

The European Research Council



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ERC and International participation and Russia

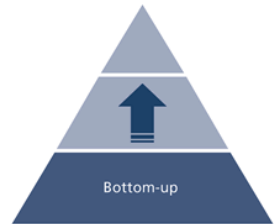
Dr Alice Rajewsky
Head of Sector Humanities
ERC Scientific Management Department

EU-Russia S&T Cooperation, St Petersburg, 7-8 October 2016

What is ERC?

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

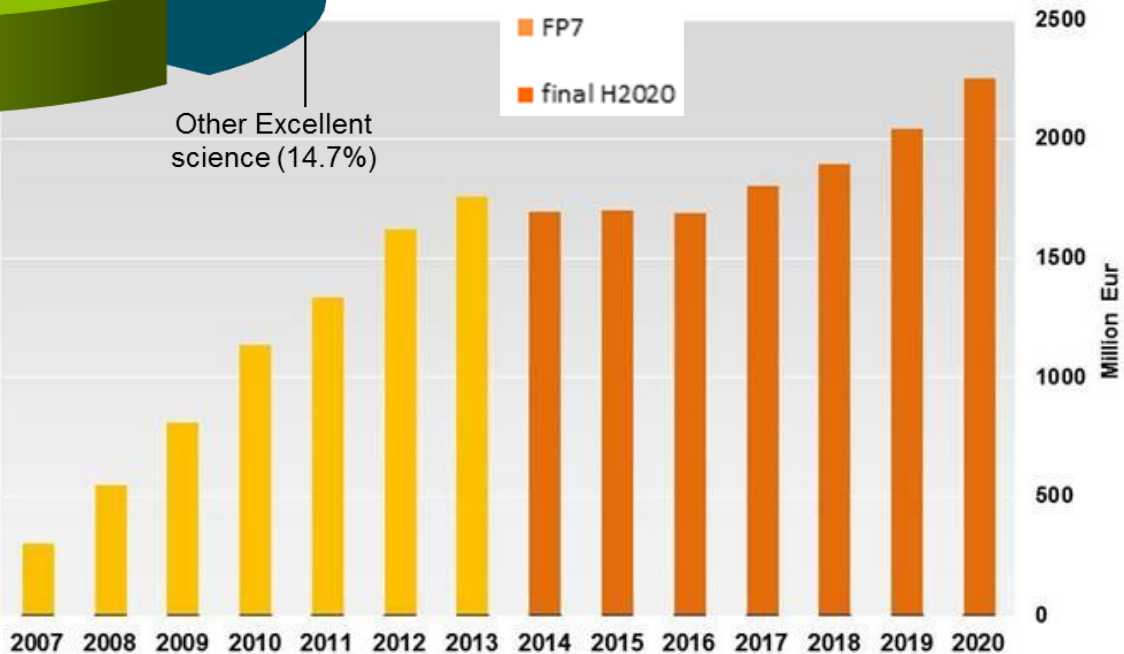
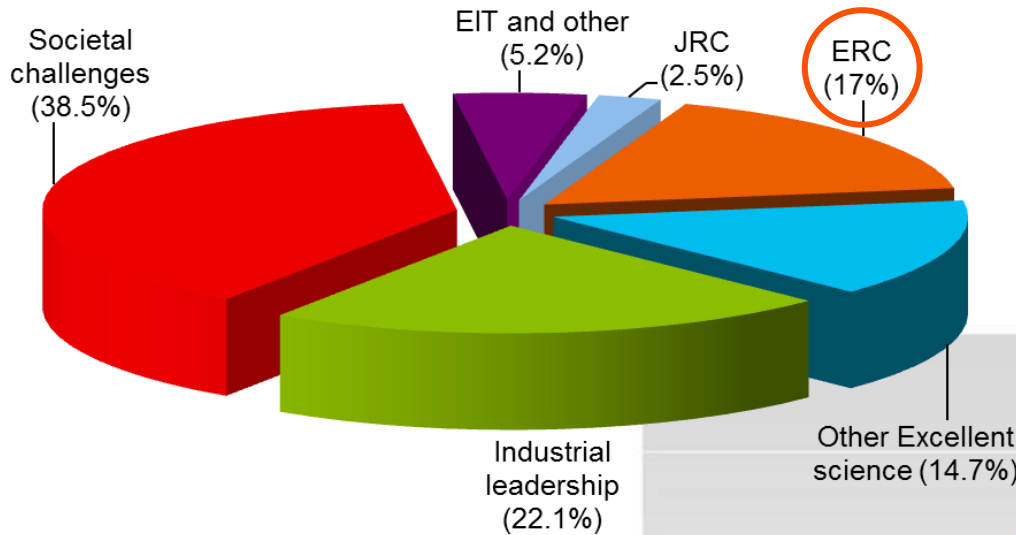
- Scientific governance: independent Scientific Council with 22 members including the ERC President; full authority over funding strategy
- Support by the ERC Executive Agency (autonomous)
- Excellence as the only criterion

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 H2020 Budget

**ERC Budget
€ 13 billion**



ERC Grant Schemes

Starting Grants

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

Consolidator Grants

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

Advanced Grants

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

Proof-of-Concept

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

What ERC offers: Creative Freedom to Individual Grantee



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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

How are ERC research proposals evaluated?

Excellence is the sole evaluation criterion



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Excellence of the Research Project

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

• **Excellence of the Principal Investigator**

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

Note: Quality of the PI's institution (where they come from/where they go to) is not evaluated

Evaluation Panel Structure (WP2017)



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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 Diagnostics, Therapies, Applied Medical Technology and Public Health
- LS8 Evolutionary, Population and Environmental Biology
- LS9 Applied Life Sciences and Non-Medical Biotechnology

Physical Sciences & Engineering

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

Social Sciences and Humanities

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

How are the proposals evaluated?

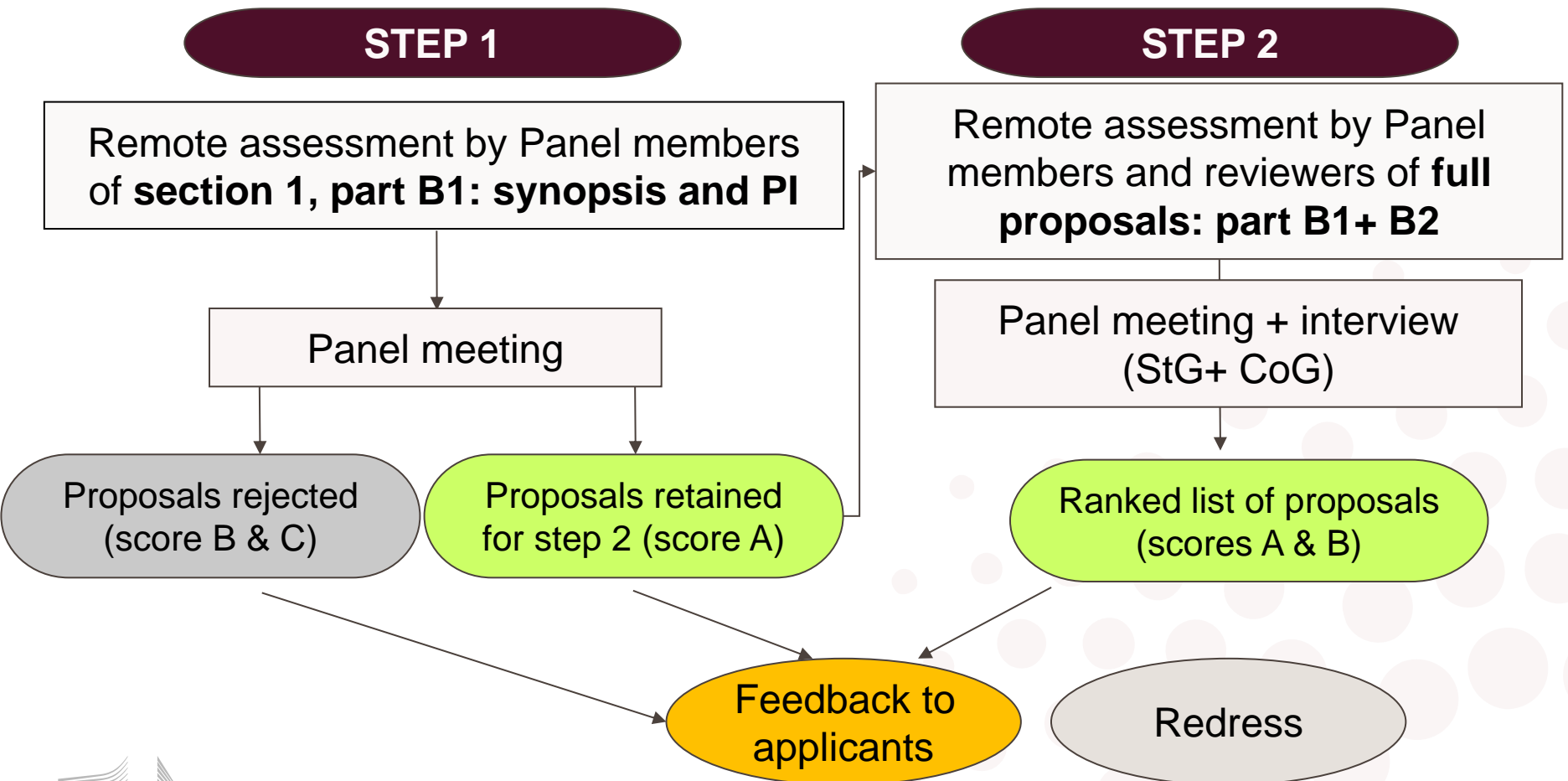
Evaluation procedure – StG, CoG and AdG calls

Single submission, but a two-step evaluation

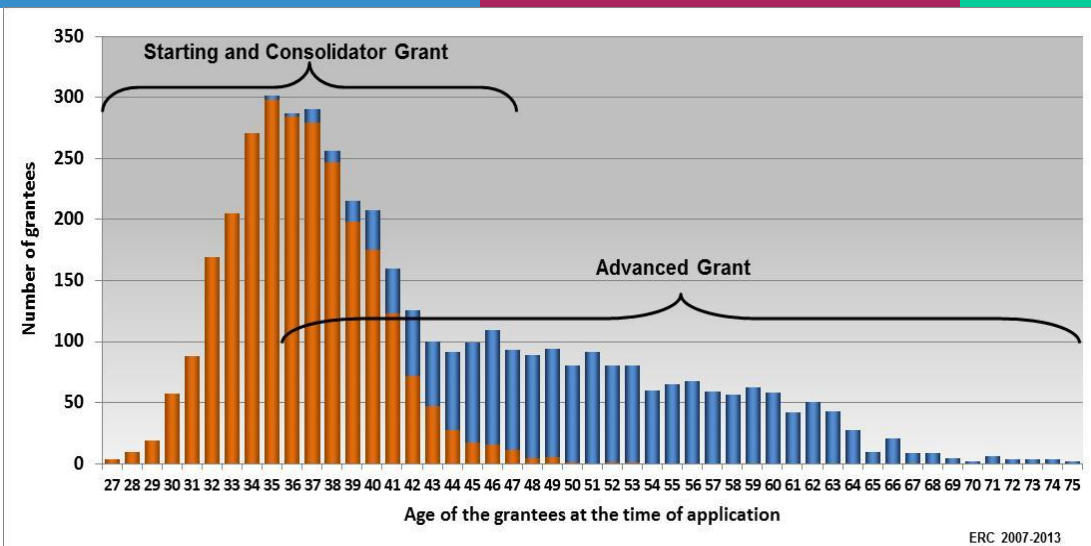


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Priority to Young Scientists

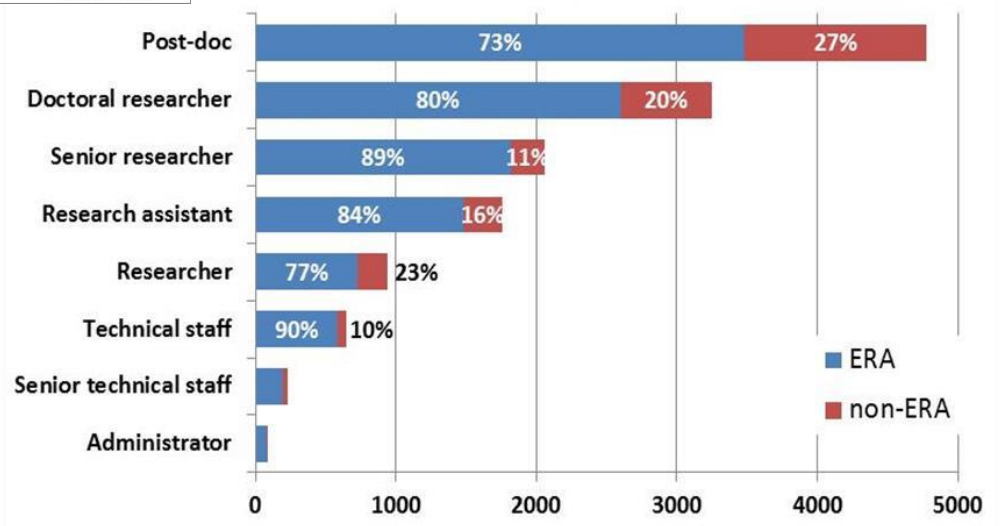


ERC 2007-2013

+ 30 000 PhD and post-doc researchers working in ERC teams.

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

Reported team members (2015)
head count (1901 projects; almost 14,000 team members)



After 9 years a success story



Key figures

6,000
projects funded

40,000
researchers and experts
employed in ERC teams

€10 billion



Scientific breakthroughs

21% | **50%**
of completed projects led to
Scientific breakthroughs | Major advances



Scientific impact

> 7%
articles among
1% most cited
scientific journals



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Funding top talent
from anywhere
in the world



Supporting young talent

64%
of grants
for early-career researchers



ERC as a model in Member States

15
EU countries set up
ERC-like structures/funding
schemes



Prestigious prizes including


5 Nobel Prizes | **5** Wolf Prizes | **3** Fields Medals

Nobel Prize to ERC grantees



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ERC Grantee
AdG 2010

May-Britt
Moser
Nobel 2014



ERC Grantee
AdG 2008

ERC Grantee
AdG 2013

Edvard
Moser
Nobel 2014



ERC Grantee
AdG 2009

Jean Tirole
Nobel 2014

The Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences 2014 was awarded to Jean Tirole "for his analysis of market power and regulation".



ERC Grantee
AdG 2009

Serge
Haroche
Nobel 2012



ERC Grantee
StG 2007

ERC Grantee
SyG 2012

Konstantin
Novoselov
Nobel 2010

- **3** other ERC grantees received the Nobel prize in **2010, 2012, 2016**
- Other **6** ERC grantees were already Nobel laureates at the moment they received the ERC grant

The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2014 was awarded to May-Britt Moser and Edvard Moser, together with John O'Keefe, "for their discoveries of cells that constitute a positioning system in the brain".

The research leading to these discoveries* was supported by FP5.

*) "Spatial Representation in the Entorhinal Cortex", *Science*, 2004

ERC schemes are highly competitive

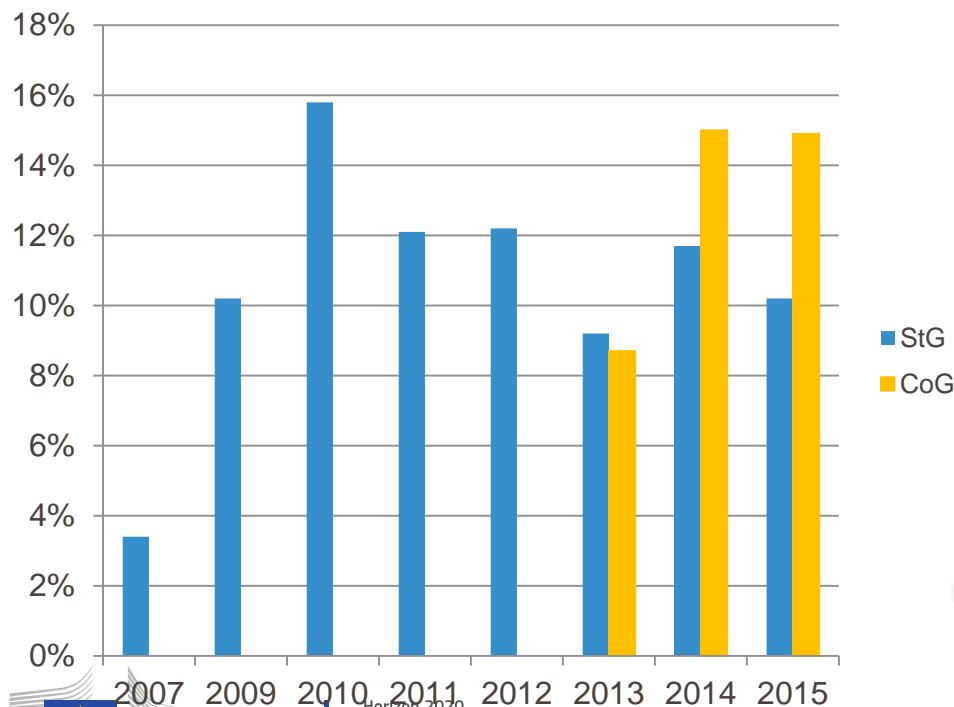


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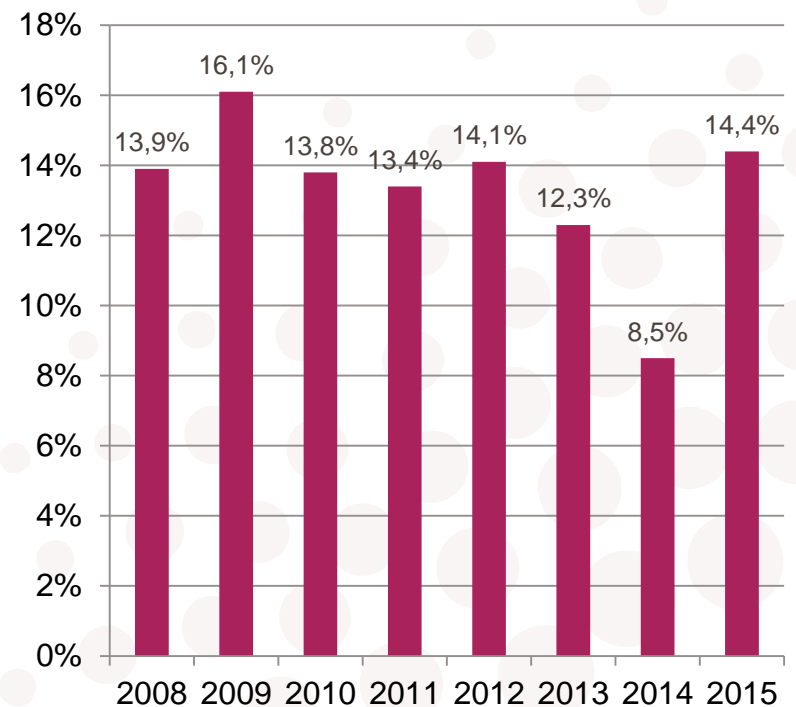
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Average success rate 12%

Starting/Consolidator Grant



Advanced Grant



Attracting Researchers from Outside Europe



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Flexibility

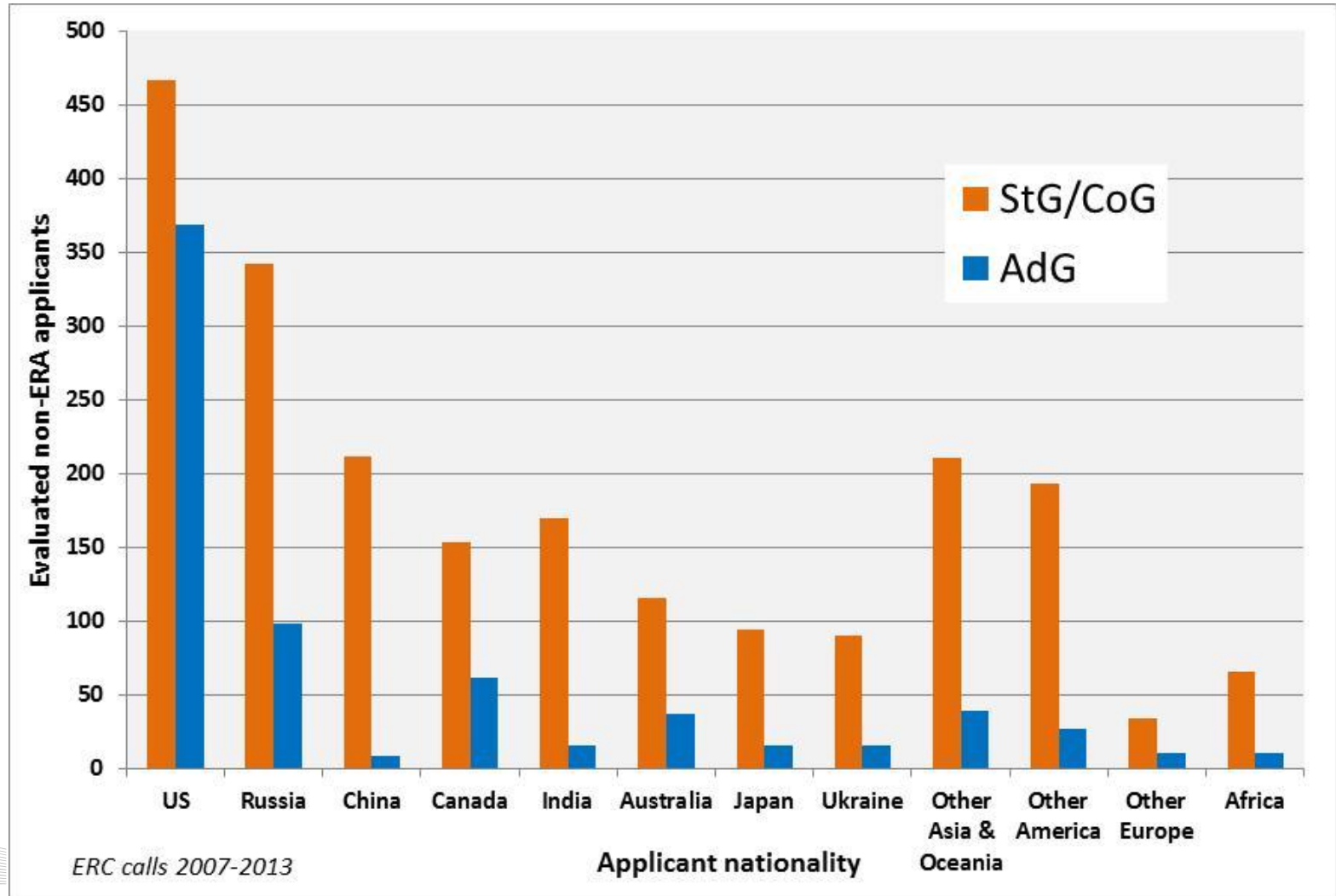
- Additional “start-up” funding for scientists moving to Europe (EUR 500 000 for Starting, EUR 750 000 for Consolidator and EUR 1 Million for Advanced grantees)
- Grantee can keep affiliation with home institute outside Europe (“significant part” of work time in Europe, at least 50%)
- Team members can be based outside Europe (if justified scientifically and assessed positively by evaluation panel)
- Grantee can move within Europe with the grant

Accompanying measures

- Several European countries/host institutions assist applicants and reward grantees with top-up funds

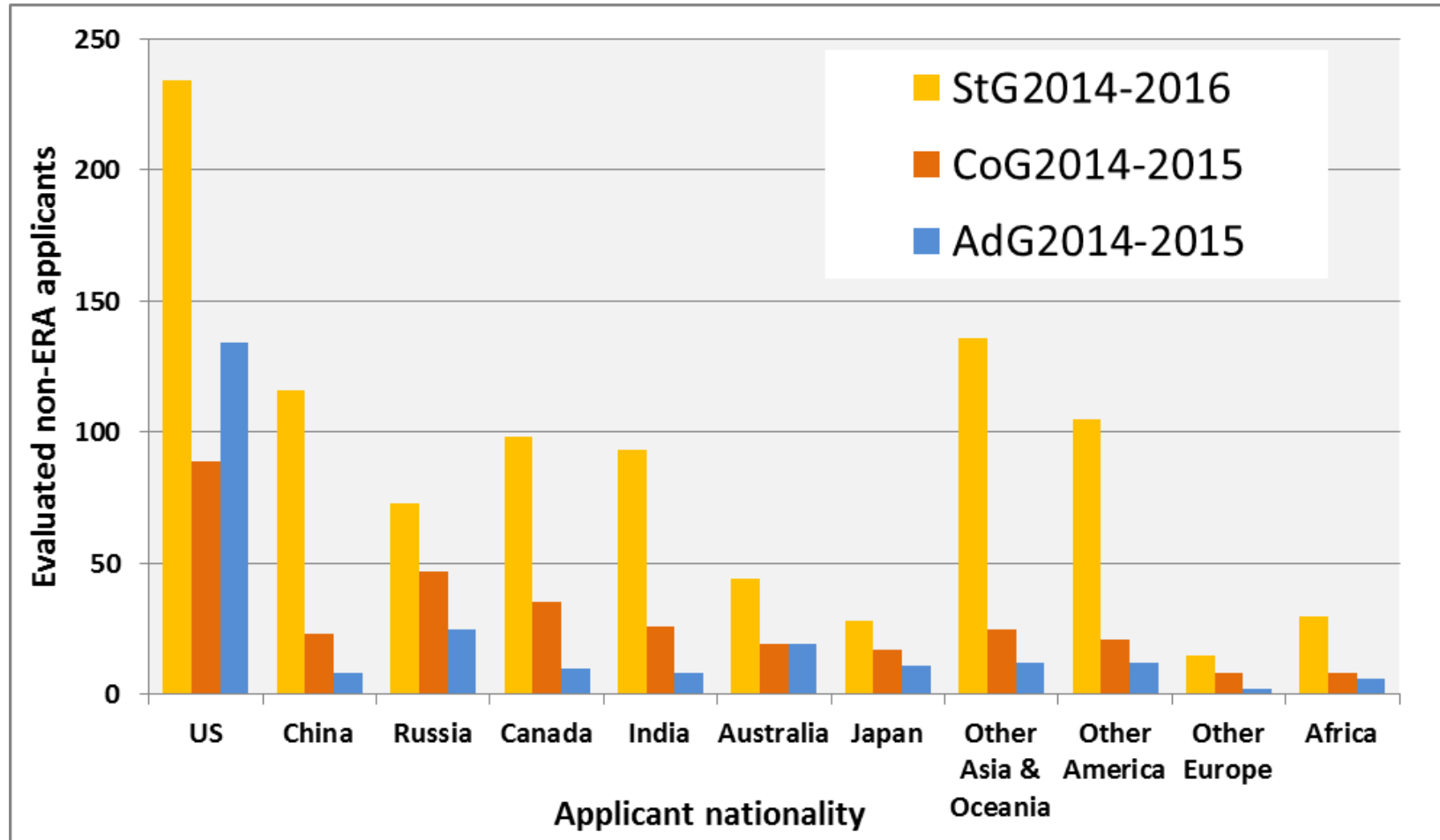
FP7 ERC 2007-2013

Evaluated Proposals from non-ERA Nationals



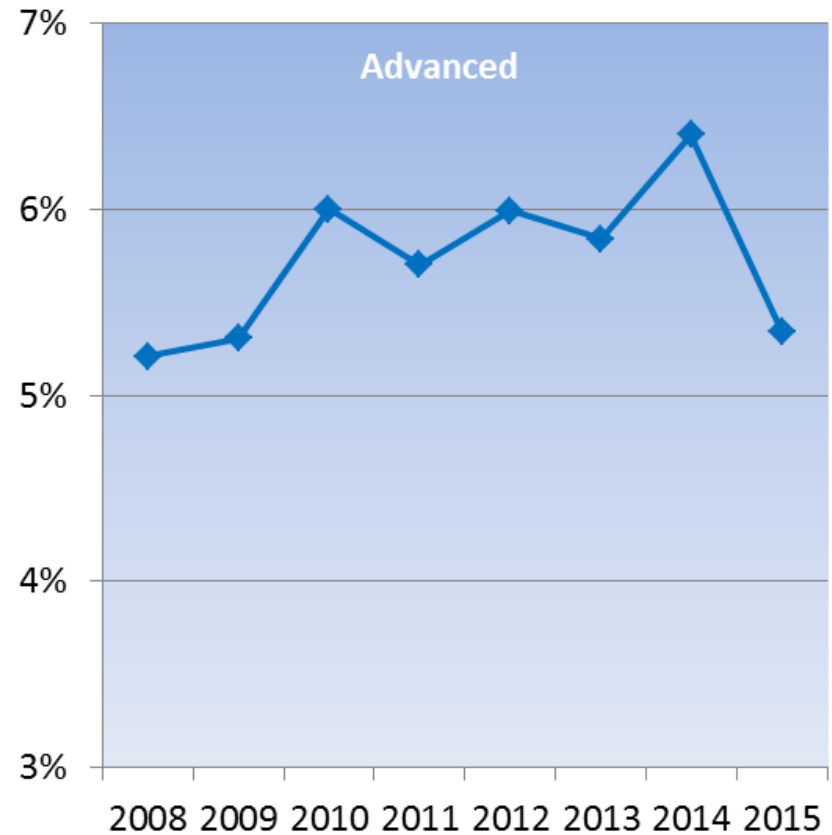
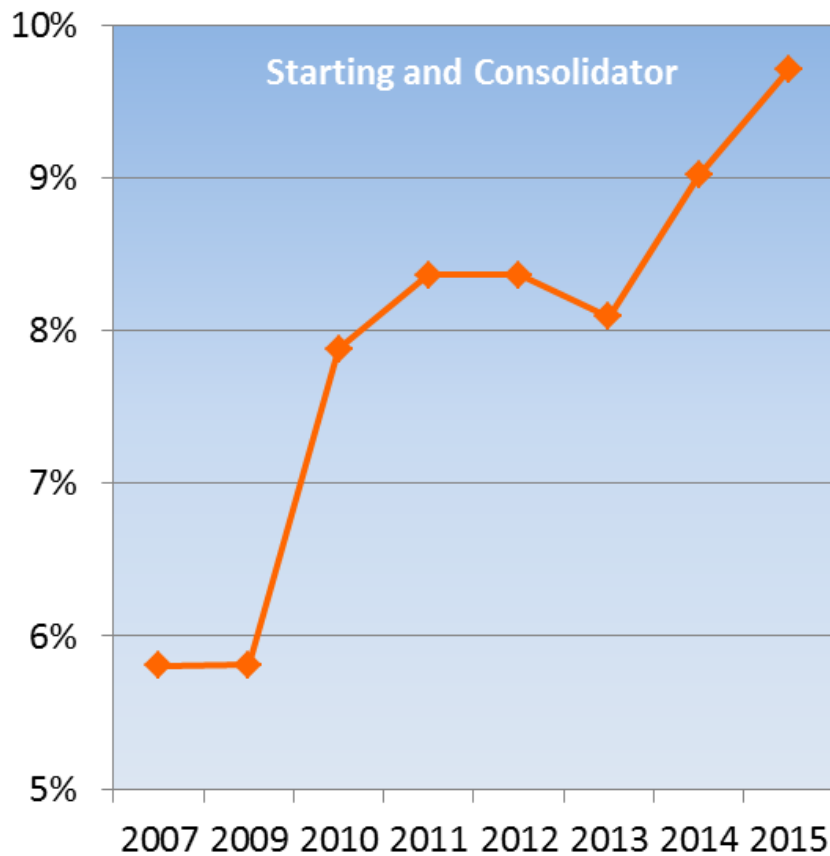
ERC Calls 2014-2015 + StG2016

Evaluated Proposals from non-ERA Nationals



Increased Participation to H2020 Starting and Consolidator Calls

Proportion of evaluated proposals from non-ERA nationals by call year



33 Non-ERA Nationalities



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Almost 8% of all ERC grants to principal investigators of non-ERA nationality

Non-ERA Principal Investigators	Starting and Consolidator grants	Advanced grants	Total grants
USA	130	82	212
Canada	52	9	61
Russia	31	9	40
Australia	30	5	35
India	33	2	35
Japan	20	4	24
China	23	0	23
New Zealand	11	6	17
Argentina	12	0	12
Other	48	8	56
Total	390	125	515

Grantees outside ERA at Application

Mainly European researchers moving/returning from the US

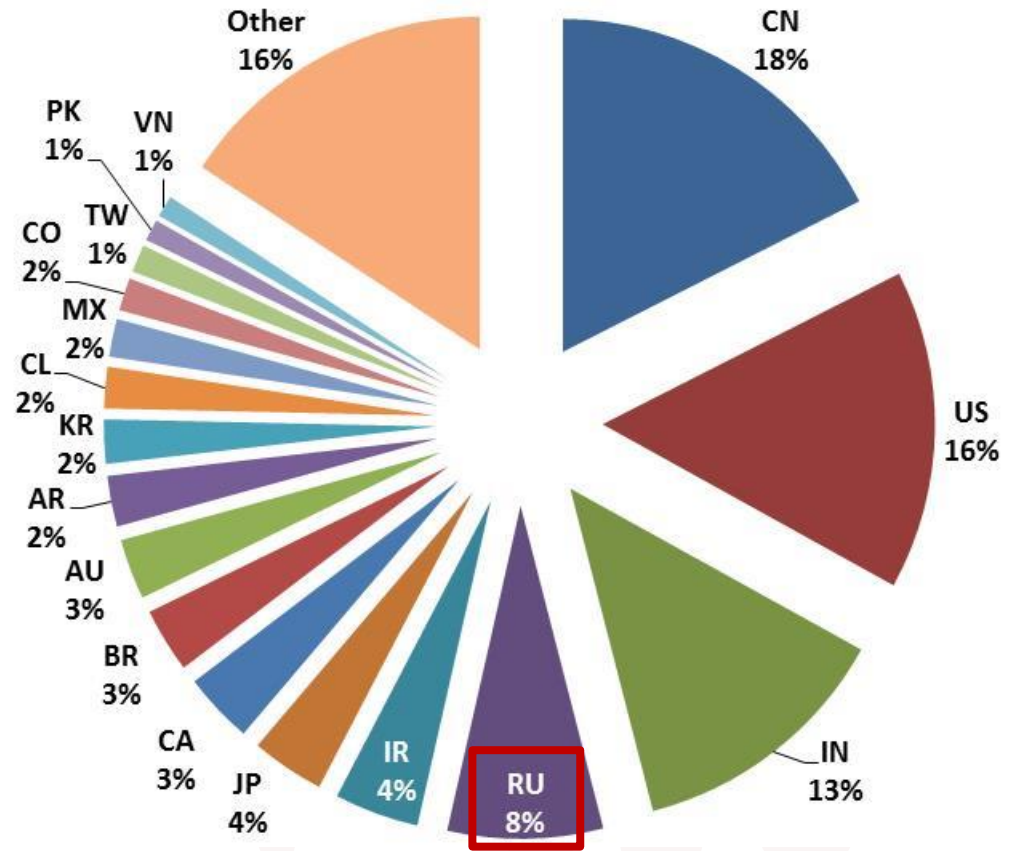
Country of residence	International grantees	ERA nationals	Total
Argentina	1		1
Australia	1	6	7
Canada	3	5	8
China		1	1
India	1	1	2
Japan		2	2
Korea		1	1
Lebanon		1	1
Pakistan		1	1
Russia	1		1
Senegal		1	1
Tunisia		1	1
USA	41	110	151
Total	48	130	178

Attracting Researchers to Europe

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

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

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



Russian participation in ERC

So far, 585 **applications** evaluated from applicants with Russian nationality

- FP7: 440, H2020: 145
- 11% were resident in Russia, 85% in EU, 4% outside EU
- Host institutions mainly in DE, UK, Finland
- Mainly in the Physical Sciences and Engineering domain

So far, 40 **ERC grantees** funded with Russian nationality

- StG/CoG: 31; AdG: 9
- 50% in the PE domain
- Based in UK, DE, FR, CH, NO
- Working at CNRS, Cambridge, Max Planck Society, ETH Zurich, etc.

8% of non-ERA **team members** are of Russian nationality (estimate: ~560 researchers in ~6000 grants)

Implementing arrangements

Key Facts



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- Opportunity for **non-European researchers** supported by foreign agencies to visit ERC research teams (unilateral approach).
- The foreign researchers are supposed to be **excellent** ("national version" of the ERC grantee)
- The **foreign scientist** is the one taking the **initiative** in the "matchmaking" (it is not the ERC/the ERC PI/the foreign agency...)
- The **ERC does not intervene** in the selection of the foreign visitors.
- In general terms, costs of the visit are **mostly covered** by the foreign agency.

Implementing arrangements signed with the following countries:

- USA (2012)
- Republic of Korea (2013)
- Argentina (2015)
- China (2015)
- Japan (2015)
- South Africa (2015)
- Mexico (2016)

Implementing arrangements

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- USA (2012)
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- Argentina (2015)
- China (2015)
- Japan (2015)
- South Africa (2015)
- Mexico (2016)

Preparing an application

Hints and tips (Generalities)



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- **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
- 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) to prepare your proposal
- Talk to the National Contact Points and your Host Institution's grant office

Submission of Proposals

Differences in Part B1 and Part B2

In Step 1: **Panel members** (generalists and with multidisciplinary approaches) see only Part B1 of your proposal: Prepare it accordingly!

- Pay attention to the **ground-breaking nature** of the research project – no incremental research. State-of-the-art is not enough. Think big!
- Know your competitors – what is the **state of play** and why is your idea and scientific approach outstanding?
- Only the extended Synopsis is read at Step 1: **concise and clear presentation** is crucial (evaluators are not necessarily all experts in the field)
- Outline of the **methodological approach** (feasibility)
- Show your **scientific independence** in your CV (model CV provided in the part B1 template)
- Funding ID to be filled in

Submission of Proposals

Differences in Part B1 and Part B2

- In Step 2: Both **Part B1 and B2** are sent to specialists around the world (**specialised external referees**)
 - Do not just repeat the synopsis
 - Provide **sufficient detail** on methodology, work plan, selection of case studies etc. (15 pages)
 - Check coherency of figures, **justify requested resources**
 - Explain **involvement of team members**
 - Provide alternative strategies to **mitigate risk**

Questions to ask yourself as an applicant



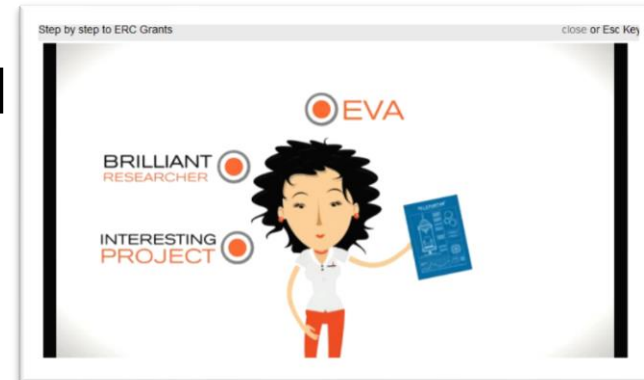
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- Am I internationally competitive as a researcher at my career stage and in my discipline?
- Am I able to work independently, and to manage a 5-year project with a substantial budget?
- Why is my proposed project important?
- Does it promise to go substantially beyond the state of the art?
- Why am I the best/only person to carry it out?
- 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 I have a plan for managing the risk?

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



Preparing an application

Check the already Funded Projects



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You are here: [Homepage](#) > [Projects and Results](#) > [ERC Funded Projects](#)

ERC Funded Projects

[Prizes and Awards](#)

[ERC Stories](#)

[Statistics](#)

Funding Scheme

Research Area

Country of Host Institution

Free text search

Clear all

ERC Funded Projects



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

Since 2007, more than **4,500 projects** have been selected to receive ERC funding throughout the EU Member States and the associated countries. The ERC has received over **43,000 project proposals** for its calls.

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

Projects can be filtered according to: **Funding scheme, Research area (Panels/Domains), Country of Host Institution** and/or **free keyword(s)**.

Information displayed is automatically updated through the information available on the **CORDIS** platform.

Please note that only funded projects, whose grant agreements have been signed, appear in this database. For this reason, the total number of projects in this database may differ from the figures provided in the statistics section which include also projects selected for funding whose grant agreements have not been signed yet.

For specific queries, please use this **contact form** and select the category 'Web'.

Menu allows searching by Funding Scheme, Research Area, Country of Host Institution.

Preparing an application

Check the statistics on granted projects and on submissions



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Home Funding and Grants Projects and Results Media and Events About ERC Contact

You are here: [Homepage](#) > [Projects and Results](#) > [Statistics](#)

- ERC Funded Projects
- Prizes and Awards
- ERC Stories
- Statistics

View statistics by

Granted projects Evaluated projects

Funding scheme

Call year

Domain / Panel

Show number of grantees by

Start/Show Clear all

Statistics

This page provides **basic statistics for ERC funding activities.**

Please note that the data reflects the current status of the granting process. Therefore the total number of grants and grant distribution might differ from the indicative statistics, published at the release of the results, which are based on the outcome of evaluation process.

You can use the menu on the left to select different views on the data.

ERC Call	Applications received	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	3,266	300	9.2
Consolidator Grant 2013	3,673	3,604	313	8.7
Starting & Consolidator Grant total	30,366	29,462	2,645	10.3***

Menu allows searching by Funding Scheme, Call year, Domain/Panel and Grantees by Country of Host Institution.

Preparing an application

Check past panel members for the call



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You are here: [Homepage](#) > [Funding and Grants](#) > [Apply for Funding](#) > [Evaluation Panels](#)

- ▶ [Funding Schemes](#)
- ▼ [Apply for Funding](#)
 - [Step by Step](#)
 - [Call for Proposals](#)
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 - [Host Institutions](#)
 - [For Non-European Researchers](#)
- [National Contact Points](#)
- [FAQ](#)

Evaluation Panels

[Tweet](#)

The selection of scientific and scholarly proposals for ERC funding is based on international peer review with excellence as the sole criterion. The ERC uses a typical panel-based system, in which panels of high-level scientists and/or scholars make recommendations for funding.

Domain and panel structure

The ERC panel structure consists of 25 panels.

The panels of each grant are grouped into three disciplinary domains that cover the entire spectrum of science, engineering and scholarship:

1. Social sciences and Humanities (SH)
2. Life sciences (LS)
3. Physical and Engineering Sciences (PE)

Research proposals of a multi and inter disciplinary nature are strongly encouraged throughout the ERC's schemes. Proposals of this type are evaluated by the ERC's regular panels with the appropriate external expertise.



Submission of Proposals

ERC Work Programme 2017 calendar



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ERC calls	Budget	Call Opening	Submission Deadline(s)
Starting Grants ERC-2017-StG	605 M€	26 July 2016	<u>18 October 2016</u>
Consolidator Grants ERC-2017-CoG	575 M€	20 October 2016	<u>9 February 2017</u>
Advanced Grants ERC-2017-AdG	567 M€	16 May 2017	<u>31 August 2017</u>
Proof of Concept ERC-2017-PoC	20 M€	2 August 2016	19 January 2017 25 April 2017 5 September 2017

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- 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
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Thank you!

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