



European **CO**operation in the field of **Sc**ientific and **T**echnical research

Reform & Renewal

COST Office, Brussels

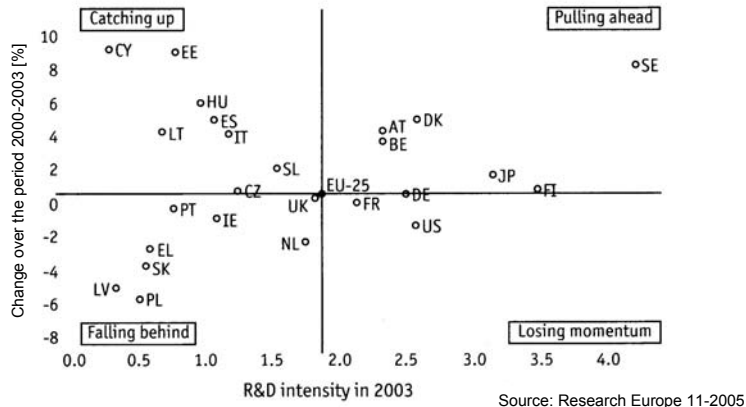
COST mission

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

COST helps by pooling resources

The big slow down

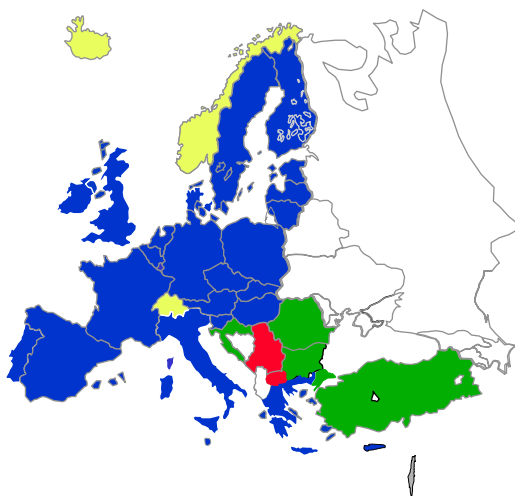
Progress towards the 3 per cent objective



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



COST Member States

◆ The 25 EU Member States

◆ EFTA Member States

- ▶ Iceland
- ▶ Norway
- ▶ Switzerland

◆ Candidate Countries

- ▶ Bulgaria
- ▶ Croatia
- ▶ Romania
- ▶ Turkey

◆ Other Countries

- ▶ Serbia and Montenegro*
- ▶ FYR of Macedonia (FYROM)*

◆ COST Co-operating States

- ▶ Israel

* not associated with FP

February 2006

European COoperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research



5

COST Actions: global participation



Total number of participations in running Actions: 120 (incl. 5 NGO)

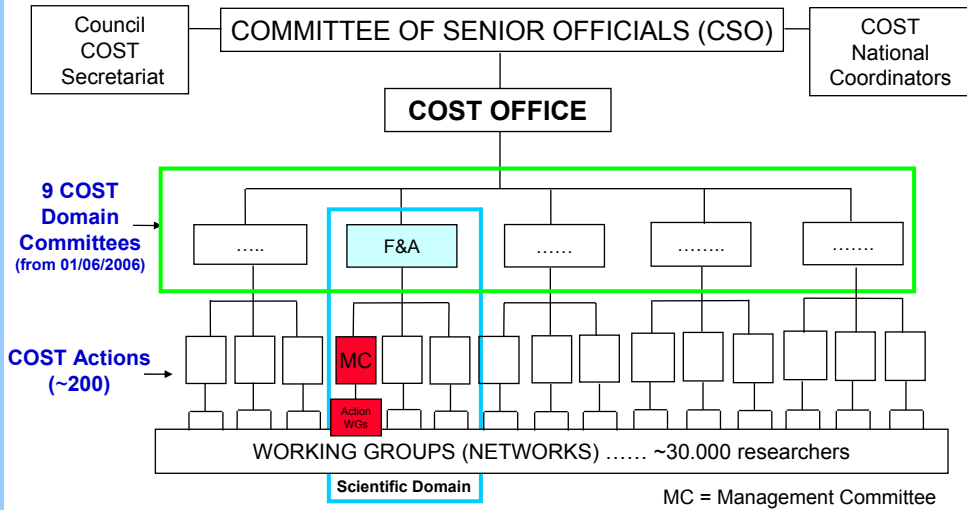
February 2006

European COoperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research



6

What is a COST Action?



February 2006

European COoperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research



7

COST Actions – what activities?

Nationally funded projects (min. 5 signatories) with a joint work programme are receive finance for:

- **Science management meetings**
- **Scientific workshops and seminars**
- **Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs)**
- **Training Schools and Research Conferences**
- **Dissemination**

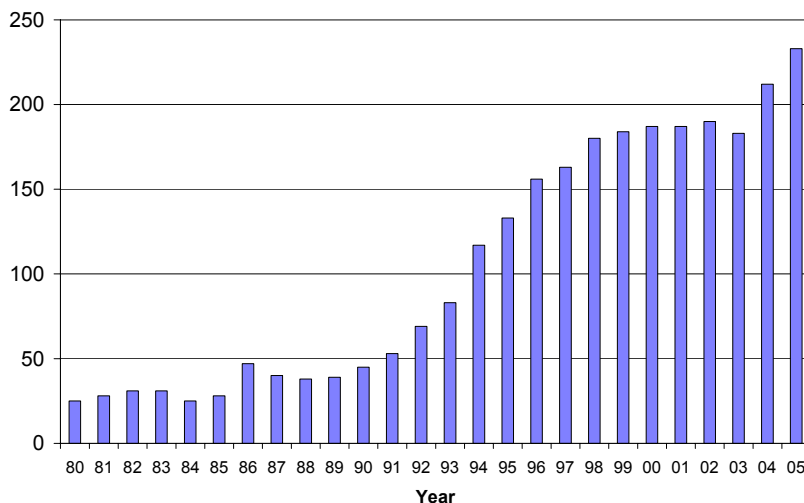
February 2006

European COoperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research



8

COST Actions – Running Actions 1980-2005 (status 30/11/2005)



February 2006

European COoperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research



9

COST reforms its governance and structure

The COST CSO took two major decisions to advance the reform process of COST during its 163rd meeting 23-24 November 2005.

These changes help COST playing its distinct role within the ERA and enhancing its contribution to the Lisbon process.

February 2006

European COoperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research



10

COST reforms its governance and structure (1)

- The scientific and technical Domains in COST will be completely restructured.
- 9 **Domain Committees** instead of former 12 Technical Committees will supply the CSO with strategic advice.
- Presently the nomination procedure for the Domain committee members is under way. This new committee structure will be in place 1 June 2006.

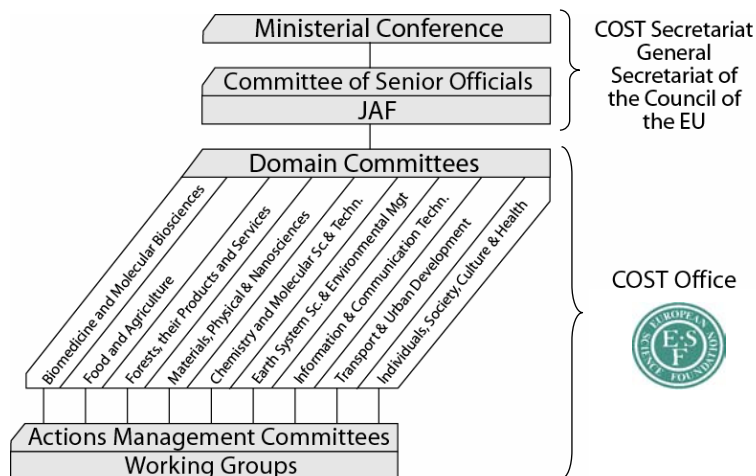
COST reforms its governance and structure (2)

- A **majority voting** procedure has been adopted for CSO decisions. Instead of making decisions by consensus only, now a simple majority of $\frac{3}{4}$ of the COST Member States decides.
- This will have a significant impact on the COST governance.

COST reforms its governance and structure (3)

- An **Open Call** system will be proposed for decision in March 2006.
- This will improve transparency, secure quality and introduce an element of competitiveness to the selection of COST Actions.

COST governance



COST Scientific and Technical Domains

These are the new Domains, as from 1 June 2006.

1. Biomedicine and Molecular Biosciences
2. Food and Agriculture
3. Forests, their Products and Services
4. Materials, Physical & Nanosciences
5. Chemistry and Molecular Sciences & Technologies
6. Earth System Science & Environmental Management
7. Information & Communication Technologies
8. Transport & Urban Development
9. Individuals, Society, Culture & Health

Next steps

”Open Call“:

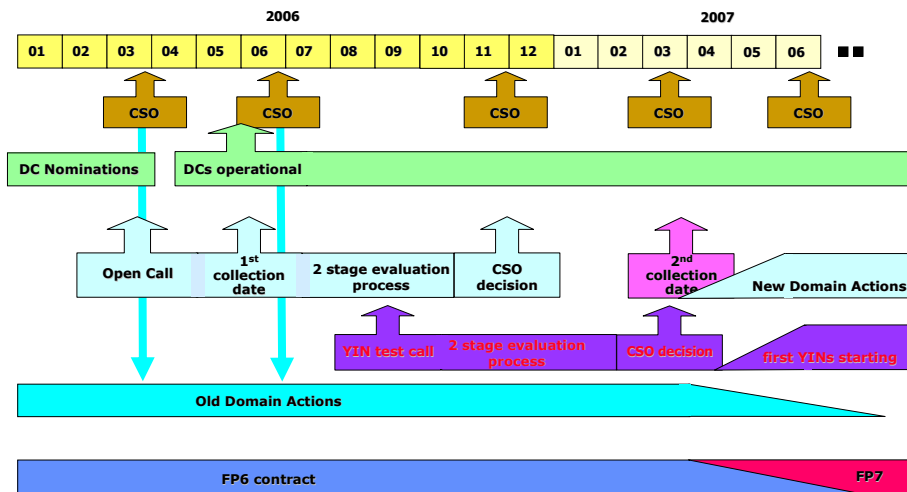
- COST proposed to publish an “Open Call” 3 April 2006
- selection criteria will be published and transparent
- emphasis will be on young researchers to foster their joint efforts to become better known and recognised
- there will be specific collection dates (i.e. 31 May 2006)
- 2 stage process / peer reviewed
- first Actions following the “Open Call” to start early 2007

Dedicated instrument proposed

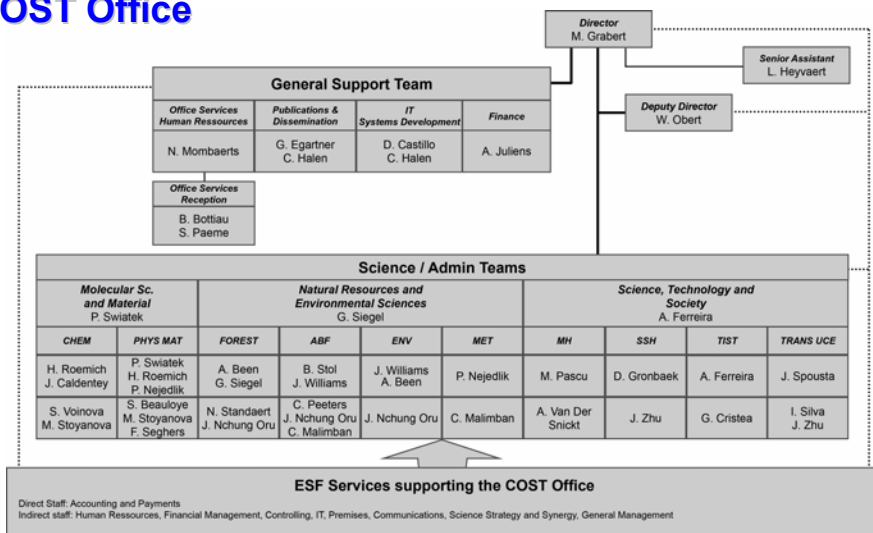
“Young Investigators Networks” (YIN):

- Exclusively for young scientists at postdoc level, (PhD + max. 5 years); min. 8 young scientists with international experience from 5 COST member states, holding their first position
- Eligible activities: meetings, Short Term Scientific Missions, seminars, conferences, outreach activities, plus:
[centrally organised & funded] special “YIN Conferences” and research management training
- Support: 90 k € p.a. (2006 prices) as annual grant for up to 4 years
- Pilot Call for YINs expected in summer 2006 to test the demand

Next steps – tentative timetable



COST Office



February 2006

European COoperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research



19

Contact:

Dr.-Ing. Martin Grabert
Director COST Office
Av. Louise 149
B 1050 Brussels
mgrabert@cost.esf.org
cost.esf.org

February 2006

European COoperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research



20

