

The European Research Council in H2020



European Research Council

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Contents



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ERC basics

ERC basics

What is ERC?

- An autonomous funding body set up by the EU in 2007 and led by scientists
- Funding excellent researchers of any nationality, to carry out frontier research in Europe, via annual competitions
- In all fields of science and humanities, without thematic priorities
- 1 researcher, 1 Host Institution, 1 project, 1 selection criterion
- Substantial grants and a recognised label of excellence
- International, top level peer-review

ERC basics

ERC structure



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The European Commission

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

The ERC Scientific Council

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

The ERC Executive Agency

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



- Prof. Klaus BOCK (Chemistry)
- Prof. Nicholas CANNY (History)
- Prof. Sierd A.P.L. CLOETINGH (Earth Sciences)
- Prof. Tomasz DIETL (Physics)
- Prof. Daniel DOLEV (Computer Sciences)
- Prof. Athene DONALD (Biological Physics)
- Prof. Carlos M. DUARTE (Biology)
- Dr. Barbara ENSOLI (Medicine)
- Prof. Daniel ESTEVE (Physics)
- **Prof. Pavel EXNER (Applied Mathematics & Mathematical Physics), ERC Vice President**
- Prof. Reinhard GENZEL (Astrophysics)
- **Prof. Carl-Henrik HELDIN (Molecular Cell Biology), ERC Vice President**
- Prof. Timothy HUNT (Biology)
- Prof. Matthias KLEINER (Engineering)
- Prof. Eva KONDOROSI (Biology)
- Prof. Nuria SEBASTIAN GALLES (Psychology)
- **Prof. Helga NOWOTNY (Science and Technology Studies), ERC President**
- Prof. Alain PEYRAUBE (Linguistics)
- Prof. Mart SAARMA (Biology)
- Prof. Anna TRAMONTANO (Biochemistry)
- Prof. Isabelle VERNOS (Molecular and Cell Biology)
- Prof. Reinhilde VEUGELERS (Economics)

Prof. Don Dingwell
ERC Secretary General

ERC basics

ERC funding 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

Synergy Grants

2 – 4 Principal Investigators
up to € 15.0 Mio for 6 years

Proof-of-Concept

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

ERC basics

Substantial grants to the very best

- **The Researcher (PI : Principal Investigator)**
 - ERC funds individual scientists
 - Any nationality, age or current place of work in the world
 - Starting, consolidator or advanced grant (depending on work experience and scientific achievements)

- **Research team**
 - The PI can choose national or trans-national team members if scientific added value proven
 - The grant covers the salary of team members

ERC basics

Substantial grants to fund frontier research

➤ Frontier research project

- **All fields of fundamental research:** Physical Sciences & Engineering, Life Sciences, Social Sciences & Humanities
- **Bottom-up:** no predetermined subjects, no priorities
- **High risk/high gain**
- **5 years projects**
- **No consortia, no co-funding**

➤ Host Institution (HI) in Europe

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

- Goal of the evaluation: select the best frontier research proposals
- Only evaluation criteria: excellence
- Method: peer review
- Structure: 25 panels distributed in 3 scientific domains (10 Physical Sciences, 9 Life sciences and 6 Social Sciences and Humanities)
- Each panel consists of 1 panel chair and 12-15 panel members

What makes
ERC evaluation
exceptional?



Peers
Review procedure

ERC basics

Evaluation of proposals: peers



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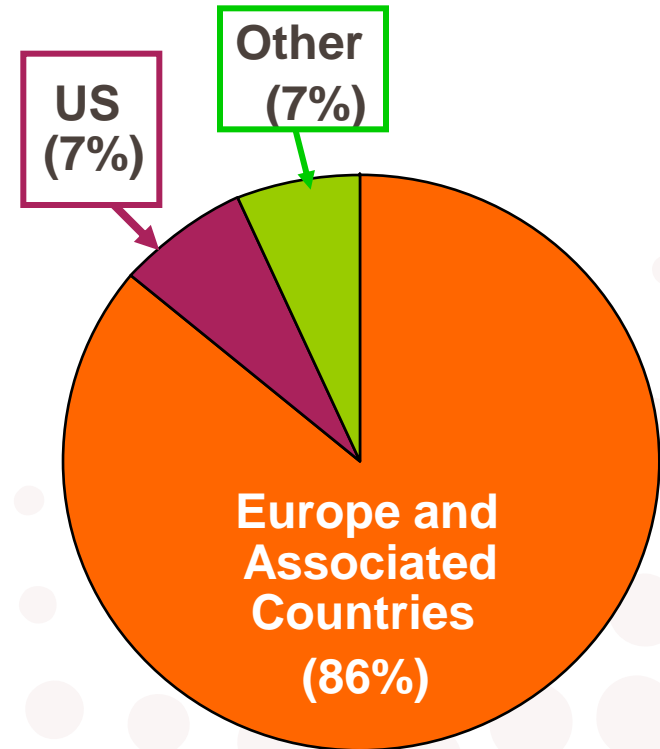
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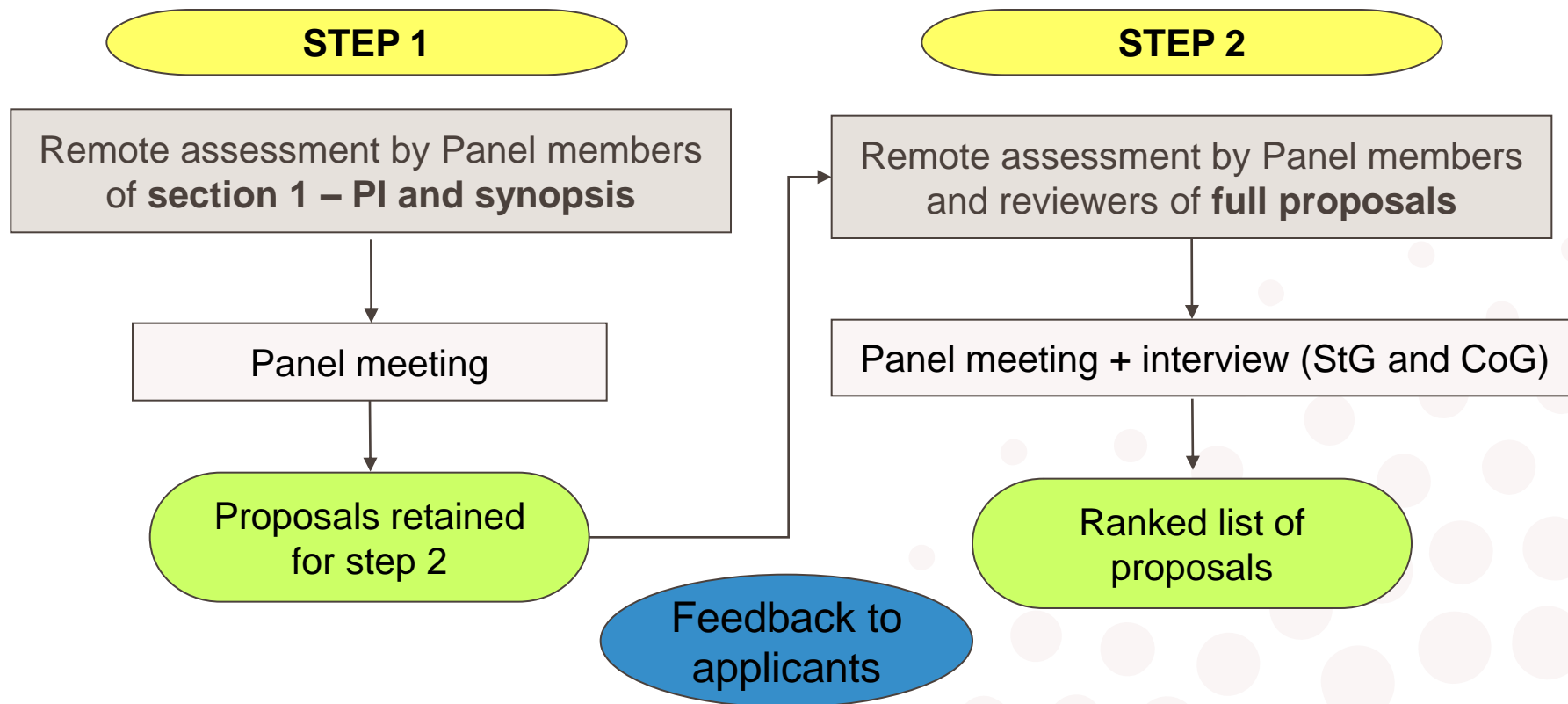
➤ Panel members: typically 375 / call


- High-level scientists
- Recruited by ScC from all over the world: ~14% from outside Europe
- About 12-15 members plus a chair person

➤ Referees: typically 2000 / call

- Evaluate only a small number of proposals
- Similar to normal practise in peer-reviewed journals





- 
- Right balance between generalist + specialized review
 - Appropriate treatment of interdisciplinary proposals
 - Good benefit-cost ratio

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 achievements

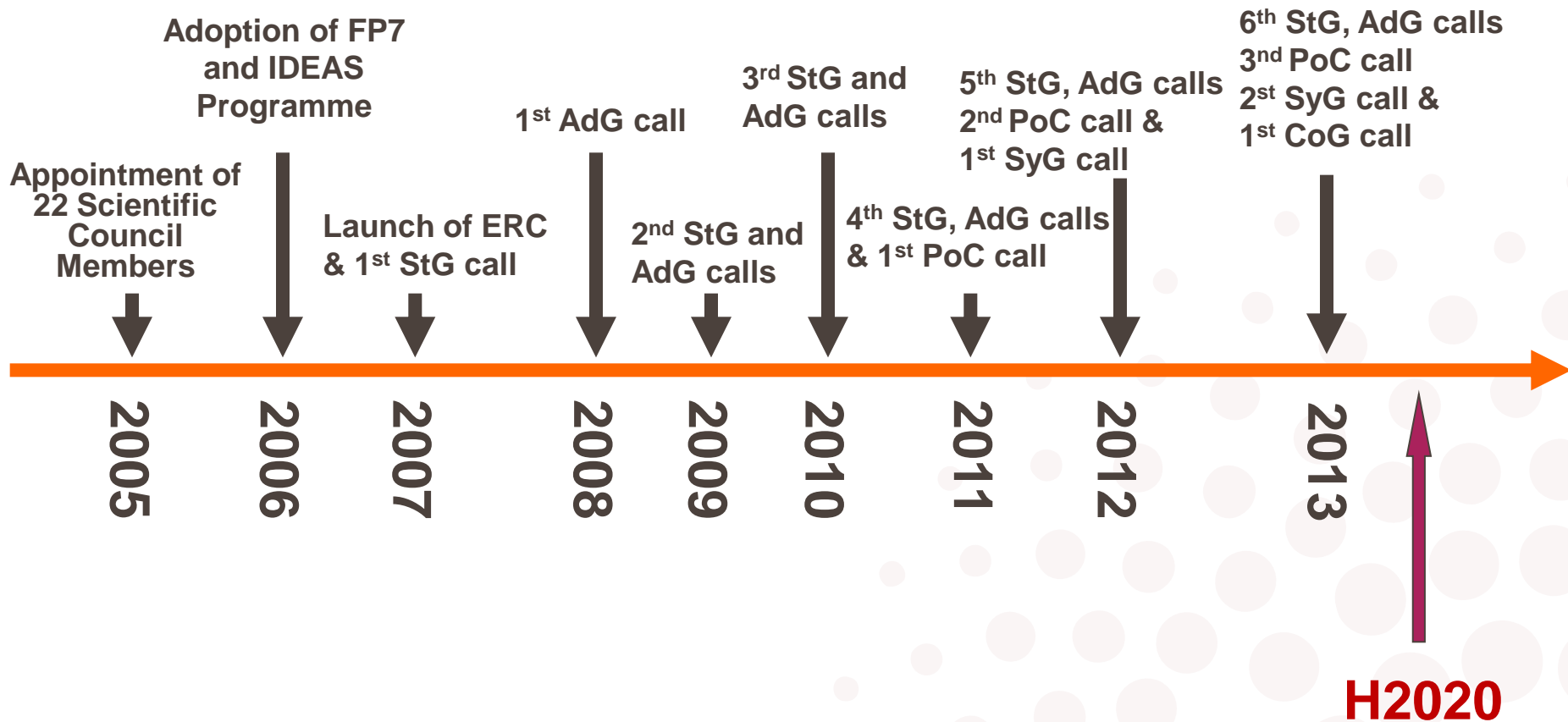
ERC achievements

Time line



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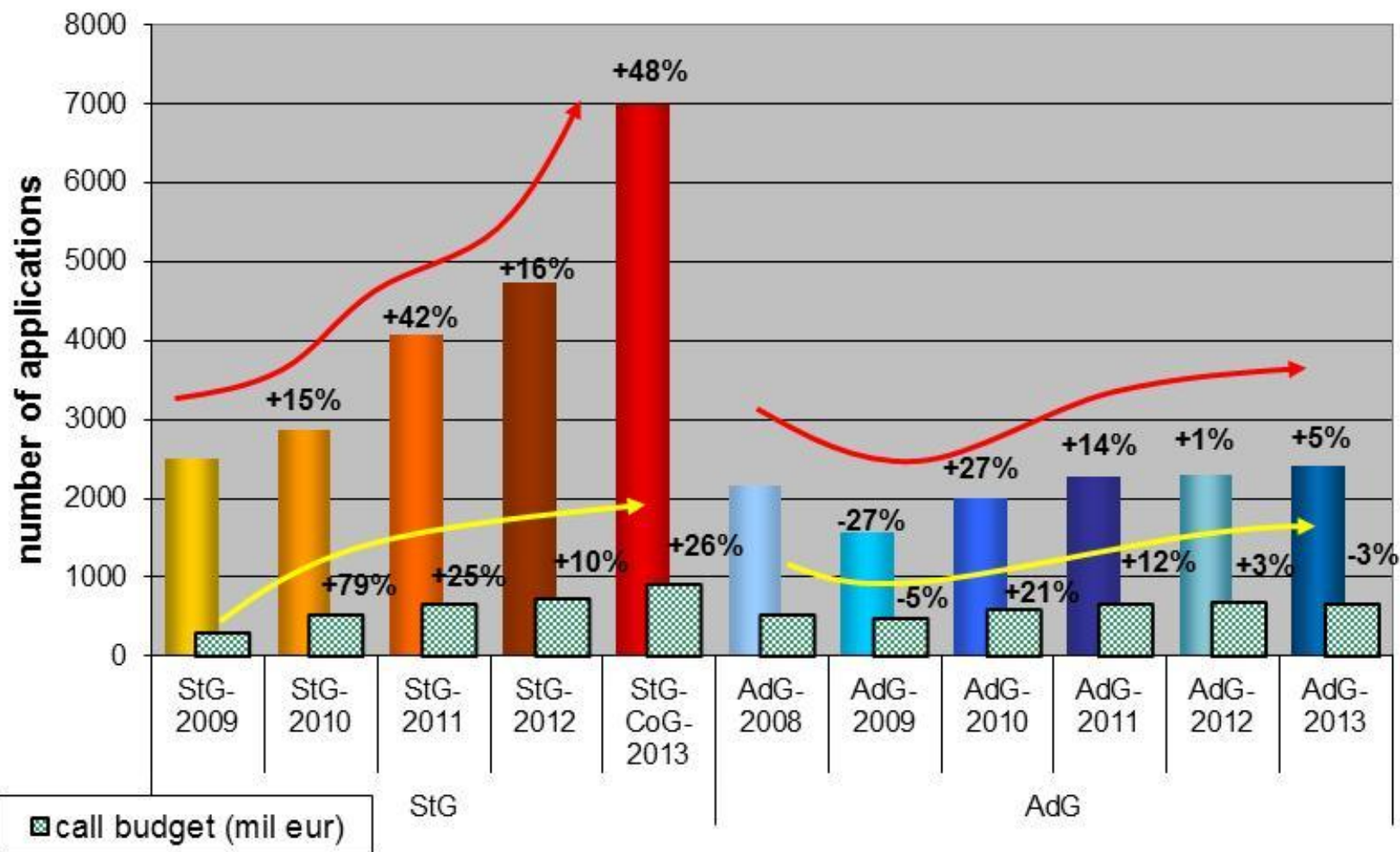
ERC achievements

Rising applications



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ERC Calls



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ERC Calls	Total number of applications	of which		
		Evaluated*	Funded	success rates**
Starting Grant 2007	9,167	8,787	299	3.4
Starting Grant 2009	2,503	2,392	245	10.2
Starting Grant 2010	2,873	2,767	436	15.8
Starting Grant 2011	4,080	4,005	486	12.1
Starting Grant 2012	4,741	4,652	566	12.2
Starting Grant 2013	3,329	3,255	300	9.2
Starting Grant	26,693	25,858	2,332	10.5
Advanced Grant 2008	2,167	2,034	282	13.9
Advanced Grant 2009	1,584	1,526	245	16.1
Advanced Grant 2010	2,009	1,967	271	13.8
Advanced Grant 2011	2,284	2,245	301	13.4
Advanced Grant 2012	2,304	2,269	319	14.1
Advanced Grant 2013	2,408	2,363	284	12.0
Advanced Grant	12,756	12,404	1,702	13.9
Proof of Concept 2011 - 1&2	151	139	51	36.7
Proof of Concept 2012 - 1&2	143	120	60	50.0
Proof of Concept 2013 - 1	145	139	33	23.7
Proof of Concept	439	398	144	36.8
Synergy Grant 2012	710	697	11	1.6

* withdrawn and ineligible proposals not taken into account

** percentage of funded proposals in relation to evaluated proposals

ERC achievements

After 6 years of existence...

- Highly recognised by the research community
- 4 000 top researchers funded (65% are at an early-career stage); 58 nationalities represented
- **Highly competitive** (average success rate 12%)
- Working in >500 different institutions in 29 countries
- 50% of grantees in 50 institutions : “Excellence attracts excellence”
- **Benchmarking** effect: impact on national programmes and agencies; national funding for best "runners-up"
- Efficient and fast grant management

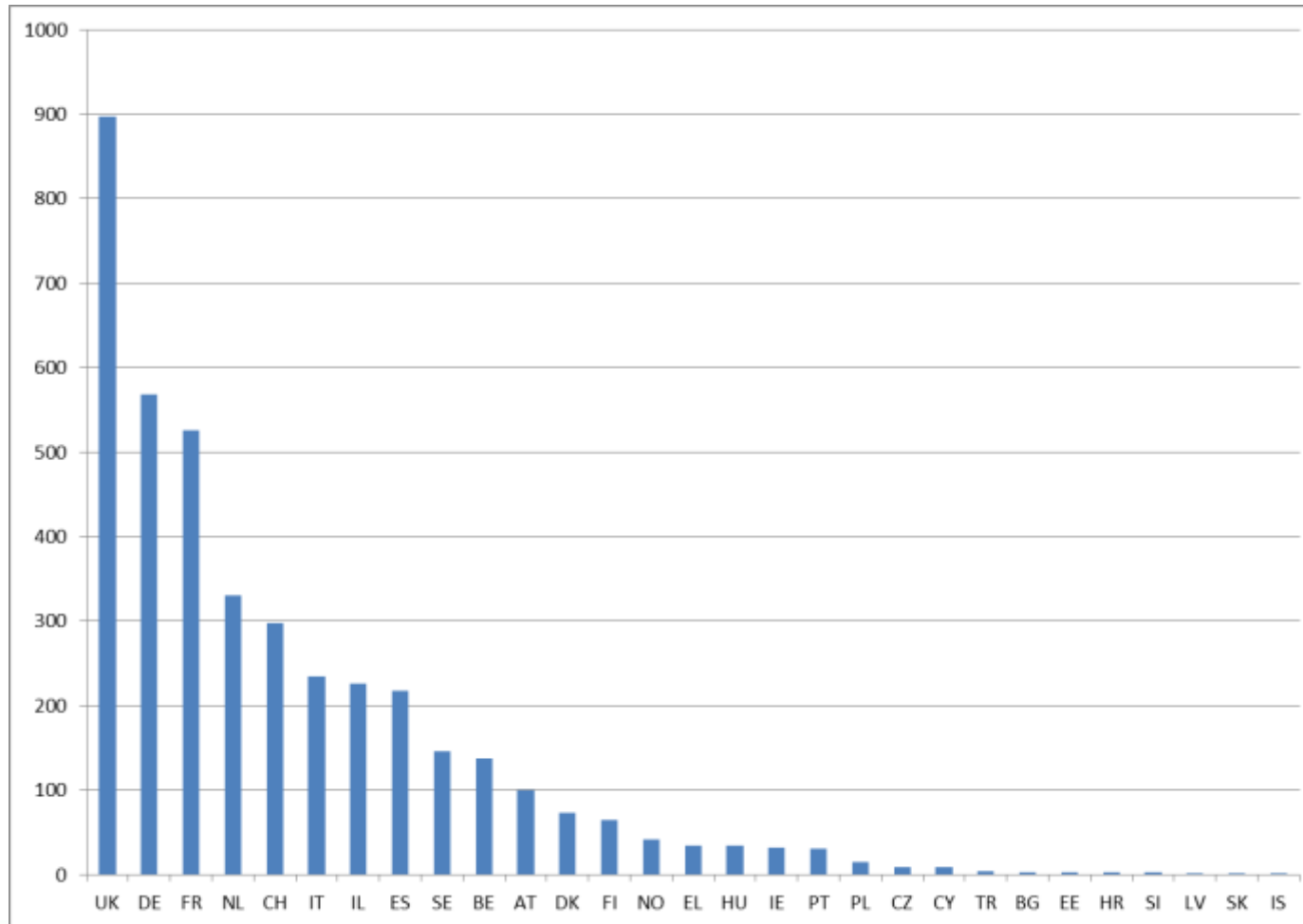
ERC achievements

Grants per country of host institution



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ERC Starting Grant
calls 2007-2013
ERC Advanced Grant
calls 2008-2013

Country	Higher-Education Institution	No	StG	AdG	Total	LS	PE	SH	Top European Institutions hosting at least 30 ERC Grantees by funding Schemes
UK	University of Oxford	1	53	58	111	32	49	30	
UK	University of Cambridge	2	61	49	110	39	55	16	
CH	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL)	3	43	36	79	23	54	2	
CH	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH Zurich)	4	32	46	78	25	51	2	
UK	University College London	4	48	30	78	32	16	30	
IL	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	5	41	29	70	31	26	13	
IL	Weizmann Institute	6	41	28	69	38	30	1	
UK	Imperial College	7	32	27	59	23	36		
UK	University of Edinburgh	8	21	20	41	9	20	12	
BE	University of Leuven	9	25	15	40	12	20	8	
DE	University of Munich (LMU)	10	14	24	38	16	16	6	
UK	University of Bristol	11	15	21	36	8	22	6	
NL	University of Amsterdam	12	17	17	34	3	10	21	
NL	Leiden University	13	18	15	33	1	16	16	
NL	Radboud University Nijmegen	13	21	12	33	12	11	10	<i>First legal signatories of the grant agreement</i>
NL	Utrecht University	14	18	13	31	7	16	8	
IL	Technion - Israel Institute of Technology	14	23	8	31	9	21	1	
UK	King's College London	14	22	9	31	12	5	14	
CH	University of Zurich	15	15	15	30	20	5	5	
FI	University of Helsinki	15	16	14	30	21	7	2	Data as of 09/09/2013
IL	Tel Aviv University	15	16	14	30	10	17	3	
Country	Research Organisation	No	StG	AdG	Total	LS	PE	SH	
FR	National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS)	1	128	66	194	53	112	29	
DE	Max Planck Society	2	62	46	108	57	43	8	
FR	National Institute of Health and Medical Research (Inserm)	3	31	17	48	47		1	
FR	French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission	4	32	9	41	7	33	1	
ES	Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)	5	20	15	35	14	16	5	
FR	National Institute for Research in Computer Science and Automatic Control (INRIA)	6	19	12	31		31		

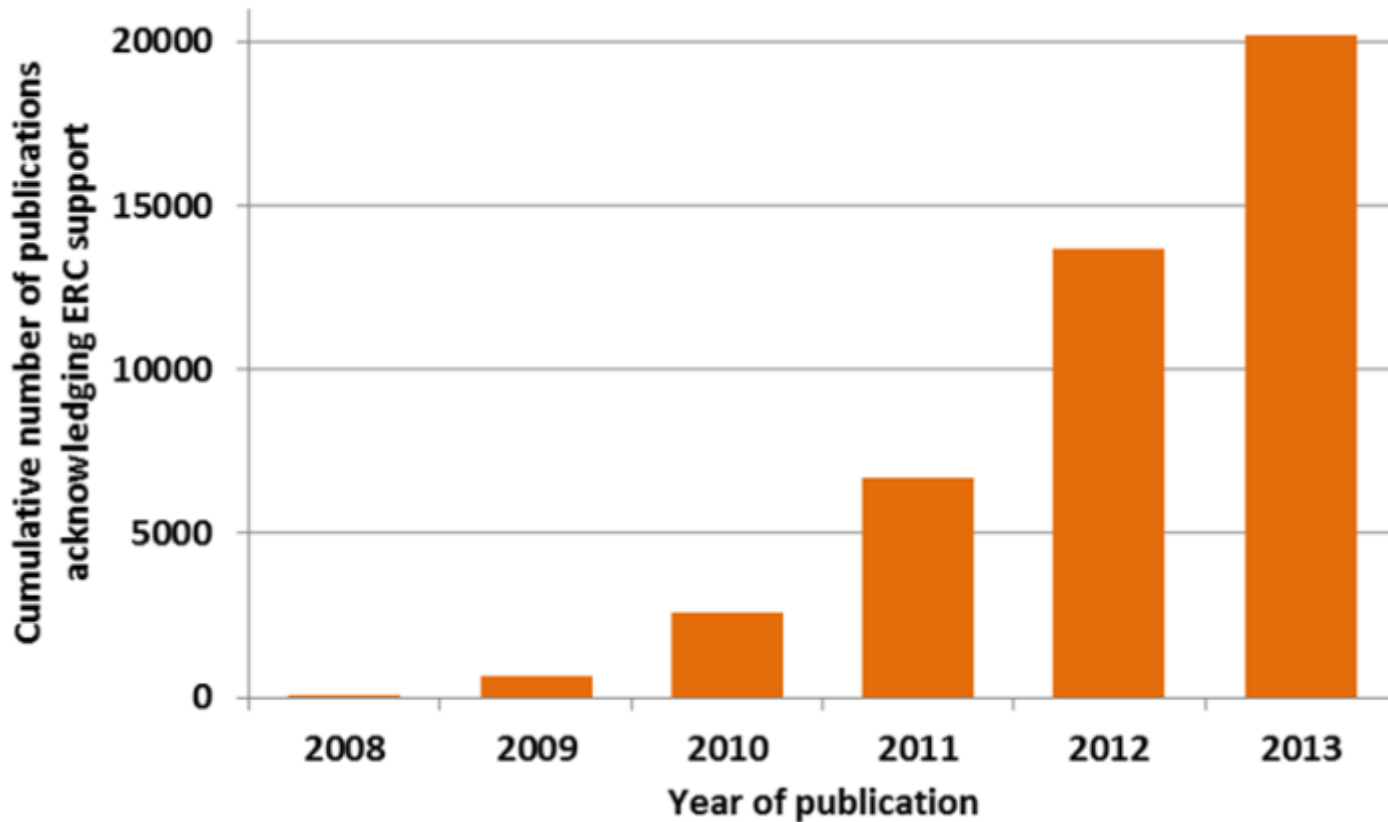
ERC achievements

Publication from ERC funded projects



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Already over **20.000** papers acknowledging ERC support published in international, peer reviewed journals.

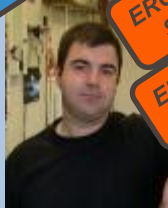
ERC achievements

Highly distinguished grantees



Serge Haroche
Nobel 2012

ERC Grantee
AdG 2009



Konstantin Novoselov
Nobel 2010

ERC Grantee
StG 2007
ERC Grantee
SyG 2012



Ada Yonath

ERC Grantee
AdG 2012



Andre Geim

ERC Grantee
AdG 2012



Christoforos Pissarides

ERC Grantee
AdG 2012



Theodor Hansch

ERC Grantee
AdG 2010



James Heckman

ERC Grantee
AdG 2010



Jean-Marie Lehn

ERC Grantee
AdG 2011



Stanislav Smirnov

AdG 2008

Simon Donaldson

AdG 2009

Elon Lindenstrauss

AdG 2010

2013 Wolf Prize awarded to

Peter Zoller - SyG 2012

2013 Holberg Prize awarded to

Bruno Latour - AdG 2010

2013 Crafoord Prize awarded to

Lars Klareskog - AdG 2009

Other Prizes awarded to ERC grantees

EMBO GOLD MEDAL 2011 – Simon BOULTON - AdG 2010

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

EMBO GOLD MEDAL 2010 – Jason W CHIN - StG 2007

THE SHAW PRIZE IN MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES 2011 - Christodoulou Demetrios - AdG 2009

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

MILLENIUM AWARD 2010 – Michael GRATZEL - AdG 2009

2012 Prizes awarded to ERC grantees

EMBO GOLD MEDAL 2012 Jiri FRIML - StG 2011

BALZAN PRIZE 2012 David BAULCOMBE - AdG 2008

EUROPEAN LATSIS PRIZE 2012
Uffe HAAGERUP - AdG 2009

KELVIN PRIZE 2012 Colin McINNES - AdG 2008

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

ERC achievements

A success story for European research



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More than **5 years of excellent IDEAS**



Events around the world - *ERC goes global* campaign



Wide **media** coverage (both specialised & general press)

User-friendly **website** and **social media** accounts



NCPs
AV products
Quarterly e-newsletter
Specific brochures & more

ERC achievements

ERC around the world



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AAAS, USA



"Summer Davos" in China



Global Research Council meetings



Davos 2013





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ERC in H2020

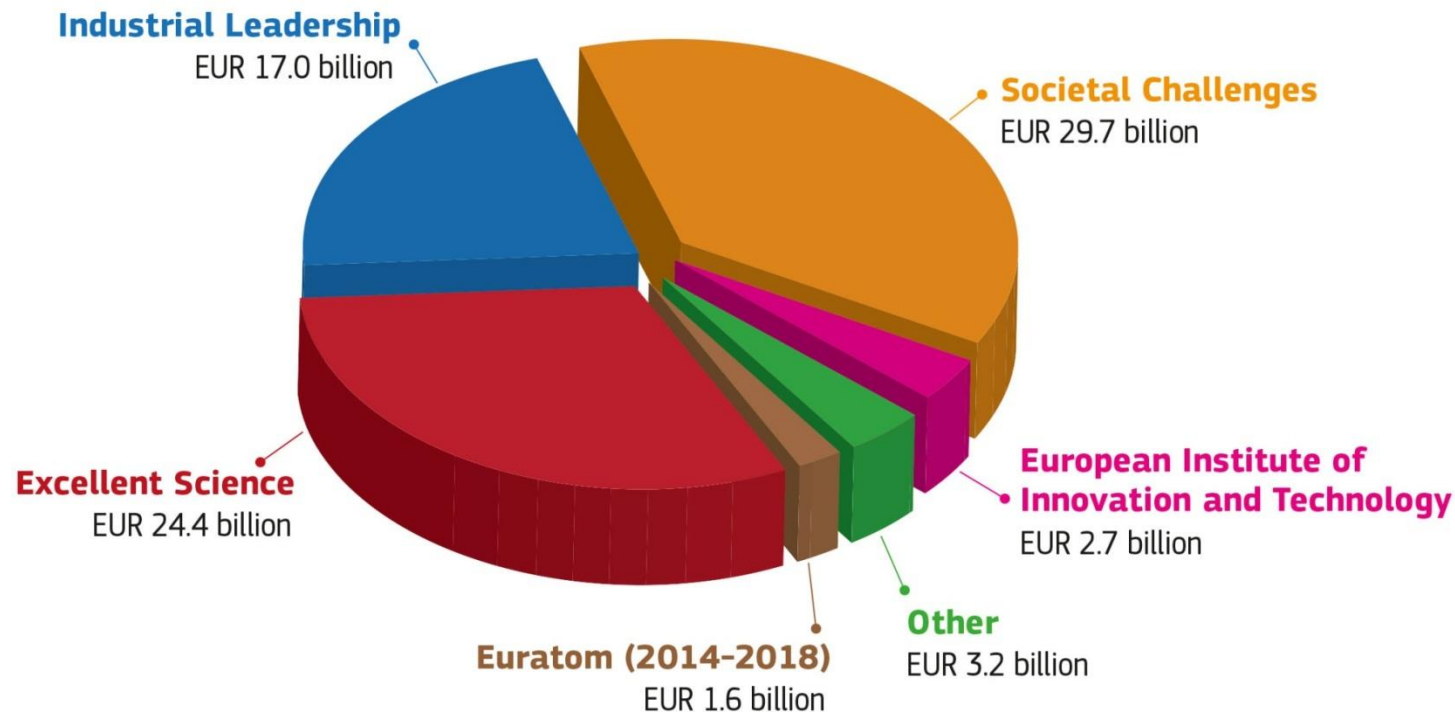
€ 79 billion from 2014 to 2020



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HORIZON 2020 BUDGET (in current prices)



Work Programmes 2014 – Funding for calls



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Excellent Science Pillar: ~ € 3 billion

European Research Council	4 calls	€ 1 662 million
Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions	6 calls	€ 800 million
Future and Emerging Technologies (FET)	4 calls	€ 200 million
European Research Infrastructures (including e-Infrastructures)	4 calls	€ 277 million

Work Programmes 2014 – Funding for calls



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Industrial Leadership Pillar: ~ € 1.4 billion

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	2 calls	€ 700 million
Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Biotechnology and Production	5 calls	€ 500 million
Space	5 calls	€ 128 million
Access to Risk Finance	2 calls	€ 5 million
Innovation in small and medium-sized enterprises (Does not include €3 billion for SME instrument or Eurostars)	1 call	€ 10 million

In addition € 300 million for Financial Instruments (not through calls)

Work Programmes 2014 – Funding for calls



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Societal Challenges Pillar: ~ € 2.8 billion		
Health, demographic change and wellbeing	2 calls	€ 600 million
Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry, Marine and Maritime and Inland Water Research and the Bioeconomy	3 calls	€ 300 million
Secure, clean and efficient energy	4 calls	€ 600 million
Smart, green and integrated transport	3 calls	€ 540 million
Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials	3 calls	€ 300 million
Europe in a changing world – inclusive, innovative and reflective societies	5 calls	€ 112 million
Secure Societies	4 calls	€ 200 million

In addition		
Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation	3 calls	€ 50 million
Science with and for Society	4 calls	€ 45 million

Major Simplification for the benefit of applicants



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1. A single set of rules for all funding under Horizon 2020
 - ✓ Fewer, more flexible, funding instruments
2. Simpler reimbursement: 1 project = 1 funding rate
 - ✓ 100% of the total eligible costs (70% for innovation actions)
 - ✓ Non-profit legal entities can also receive 100% in innovation actions
 - ✓ Single flat rate for indirect costs (25% of eligible costs)
3. Faster time to grant
 - ✓ Within 8 months of call deadline

Major Simplification for the benefit of applicants



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4. Fewer, better targeted controls and audits

5. Coherent implementation

- ✓ Through dedicated agencies
- ✓ Single IT system

6. Simplification in grant agreements

Simpler access through the **Participant Portal**

- Single entry point - from calls to electronic submission of proposals
- New tools for smart searches for the benefit of users, including newcomers to the programme.

ERC in the H2020 structure

➤ 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 Skłodowska Curie Actions
- Research Infrastructures

ERC in H2020

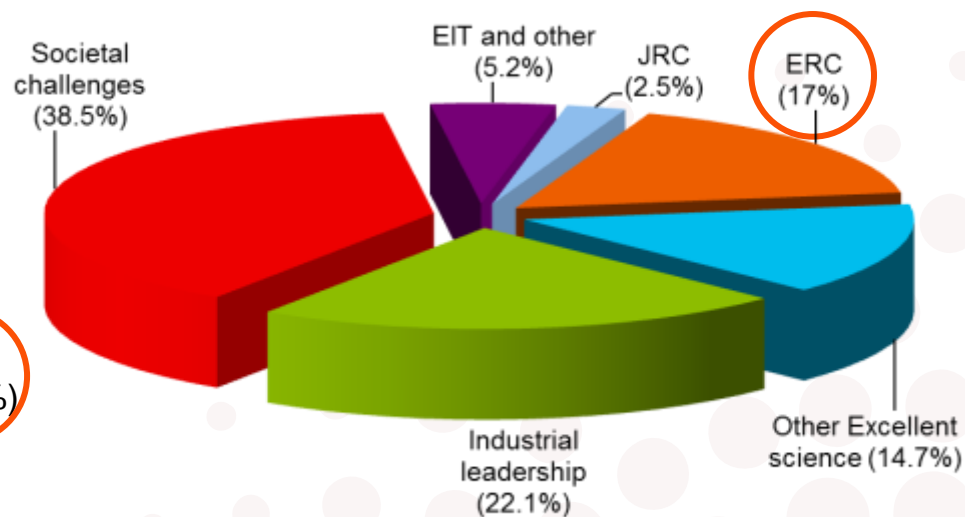
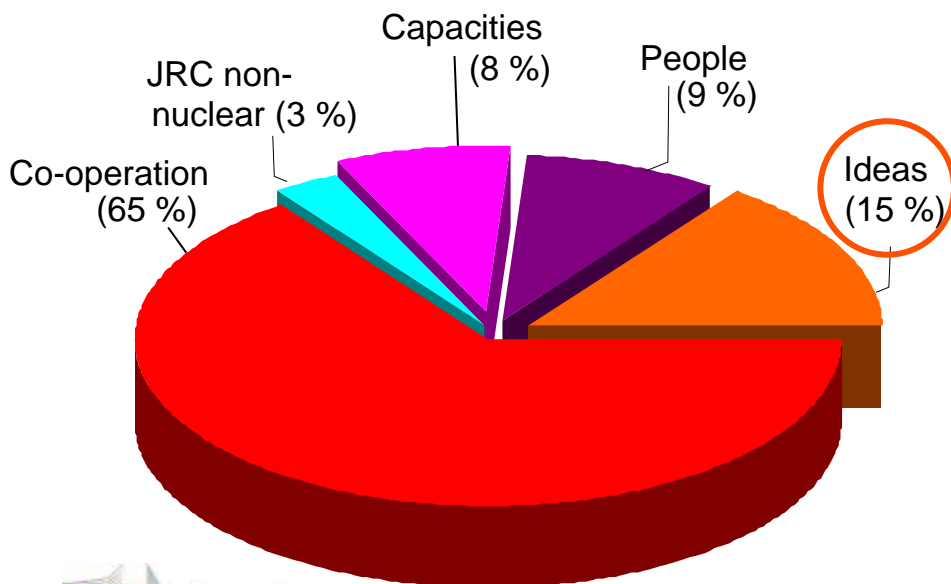
Budget Horizon 2020 after negotiations between Parliament-Council-Commission



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H2020 budget € 77 billion
ERC budget € 13 billion

FP7 budget € 50.5 billion
ERC budget € 7.5 billion



ERC in H2020

Changes and continuity

➤ **Essential features maintained:**

- Same schemes, same principles, same selection procedures/criteria
- Independent Scientific Council with full authority over funding strategy
- Executive Agency with autonomous operation

➤ **Increased budget (13 Bio € in current prices for 2014-2020):**

- More opportunities than ever for top research talents

➤ **Strengthening the Scientific Governance of the European Research Council:**

- Strengthening the links between the Scientific Council and the Executive Agency
- Merging positions of President of ERC and Secretary General
- Full-time President based in Brussels
- 3 Vice-Chairs elected from amongst the Scientific Council members

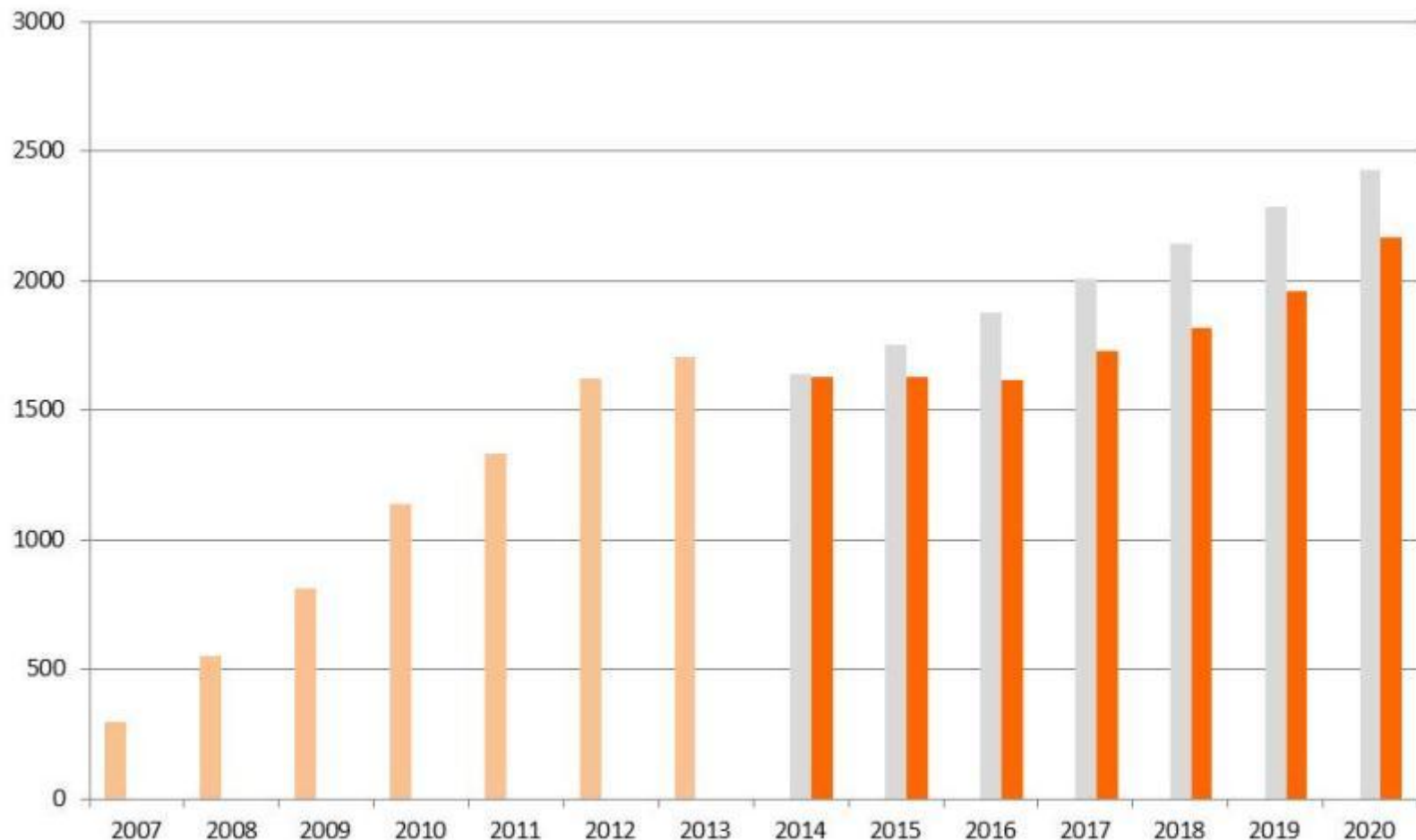
ERC in H2020

2014 – 2020 budget



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- **Indicative publication date of first calls : December 11, 2013**
- **Three ERC frontier research grants will be available under Work Programme 2014: Starting; Consolidator; and Advanced Grants**
- The Scientific Council will analyse the pilot phase of the **ERC Synergy Grant** (calls were made under Work Programmes 2012 and 2013) before deciding on the scope and timing of future calls. No SyG call under Work Programme 2014
- **Extension of restrictions on applications will apply to the 2015 calls based on the outcome of the evaluation of the 2014 calls**
- **ERC Principal Investigators will also continue to be able to apply for the Proof of Concept Grant, first introduced in 2011**
- **Overhead: 25%**
- **Indicative budget for 2015 to help the research community to plan applications**

ERC in H2020

Work program 2014, indicative planning



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ERC calls	Budget	Call Publication*	Submission Deadline(s)*
Starting Grants ERC-2014-StG	485 M€	11 December 2013	25 March 2014
Consolidator Grants ERC-2014-CoG	713 M€	11 December 2013	20 May 2014
Advanced Grants ERC-2014-AdG	450 M€	17 June 2014	21 October 2014
Proof of Concept ERC-2014-PoC	15 M€	11 December 2013	DL1: 1 April 2014 DL2: 1 Oct. 2014

* Pending the adoption of the WP 2014



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Greece at ERC

Greece at ERC

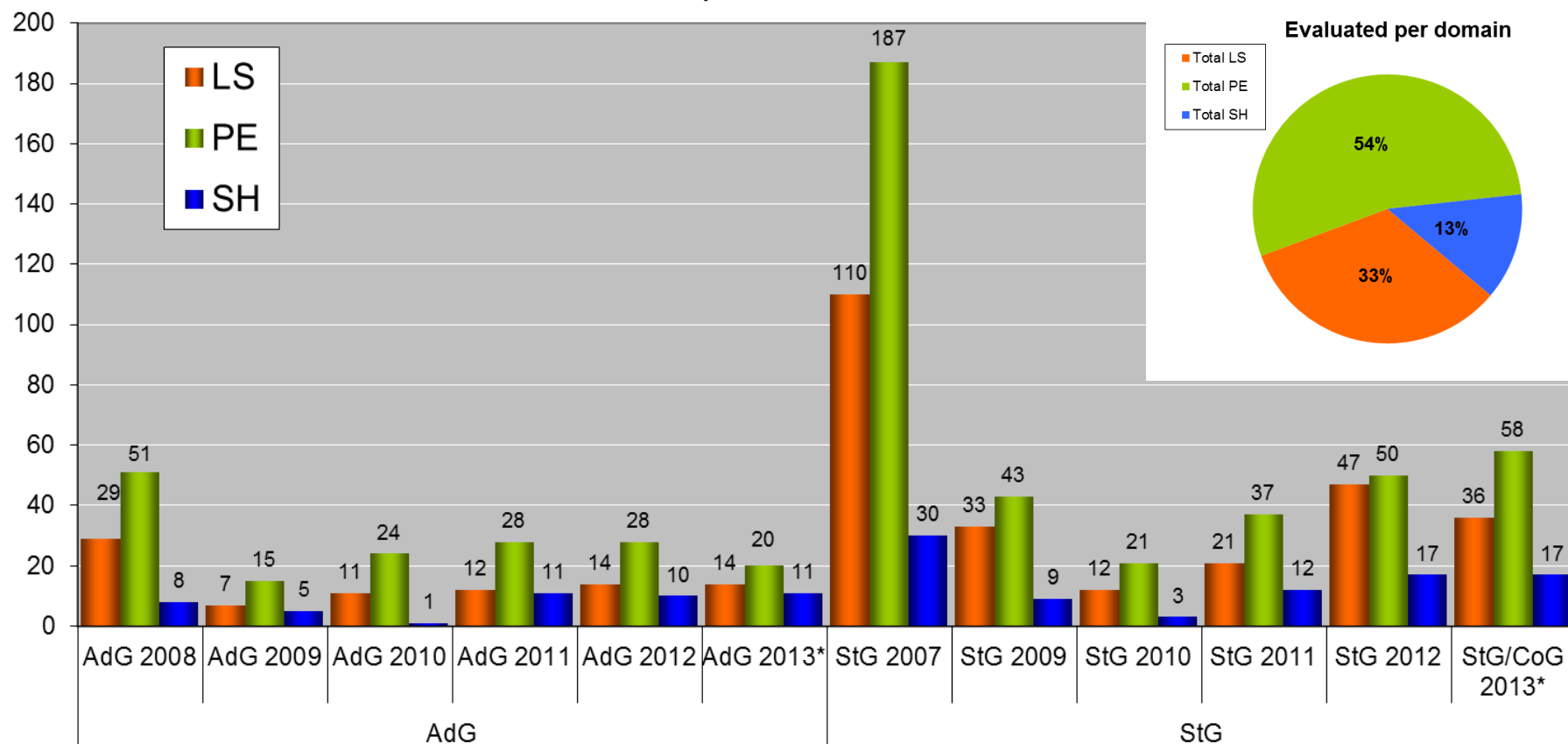
Evaluated proposals from hosts in Greece



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1042 evaluated proposals from host institutions in Greece,
by ERC call and domain



Greece at ERC

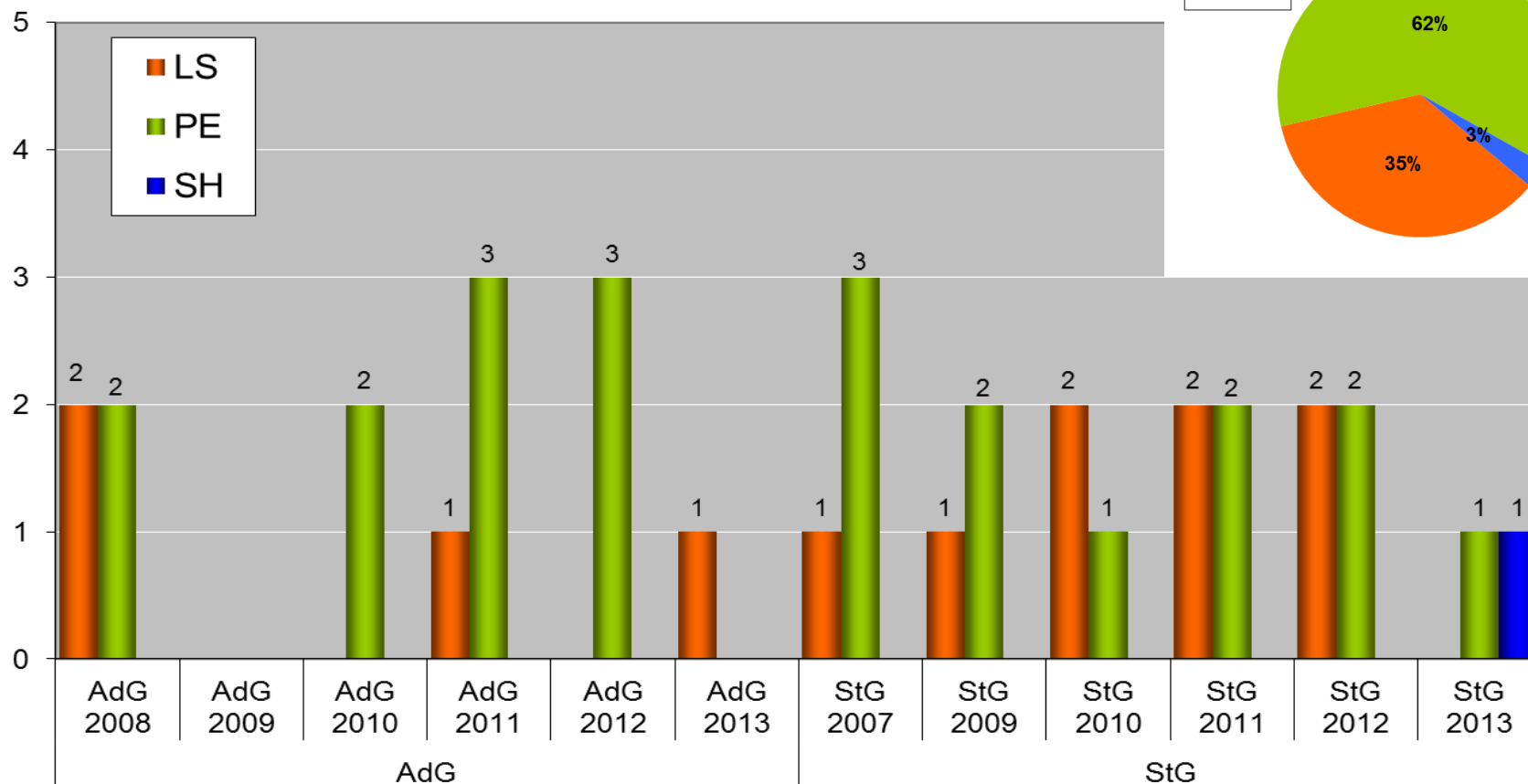
Granted proposals at host institutions in Greece



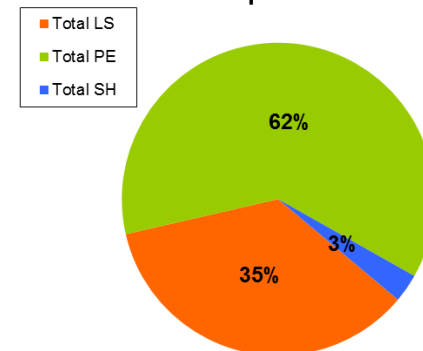
European Research Council

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**34 projects with a host institution in Greece,
by ERC call and domain**



Grants per domain



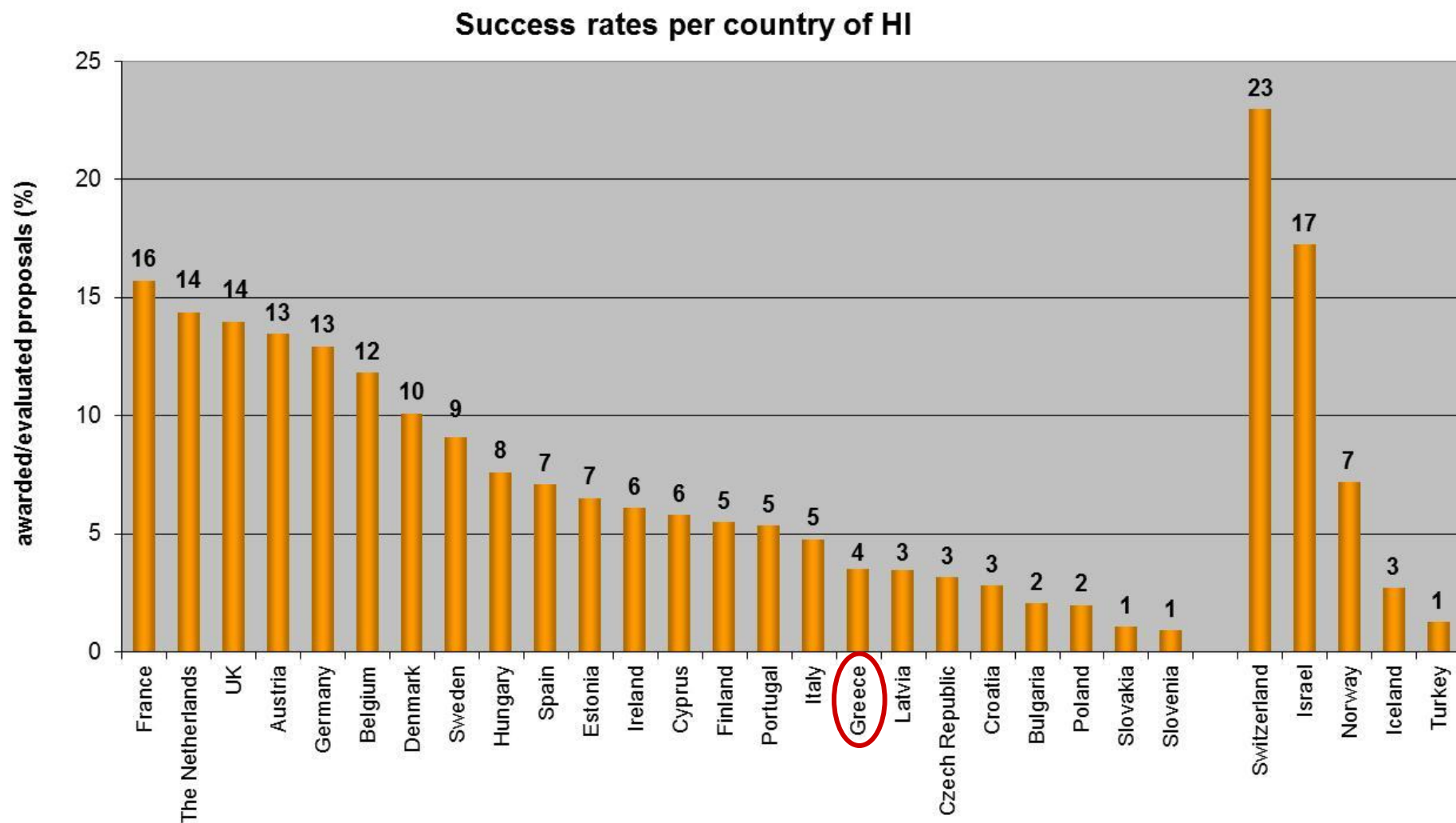
Greece at ERC

Success rates per country of Host Institution



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Greece at ERC

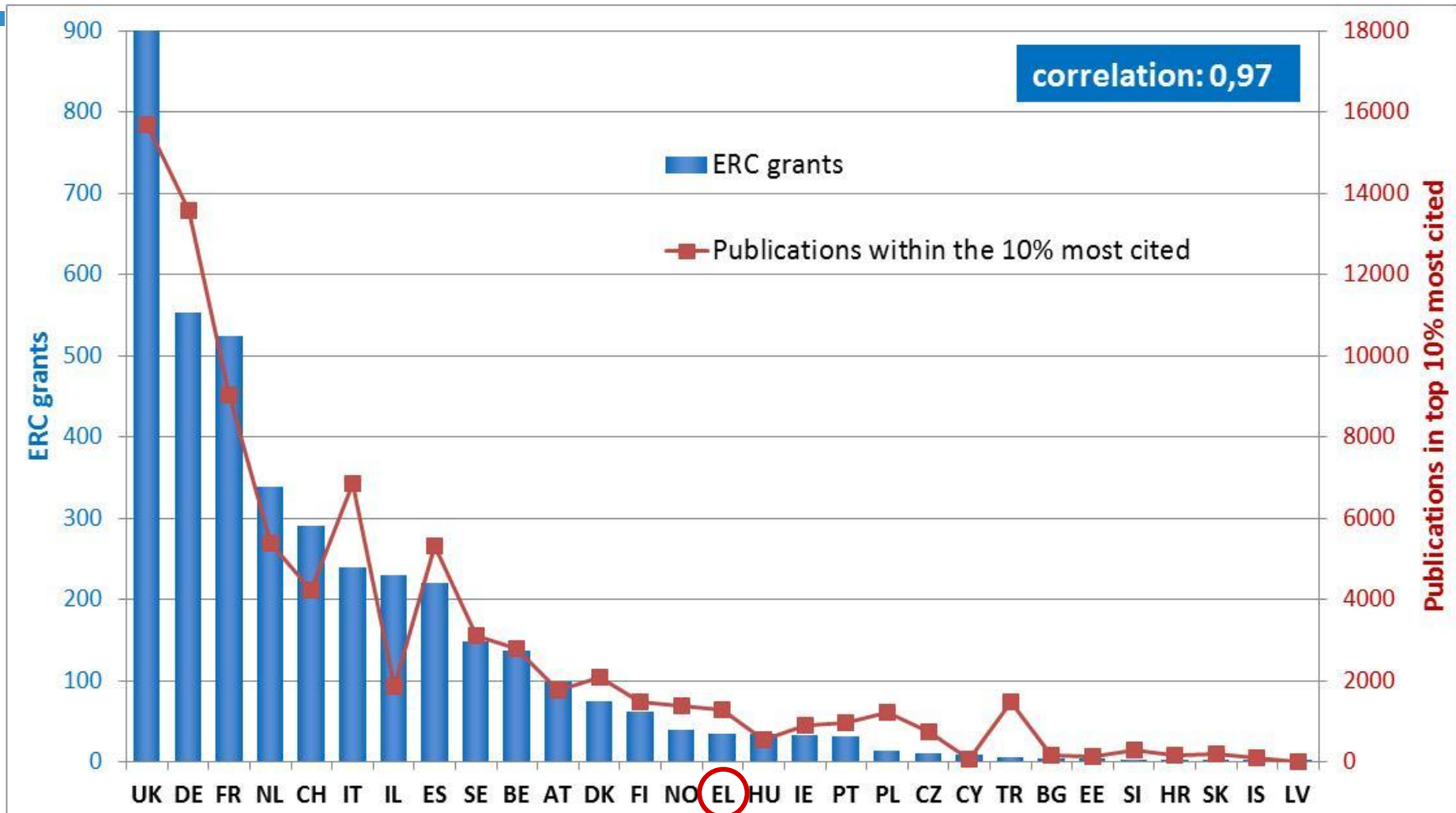
ERC grant distribution to countries of HI

ERC StG and AdG calls 2007-2013 (without CoG 2013)



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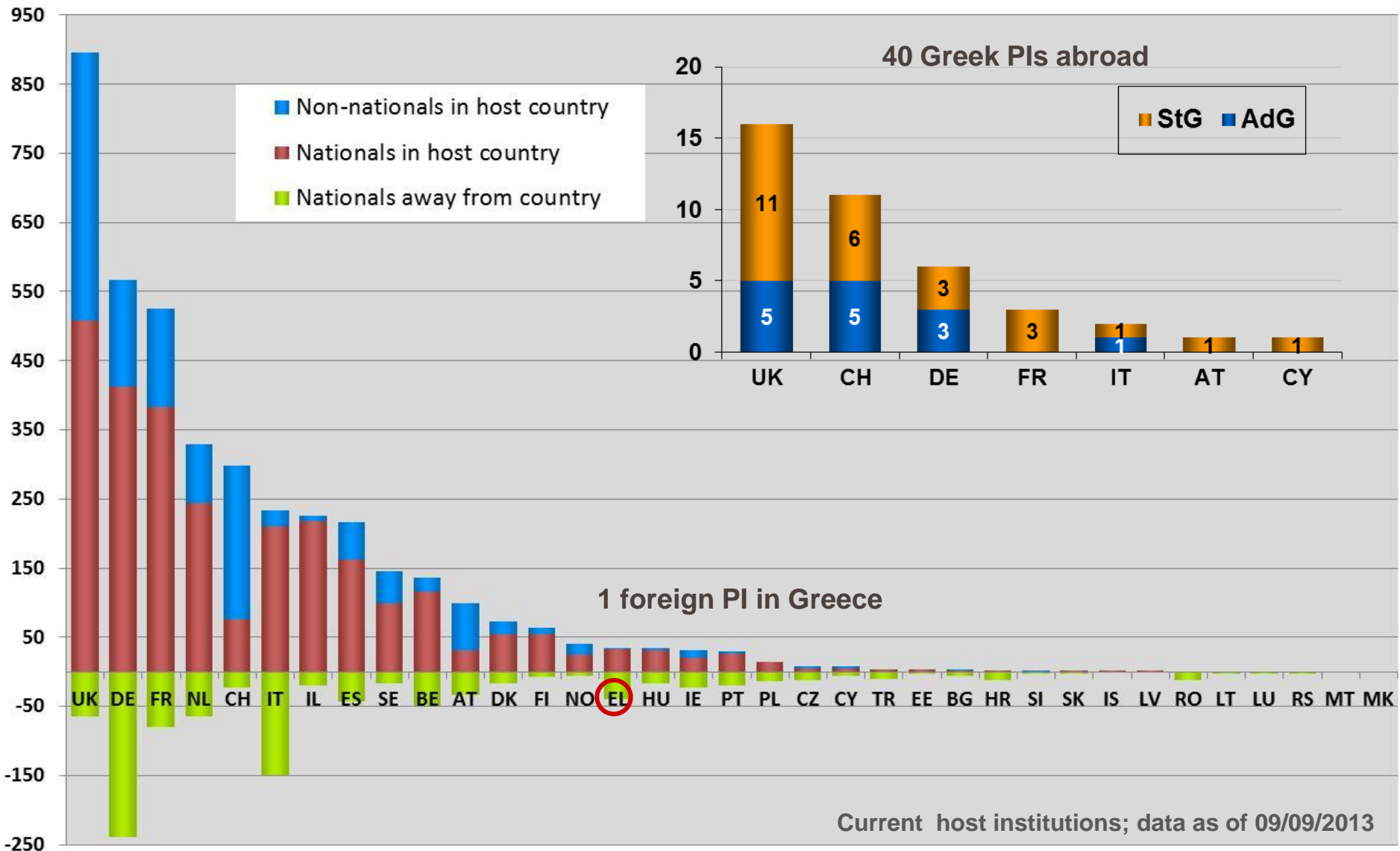
Greece at ERC

Mobility of researchers

ERC StG and AdG calls 2007-2013 (without CoG 2013)



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Greece at ERC

Greek ERC grantees outside Greece

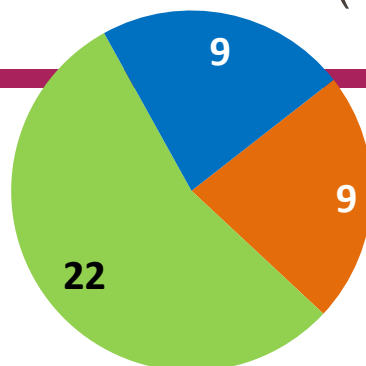
ERC StG and AdG calls 2007-2013 (without CoG 2013)



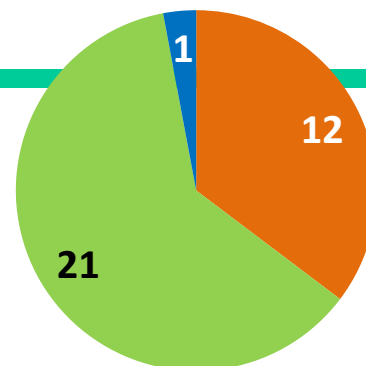
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Outside Greece



In Greece

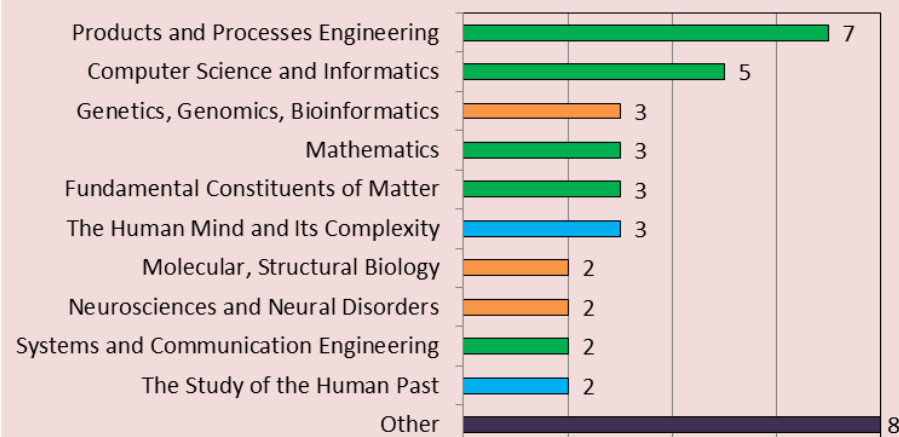


Greeks applying with a HI outside Greece	evaluated	grantees	s.rate
resident in Greece	31	4	13%
resident in other EU countries	342	35	10%
resident outside EU	8	1	13%
Total	381	40	10%

Greeks applying with a HI in Greece	evaluated	grantees	s.rate
resident in Greece	869	28	3%
resident in other EU countries	19	1	5%
resident outside EU	39	4	10%
Total	927	33	4%

Host institution	Greek PIs
Imperial College	4
University of Oxford	4
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich	4
University of Geneva	3
University of Cambridge	3
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausar	3
Other	19
TOTAL	40

Greek grantees abroad



Country	Higher-Education Institution	No	StG	AdG	Total	LS	PE	SH	Top European Institutions hosting at least 30 ERC Grantees by funding Schemes
UK	University of Oxford	1	53	58	111	32	49	30	
UK	University of Cambridge	2	61	49	110	39	55	16	
CH	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL)	3	43	36	79	23	54	2	
CH	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH Zurich)	4	32	46	78	25	51	2	
UK	University College London	4	48	30	78	32	16	30	
IL	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	5	41	29	70	31	26	13	
IL	Weizmann Institute	6	41	28	69	38	30	1	
UK	Imperial College	7	32	27	59	23	36		
UK	University of Edinburgh	8	21	20	41	9	20	12	
BE	University of Leuven	9	25	15	40	12	20	8	
DE	University of Munich (LMU)	10	14	24	38	16	16	6	
UK	University of Bristol	11	15	21	36	8	22	6	
NL	University of Amsterdam	12	17	17	34	3	10	21	
NL	Leiden University	13	18	15	33	1	16	16	
NL	Radboud University Nijmegen	13	21	12	33	12	11	10	
NL	Utrecht University	14	18	13	31	7	16	8	
IL	Technion - Israel Institute of Technology	14	23	8	31	9	21	1	
UK	King's College London	14	22	9	31	12	5	14	
CH	University of Zurich	15	15	15	30	20	5	5	
FI	University of Helsinki	15	16	14	30	21	7	2	
IL	Tel Aviv University	15	16	14	30	10	17	3	
Country	Research Organisation	No	StG	AdG	Total	LS	PE	SH	Data as of 09/09/2013
FR	National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS)	1	128	66	194	53	112	29	
DE	Max Planck Society	2	62	46	108	57	43	8	
FR	National Institute of Health and Medical Research (Inserm)	3	31	17	48	47		1	
FR	French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission	4	32	9	41	7	33	1	
ES	Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)	5	20	15	35	14	16	5	
FR	National Institute for Research in Computer Science and Automatic Control (INRIA)	6	19	12	31		31		

Greece at ERC

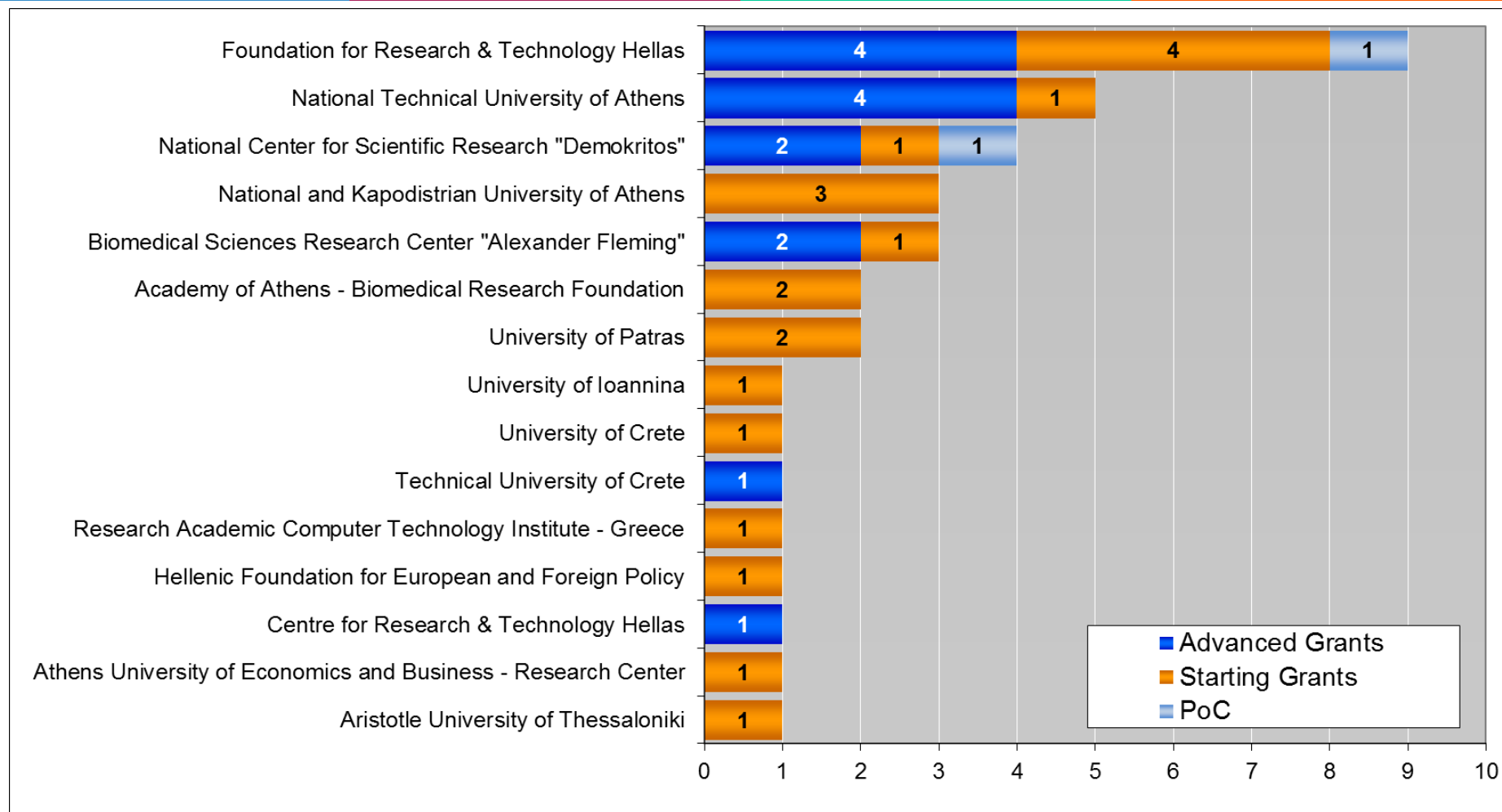
Host institutions in Greece

ERC StG and AdG calls 2007-2013 (without CoG 2013)



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Greece at ERC

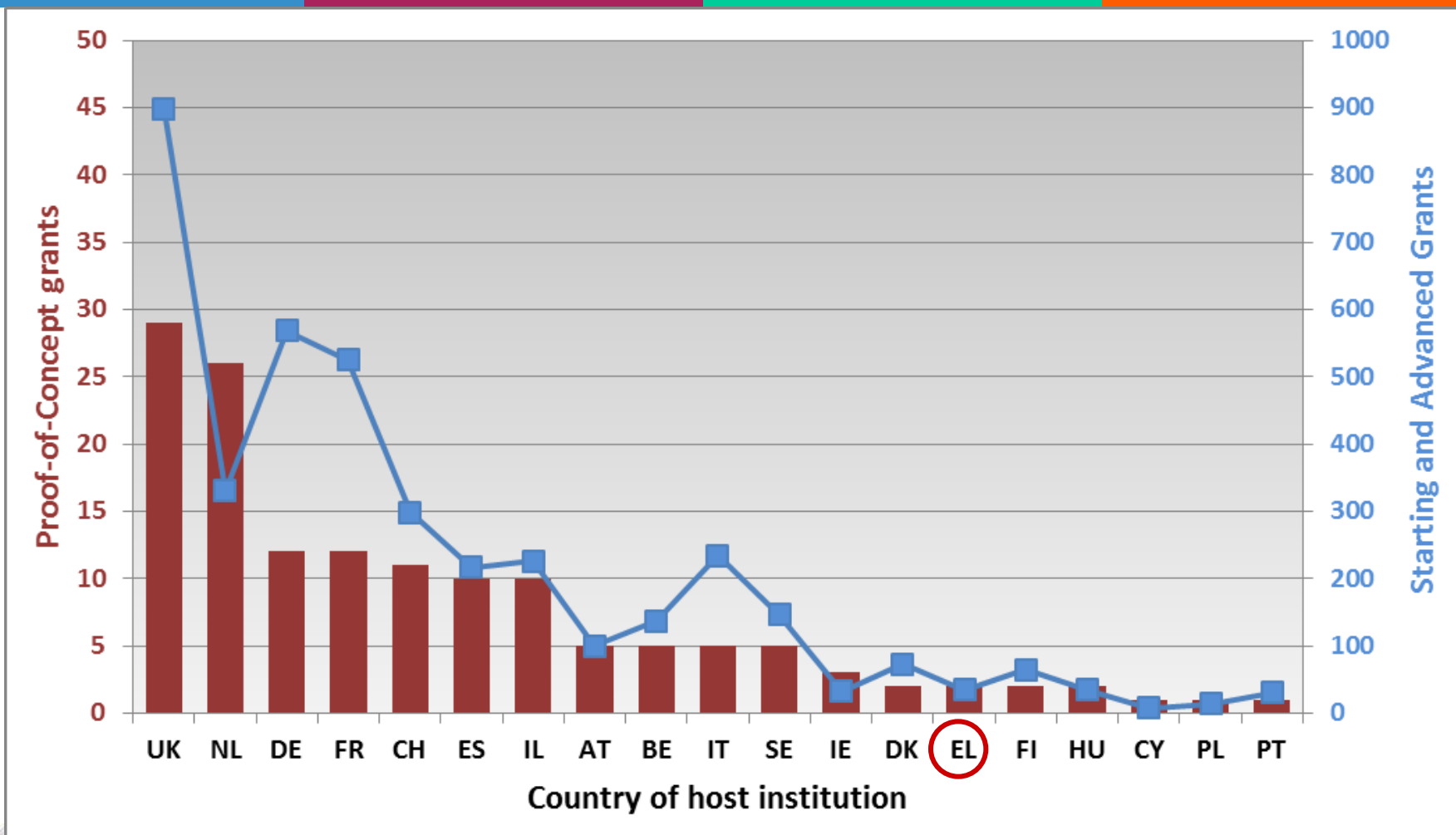
PoC grants by country of host institution

ERC PoC calls 2011, 2012 and 2013-1



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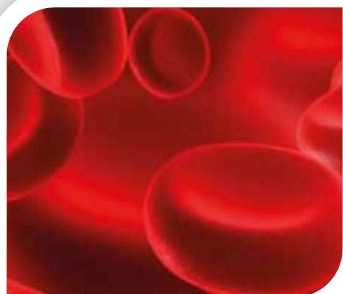
A few examples of ERC projects



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Nanodrugs for targeted treatments of cancer



Project: A Novel Nano-container drug carrier for targeted treatment of prostate cancer (NANOTHERAPY)

PI: George Kordas

HI: National Center for Scientific Research "Demokritos"

Call: Advanced Grant 2008 and PoC Grant 2013

Funding: €2 million for 5 years + €150 000 PoC Grant 2013

Characterising organic particles and their impact on climate change and pollution



Project: Atmospheric Organic Particulate Matter, Air Quality and Climate Change Studies (ATMOPACS)

PI: Spyros Pandis

HI: Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas

Call: Advanced Grant 2010

Funding: € 2.5 million for 5 years



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For further information

- **Participant Portal**

- <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>

- **Research enquiry service**

- <http://ec.europa.eu/research/enquiries>

- **Expert evaluators needed!**

- <http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=newsalert&year=2013&na=na-221113>

- **Learn more about Horizon 2020**

- <http://ec.europa.eu/horizon2020>

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