



European COoperation in Science and Technology

COST – an overview

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COST is supported by the EU RTD Framework Programme



ESF provides the COST Office through an EC contract

The COST mission

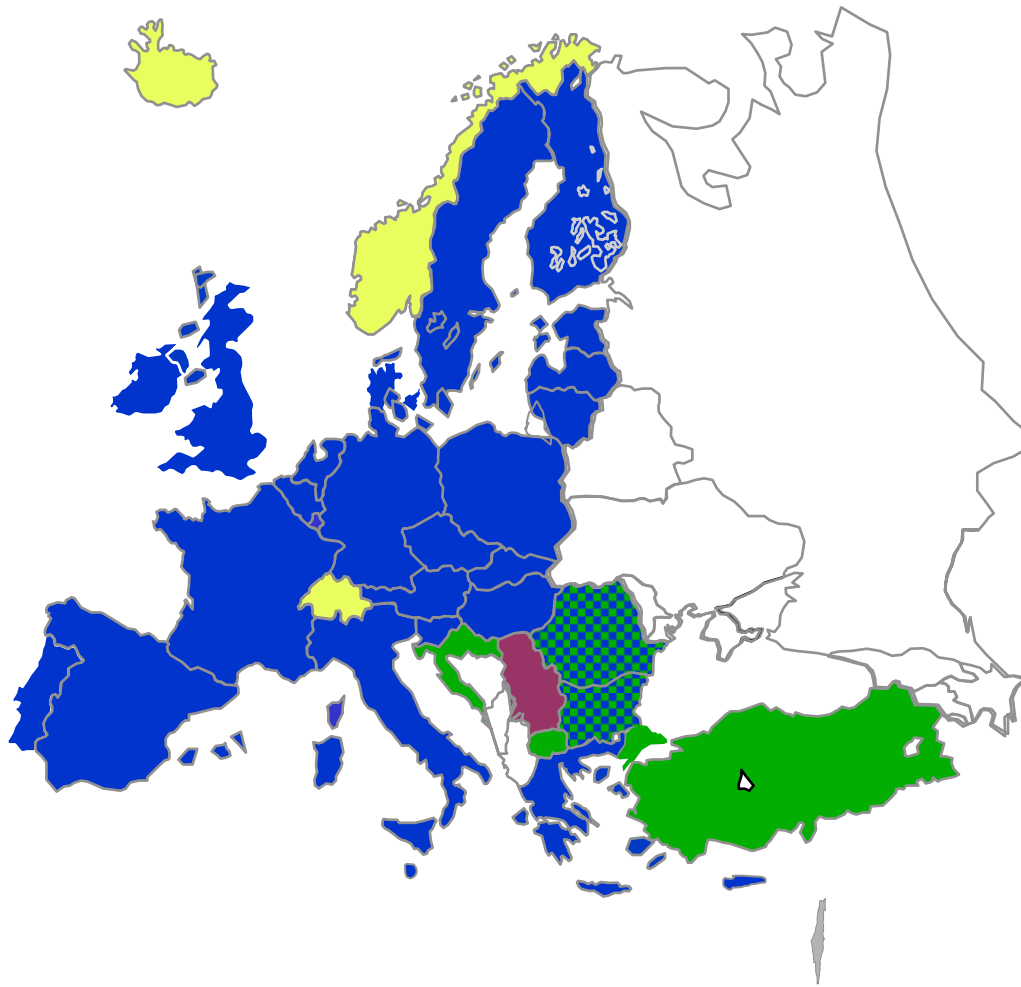
Strengthen Europe in scientific and technical research for peaceful purposes through the support of cooperation and interaction between European researchers

The COST programme is a long-running, economical and highly successful way to spread awareness and build networks between Europe's researchers. It reflects the human dimension of science, helping researchers to share not only the results of their work but also their aims and methods.

COST characteristics

- **Co-ordination through networking**
- **Pan-European**
- **Multi-disciplinary**
“Non-competitive”
(pre-normative; public utility)
- **National financing of researchers and projects**
– national responsibility
- **Bottom-up**
– no fixed programme
- **Flexible participation – join in if you are interested**
- **“Interdisciplinary Exploratoria”**
- **Enabling agent: focus on younger researchers**
- **Open to wider cooperation**

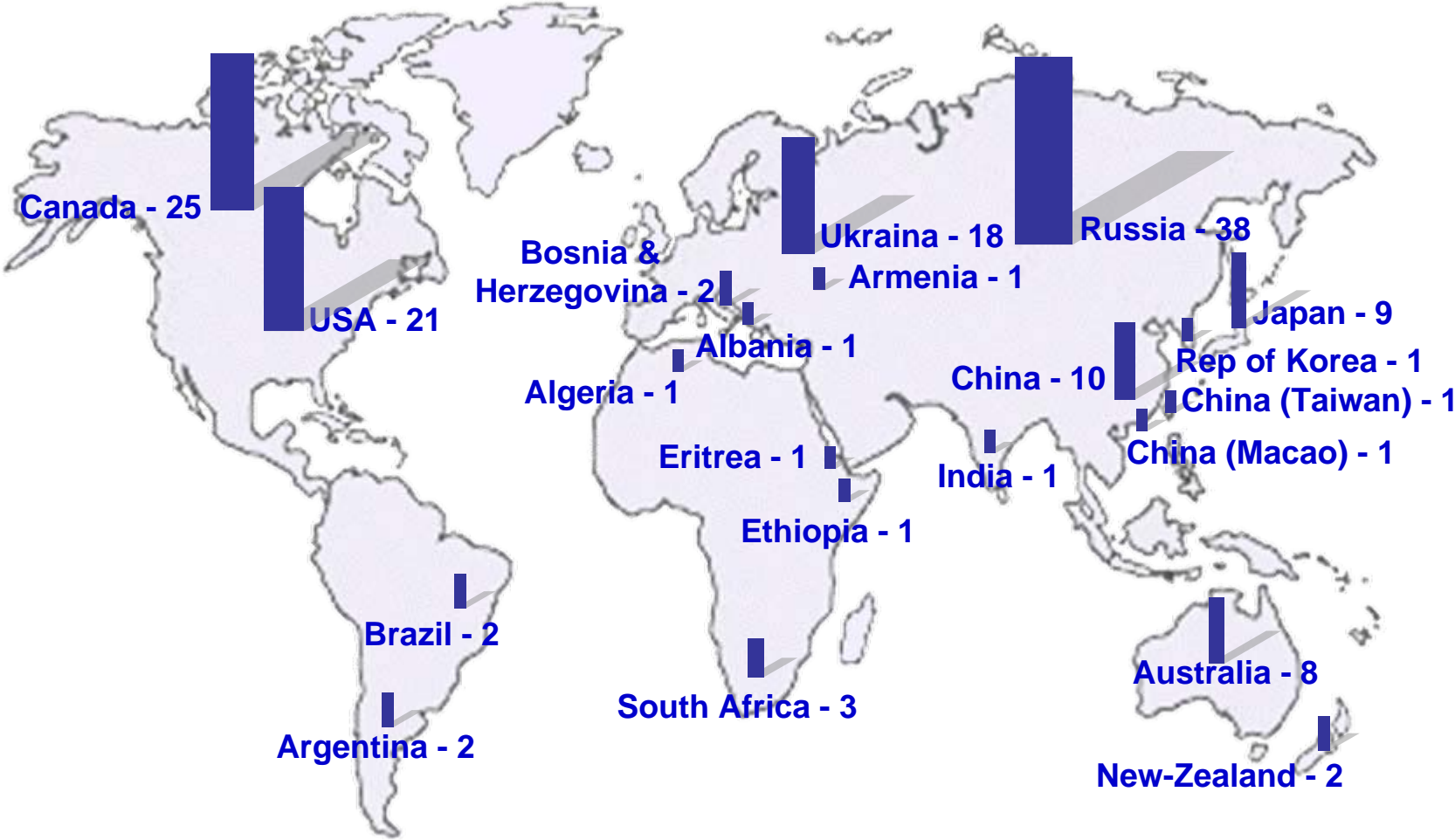
COST Countries



- ◆ **The 25 EU Member States**
- ◆ **EFTA Member States**
 - ▶ Iceland
 - ▶ Norway
 - ▶ Switzerland
- ◆ **Acceding & Candidate Countries**
 - ▶ Bulgaria
 - ▶ Croatia
 - ▶ FYR of Macedonia (FYROM)*
 - ▶ Romania
 - ▶ Turkey
- ◆ **Other Countries**
 - ▶ Republic of Serbia *
- ◆ **COST Co-operating States**
 - ▶ Israel

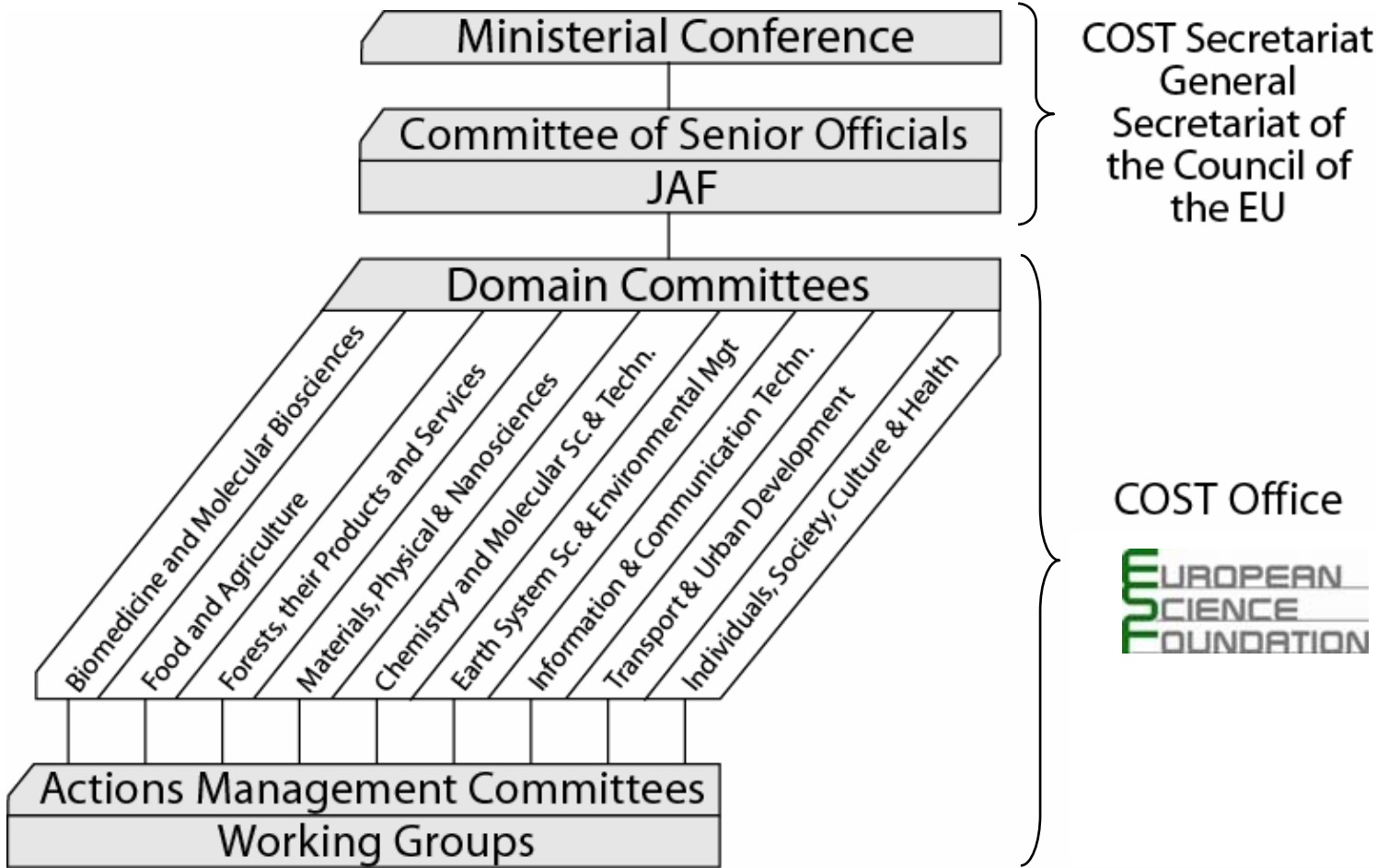
* not associated with FP

COST Actions: global participation

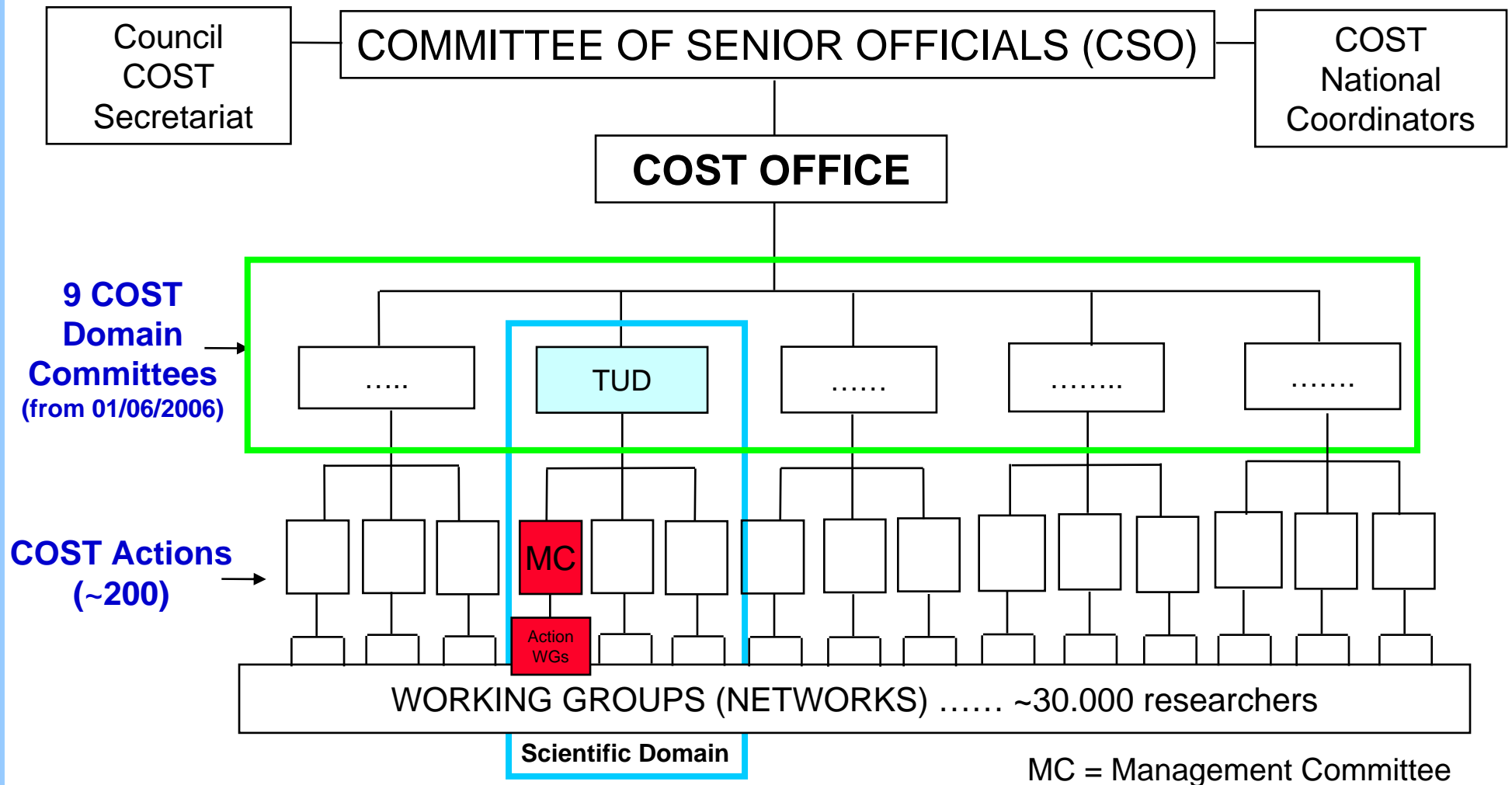


Total number of participations in running Actions: 155 (incl. 6 NGO)

COST governance



What is a COST Action?



What is funded by COST?

COST Actions: Nationally funded projects (min. 5 participating countries) with a joint work programme receive finance for:

- Science management meetings
 - Scientific workshops and seminars
 - Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs)
 - Training Schools and Research Conferences
 - Dissemination
- *Average funding about 100.000 € per year per Action*

Strategic Workshops: to explore future scientific or societal needs

Objectives of Domain TUD

- Fostering international research networking activities of scientists and experts dealing with:
 - transport systems and infrastructures,
 - urban land use and development,
 - architecture and design, and civil engineering issues.
- Focus on multi- and interdisciplinary approaches
- Aim to cover both basic and applied research activities including technical and technological developments and their changeovers that are relevant to policy and decision making processes.
- A significant concern devoted to activities exploring new research needs and developments.

Current COST TUD Actions

- C18 : Performance assesement of urban infrastructure services: the case of water supply, wastewater and solid waste
- C19 : Proactive crisis management of urban infrastructure
- C20 : Urban Knowledge Arena – Developing a European Arena for Cross-Boundary Cooperation in Production of Knowledge and Know-how on Complex Urban Problems
- C21 : Towntology – Urban Ontologies for an Improved Communication in Urban Civil Engineering Projects
- C22 : Urban Flood Management
- C23 : Strategies for a Low Carbon Built Environment
- C24 : Analysis and Design of Innovative Systems for Low-EXergy in the Built Environment: COSTeXergy
- C25 : Sustainability of Constructions: Integrated Approach to Life-time Structural Engineering
- C26 : Urban Habitat Constructions under Catastrophic Events
- C27 : Sustainable Development Policies for Minor Deprived Urban Communities
- 352 : Influence of Modern In-vehicle Information Systems on Road Safety Requirements
- 353 : Winter Service Strategies for Increased European Road Safety
- 354 : Performance Indicators for Road Pavements
- 355 : Changing behaviour towards a more sustainable transport system
- 356 : Towards the definition of a measurable environmentally sustainable transport (EST)
- 357 : Accident Prevention Options with Motorcycle Helmets
- 358 : Pedestrians' Quality Needs (PQN)

COST transport Actions' examples

- COST Action 355: “Changing behaviour towards a more sustainable transport system”

Objective: to analyse the conditions under which the process of growing unsustainable transport demand could be reversed, by changing travellers, shippers and carriers's behaviours



Motorway construction nearby Vienna (© Jan Spousta)

COST transport Actions' examples

- COST Action 353: “Winter Service Strategies for Increased European Road Safety”



Objective: to maximize road safety through the development of a framework for the management of winter traffic

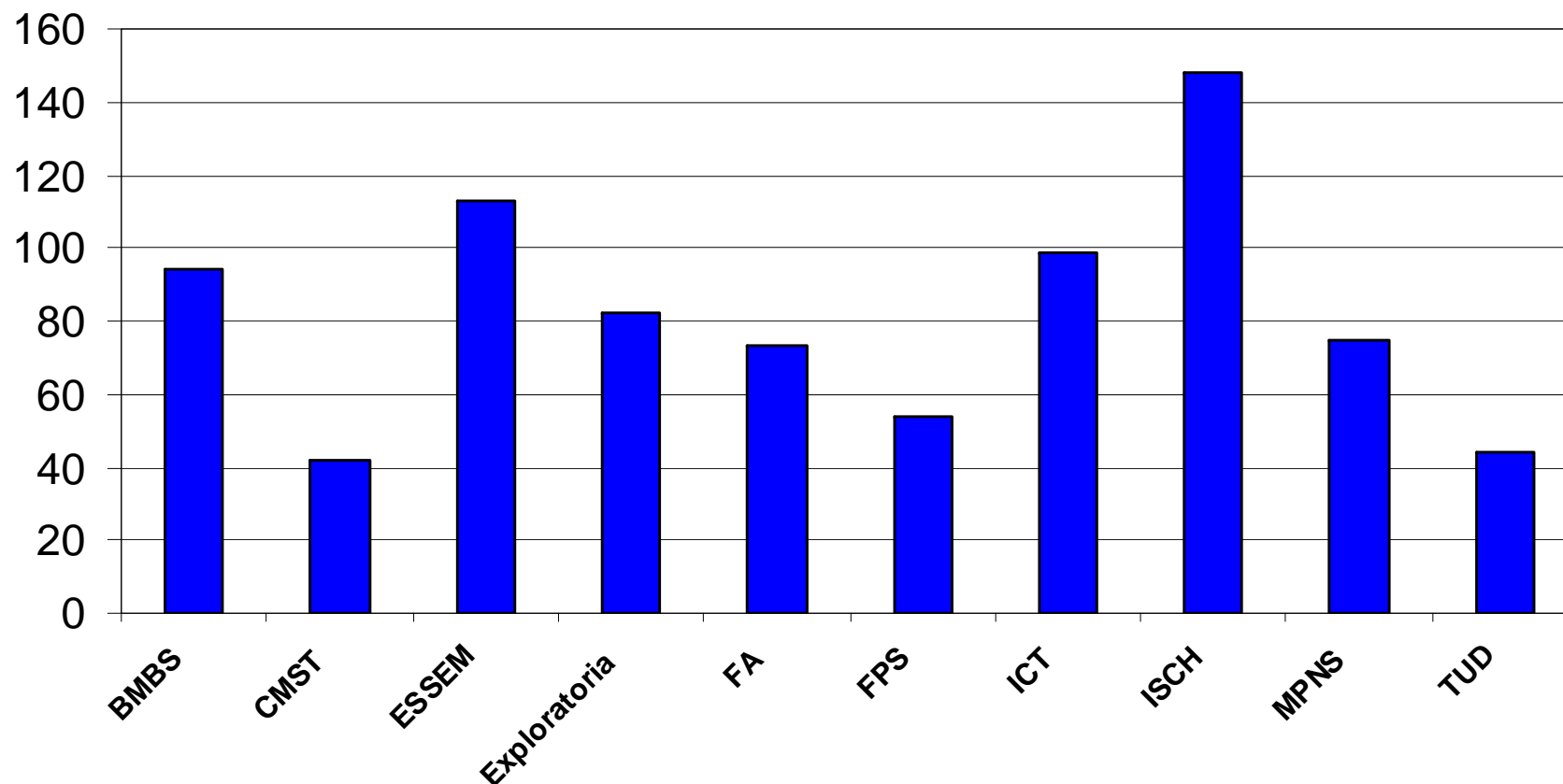
Winter service needed for roads in Brussels (© Jan Spousta)

How COST selects new Actions?

- An **Open Call** system was introduced.
- COST published the permanent and thematically “Open Call” to improve transparency, ensure quality and introduce competitiveness to the selection of new COST Actions
- Emphasis is given to younger research workers, fostering their joint efforts bringing improved recognition
- The selection criteria are published
- Specific collection dates are foreseen (i.e. 31 March 2007)
- 2 stage process / peer reviewed
- The first COST Actions arising from the “Open Call” will start working early 2007

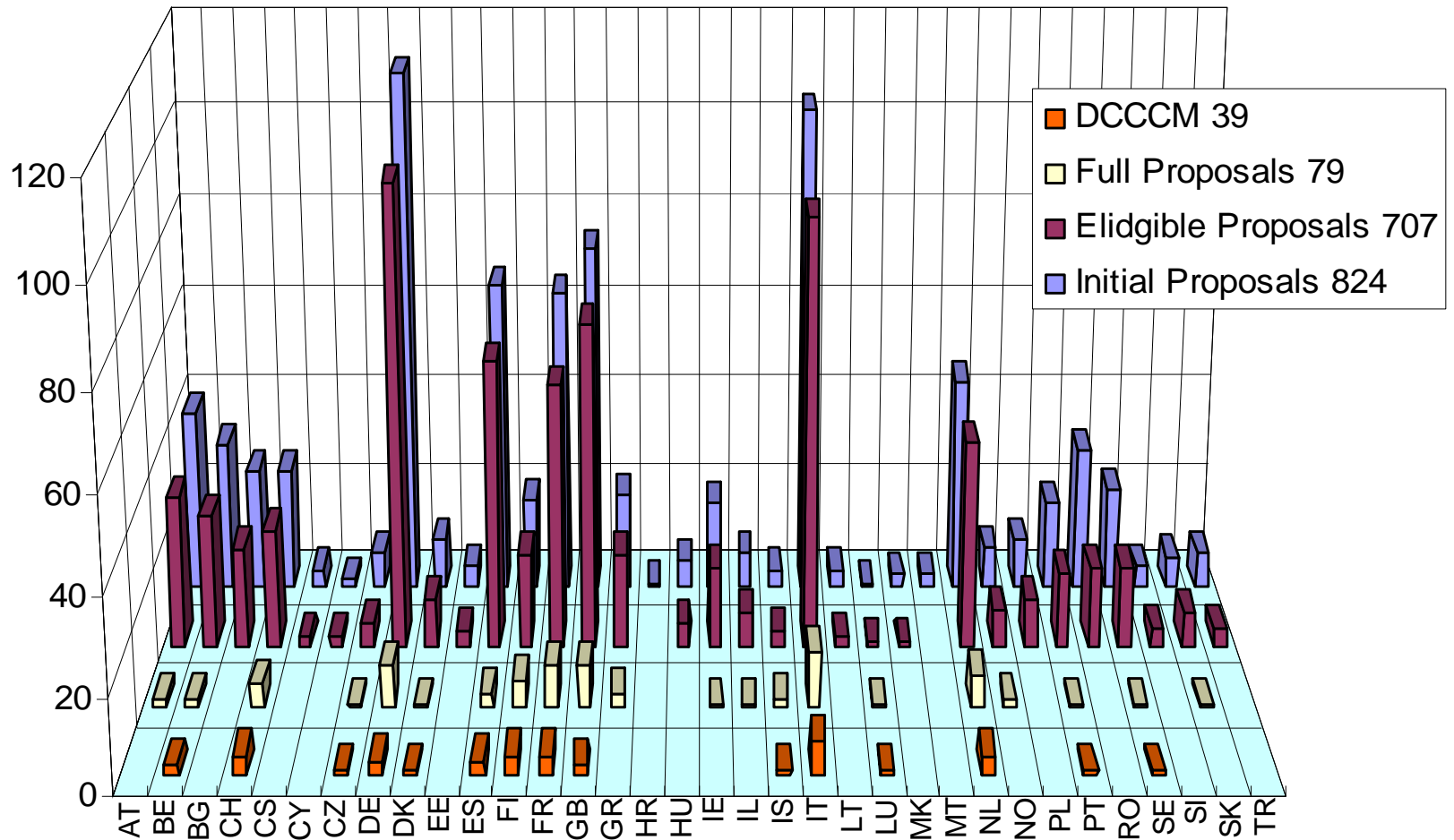
COST Open Call, Response by Domains (May 2006)

Initial response at first collection date (824 proposals)



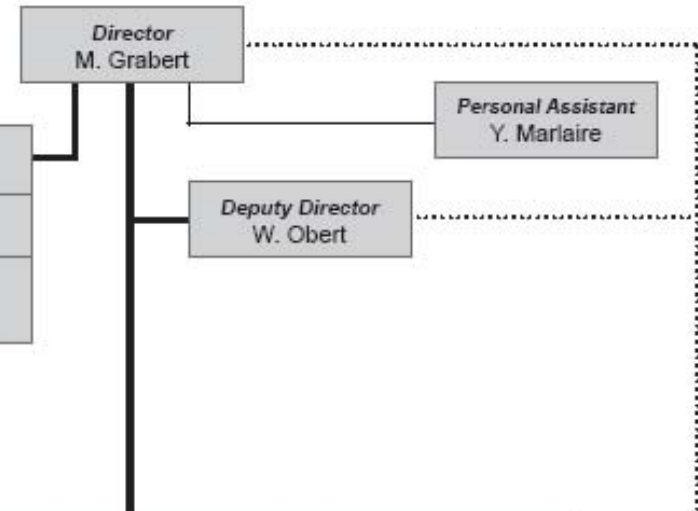
COST Open Call

The assessment process



COST reforms its administration

- A new **COST Grant System (CGS)** will be introduced in March 2007: Actions will manage their money!
- This transfer of responsibility to the Actions enables the Actions to plan and implement their activities in a flexible and independent manner. A web based IT tool will facilitate the management of Actions and reporting.
- This will become the standard management tool for all COST Actions after April 2008.



General Support Team				
<i>Scientific Research Secr. to COST surveys</i>	<i>Office Services Human Ressources</i>	<i>Publications & Dissemination</i>	<i>IT Systems Development</i>	<i>Finance</i>
R. Rakhmatullin	N. Mombaerts	G. Egartner C. Halen	C. Pinzon C. Halen	A. Juliens

<i>Office Services Reception</i>
B. Bottiau L. Ben Habeje G. Hublau

Science / Admin Teams								
<i>Molecular Sc. and Material P. Swiatek</i>			<i>Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences G. Siegel</i>			<i>Science, Technology and Society A. Ferreira</i>		
<i>CMST</i>	<i>MPNS</i>	<i>ESSEM</i>	<i>FA</i>	<i>FPS</i>	<i>BMBS</i>	<i>ISCH</i>	<i>ICT</i>	<i>TUD</i>
J. Caldentey H. Roemich	P. Nejedlik P. Swiatek H. Roemich	P. Nejedlik G. Siegel A. Been	J. Williams B. Stol	G. Siegel A. Been	M. Pascu	D. Gronbaek	A. Ferreira	M. Zisenis
S. Voinova M. Stoyanova I. Hubert	S. Beauloye M. Stoyanova	J. Nchung Oru C. Malimban	C. Peeters J. Nchung Oru	N. Standaert J. Nchung Oru	A. Van Der Snickt	J. Zhu	G. Cristea	I. Silva



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Direct Staff: Accounting and Payments Indirect staff: Human Resources, Financial Management, Controlling, IT, Premises, Communications, Science Strategy and Synergy, General Management

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COST Conclusions

- COST Actions foster knowledge creation and exchange within Europe and beyond
- Networks of outstanding (in particular young) scientists is one main objective of the desired global interactions in science
- The "à la carte" cooperation within COST will be further developed. On the basis of mutual interest, new reciprocal support schemes will facilitate exchanges between COST and non-COST countries

COST Office contact points

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