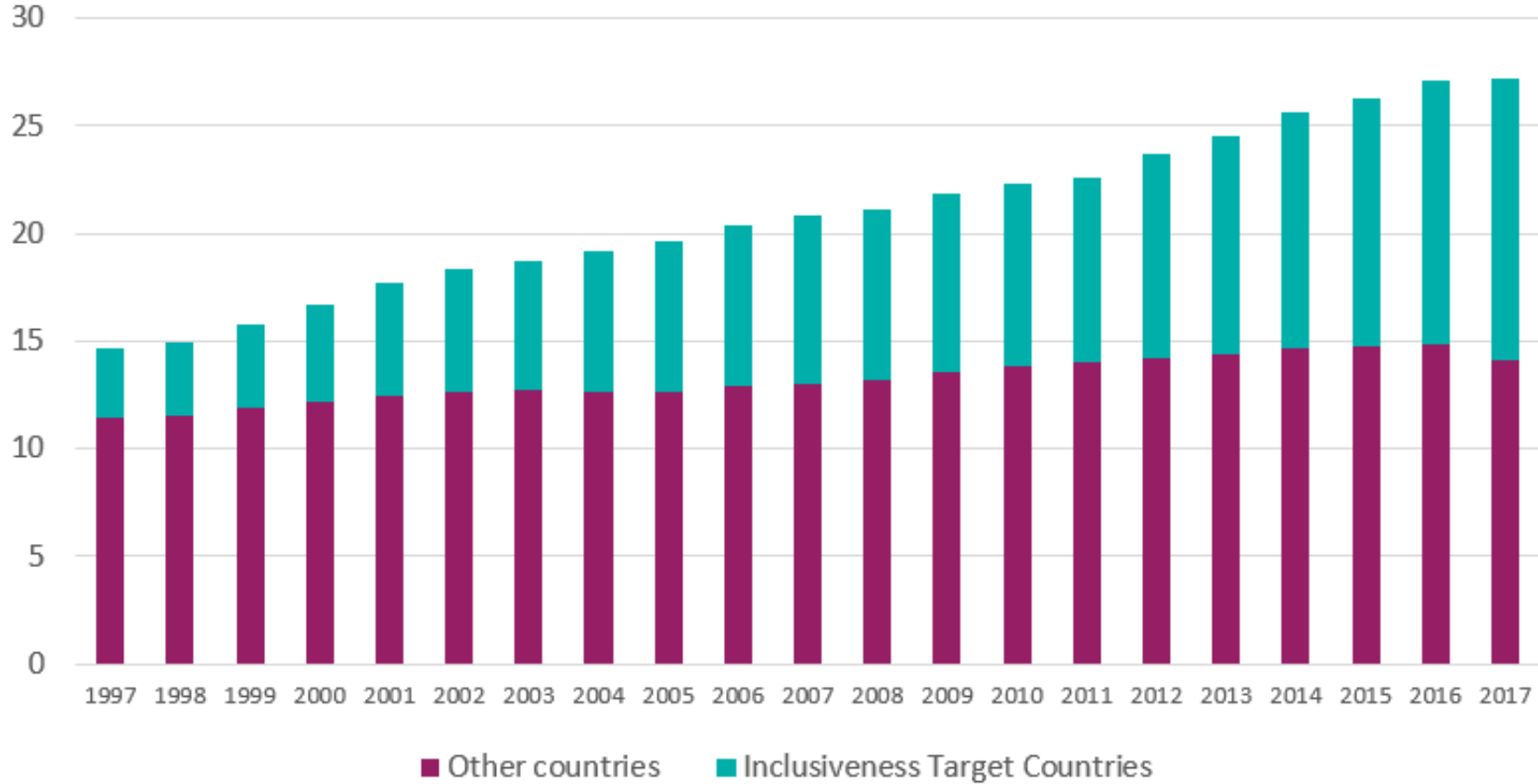
Role of COST in the ERA – 3 Strategic Priorities

1 Promoting and spreading excellence

2 Fostering interdisciplinary research for breakthrough science

3 Boosting careers young researchers

COST
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Promoting and spreading excellence

Everyone benefits

Promoting and spreading excellence

Average participation in COST Actions, ITCs and other countries

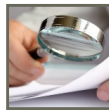■ Other countries ■ Inclusiveness Target Countries

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

Fostering interdisciplinary research for breakthrough science

> **" 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
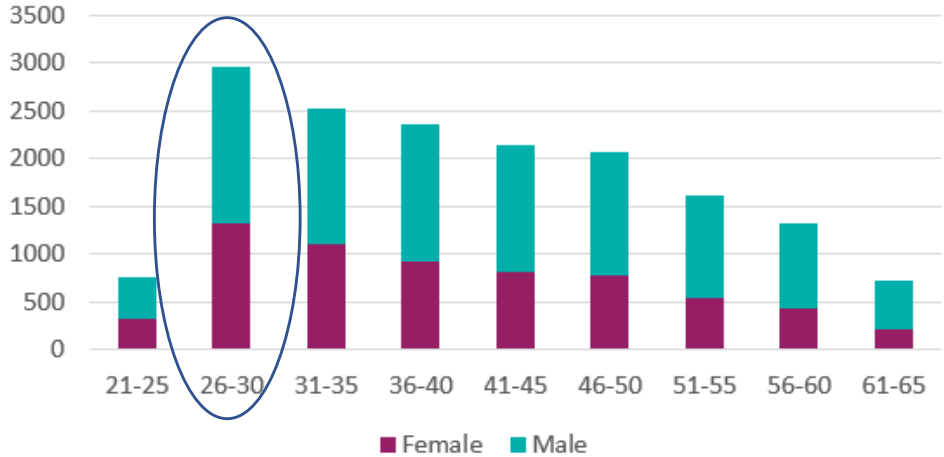
Boosting careers of young researchers

" I always say that I have learnt more in these 3 years in COST than I would have in 10 years of my career. "

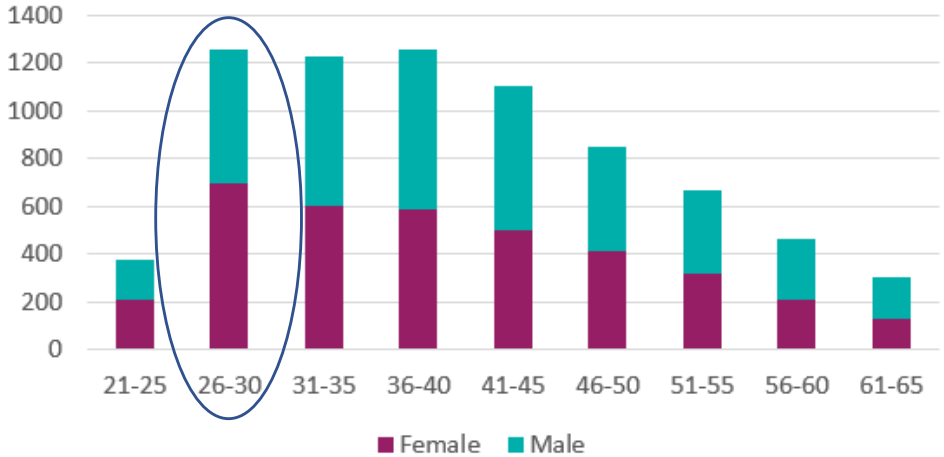**Dr Lara Pajewski**, Researcher, Engineering Department, "Roma Tre" University, Italy
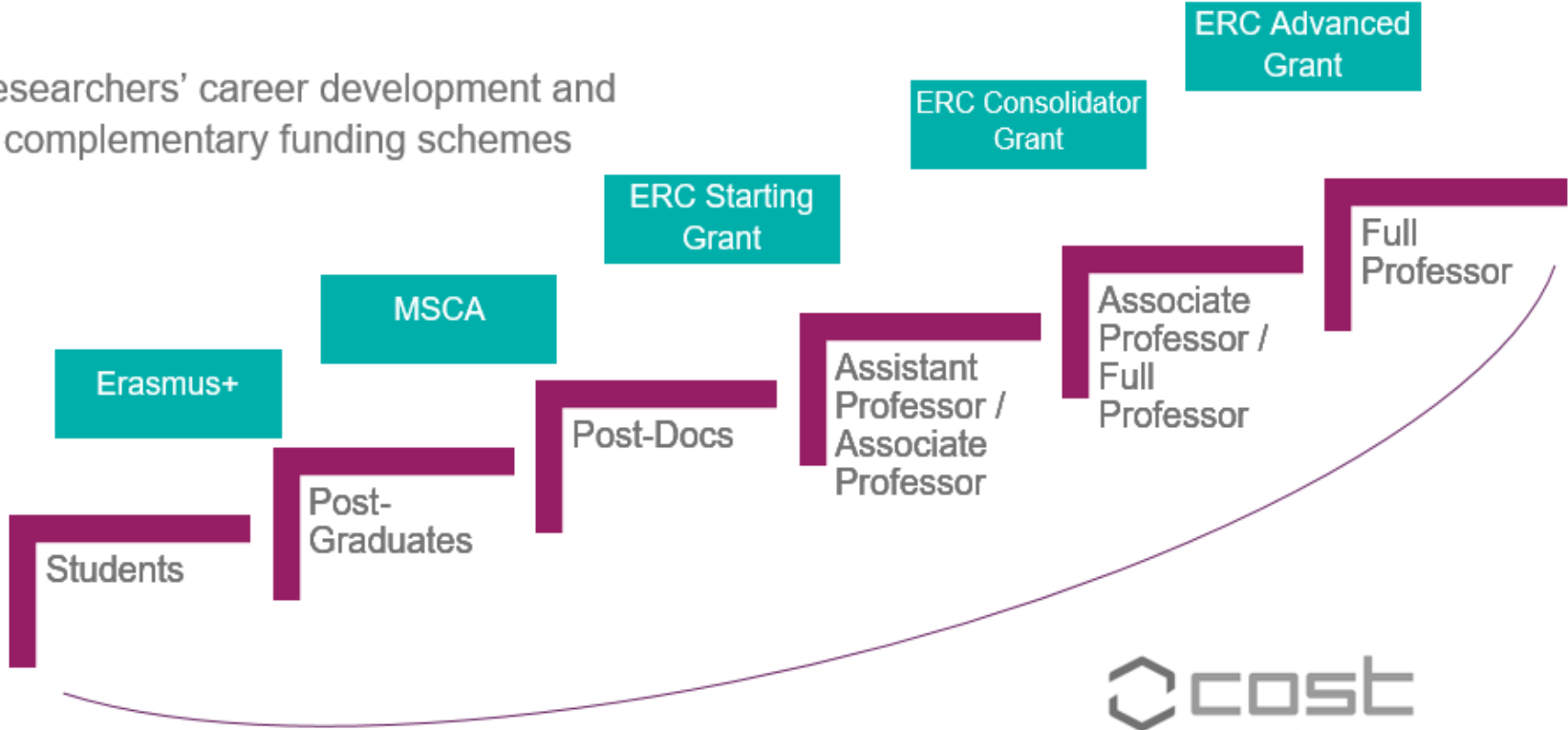
Boosting careers of young researchers

Boosting careers of young researchers

Researchers' career development and complementary funding schemes

Students
Post-Graduates
Post-Docs
Assistant Professor / Associate Professor
Associate Professor / Full Professor
Full Professor

Erasmus+
MSCA
ERC Starting Grant
ERC Consolidator Grant
ERC Advanced Grant

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Bottom-up networking schemes

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

11

COST as pre-portal to ERA

Horizon 2020 applications reported by finished COST Action			
Total Actions with finished Final Action report	Submitted H2020 proposals reported	Approved H2020 projects reported	Success rate
62	230	65	28%

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 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
  - …

How it works

Implementing COST's Strategic Priorities

Thank you!

www.cost.eu

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY