

The European Research Council



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ERC opportunities and calls

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Bratislava, 19 November 2014



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<http://erc.europa.eu>

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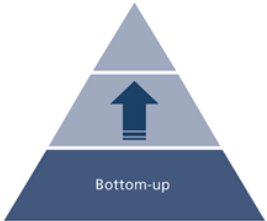
- **promotes the best research in Europe**
- **wants to bring the best international researches to Europe**
- **promotes innovative and across-fields research**

- **Background**
- **Evaluation Process**
- **Preparing an application**
- **Data**
- **ERC-NSF**

What is the ERC?



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Autonomous funding body set up by the EU in 2007 and led by scientists

- 1 researcher : Any nationality, age or current place of work in the world
- No thematic priorities - All fields of science and humanities
- No consortia, 1 Host Institution in Europe

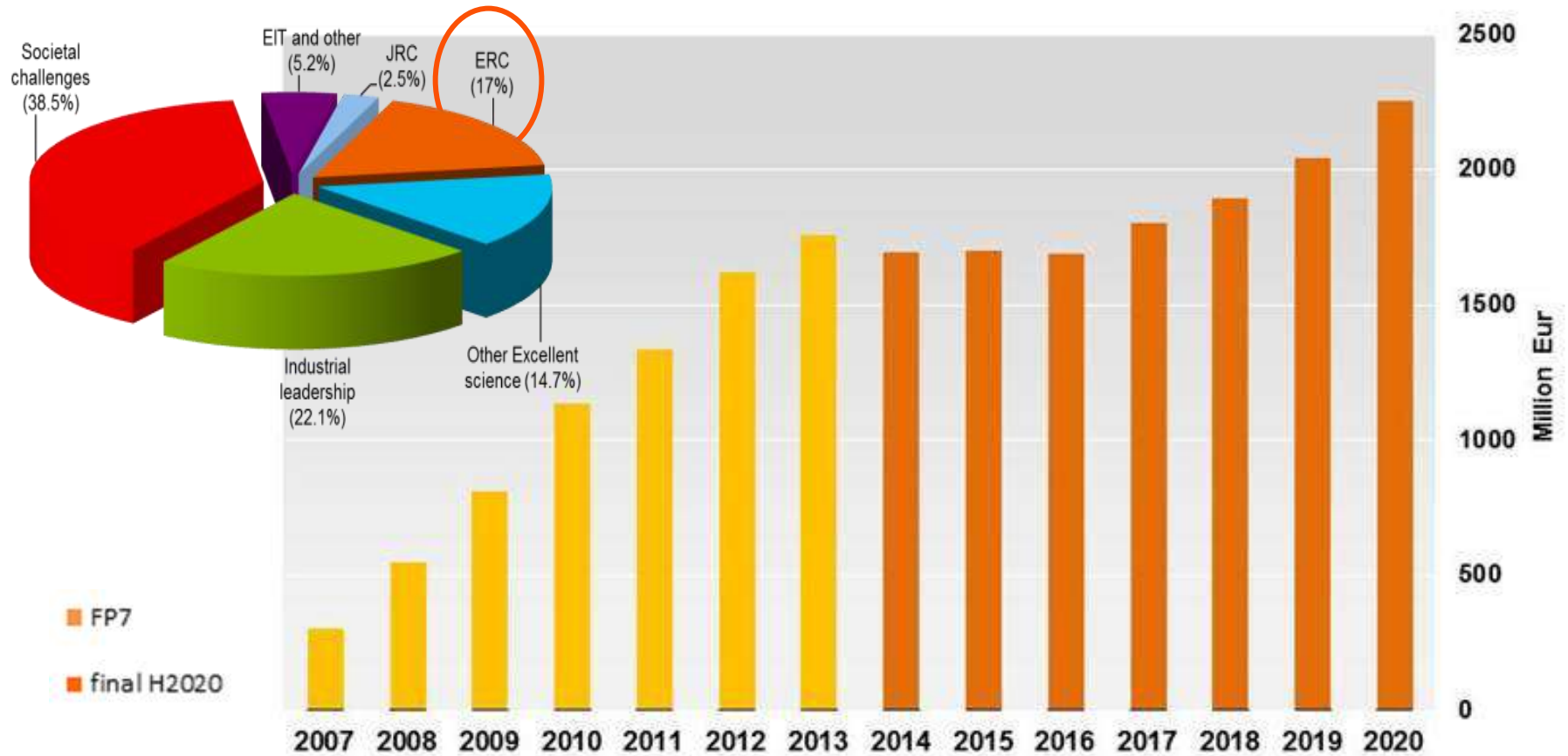
Budget: € 13.1 billion (2014-2020) - 1.8 billion €/year

2013-2020 : H2020 budget € 77 billion

ERC budget € 13.1 billion



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ERC awards are:

- **Very competitive:** ~10% success rates
- **Significant:** €1.5 Mio – €3.5 Mio
- **Bottom-up:** open to any topic
- **Ambitious:** achieve/boost independence; form a group
- Looking for **High-risk/High-gain research**
- **Flexible:** distribution of budget can be changed
- **Portable:** can be moved anywhere in Europe

ERC – Basic elements of the grant



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- **The Principal Investigator and the Research team**
 - The PI can choose national or trans-national team members if scientific added value proven
 - The grant covers salaries (PI and team members)

- **Research project**
 - High risk/high gain (Frontier research)
 - Up to 5 years projects

- **Host Institution**
 - The one where the researcher already works, or any other institution established in the EU or associated countries
 - Universities, research centres; public or private
 - Grants are portable (the PI can change Host Institution)

Attractive features for researchers from outside Europe



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Incentive:

- Additional “start-up” funding for scientists moving to Europe (EUR 500 000 for Starting , EUR 750 000 for Consolidator , and EUR 1 Million for Advanced grantees)

Flexibility:

- Grantee can keep affiliation with home institute outside Europe (“significant part” of work time in Europe)
- Team members can be based outside Europe



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After 7 years of existence...

- more than 4000 proposals funded
- highly competitive: average success rate 12%
- EU value added: pan-European competition among researchers for the first time ever
- making Europe more attractive in the global competition for scientific talent

ERC Grant schemes



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Starting Grants

starters
(2-7 years after PhD)
up to € 2.0 Mio
for 5 years

Consolidator Grants

consolidators
(7-12 years after PhD)
up to € 2.75 Mio
for 5 years

Advanced Grants

track-record of
significant research
achievements in
the last 10 years
up to € 3.5 Mio
for 5 years

Proof-of-Concept

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

ERC Panel Structure

25 Panels



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Each Panel : Panel Chair and 10-15 Panel Members

Life Sciences

- LS1 Molecular & Structural Biology & Biochemistry
- LS2 Genetics, Genomics, Bioinformatics & Systems Biology
- LS3 Cellular and Developmental Biology
- LS4 Physiology, Pathophysiology & Endocrinology
- LS5 Neurosciences & neural disorders
- LS6 Immunity & infection
- LS7 Diagnostic tools, therapies & public health
- LS8 Evolutionary, population & environmental biology
- LS9 Applied life sciences & biotechnology

Social Sciences and Humanities

- SH1 Individuals, institutions & markets
- SH2 Institutions, values, beliefs and behaviour
- SH3 Environment ,space and population
- SH4 The Human Mind and its complexity
- SH5 Cultures & cultural production
- SH6 The study of the human past

Physical Sciences & Engineering

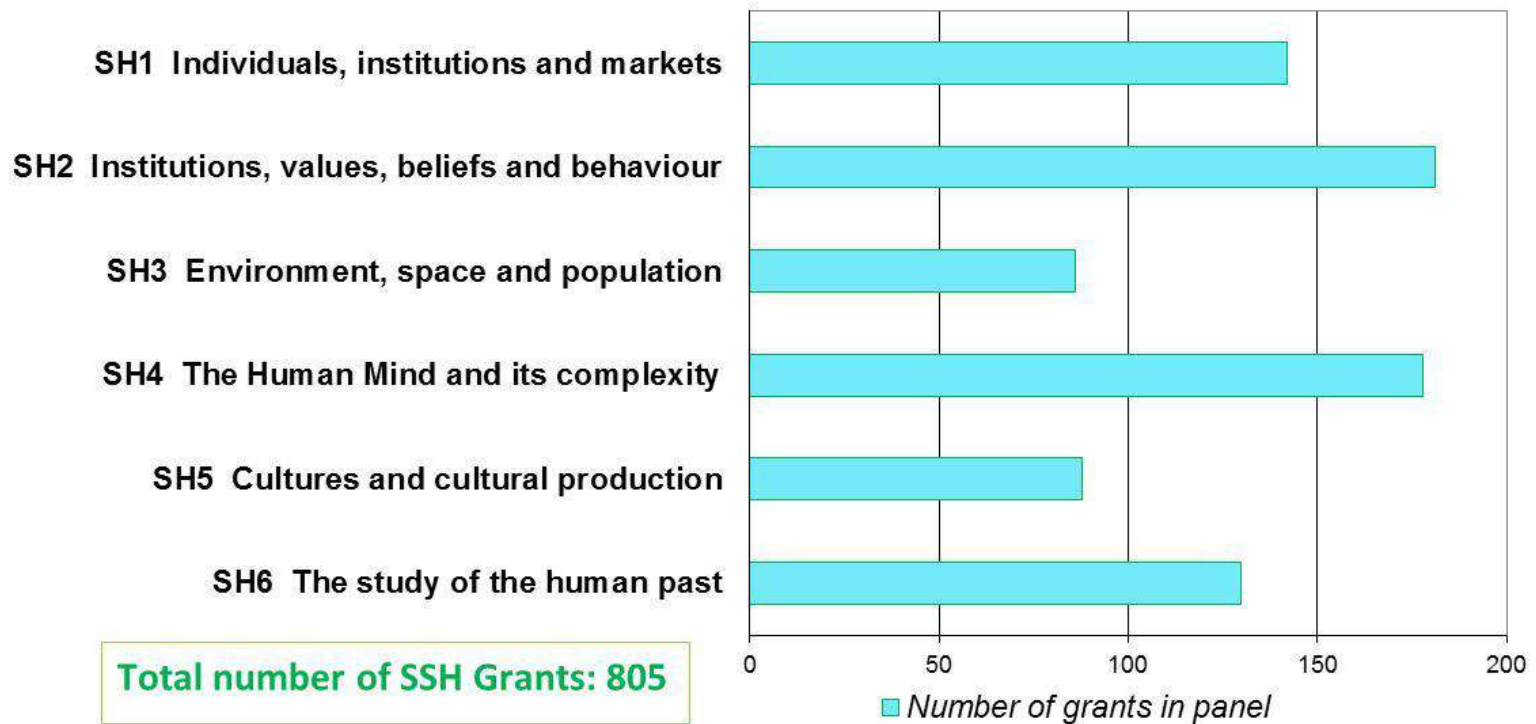
- PE1 Mathematics
- PE2 Fundamental constituents of matter
- PE3 Condensed matter physics
- PE4 Physical & Analytical Chemical sciences
- PE5 Materials & Synthesis
- PE6 Computer science & informatics
- PE7 Systems & communication engineering
- PE8 Products & process engineering
- PE9 Universe sciences
- PE10 Earth system science

ERC Grants in Social Sciences and Humanities



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ERC Grants in Social Sciences and Humanities



Some ERC Grants in Social Sciences and Humanities

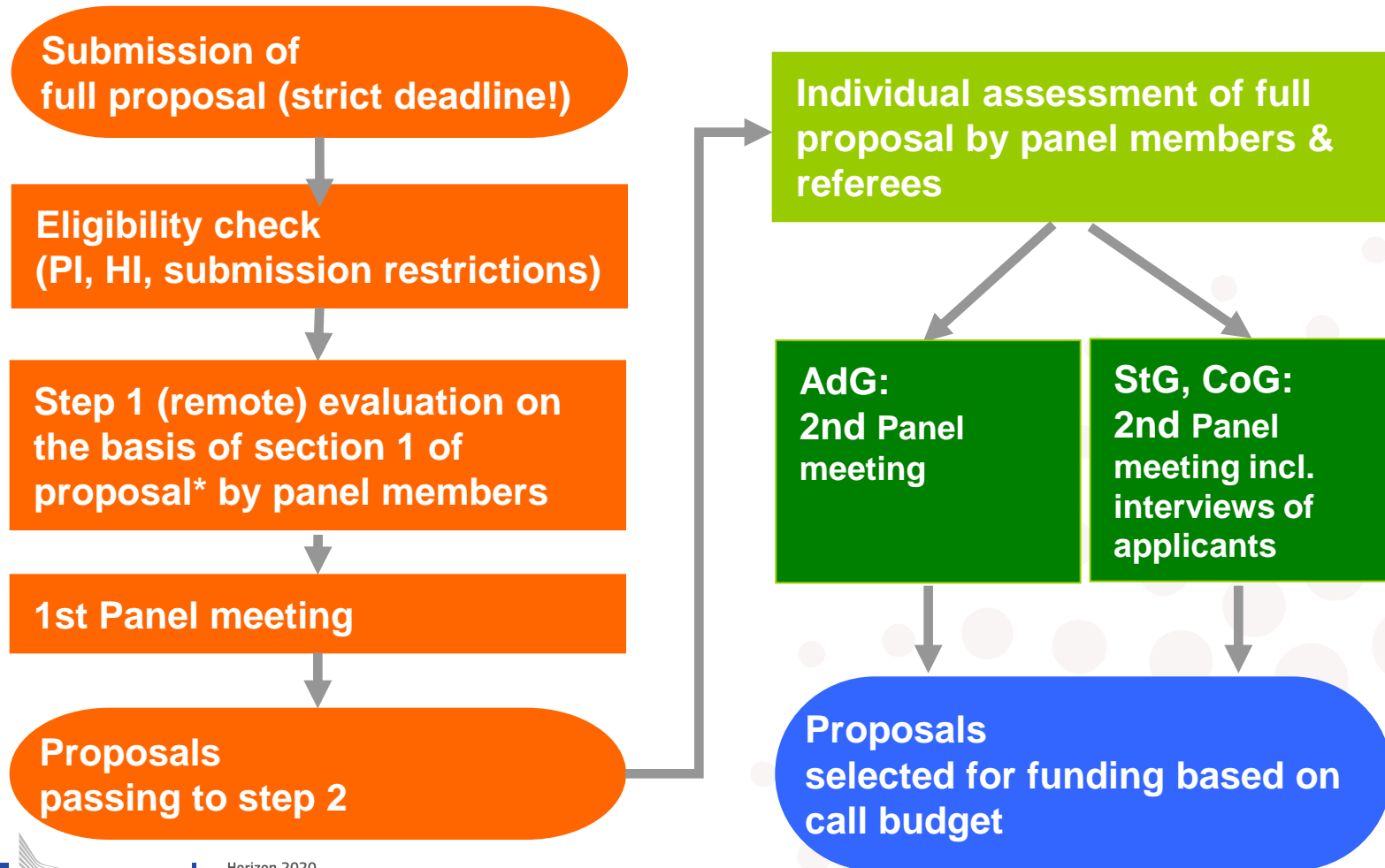


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- ❖ **SH1 Jean Tirole** *COGNITION*
Cognition and Decision-Making: Laws, Norms and Contracts
- ❖ **SH2 Éva Pócs** *INTELEG* - Vernacular religion on the boundary of Eastern and Western Christianity: continuity, changes and interactions
- ❖ **SH3 Wolfgang Lutz** *FutureSoc*
Forecasting Societies' Adaptive Capacities to Climate Change
- ❖ **SH4 Esperanza Alfonso** *INTELEG* - The Intellectual and Material Legacies of Late Medieval Sephardic Judaism: An Interdisciplinary Approach
- ❖ **SH5 Barbara Graziosi** *Living Poets*
Living Poets: A New Approach to Ancient Poetry
- ❖ **SH6 Jean-Philippe Genet** *SAS*
Signs and States: Semiotics of the Modern State

- Background
- **Evaluation Process**
- Preparing an application
- Data
- ERC-NSF

Submission, evaluation and selection



Evaluation Criteria

Excellence as sole criterion, to apply to:

1. Quality of the research project

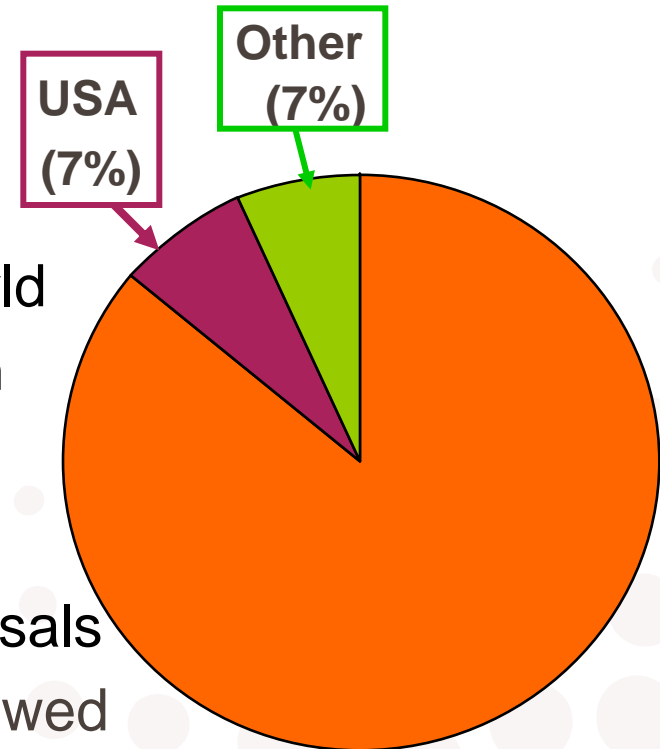
- **Ground-breaking nature of the research:** Important challenge? Substantially beyond the current state of art? High-gain/high-risk balance
- **Potential impact:** Possibility of a major break-through?
- **Scientific Approach:** Feasibility, novel concepts/methodology

2. Principal Investigator

- **Intellectual capacity and creativity:** Track-record, capacity to go significantly beyond the state of the art, evidence of creative independent thinking
- **Commitment:** Willing to devote a significant part of PI's working time (minimum of 50% for Starting, minimum of 40% for Consolidator Grant, minimum of 30% for Advanced Grant)

Who evaluates the proposals ?

- **Panel members:** typically 600 / call
 - High-level scientists
 - Recruited by ScC from all over the world
 - About 12 members plus a chair person
- **Referees:** typically 2000 / call
 - Evaluate only a small number of proposals
 - Similar to normal practise in peer-reviewed journals



- Background
- Evaluation Process
- **Preparing an application**
- Data
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When to submit?



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Increasing number applications causes low success rates and high panel workload

→ **New Resubmission restrictions**



- Since 2014 calls, tighter resubmission rules :
 - If B (Step 1 or Step 2) : will have to wait out one year
 - If C (Step1) : will have to wait out two years



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Which Call?

StG/CoG : Possibility of eligibility extensions

Eligibility window can be **extended** for following cases:

- **Maternity leave:** 1.5 years per child before or after deadline
- **Paternity leave:** for whatever documented paternity leave that has been taken before or after deadline
- National service, **long-term illness:** whatever documented time after deadline

Online Submission

Proposal structure



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Administrative forms (Part A)

- 1 – Contact information
- 2 – Administrative data of participating organisations
- 3 – Budget
- 4 – Ethics
- 5 – Call specific questions

Administrative forms

Annexes

Commitment of the host institution, PhD certificates, etc

Part B1 (submitted as .pdf)

- a – Extended synopsis 5p
- b – Curriculum vitae 2p
- c – Funding ID
- d - Track-record 2p

Part B2 (submitted as .pdf)

not evaluated in Step 1

- Scientific proposal 15p
- a – State-of-the-art and objectives
- b – Methodology
- c – Resources

Guidelines and Recommendations in the 2014 Guide for Applicants

Submission of Proposals



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Differences in Part B1 and Part B2

- In Step 1: **Panel members** (generalists and with multidisciplinary approaches) see only Part B1 of your proposal: Prepare it accordingly!
- In Step 2: Both Part B1 and B2 are also sent to specialists around the world (**specialized external referees**)

Preparing an application

Hints and tips (Part B1)



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- At Step 1, only the extended synopsis (Part B1) is read: give a **concise and clear presentation** (evaluators are not necessarily all experts in the field).
- Pay particular attention to the **ground-breaking nature** of the research project – no incremental research! State-of-the-art is not enough.
- Find the balance between ambition and feasibility.

Preparing an application

Hints and tips (Part B1)



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- Know your competitors – what is the **state of play** and why are your idea and scientific approach outstanding?
- Outline of the **methodological approach** (feasibility)
- Show your **scientific independence** in your CV. Explain your contribution to the selected publications.
- Avoid any suspicion of **plagiarism**

Preparing an application

Hints and tips (Part B 2)



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- Make clear **what** you want to **do**
- Put your project in the context of **competitors**
- Provide **sufficient detail** on methodology, work plan, selection of case studies etc. (15 pages)
- Provide alternative strategies to mitigate risk.
- Explain involvement of team members.
- Check coherency of figures, **justify requested resources**

Preparing an application

Guidelines and other Resources



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- Read the Guide for Applicants and the Ideas Work Programme.
- Any doubts about your eligibility or any other questions, contact one of the NCPs or the ERCEA.
http://cordis.europa.eu/national_service/home_en.html
- subscribe to the ERC newsletter <http://erc.europa.eu/keep-updated-erc>

Preparing an application

Check the already Funded Projects



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<http://erc.europa.eu/erc-funded-projects>

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You are here: Homepage > Projects and Results > ERC Funded Projects

ERC Funded Projects

Browse ERC projects by

Funding Scheme

Call year

Country of Host Institution

Keywords

Search

Clear all

The system is currently being updated.
We are aware that some projects may not appear and we are working on a solution.

The ERC operates according to an "investigator-driven", or "bottom-up", approach, allowing researchers to identify new opportunities in any field of research. Accordingly the portfolio of ERC funded projects spans a wide range of topics and research questions.

Since 2007, more than **3,400 projects** have been selected to receive ERC funding throughout the EU Member States and the FP7 associated countries, representing over **€5.7 billion in grants**. In total, the ERC has received over **32 000 project proposals** for these calls.

You can use the menu on the left to search quickly and easy ERC funded projects.

Information displayed is automatically updated through the information available on the CORDIS platform. Please note that only funded projects, whose grant agreements have been signed, appear in this database. For this reason, the total number of projects in this database may differ from the figures provided in the statistics section which include also projects selected for funding whose grant agreements have not been signed yet.

For queries on the content, please use this [contact form](#) and select the category 'Web'.

Menu allows to search ERC projects by Funding Scheme, Call year, Country of Host Institution and panel



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2015 Planning

ERC calls	Budget	Call Opening	Submission Deadlines
Starting Grants ERC-2015-StG	430 M€	7 October 2014	3 February 2015
Consolidator Grants ERC-2015-CoG	585 M€	13 November 2014	12 March 2015
Advanced Grants ERC-2015-AdG	630 M€	10 February 2015	2 June 2015
Proof of Concept ERC-2015-PoC	20 M€	7 November 2014	DL1: 5 February 2015 DL2: 28 May 2015 DL3 : 1 Oct. 2015

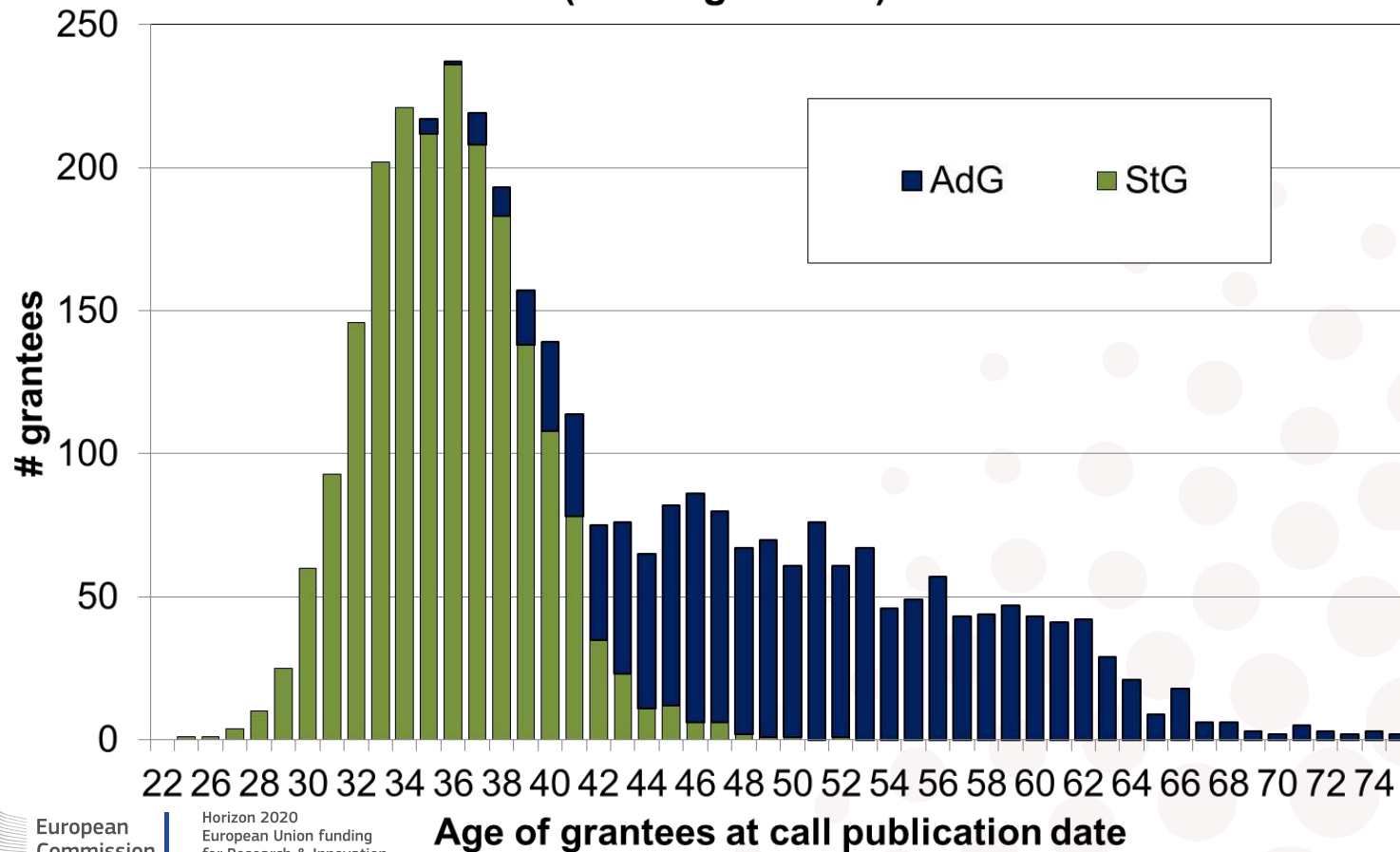
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Age of StG and AdG grantees



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ERC STG ADG Age of grantees: All Calls 2007-12 (~3450 grantees)

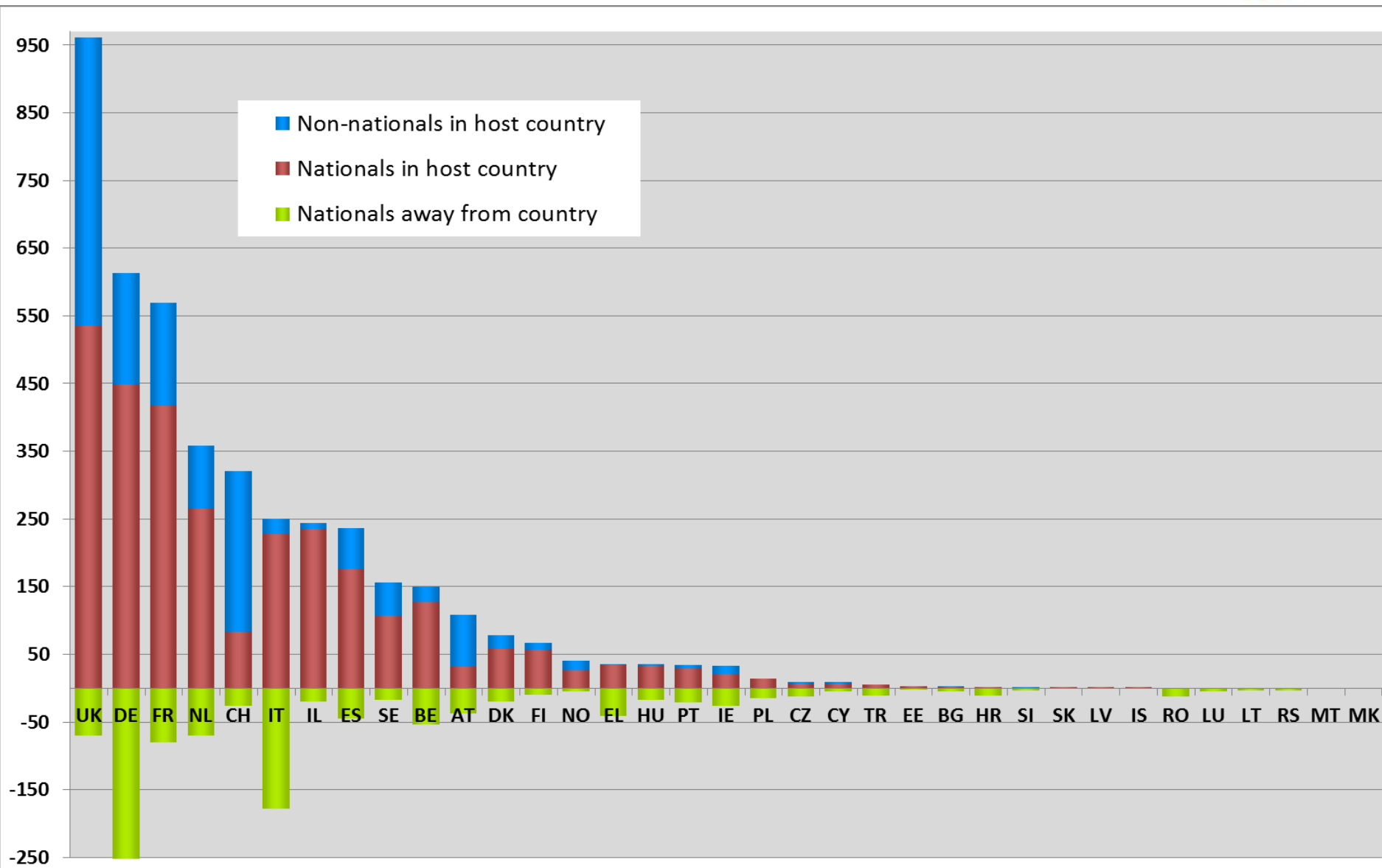




Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation

Mobility of researchers

ERC StG, CoG and AdG calls 2007-2013



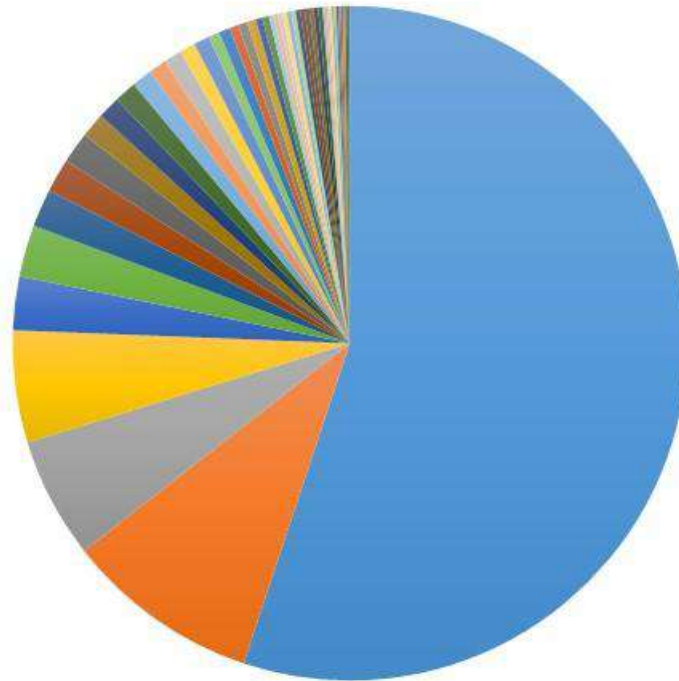
Mobility of researchers

ERC StG, CoG and AdG calls 2007-2013



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Nationality of grantees in UK



45 % non-nationals

- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| ■ UK | ■ DE | ■ IT | ■ US | ■ FR | ■ NL | ■ IE | ■ EL | ■ ES | ■ BE | ■ AU | ■ CA | ■ CH | ■ AT | ■ IL | ■ IN |
| ■ RU | ■ DK | ■ PT | ■ JP | ■ NZ | ■ PL | ■ HU | ■ TR | ■ AR | ■ BG | ■ CY | ■ CZ | ■ EE | ■ FI | ■ HR | ■ KR |
| ■ NO | ■ RO | ■ SG | ■ UA | ■ AL | ■ BR | ■ CN | ■ EC | ■ IR | ■ LT | ■ MK | ■ MT | ■ MY | ■ PK | ■ RS | ■ SI |

Mobility of researchers

ERC StG, CoG and AdG calls 2007-2013



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Spain

- 229 grants in 71 HI - 26% of non-nationals
- 7 HI collect 105 grants (46%) - 33% of non-nationals
- 6 HI collect 66 grants (29%) - 47% of non-nationals

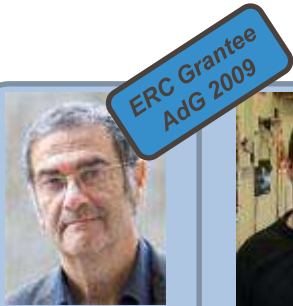
ERC achievements

ERC-acknowledging publications in top most cited



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- **12%** of the articles, notes and reviews published between 2008-2010 and acknowledging ERC support were in the **top 1%** most cited in 2012
(i.e. 240 publications out of 1996 publications ;
NSF-selected journals and citations thresholds provided in the NSF Science Indicators 2014 were considered)
- **43%** of the articles, notes and reviews published between 2008-2010 and acknowledging ERC support were in the **top 10%** most cited in 2012
(i.e. 855 publications out of 1996 publications ;
NSF-selected journals and citations thresholds provided in the NSF Science Indicators 2014 were considered)



Serge Haroche
Nobel 2012



Konstantin Novoselov
Nobel 2010



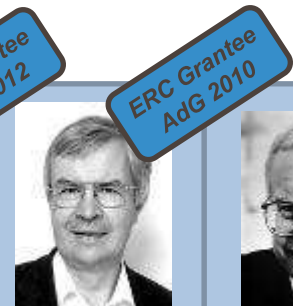
Ada Yonath



Andre Geim



Christoforos Pissarides



Theodor Hansch



James Heckman



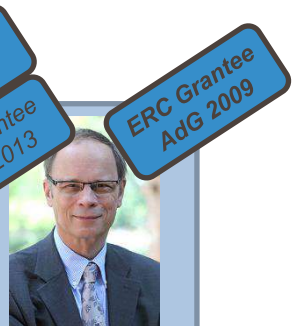
Jean-Marie Lehn



May-Britt Moser
Nobel 2014



Edvard Moser
Nobel 2014



Jean Tirole
Nobel 2014



Stanislav Smirnov AdG 2008

Elon Lindenstrauss AdG 2010

Simon Donaldson AdG 2009

- Breakthrough Prize in Math 2014 -



2014 Brain Prize	G. Rizzolatti and S. Dehaene - AdG 2009
2014 Kavli Prize	Thomas Ebbsen - AdG 2008
2014 Wolf Prize	Leif Andersson - AdG 2011
2014 EMBO Gold Medal	Sophie Martin - StG 2010

Other Prizes awarded to ERC grantees

BALZAN PRIZE 2013 - Pascale COSSART - AdG 2008, Alain ASPECT - AdG 2010

EUROPEAN LATSIS PRIZE 2012 - Uffe HAAGERUP - AdG 2009

LEIBNIZ PRIZE 2012 Michael BRECHT - AdG 2008, Joerg WRACHTRUP - AdG 2010

FEBS|EMBO WOMEN IN SCIENCE 2014 - Pascale COSSART - AdG 2008

FEBS|EMBO WOMEN IN SCIENCE 2011 - Carol ROBINSON - AdG 2010

CRAFOORD PRIZE 2011 and EUROPEAN LATSIS PRIZE 2010 – Ilkka Hanski - AdG 2008

L'ORÉAL-UNESCO AWARD FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE 2011 - Anne L'Huillier - AdG 2008

WOLF PRIZE 2010 – Anton ZEILINGER, David BAULCOMBE - AdG 2008, Alain ASPECT - AdG 2010

HOLBERG PRIZE 2013 - Bruno LATOUR - AdG 2010

WOLF PRIZE 2013 - Peter ZOLLER - SyG 2012

CRAFOORD PRIZE 2013 – L. KLARESKOG - AdG 2009

BALZAN PRIZE 2012 - David BAULCOMBE - AdG 2008

KELVIN PRIZE 2012 - Colin McINNES - AdG 2008

EMBO GOLD MEDAL 2012 - Jiri FRIML - StG 2011

EMBO GOLD MEDAL 2011 – S. BOULTON - AdG 2010

EMBO GOLD MEDAL 2010 – Jason W CHIN - StG 2007



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Ďakujem!

ERC: Proof of concept



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What for

Establish the innovation potential of an ERC-funded idea: technical validation, market research, clarifying IPR strategy, investigating business opportunities

Eligibility

Holders of an ERC grant with an idea substantially drawn from an ERC-funded project

Size

up to €150,000 over 12 months

Outcome

A "package" to be presented to venture capitalists

PoC grants by country of host institution

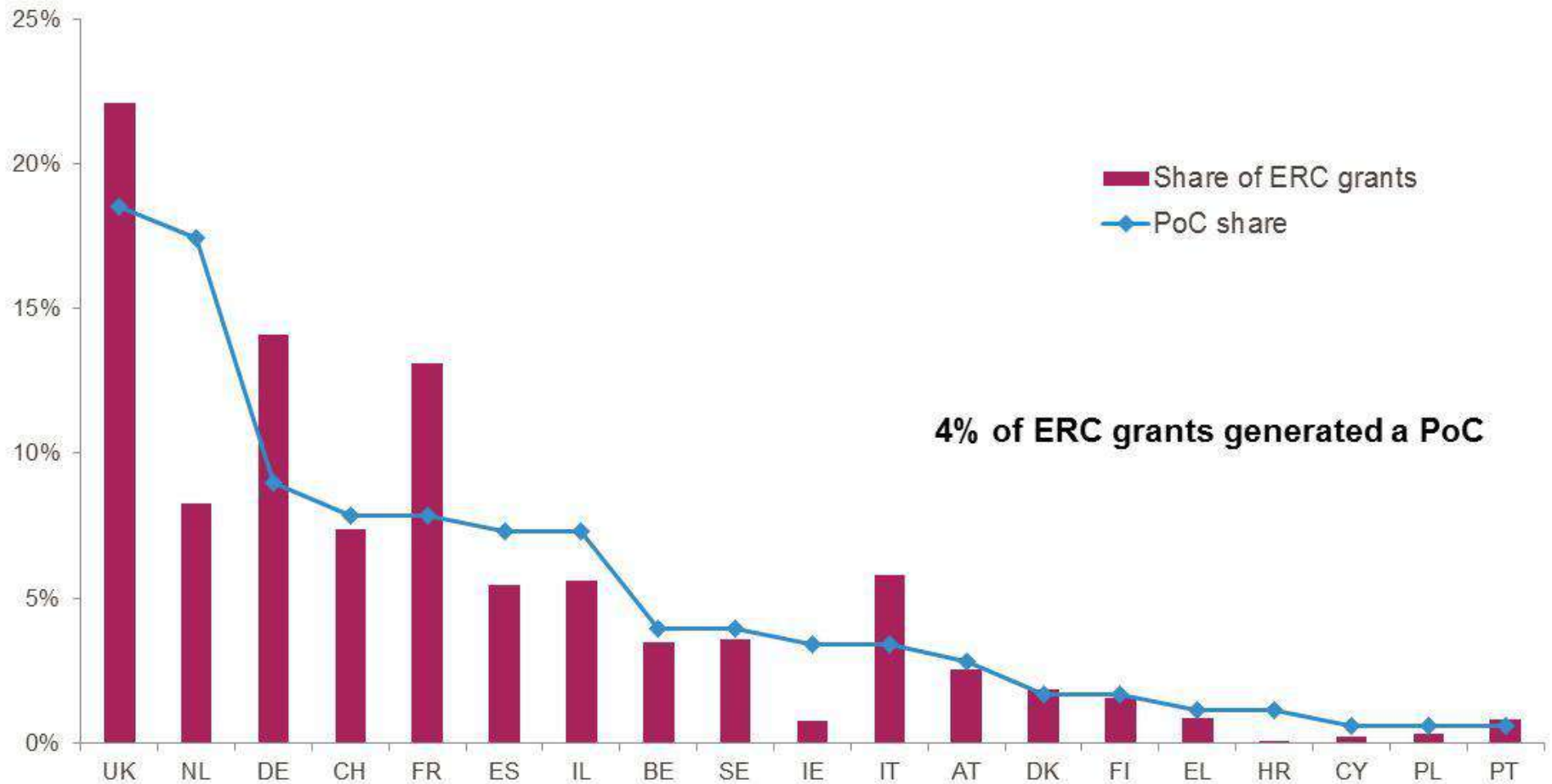
ERC PoC calls 2011, 2012 and 2013: 178 grants

ERC Starting, Consolidator and Advanced Grant calls

2007-2013: 4351 grants



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ERC Starting and Consolidator Grants

The applicant's profile



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“Am I competitive enough?”

- Potential for research independence
- Evidence of scientific maturity
- At least one (StG) /several (CoG) publications without participation of PhD supervisor

Promising track-record of early achievements

- Significant publications
- Invited presentations in conferences
- Funding, patents, awards, prizes

ERC Advanced Grants

The applicant's profile



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- Track-record of significant research achievements in the last 10 years
- Exceptional leaders and mentors
- 10 publications as senior author in major scientific journals
- 5 granted patents
- 10 invited presentations at international conferences
- 3 international conferences where Principal Investigator was an organiser
- International prizes/awards