



The European Research Council

ERC within Horizon Europe

Ulrike Kainz-Fernández de la Reguera
Call Coordinator Consolidator Grant
Scientific Department
ERC Executive Agency

BOKU, Vienna
9 June 2021



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The ERC in a nutshell



ERC Governance (simplified)

DG Research & Innovation



Scientific Council
22 top-level scientists



ERC Executive Agency

ERC is....

1. Funding: it is part of Horizon Europe



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NEW in HE!

EUR 16 billion
ERC budget in Horizon Europe



17%
of the entire
Horizon Europe budget

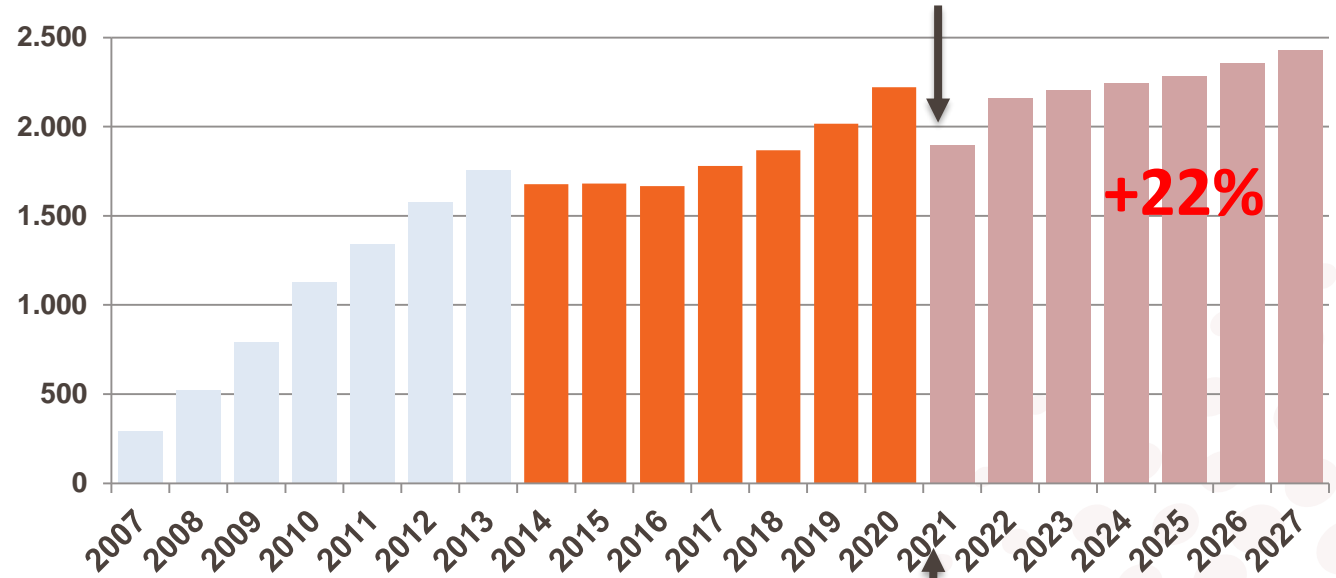
ERC is....

1. Funding: it is part of Horizon Europe



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Total WP budget (includes EFTA), M€



Note: Projection based on MFF compromise budget, including EFTA and excluding associated countries budget

No Synergy Grant and Proof of Concept calls

ERC is....

2. the Scientific Council



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The ERC Scientific Council

- Prominent researchers appointed by EC
- Establishes overall scientific strategy
- Controls quality of operations and 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



ERC is....

3. the ERCEA



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The ERC Executive Agency

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



ERC Scientific Officers

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

ERC is....

3. The ERCEA



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Evaluation criterion

Excellence is the sole evaluation criterion

Excellence of the Research Project

- Ground breaking nature
- Potential impact
- Scientific Approach

Excellence of the Principal Investigator

- Intellectual capacity
- Creativity
- Commitment



What do ERC grants offer?

ERC offers independence, recognition & visibility



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Bottom up

- to work on a research topic of own choice, with a team of own choice

Investigator driven

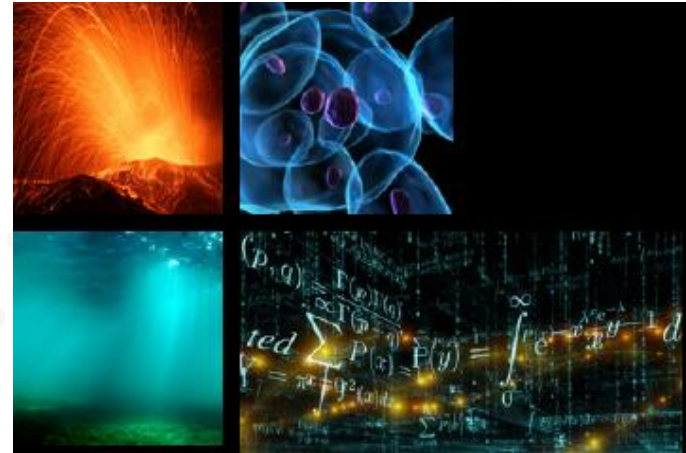
- to gain true financial autonomy for 5 years and to negotiate with the host institution the best conditions of work
- to attract top team members (EU and non-EU)

and collaborators, additional funding and gain recognition

→ ERC is a quality label

Portability

- to move with the grant to any place in Europe if necessary (portability of grants)





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My road to Brussels

How I ended up in the ERC



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Studies at BOKU until 1999

- **Landschaftsplanung**



Working with research and innovation programmes

- **Technologie- Impulse GmbH (TIG)**
- **Oesterreichische Forschungs-Foerderungsgesellschaft (FFG)**



How I ended up in the ERC



European Research Council

Seconded to EC, Brussels as National Expert in 2007

- DG Research, FP7, Programme “Ideas”



Recruited to European Research Council (ERC) in 2009

- ERC Executive Agency



Seconded National Experts...



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... are national or international civil servants or persons employed in the public sector who are working temporarily for an EU Institution
They must have...

- at least 3 years work experience at an appropriate level
- worked for an eligible employer for at least 12 months before the secondment
- thorough knowledge of one of the EU languages and a satisfactory knowledge of another EU language
- secondment for a minimum of 6 months and up to a maximum of 4 years in principle

Seconded National Experts...



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... are working temporarily for an EU Institution with the objective to...

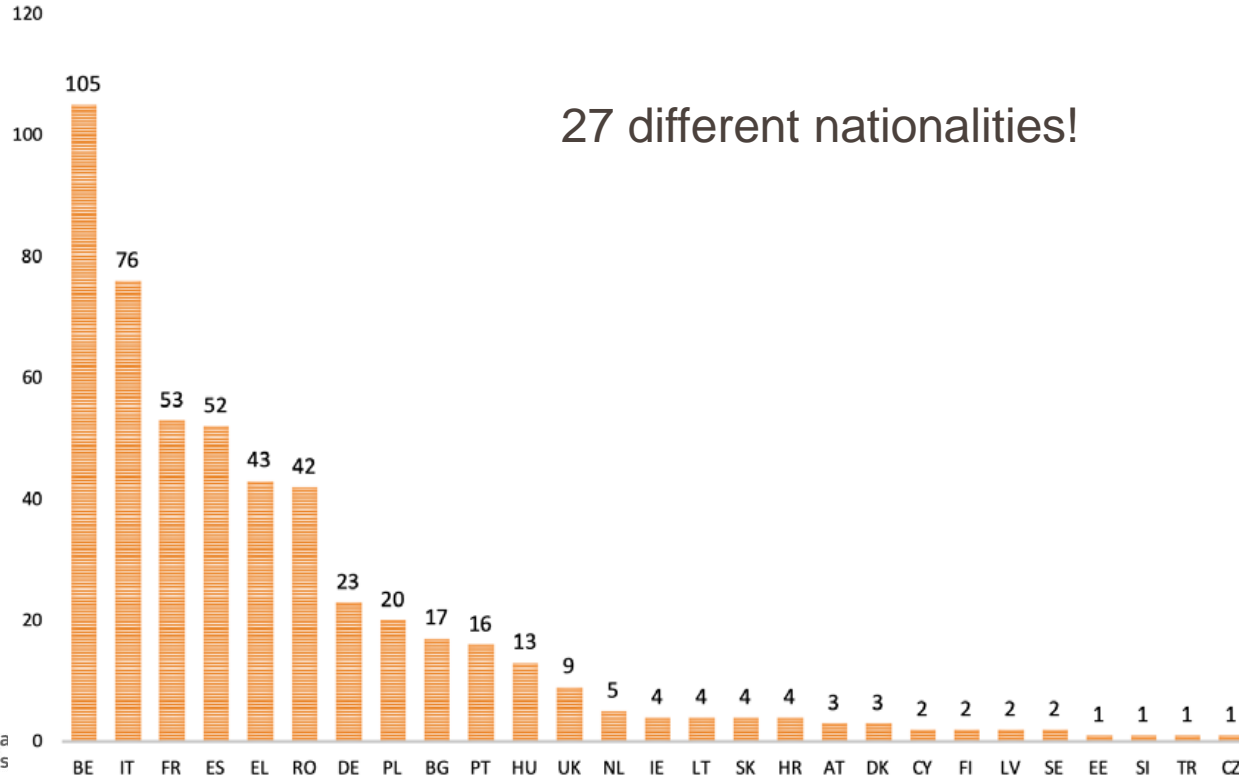
- Get to know the ERC / EC from inside
- Bring their knowledge and experience from the national system to the ERC / EC
- Get back useful (non-confidential) information to their country / university
- Work in an international environment

ERCEA in numbers:

Staff nationalities



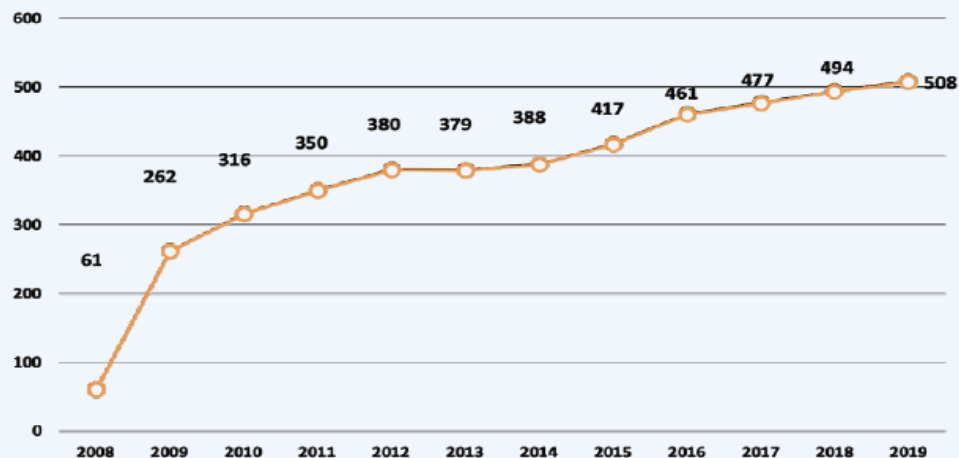
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ERCEA in numbers

ERCEA Staff

Number of staff





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Evaluation process and Starting Grant

ERC funding schemes



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Starting Grant

Size of the grant: up to €1.5 million + up to €1 million
Duration: up to 5 years
2-7 years of experience since completion of their PhD



Consolidator Grant

Size of the grant: up to €2 million + up to €1 million
Duration: up to 5 years
7-12 years of experience since completion of their PhD



Advanced Grant

Size of the grant: up to €2.5 million + up to €1 million
Duration: up to 5 years
An excellent scientific track record of recognized achievements in the last 10 years



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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

ERC Panel structure



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Life Sciences (LS)

- **LS1** Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures and Functions
- **LS2** Integrative Biology: from Genes and Genomes to Systems
- **LS3** Cellular, Developmental and Regenerative Biology
- **LS4** Physiology in Health, Disease and Aging
- **LS5** Neuroscience and Disorders of the Nervous System
- **LS6** Immunity, Infection and Immunotherapy
- **LS7** Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Human Diseases
- **LS8** Environmental Biology, Ecology and Evolution
- **LS9** Biotechnology and Biosystems Engineering

- 3 Domains / 27 Panels
- Operated by the Scientific Department B

NEW in HE!

Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH)

- **SH1** Individuals, Markets and Organisations
- **SH2** Institutions, Governance and Legal Systems
- **SH3** The Social World and Its Diversity
- **SH4** The Human Mind and Its Complexity
- **SH5** Cultures and Cultural Production
- **SH6** The Study of the Human Past
- **SH7 Human Mobility, Environment, and Space**

Physical Sciences & Engineering (PSE)

- **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
- **PE11 Materials Engineering**

ERC Panel structure

<https://erc.europa.eu/news/new-erc-panel-structure-2021-and-2022>



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Not closed fields!

Life Sciences (LS)

- LS1 Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures and Functions
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- 3 Domains / 27 Panels
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Who evaluates your proposal?



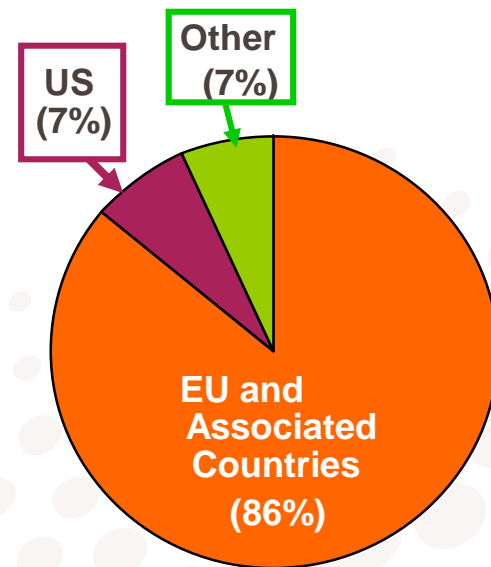
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Panel members: typically 400 PMs involved per call

- High-level scientists
- Nominated by the Scientific Council worldwide
- About 12-16 members
- Steps 1 and 2

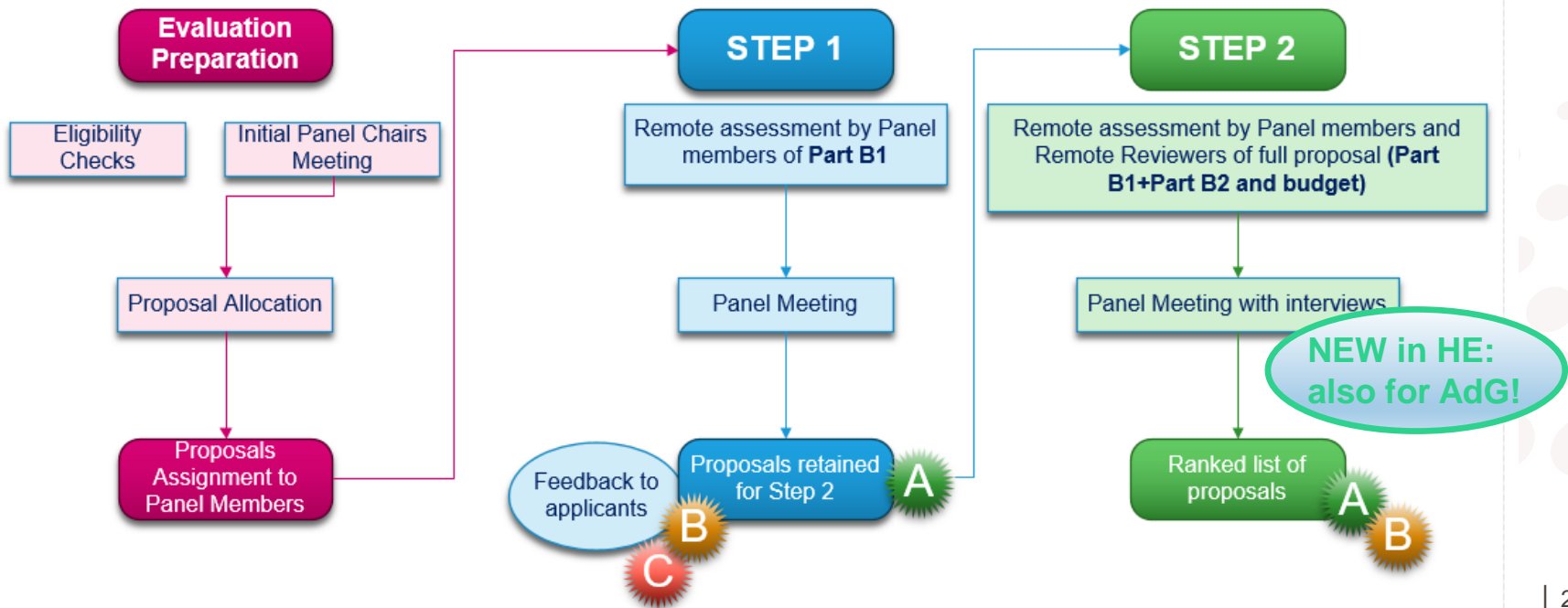
Remote Referees: typically 2000 / call

- Step 2



How are the ERC proposal evaluated

For individuals calls: a single submission but a two step evaluation



A few tips and advice



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- Be ambitious and "daring"; panels instructed to seek out high-risk research
- Grab interest and attention of readers/ reviewers
- Remember that Part B1 will be seen by "generalists" (panel members)
- If you make it to Step 2, reviewers see both B1 and B2, so do not repeat / duplicate part B1 in part B2
- Justify requested resources – explain your budget properly
- Get well prepared for the interview

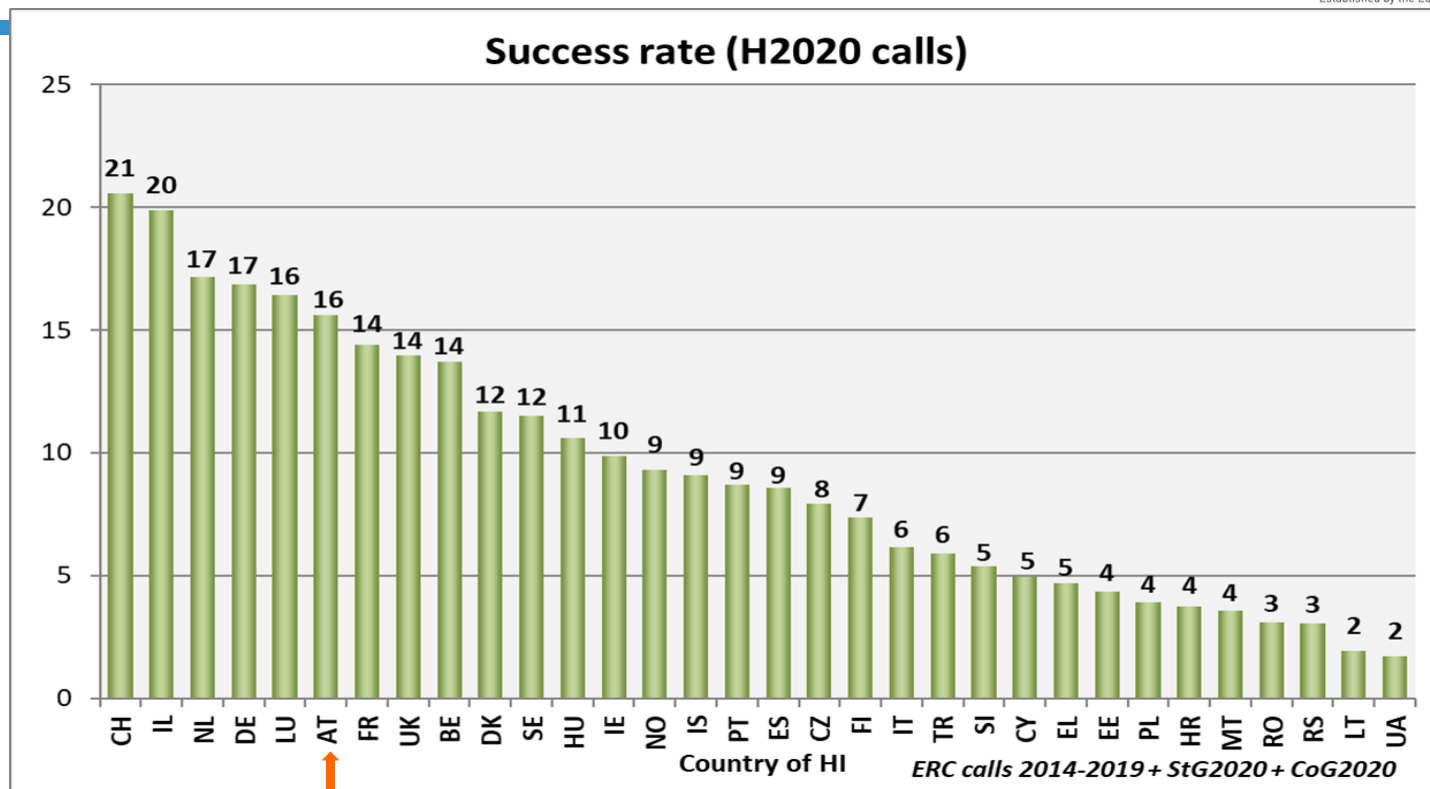


Contrary to what you may think

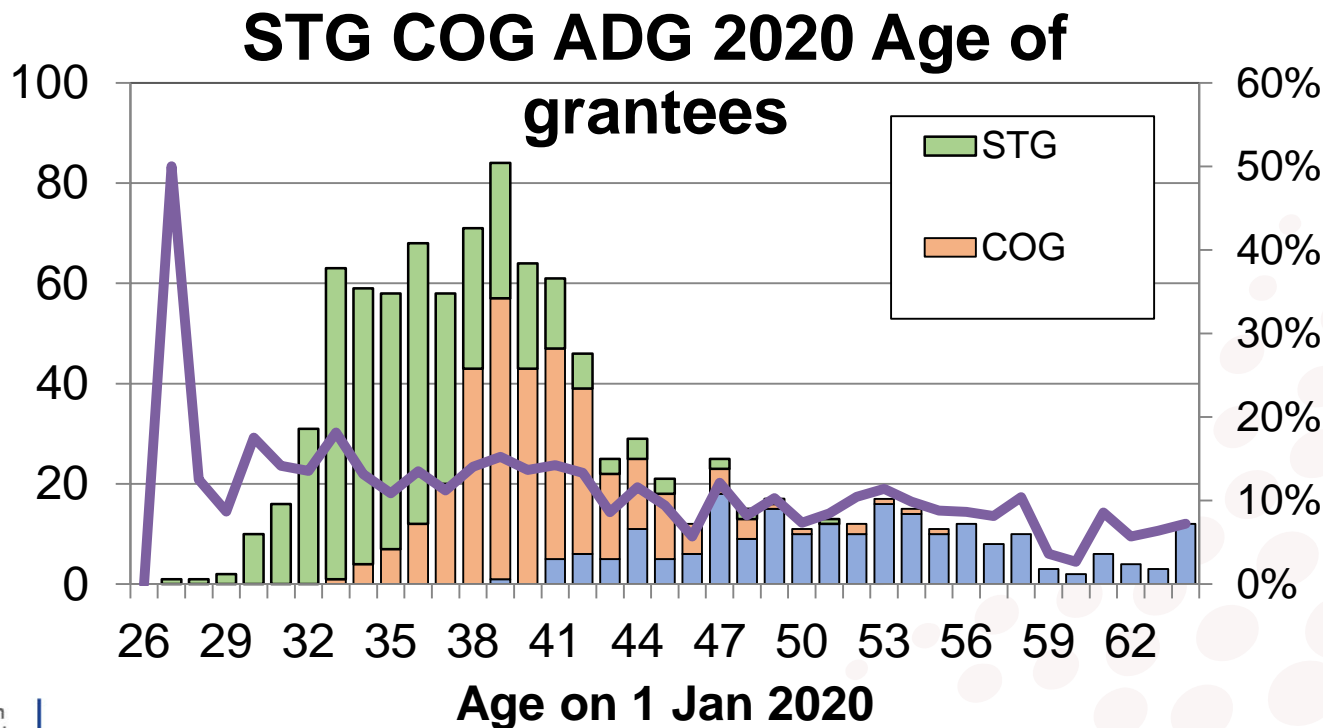
- ERC funds "frontier research", including applied research.
- The budget is distributed among the scientific panels as a function of demand.
- The panel descriptors do not represent ERC scientific priorities.
- The success rate is virtually flat across the eligibility window (StG, CoG).
- Publication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



Success Rate by Country: StG in H2020



Age of Grantees

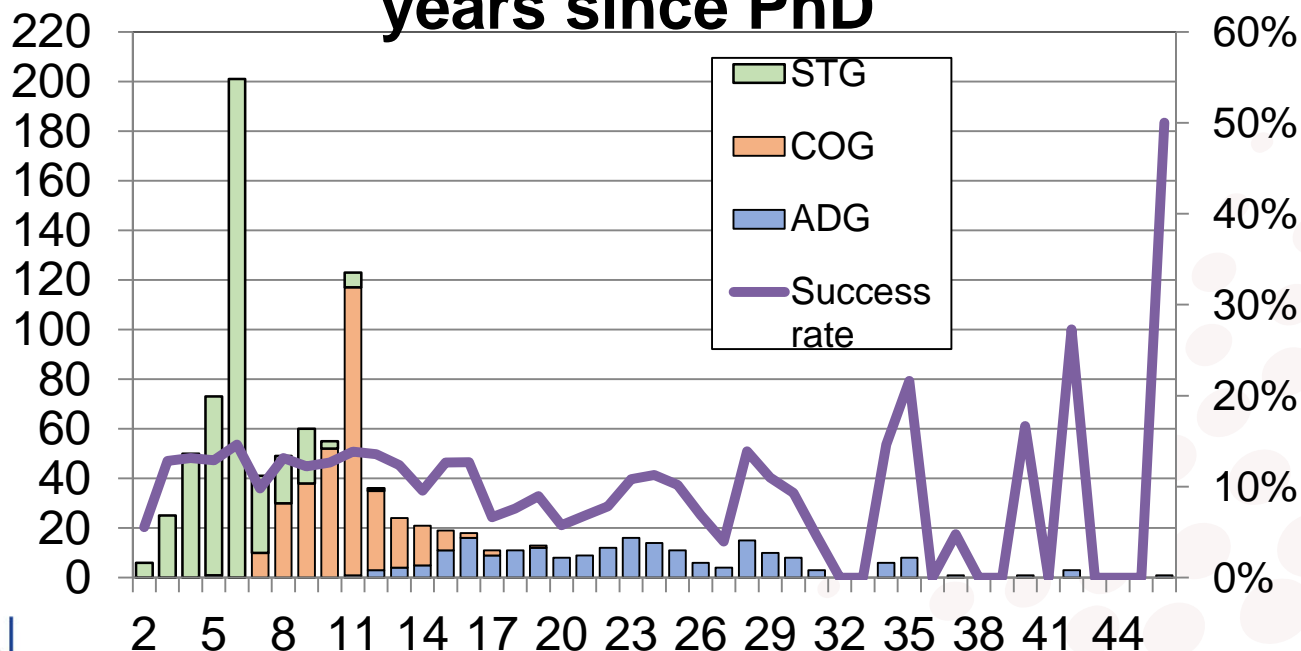


Academic age: Years since PhD of Grantees



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STG COG ADG 2020 Grantees by years since PhD



Where can you find more information?



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Videos - ERC Classes

- What to consider before applying
- How to fill in the application
(Part B1 and B2)
- The interview
- How the evaluation works

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x bFbzkVWgCU&list=PLtv6FnsXqnXA YRk6HCErwMxwML0ZKoMcy>

Where can you find more information?



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Our website:

erc.europa.eu

Our social media channels:



National Contact Points (NCP):

<https://erc.europa.eu/funding/national-contact-points>

Funding & Tender Opportunities:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>