The European Research Council

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

ERC Grants in a Nutshell

Monique Smaihi
Head of Sector Call Coordination
Scientific Department
ERCEA

Lisbon , 2 July 2019

ERC in the H2020 Structure

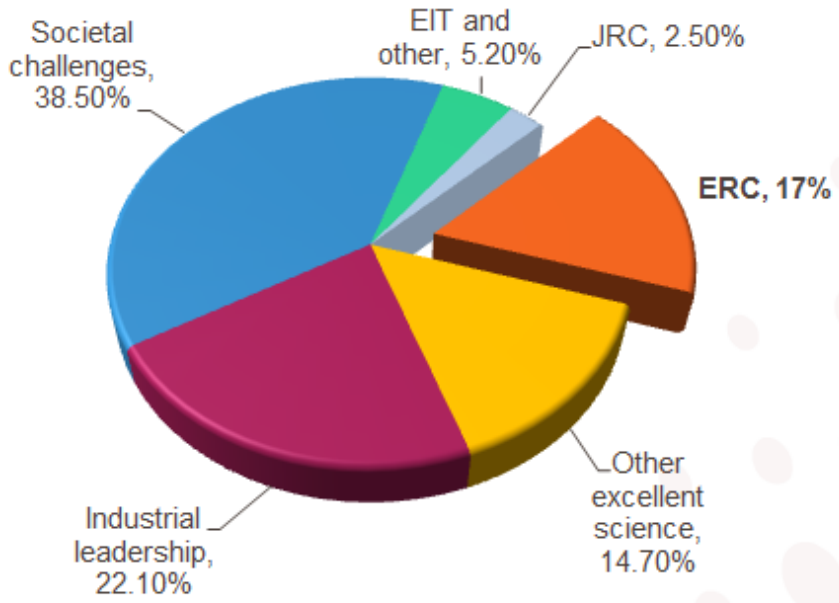
European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- **The HORIZON 2020 main components:**
  - Excellent Science
    - ➔ *World class science is foundation of technologies, jobs, well-being*
    - ➔ *Europe needs to develop, attract, retain research talent*
    - ➔ *Researchers need access to the best infrastructures*
  - Industrial leadership
  - Societal challenges

- **Excellent Science:**
  - **European Research Council** (budget under H2020: € 13 billion)
  - Future and Emerging Technologies
  - Marie Skłodoswka Curie Actions
  - Research Infrastructures

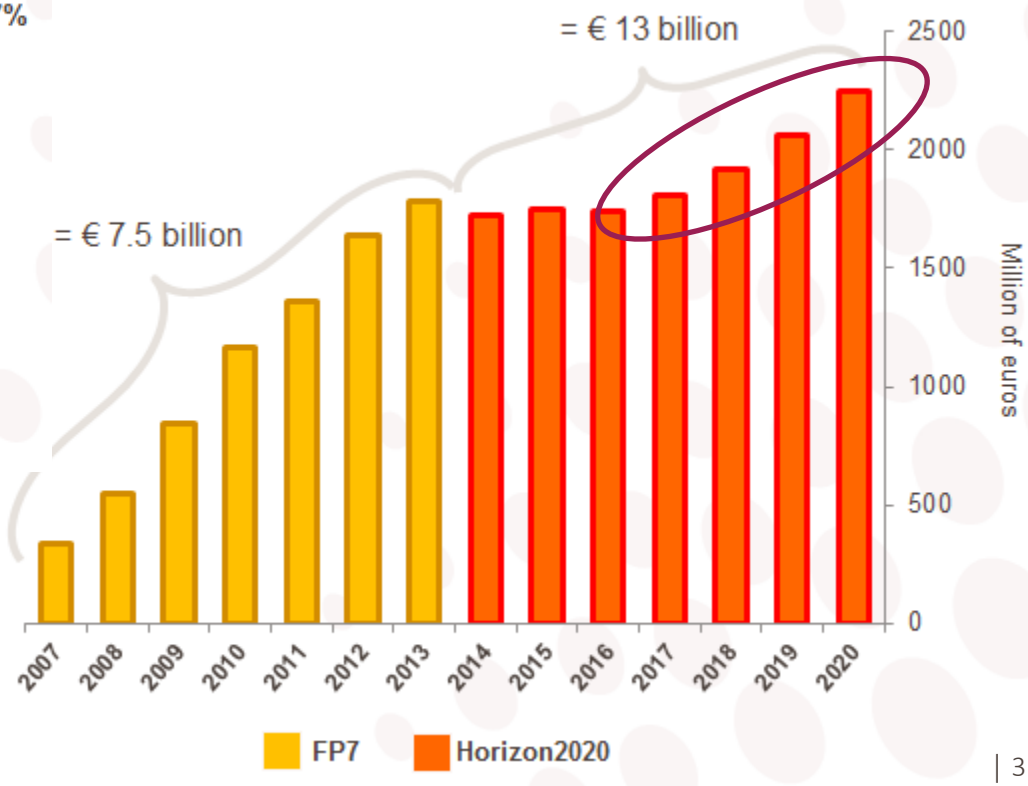
Funding : the ERC is part of H2020

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



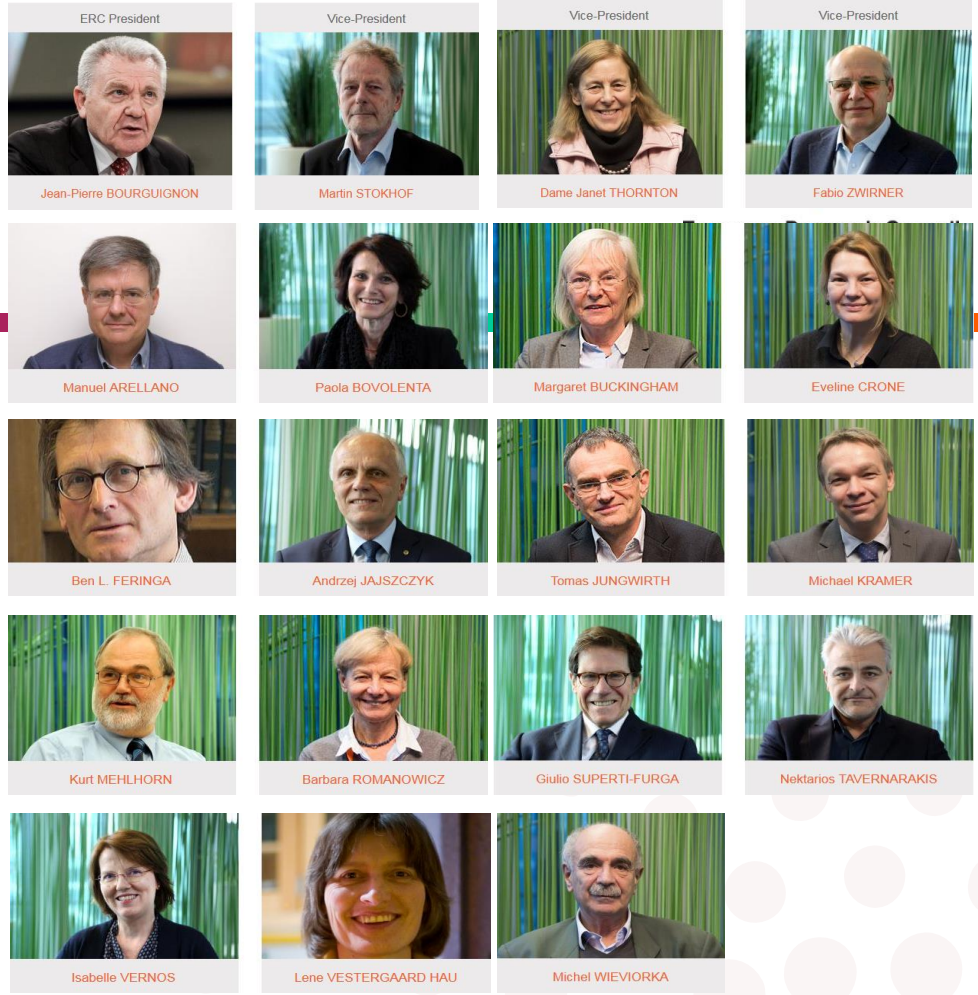
In 2019, the budget will be around 2 B euros.

ERC Budget



European Commission
Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation

Scientific Governance by the ERC Scientific Council



Scientists at the Driver's Seat

- 22 prominent researchers appointed by the Commission
- Establishes overall scientific strategy
- Controls quality of operations & management
- Ensures communication with the scientific community

Panel Members

- Appointed by the Scientific Council
- Full independence in the evaluation and ranking of the proposals
- Appoint remote referees

The ERC is…
the ERC Executive Agency (ERCEA)

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- Implements calls for proposals
- Organises peer review evaluation
- Establishes and manages grant agreements
- Administers scientific and financial aspects
- Carries out communications activities

ERC Scientific Department

- Manage all practical aspects of the evaluations working closely with the Panel Members
- Carry out scientific follow-up

European Commission
Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation

ERC Scientific Council
Standing Committees & Working groups

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

CoIME (Conflict of Interest & Research integrity)

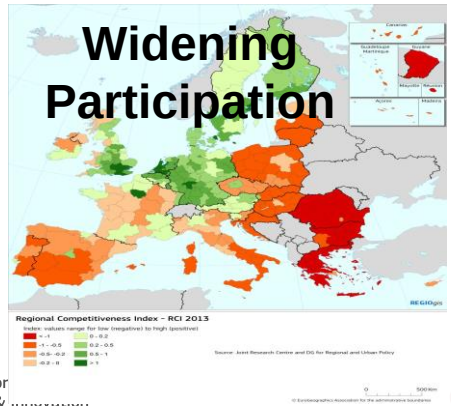
CoP (Committee on Panels)

Gender balance

Open Access

Strengtening Internationalisation

Widening Participation



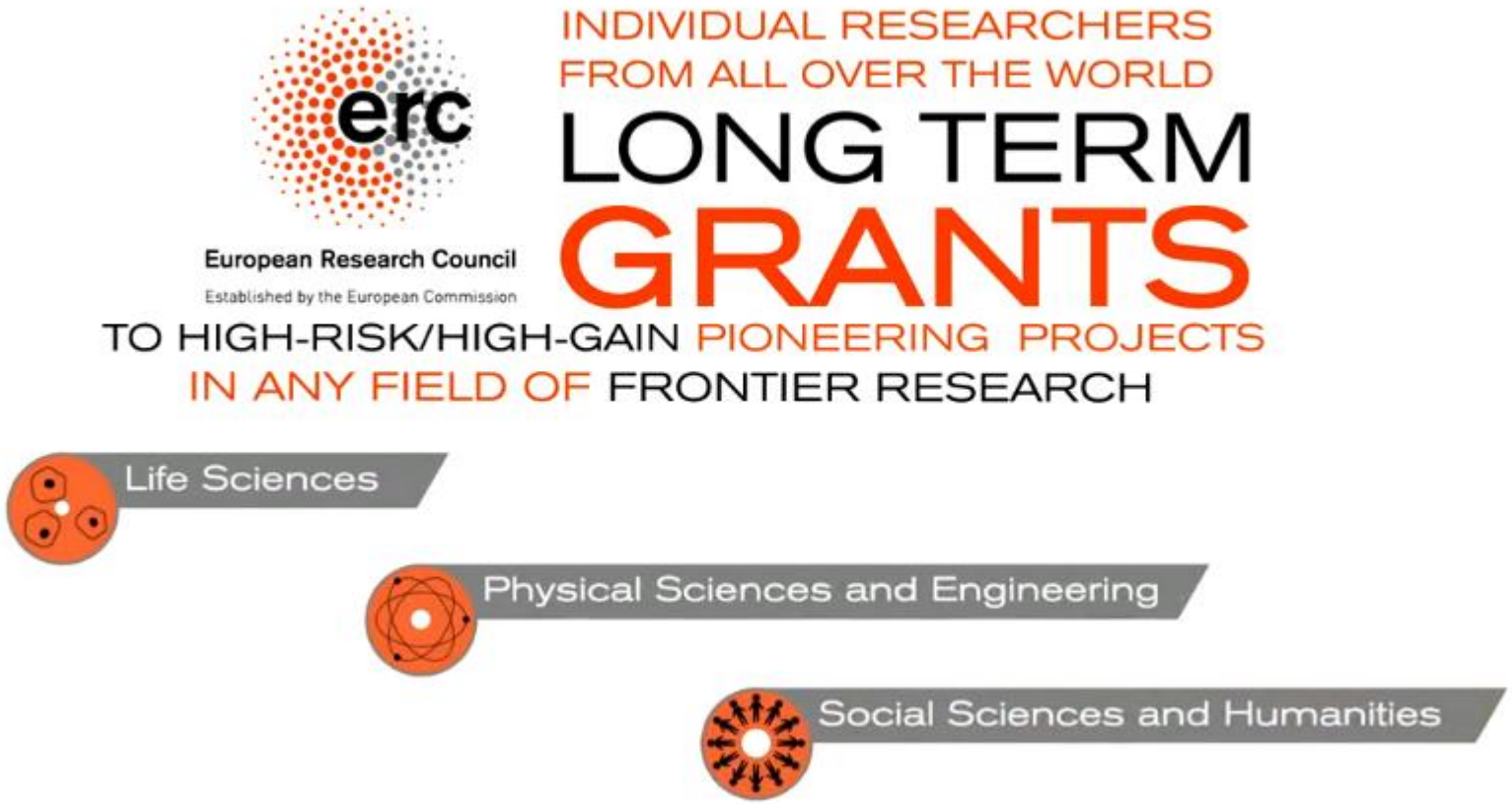
Innovation and relations with industry

Key Performance Indicators

ERC basics:

1 researcher, 1 Host Institution, 1 project, 1 selection criterion

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



European Commission
Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation

Creative Freedom to Individual Grantee

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

ERC offers independence, recognition & visibility

- to work on a research topic of **own choice**, with a team of **own choice**
- to gain true **financial autonomy** for 5 years
- to negotiate with the host institution the **best conditions** of work
- to attract **top team members** (EU and non-EU) **and collaborators**
- to move with the grant to any place in Europe if necessary (**portability of grants**)
- **to attract additional funding and gain recognition;** ERC is a quality label

ERC Grant Schemes

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

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 (WP2019)

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

Life Sciences

- LS1 Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, Structural Biology and Molecular Biophysics
- LS2 Genetics, 'Omics', Bioinformatics and Systems Biology
- LS3 Cellular and Developmental Biology
- LS4 Physiology, Pathophysiology and Endocrinology
- LS5 Neurosciences and Neural Disorders
- LS6 Immunity and Infection
- LS7 Applied Medical Technologies, Diagnostics, Therapies and Public Health
- LS8 Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology
- LS9 Applied Life Sciences, Biotechnology and Molecular and Biosystems Engineering

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

After 11 Years…

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

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

Over **110,000**
articles from ERC projects published in prestigious scientific journals

Over **60,000**
researchers and other professionals employed in ERC research teams

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

€ 13 billion

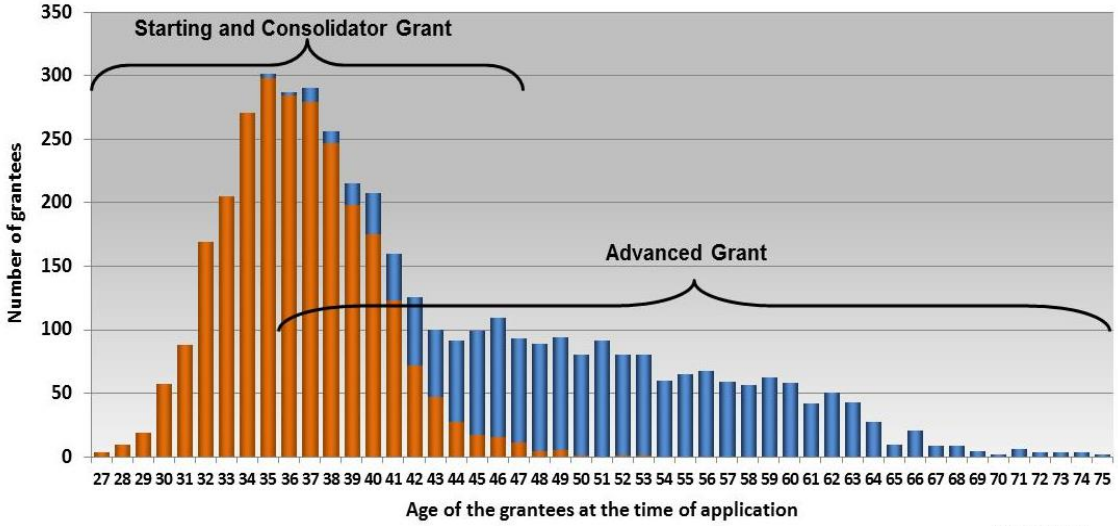
ERC budget for 2014-2020 under Horizon 2020

74
nationalities of grant holders

European Commission
Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation

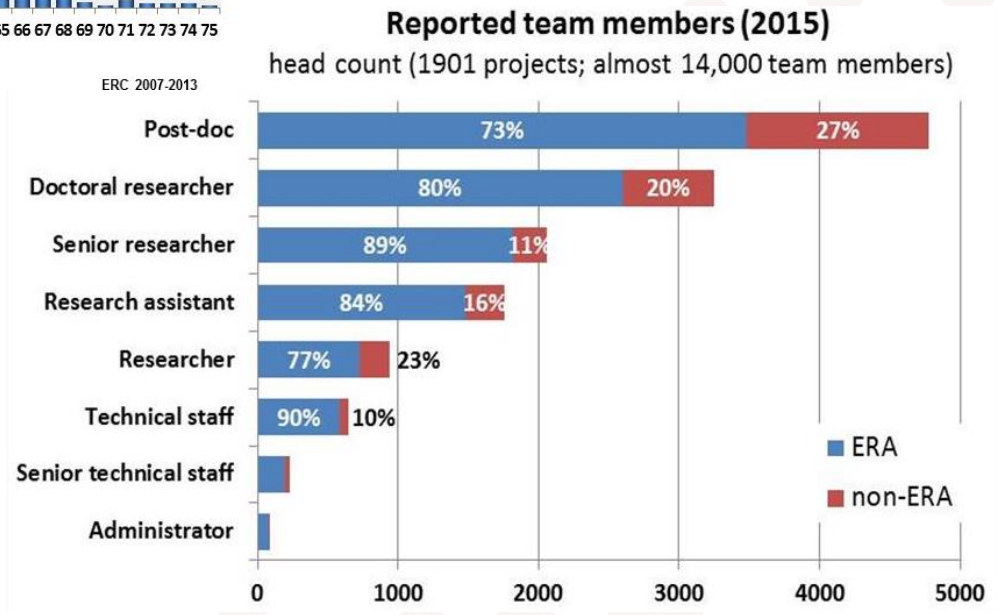
Priority to Young Scientists

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



+ 35 000 PhD and post-doc researchers working in ERC teams

Two-thirds of ERC grants to early-stage Principal Investigators



European Commission

Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation

Attracting Researchers to Europe

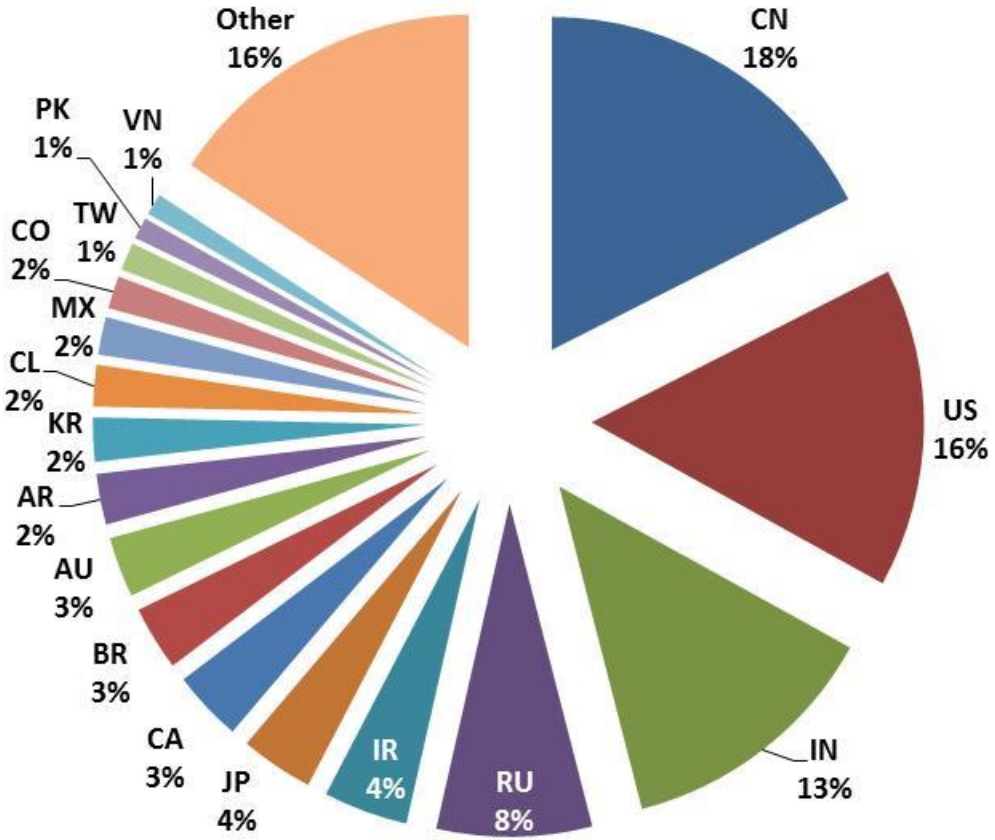
European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

Nationality of ERC project teams (PIs not included)

Analysis of **1,901** Starting and Advanced Grants

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

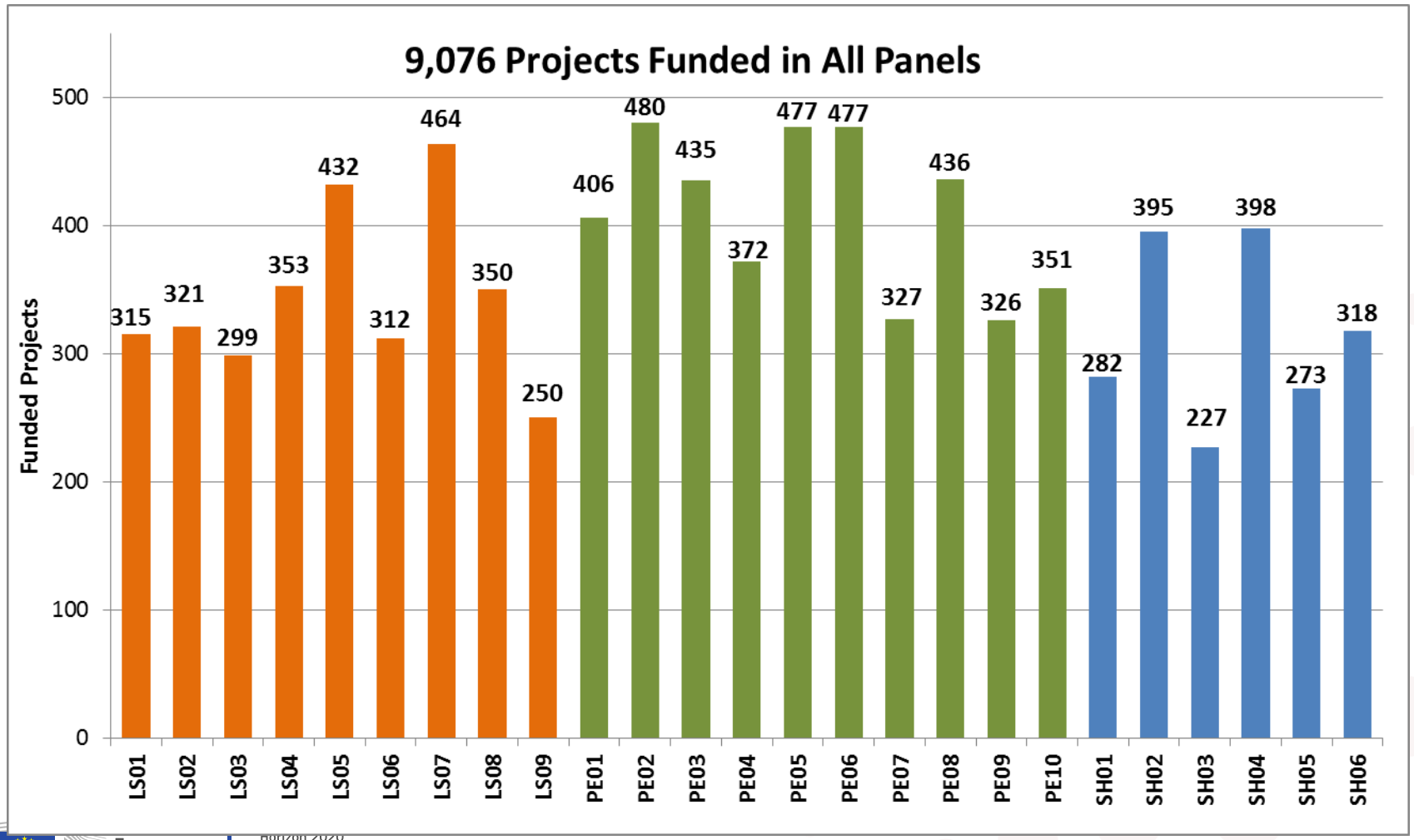
In all ERC grants
+ 10,000 non-ERA team members
most from
China, US, India, and Russia



European Commission
Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation

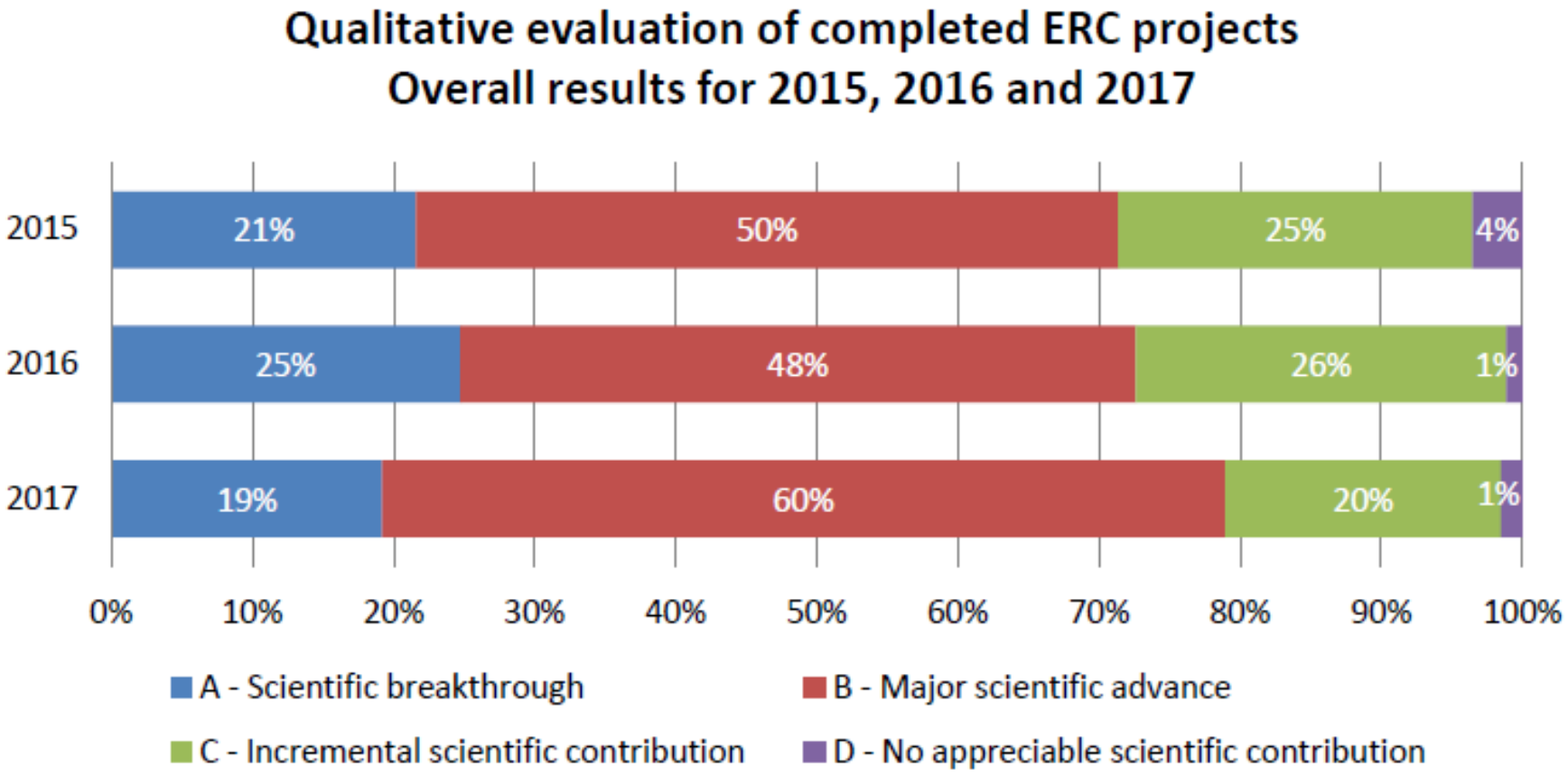
Distribution of ERC Grants by Panel

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



21% of the ERC-funded Projects Deliver Scientific Breakthroughs

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



European Commission
Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation

ERC grants/population

Source: ERC as of July 2018
Eurostat as of 2015

Netherlands	43.5
Denmark	32
Sweden	30.8
UK	27.7
Finland	27.4
Austria	27.2
Belgium	26.5
Ireland	18.6
Luxembourg	17.8
Germany	16.2
France	16.2
Cyprus	11.8
Spain	9.9
Portugal	8.4
Italy	7.6
Hungary	6.5
Estonia	5.3
Greece	4.5
Slovenia	3.4
Czech Republic	3.1
Malta	2.3
Poland	0.8
Croatia	0.7
Latvia	0.5
Bulgaria	0.4
Lithuania	0.3
Romania	0.3
Slovakia	0.2
Switzerland	70.3
Israel	60.3
Norway	18
Iceland	12.2
Serbia	0.3
Turkey	0.2

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

EU Member States

Associated Countries

European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

ERC and Portugal

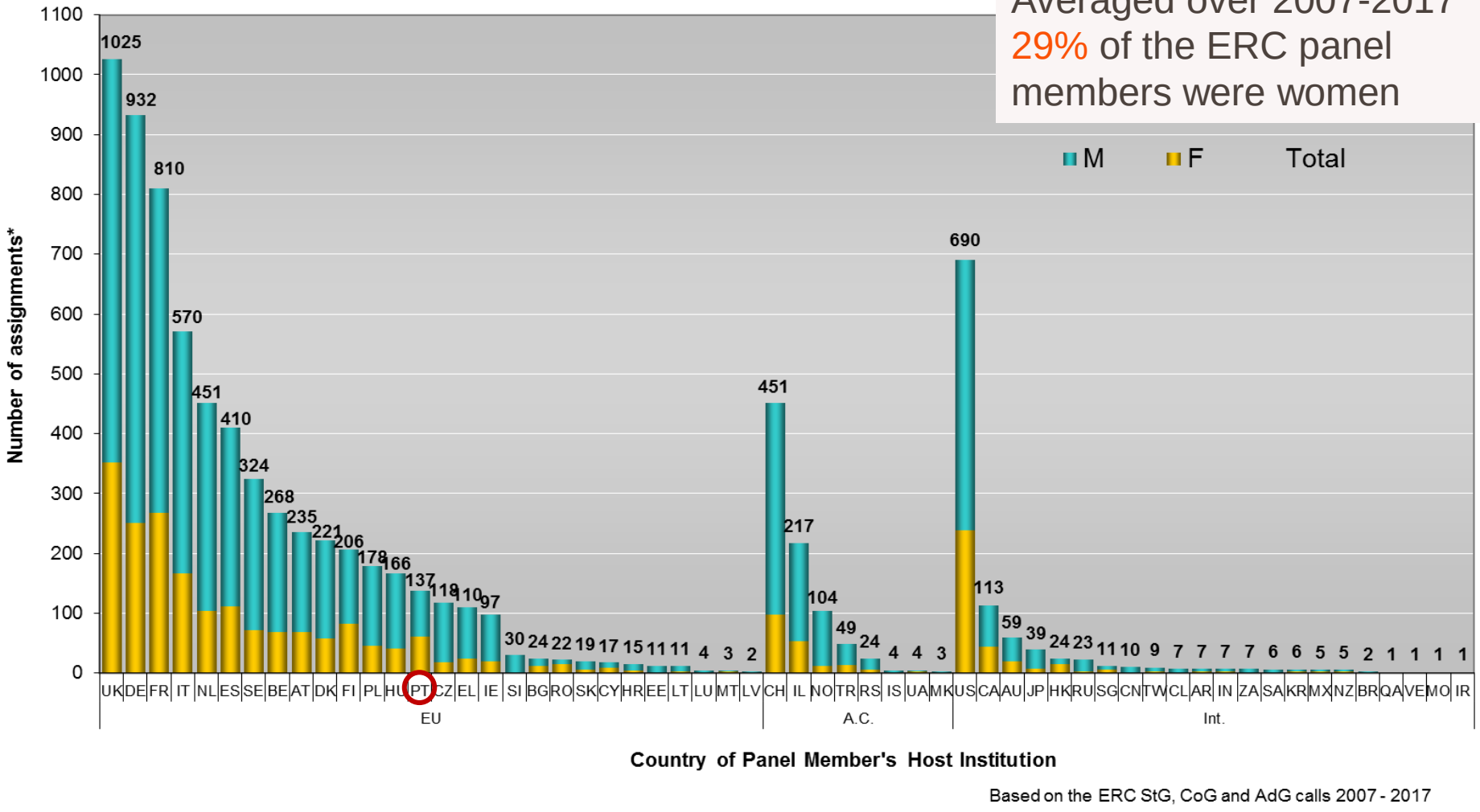
European Commission

Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation

ERC Panel Members by Country of HI and Gender

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

Averaged over 2007-2017
29% of the ERC panel members were women



Based on the ERC StG, CoG and AdG calls 2007 - 2017

* Number of instances that experts of a certain country of origin are contributing to the ERC peer review

ERC Panel Members from PT

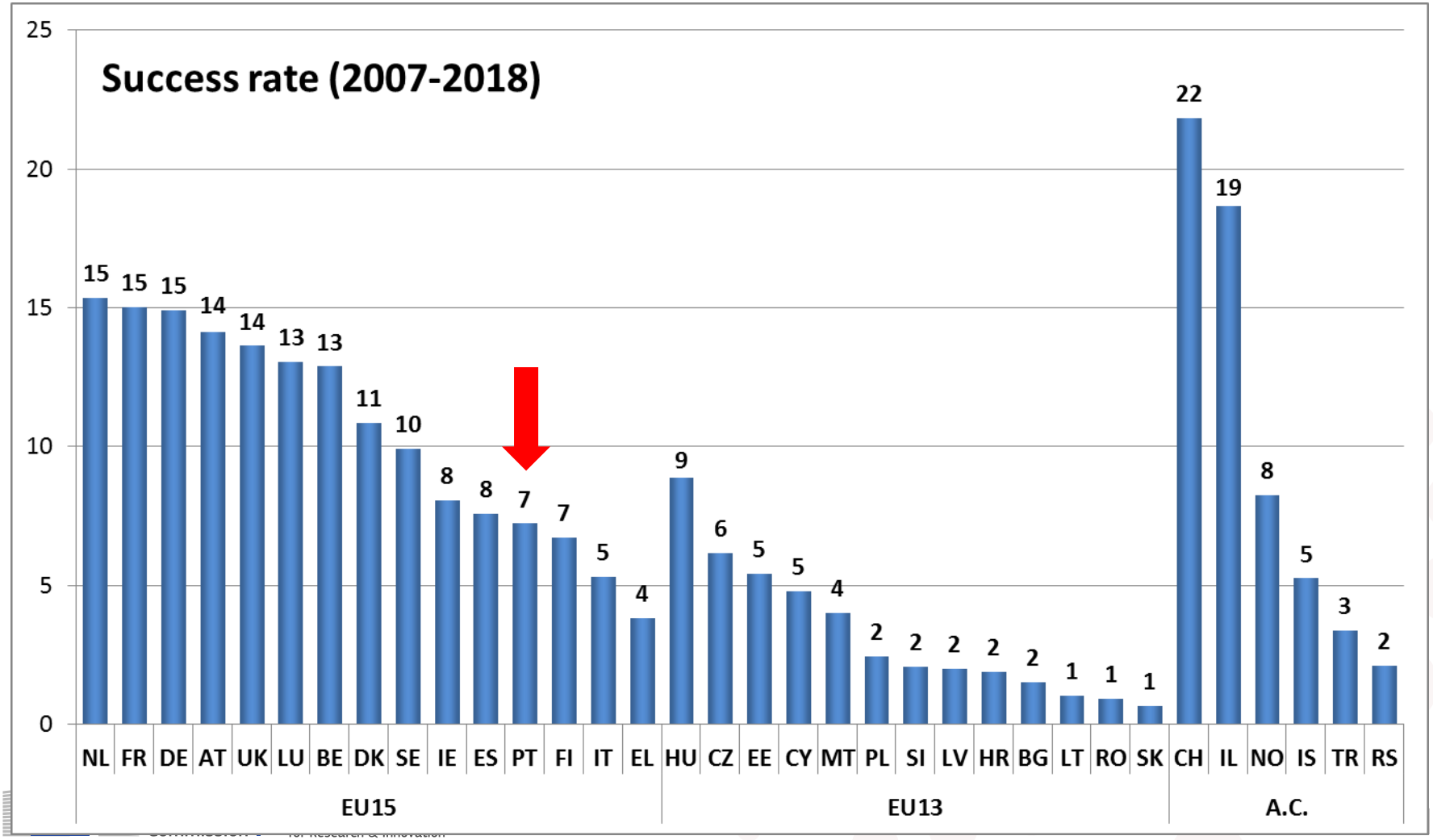
European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

For 2018 Calls

PC/PM	M	F
ADG	6	2
COG	5	4
STG	3	5
Evaluators	8	1
Total	22	12

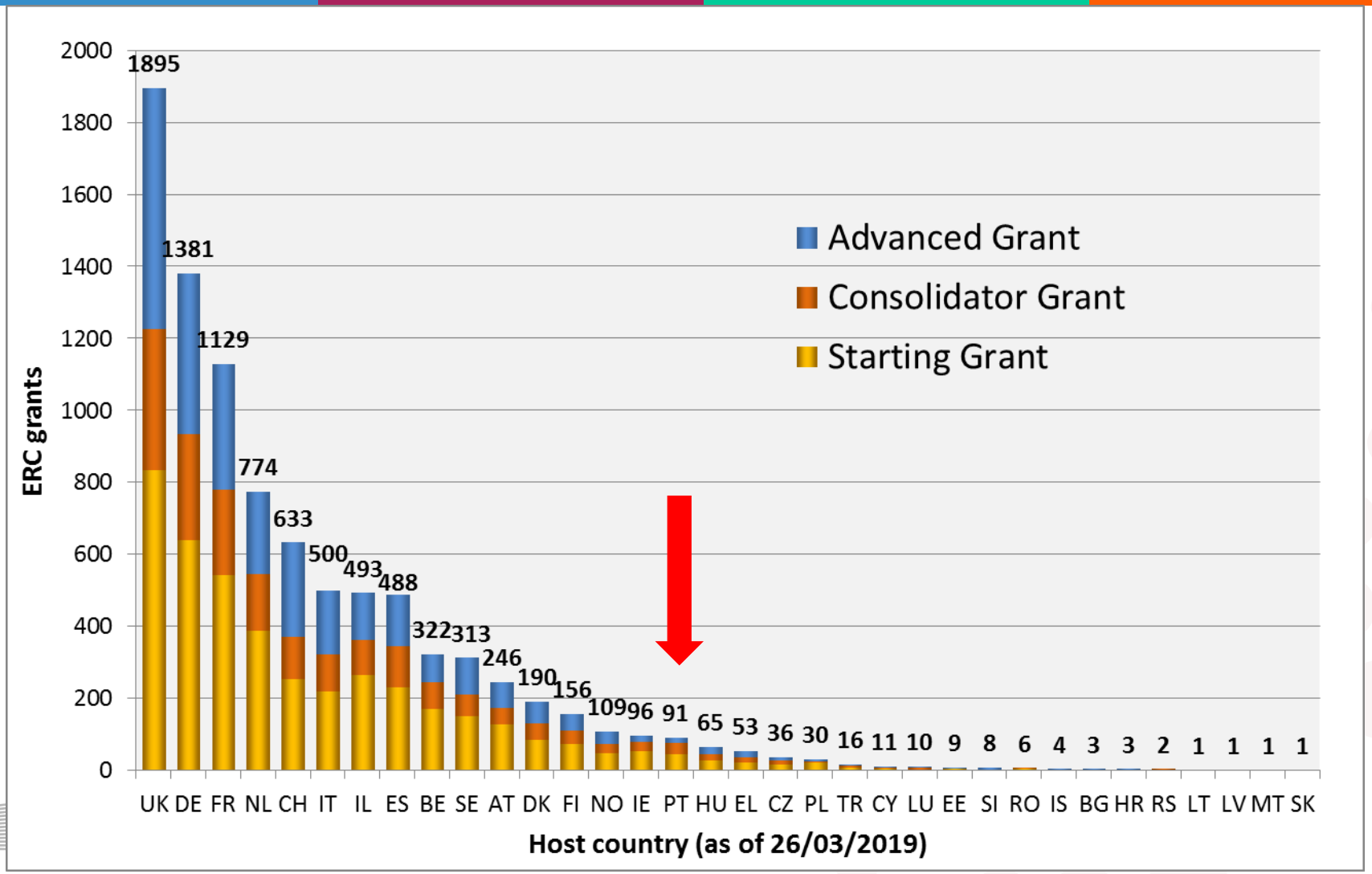
Success Rate by Country of HI

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



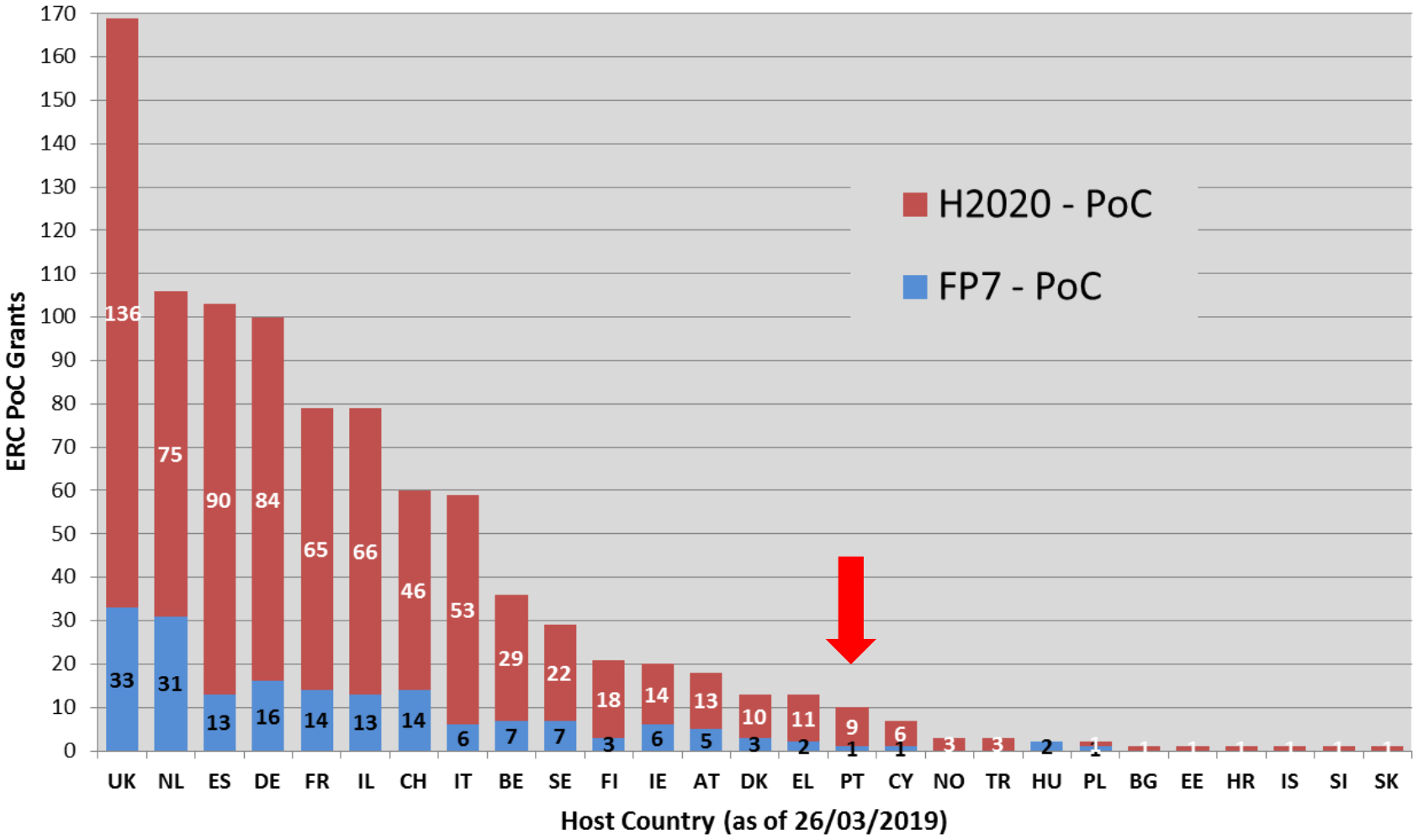
ERC Funded Projects by Country of HI

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



ERC Proof of Concept 2011-2018

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



SYNERGY 2018

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

HI Country (SyG 2018)	Synergy PIs	Corresponding_PIs	PIs
AT	1		1
BE	1		1
CH	11	4	7
CZ	1		1
DE	23	6	17
DK	2	1	1
EL	1		1
ES	7	2	5
FI	1	1	
FR	14	5	9
HU	2	1	1
IL	4	2	2
IT	6	2	4
NL	1		1
NO	1		1
PT	1		1
SE	1		1
UK	10	3	7
Total	**88**	**27**	**61**

Project: ArpComplexity
Defining the role of Arp2/3 complex diversity at multiple scales of biology

Michael Way,
Francis Crick Institute, UK
(correspondent PI)
Edgar Gomes,
University of Lisbon - Institute of Molecular Medicine, Portugal
Carolyn Moores,
Birbeck College, UK

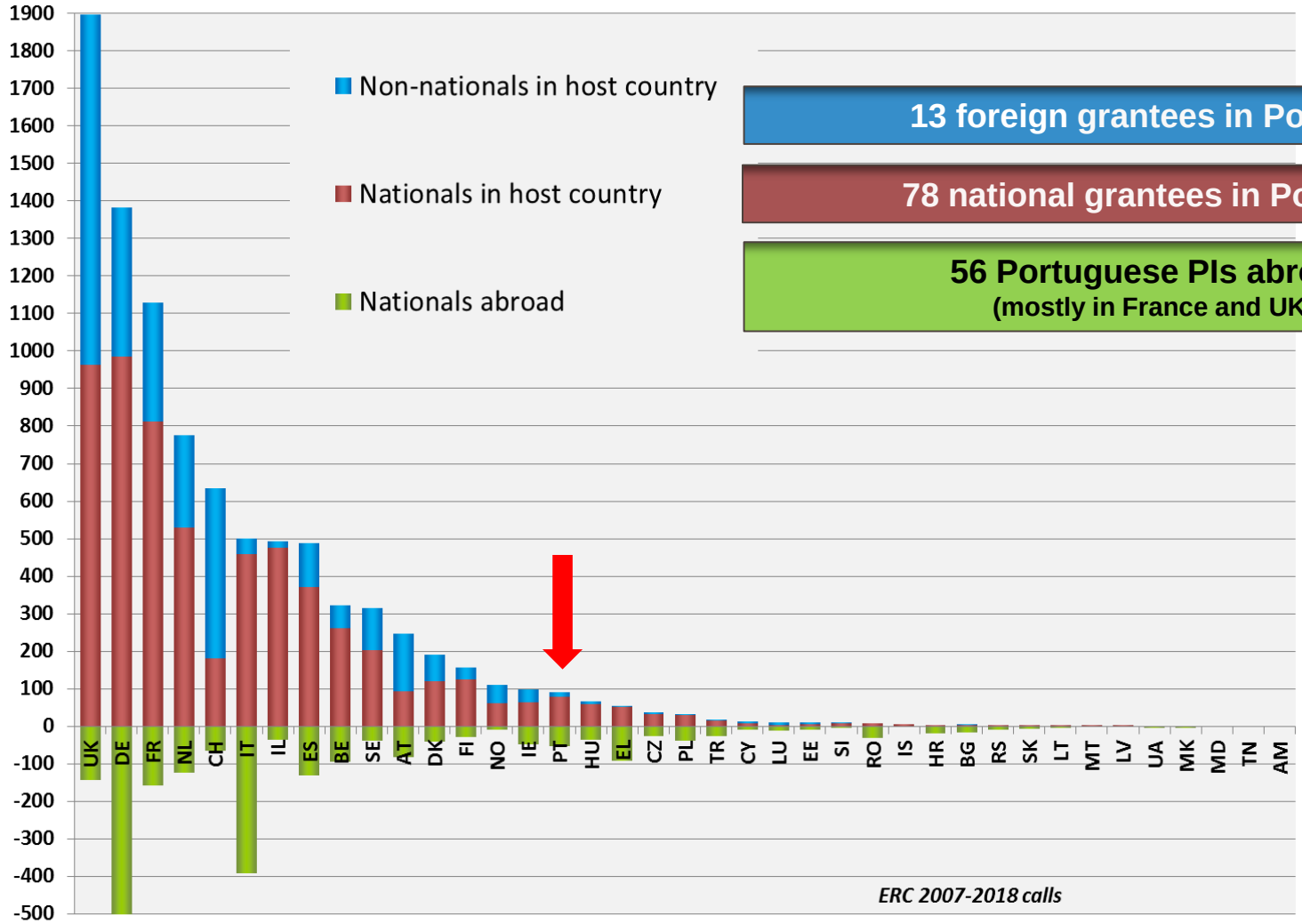
Top Host Institutions in Portugal

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

	StG	CoG	AdG	Grand Total
Grand Total	**46**	**30**	**15**	**91**
Champalimaud Foundation	5	7	2	14
Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation	5	3	1	9
New University of Lisbon	5	3	1	9
University of Lisbon - Institute of Molecular Medicine	5	4		9
University of Minho	1	3	2	6
University of Porto - Institute for Molecular and Cell Biology	5	1		6
New University of Lisbon - (NOVA ID FCT)	3	2		5
Technical University of Lisbon - Higher Technical Institute	2	1	2	5
University of Coimbra - Centre for Social Studies	2	2	1	5
University of Lisbon - Institute of Social Sciences	1	2	1	4
FCiencias.ID	1	1	1	3
University of Aveiro	1		1	2
University of Lisbon - Faculty of Letters	1		1	2
University of Porto	1		1	2
Other	8	1	1	10

Grantees at Home and Abroad

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



13 foreign grantees in Portugal

78 national grantees in Portugal

56 Portuguese PIs abroad
(mostly in France and UK)

2020 Call Calendar

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

ERC calls	Budget	Call Opening	Submission Deadline(s)
Starting Grants ERC-2020-StG	580 M€ (390 grants)	17 July 2019	16 October 2019
Synergy Grants ERC-2020-SyG	400 M€ (48 grants)	18 July 2019	5 November 2019
Consolidator Grants ERC-2020-CoG	602 M€ (314 grants)	24 October 2019	4 February 2020
Advanced Grants ERC-2020-AdG	391 M€ (166 grants)	14 May 2020	26 August 2020
Proof of Concept ERC-2020-PoC	25 M€ (167 grants)	15 October 2019	21 January 2020 23 April 2020 17 September 2020

The European Research Council

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- 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 us on

www.facebook.com/EuropeanResearchCouncil

twitter.com/ERC_Research

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

European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

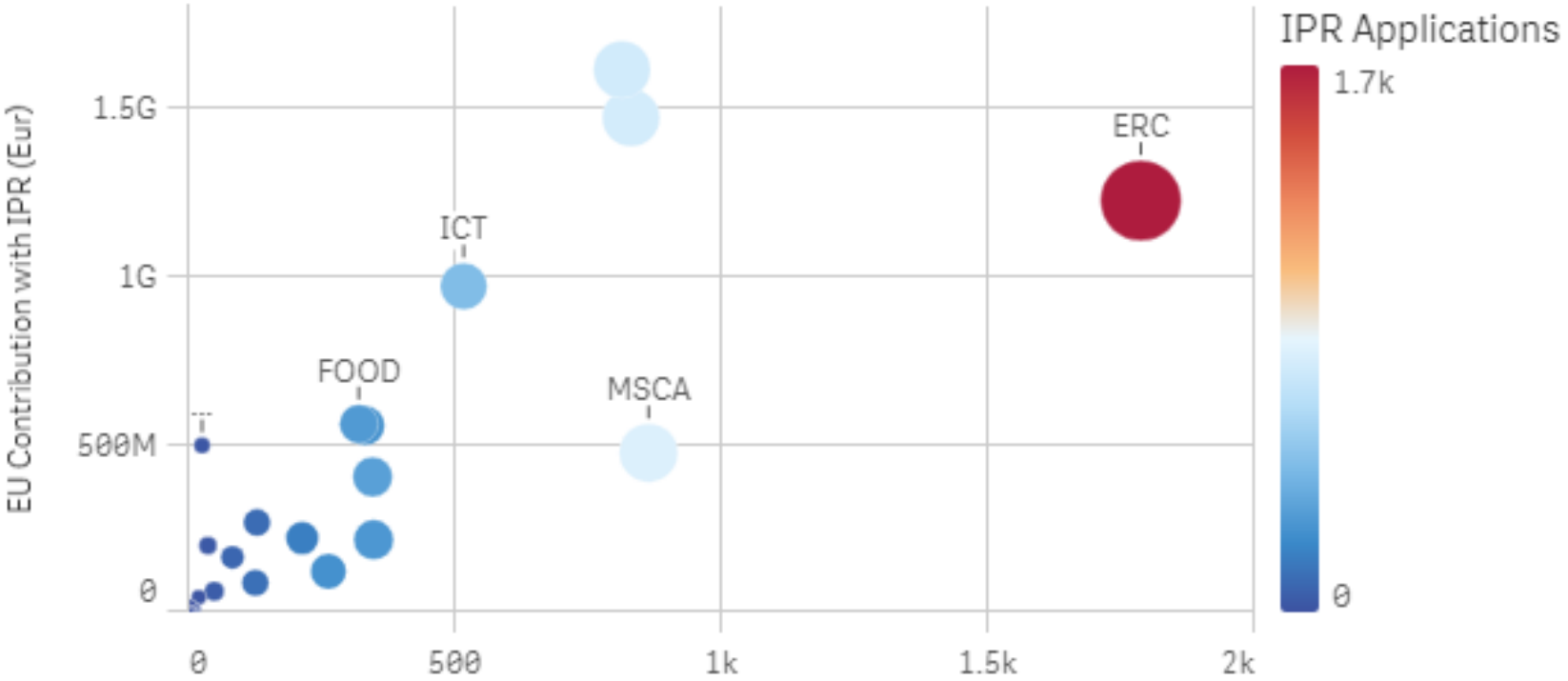
THANK YOU!

OBRIGADO!

Impact in IPR

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

IPR Applications by Research research Thematic Priority



https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/horizon-dashboard

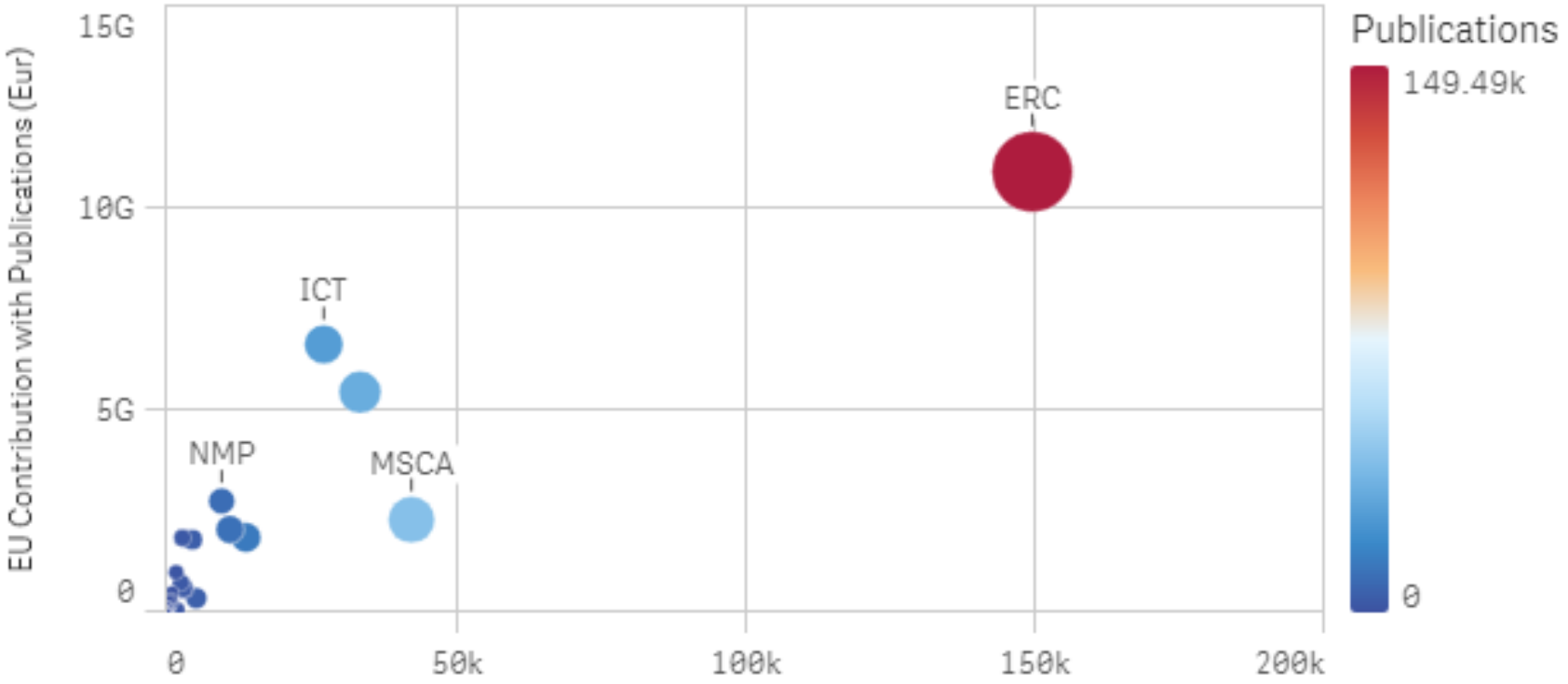
European Commission
Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation

Chart by ERCEA, Source: Scopus

Impact in Publications

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

Scientific Publications by Research Thematic Priority



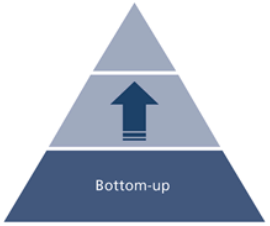
https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/horizon-dashboard

European Commission
Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation

Chart by ERCEA, Source: Scopus

What is ERC?

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



The ERC supports excellence in frontier research through a bottom-up, individual-based, pan-European competition

Budget: € 13 billion (2014-2020) - 1.9 billion €/year
€ 7.5 billion (2007-2013) - 1.1 billion €/year

Legislation

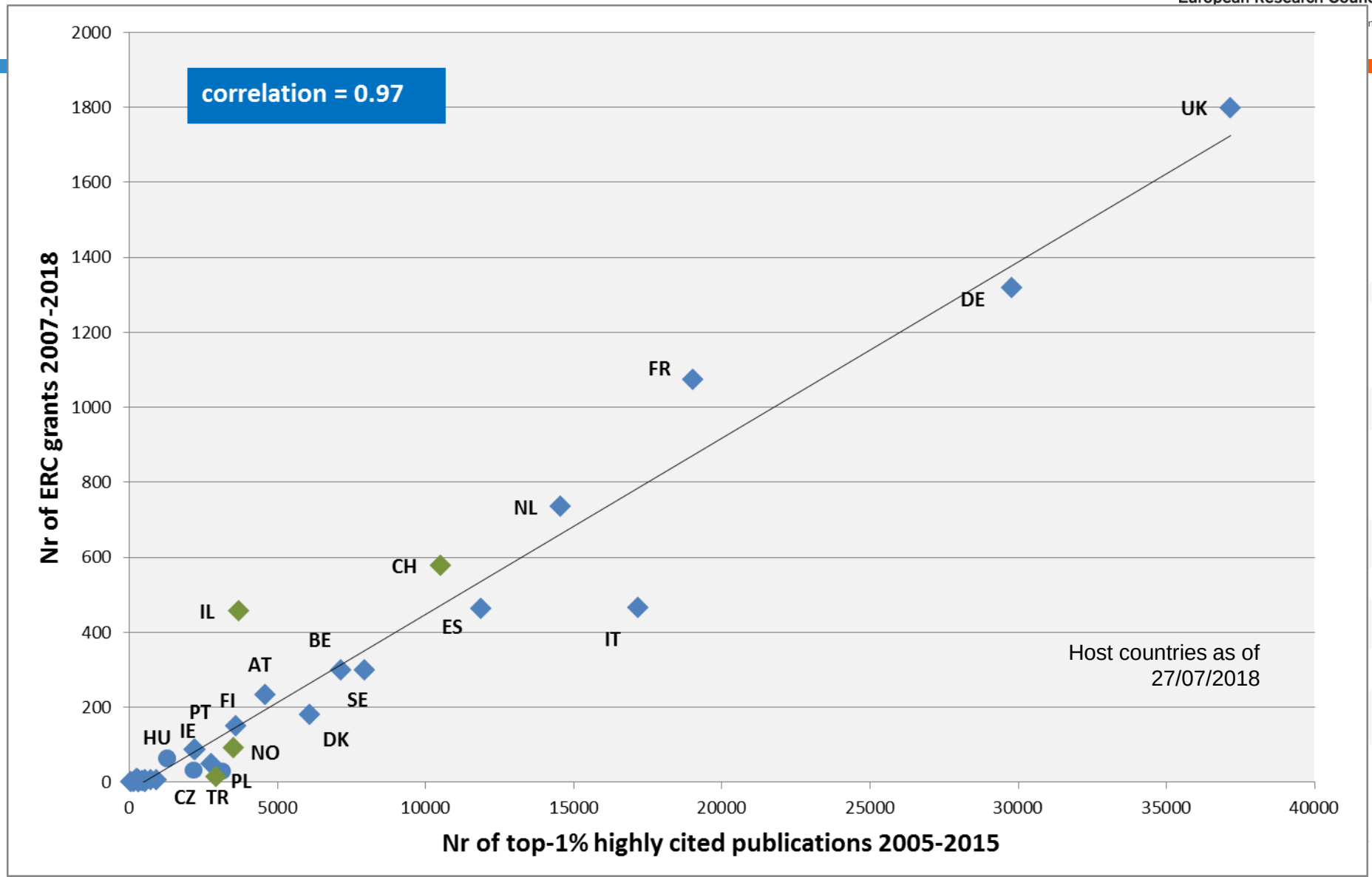
- Scientific governance: independent Scientific Council with 22 members including the ERC President; full authority over funding strategy
- Support by the ERC Executive Agency (autonomous)
- Excellence as the only criterion

Strategy

- Support for the individual scientist – no networks!
- Global peer-review
- No predetermined subjects (bottom-up)
- Support of frontier research in all fields of science and humanities

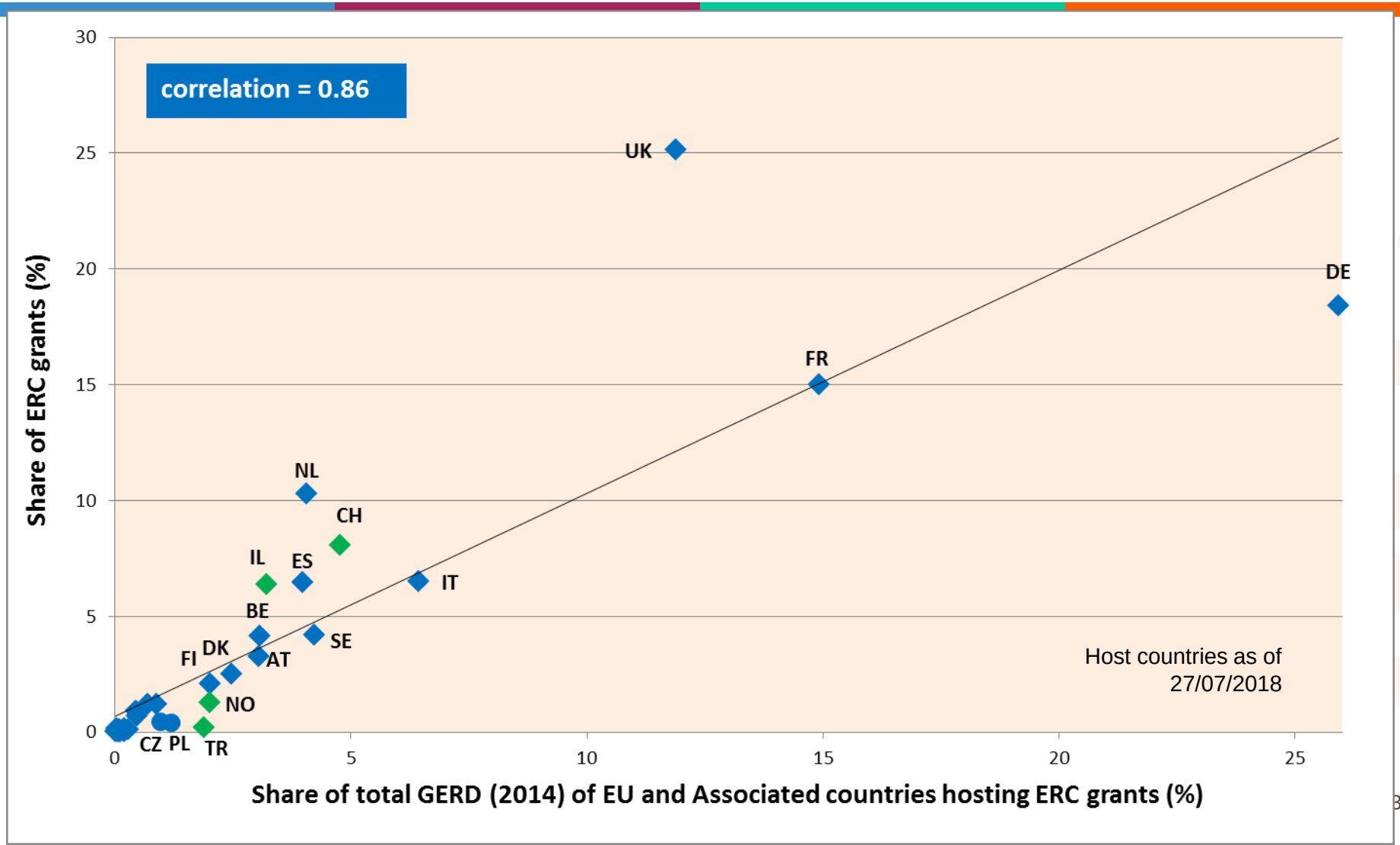
ERC Grants versus Top Publications

European Research Council



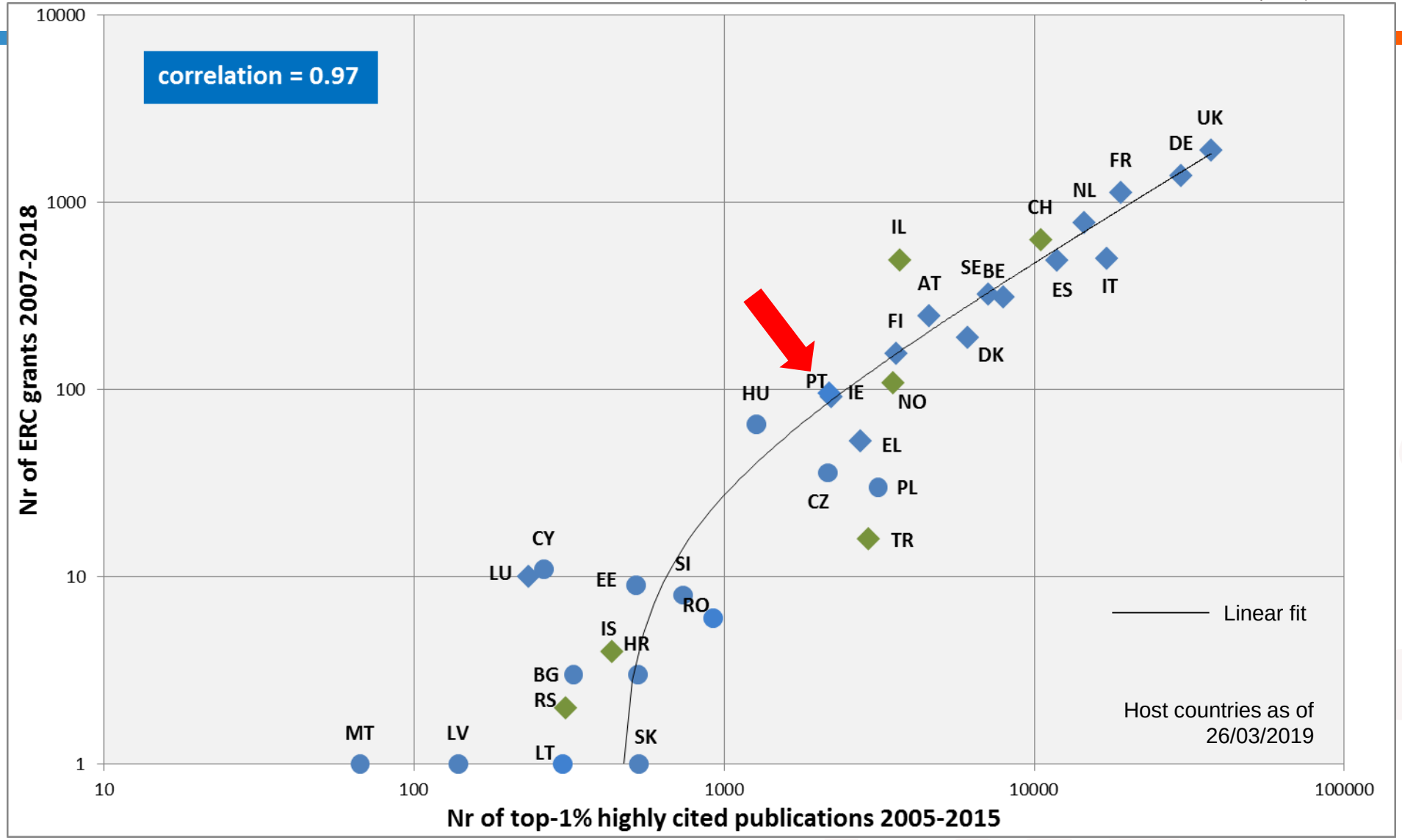
ERC Grants versus GERD

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



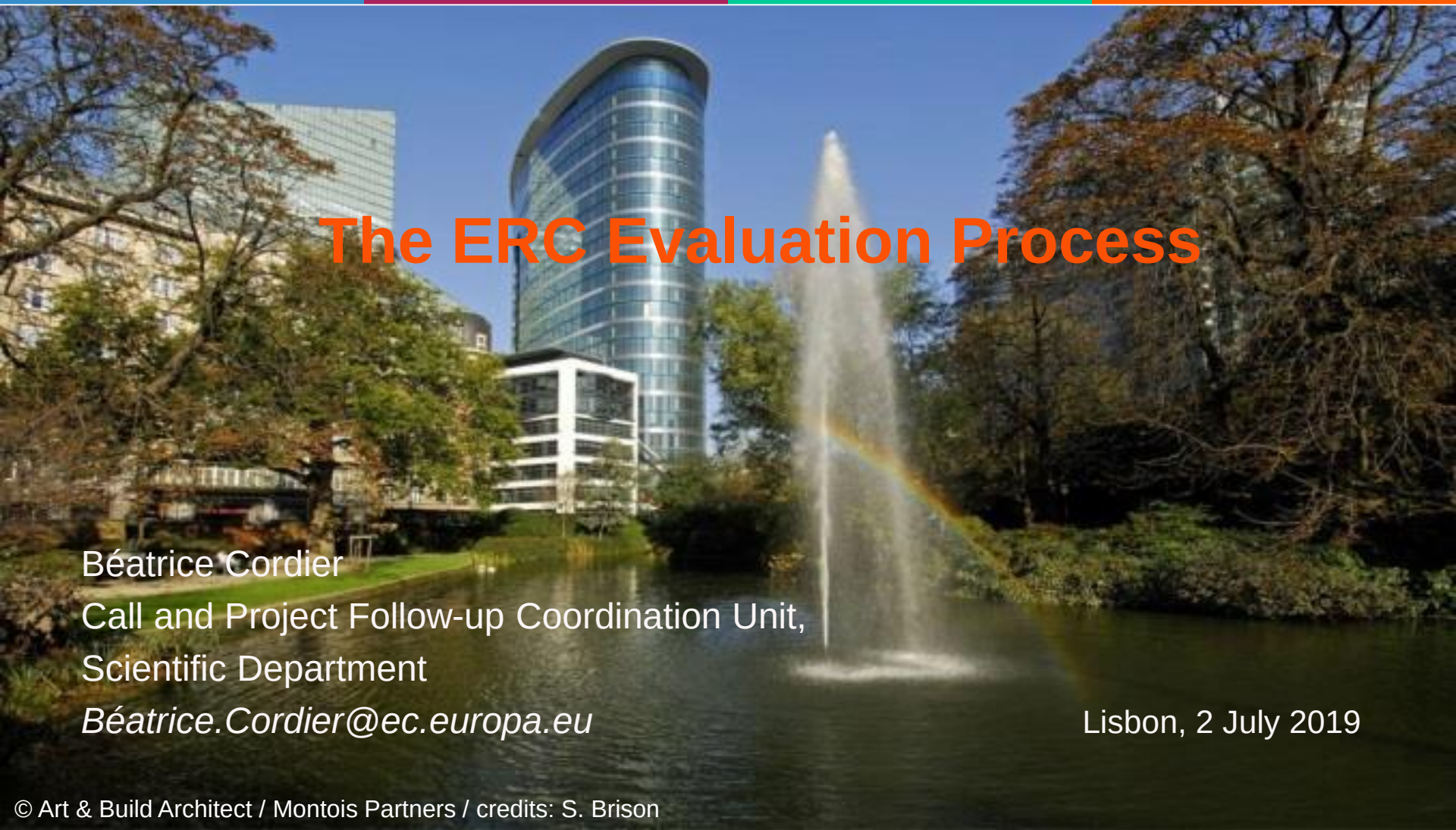
ERC Grants versus Top Publications

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



The ERC Evaluation Process

Béatrice Cordier
Call and Project Follow-up Coordination Unit,
Scientific Department
Béatrice.Cordier@ec.europa.eu

Lisbon, 2 July 2019

© Art & Build Architect / Montois Partners / credits: S. Brison

After 11 Years

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

Over **9,000**
top researchers funded since the ERC's creation in 2007

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

Over **65,000**
researchers and other professionals employed in ERC research teams

767 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

78
nationalities of grant holders

Outline

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

Part 1 – Grant schemes

Part 2 – Submission

Part 3 - Eligibility

Part 4 – Evaluation

Part 5 – Success rates

ERC Grant Schemes

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

Starting Grants

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

Consolidator Grants

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

Advanced Grants

- Significant research track-record
- 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

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

Evaluation Panel Structure

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

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

Before the evaluation starts (I)
Publication of reference documents

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- **Work Programme**: Published every year, drafted by the SC and approved by the European Commission
  http://erc.europa.eu/document-library
- **Call for proposal** : Published on the ERCEA website and F&T portal
- **Guide for applicants** : Updated annually
- **Guide for Peer reviewers** : Updated annually

Before the evaluation starts (II)
Selection of panel members

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- 25 panels in StG, CoG and AdG : each panel with 12-15 members
- 1 panel in PoC : 40 reviewers (approx)
- SYG : 11 panel chairs & 860 approx reviewers

=>identification and selection by the ScC : around 700 panel members/year

Before the evaluation starts (III)
Recruitment of panel members

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- Experts asked to sign a multiannual appointment letter (contracts sent by Unit B1 – Expert management team)
- Panel chairs: Names published on the ERC website before the evaluation starts
- Panel members: Names published on the ERC website once the evaluation is over.
- Each ERC panel member serves up to four terms.

Outline

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

Part 1 – Grant schemes

Part 2 – Proposal submission

Part 3 - Eligibility

Part 4 – Evaluation

Part 5 – Success rates

ERC Grant schemes

Proposal content

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

PART A : online forms

- Proposal and PI info
- Host institution info
- Budget

Annexes – submitted as pdf
- Statement of support by host
- If applicable: explanatory information on ethical issues
StG and CoG only: PhD certificate, documents to prove extension to eligibility window

)

PART B1 – submitted as pdf

Track Record of PI

- Extended synopsis 5 p.
- Scientific Leadership Potential 1 p.
- CV (including “funding ID”) 2 p.
- Early achievements track record 2 p.

PART B2 – submitted as pdf

Scientific proposal 15 p.
State-of-the-art and objectives, methodology, resources, excl. ethical issues table and annex

The new online budget table

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

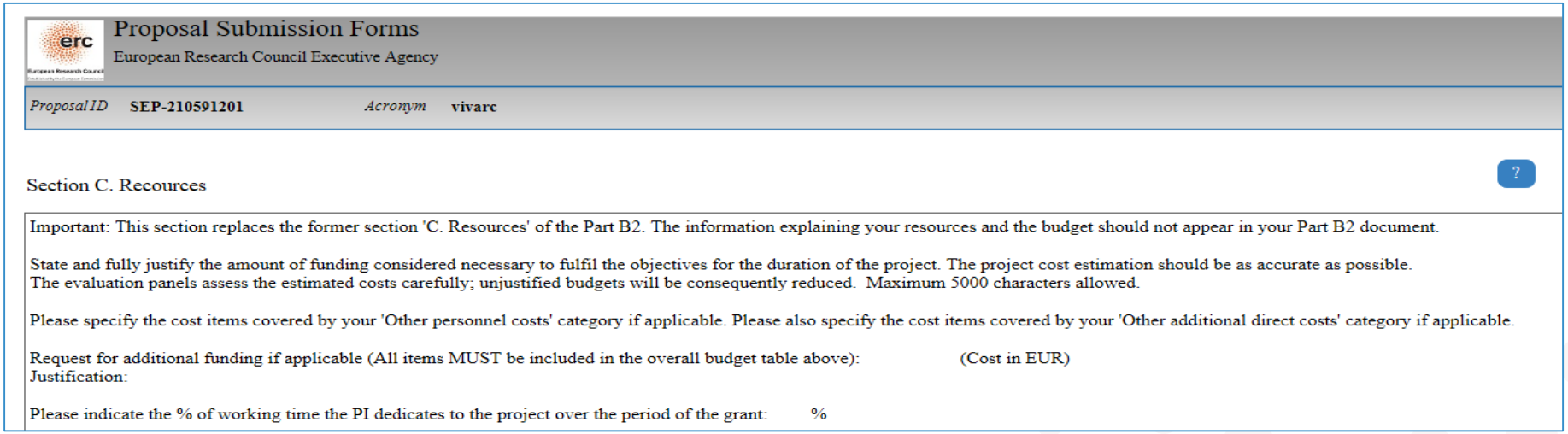
3 - Budget

Beneficiary Short Name	Direct costs														A. Total Direct Costs	B. Indirect Costs	C1. Subcontracting Costs	C2. Costs of inkind contributions not used on the beneficiary's premises	Total Estimated Eligible Costs	Requested EU contribution
	Personnel						Other direct costs							A.3 Internally invoiced goods and services						
	PI	Senior Staff	Postdocs	Students	Other Personnel costs	A.1. Total direct costs for personnel	Travel	Equipment - including major equipment	Other goods and services				A.2. Total Other Direct Costs							
									Consumables incl. fieldwork and animal costs	Publications (incl. Open Access fees) and dissemination	Other additional direct costs	Total other goods and services								
The Chancellor, Masters And Scholars Of The University Of Oxford	150000	152000	365000	123000	0	790000.00	60000	395000	106000	35000	0	141000.00	596000.00	96000	1623000.00	405750.00	10000	25000	2063750.00	0.00
Total	150000	152000	365000	123000	0	790000.00	60000	395000	106000	35000	0	141000.00	596000.00	96000	1623000.00	405750.00	10000	25000	2063750.00	0.00

- ONE budget line per beneficiary / linked third party
- All costs have to be described and justified in the text box below the budget table
- Justify requested resources / Explain involvement of team members

Resources – the narrative part

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



Proposal Submission Forms
European Research Council Executive Agency

Proposal ID **SEP-210591201** *Acronym* **vivarc**

Section C. Recources

?

Important: This section replaces the former section 'C. Resources' of the Part B2. The information explaining your resources and the budget should not appear in your Part B2 document.

State and fully justify the amount of funding considered necessary to fulfil the objectives for the duration of the project. The project cost estimation should be as accurate as possible.
The evaluation panels assess the estimated costs carefully; unjustified budgets will be consequently reduced. Maximum 5000 characters allowed.

Please specify the cost items covered by your 'Other personnel costs' category if applicable. Please also specify the cost items covered by your 'Other additional direct costs' category if applicable.

Request for additional funding if applicable (All items MUST be included in the overall budget table above): (Cost in EUR)
Justification:

Please indicate the % of working time the PI dedicates to the project over the period of the grant: %

- Organize explanations heading by heading (use terminology of the budget table)
- If you request additional funding - you must describe and justify this request clearly in a separate paragraph
- Remember to list the PI's time commitment!

Preparing your proposal
Choosing descriptors

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- Descriptors and free keywords may influence:
  - ➔ Evaluation Panel
  - ➔ Panel members
  - ➔ Whether a cross-panel evaluation is necessary

Rumour: *The more cross-panel descriptors I indicate, the higher the funding chances, since I emphasize like this the interdisciplinarity of my proposal.*

✘ **NOT true**: even though these are used to allocate proposals to Panel Members, once the proposals are allocated, Panel Members do not see the keywords and descriptors used. They see your justification of cross-panel aspects in the box provided in part B1.

Outline

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

Part 1 – Grant schemes

Part 2 – Proposal submission

Part 3 - Eligibility

Part 4 – Evaluation

Part 5 – Success rates

Eligibility check

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- All proposals are checked against the following eligibility criteria:
  - ✓ Submission before the deadline,
  - ✓ Completeness (presence of all requested components),
  - ✓ Eligible Principal Investigator: PhD restriction – resubmissions
  - ✓ Eligible Host Institution: in EU or Associated Sates or International European Interest Organisation or JRC

- If the question is not clear-cut, an eligibility review committee is convened (Chaired by the call coordination)

- If necessary, contact with Principal Investigator or Host Institution (Unit B2 call coordination)

- The call coordination communicates to the PIs and HI if the proposal is declared ineligible

ERC Grant Schemes

Who can apply?

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- Excellent Researchers (PIs)
  - → Any nationality, age or current place of work
- In conjunction with a Host Institution (HI)
  - → Based in the EU or an Associated Country (spend min. 50% (StG / CoG) of total working time Individual research team
  - → Researcher has freedom to choose national or trans-national team, if scientific added value proven

- ERC Grants are portable
- Many possibilities of extending the eligibility window

Outline

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

Part 1 – Grant schemes

Part 2 – Submission

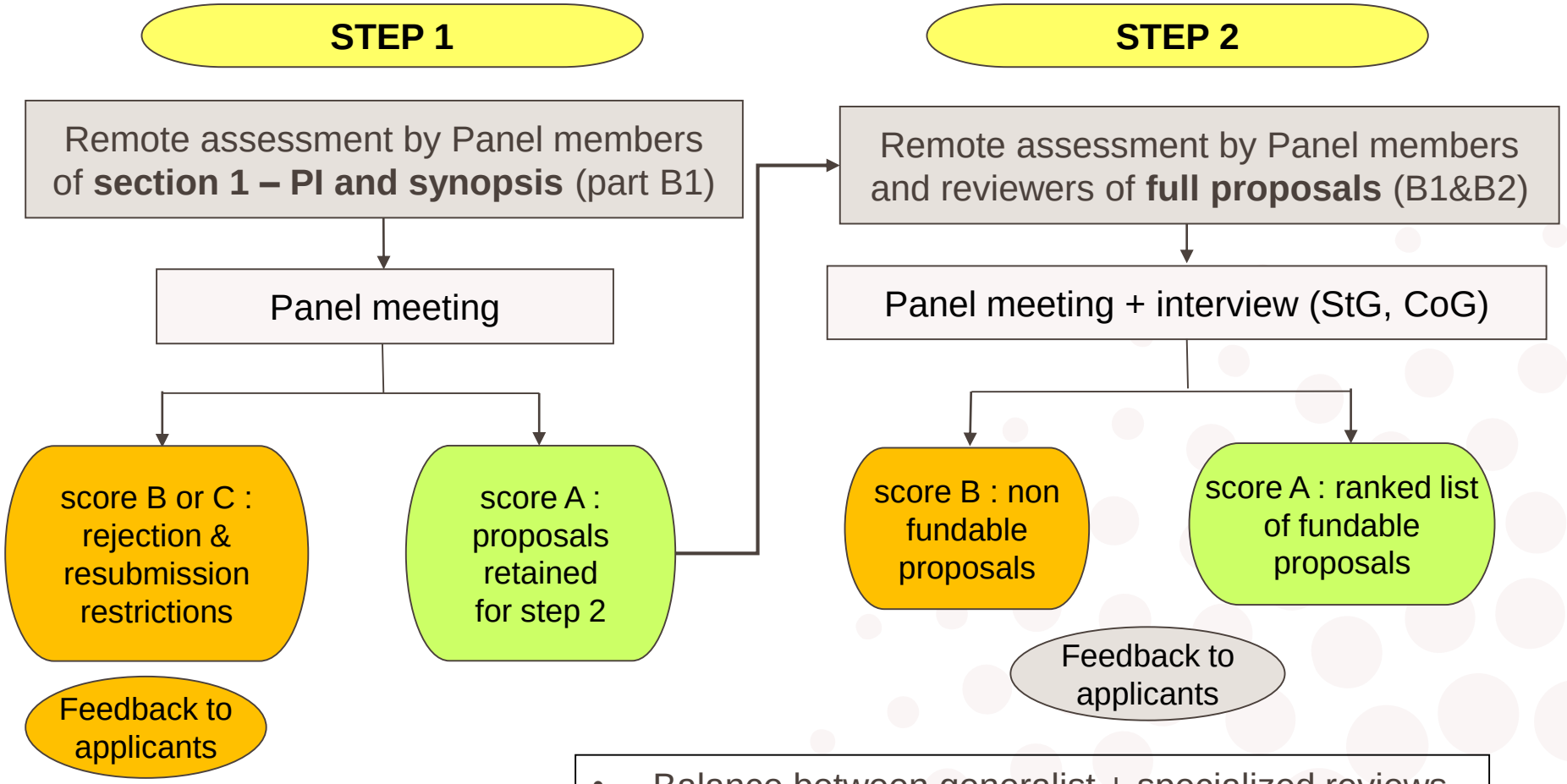
Part 3 - Eligibility

Part 4 – Evaluation

Part 5 – Success rates

ERC Evaluation process

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



ERC evaluation criterion

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- **Quality** of the Research Project
  - ✓ Ground breaking nature
  - ✓ Potential impact on the field
  - ✓ Scientific Approach

- **Quality** of the Principal Investigator
  - ✓ Intellectual capacity
  - ✓ Creativity
  - ✓ Commitment

Allocation of proposals to panels

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- Each proposal is allocated to a panel : automatic allocation based on selection of primary panel by applicant at submission stage.
- When more than 1 panel is identified by the applicant, default allocation goes to the first panel.
- Panel transfers : a proposal can be transferred to a different panel in case the Panel Chairs consider another panel more appropriate (and both Panel Chairs agree for the transfer).

=> Allocation of proposals to panels / panel transfers is the responsibility of panel chairs.

Assignment of proposals to panel members

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- Eligible proposals are examined against the relevant criteria by at least 3 evaluators

- Panel members declare their expertise before the allocation of proposals.

- Assignment in 3 steps:
  1. Automatic assignment (can be refined manually)
  2. Review and conflict of interest check by scientific officers
  3. Fine tuning and approval by panel chairs

Panel meeting (II)
End of Step 1: Final Scoring

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

3 categories :

A. Proposal is of sufficient quality to pass to Step 2 of the evaluation;

B. Proposal is of high quality but not sufficient to pass to Step 2 of the evaluation; The applicant may be subject to resubmission limitations (1 year)

C. Proposal is not of sufficient quality to pass to Step 2 of the evaluation. The applicant may be subject to resubmission limitations (2 years)

Recruiting of Remote Referees

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- The list of Remote Referees to be invited is approved by the panel chair.
- Minimum 2 referees per proposal.
- Remote evaluation only (Remote Referees submit their evaluation online.

Interviews of Principal Investigators 1/2

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- StG and CoG calls : interviews with the Principal Investigators at the second stage of the evaluation
- The full panel participates in the interview
- Interviews are conducted in Brussels
- The Scientific Council oversees the process

Interviews of Principal Investigators 2/2

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- Depending on the panel, interviews last approximately 30 minutes.
- 2 Parts:

✓ First part to be devoted to a presentation on the outline of the research project by the PI.

✓ The remaining time to be devoted to a question and answer session.

=> Panels take into account the results of the interviews alongside the individual reviews.

Panel meeting

End of Step 2: Scoring

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

A. Proposal fully meets the ERC's excellence criterion and is recommended for funding if sufficient funds are available;

B. meets some but not all elements of the ERC's excellence criterion and will not be funded.

*! At the end of both steps applicants are told the **ranking range** of their proposal out of the proposals evaluated by the panel.*

Outline

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

Part 1 – Grant schemes

Part 2 – Submission

Part 3 - Eligibility

Part 4 – Evaluation

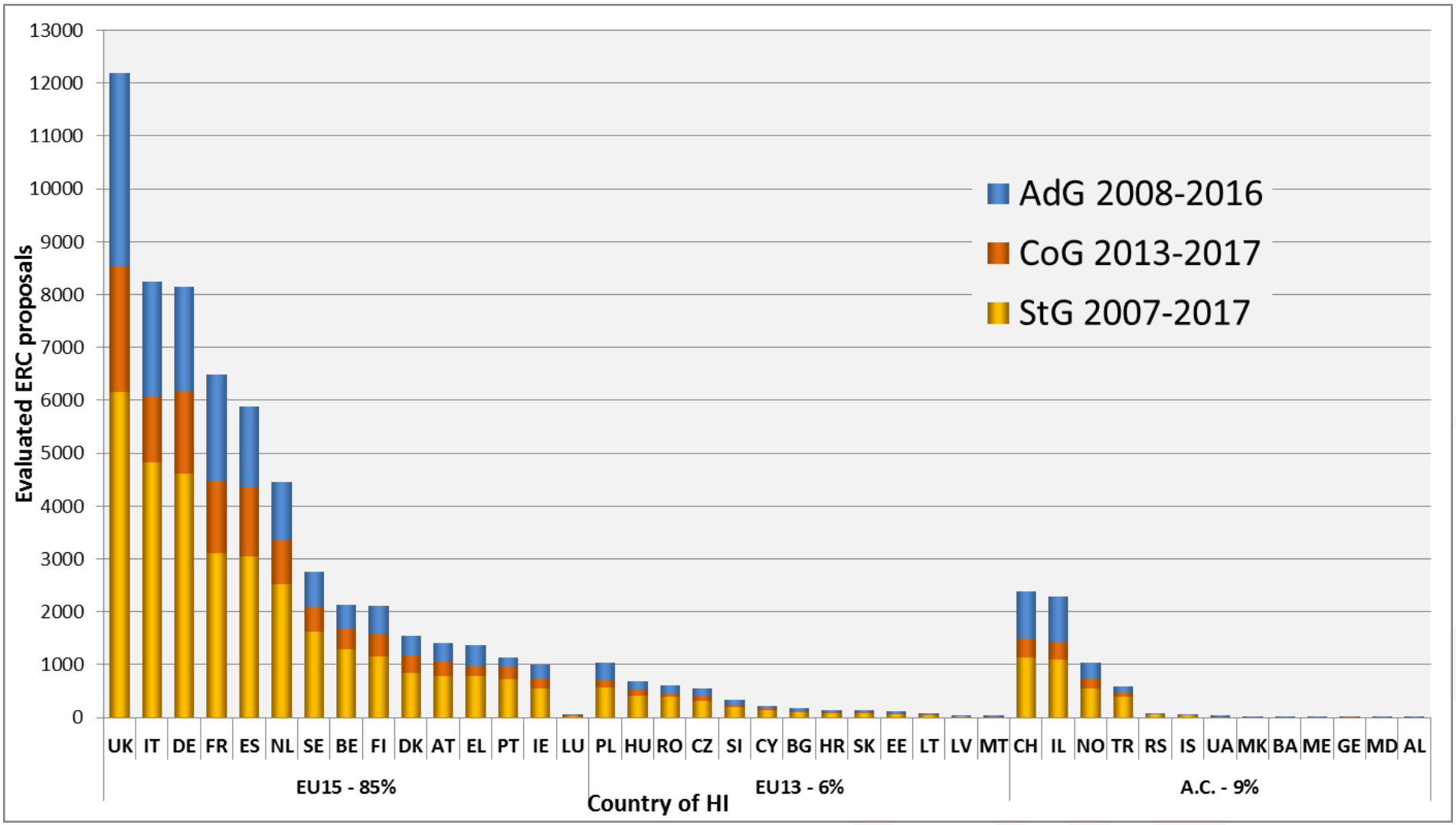
Part 5 – Sucess rates

Evaluated ERC Proposals by HI Country

2007-2017 : 71 400 proposals in total

European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

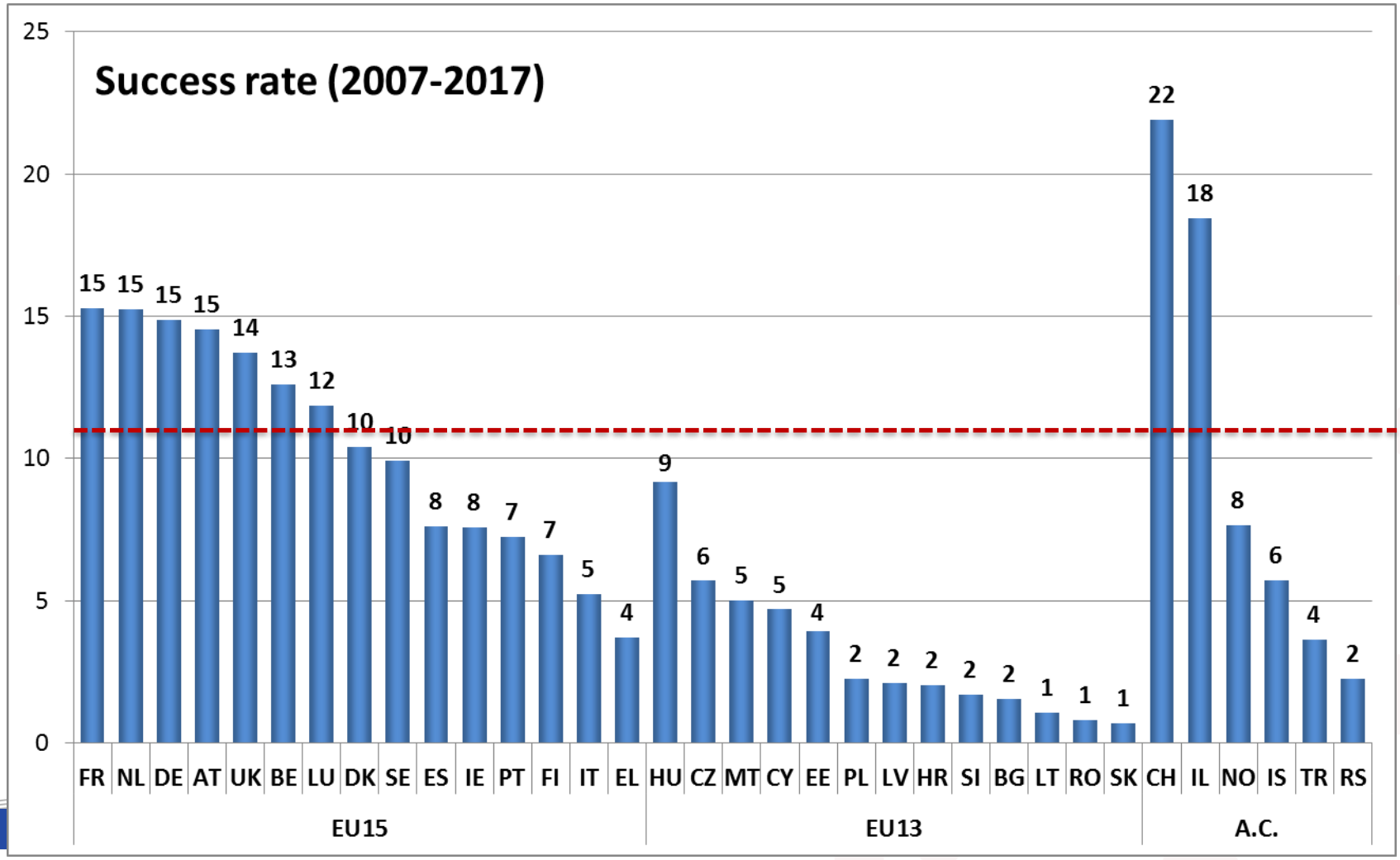


Success Rate by Country of HI

Average : 11%

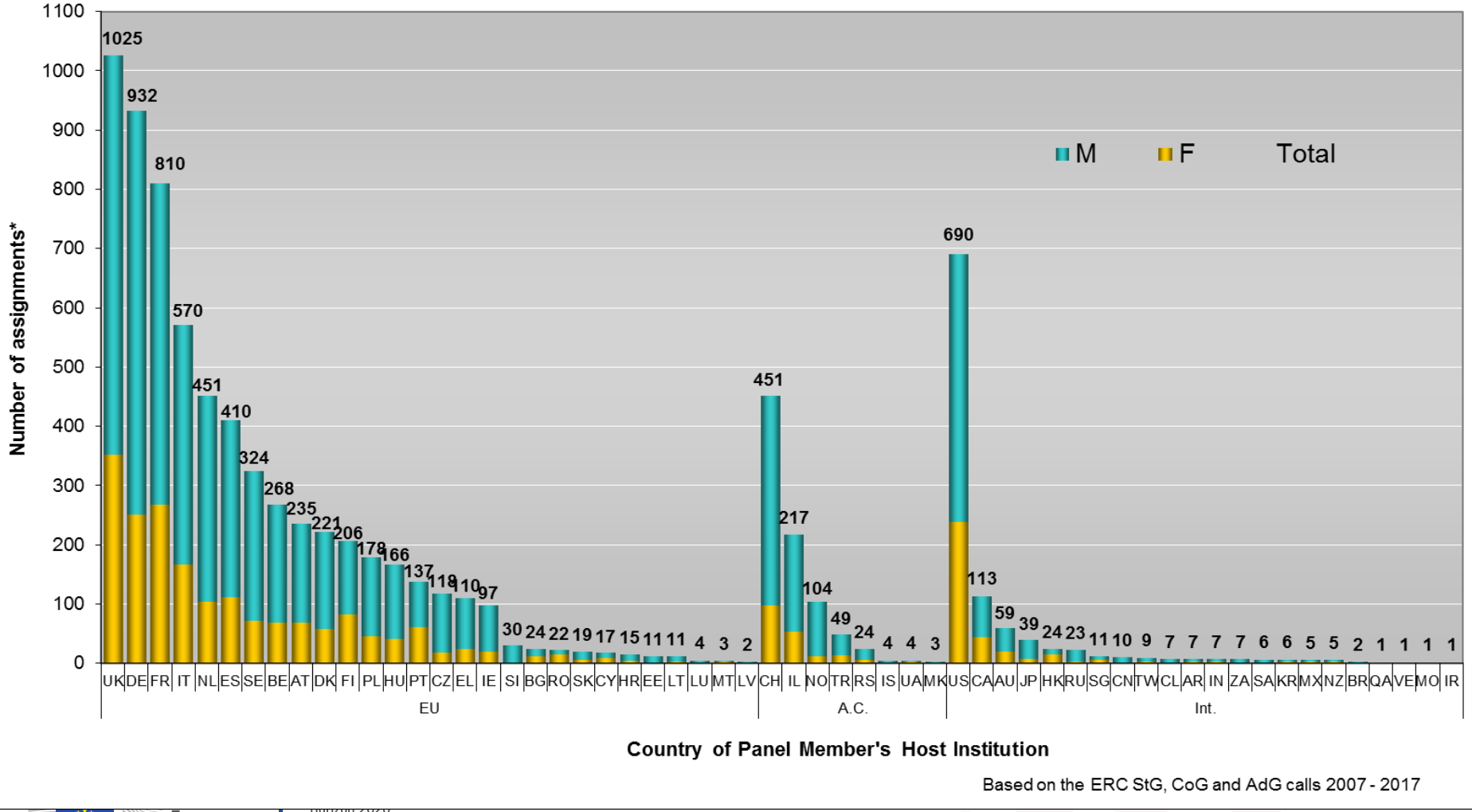
European Research Council

Established by the European Commission



Who evaluates the proposals?

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



Based on the ERC StG, CoG and AdG calls 2007 - 2017

* Number of instances that experts of a certain country of origin are contributing to the ERC peer review

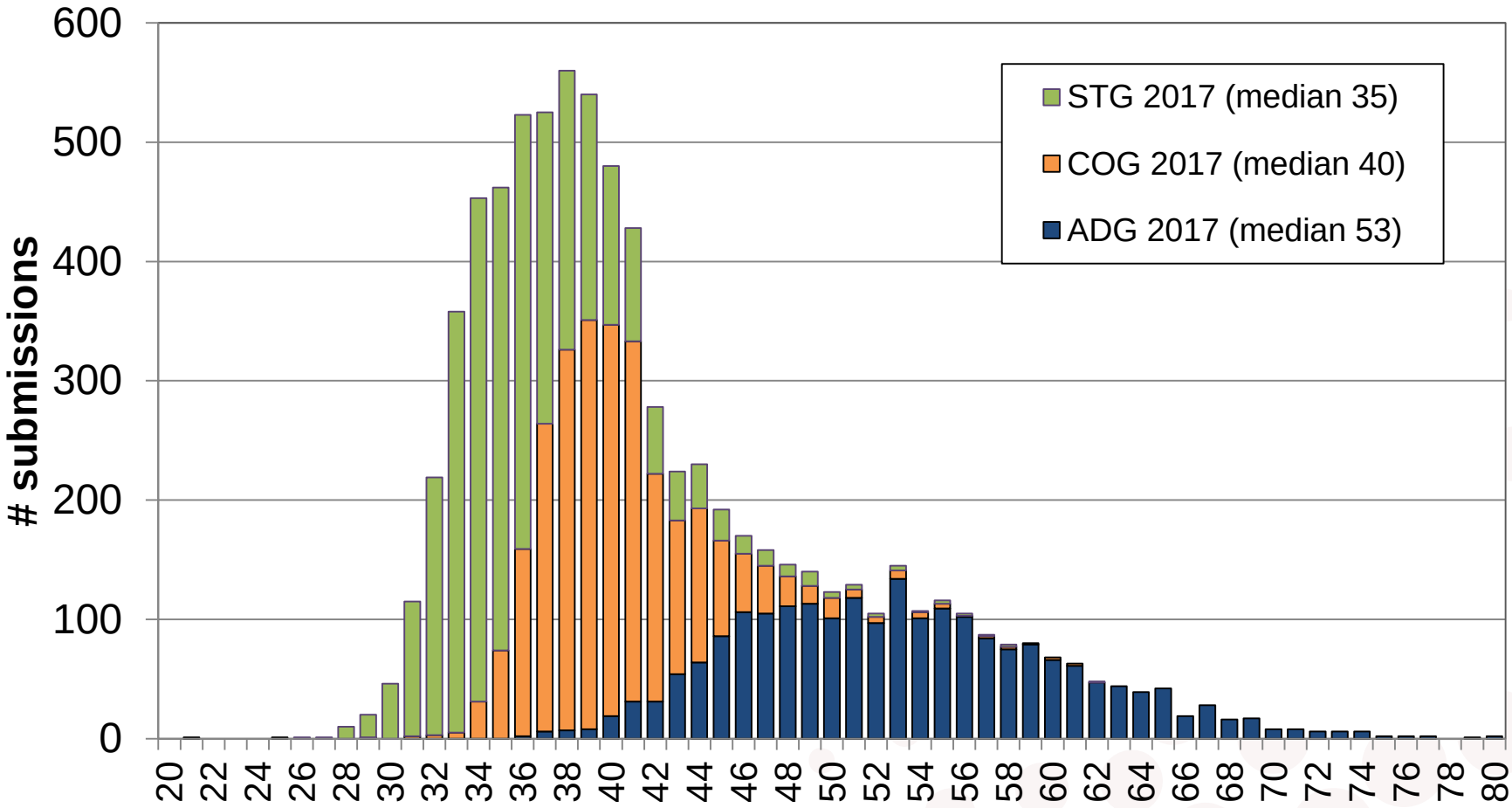
ERC Applications

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- A programme available for PIs of all ages
- A programme available for all career stages after 2 yrs PhD
- Similar success rates across career "ages"
- Generous allowances for extensions to career stage windows

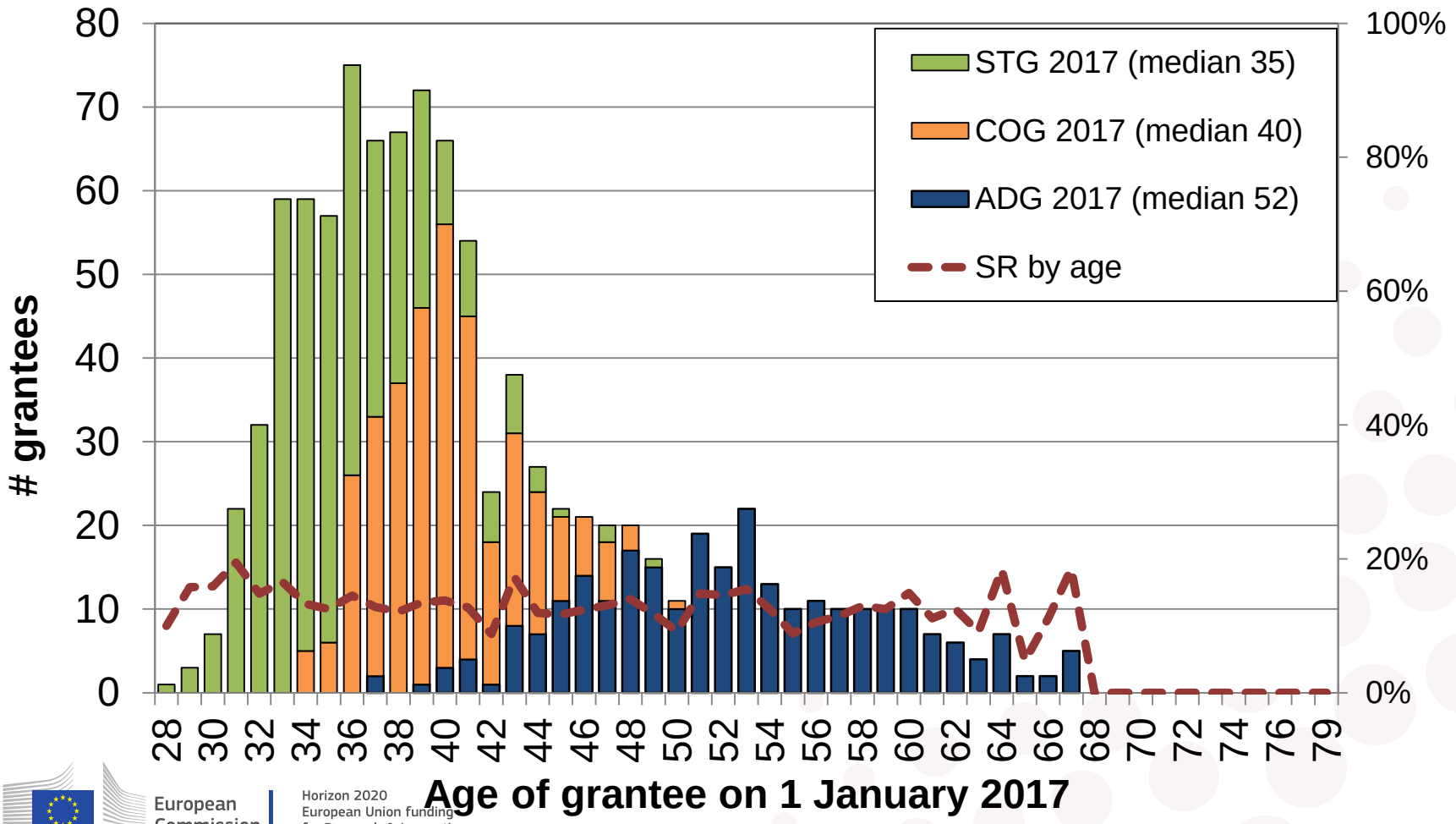
2017 STG-COG-ADG Calls
Age of Applicants

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



2017 STG-COG-ADG Calls
Age of Grantees

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

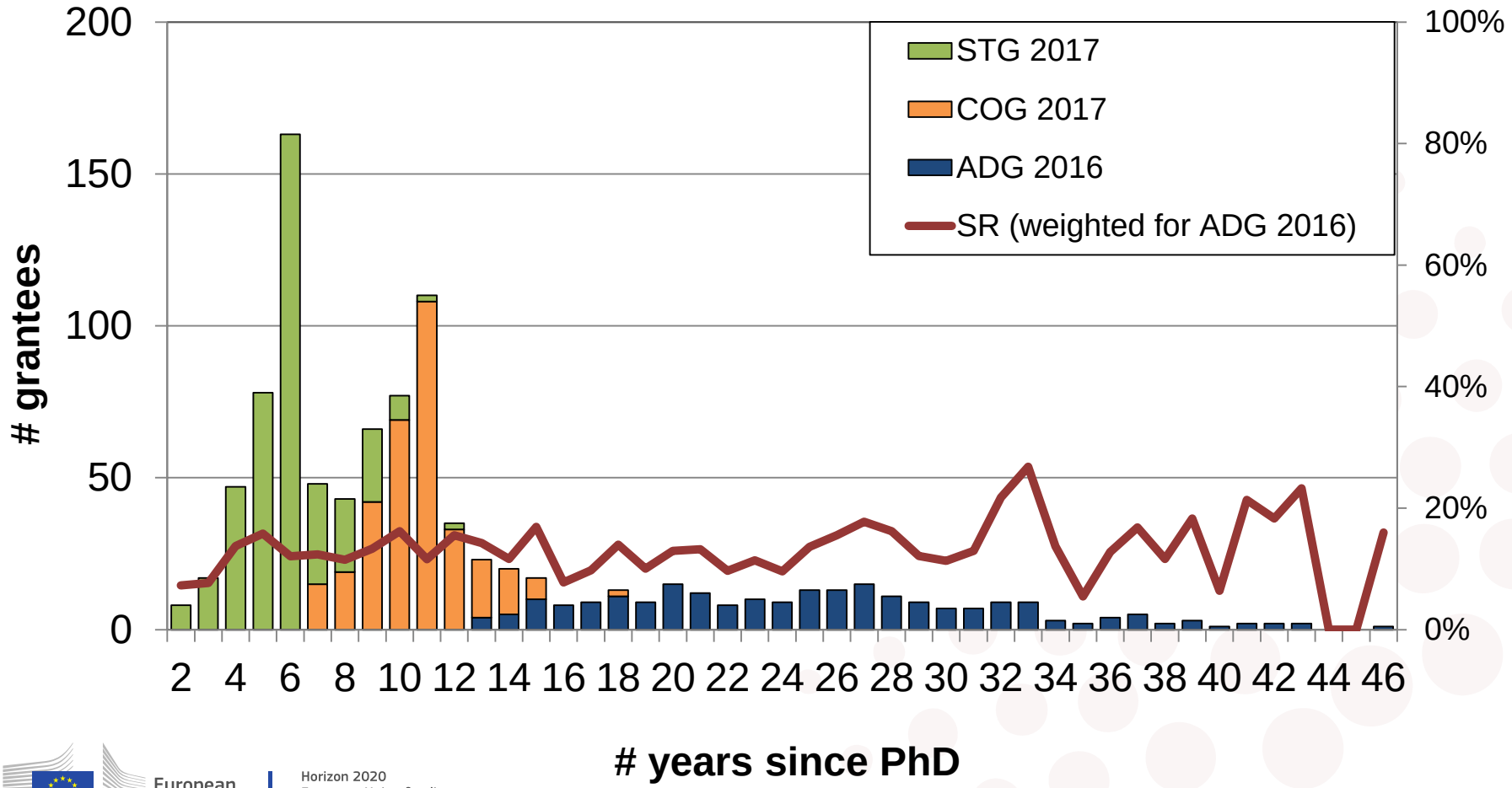


2017 STG-COG (ADG 2016) Calls

"Academic age" of grantees

(2017 data for ADG was not available from submission forms)

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



ERC and Reapplications

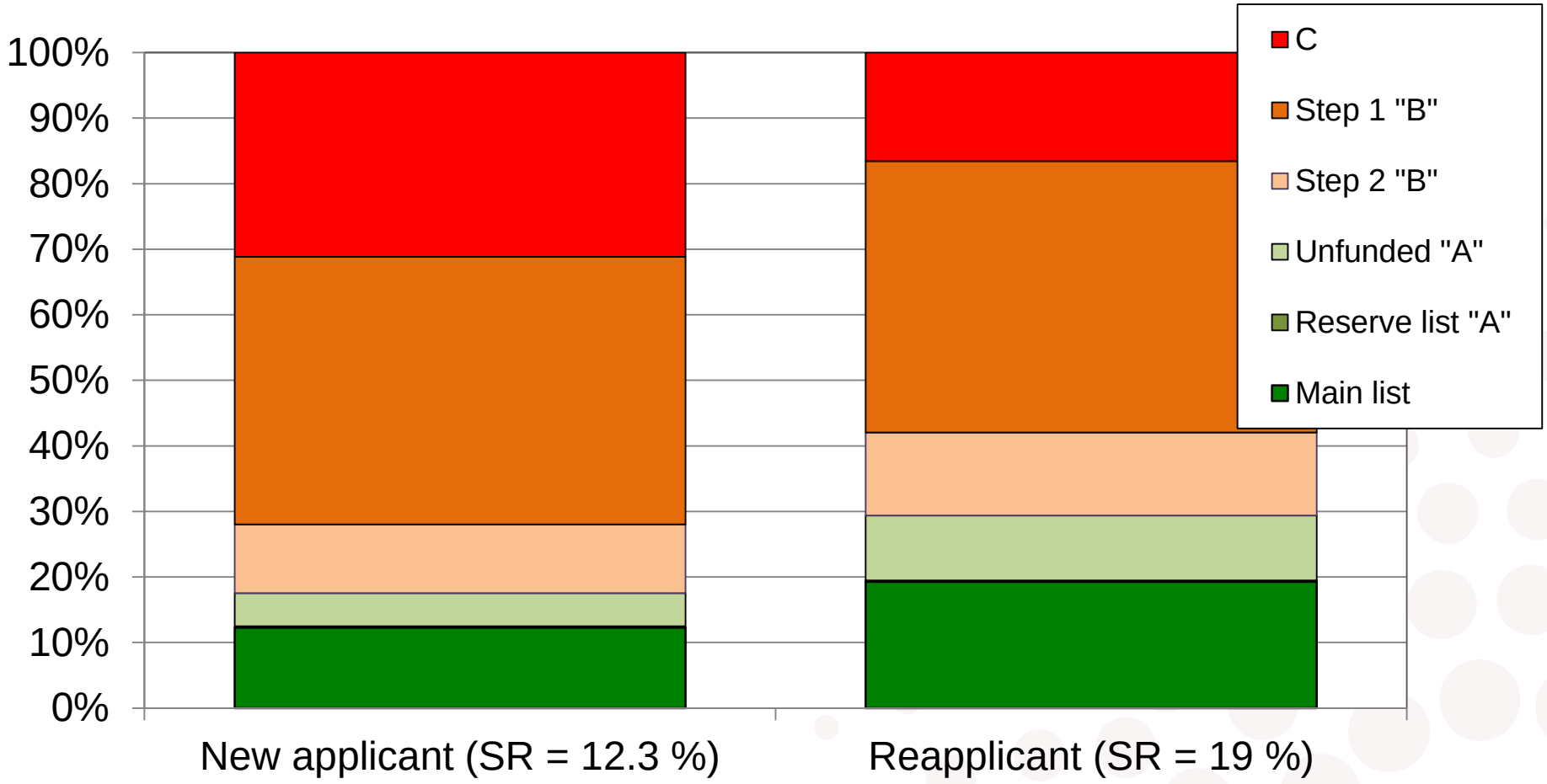
European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- No restriction on number of times applicant may reapply
- No restriction on number of grants
- Time restrictions apply to applications of low quality
- The average number of submissions before granting is 1.5
- The highest number of submissions before receipt of first grant is 7

PERSISTENCE PAYS!

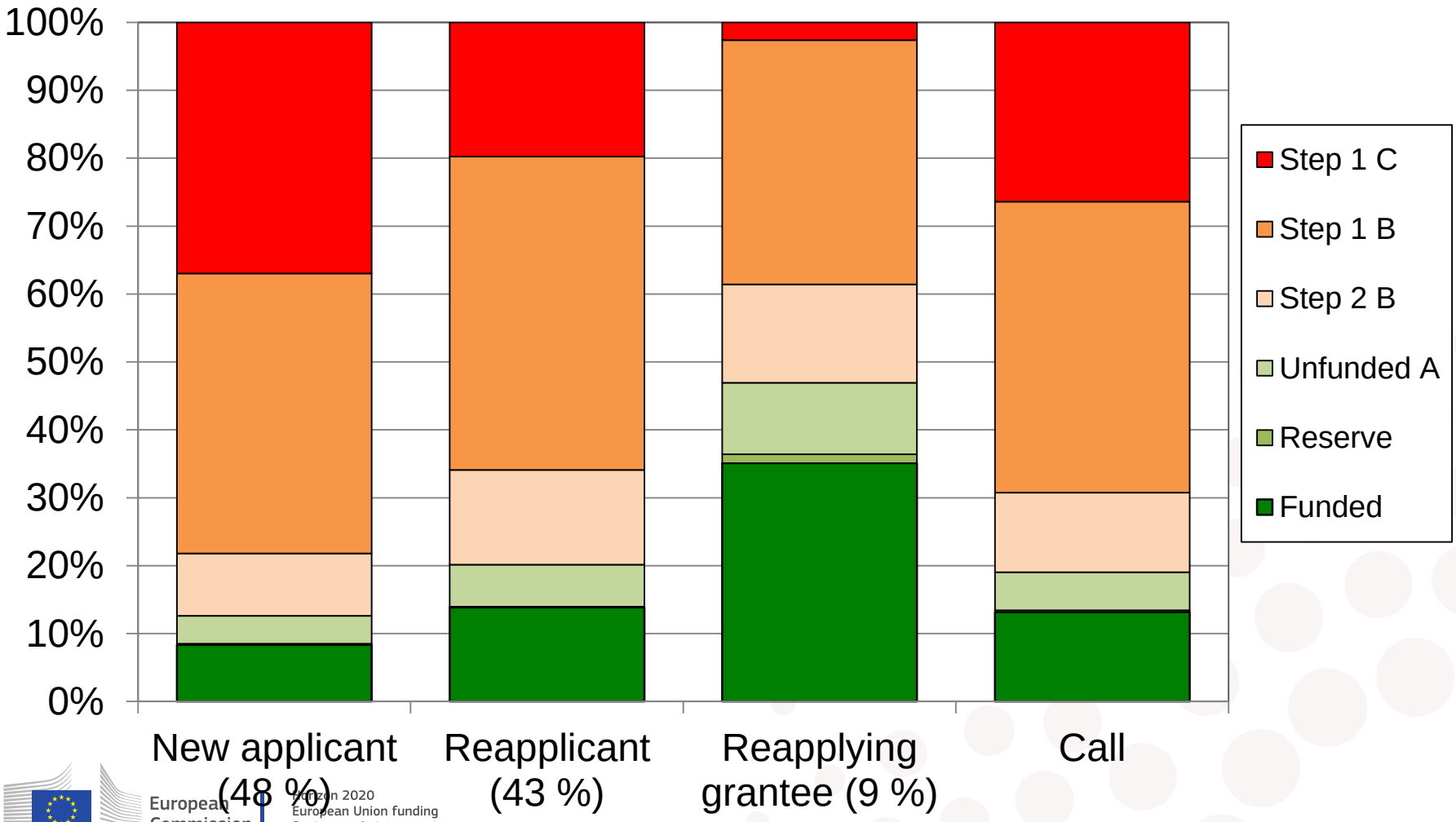
STG 2017 Results
Reapplications

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



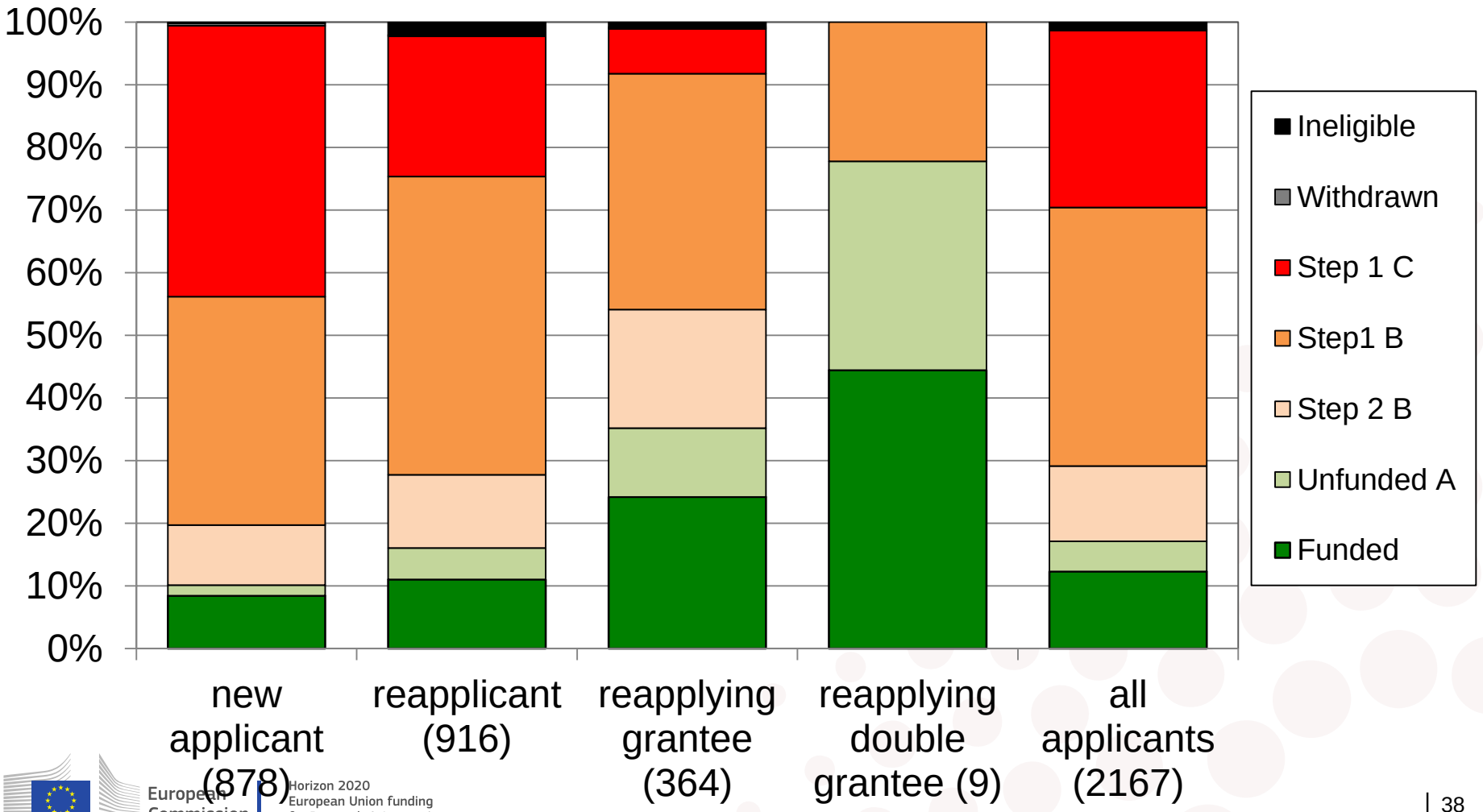
COG 2017 Results
Reapplications

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



AdG 2017 Results
Reapplications

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



ERC grantees 2007-2017

Applications before and after funding

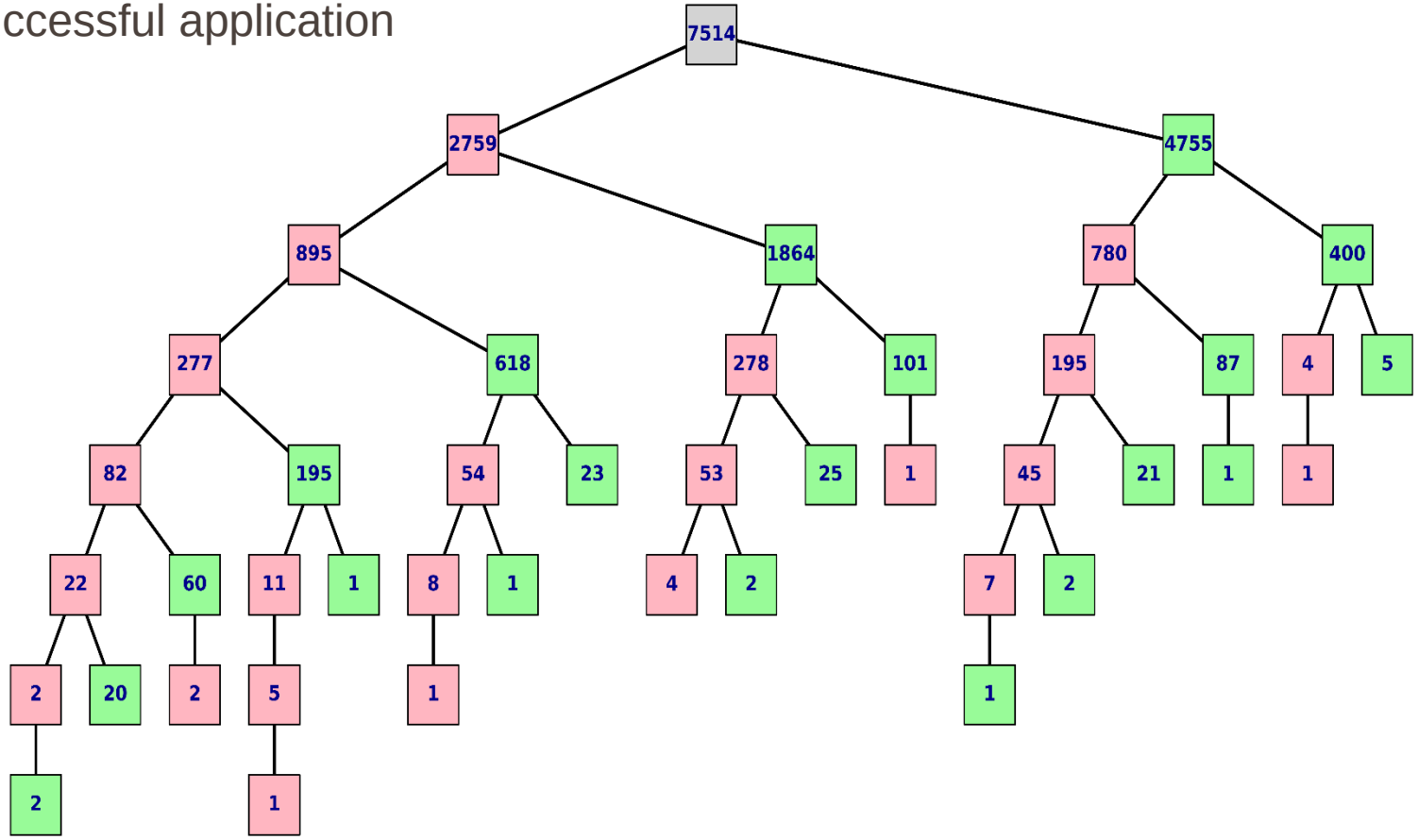
7514 grantees

European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

Unsuccessful application

Successful application



Contrary to what you may think…..

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- ✓ 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.

European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

THANK YOU !

European Commission

Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation

The European Research Council

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- 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 us on
  - www.facebook.com/EuropeanResearchCouncil
  - twitter.com/ERC_Research
  - www.linkedin.com/company/european-research-council

Awarded Projects

Separation of reporting duties

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- **4 financial reports**

- **2 scientific reports**

Granting - Key elements

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- **Invitation Letter to prepare the grant agreement:**
  The Annex outlines important and updated information for each call

- **Online grant preparation** via the Participant portal **SyGMa**

- **Electronic Signatures**:
  - 'Declaration of Honour'
  - EXCEPTION: Supplementary agreement

The European Research Council

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

The ERC Synergy Grants

Monique Smaihi
Head of Sector Call Coordination
Scientific Department
ERCEA
Monique.Smaihi@ec.europa.eu

Lisbon , 2 July 2019

Overview

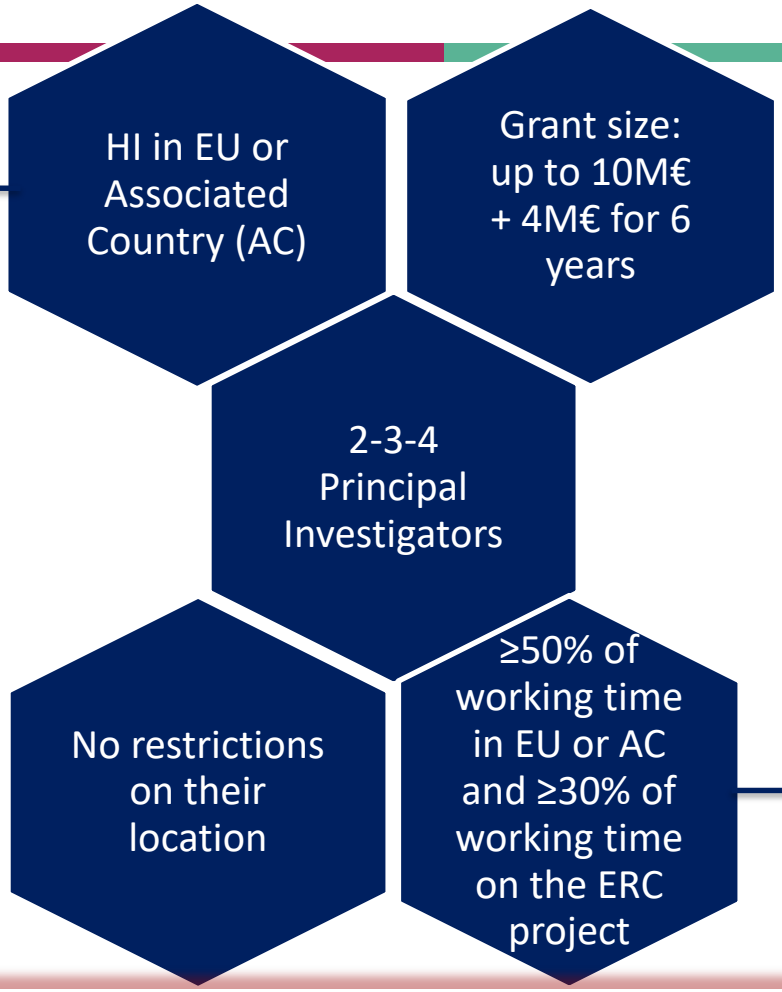
European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- Features of a Synergy grant
- Preparing an application
- Evaluation process and timeline
- Evaluation principles and criteria
- Hints and tips
- SyG 2018- SyG 2019 proposals overview

The ERC Synergy call in a nutshell

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

SyG2019-2020:
possible for one PI to be outside of EU or AC



SyG2019-2020:
does not apply to the PI applying with a Host Institution outside of EU or AC

SyG2020 call: opening mid July 2019 with submission deadline on 5 November 2019

ERC Synergy Grant features

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

2-3-4 PIs	• Can apply from anywhere in the world when they apply • One PI (not the corresponding PI) can apply with HI outside of EU or Associated Countries
MAX 10 M€ + 4M€	• **Call budget for 2020: 350 M€** • Allow for **funding of ~40 projects** • Additional **max 4M€ globally** for the project
UP TO 6 YEARS	• Max of 10M€ reduced *pro rata* for shorter duration
4M€ MAX IN ADDITION FOR	• 'start-up' costs for Principal Investigators moving to the EU or AC and/or • the purchase of major equipment and/or • access to large facilities and/or • NEW: other major experimental and field work costs, excluding personnel costs.

ERC Synergy grant scheme

Objectives

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

SYNERGETIC ASPECT	• PIs must demonstrate the complementarities that could lead to **breakthroughs that would not be possible by the individual Principal Investigators working alone**. • End result is substantially greater than the sum of individual components.
AMBITIOUS RESEARCH PROBLEM	• Achieve substantial advances at the frontiers of knowledge • New productive lines of enquiry • New methods and techniques, including unconventional approaches and investigations at the interface between established disciplines, • Transformative research on a global scale.

ERC Synergy grant scheme

Profile of the Principal Investigators

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

EQUALITY AMONG PIs	• A designated corresponding PI (cPI) and corresponding HI (cHI) will be the administrative contacts for the duration of the project
STRONG COMMITMENT	• ≥50% of working time in EU or Associated Countries (AC) • ≥30% of working time on the ERC project • SyG2019: 50% commitment requirement to stay in EU or AC does not apply to the PI outside of EU or AC

ERC Synergy

Profile of the Principal Investigators

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

PIs CAN BE OF ANY CAREER STAGE	• They have to present either an early achievement track-record (Starting or Consolidator stage) or • A 10-year track-record (Advanced grant stage), **whichever the applicants consider most appropriate** for their career stage
COMPLEMENTARY EXPERTISE	• Research objectives can only be achieved through the specific combination of knowledge and skills brought by the PIs. • Complementarity of the PIs is essential
JOINT EFFORT	• To foster research at intellectual frontiers • To allow for new combination of skills and disciplines • To bring together researchers be that from the same institution or different institutions in the country or EU and Associated Countries wide

ERC Synergy Grant features

Synergy aspects

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

NOT SYNERGY

Standard cooperation or networking between PIs

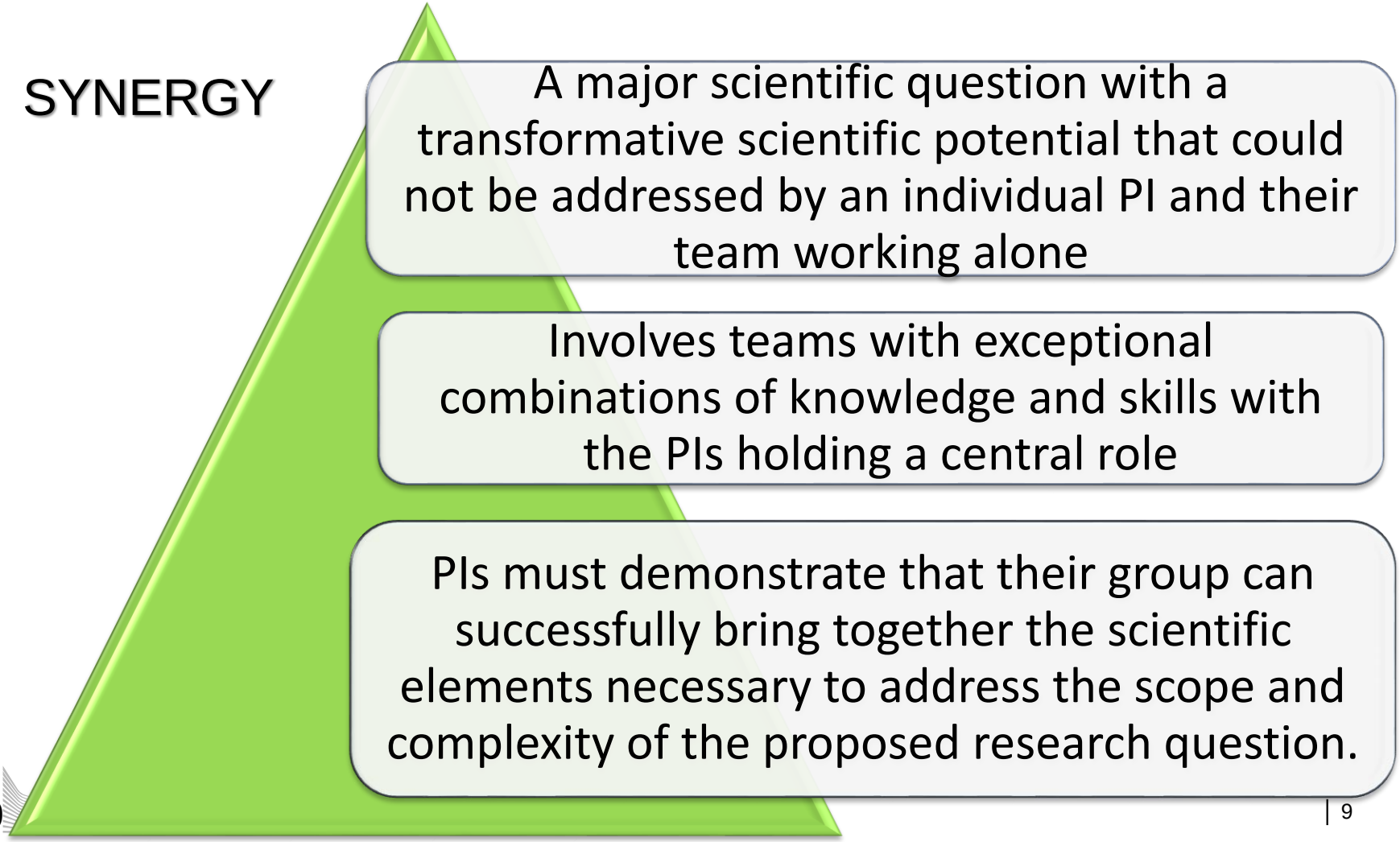
Simple passing of data or information from one team to another

Note: The proposed work does not need to cover more than one discipline or field to be considered for the Synergy grants

ERC Synergy Grant features

Synergy aspects

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



9

Overview

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- Features of a Synergy grant
- Preparing an application
- Evaluation process and timeline
- Evaluation principles and criteria
- Hints and tips
- SyG 2018- SyG 2019 proposals overview

ERC Synergy Grant Scheme - Proposal Structure

In step 1 only part B1 is reviewed.

Administrative data and eligibility are checked by ERC staff.

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

Administrative forms (Part A)

- Administrative information
- Budget
- Ethics
- Call specific questions

4-6 ERC keywords to be selected (panels are not defined at submission)

NEW in SyG2020

Annexes

Commitment of the each Host Institution, ethics docs, etc.

Part B1 (submitted as pdf)

- 5 pages Synopsis,
- 2 pages for the CVs of each PI,
- 2 pages for the track record for each PI
- Appendix – Funding ID

Part B2 (submitted as pdf)

Evaluated only in Step 2 & 3

- 15 pages scientific proposal (budget and references excluded)
- each PI to indicate their budget breakdown,
- in addition : one joint budget table

Indicative resubmission restrictions

July 2019: These restrictions may still be changed and are pending on the approval of the ERC Work Programme 2020.

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

Evaluation		Can a PI apply to		
Result of SyG2019	**Step**	**StG/CoG call in 2020?**	**AdG call in 2020?**	**SyG call in 2020?**
C	1	yes (New)	no	no
B	1	yes	yes	no
B	2	yes	yes	yes (New)
A or B	3	yes	yes	yes
Applicants to previous StG/CoG/AdG ERC calls can apply to the SyG2020 call regardless of the score received previously.				
To be eligible for SyG2020: a running ERC grant has to end before 5 November 2021				
A PI can be part of only one application published under the same Work Programme regardless of the call. The first application will be considered, the subsequent ones will be declared ineligible.				

Overview

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- Features of a Synergy grant
- Preparing an application
- Evaluation process and timeline
- Evaluation principles and criteria
- Hints and tips
- SyG 2018- SyG 2019 proposals overview

2019 ERC Synergy Grants
Evaluation process

European Research Council

Step 1

Single panel

~700 proposals

Remote evaluation of short proposals

- PMs + PEVs (PMs of other calls)

Panel chairs meeting: proposals selected for Step2

- 150-230 proposals
- up to ~7x call budget

Scores : A, B, C

Step 2

5 panels dynamically formed

Remote evaluation of full proposals

- PMs + external specialized reviewers

Panel meetings: proposals selected for interview

- ~80proposals
- up to ~3x call budget

A, B

Step 3

5 interview panels (max) dynamically formed

PMs reassess the proposals

- based on step 2 reports
- Interviews: all PIs of all proposals

Panels rank the fundable proposals

- ~40 proposals

A, B

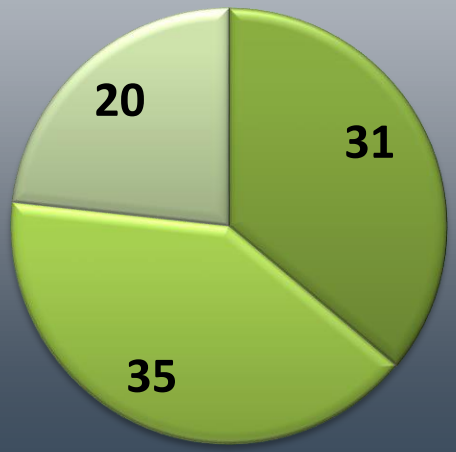
SyG 2018 Step 1: Who were the reviewers?

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

186 Reviewers; 27 Nationalities; 59 Men and 28 Women

Scientific background

87 Panel Members - PM
(5 chairs and 6 vice chairs)

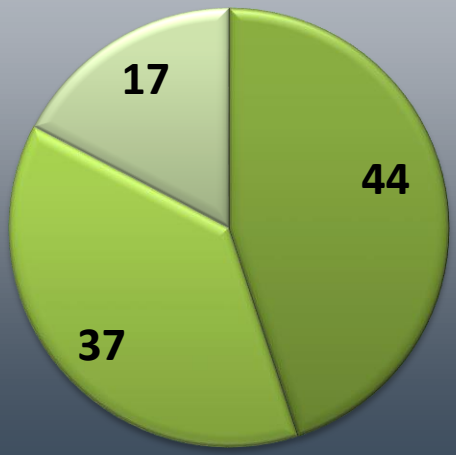


Life Sciences (LS)

Physical Sciences and Engineering (PE)

Social Sciences and Humanities (SH)

99 Panel Evaluators - PEVs
(Panel members from other ERC Calls)

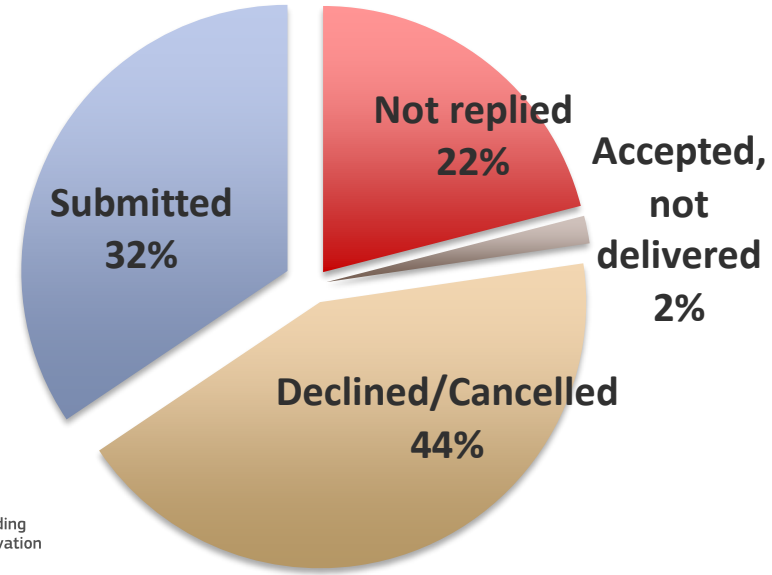


SyG2018 Step 2 & 3 : Who were the reviewers?

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- Panel members: about 85 in 5 panels
- Remote referees (unpaid): 2681 invited – 851 reviews delivered
- Each proposal had 8 to13 reviews

Remote referees replies to ERC's invitation to review in step 2



Overview

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- Features of a Synergy grant
- Preparing an application
- Evaluation process and timeline
- Evaluation principles and criteria
- Hints and tips
- SyG 2018- SyG 2019 proposals overview

What are the evaluation criteria?

Sole evaluation criterion: research quality at two levels

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

1. EXCELLENCE OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT	• Similar to the other Frontier ERC grants : ground breaking, ambition, feasibility • Synergetic aspects : working arrangements (innovative, collaborative,…) • Scientific added-value • In **step 1** the **feasibility** is assessed only (methodology in step 2)
2. EXCELLENCE OF THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS	• Similar to the other Frontier ERC grants (each PI assessed according to their career benchmarks) : intellectual capacity, creativity • Synergetic aspects : complementarities • Commitment evaluated in step 2 and 3 only

Overview

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- Features of a Synergy grant
- Preparing an application
- Evaluation process and timeline
- Evaluation principles and criteria
- Hints and tips
- SyG 2018- SyG 2019 proposals overview

Typical reasons for rejection

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

Principal investigators

- Insufficient track-record
- Complementarity of PIs not evident enough
- Not evident that the necessary elements can be succesfully brought together (skills, knowledge, experience, expertise, disciplines, methods, approaches, teams)

Proposed project

- Scope: Too narrow ←→ too broad/unfocussed
- Not synergetic enough
- Incremental research
- Work plan not detailed enough/unclear
- Insufficient risk management

Poor interview: prepare well! (all PIs in step 3 are invited to Brussels)

Hints and tips
When writing the CVs…

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- Remember that the CVs/Track Records are as important as the project!
- Explain what has been each PI's own contribution to their key publications.
- Explain publishing habits in the field and country if needed.
- If the PI knows that he/she has gaps or other issues in the CV (e.g. co-authored publications), explain them.
- Describe activities which can indicate scientific maturity.
- Use the CV template provided by the ERC in the submission system
- No need to provide PhD supporting documents

Hints and tips : Preparing an application

Differences in Part B1 and Part B2

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

In **Step 1**: **Panel members** (**act as generalists**) they see **only Part B1** of your 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!
- Synergetic aspects : crucial - complementarity and possibly interdisciplinarity (if any) to be emphasised
- **Only the extended Synopsis is read at Step 1**: **concise and clear presentation** is crucial **(Outline** of the **methodological approach** – feasibility is assessed
- Show , if applicable for StG and CoG profiles, the **scientific independence** in the CVs, the scientific leadership in the AdG profile
- **Funding ID** to be filled in carefully for each PI

Hints and tips : Preparing an application

Differences in Part B1 and Part B2

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- In **Step 2** : Both **Part B1 and B2** are sent to specialists (**specialised external referees**)
  - Do not just repeat the synopsis in part B2
  - Provide **sufficient detail** on methodology, work plan, selection of case studies etc. (15 pages) (references do not count towards page limit)
  - Check coherency of figures, **justify requested resources** (outside of 15 pages)
  - Explain **involvement of additional team members** (it is possible to have further beneficiaries/partners in the project)
  - Provide alternative strategies to **mitigate risk**

In Step 3: no new reviews are written, but part B1 and B2 are re-assessed

Overview

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- Features of a Synergy grant
- Preparing an application
- Evaluation process and timeline
- Evaluation principles and criteria
- Hints and tips
- SyG 2018- SyG 2019 proposals overview

SyG 2018 and 2019 Overview

2019 Budget 400 M € (40-45 projects to be funded, ~ 14% success rate)

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

		2018	2019
Proposals received		300	288 (- 4%)
PIs		980	951
	Average # PIs	3.3	3.3
	Female PIs	21% (208)	23% (223)
HIs		465	454
	Average # HIs	2.8	2.8
	Average # beneficiaries	3.0	3.1
# proposals with partners		68 (23%)	47 (16%)
# proposals with an HI outside of EU or H2020 Associated Country		-	56

SyG 2018 and 2019 Overview

2019 Budget 400 M € (40-45 projects to be funded, ~ 14% success rate)

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

	2018	2019
Average Duration	69 months	69 months
Average budget requested	8.4 M€	8.6 M€
# Ineligible	4	3
# Passed to Step 2	154	182 (+ 18%)
Step 1 SR	51%	64%
% Awarded C	17%	9%
% PI Female passed to step 2	17%	23%
Budget multiplier (max 7)	5.75	4.26

SyG 2018 funded proposals

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- Large variety of teams'organisation and working arrangements

- High diversity of thematics :
    - Challenging goal in a field of research
    - Emerging fields
    - Multidisciplinary projects

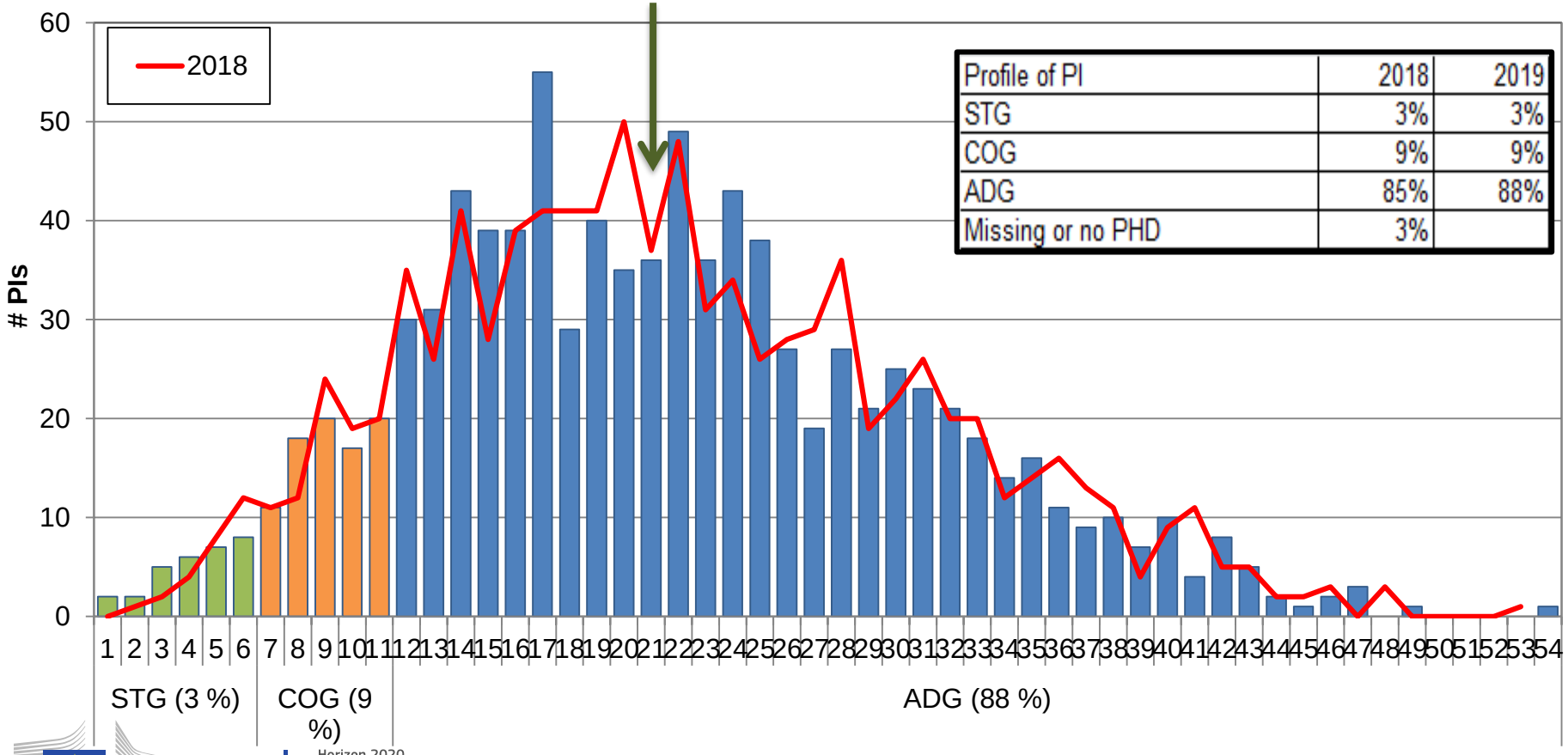
- For some projects, the ERC award has been complemented by local/national institutions

SYG 2019 PIs' Profile

SyG2020: intended relaxation of resubmission rules for early career scientists in an effort to encourage their applications to the SyG call

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

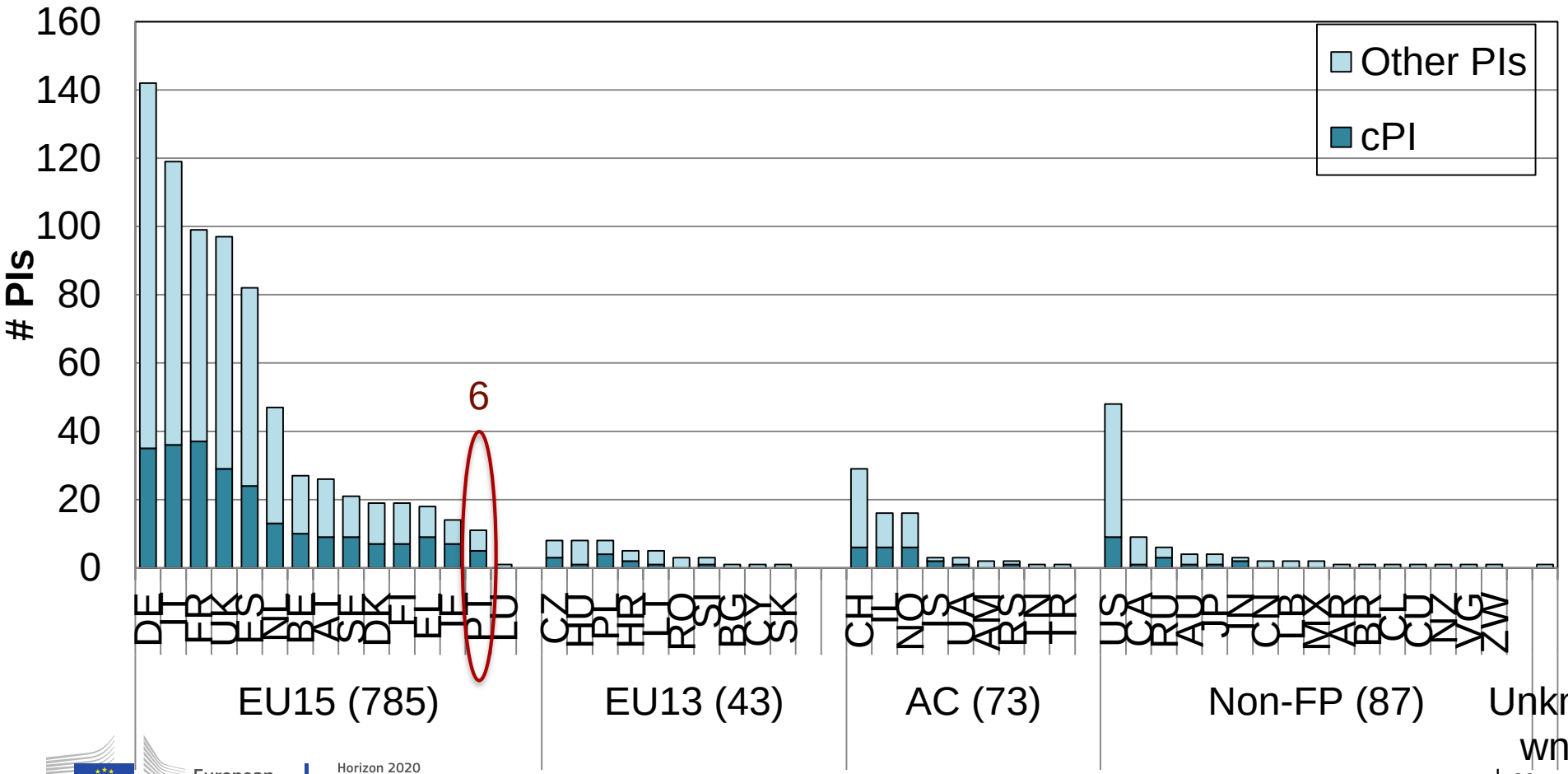
SYG 2019 PIs: # years since PhD
88 % "ADG" profile, median = 21 years



Profile of PI	2018	2019
STG	3%	3%
COG	9%	9%
ADG	85%	88%
Missing or no PHD	3%	

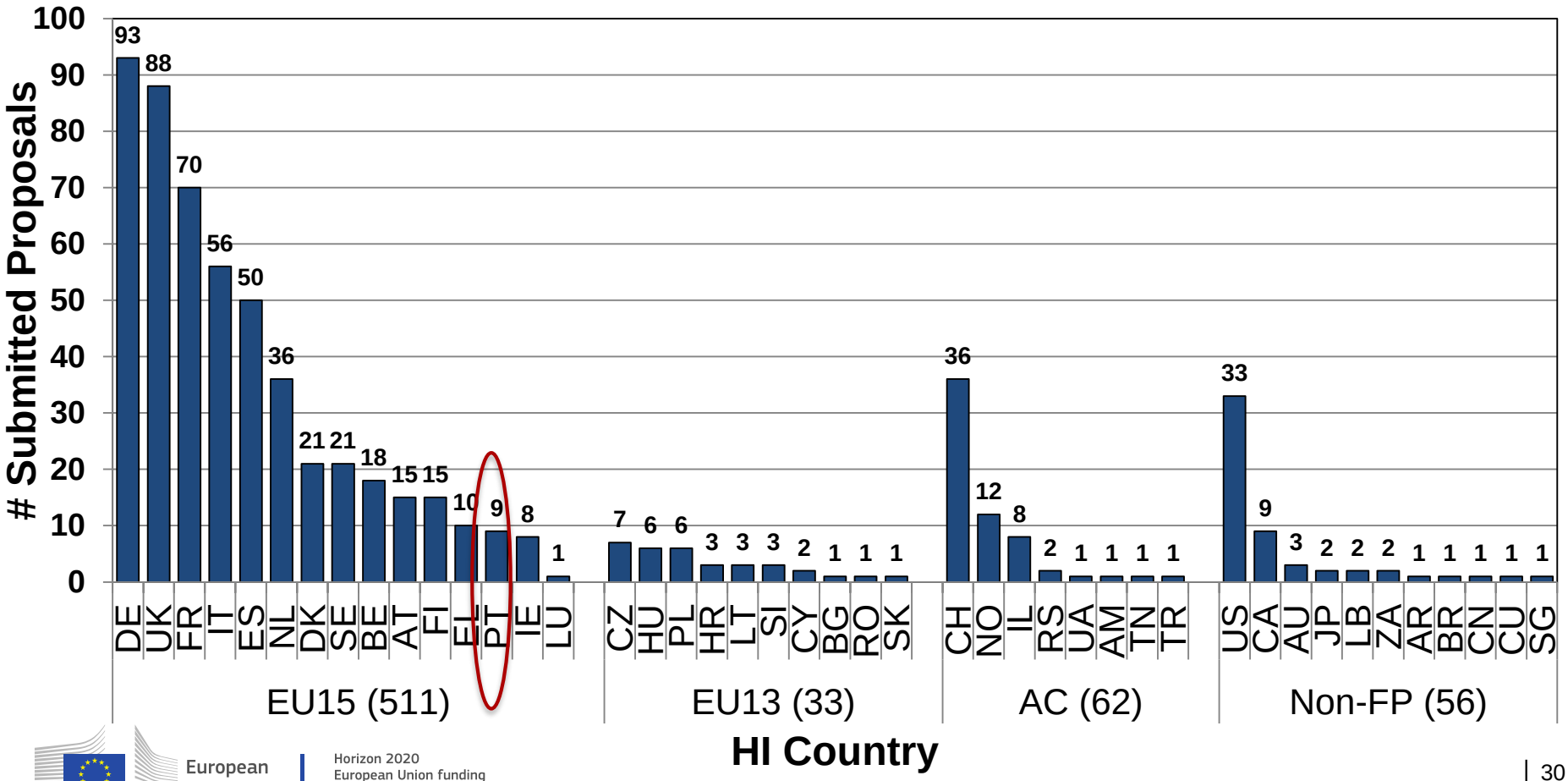
SYG 2019 PIs' Nationality

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



SYG 2019 Host Institutions

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



Preparing your application
Information sources

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- Statistics & latest funding opportunities: https://erc.europa.eu/
  - 4 videos about ongoing Synergy grants
- View the **step-by-step video** Introduction to application process, including tips & tricks for the interview: https://vimeo.com/94179654
- **Help tools and call documents** (**Information for Applicants**, Work Programme, Frequently Asked Questions) to prepare your proposal
- **Talk to your Institution's grant office and other ERC grantees**
- **Contact your National Contact Point if you have questions**

SUMMARY

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- Highly competitive call
- Proposals likely to be funded will :
  - demonstrate that the **truly ambitious** research questions could lead to breakthroughs **only through the joint effort** of the complementary and synergistic group of PIs.
  - yield possibly either unforeseen, completely new science, to cross fertilize disciplines or to solve important research problems that until now could not be dreamt of solving.
- Early career applicants are encouraged to apply
  - Regardless of the score received in SyG2019, applicants will be to apply to the StG and CoG calls under the ERC Work Programme 2020.

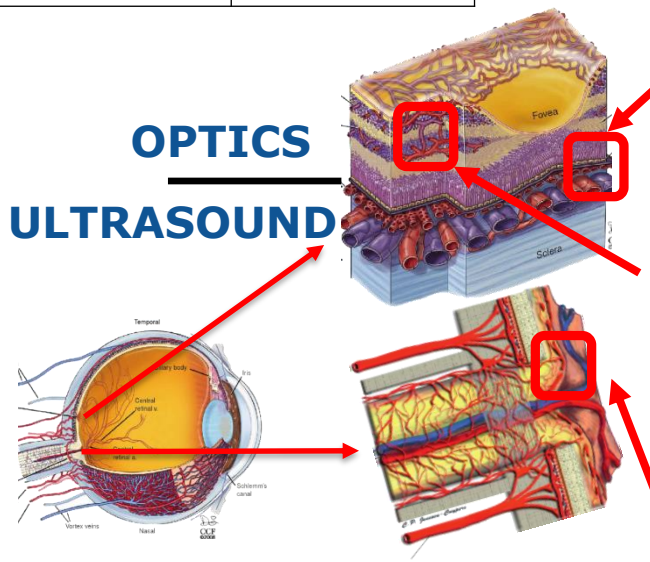
SyG2012 : HELMHOLTZ

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- *"Holistic evaluation of light and multiwave applications to high resolution imaging in ophthalmic translational research revisiting the helmholtzian synergies"*

José-Alain SAHEL	Fondation Voir et Entendre	FR
Mathias FINK	Fondation Pierre-Gilles de Gennes	FR

"The eye, a 'small brain' with easily accessible structures,
at the crossroad of human diseases"



11 861 923 €

European Commission
Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation

SyG2012 : dHCP

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

"The Developing Human Connectome Project"

Anthony David Edwards	King's College London	UK
Joseph Hajnal	King's College	UK
Daniel Rueckert	Imperial College	UK
Stephen Smith	Oxford University	UK

Create a dynamic map of human brain connectivity from 20 to 44 weeks post-conceptional age, which will link together imaging, clinical, behavioural, and genetic information.

http://www.developingconnectome.org/

14 900 000 €

European Commission
Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation

SyG 2013: BlackHoleCam

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

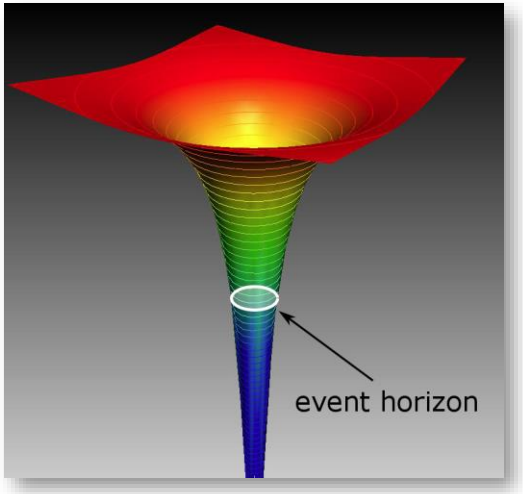
- *"Imaging the Event Horizon of Black Holes"*

Heino Falcke	Stichting Katholieke Universiteit / Radboud University Nijmegen	NL
Micheal Kramer	Max-Planck-Institut für Radioastronomie	DE
Luciano Rezzolla	Max Planck Institute for Gravitational Physics/Albert Einstein Institute	DE

'Are black holes just a theorist's dream?'

'Prove the existence of event horizons, one of the cornerstones of general relativity '

https://blackholecam.org/



13 975 744 €

ERC SyG 2018

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

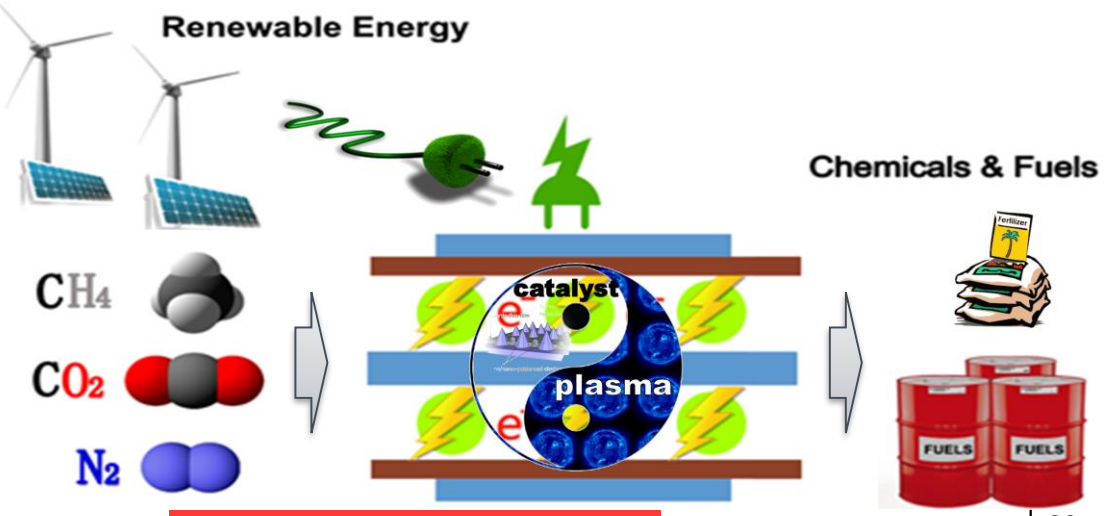
Scope – *"Surface-COnfined fast-modulated Plasma for process and Energy intensification in small molecules conversion"*

Gabriele CENTI (IT)	**University of Messina**	**IT**
Annemie BOGAERTS (BE)	University of Antwerp	BE
Volker HESSEL (DE)	Technische Universiteit Eindhoven	DE
Evgeny REBROV (RU)	The University of Warwick	UK

Aim:

Change the way to provide energy for chemical transformations → electrified chemical processes

Approach using renewable energy, with a drastically lower carbon footprint in three major industrial reactions: 1) N2 fixation, 2) CH4 valorization and 3) CO2 conversion to liquid solar fuels.



Budget: 9 979 270 €

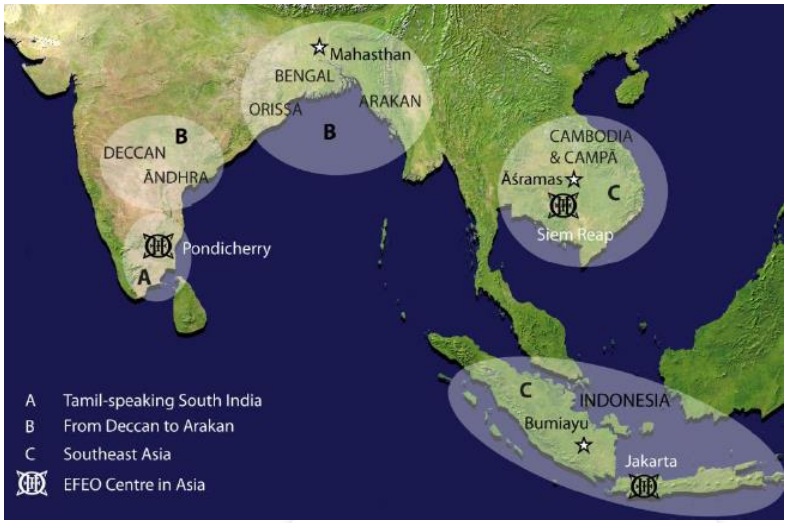
SyG 2018: DHARMA

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- **DHARMA - The Domestication of 'Hindu' Asceticism and the Religious Making of South and Southeast Asia**

Emmanuel FRANCIS (BE)	**CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE**	**FR**
Arlo GRIFFITHS (NL)	ÉCOLE FRANÇAISE D'EXTRÊME-ORIENT	FR
Annette SCHMIEDCHEN (DE)	HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITÄT	DE

- An investigation of Hinduism in a broad range of regional contexts in South and South East Asia to uncover the complex interplay of religion, state and society in between the 6th and 13th centuries.



European Commission | Horizon 2020 European Union funding for Research & Innovation

Budget: 9 820 868 €

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

THANK YOU!

OBRIGADO!

Don't hesitate to contact us:

ERC-SYG-APPLICANTS@ec.europa.eu

ERC SyG 2020 Evaluation questions

SyG2020: check the ERC Work Programme or Information for Applicants to the SyG2020 call in July 2019 for the evaluation questions

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

Criterion 1 - Research Project

The following are used in STEP 1, 2 and 3. The answers to the below questions should be found in part B1, as only the short synopsis is evaluated at step 1.

Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project

- To what extent does the proposed research address important challenges?
- To what extent are the objectives ambitious and beyond the state of the art (e.g. novel concepts and approaches or development between or across disciplines)?
- To what extent is the proposed research high risk/high gain (i.e. if successful the payoffs will be very significant, but there is a higher-than-normal risk that the research project does not entirely fulfil its aims)?

Scientific Approach

- To what extent is the outlined scientific approach feasible bearing in mind the extent that the proposed research is high risk/high gain?
- To what extent does the proposal go beyond what the individual Principal Investigators could achieve alone?
- Reformulated question: To what extent is the combination of scientific elements put forward in the proposal crucial to address the scope and complexity of the research

ERC SyG 2020 Evaluation questions - continued

SyG2020: check the ERC Work Programme or Information for Applicants to the SyG2020 call in July 2019 for the evaluation questions

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

Further questions relating to Criterion 1 Research project

used only in STEP 2 and 3, when the reviewers have access to both parts of application, part B1 and B2 :

- To what extent are the proposed research methodology and working arrangements appropriate to achieve the goals of the project (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?
- To what extent does the proposal involve the development of novel methodology (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?
- To what extent are the proposed timescales, resources and PI commitment adequate and properly justified (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?

ERC SyG 2020 Evaluation questions - continued

SyG2020: check the ERC Work Programme or Information for Applicants to the SyG2020 call in July 2019 for the evaluation questions (slight modifications)

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

Criterion 2 – Principal Investigators – **used in all steps**

Intellectual capacity, creativity and commitment

- To what extent have the PIs demonstrated the ability to conduct ground-breaking research?
- To what extent do the PIs have the required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project?

New question used only in STEP 2 and 3:

- To what extent does the Synergy Grant Group successfully demonstrate in the proposal that it brings together the elements – such as skills, knowledge, experience, expertise, disciplines, methods, approaches, teams – necessary to address the proposed research question (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?

Hints and tips
Questions to ask yourself as an applicant

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

Principal Investigators

- Is each of the PIs internationally competitive as a researcher at each of their career stage and in each of their discipline?
- Is each of the PIs able to work independently, and to manage a 6-year project with a substantial budget?
- How strong is the group of PIs as a whole?
- Does the proposal demonstrate that the Pis bring together the necessary elements to address the research question?

Hints and tips
How to prepare an ERC SyG proposal?

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- Have an **original and exciting idea t**hat requires the **joint effort** of 2 or 3 or 4 PIs
- **Design a research project** to implement the idea
  - It is not about a consortium, but about a tight-knit small group of PIs and their teams. The PIs are equal and indispensable for the project!
- Get a letter of support from your **Host Institution**- note a change for SyG2020 (in Syg2019, only the corresponding HI provided a letter)
  - SyG2020: each HI has to provide a support letter for the PI(s) hosted by them*
- **Write** the research proposal (carefully plan the resources)
  - Choose carefully the 4-6 keywords: applications are not submitted to a StG/CoG/AdG types of the panels
- Read carefully the **evaluation criteria** and try to ensure that the reviewers can find the answers to them in your proposal (part B2 is not a mere repetition of part B1)
- **Get feedback** from your peers
- **Submit** your research proposal **before the deadline** -> fully electronic/web based submission system

* Pending on the approval of the ERC Work Programme 2020)

Hints and tips
Questions to ask yourself as an applicant

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

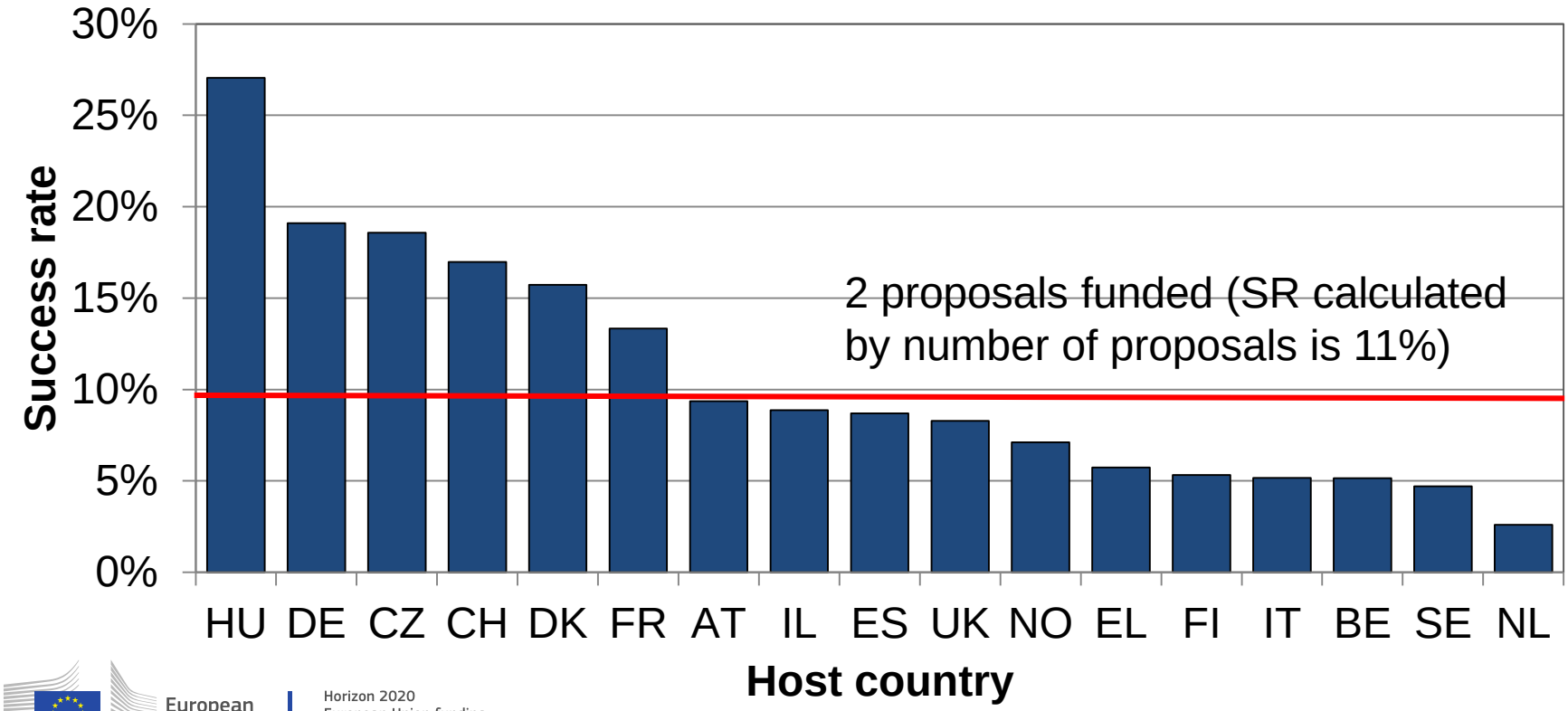
Research Project

- Why is the proposed project important?
- Does it promise to go substantially beyond the state of the art?
- Has it the chance the cross-fertilize disciplines?
- What is the scientific transformative potential?
- Does it have a grand challenge that can boost European research?
- Why are we the best/only persons to carry it out?
- Why is this particular combination of the PIs the best for the project?
- Is the other person(s) really needed as a PI or only as a team member?
- Is it timely? (Why wasn't it done in the past? Is it feasible now?)
- What's the risk? Is it justified by a substantial potential gain? Do we have a plan for managing the risk?

SyG 2018 Results

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

SYG 2018 Success rate (SR) by HI country
calculated by total awarded / total requested budget
Overall SR = 9.6



Evaluation reports (ER) sent to the applicants

After the proposals are discussed in the panel meeting, a final score is awarded and the decision summarised in a panel comment

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

STEP 1 REJECTED PROPOSALS	• Predefined standard panel comment based on the score, summarizing the decision taken by the panel • Individual assessments, without names and grades • Possible scores given by the panel: 'A', 'B', 'C' • For 'A' score (passed to step 2) ERs are not provided
STEP 2 REJECTED PROPOSALS	• Carefully drafted panel comments for each rejected proposal • Individual assessments, without names and grades • Possible scores: 'A', 'B' • For 'A' score (passed to step 3) ERs are not provided
STEP 3 **ALL** PROPOSALS	• Carefully drafted panel comments for each proposal • Individual assessments, without names and grades • Possible scores: 'A', 'B' • Outcome based on ranking: 'A' –(funded; reserve; not funded, but excellent quality) 'B'- not fundable

Hints and tips
How to prepare an ERC SyG proposal?

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

THINK BIG

Explain the budget properly!

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- Budget analysis carried out in Step 3 evaluation.
- Panels have the responsibility to ensure that resources requested are reasonable and well justified.
- Budget cuts need to be justified on a proposal-by-proposal basis (no across-the-board cuts).

Not explained costs are often cut!

- Panels recommend a final maximum budget based on the resources allocated/removed.
- Awards made on a 'take-it-or-leave-it' basis: no negotiations.
- Ask for funding for Open Access in case needed– this is obligatory in Horizon2020!

Rumour : *Ask for more money, the reviewers will anyhow cut it down.*

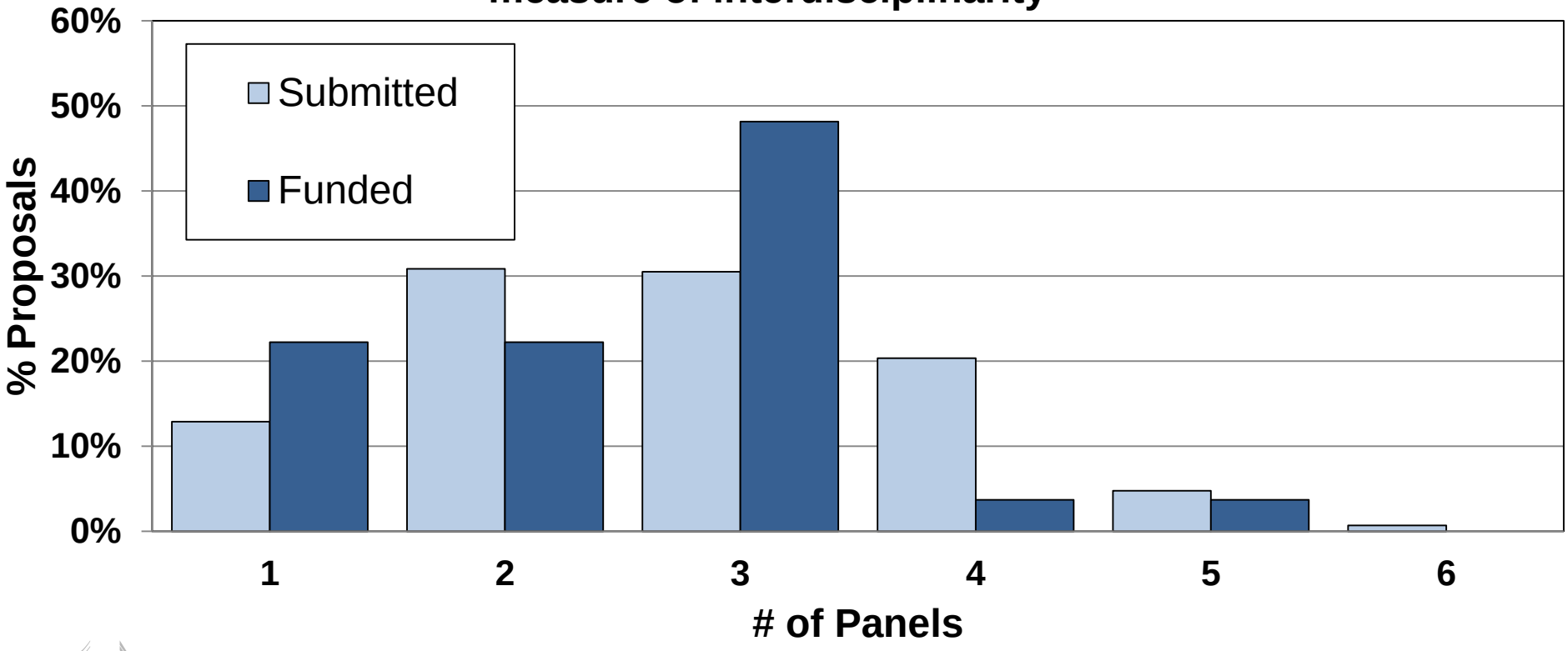
✘ **NOT true**: however, unexplained or non-motivated requests can be cut, so if you artificially inflate your budget, it will be reduced.

SyG 2018 funded proposals

Majority are interdisciplinary, across multiple 'regular' ERC panels

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

Number of panels spanned by using keywords selected by the applicants in the submitted and funded proposals – one possible measure of interdisciplinarity



SyG 2018: Proposals selected for funding SH

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- **EXPLO - Exploring the dynamics and causes of prehistoric land use change in the cradle of European farming**

Albert HAFNER (CH)	**UNIVERSITY OF BERN**	**CH**
Willy TINNER (CH)		
Amy BOGAARD (CA)	UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD	UK
Kostas KOSTAKIS (EL)	ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI	HL

EXPLO aims to understand the introduction, evolution and environmental context of early agriculture in the southern Balkans and northern Greece by combining archaeological, bioarchaeological, palaeoecological and palaeoenvironmental approaches within the context of Neolithic and Bronze Age wetland sites.

European Commission | Horizon 2020 European Union funding for Research & Innovation

Budget: 6 403 199€

SyG 2018: Proposals selected for funding SH

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

EuQu- The European Qur'an

Mercedes GARCIA-ARENAL (ES)	AGENCIA ESTATAL CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS	ES
Roberto TOTTOLI (IT)	UNIVERSITÀ DI NAPOLI L'ORIENTALE	IT
Jan LOOP (CH)	UNIVERSITY OF KENT	UK
John TOLAN (FR)	UNIVERSITÉ DE NANTES	FR

LVTHERS
ALCORAN
Being
A Treatise first written in French by the Learned Cardinal Perron, of blessed memory, against the Huguenots of France.
And translated into English by R.N.V.
The Page following shews the particulars Contents of the Booke.
Which consisteth of { Symbolisms, Parallels, Identities.
Printed with Licence. M.DC.

Documenting the role that the Qur'an has played in the formation of European religious and cultural Identity as well as its intellectual history 1142 - c. 1850

Qur'an Manuscripts
1550-1600 (hypothetical)

Budget: 9 842 534 €

European Commission | Horizon 2020 European Union funding for Research & Innovation

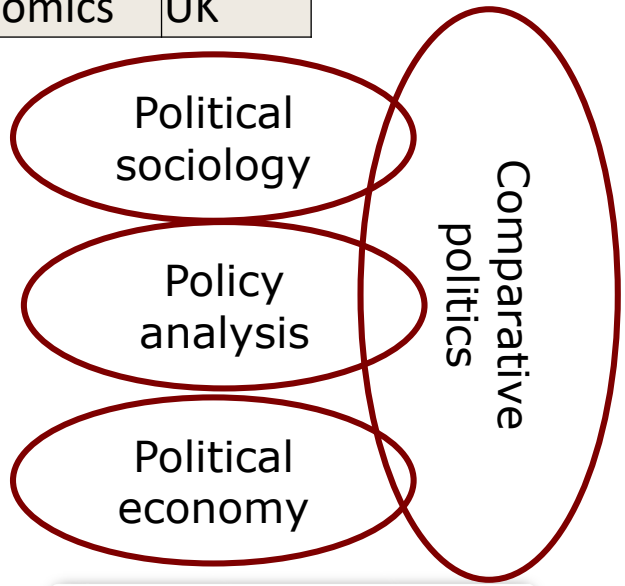
SyG 2018: Proposals selected for funding SH

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- **SOLID – "Policy Crisis and Crisis Politics. Sovereignty, Solidarity and Identity in the EU post 2008"**

Maurizio FERRERA (IT)	**University of Milan**	**IT**
Hanspeter KRIESI (CH)	European University Institute	IT
Waltraud SCHELKLE (DE)	London School of Economics	UK

- Explaining the presence of a deep crisis and apparent resilience of the EU policy
- Assessing the overall soundness of the EU's foundations in the wake of the political crisis



Budget: 9 604 138 €