

ISCH



# Individuals, Societies, Cultures and Health

By Dr Marc Caball  
Chairman, ISCH  
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## The COST mission

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

**The COST programme, based on an inter-governmental agreement, 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.**

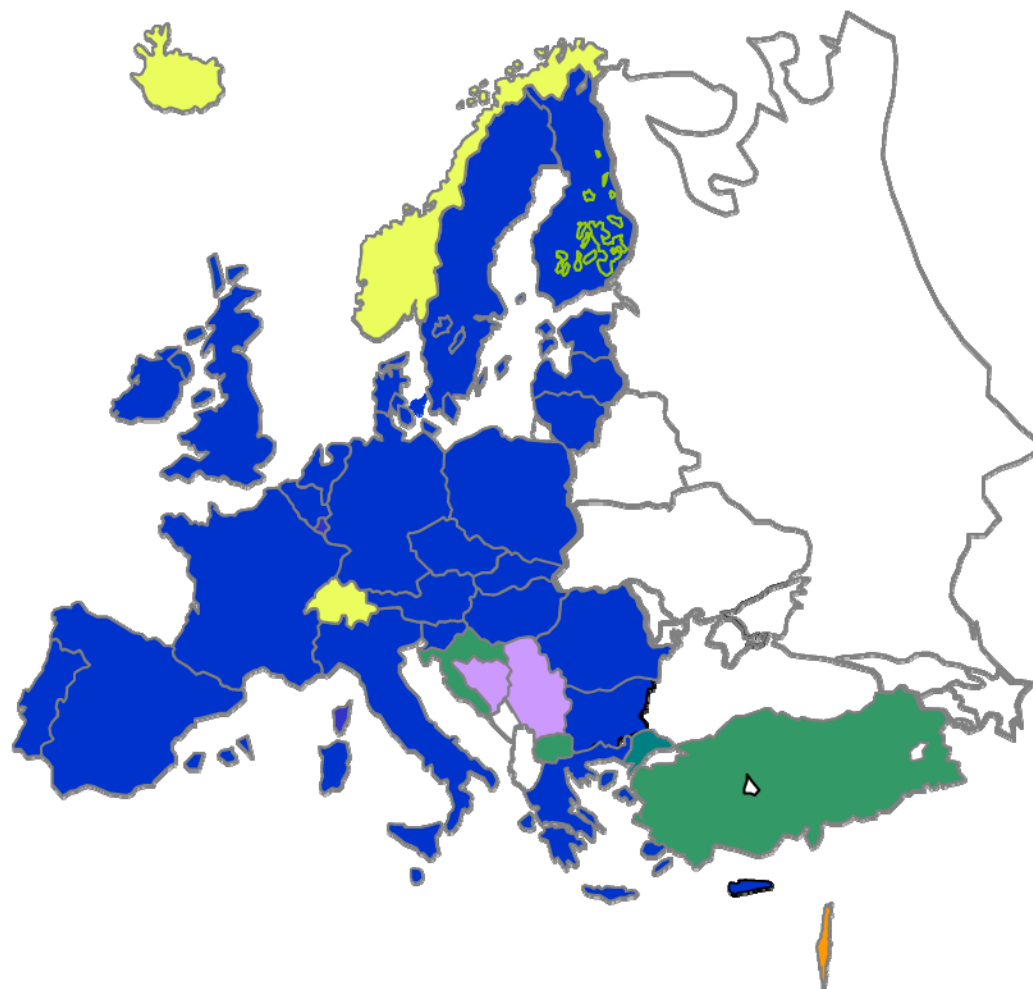


## COST main characteristics

- “Bottom-up” - no fixed programmes / priorities
- À la carte participation - Coordination of national efforts through networking
- Networks based on funded (research) projects – national responsibility
- Open to global cooperation in the mutual interest
- Building bridges between research communities
- Enabling agent – focus on Early Stage Researchers
- Pan-European dimension
- Scientific scope incl. pre-normative and public utility research & technologies
- Focus on multidisciplinary cooperation fostering innovation
- Equal access / Open Call
- Transparent procedures



# 36 COST Countries



## ◆ The 27 EU Member States

## ◆ EFTA Member States

- ▶ Iceland
- ▶ Norway
- ▶ Switzerland

## ◆ Accessing & Candidate Countries

- ▶ Croatia
- ▶ FYR of Macedonia
- ▶ Turkey

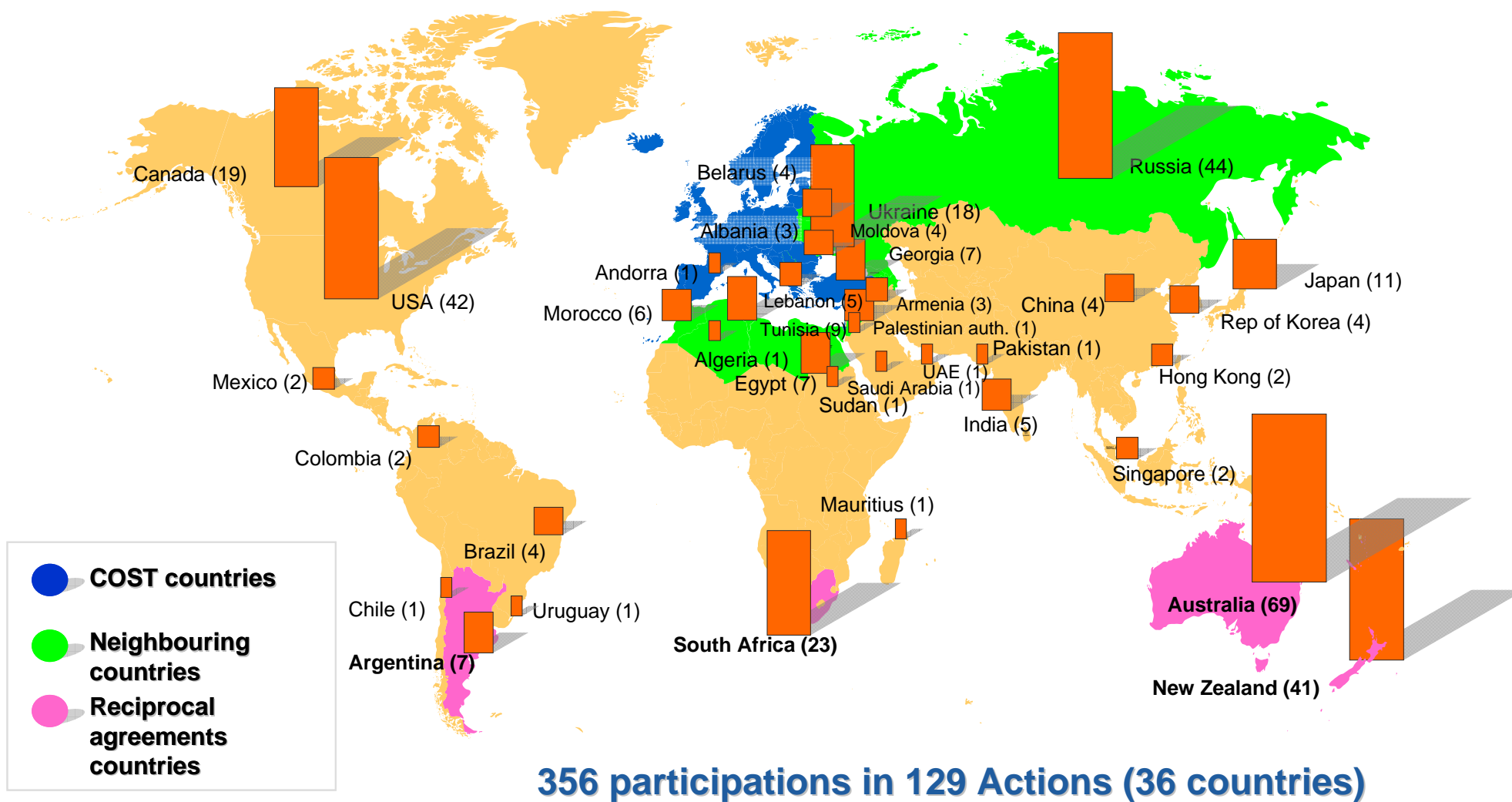
## ◆ Potential Candidate Countries

- ▶ Bosnia and Herzegovina
- ▶ Republic of Serbia

## ◆ COST Co-operating States

- ▶ Israel

# ISCH COST Actions: global participation (status: June 2010)





## What is funded by COST?

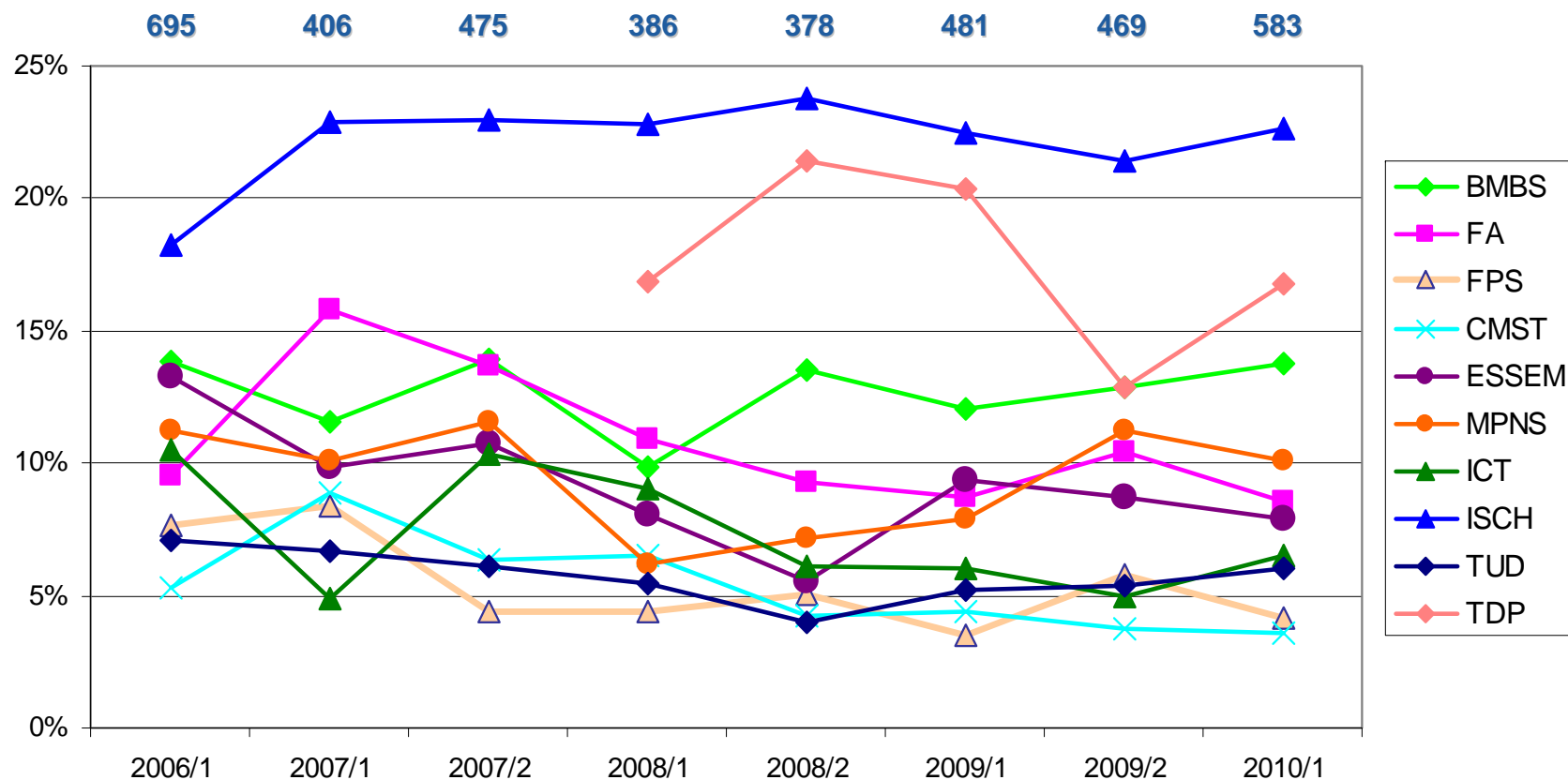
- **COST Actions:** A network of (nationally) funded projects (min. 5 participating COST countries) receive a financial contribution based on a **joint work programme** (4 years) for:
  - Science management / working group meetings
  - Scientific workshops and seminars
  - Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs)
  - Training Schools and Research Conferences
  - Dissemination and Publications
  - *Average funding +/- 90.000€ per year per Action*
- **Exploratory/Strategic Workshops:** to explore future scientific or societal needs, support policy developments or stimulate innovative activities

1. Biomedicine and Molecular Biosciences (BMBS)
2. Food and Agriculture (FA)
3. Forests, their Products and Services (FPS)
4. Materials, Physical & Nanosciences (MPNS)
5. Chemistry and Molecular Sciences & Technologies (CMST)
6. Earth System Science & Environmental Management (ESSEM)
7. Information & Communication Technologies (ICT)
8. Transport & Urban Development (TUD)
- 9. Individuals, Societies, Cultures & Health (ISCH)**

# COST Open Call Collection Dates

## Relative demand by Domain and Collection Date

Eligible  
Preliminary  
Proposals







# ISCH Domain Description

## Scope:

**Coordinating long-term research**  
within **Social Sciences** and  
**Humanities** on:

- The development and behaviour of individuals and groups
- Social, economical, political, cultural, historical and technological structures and processes
- Cultural diversity and a common European future



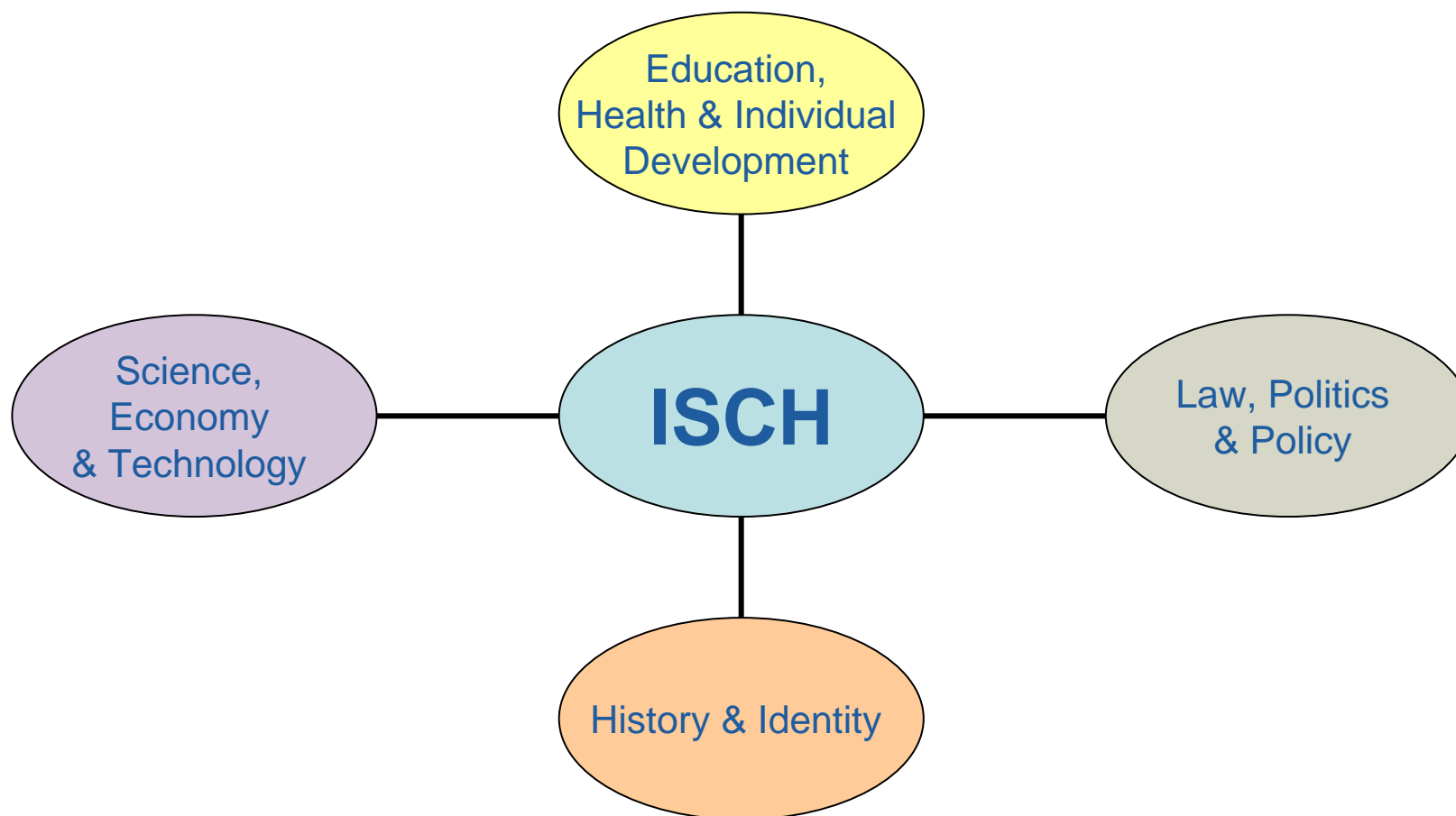
## **Brief history:**

- 1971: COST
- 1989: Social Sciences
- 2003: Social Sciences & Humanities
- 2006: Individuals, Societies, Cultures & Health

**Currently approx. 30 running Actions, gathering 1.000 institutions and 3.000 researchers**



# ISCH Portfolio



## ISCH Actions – Some examples (1)

### **IS0801 Cyberbullying: Coping with Negative and Enhancing Positive uses of New Technologies, in Relationships in Educational Settings (UK), 2008-2012**

- Refers to bullying and harassment of others by means of new electronic technologies
- Share expertise on cyberbullying in educational settings, develop measurement techniques across researchers
- Also include expertise from outside the research community (legal experts, mobile phone companies, internet providers, etc.)
- Increase awareness of the issue and move towards a common set of guidelines applicable in Europe



Michael Meister

<http://sites.google.com/site/costis0801/>

## ISCH Actions – Some examples (2)

### IS0802 The Transformation of Global Environmental Governance (DE), 2008-2012

- Governance for sustainability is one of the great current challenges for political decision-makers all over the world
- The Action focuses on the causes and consequences of the transformation of global environmental governance as well as on its effectiveness, legitimacy and robustness
- Increase the ability of policy-makers, business representatives and civil society to understand and influence current environmental governance



<http://transformation-geg.org/>

## ISCH Actions – Some examples (3)

### IS0807 Living in Surveillance Societies (UK), 2009-2013

- Deepen knowledge about living and working in surveillance societies, to better understand the consequences of technologically enhanced surveillance for social questions, such as equity, cohesion and trust
- Raise awareness of surveillance in society
- Help improved surveillance policy and practice
- Make recommendations about its future governance and practice



<http://www.liss-cost.eu/>



## ISCH Actions – Some examples (4)

### **IS0902 Systemic Risks, Financial Crises and Credit: the roots, dynamics and consequences of the Subprime Crisis (DE), 2010-2014**

- Provide comprehensive documentation and state-of-the-art analysis of the current Subprime Crisis and its consequences
- Reach a better understanding of financial crisis in general
- Develop a completely new approach to financial stability
- Formulate specific policy goals to make financial markets more secure

<http://www.worldfinancialcrisis.eu/>



## Strategic activities – Example

### Knowledge Management in Contemporary Europe (30 May - 1 June 2010)

- Set up an agenda of the current and strategic solutions in the field of knowledge management
- Fundamental discussion along four major issues: the role of knowledge creation in a networked society; knowledge infrastructures; knowledge dissemination and transfer; the future of higher education institutions
- Aim: Affect policy development at European, national and local level and achieve conclusions and recommendations for action of use to policy-makers as well as for researchers and the management and leadership of universities and in the educational policy and for the population at large







## **ISCH DC-Chair:**

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**Thank you for your interest and attention!**

**Any questions?**