

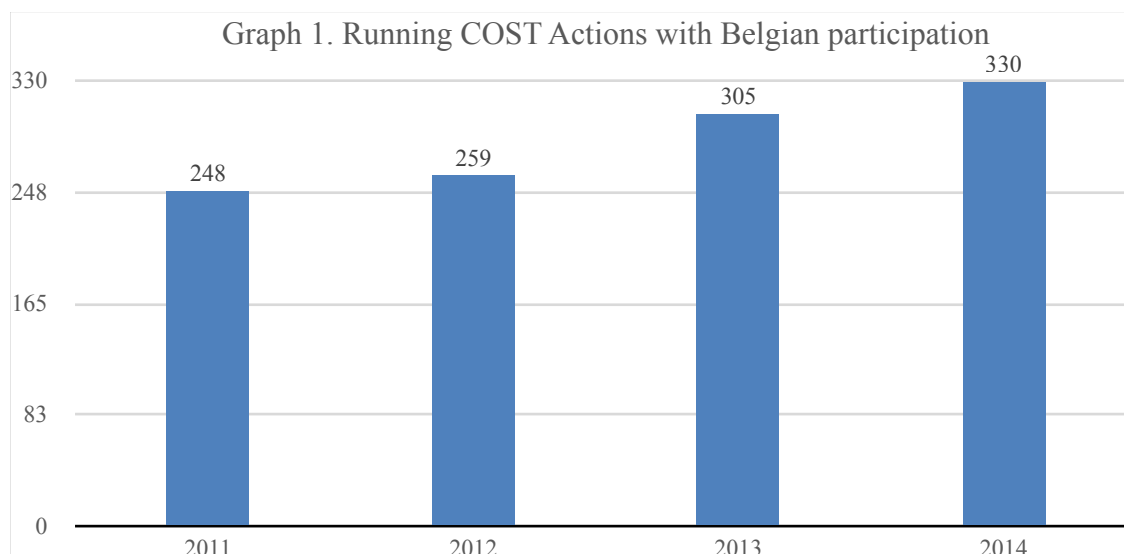
## How can Belgian researchers and Belgian research and innovation system benefit from participation in COST?

The purpose of this note is to present evidence based information on benefits that COST can offer to the research community in Belgium, and through them to the Belgian research and innovation system.

COST Actions are flexible, effective and efficient pan-European networks for researchers, engineers and scholars to cooperate and coordinate nationally funded research activities allowing to jointly develop their own ideas and new initiatives in any science and technology field. Actions are open and inclusive to all researchers, irrespective of country, career stage or gender. In each Action, a Management Committee, composed of members nominated by the COST National Coordinator, is in charge of the Action coordination, implementation and management. Within the Action, a wide range of networking activities (tools) are supported by COST, such as meetings, workshops, STSM, and Training Schools. 370 Actions were running in 2014.

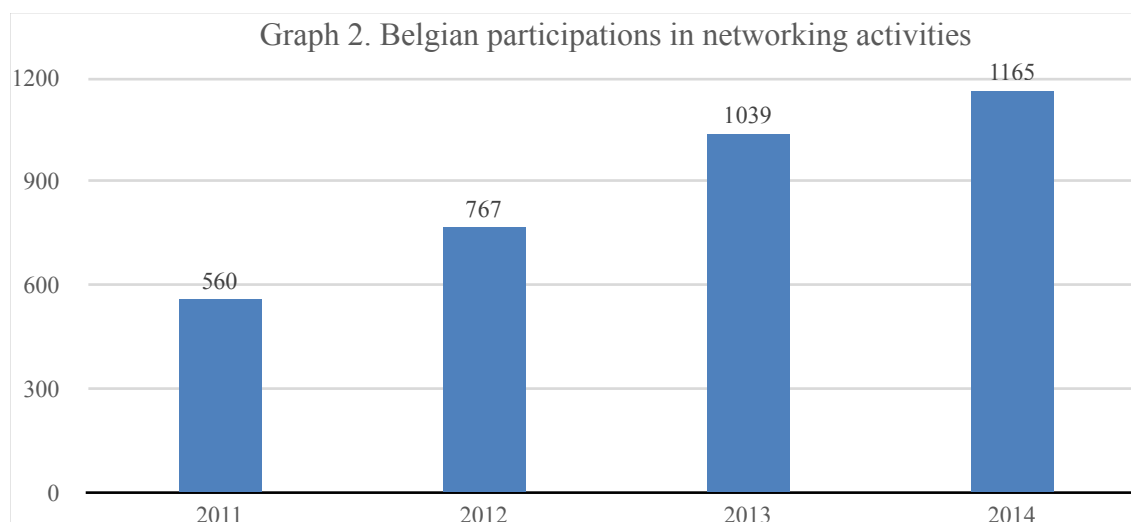
### 1. Participation in COST Actions

Since 2011 Belgium has participated in a constantly growing number of running COST Actions (Number of approved Memoranda of Understanding). In 2014, the Belgian research community not only participated in the Management Committee (MC) of 330 Actions (Graph 1), but had access to all their networking activities.



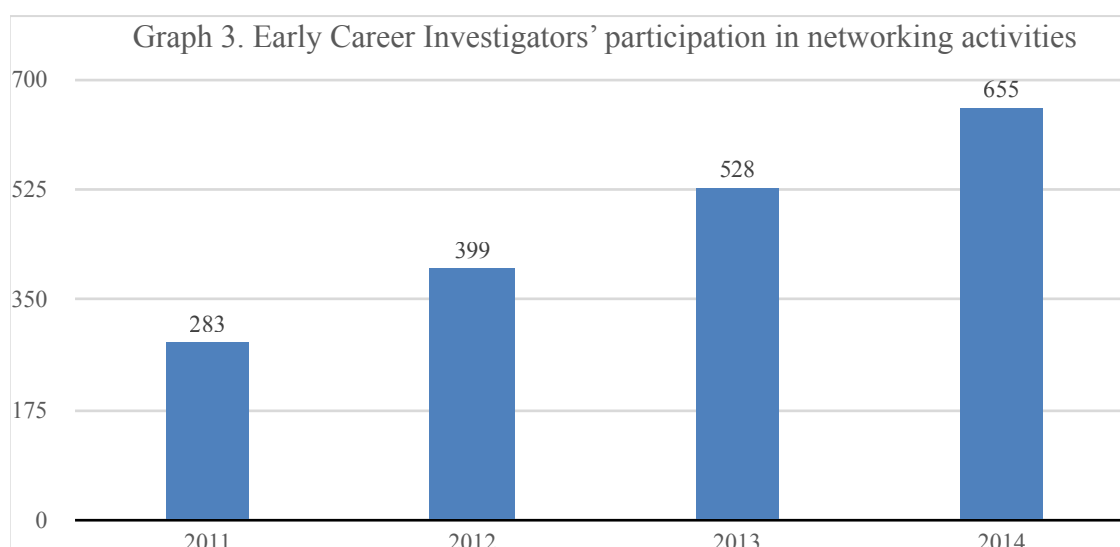
## 2. Participation in COST Action networking activities by Belgian researchers, engineers and scholars

The number of Belgian participations to networking activities (meetings, workshops, STSM, Training Schools) is growing since 2011 (Graph 2). In 2014, Belgians participated in 1165 COST Action activities (any before mentioned category).



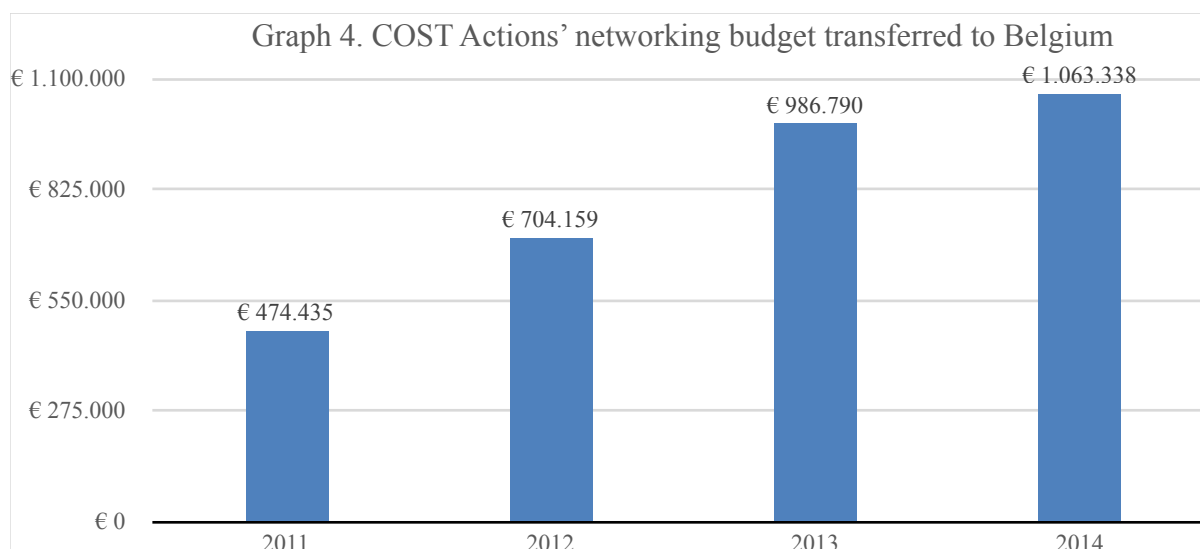
## 3. COST offers Early Career Investigators from Belgium an opportunity to increase their visibility and connect to Pan-European research networks – COST Actions

COST stimulates the participation of Early Career Investigators - ECI (less than PhD + 8 years) in all its networking activities (meetings, workshops, STSM, Training Schools). In 2014, more than half of Belgian participations to networking activities (as shown in the previous graph) were from Early Career Investigators-ECI (Graph 3).



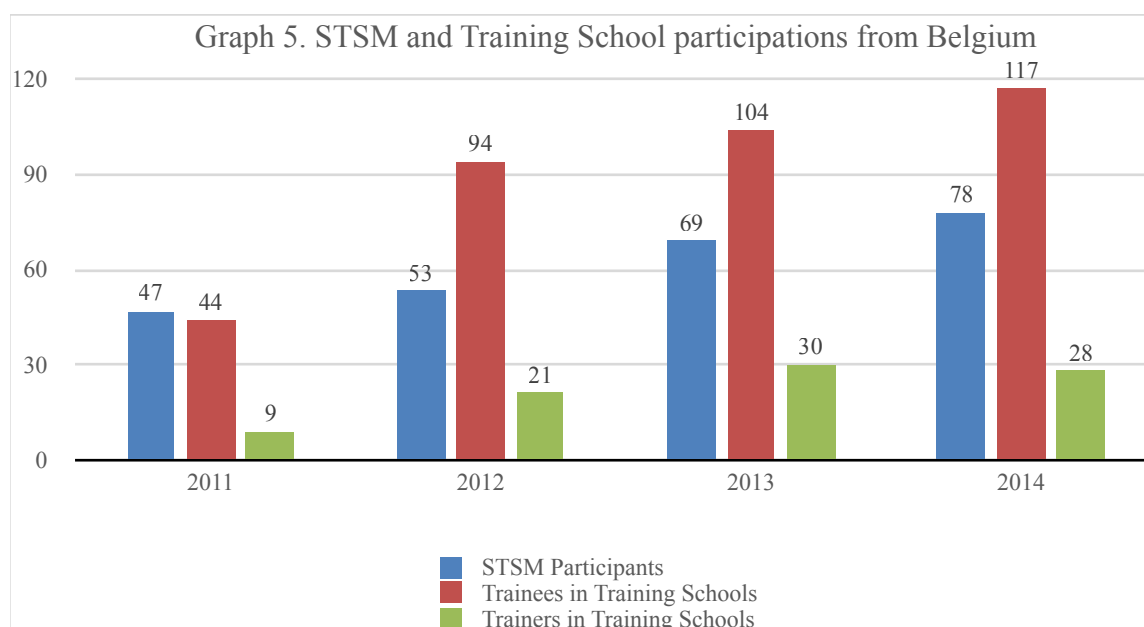
#### 4. Belgian research and innovation system benefits more and more from COST Actions' budget

In 2014, around EUR 1,063,000 benefited Belgian researchers (Graph 4). This includes participations to meetings, workshops, STSM, Training Schools, Local Organiser Support, but also Belgian Grant Holder institutions' administrative support – FSAC. Payment's made directly by COST (such as participations to the first MC meeting, experts' honoraria) are not included.



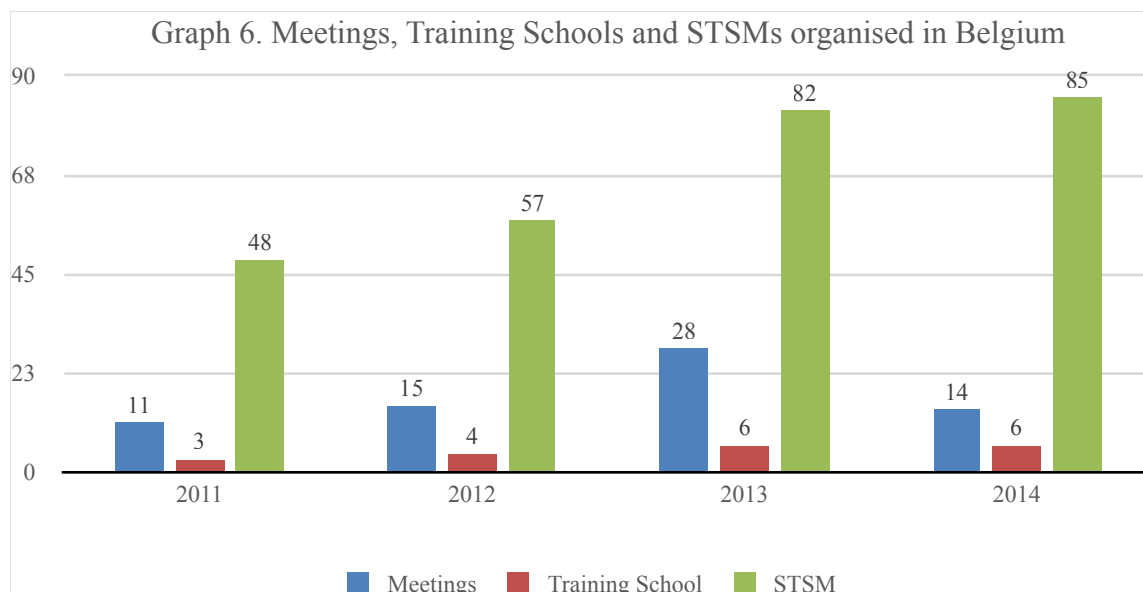
#### 5. Belgian researchers establish more and more collaborative links via an increased participation in Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) and training schools organised through COST Actions

In 2014, Belgians participated in 78 Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs). 117 Belgian trainees and 28 Belgian trainers were involved in training schools (Graph 5).



## 6. Belgian institutions gain increasing visibility thanks to meetings, Training Schools and STSMs being hosted in their premises

In 2014, 14 COST meetings, 6 Training Schools and 85 STSMs were held in Belgium helping to strengthen the existing networks and foster collaboration links between researchers, institutions and ultimately countries. They also allow to increase the visibility of hosting institutions. Belgian institutions seem to be particularly attractive to researchers coming on STSMs (Graph 6).



## 7. Belgian participation in COST Action proposals

In the COST Open Call collection 2014-1, 448 Belgian researchers participated in COST Action proposals (Graph 7). 845 eligible proposals were submitted in total to the collection 2014-1 (all COST countries).

