

The European Research Council:

ERC Advanced Grants – Continuity in a changing Horizon



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Lionel Thelen, PhD

Panel coordinator
Social Sciences and Humanities Unit
ERC Scientific Management Department
Info Day NCP Belgium, 26 Avril 2019

Outline



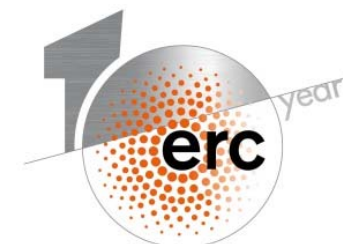
- **What is the ERC? What does the ERC offer for AdG Principal Investigators and their teams?**
- **How is Belgium doing at the ERC?**
- **How are ERC research proposals evaluated?**
- **Some tips on preparing an ERC proposal**

ERC mission



To encourage the highest quality research **in Europe** through competitive funding and to support **investigator-driven frontier research** across all fields, on the basis of **scientific excellence**

ERC Basics



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INDIVIDUAL RESEARCHERS
FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

LONG TERM GRANTS

TO HIGH-RISK/HIGH-GAIN PIONEERING PROJECTS
IN ANY FIELD OF FRONTIER RESEARCH



Life Sciences



Physical Sciences and Engineering



Social Sciences and Humanities



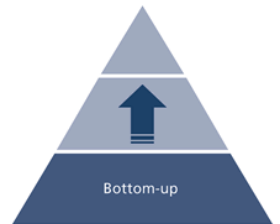
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What is the European Research Council?



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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

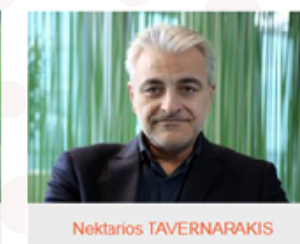
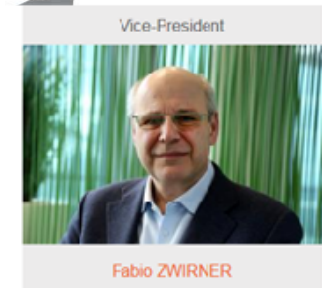
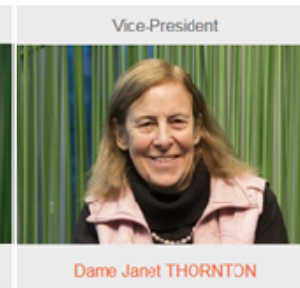
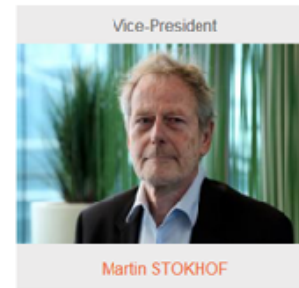
Legislation

- 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

Scientific Governance by the Scientific Council



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ERC in the H2020 Structure



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➤ 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:

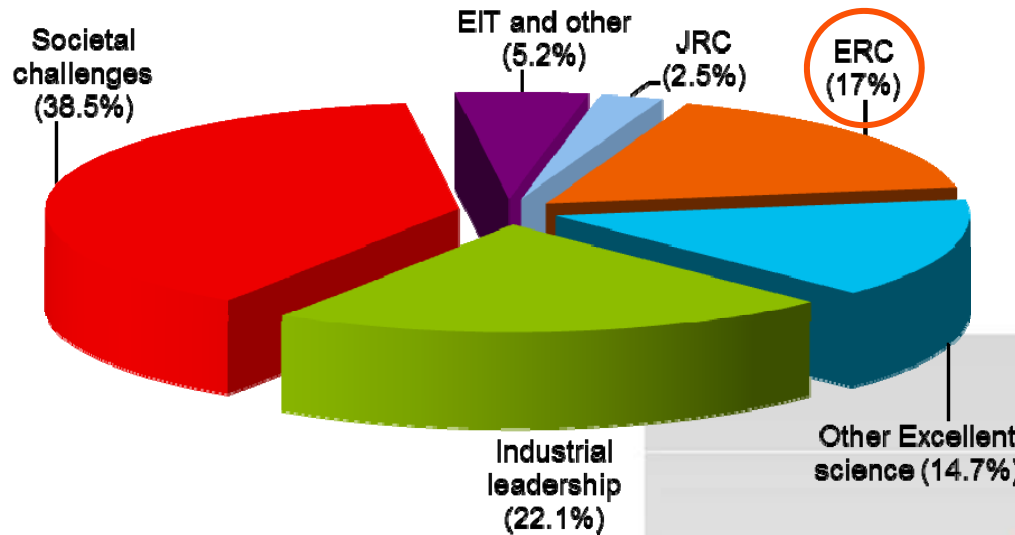
- **European Research Council** (budget under H2020: € 13 billion)
- Future and Emerging Technologies
- Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions
- Research Infrastructures



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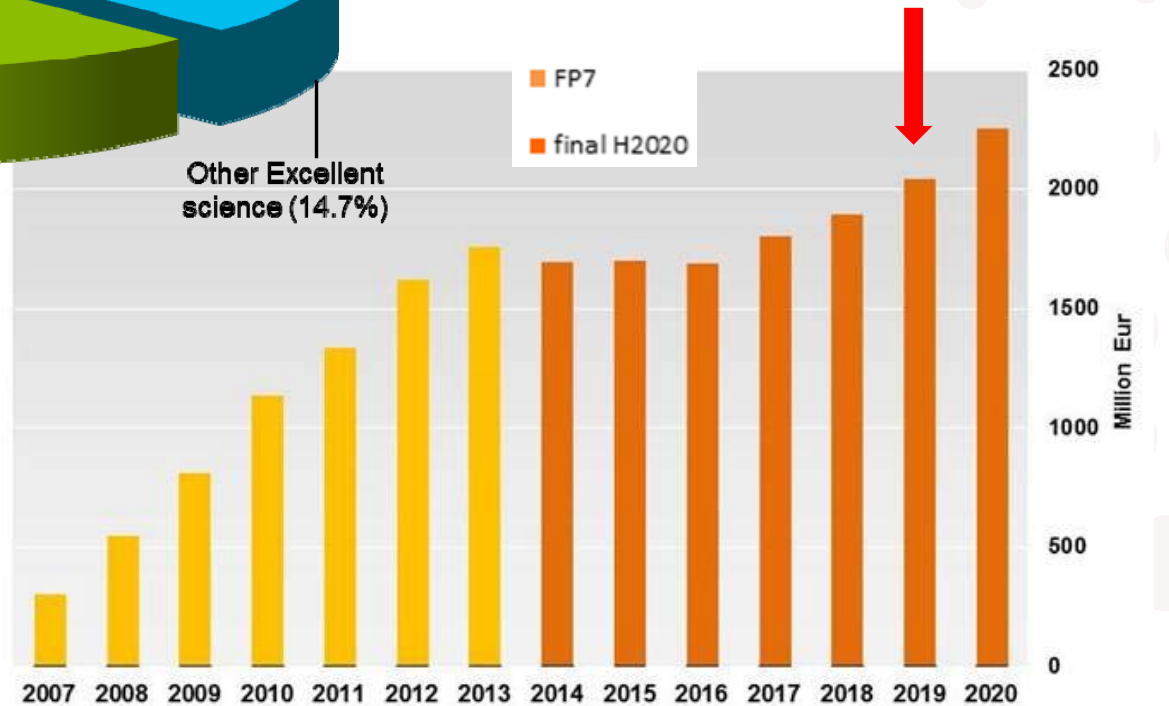
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ERC H2020 Budget

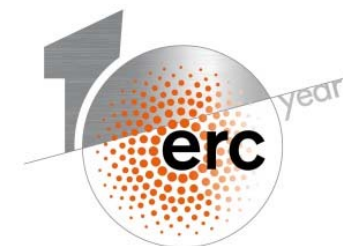


**ERC Budget
€ 13 billion**

For 2019, the budget is more than 2 billion euros, the highest ever since the beginning of the ERC.



ERC Grant Schemes



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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



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What does ERC offer?

Creative freedom to individual grantee



ERC offers independence, recognition & visibility

- Work on any research topic: **bottom-up**
- Gain **financial autonomy** for 5 years
- Negotiate the **best work conditions** with the host institution
- Attract **top team members and collaborators** (EU and non-EU)
- **Portability of grants**
- **Attract additional funding and gain recognition:** ERC is a quality label



Who can apply?

- **Excellent Researchers**
- **Any nationality, any age** or any current place of work
- In conjunction with a Host Institution based in Europe
EU or associated countries
- If granted, you need to spend at least 50% of your working time in the EU or associated countries



Particular emphasis on.....



Frontier of science, scholarship and engineering, e.g.

- ✓ Multi- or interdisciplinary proposals which cross boundaries between different fields of research, **or**
- ✓ Pioneering proposals addressing new and emerging fields of research, **or**
- ✓ Proposals introducing unconventional, innovative approaches and scientific inventions.



2019 Panel Structure



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Each panel:
Panel Chair and 12-17 Panel Members

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** Neuroscience 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

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

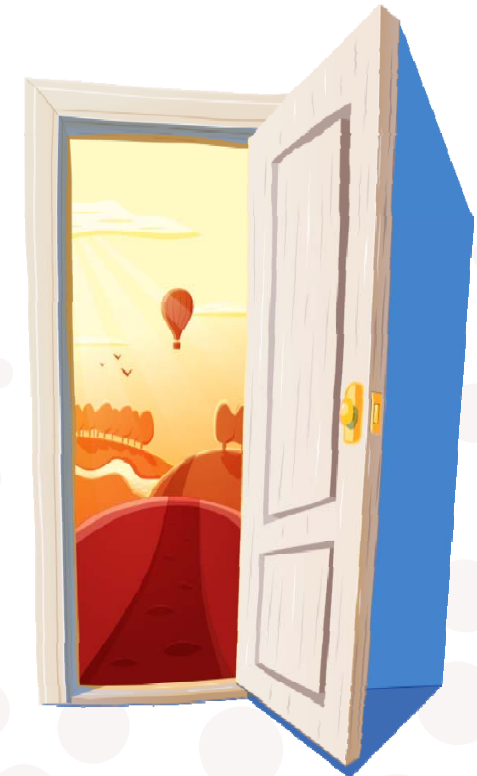
Physical Sciences & Engineering

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

Contrary to what you may think.....



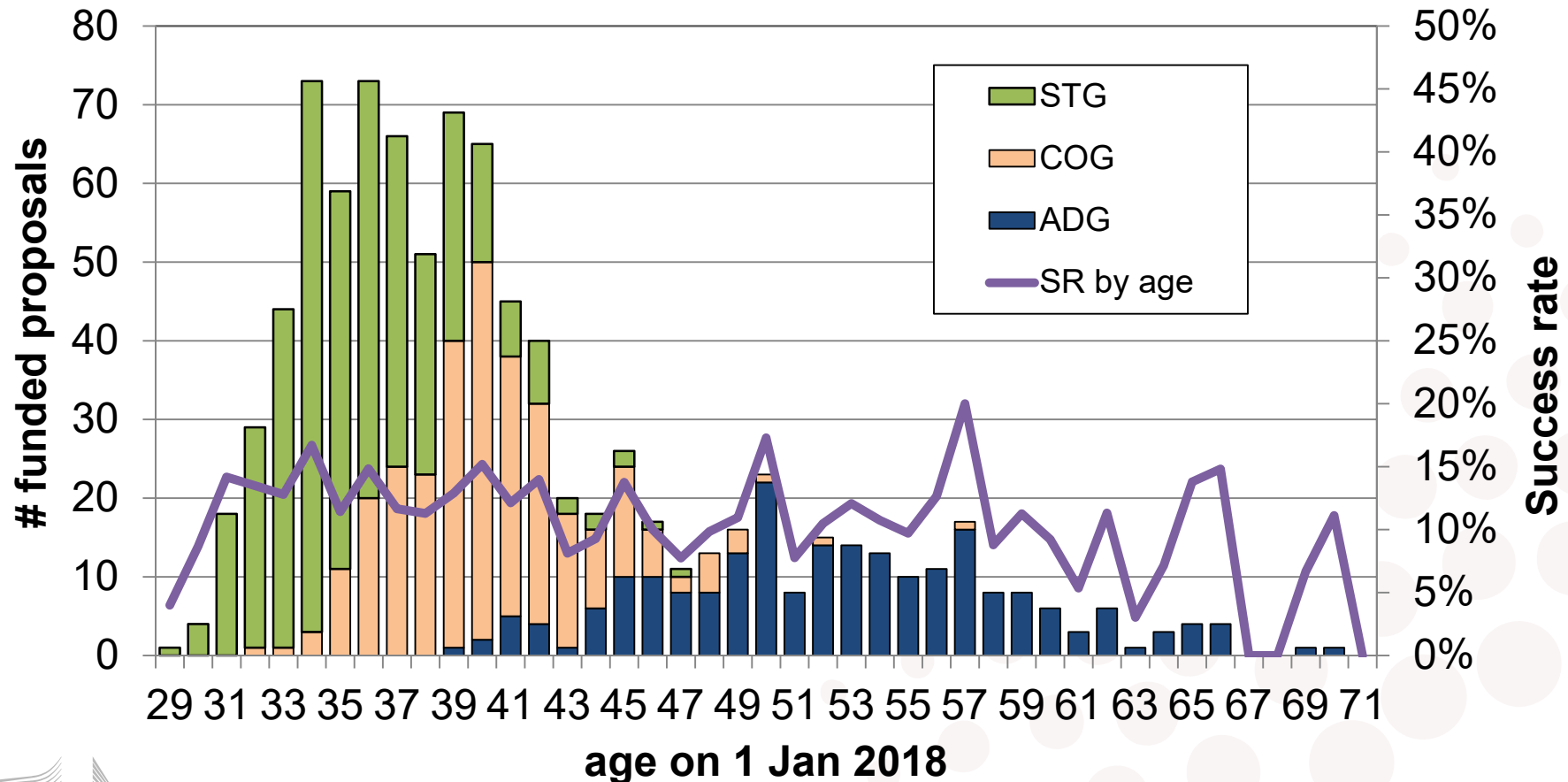
- ✓ ERC funds "frontier research", including applied research
- ✓ The budget is distributed among the scientific panels as a function of demand
- ✓ The panel descriptors do not represent ERC scientific priorities
- ✓ The success rate is virtually flat across the eligibility window (StG, CoG)
- ✓ The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



Shall I apply now or wait another year? 2018 StG/CoG/AdG Calls Age of Grantees



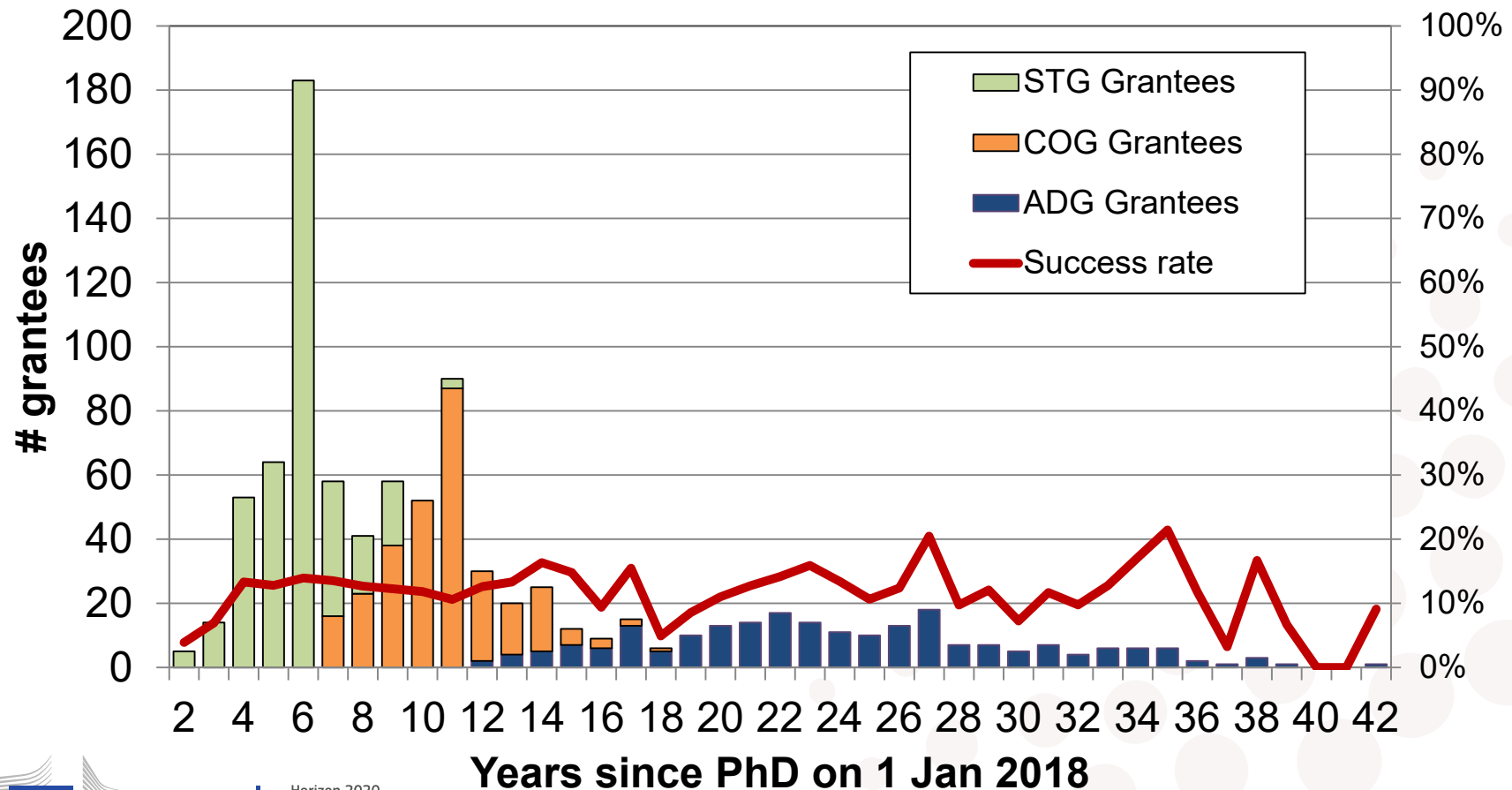
2018 Grantees by age and success rate



2018 StG/CoG/AdG Calls

"Academic age" of grantees

All calls 2018 Grantees by years since PhD



ERC Advanced Grants

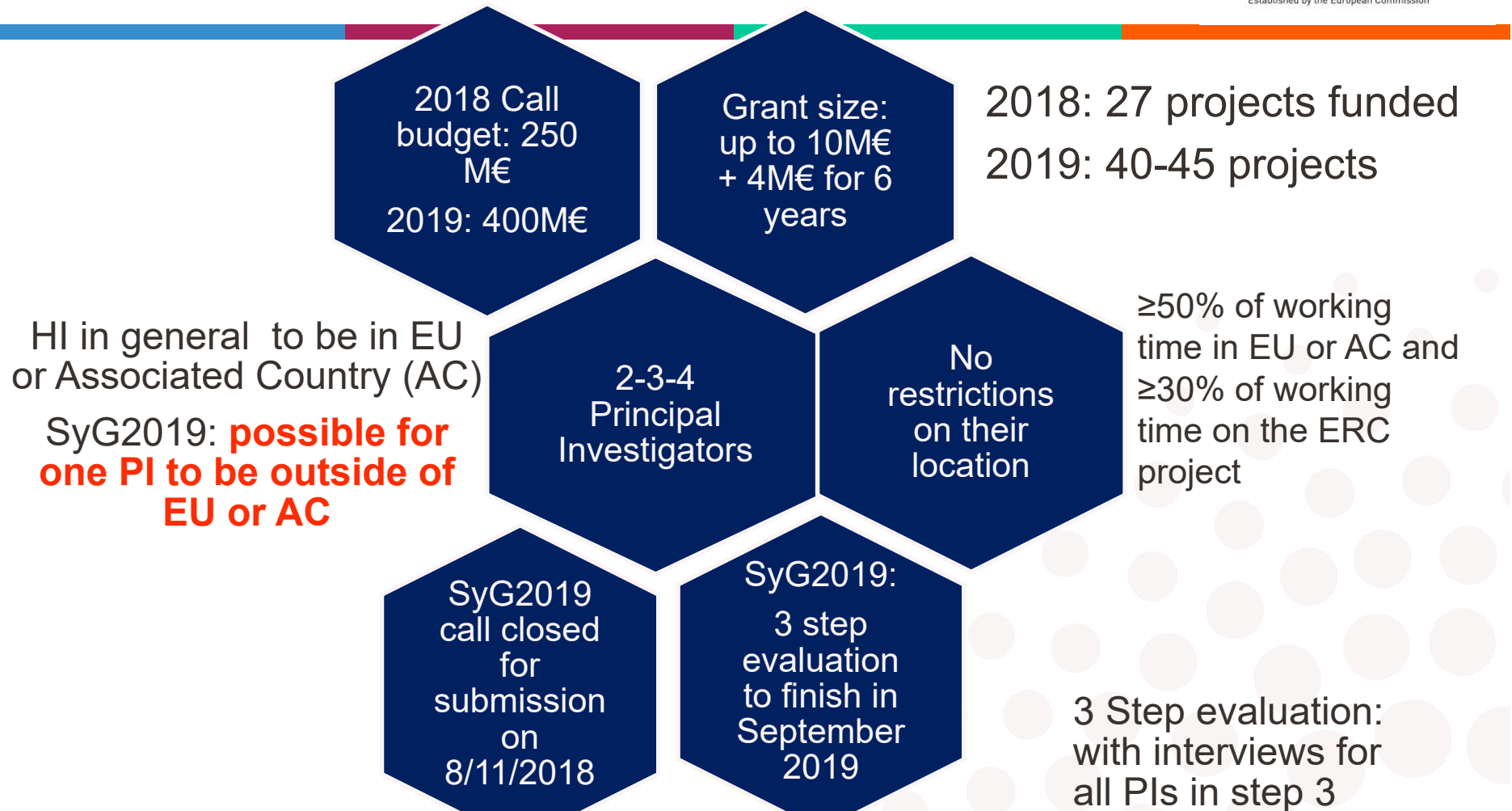
The applicant's profile



“Am I competitive enough?”

- Exceptional leader in terms of originality and significance of your research
- Excellent track record and achievements during the last 10 years (this time window can be extended in case of eligible career breaks)
- **Substantial track record of significant research achievements**
 - as appropriate for the field
 - publications in peer-reviewed journals, monographs, invited presentations, funding, patents, awards, prizes
 - Organisation of international conferences
 - Major contributions to the early careers of excellent researchers
 - Bibliometric data may be one of the proxies used (where appropriate) among many others

Design of the Synergy call in a nutshell



Deadline for SyG2019 proposal submission: 8 November 2018
SyG2020: submission opening planned for July 2019

SYNERGY 2018



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| 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 |



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EXAMPLE OF A GROUND-BREAKING SYNERGY PROJECT



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► The first ever image of a black hole, with EU support

Black hole breakthrough: a European success

by Helena Gonzalez-Sancho Bodero, ERCEA

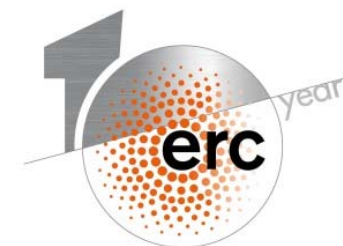
11/04/2019 | 130 20

Since yesterday, it's been all over the media: the first ever image of a massive black hole. 'First-ever?' some may wonder. Yes, despite the abundance of artistic simulations and pictures from science fiction, the truth is that astrophysicists know little about these mysterious places in space. It has taken several years of research and an unprecedented international cooperation to obtain the long-awaited image. The support of the EU has been key in this fascinating quest.

You cannot see black holes. By nature, they are out of sight. Gravity pulls so much inside them that they swallow nearby planets and stars, even light. Since Einstein described these cosmic objects in his *Theory*

ERC Synergy Project: <https://blackholecam.org/>

ERC Proof-of-Concept (POC) Grants



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- For Principal Investigators of existing grants
- Lump sum of EUR 150 000 for a period of 18 months
- **To maximise the value-creation** of the ERC-funded research

Provide funds to bring ERC-funded ideas to a *pre-demonstration* for:

- *Generation of return for innovators (economic, reputation, prestige, influence, ...)*
- *Generation of new value for users (socio-economic benefits)*



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Outline



- What is the ERC? What does the ERC offer?
- **How is Belgium doing at the ERC?**
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- Some tips on preparing an ERC proposal

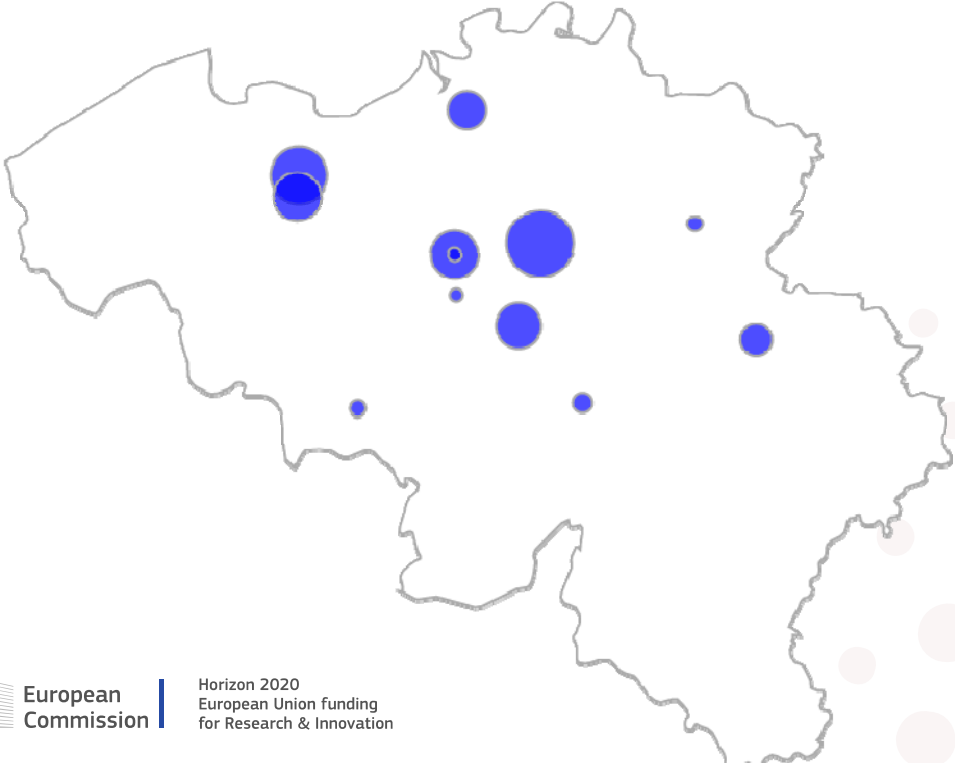
ERC & BELGIUM – State of Play April 2019



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BELGIUM

| | | | | | |
|-----|------|--------------|---------------|-----------|------------|
| 309 | 2553 | € 532.2 mil. | € 4376.2 mil. | % 12.10% | % € 12.16% |
|-----|------|--------------|---------------|-----------|------------|



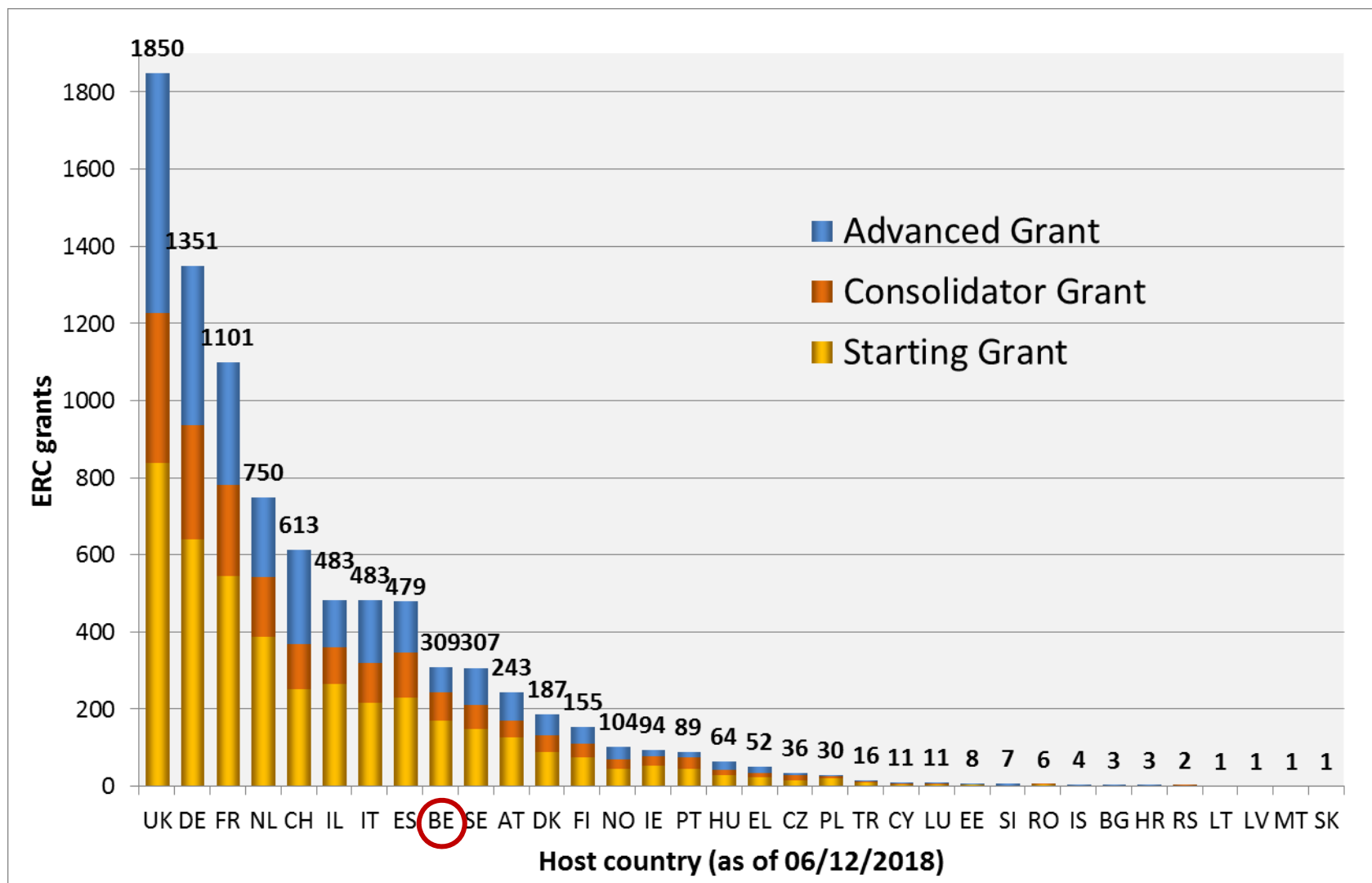
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ERC Funded Projects by Country of HI



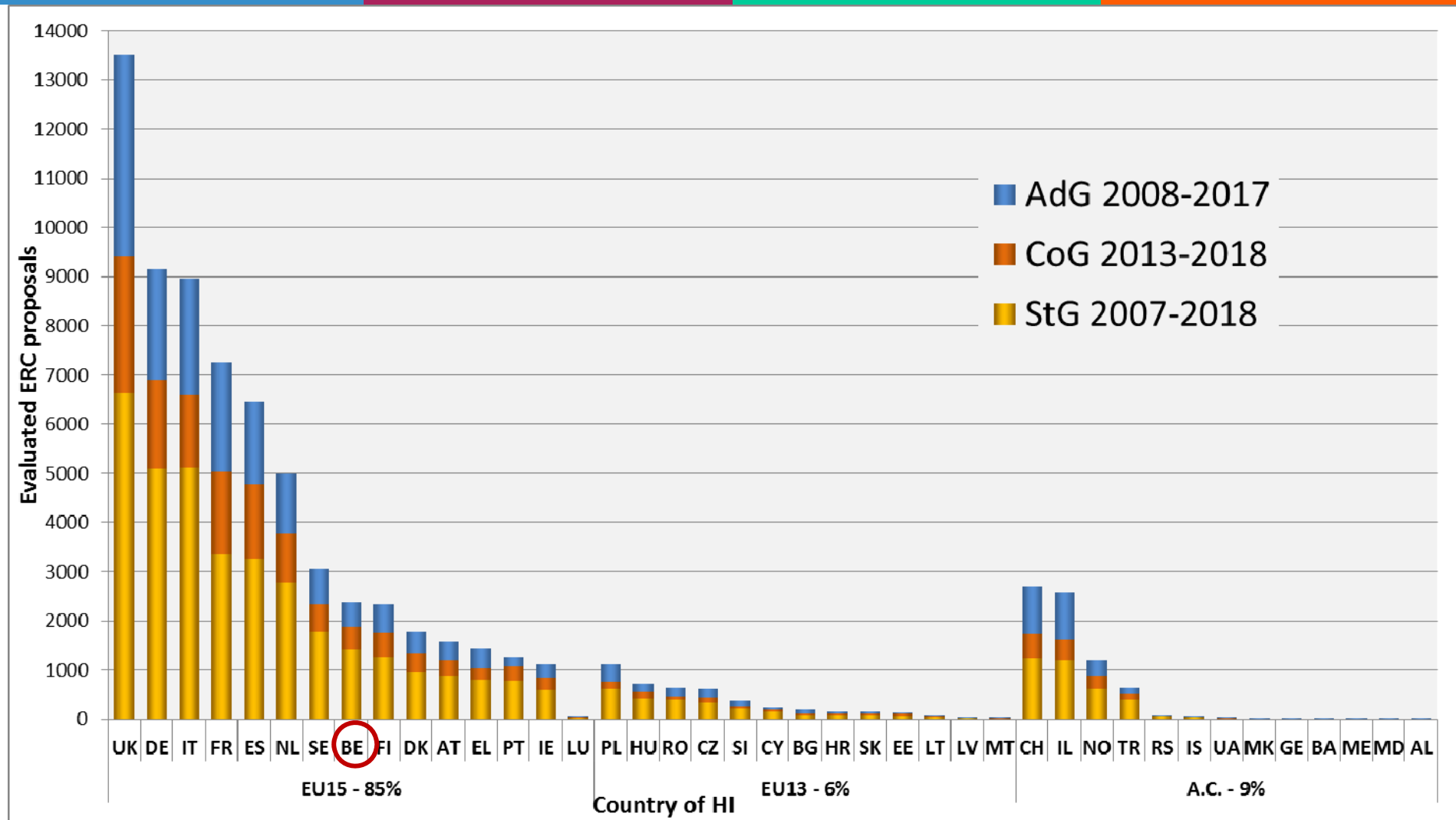
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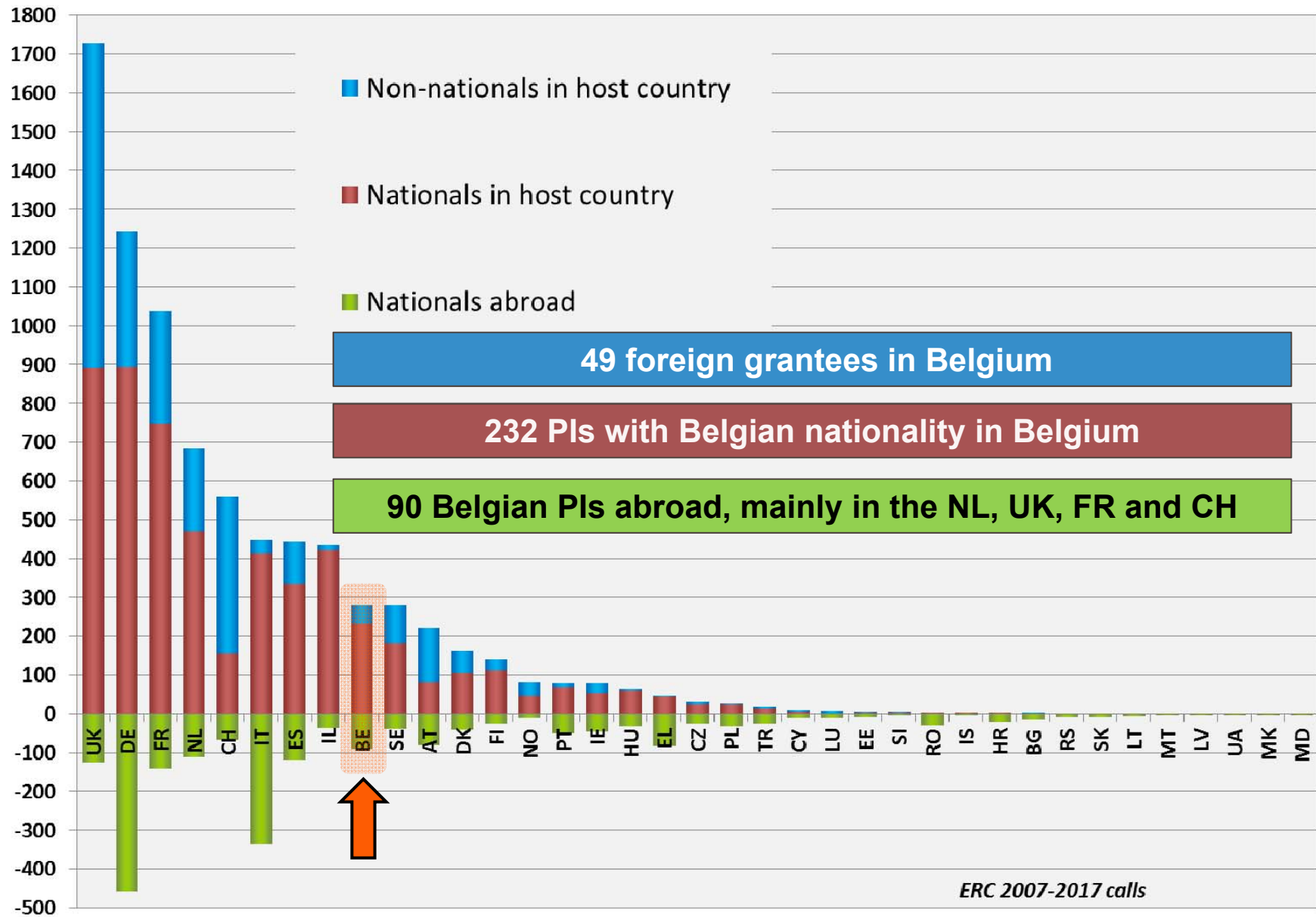
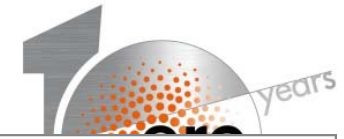


Evaluated ERC Proposals by HI Country

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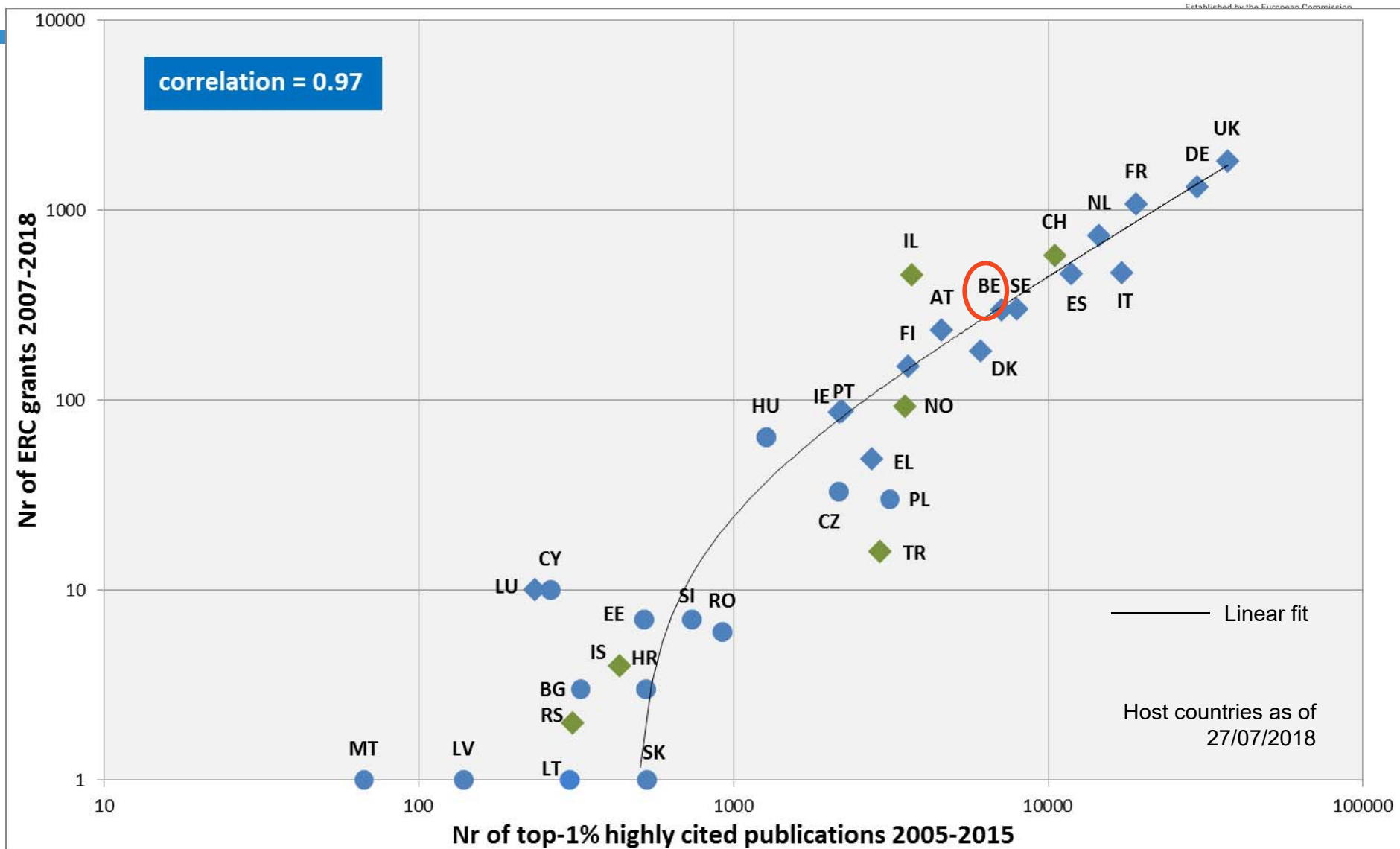
Grantees at Home and Abroad



ERC Grants versus Top Publications

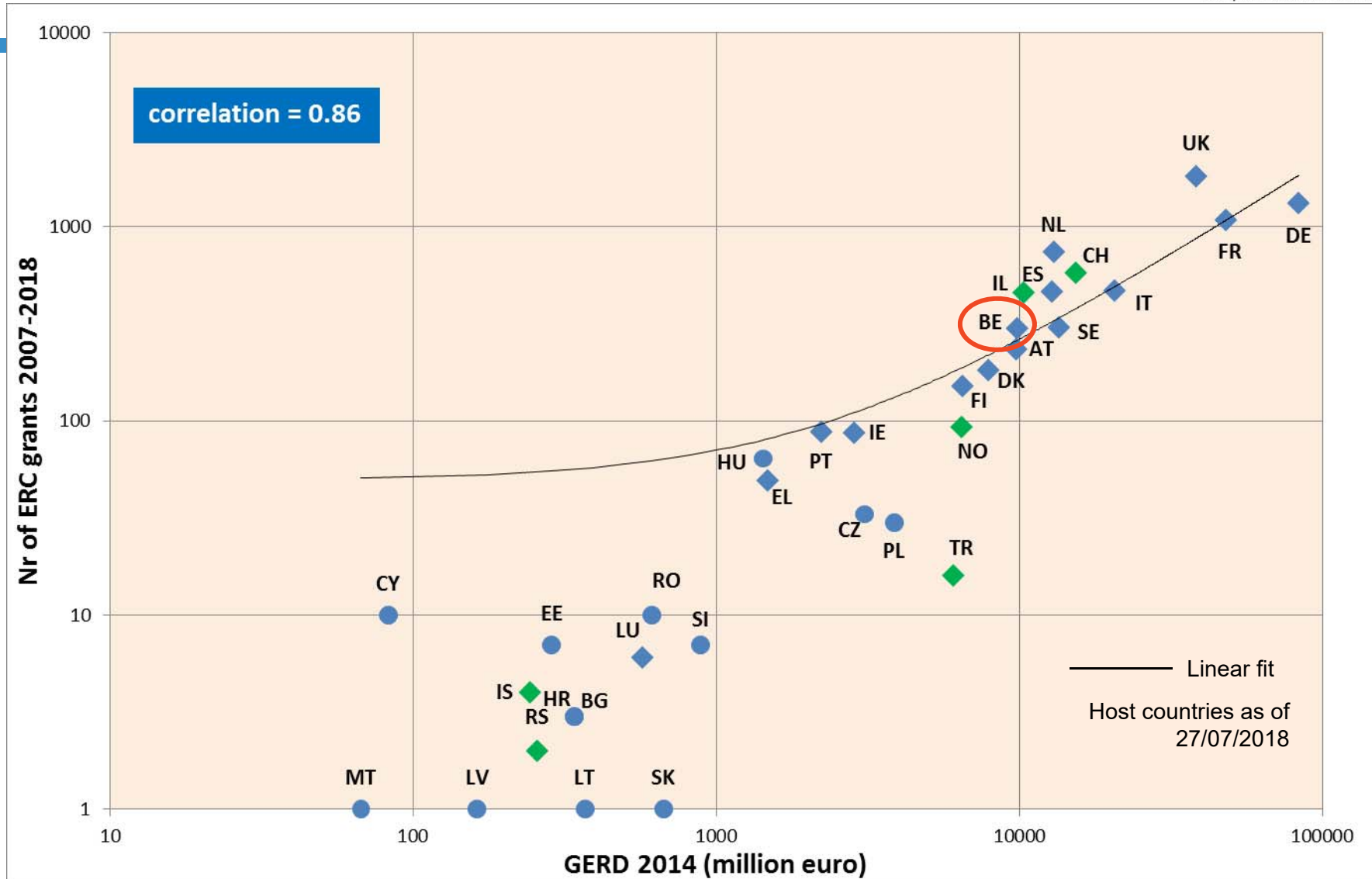


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ERC Grants versus GERD

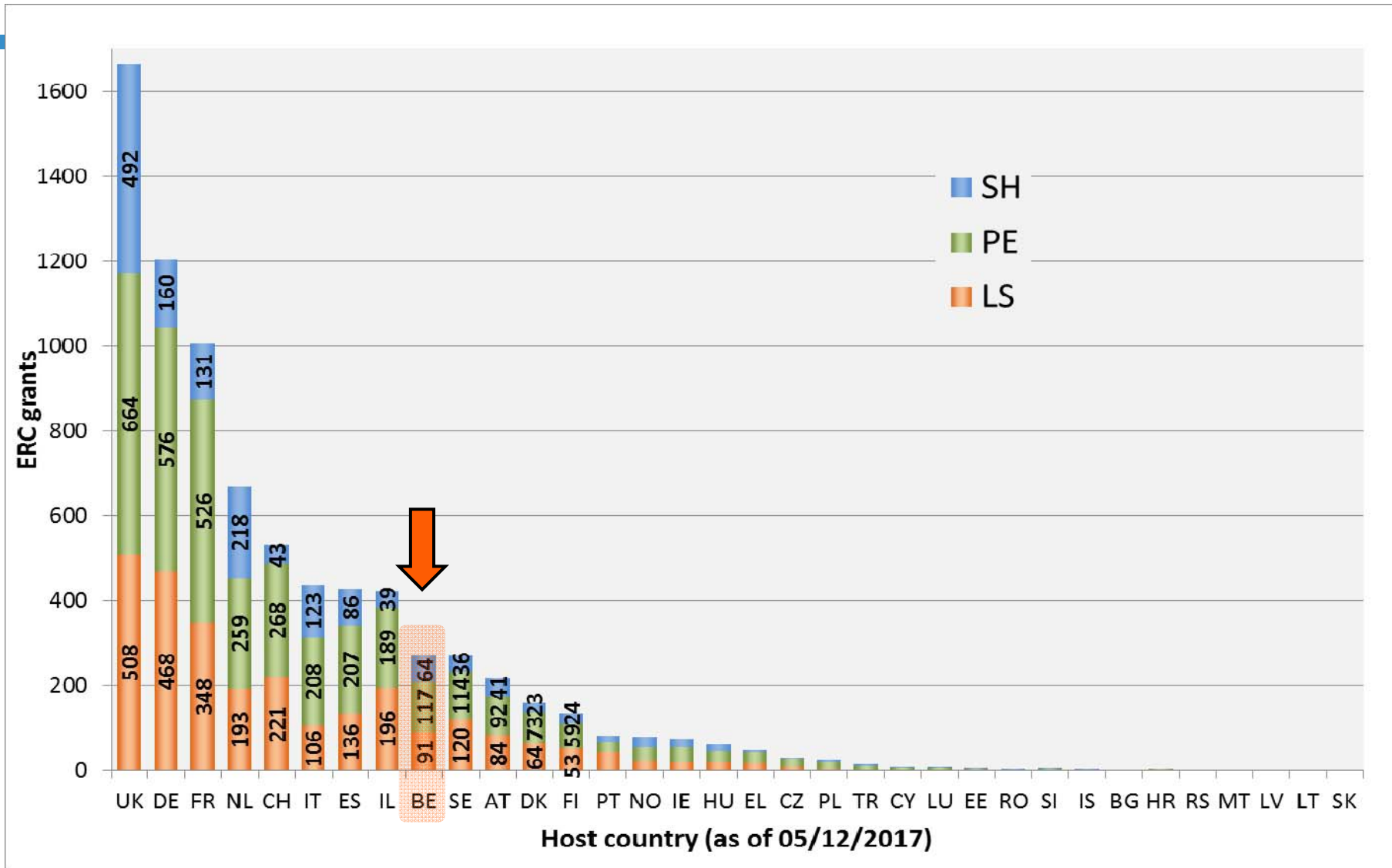
(Gross domestic expenditure on R&D)



ERC Funded Projects by Domain



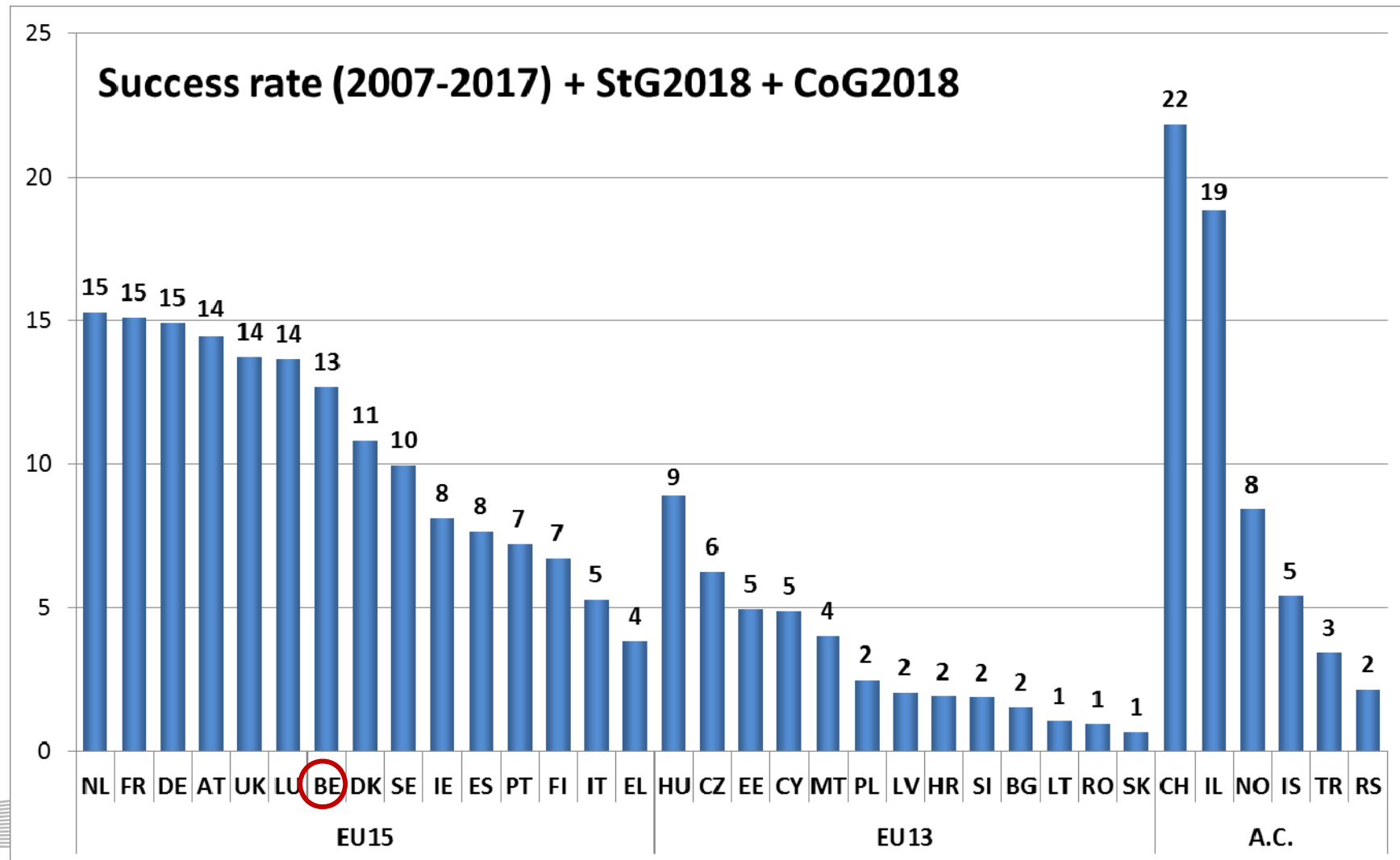
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Success Rate by Country of HI



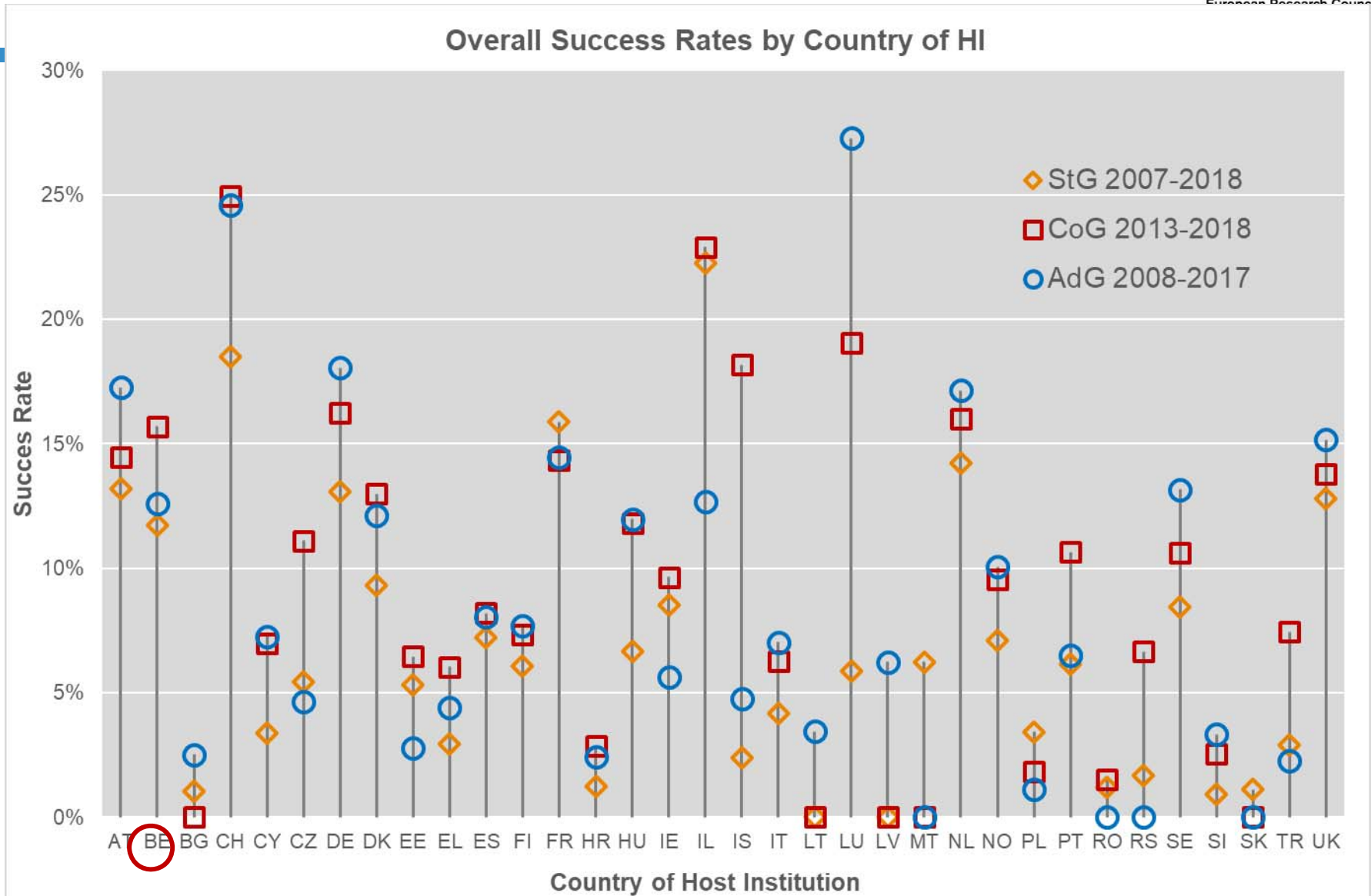
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Success Rate by Country of HI and by Type of Grant

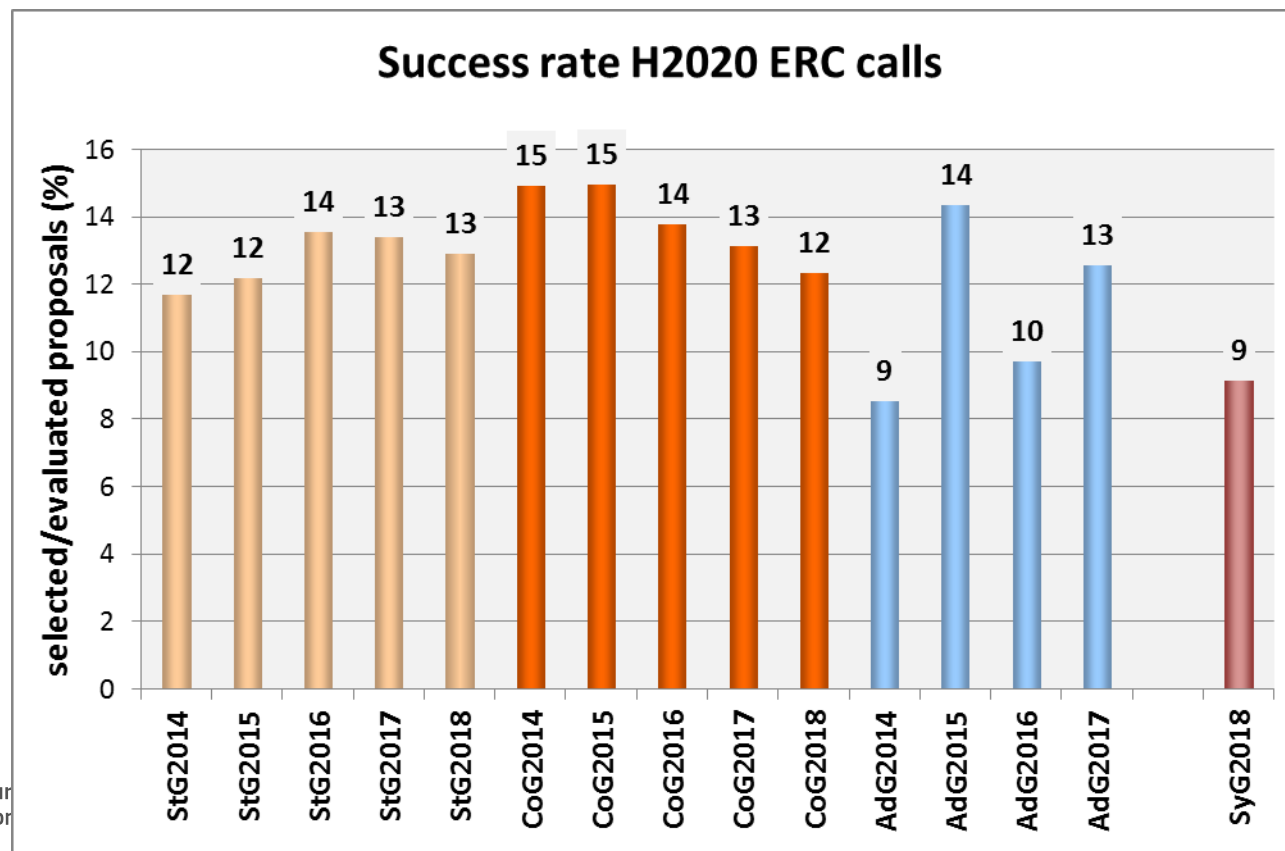


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Overall Success Rates by Type of Grant

| | StG 2007-2018 | CoG 2013-2018 | AdG 2008-2017 | Total |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------|
| Funded Proposals | 4257 | 1920 | 2678 | 8855 |
| Evaluated Proposals | 40960 | 15240 | 21091 | 77291 |
| Success Rate | 10% | 13% | 13% | 11% |



Top European Institutions Hosting ERC Grantees by Funding Schemes

ERC calls 2007-2017
+StG2018+CoG2018

*Current signatories
of the grant
agreement*

Data as of 06/12/2018

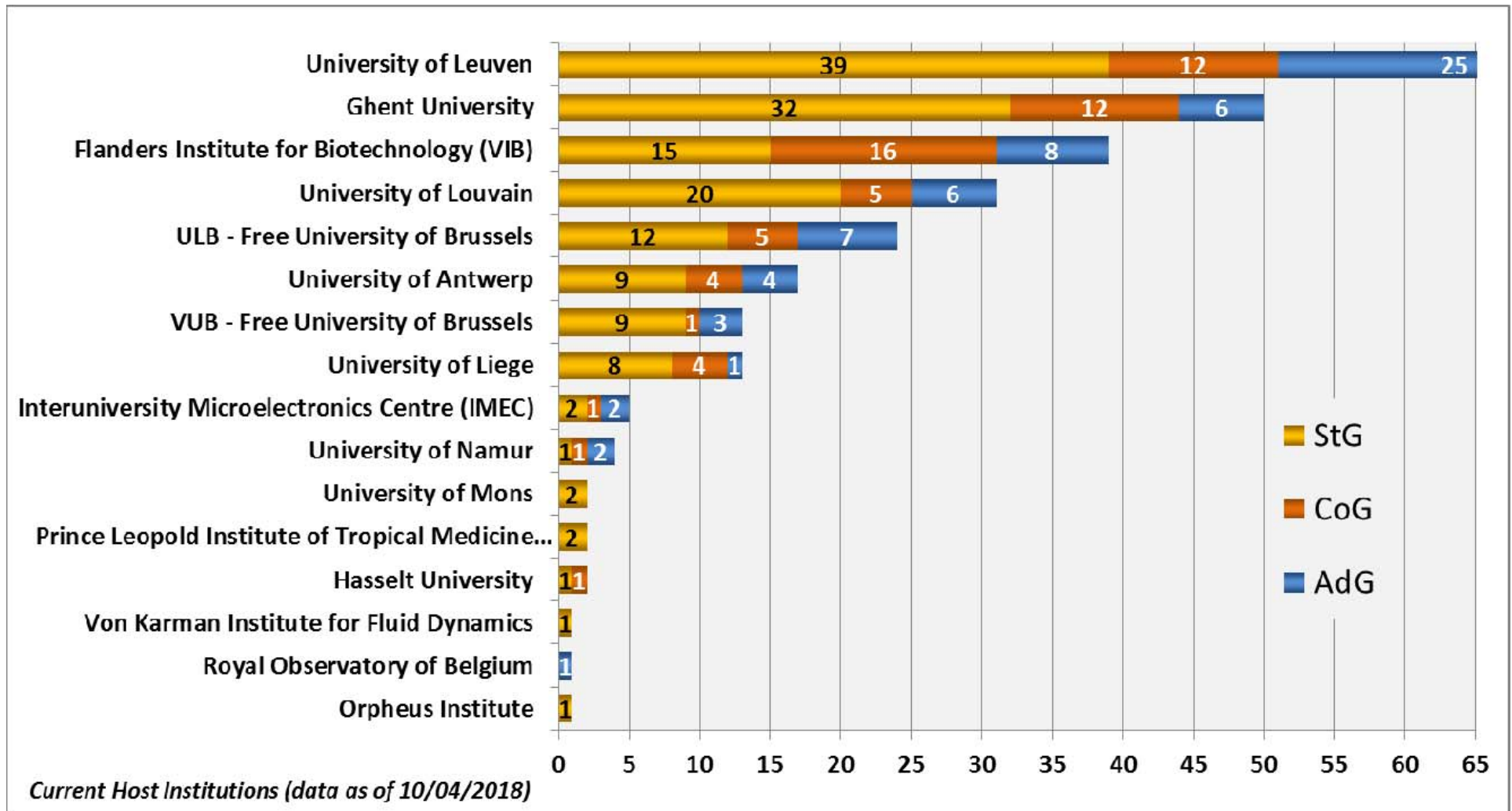
| Country | Higher-Education Institution | No | StG | CoG | AdG | Total | LS | PE | SH |
|---------|--|----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|----|
| UK | University of Cambridge | 1 | 103 | 48 | 82 | 233 | 82 | 111 | 40 |
| UK | University of Oxford | 2 | 85 | 52 | 94 | 231 | 65 | 96 | 70 |
| UK | University College London | 3 | 80 | 40 | 49 | 169 | 63 | 48 | 58 |
| CH | Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH Zurich) | 4 | 54 | 22 | 75 | 151 | 39 | 105 | 7 |
| IL | Weizmann Institute | 5 | 67 | 41 | 42 | 150 | 87 | 61 | 2 |
| CH | Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL) | 6 | 63 | 23 | 55 | 141 | 36 | 102 | 3 |
| IL | Hebrew University of Jerusalem | 7 | 65 | 21 | 40 | 126 | 53 | 51 | 22 |
| UK | University of Edinburgh | 8 | 45 | 17 | 41 | 103 | 35 | 41 | 27 |
| UK | Imperial College | 9 | 53 | 20 | 28 | 101 | 31 | 67 | 3 |
| DE | University of Munich (LMU) | 10 | 44 | 10 | 37 | 91 | 35 | 32 | 24 |
| DK | University of Copenhagen | 11 | 43 | 25 | 21 | 89 | 39 | 32 | 18 |
| NL | University of Amsterdam | 12 | 48 | 16 | 24 | 88 | 8 | 25 | 55 |
| IL | Tel Aviv University | 13 | 50 | 17 | 18 | 85 | 35 | 42 | 8 |
| BE | University of Leuven | 14 | 40 | 14 | 26 | 80 | 21 | 42 | 17 |
| NL | Delft University of Technology | 15 | 40 | 17 | 18 | 75 | 10 | 57 | 8 |
| CH | University of Zurich | 16 | 31 | 16 | 26 | 73 | 38 | 14 | 21 |
| NL | Utrecht University | 17 | 30 | 24 | 18 | 72 | 13 | 28 | 31 |
| FI | University of Helsinki | 18 | 34 | 15 | 22 | 71 | 39 | 17 | 15 |
| NL | Radboud University Nijmegen | 19 | 36 | 17 | 17 | 70 | 23 | 21 | 26 |
| NL | Leiden University | 20 | 35 | 14 | 19 | 68 | 1 | 25 | 42 |
| UK | University of Bristol | 21 | 26 | 9 | 32 | 67 | 13 | 40 | 14 |
| IL | Technion - Israel Institute of Technology | 22 | 39 | 11 | 14 | 64 | 20 | 43 | 1 |
| DE | Technical University of Munich | 23 | 27 | 17 | 17 | 61 | 14 | 46 | 1 |
| UK | University of Manchester | 24 | 21 | 14 | 24 | 59 | 10 | 40 | 9 |
| Country | Research Organisation | No | StG | CoG | AdG | Total | LS | PE | SH |
| FR | National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) | 1 | 235 | 124 | 108 | 467 | 129 | 280 | 58 |
| DE | Max Planck Society | 2 | 105 | 36 | 87 | 228 | 118 | 92 | 18 |
| DE | Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres | 3 | 69 | 35 | 31 | 135 | 81 | 53 | 1 |
| FR | National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM) | 4 | 52 | 27 | 28 | 107 | 99 | 4 | 4 |
| ES | Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) | 5 | 33 | 20 | 18 | 71 | 20 | 43 | 8 |
| FR | French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission | 6 | 43 | 9 | 17 | 69 | 10 | 57 | 2 |

ERC Grants by Belgian institutions

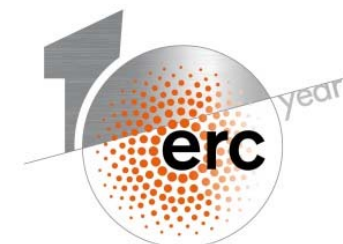
(provisional data)



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ERC Grants by Belgian institutions in EU/AC



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ERC calls 2007-2017: 762 institutions

| | | |
|----|---|-----|
| 1 | National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) | 425 |
| 2 | University of Cambridge | 218 |
| 3 | University of Oxford | 214 |
| 4 | Max Planck Society | 210 |
| 5 | University College London | 157 |
| 6 | Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH Zurich) | 136 |
| 7 | Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL) | 134 |
| 8 | Weizmann Institute | 133 |
| 9 | Hebrew University of Jerusalem | 117 |
| 10 | Nat. Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM) | 101 |
| 11 | Imperial College | 97 |
| 12 | University of Edinburgh | 97 |
| 13 | University of Amsterdam | 83 |
| 14 | University of Copenhagen | 80 |
| 15 | University of Munich (LMU) | 80 |
| 16 | University of Leuven | 76 |
| 17 | Tel Aviv University | 75 |
| 18 | Delft University of Technology | 66 |
| 19 | French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Comm. | 66 |
| 20 | Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) | 66 |
| 34 | Ghent University | 50 |
| 45 | Flanders Institute for Biotechnology (VIB) | 39 |
| 62 | University of Louvain la Neuve | 31 |
| 79 | ULB - Free University of Brussels | 24 |



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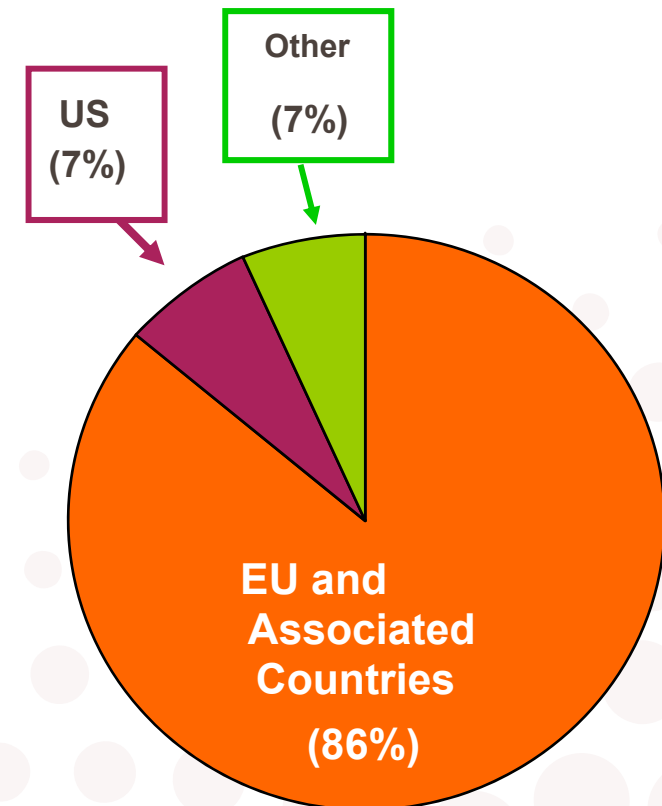
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Evaluation- StG/CoG/AdG

Peers



- **Panel members:** typically 425 / call (SyG:~90)
 - High-level scientists
 - Recruited by the ERC Scientific Council from all over the world: ~14% from outside Europe
 - About 14-17 members, including one chair person
- **Referees:** typically 2000 / call
 - Evaluate only a small number of proposals
 - Similar to normal practise in peer-reviewed journals

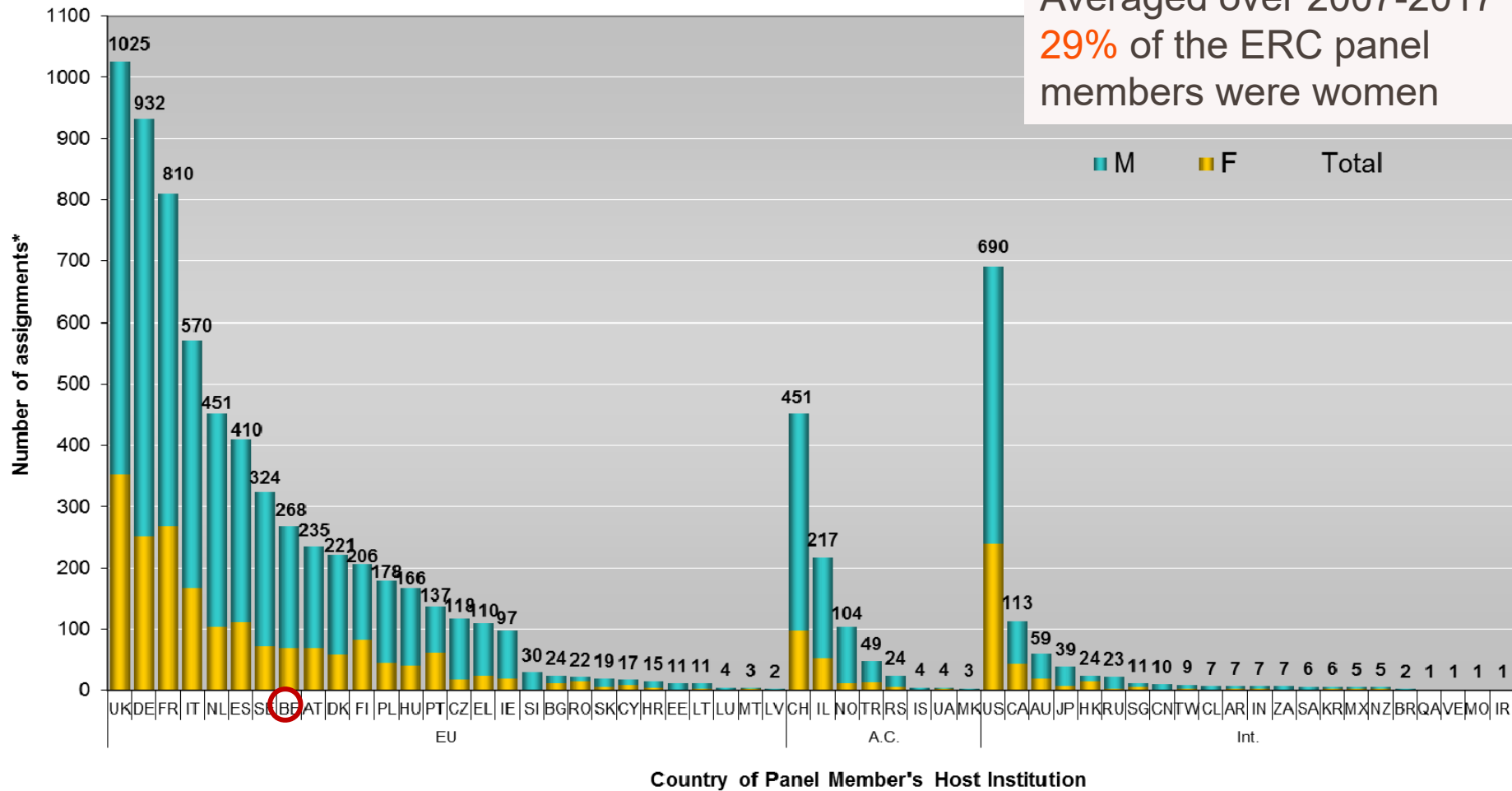


ERC Panel Members by Country of HI and Gender



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



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



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StG/CoG/AdG: Submission to Panels

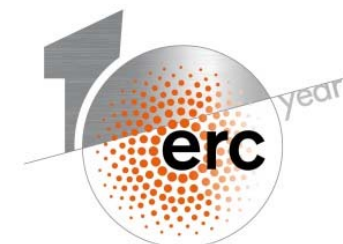
(SyG: all proposals are submitted to a single panel)



- Proposals are submitted to a *targeted Panel* (of PI's choice)
 - ➔ Can flag one “*Secondary Review Panel*”
- **Applicant chooses his/her panel**, and this panel is “responsible” for the evaluation of the proposal
- Proposals can be moved to other panels in exceptional cases, e.g. if clear mistake on part of applicant, or due to the necessary expertise being available in a different panel
- In case of cross-panel or cross-domain proposals, evaluation by members of other panels possible

Online Submission

Proposal structure



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Administrative forms (Part A)

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

Administrative forms

Annexes

Commitment of the host institution, PhD certificates, certificates on extension of eligibility, ethics issues etc

Part B1 (submitted as pdf)

Evaluated in Step 1 & Step 2

Text box - Cross-domain nature explanation

- a – Extended synopsis 5 pages
- b – Curriculum vitae 2 pages
- Appendix – Funding ID
- c - Track-record 2 pages

Part B2 (submitted as pdf)

NOT evaluated in Step 1 (Step 2 only)

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

→ Read the Information for Applicants



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How are ERC research proposals evaluated?

Excellence is the sole evaluation criterion



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Evaluation of *excellence* at two levels:

- **Excellence of the Research Project**

- ✓ **Ground breaking nature**
- ✓ **Potential impact**
- ✓ **Scientific Approach**

- **Excellence of the Principal Investigator**

- ✓ **Intellectual capacity**
- ✓ **Creativity**
- ✓ **Commitment**

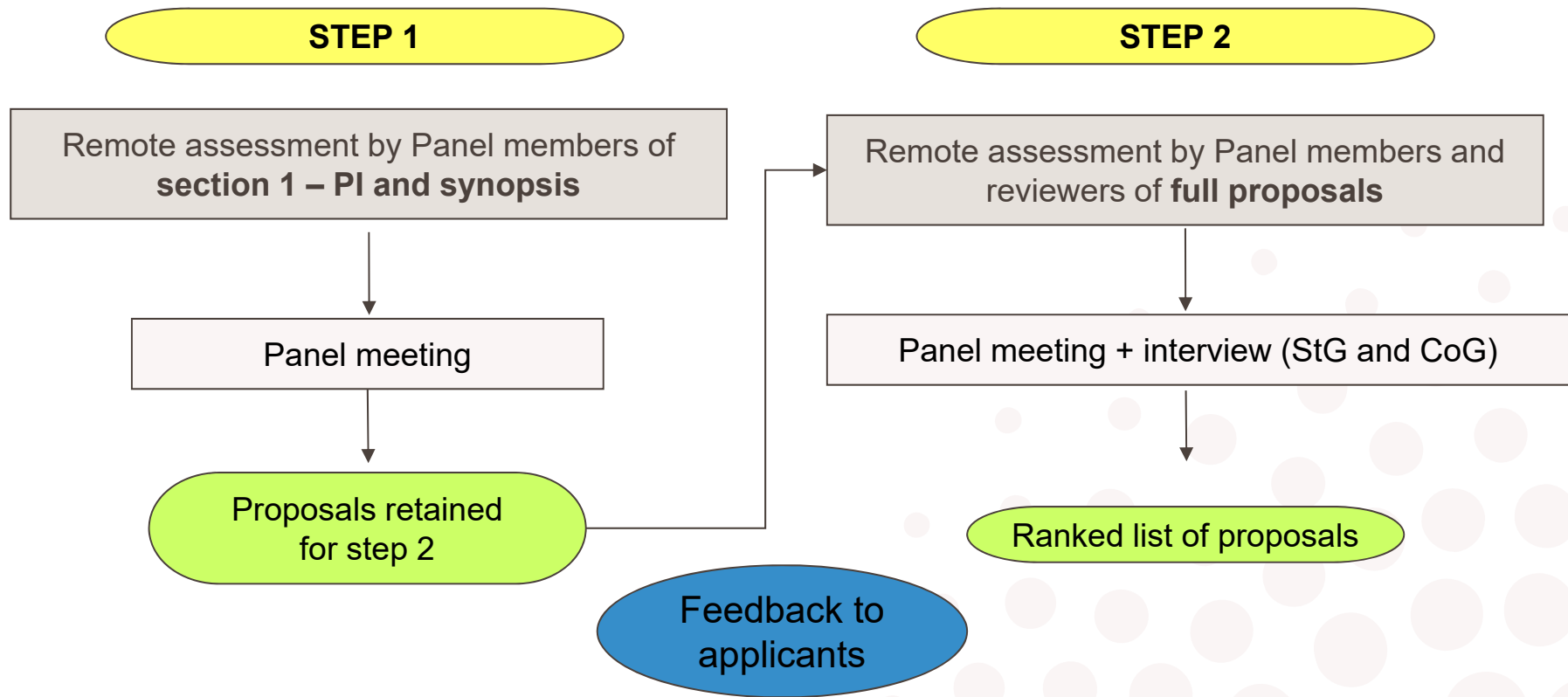


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Evaluation

Review procedure (StG, CoG and AdG)



- Right balance between generalist + specialized review
- Appropriate treatment of interdisciplinary proposals

How to prepare and submit a successful ERC research proposal?



- Have a **bright, original, exciting idea**
- Design a **research project** to implement the idea
- Get a letter of support from a **Host Institution** where the project is to be carried out (the HI must be located in the EU or any of the H2020 associated countries)
- Write your **research proposal**
- **Fully electronic/web based submission system**
- **Submit** your research proposal **before the deadline**

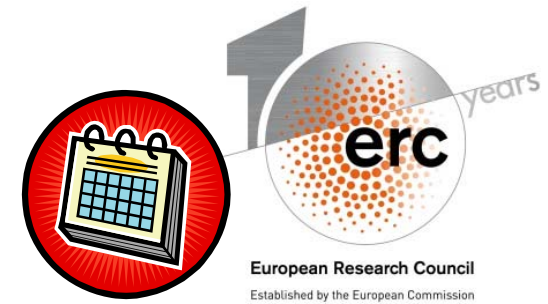


Outline



- What is the ERC? What does the ERC offer?
- How is Belgium doing at the ERC?
- How are ERC research proposals evaluated?
- **Some tips on preparing an ERC proposal**

Preparing your proposal (1)



- **Register early**, get familiar with the system and templates and start filling in the forms
- A submitted proposal can be **revised until the call deadline** by submitting a new version and overwriting the previous one
- Make sure you are eligible
- Follow the formatting rules and page limits.
- Download and proof-read the proposal before submitting.
- Make use of the **help tools and call documents** (Information for Applicants, Work Programme, Frequently asked questions)
- Talk to the National Contact Points and your Institution's grant office

Preparing your proposal (2): Host Institution



- You **can change** it during the project's life
- **Negotiate** with the HI (your position, equipment, administrative support, access to infrastructure, etc.)

Rumour 1: *The quality/fame of the HI is increasing my chances/scores.*

✗ NOT true: the HI is not an evaluation criterion!

Preparing your proposal (3): Choosing the Panel



<https://erc.europa.eu/projects-and-results/erc-funded-projects>

- Check out projects funded under panel
- Check out past panel members



IMPORTANT: You are not allowed to contact panel members about the evaluation! Any such contact can lead to exclusion from the call.

CHOOSE YOUR PANEL

ERC peer review evaluation panels (2019 calls)

COMPOSITION OF EVALUATION PANELS

ERC Starting Grant 2019:

Panel Chairs

Panel Members

ERC Starting Grant 2018:

Preparing your proposal (4): Choosing descriptors



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

Rumour 2 : The more cross-panel descriptors indicated, 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.

Preparing your proposal (5): Part B1: the research project



- Is my project new, **innovative**, bringing new solutions/theories?
- Does it promise to go **substantially beyond the state of the art?** – no incremental research. **Think big!**
- Know your competitors – what is the **state of play** and why is your idea and scientific approach outstanding?
- Only the extended Synopsis is read at Step 1: **concise and clear presentation** is crucial (evaluators are not all experts in the field)
- How can I **prove/support** my case? Are my goals **realistic**? Explain your **scientific approach** in sufficient detail to convince the panel about the **feasibility** of your project
- What's the **risk**? Mitigating measures?
- Societal impact is **not** an evaluation criterion (which does not mean ERC-funded projects would not have such impact)

Preparing your proposal (6): Part B1: the principal investigator



- Why am I the **best/only person** to carry it out? Know your competitors
- Am I able to work **independently**, and to manage a 5-year project with a substantial budget?
- Am I **competitive**?
- Have I shown my **scientific leadership** in my CV?

Rumour 3: One needs publications in Nature/Science/High Impact Factor journals to succeed.

✗NOT true

Preparing your proposal (7): Part B2



In Step 2, both part B.1 and part B.2 are read by Panel Members and specialists from around the world

- Do not repeat the synopsis, provide sufficient details on your methodology and work plan
- Make sure that the quantitative and qualitative differences to the state of the art are clear and referenced - show you did your homework.
- Provide alternative strategies to mitigate risks
- Explain **involvement of team members**
- Justify requested **resources** – **explain your budget properly**

Preparing your proposal (8): Proposal budget considerations



- Budget analysis carried out in Step 2 evaluation (meeting)
- Panels have 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)
- Panels to recommend a final maximum budget based on the resources allocated/ removed
- Panels do not “micro-manage” project finances
- Awards made on a “take-it-or-leave-it” basis: no negotiations

Typical reasons for not making it into Step 2



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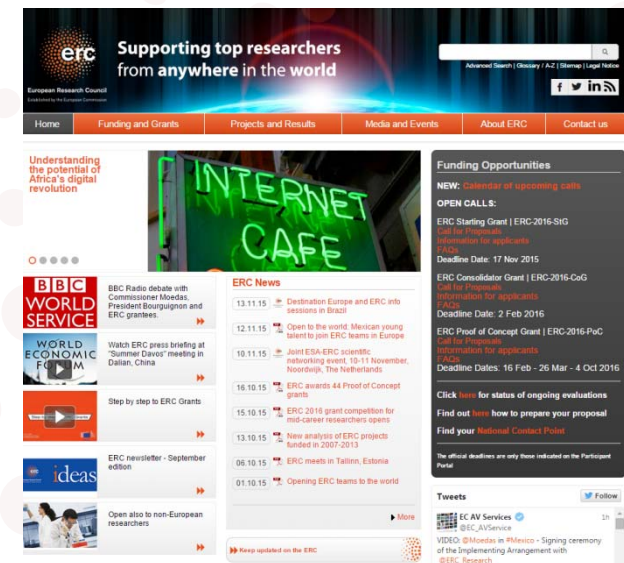
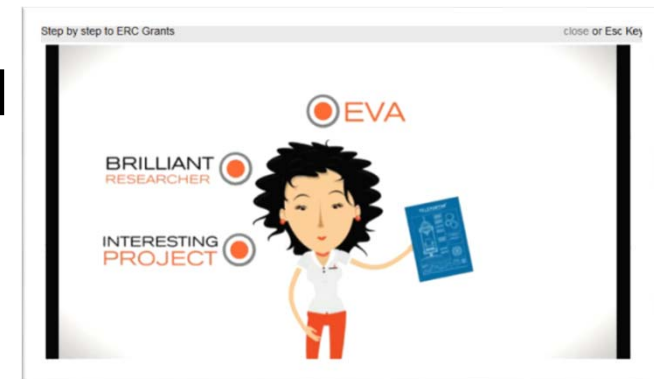
- Incremental in nature
- Hypothesis and objectives not sufficiently clear
- No realisation of risks & challenges, contingency
- For interdisciplinary proposals: expertise missing in one area

It does take a considerable effort to compose a good application!

Some useful tools and links



- Read **Information for Applicants** and **Work Programme**
- View the **step-by-step video** Introduction to application process, including tips & tricks for the interview <https://vimeo.com/94179654>
- Consult **ERC website** for latest funding opportunities, view ERC funded projects



The European Research Council



More information on
erc.europa.eu

Read through the ERC
Work Programme 2019 !

National Contact Point in your country
erc.europa.eu/national-contact-points

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Outlook next Framework Programme

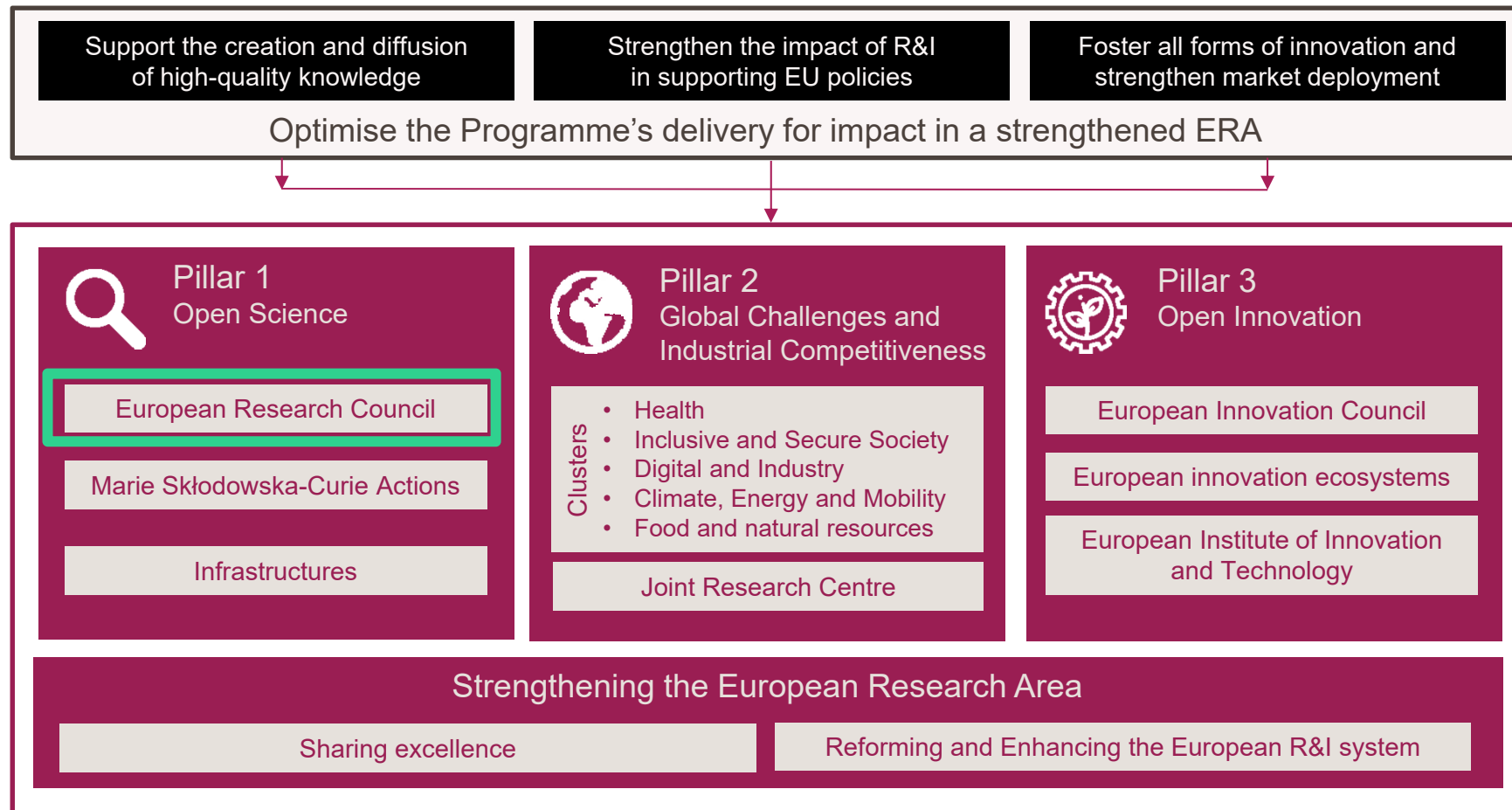


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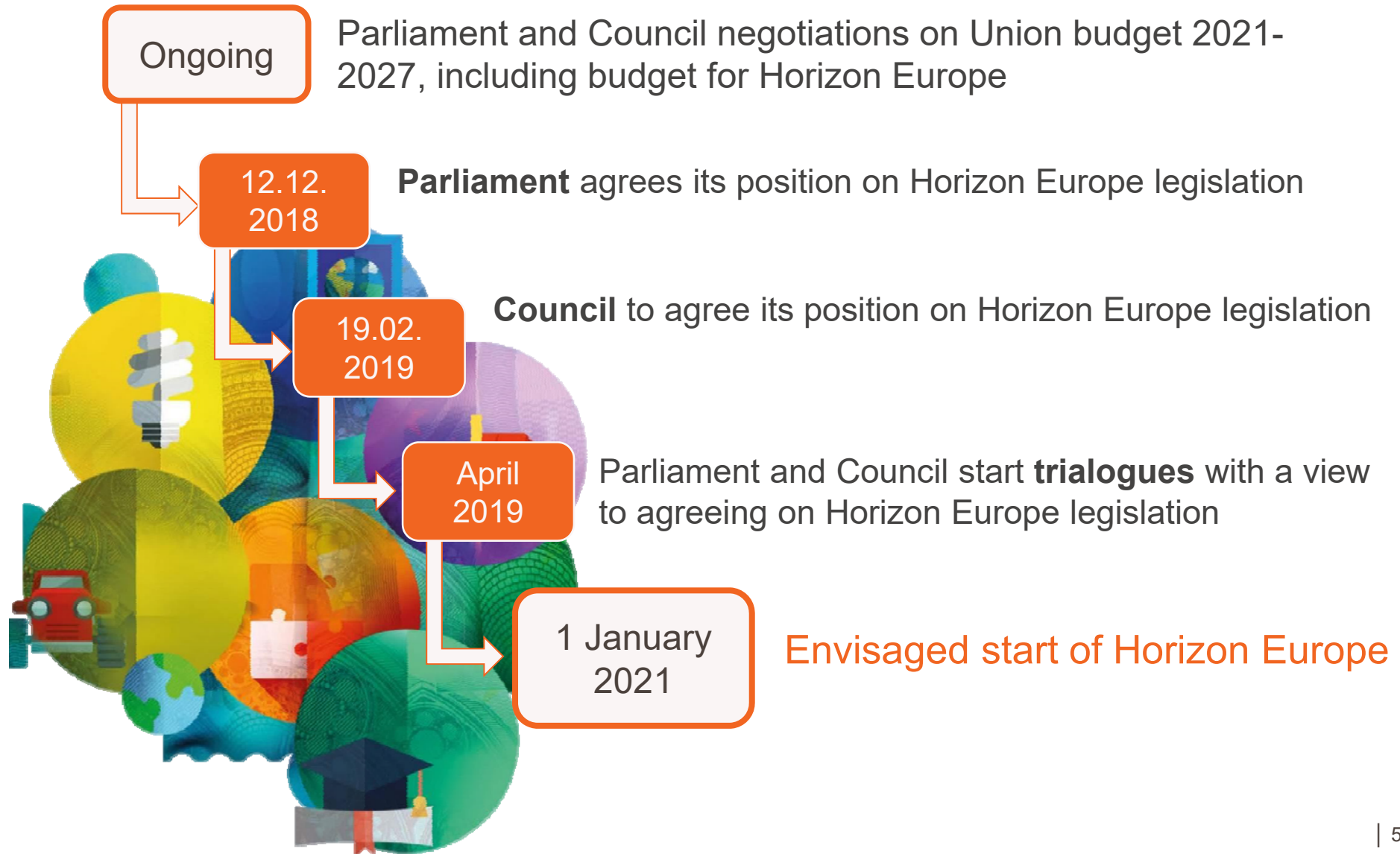
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Horizon Europe: Evolution not Revolution

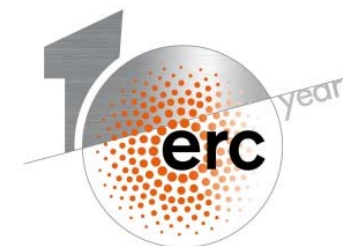
Specific objectives of the Programme



What Next? update



ERC is Putting Europe Back on the Map

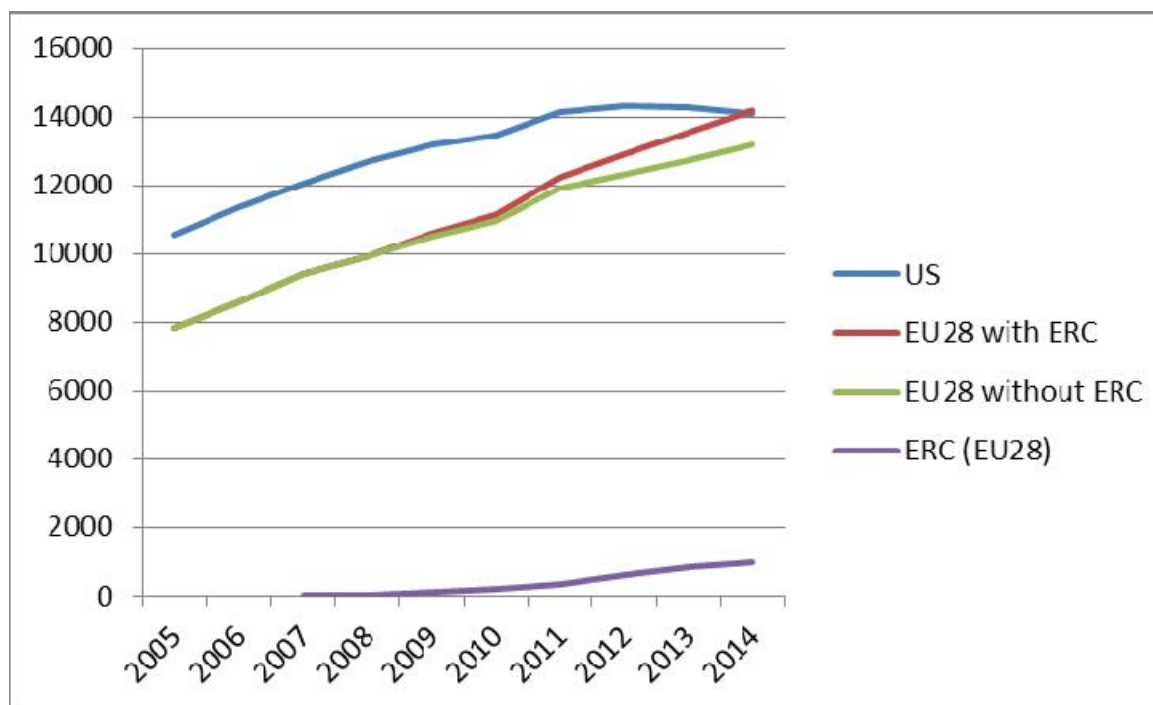


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The first reported ERC publications began to appear in 2007 and since then publications acknowledging ERC funding have gone from contributing less than 0.1% of EU top 1% publications in 2007 (2) to nearly 7% in 2014 (973).

In 2014, for the first time authors based in the EU appeared on more top 1% cited publications (14,172) than authors based in US (14,093) in absolute numbers.

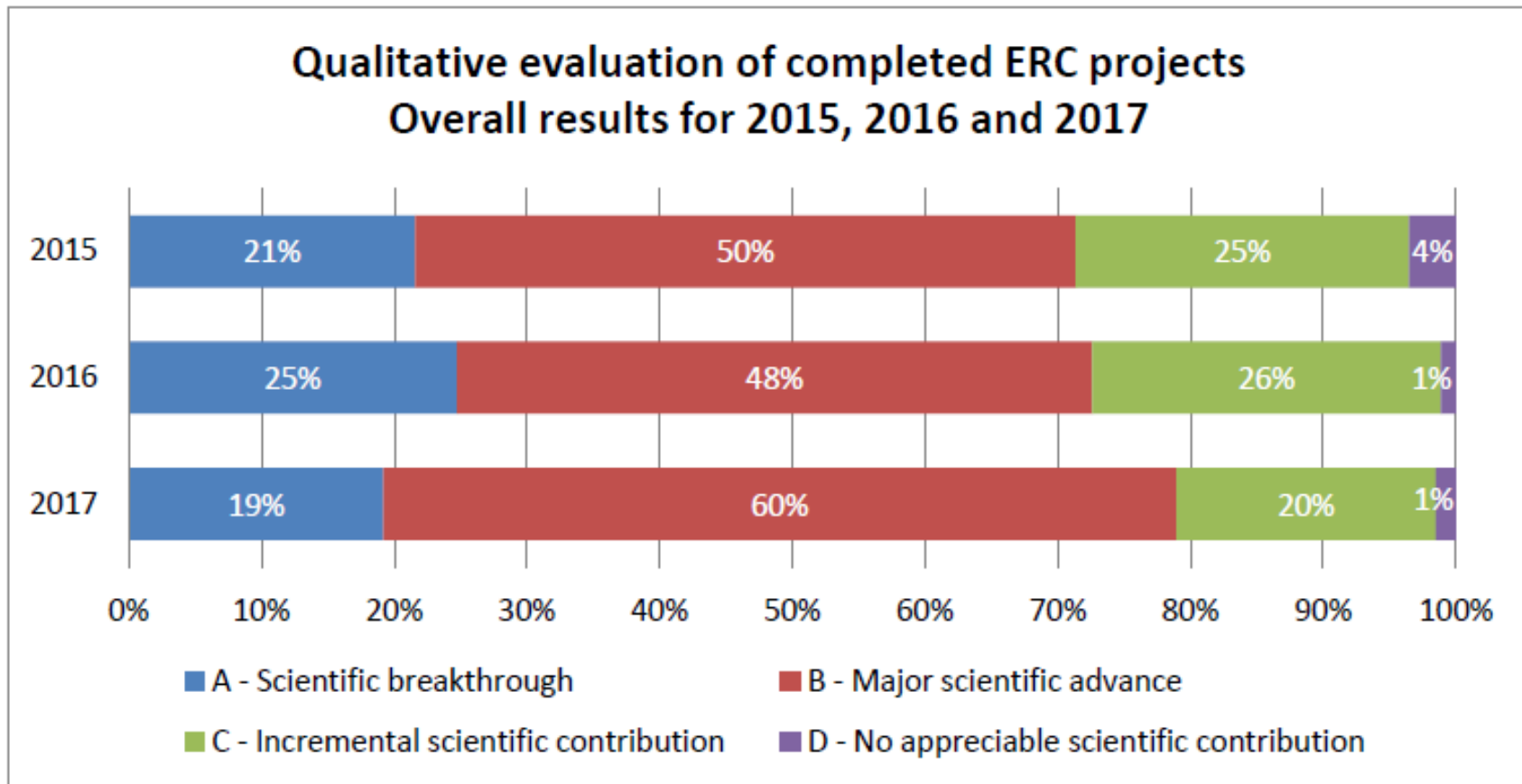
Diagramme until 2014 (1% most cited Publications)



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21% of the ERC-funded Projects Deliver Scientific Breakthroughs

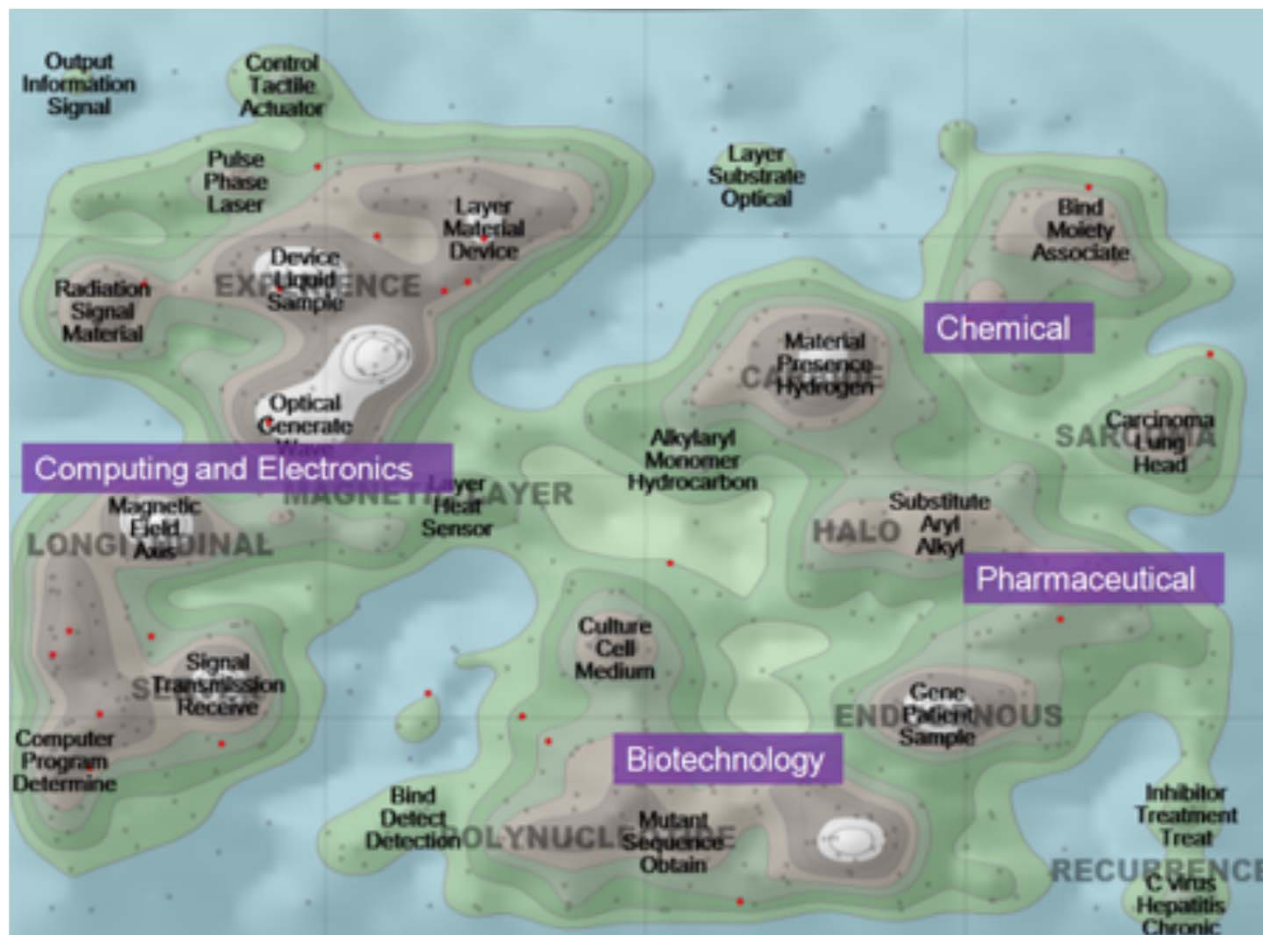


Frontier Research Leads to Innovation



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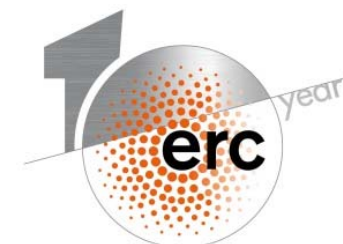
With 17% of the budget of the 7th Framework Programme (FP7), the ERC accounts for 29% of FP7-funded patent filings (>800)



Thematic
concept map of
ERC supported
inventions

Proposal submission

ERC Work Programme 2019 calendar



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| ERC calls | Budget | Call Opening | Submission Deadline(s) |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Starting Grants ERC-2019-StG | 580 M€ (390 grants) | 1 August 2018 | 17 October 2018 |
| Synergy Grants ERC-2019-SyG | 400 M€ (48 grants) | 2 August 2018 | 8 November 2018 |
| Consolidator Grants ERC-2019-CoG | 602 M€ (314 grants) | 24 October 2018 | 7 February 2019 |
| Advanced Grants ERC-2019-AdG | 391 M€ (166 grants) | 21 May 2019 | 29 August 2019 |
| Proof of Concept ERC-2019-PoC | 25 M€ (167 grants) | 6 October 2018 | 22 January 2019 25 April 2019 19 September 2019 |



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Q: Can you show us an example of a successful proposal and say what factors made it stand out from the crowd?



We can't provide a 'representative' example.

Every panel decides whether and why a proposal is successful as compared to others.

The reasons for this can be very different from one panel to another.

Applicants should find their own way and rely on themselves to come up with a convincing proposal.

See on the ERC Website what projects have been funded in your field.