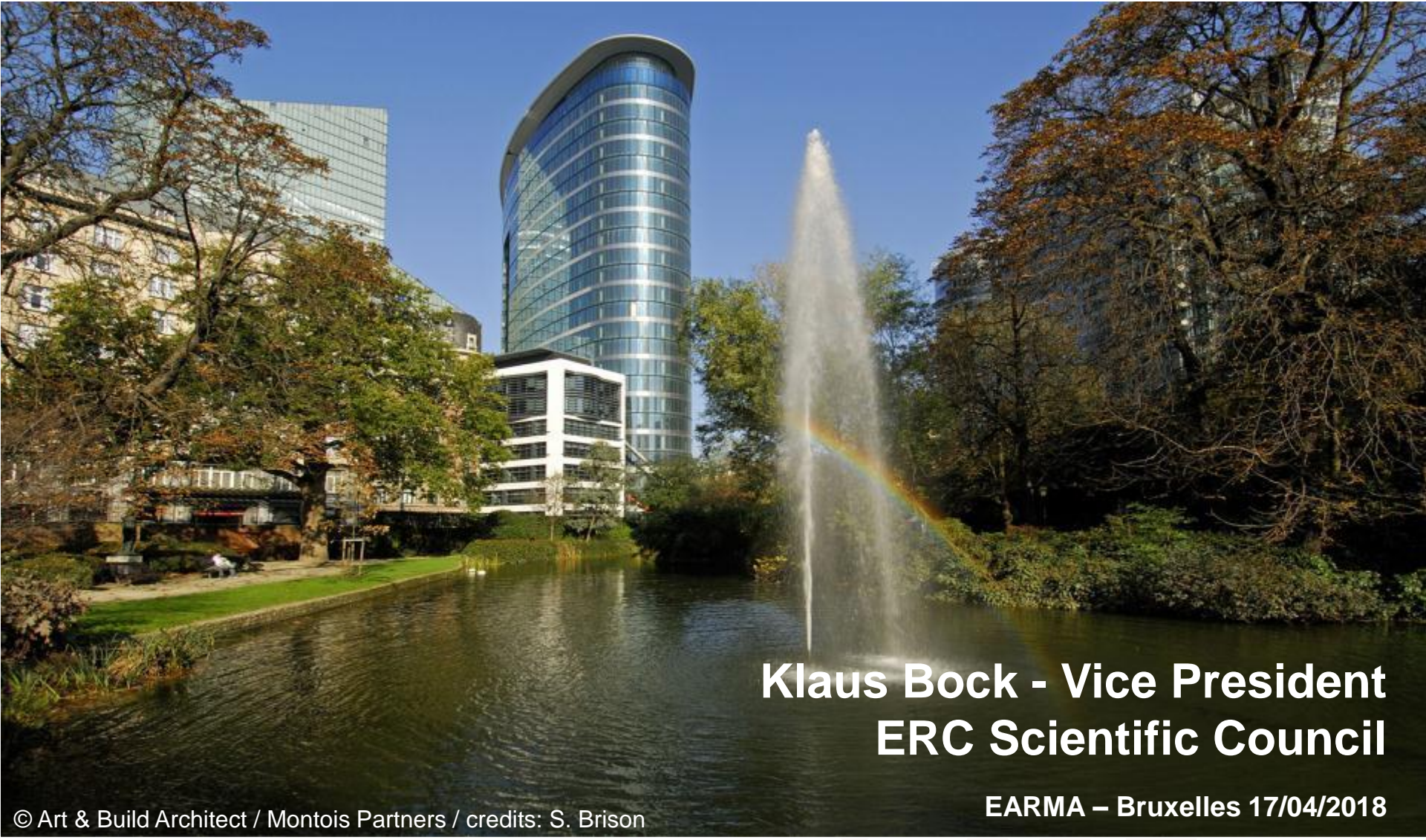


The European Research Council



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



**Klaus Bock - Vice President
ERC Scientific Council**

EARMA – Bruxelles 17/04/2018

The ERC in a Nutshell



- Set up in 2007 by the EU, the ERC funds ambitious projects in frontier research. It aims at:
 - Supporting high quality excellent frontier research throughout Europe in all scientific domains: Life Sciences (LS), Physical Sciences and Engineering (PE), and Social Sciences and Humanities (SH)
 - Retaining and attracting the best scientific talent to Europe, by offering very substantial grants for up to 5 years

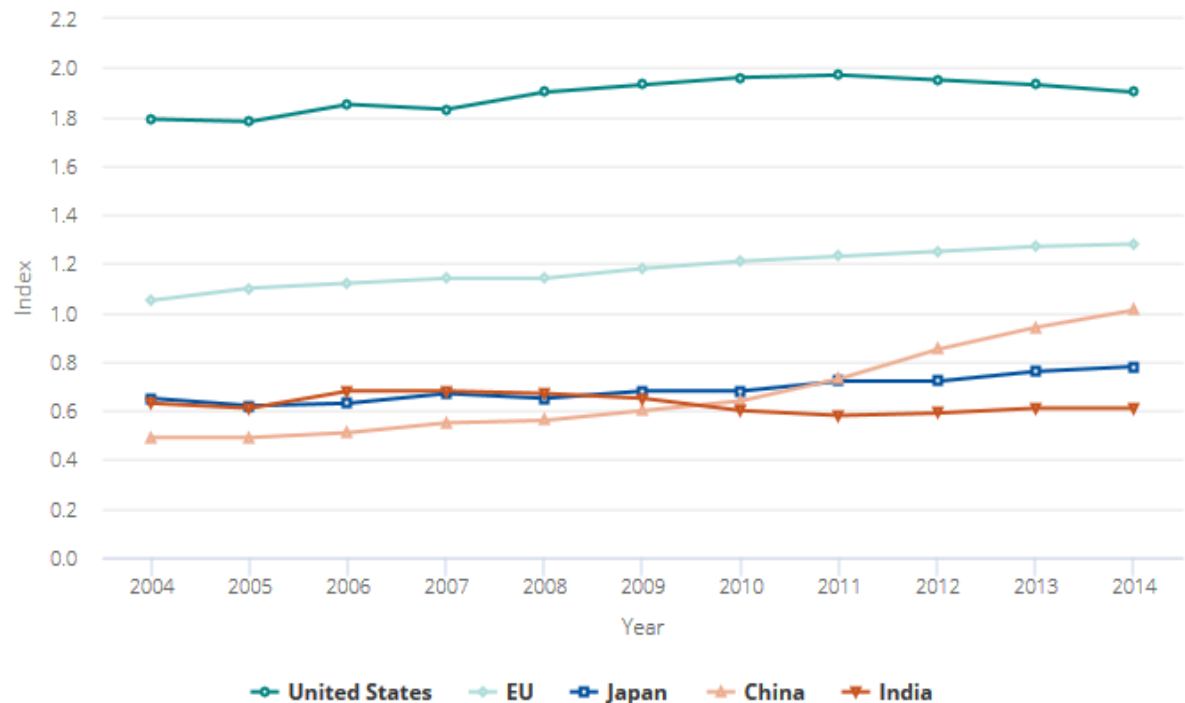
ERC Mission



"to reinforce excellence, dynamism and creativity of research in Europe"

Share of S&E publications in the top 1% of most cited publications, by selected region, country, or economy: 2004–14

Europe has been lagging behind the USA in terms of research with the highest impact (articles among 1% most cited)



Source: National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics; SRI International; Science-Metrix; Elsevier, Scopus abstract and citation database, accessed July 2017.

Science and Engineering Indicators 2018

ERC: a Radical Step Forward for Europe



- Created in 2007, ERC is the first pan-European funding body for blue sky research
- Competition for the best, creative researchers in EU or Associated Countries submitting their most ambitious projects

Strategy

- Only criterion: quality of research aiming for **excellence**
- Empowering **individual scientists** to pursue their best ideas
- **International** peer-review
- **No pre-determined subjects** (bottom-up)
- **Frontier research in all fields** of science and humanities
- **High-risk/high-gain** ambitious projects



ERC Structure



The European Commission

- **Provides financing** through the EU framework programmes
- **Guarantees autonomy of the ERC**
- **Assures the integrity and accountability of the ERC**
- **Adopts annual work programmes** as established by the Scientific Council

The ERC Scientific Council

- **21 prominent researchers** proposed by an independent identification committee
- **President** appointed following recommendation of an independent committee
- **Appointed by the Commission** (4 years, renewable once)
- **Establishes overall scientific strategy**; annual work programmes (incl. calls for proposals, evaluation criteria); peer review methodology; selection and accreditation of experts
- **Controls quality of operations and management**
- **Ensures communication with the scientific community**



The ERC Executive Agency

- **Executes annual work programme** as established by the Scientific Council
- **Implements calls for proposals** and provides information and support to applicants
- **Organises peer review evaluation**
- **Establishes and manages grant agreements**
- **Administers scientific and financial aspects** and follow-up of grant agreements
- **Carries out communications activities** and ensures information dissemination to ERC stakeholders

The ERC Scientific Council, Four new council members in 2019 and new President in 2020 plus new ERCEA director, 2020.



President

BOURGUIGNON
Jean-Pierre



Vice
President

BOCK
Klaus



Vice
President

KONDOROSI
Eva



Vice
President

STOKHOF
Martin



BOVOLENTA
Paola



BUCKINGHAM
Margaret



CLARK
Christopher



CRONE
Eveline



DONALD
Athene



JAJSZCZYK
Andrzej



JUNGWIRTH
Tomas



KRAMER
Michael



MEHLHORN
Kurt



ROMANOWICZ
Barbara



STENSETH
Nils



SUPERTI-FURGA
Giulio



TAVERNARAKIS
Nektarios



THORNTON
Janet



VERNOS
Isabelle



VEUGELERS
Reinhilde



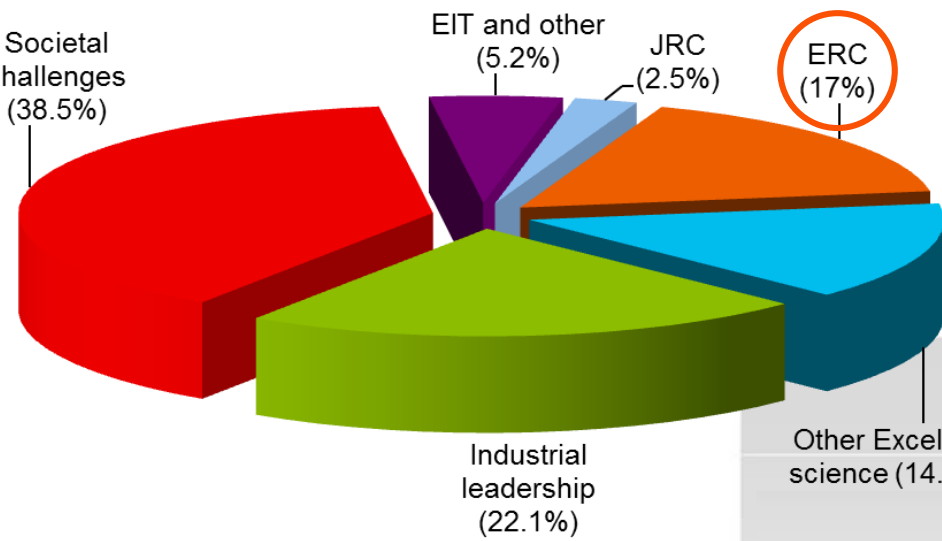
WIEVIORKA
Michel



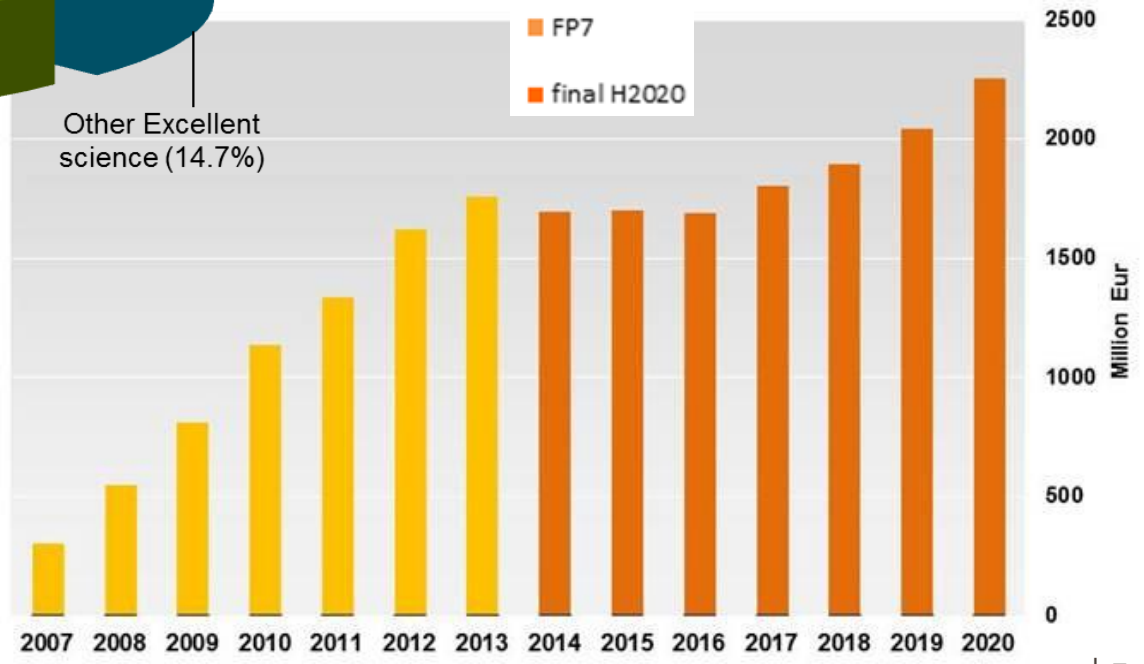
ZWIRNER
Fabio



Horizon 2020 Budget and ERC



ERC Budget 2014-2020 € 13 billion



ERC Grant Schemes

Starting Grants

starters
(2-7 years after PhD)
up to € 1.5 Mio
for 5 years

Consolidator Grants

consolidators
(7-12 years after PhD)
up to € 2 Mio
for 5 years

Advanced Grants

track-record of
significant research
achievements in the
last 10 years
up to € 2.5 Mio
for 5 years

Proof-of-Concept

bridging gap between research - earliest
stage of marketable innovation
up to €150,000 for ERC grant holders

Synergy Grants (re-launched 2018)

2 – 4 Principal Investigators
up to € 10.0 Mio for 6 years

Evaluation Panel Structure 2017

~10.000 proposals, ~ 1.000 grants
3 calls with 25 panels of 15 members,
Serve every second year for 4 terms.



Life Sciences

- LS1 Molecular and Structural Biology and Biochemistry
- LS2 Genetics, Genomics, Bioinformatics and Systems Biology
- LS3 Cellular and Developmental Biology
- LS4 Physiology, Pathophysiology and Endocrinology
- LS5 Neurosciences and Neural Disorders
- LS6 Immunity and Infection
- LS7 Diagnostic Tools, Therapies and Public Health
- LS8 Evolutionary, Population and Environmental Biology
- LS9 Applied Life Sciences and Non-Medical Biotechnology

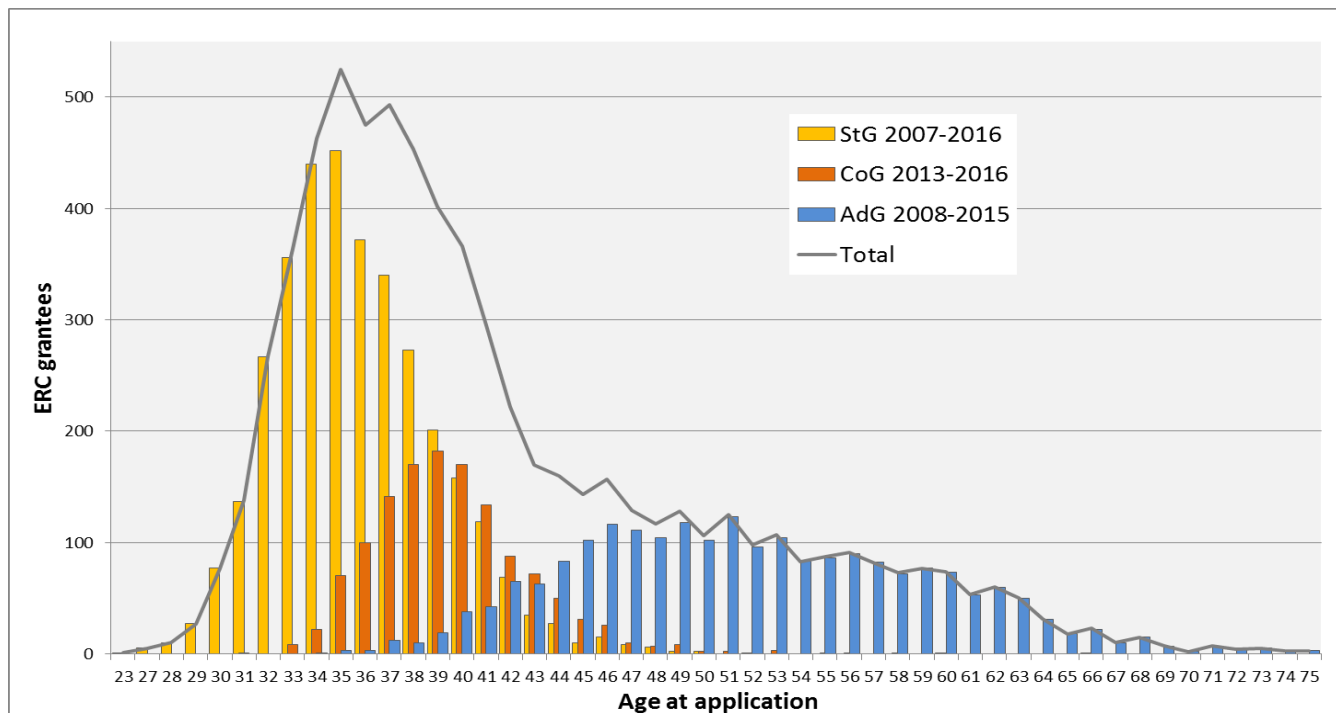
Physical Sciences & Engineering

- PE1 Mathematics
- PE2 Fundamental Constituents of Matter
- PE3 Condensed Matter Physics
- PE4 Physical and Analytical Chemical Sciences
- PE5 Synthetic Chemistry and Materials
- PE6 Computer Science and Informatics
- PE7 Systems and Communication Engineering
- PE8 Products and Process Engineering
- PE9 Universe Sciences
- PE10 Earth System Science

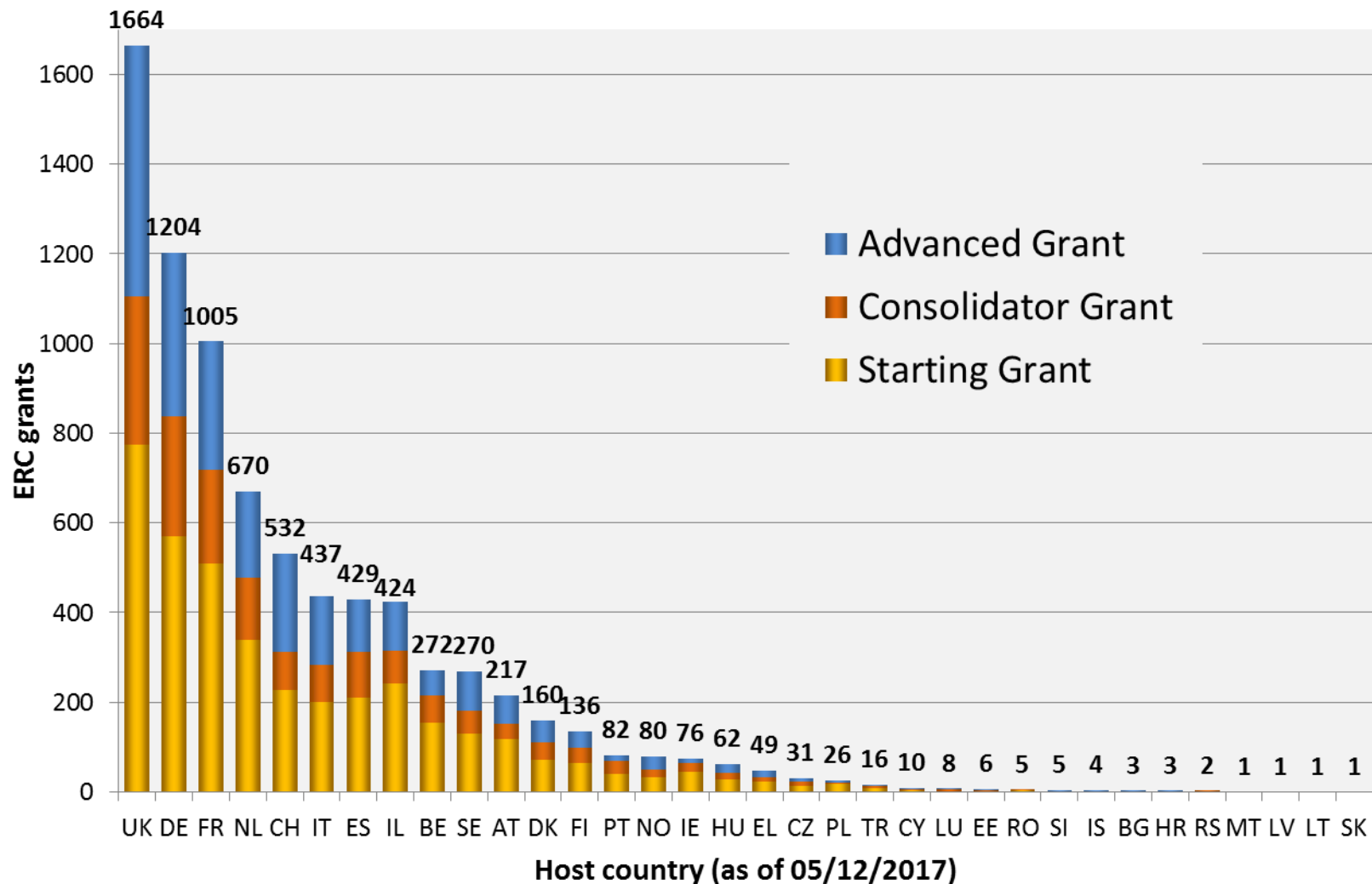
Social Sciences and Humanities

- SH1 Individuals, Markets and Organisations
- SH2 Institutions, Values, Environment and Space
- SH3 The Social World, Diversity, Population
- SH4 The Human Mind and Its Complexity
- SH5 Cultures and Cultural Production
- SH6 The Study of the Human Past

2/3 of ERC Grantees are Early in their Careers



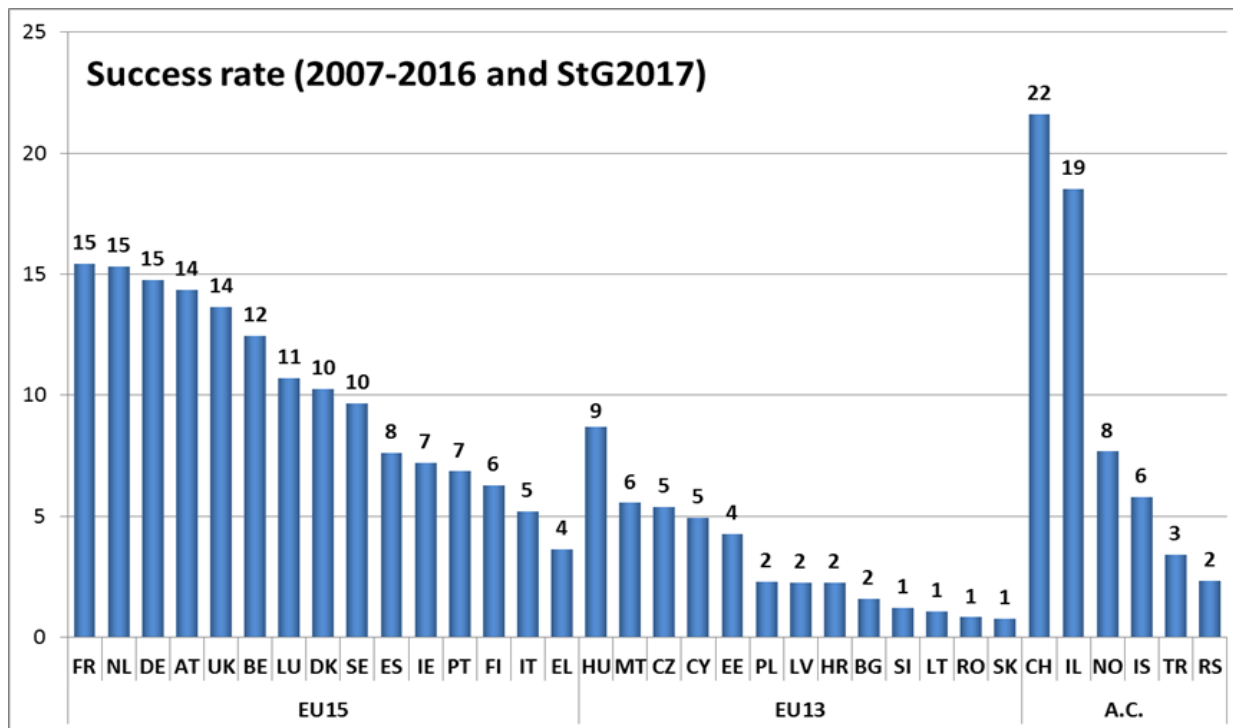
ERC Funded Projects by Country of Host Institution



Success Rate by Country of HI



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Country	Higher-Education Institution	No	StG	CoG	AdG	Total	LS	PE	SH
UK	University of Cambridge	1	89	41	78	208	74	99	35
UK	University of Oxford	2	77	43	80	200	56	81	63
UK	University College London	3	76	33	47	156	61	47	48
CH	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL)	4	59	19	50	128	33	92	3
IL	Weizmann Institute	5	62	29	36	127	74	51	2
CH	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH Zurich)	6	48	12	65	125	36	84	5
IL	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	7	59	19	37	115	51	46	18
UK	University of Edinburgh	8	42	15	38	95	30	39	26
UK	Imperial College	9	52	17	23	92	30	60	2
NL	University of Amsterdam	10	43	14	23	80	7	24	49
DK	University of Copenhagen	11	36	24	19	79	35	30	14
DE	University of Munich (LMU)	12	35	8	33	76	32	27	17
IL	Tel Aviv University	13	46	11	16	73	31	34	8
BE	University of Leuven	14	39	12	21	72	18	37	17
NL	Delft University of Technology	15	32	15	16	63	8	49	6
FI	University of Helsinki	15	30	14	19	63	36	16	11
UK	University of Bristol	16	26	7	29	62	11	39	12
CH	University of Zurich	16	26	11	25	62	33	12	17
NL	Radboud University Nijmegen	17	33	13	15	61	23	15	23
NL	Utrecht University	18	25	20	15	60	10	27	23
NL	Leiden University	19	30	11	18	59		23	36
IL	Technion - Israel Institute of Technology	20	36	9	12	57	19	37	1
UK	University of Manchester	21	22	11	20	53	11	33	9
Country	Research Organisation	No	StG	CoG	AdG	Total	LS	PE	SH
FR	National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS)	1	214	102	94	410	116	246	48
DE	Max Planck Society	2	96	33	81	210	101	93	16
DE	Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres	3	62	32	25	119	72	46	1
FR	National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM)	4	46	25	25	96	89	4	3
FR	French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission	5	43	6	16	65	10	53	2
ES	Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)	6	30	17	17	64	19	38	7

Top European Institutions Hosting ERC Grantees by Funding Schemes

ERC calls 2007-2016
StG2017 and CoG2017

Current signatories of the grant agreement

Data as of 05/12/2017

Advancing the Frontier of Knowledge

- ✓ In the **ex-post evaluation** conducted on **completed ERC projects**, **2/3** resulted in **scientific breakthroughs** or **major advances**.
- ✓ ERC grantees won prestigious awards:
6 Nobel Prizes, **3** Fields Medals, **5** Wolf Prizes,...
- ✓ 2/3 of the projects have an important degree of **interdisciplinarity**, and projects having made better contributions are more interdisciplinary.

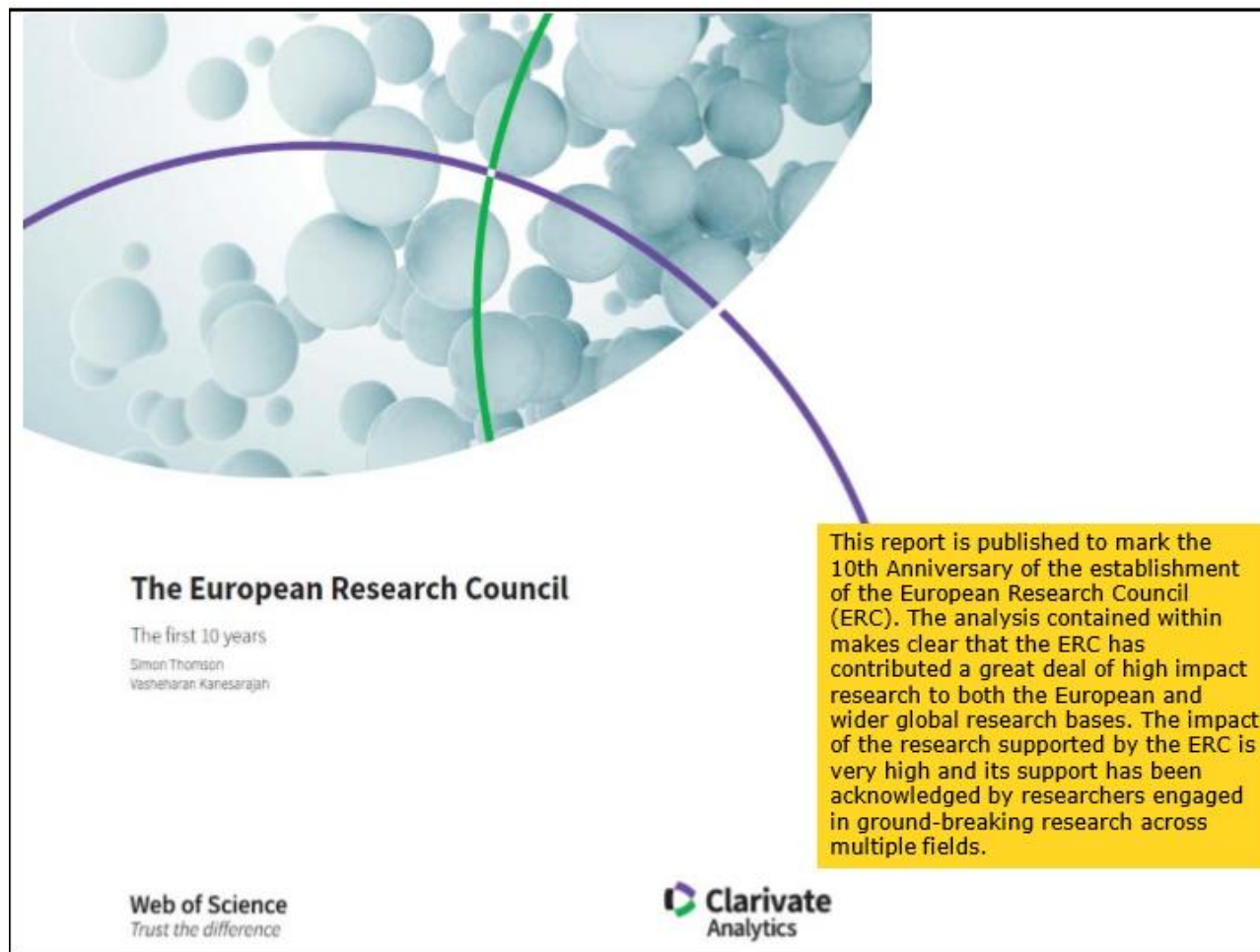


Clarivate Analysis of ERC after 10 Years



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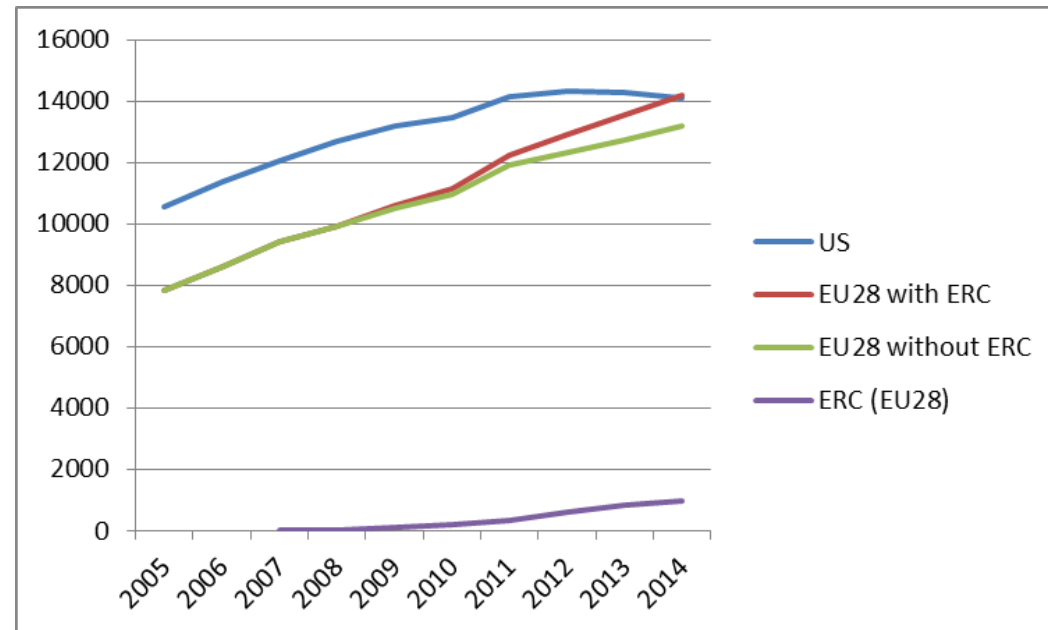
This report is published to mark the 10th Anniversary of the establishment of the European Research Council (ERC). The analysis contained within makes clear that the ERC has contributed a great deal of high impact research to both the European and wider global research bases. The impact of the research supported by the ERC is very high and its support has been acknowledged by researchers engaged in ground-breaking research across multiple fields.

Mission *"to reinforce excellence in Europe"*

The first reported ERC publications began to appear in **2007** and since then publications acknowledging ERC funding have gone to contributing in **2014** to nearly **7%** of **EU top 1% most cited publications**.

In 2014, for the first time, authors based in the EU appeared on more top 1% cited publications than authors based in US in absolute numbers.

Shares of 1% most cited publications



Top Funder in the World

"The ERC had the highest category normalised citation impact, the highest percentage of papers in the world's top 1% and the highest percentage of papers involving international co-authorship of the 50 funders most frequently acknowledged by authors in the Web of Science between 2007 and 2016. Of the 100 most frequently acknowledged funders, only three (all large pharmaceutical companies) have a higher citation impact – though not substantially higher."

Table 2. The 50 most frequently acknowledged funders in the Web of Science sorted by category normalised citation impact, 2007-16⁶

Name	Papers	Category normalized citation impact	Percentage top 1% papers	Percentage internationally collaborative papers
European Research Council (ERC)	40,422	2.46	4.84%	59.24%
Wellcome Trust	41,040	2.10	3.60%	55.62%
United States Department of Energy (DOE)	123,864	2.09	3.92%	39.39%
NIH National Cancer Institute (NCI)	55,496	2.08	3.68%	29.69%
Medical Research Council UK	38,442	2.08	3.76%	48.81%
NIH National Heart Lung & Blood Institute (NHLBI)	30,092	1.95	3.27%	28.81%
Swiss National Science Foundation	50,598	1.90	3.01%	59.03%
Federal Ministry of Education & Research (BMBF)	43,462	1.75	2.68%	48.12%
National Institutes of Health (NIH) – USA ⁷	617,950	1.73	2.61%	28.37%
National Science Foundation (NSF)	380,893	1.73	2.76%	36.36%
National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia	40,898	1.70	2.31%	42.24%
Australian Research Council	65,631	1.65	2.26%	50.65%
French National Research Agency	41,385	1.62	2.04%	47.65%
Ministry of Science and Technology, China	32,098	1.61	2.49%	28.98%
Swedish Research Council	41,161	1.60	2.09%	57.87%
Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)	60,697	1.58	2.07%	43.01%

Globally Outstanding



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Source: Clarivate Analytics

Attracting Scientific Talent

- ✓ The ERC tackles the brain-drain by making Europe a more attractive place for bright minds
- ✓ Around 17% of the ERC team members are from non-EU countries
- ✓ 9 countries (including US, China, Korea, Brazil and South Africa) have signed specific agreements with the EU that allow ERC grantees to cooperate with young scientists from around the world



Attracting Researchers to Europe



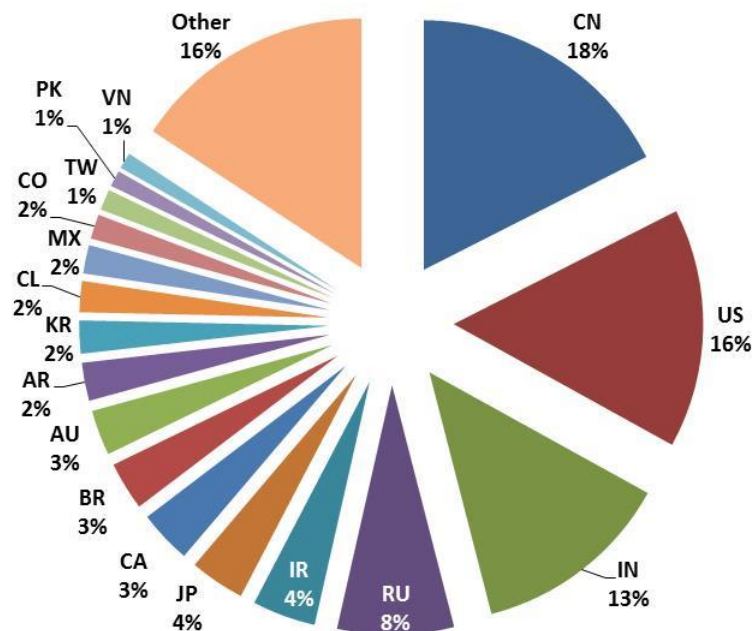
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Nationality of ERC project teams (PIs not included)
Analysis of **1,901** Starting and Advanced Grants

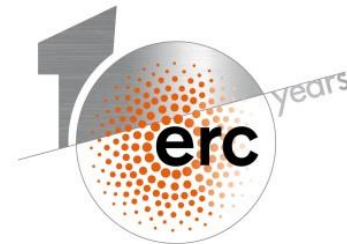
EU: 71%
Assoc. Countries: 10%
non-ERA: 17%
unknown: 2%

In all ERC grants
+ **9,000** non-ERA team
members, most from
**China, US, India, and
Russia**



ERC Scientific Council

Standing Committees & Working groups



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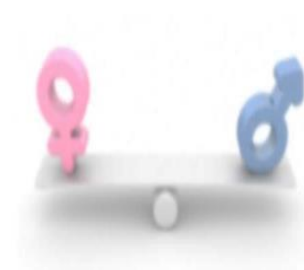
CoIME (Conflict of Interest & Research integrity)



CoP (Committee on Panels)



Gender balance



Open Access



Strengthening International participation



Widening European Participation



Innovation and relations with industry



Key Performance Indicators



European
Commission

Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation

The Secrets of a Success

- ✓ **The evaluators**: high-level scientists from all over the world.
- ✓ **Scientific** and **financial independence** of the **grantees**.
- ✓ The **length of the grants** giving room for being scientifically ambitious.
- ✓ The **simplicity of the scheme** and of the procedures.
- ✓ **Efficient management** by an autonomous **Executive Agency**.
- ✓ Empowering the **Scientific Council**: 22 scientists as decision makers.

Future Challenges

- Need for an enhanced budget for research in the next framework programme (ERC is ~1% of basic Research Funding in Europe)
- Enough room for curiosity-driven research in a bottom-up approach (Unfunded A's about 30% of funded proposals)
- Schemes welcoming interdisciplinarity
- Need to preserve ERC main features and specificities
- Coordination with the programmes of national agencies
- Need to promote the impact of the ERC outside the scientific community

Scientific Council Statement on ERC in FP9



- ✓ Continuity
- ✓ Agility
- ✓ Scale-up

- Continuity:
 - ✓ Of structure from the current legal framework
 - ✓ Of governance arrangements: independence of Scientific Council and operational autonomy
- Agility:
 - ✓ To innovate and adapt its scientific strategy
 - ✓ To manage its resources flexibly
 - ✓ To use tailor made tools and procedures when necessary
- Scale-up:
 - ✓ To turn ERC into one of Europe's main funders
 - ✓ To ensure appropriate success rates
 - ✓ To support more Europe's top-performing researchers

ERC and FP 9

Building on a European Success Story to empower further European researchers



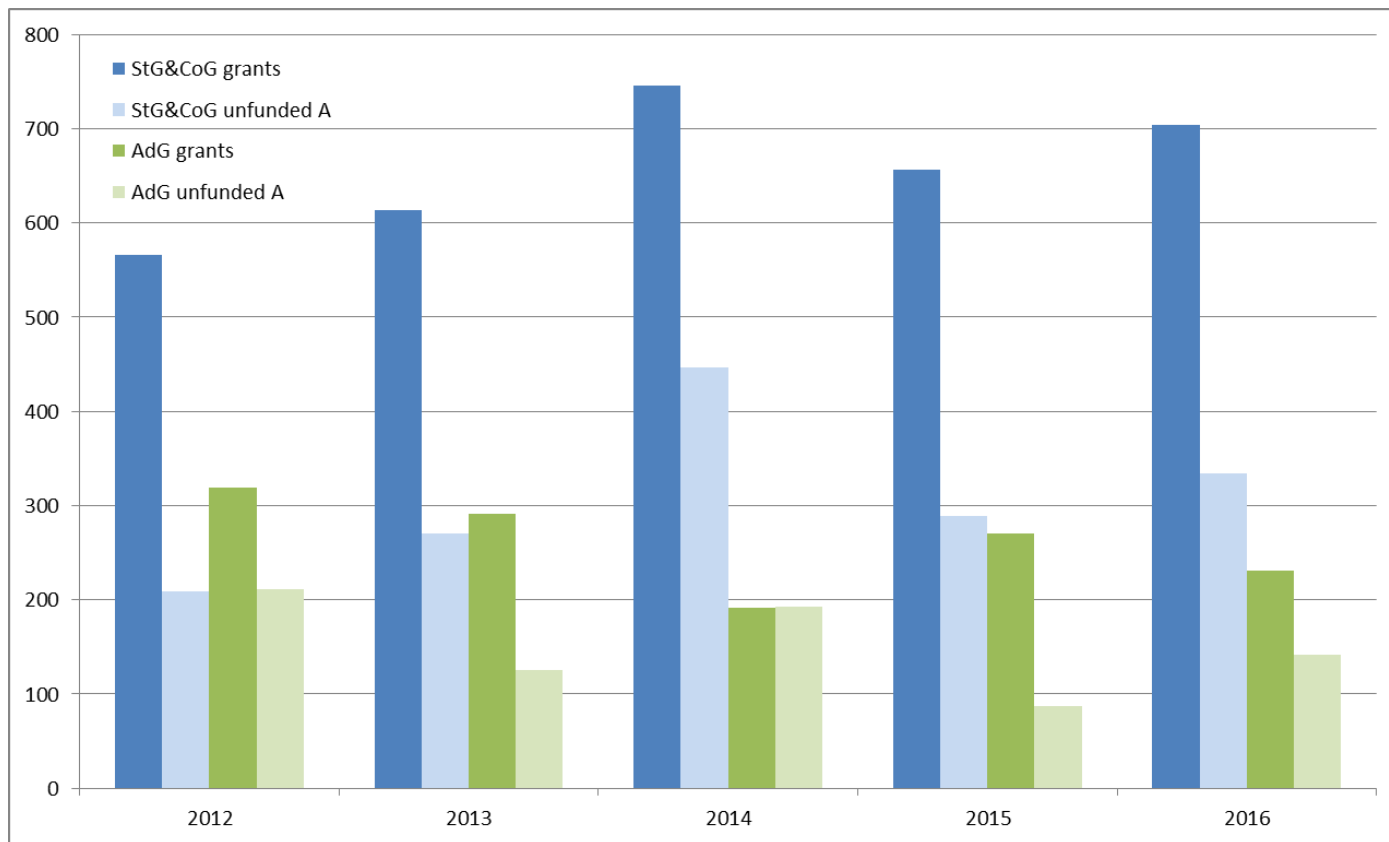
- **Continuity**
- an appropriate legal framework establishing/continuing the autonomy of the ERC
- **Agility**
- This agility is necessary to allow the ERC to continue to innovate and adapt its procedures
- **Scale up**
- the ERC needs a minimum budget of €4 billion per annum and the ERCEA to be given the capacity to hire the relevant personnel to deal with it.

More top talent to fund!



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Average of > 400 unfunded top projects each

ERC Synergy Grants 2019

Budget 400 mio. Euro



- **Objective:** breakthroughs that would not be possible by the individual PIs working alone
- **Grant size:** Up to €10M over 6 years (possibility of additional €4M)
- **Synergy Details**
 - 2-4 PIs of any nationality at any career stage
 - One PI designated as corresponding PI (cPI)
 - Ambitious research projects - new methods, approaches, techniques, research at the interface between disciplines, unconventional approaches, cross-fertilising scientific fields etc
 - 30% of PI's time in the project + 50% in the EU or AC

European Parliament Calls for €120 Billion for FP9



Believes that the next MFF should see a greater concentration of budgetary resources in areas that demonstrate a clear European added value and stimulate economic growth, competitiveness, sustainability and employment across all EU regions; stresses, in this context, the importance of research and innovation in creating a sustainable, world-leading, knowledge-based economy, and regrets that, due to the lack of adequate financing, only a small proportion of high-quality projects in this field have received EU funding under the current MFF;

Calls, therefore, for a substantial increase in the overall budget earmarked for the FP9 programme in the next MFF, which should be set at a level of at least EUR 120 billion; considers this level to be appropriate for securing Europe's global competitiveness and scientific, technological and industrial leadership, for responding to societal challenges, and for helping to achieve the EU's climate goals and the SDGs; calls, in particular, for efforts to stimulate breakthrough, market-creating innovation, notably for SMEs;

Next MFF: a Political Opportunity



“Horizon 2020 est aussi un programme clé pour la croissance et le développement des entreprises européennes. Nous y consacrons actuellement 80 milliards d’euros. Si nous décidions de faire passer ce montant à 120 milliards dans le prochain budget, cela permettrait, d’ici à 2040, de créer 420.000 emplois supplémentaires et d’accroître le PIB de 0,3%. Si nous allions jusqu’à 160 milliards cela se traduirait par la création de 650.000 emplois d’ici à 2040 et par un accroissement du PIB de 0,5 %. Et l’Union européenne serait alors l’un des principaux acteurs mondiaux dans les domaines de la recherche et de l’innovation.”

JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER
14.03.2018 - EP, STRASBOURG



After 10 Years, a Success Story

A smaller Miracle for European Policy !



European Research Council

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Over **8,000**
top researchers funded since
the ERC's creation in 2007



Over **90,000**
articles from ERC projects published
in prestigious scientific journals



Over **50,000**
researchers and other professionals
employed in ERC research teams



745 research institutions
hosting ERC grantees – universities,
public or private research centres in
the EU or associated countries



€ 13 billion

ERC budget for 2014-2020 under
Horizon 2020



73
nationalities of
grant holders

The European Research Council



- More information: erc.europa.eu
- National Contact Point: erc.europa.eu/national-contact-points
- Sign up for news alerts: erc.europa.eu/keep-updated-erc
- Follow the ERC on



www.facebook.com/EuropeanResearchCouncil



twitter.com/ERC_Research

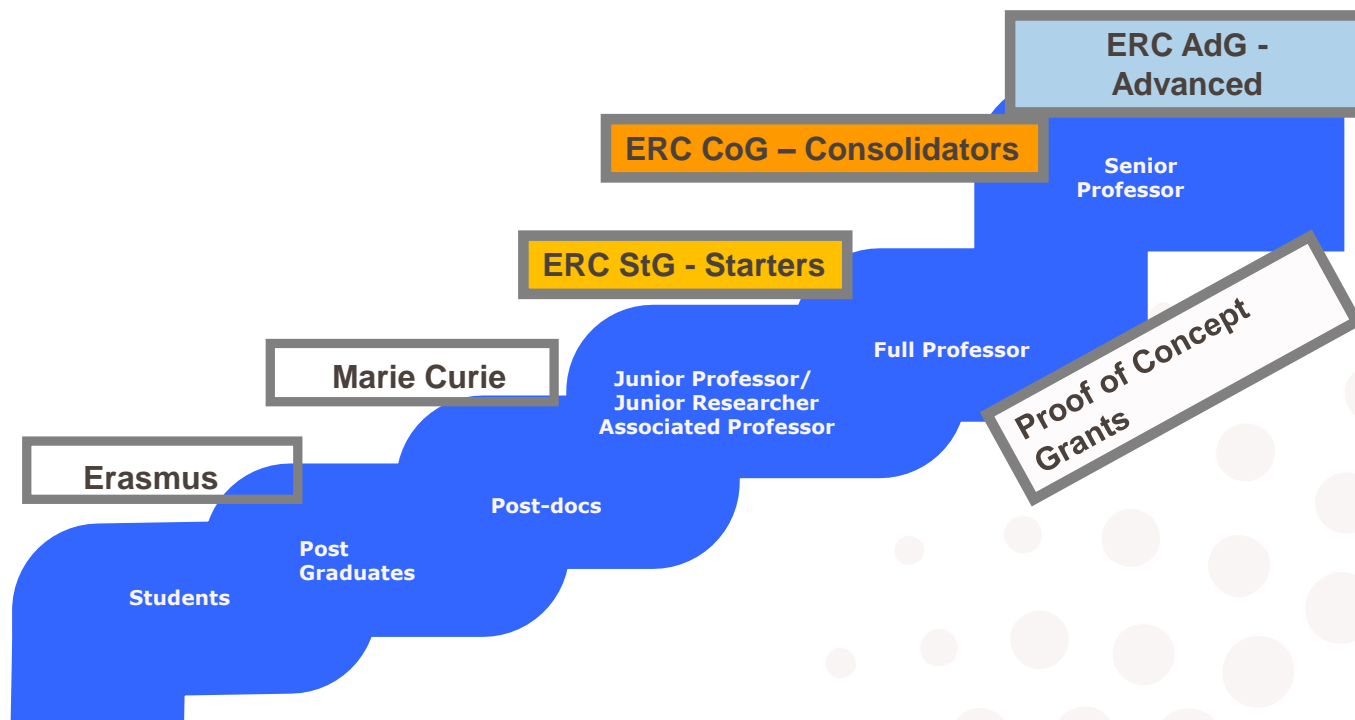


www.linkedin.com/company/european-research-council

Researchers career development and complementary funding schemes



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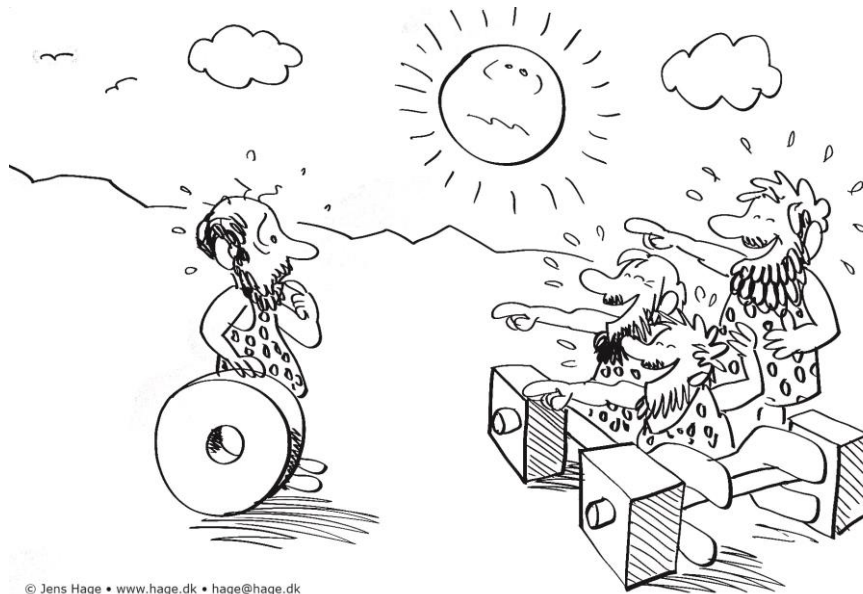
European
Commission

Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation

Focus on people

:

If you let the **best people** grapple with the problems they are **passionate** about, we set the stage for **real scientific breakthroughs**.



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Focus on people

Excellence

Flexibility



Universities

ERC

Trust

Transparency



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Rules for Success



- ✓ There is no satisfactory substitute for excellence
- ✓ Absolute integrity in everything
- ✓ Everything in moderation including moderation itself
- ✓ Hire the best people and then get out of their way
- ✓ Don't take yourself too serious





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The ERC Proof of Concept grant

PoC – what is it?

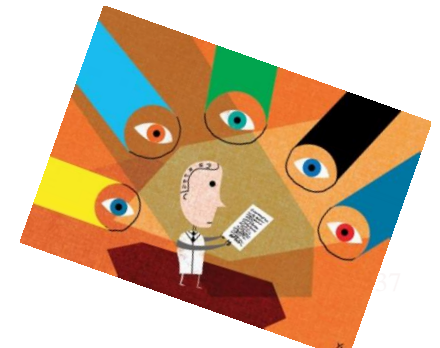
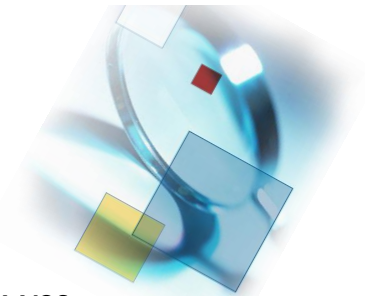
Who can apply: Holders of an ERC grant with an idea substantially drawn from an ERC-funded project

What for: establish the innovation potential of the idea: technical validation, market research, clarifying IPR strategy, investigating business opportunities



Amount: €150,000 per grant (18 months) Lump sum.
Total budget for 2018: € 20 million

Evaluation: Experts in technology transfer check the innovation potential and that the plan is reasonable



PoC – some figures

	Budget 10ml	Budget 10ml	Budget 10ml	Budget 15ml	Budget 20ml	Budget 20ml	Budget 20ml	
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	TOTAL
Proposals*	139	120	279	426	323	408	497	2 192
Funded	51	60	67	121	160	159	154	772
Success	37%	50%	24%	28%	49%	39%	31%	35%

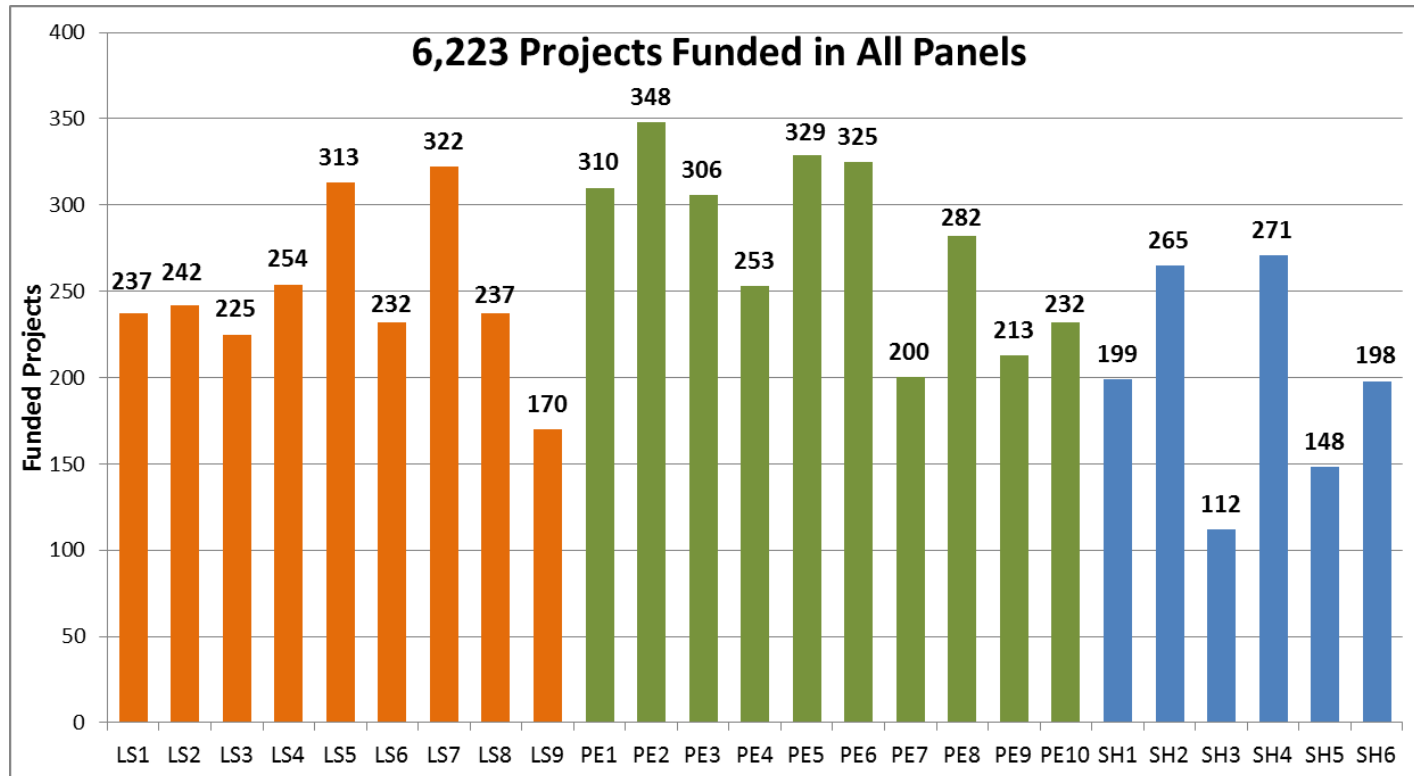
* withdrawn and ineligible not taken into account

- Steady increase in the number of applications (from ≈ 140 to ≈ 500 per year)
- Increase in the annual budget (from 10m to 20m)
- It attracts $\approx 12\%$ of ERC grantees; $\approx 5\%$ of them hold a PoC
- 3 deadlines per year – only 1 eligible application per PI, per year
- ≈ 770 PoC projects funded by end-2017 (average 35% success rate)

Distribution of ERC Grants by Panel 2007-2015



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Life Science

Physical and Engineering

**Social Science
and Humanities**

The European Research Council



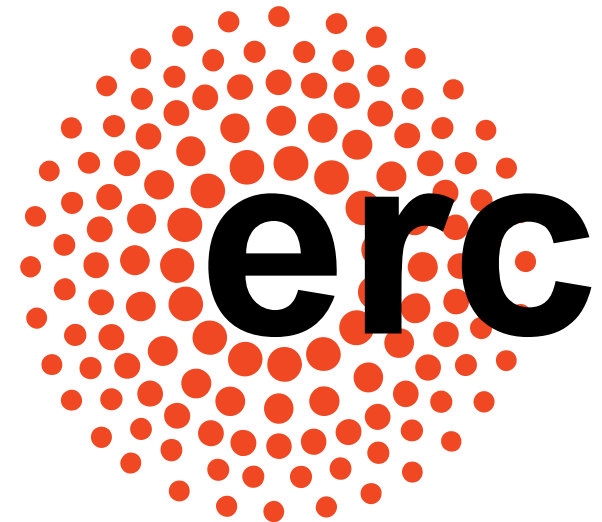
EARMA Annual Conference

Dr Martin Penny

Head of Unit:

Physical Sciences & Engineering

ERCEA



What does ERC offer?

ERC Grant Schemes



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Starting Grants

starters
2-7 years after PhD
(≥ 50% commitment)
up to €1.5 Million
for 5 years

Consolidator Grants

consolidators
7-12 years after PhD
(≥ 40% commitment)
up to €2 Million
for 5 years

Advanced Grants

track-record of
significant research
achievements in the
last 10 years
(≥ 30% commitment)
up to €2.5 Million
for 5 years

Proof-of-Concept

bridging gap between research - earliest stage
of marketable innovation
up to €150,000 for ERC grant holders only

Synergy Grants New

2-4 PIs up to €10 million for 6 years
to lead to breakthroughs that cannot be
achieved by a PI working alone

How to prepare & submit an ERC research proposal



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Proposal structure

PART A – online forms

A1 Proposal info

A2 Host Institution and PI info

A3 Budget

A4 Ethics Issues

A5 Call Specific Info (doctoral training, extensions, excluded reviewers etc.)

PART B1 – submitted as .pdf

Extended Synopsis 5 p.

CV 2 p.

Early Achievements Record 2 p.
(incl. up to 5 publications)

Annexes – submitted as .pdf

HI support letter

Copy of PhD title

Documents for extension of
eligibility window

PART B2 – submitted as .pdf

Scientific Proposal 15 p.

State of the Art & Objectives

Methodology

Resources



How to prepare & submit an ERC research proposal

ERC Panel structure



European Research Council

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Each panel :
Panel Chair and 10-16 Panel Members

Life Sciences

- **LS1** Molecular and Structural Biology and Biochemistry
- **LS2** Genetics, Genomics, Bioinformatics and Systems Biology
- **LS3** Cellular and Developmental Biology
- **LS4** Physiology, Pathophysiology and Endocrinology
- **LS5** Neurosciences and Neural Disorders
- **LS6** Immunity and Infection
- **LS7** Diagnostic Tools, Therapies & Public Health
- **LS8** Evolutionary, Population and Environmental Biology
- **LS9** Applied Life Sciences and Biotechnology

Social Sciences and Humanities

- **SH1** Individuals, Markets and Organisations
- **SH2** Institutions, Values, Environment and Space
- **SH3** The Social World, Diversity, Population
- **SH4** The Human Mind and Its Complexity
- **SH5** Cultures and Cultural Production
- **SH6** The Study of the Human Past

Physical Sciences & Engineering

- **PE1** Mathematics
- **PE2** Fundamental Constituents of Matter
- **PE3** Condensed Matter Physics
- **PE4** Physical & Analytical Chemical Sciences
- **PE5** Synthetic Chemistry and Materials
- **PE6** Computer Science & Informatics
- **PE7** Systems & Communication Engineering
- **PE8** Products & Process Engineering
- **PE9** Universe Sciences
- **PE10** Earth System Science

Evaluation of proposals:

Review procedure for StG, CoG and AdG



European Research Council
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STEP 1

Remote assessment by Panel members of
section 1 – PI and synopsis (part B1)

Panel meeting

Score:
B or C

Proposals retained
for step 2:
Score A

STEP 2

Remote assessment by Panel members and
reviewers of **full proposal (B1+B2)**

Panel meeting + interview (StG and CoG)

Score:
B

Ranked list of proposals:
Score A

Feedback to
applicants

How ERC research proposals are evaluated

***Excellence* is the sole evaluation criterion**



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Evaluation of ***excellence*** at two levels:

- **Excellence of the Research Project**
 - Ground breaking nature
 - Potential impact
 - Scientific Approach
- **Excellence of the Principal Investigator**
 - Intellectual capacity
 - Creativity
 - Commitment

How to prepare & submit a SyG proposal?



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Proposal structure

PART A – online forms

- A1** Proposal info
- A2** Host Institution and PI info
- A3** Budget
- A4** Ethics issues table
- A5** Call Specific information

PART B1 – submitted as .pdf

- Extended Synopsis 5 pages
- CVs (2 pages/PI)
- Track Records (2 pages/PI)
 - Early Achievements (StG and CoG)
 - 10-year Track-Record (AdG)

Annexes – submitted as .pdf

- HI support letter
- Ethics documentation*

* if required

PART B2 – submitted as .pdf

- Scientific Proposal 15 pages
 - State of the art and objectives
 - Methodology
 - Resources*

* not included in page limit



Applications must demonstrate:

- how the project will create synergies and added value
- why/how the research could not be carried out by a single PI alone

Emphasise:

- how the synergies lead to more original and path-breaking research
- new types of joint effort/work
- innovative ways of working together

Evaluation



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Excellence - only criterion: research project and PIs

- synergistic aspects evaluated as part of research project

No predefined panels - different from other ERC calls

cPI lists 4-6 keywords - descriptors for other calls

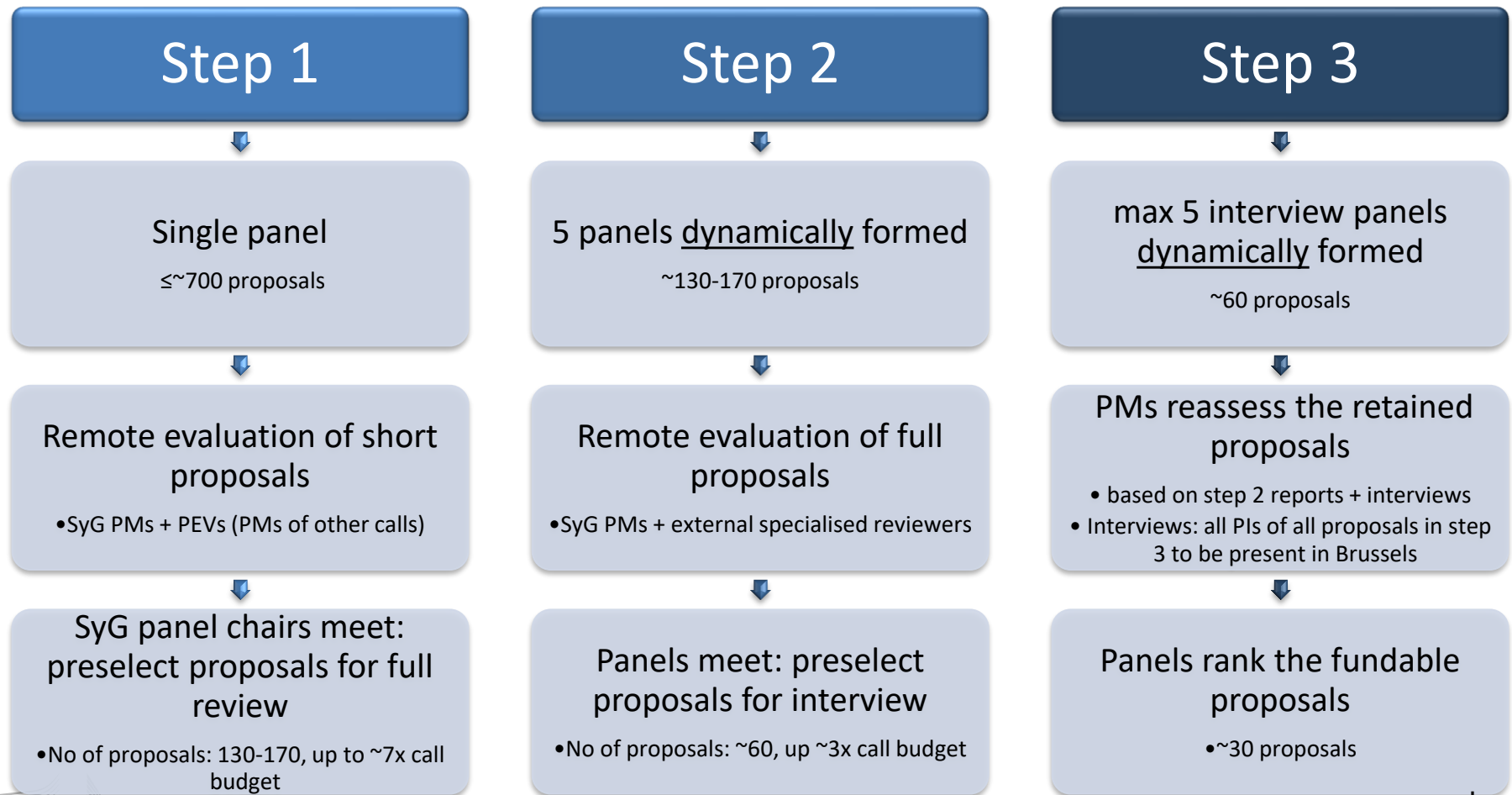
3 step evaluation process

SyG Evaluation Process



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Re-Application Restrictions



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Re-Application restrictions

PI with a proposal evaluated as Category C in Step 1 in SyG2018

**Cannot re-apply to StG, CoG, AdG or SyG in 2019
OR for SyG in 2020**

PI with a proposal evaluated as Category B in Step 1 OR Step 2 in SyG2018

Cannot re-apply to SyG in 2019

Preparing your proposal:

Tips - Differences between Parts B1 and B2

In Step 1: Panel members see only **Part B1** of the proposal (prepare it accordingly!)

- Pay particular attention to the **ground-breaking nature** of the research project – no incremental research. State-of-the-art is not enough. Think big!
- Know your competitors – what is the **state of play** and why is your idea and scientific approach outstanding?
- Part B1: **concise and clear presentation** is crucial (not all evaluators are experts in your field)
- Outline of the **methodological approach is recommended** (feasibility assessment)
- Show your **scientific independence** in your CV (model CV provided in the part B1 template)
- Select the '**right**' Panel – **very IMPORTANT!**, ID explanation for 2^{ry} panel

Preparing your proposal:

Tips - Differences between Parts B1 and B2

In Step 2: Both **Part B1 and B2** are read by Panel Members & Remote Referees



Do not just repeat the synopsis, go into details

- Provide **sufficient details** on methodology, work plan, selection of case studies etc. (15 pages)
- Explain hypothesis or provide preliminary data (if exists)
- Make sure you give full references (excluded from page limits)
- Provide alternative strategies to **mitigate risks**
- Check coherency of figures
- Justify requested resources
 - Explain involvement of team members (ERC proposals are NOT collaborative ones)
 - show the need of collaborators (if any)

Preparing your proposal:

Tips - Part B2: Proposal budget considerations



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- Budget analysis carried out in **Step 2** evaluation (meeting)
- Panels have responsibility to ensure that resources requested are reasonable and well justified
- Panels do not 'micro-manage' project finances
- Budget cuts need to be justified on a proposal by proposal basis (no across-the-board cuts)
- But **not explained costs are often cut!**
- Panels to recommend a final maximum budget based on the resources allocated/ removed
- **Ask for funding for Open Access – this is obligatory in Horizon 2020!**

Contrary to what you may think.....



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- ERC funds 'frontier research', including applied research
- The budget is distributed among the scientific panels as a function of demand.
- The panel descriptors do not represent ERC scientific priorities.
- The success rate is virtually flat across the eligibility window (StG, CoG).
- Publication record is not decisive in selection decisions.
- The Host Institution is not an evaluation criterion.

All calls 2007-2017*

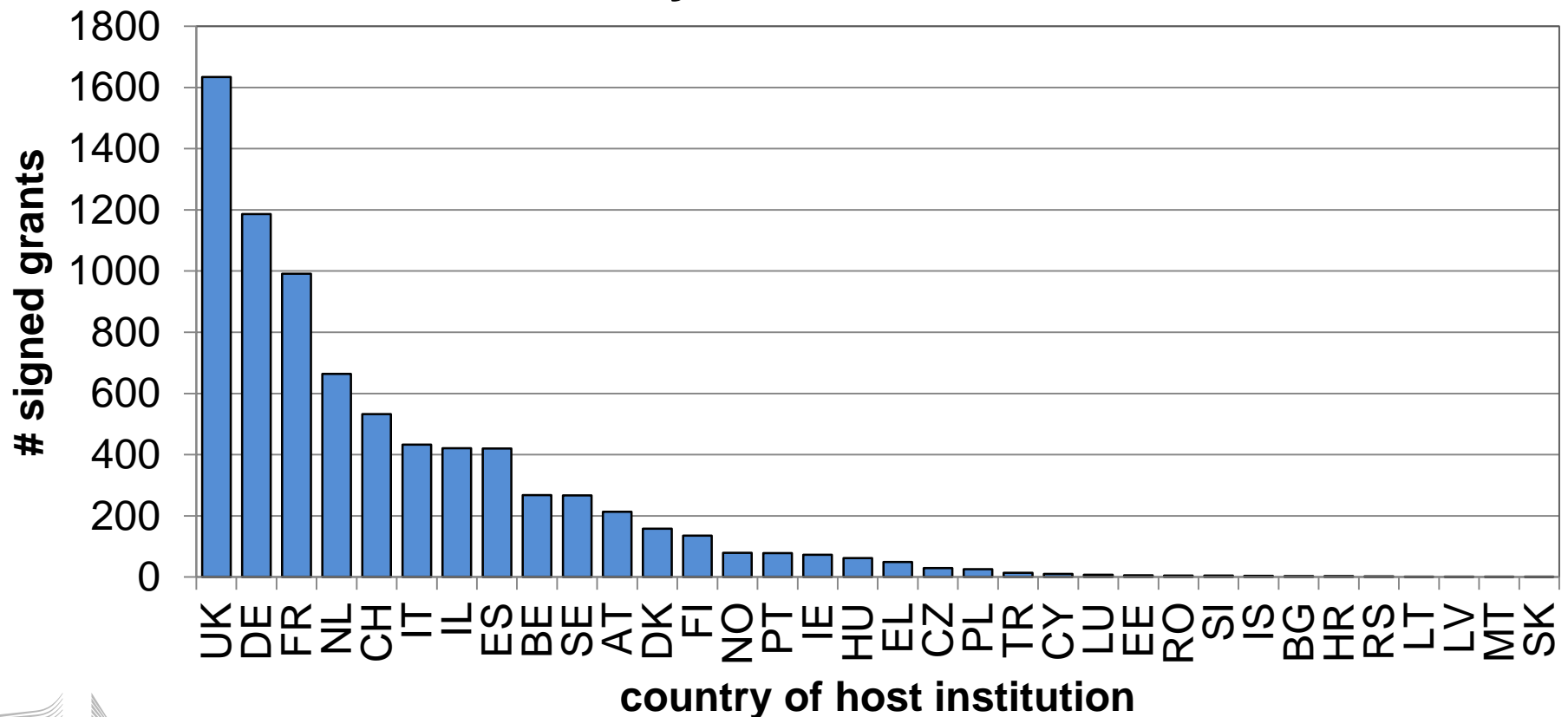
Signed grants from the main calls by country of institution

*work in progress



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ERC ADG, COG, STG - Grants signed by country of institution



All calls 2007-2017*

Signed grants from the main calls

*work in progress



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Institution (*legal entity)	Country	# signed grants from main calls
*CNRS (France)	FR	404
University of Cambridge	UK	210
*Max Planck Society	DE	200
University of Oxford	UK	197
UCL	UK	152
EPFL	CH	129
Weizmann Institute	IL	127
ETH Zurich	CH	126
Hebrew University of Jerusalem	IL	114
INSERM	FR	96
University of Edinburgh	UK	94
Imperial College	UK	90
University of Amsterdam	NL	81
University of Copenhagen	DK	77

All calls 2007-2017*

Signed grants from the main calls

*work in progress



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Institution (*legal entity)	Country	# signed grants from main calls
LMU Munich	DE	75
Tel Aviv University	IL	72
KU Leuven	BE	71
TU Delft	NL	64
*CSIC - Spain	ES	64
CEA	FR	64
University of Zurich	CH	62
University of Bristol	UK	61
Helsinki University	FI	61
University of Utrecht	NL	60
Radbout, Nijmegen	NL	60
Leiden University	NL	59
Technion - Israel Institute of Technology.	IL	56
University of Manchester	UK	55
TU Munich	DE	52
Karolinska Institute	SE	52

Indicative summary main calls 2018 budget



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ERC Calls	Call date	Submission Deadline	Budget € M (est. grants)
Starting Grants ERC-2018-StG	3 August 2017	17 October 2017	581 (391)
Consolidator Grants ERC-2018-CoG	24 October 2017	15 February 2018	550 (287)
Advanced Grants ERC-2018-AdG	17 May 2018	30 August 2018	450 (194)
Synergy Grants ERC-2018-SyG	3 August 2017	14 November 2017	250 (30)



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