

The European Research Council



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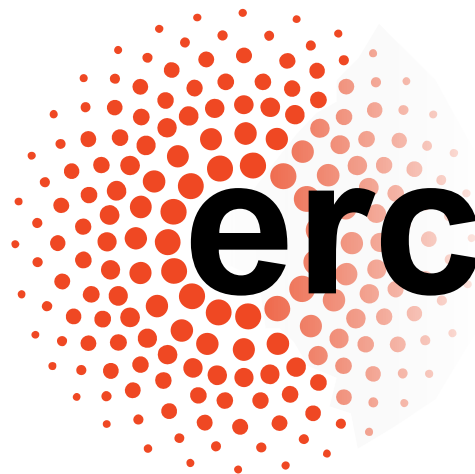
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ERC Calls–
Ulrike KAINZ-FERNÁNDEZ
Call Coordination and Project Follow-Up
ERC Executive Agency

Brussels, COV, March 2019

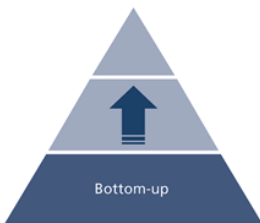


What is ERC?



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



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





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

- **21 prominent researchers** proposed by an independent identification committee
- **President** appointed following recommendation of an independent 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

What does the ERC offer?

ERC Grant Schemes



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Starting Grants

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

Consolidator Grants

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

Advanced Grants

track-record of
significant research
achievements in the
last 10 years
(≥ 30% commitment)
up to €2.5 Million
for 5 years

Proof-of-Concept

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

Synergy Grants New

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

What do ERC grants offer?

Creative Freedom of the 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

ERC Grant Schemes – Who can apply?



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





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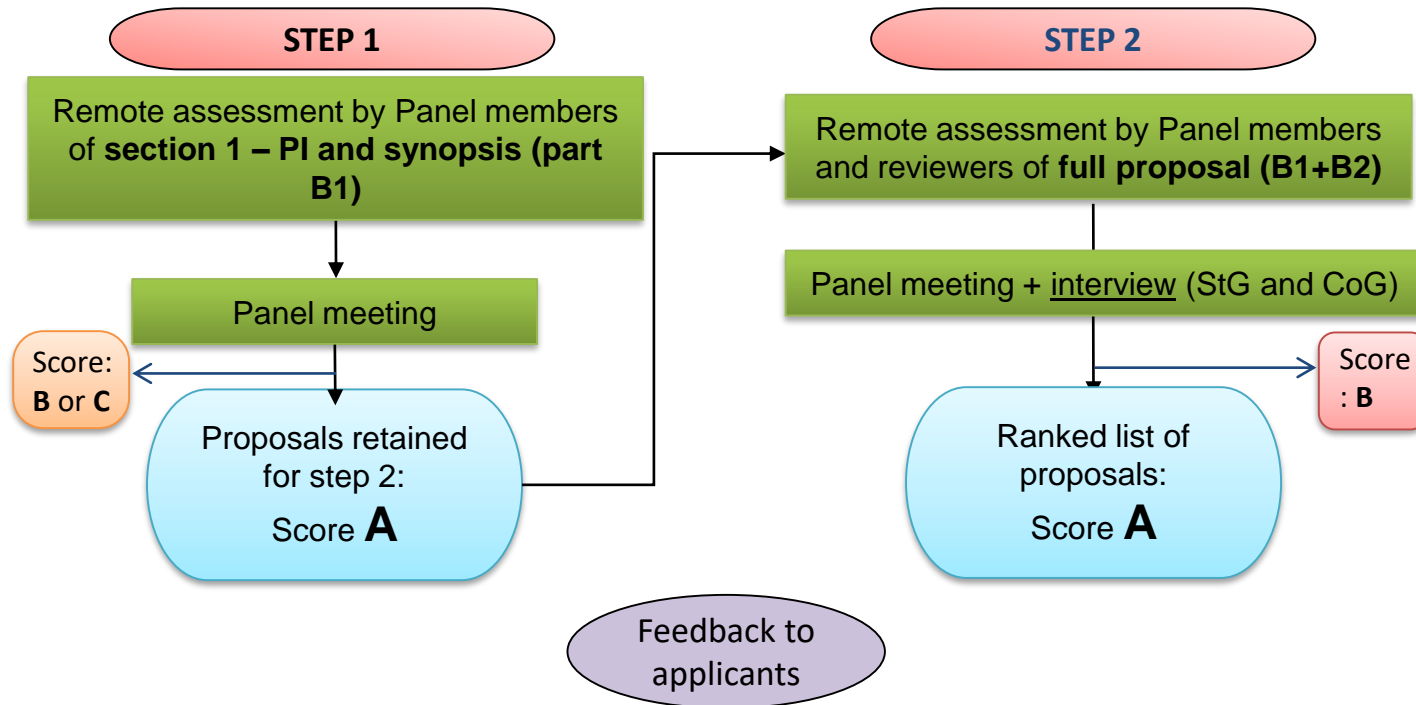
Submitting a Proposal

Evaluation of Proposals:

Review procedure for StG, CoG and AdG



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Preparing your proposal - Choosing the descriptors



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

Rumour: some panels are more successful than others

- ✗ **NOT true:** budget is allocated based on submitted proposals to each panel, so success rate is ~constant across different panels.

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

- ✗ **NOT true:** even though these are used to allocate proposals to Panel Members, once the proposals are allocated, the Panel Members do not see the keywords and descriptors used.

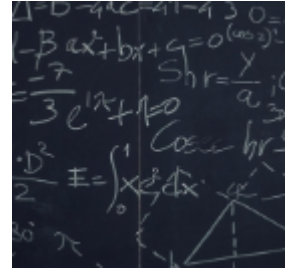
How ERC Research Proposals are Evaluated - *Excellence* is the sole evaluation criterion



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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



A few tips and advice (1/2)



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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
- Do not include unnecessary partners and collaborators; it is not supposed to be a "consortium"
- Justify requested resources – explain your budget properly

Some tips and advice for the interview (2/2)



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- Get Panel Members interested in you and what you are doing
- Practice thoroughly, several (many?) times; typically a 10 minute presentation followed by 10-15 minutes of questions
- Panels want to see that these are your ideas, not those of your supervisor

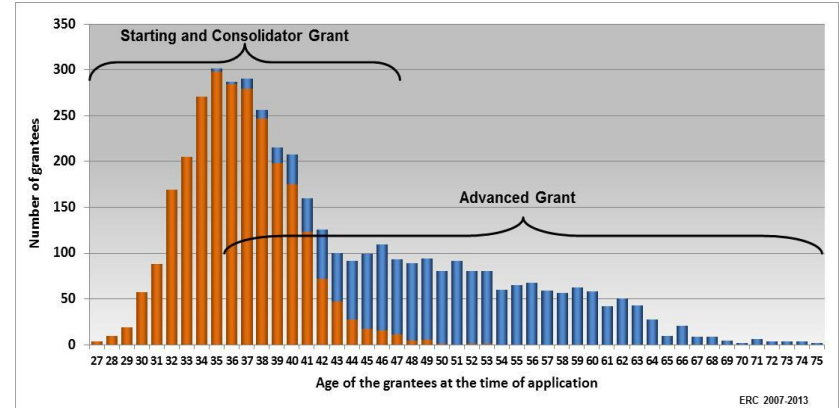


ERC encourages PIs



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- Not to delay in submitting a proposal
- Gain experience from evaluation
- Read evaluators comments
- Benefit from interview experience
- Redraft proposal
- Reapply when possible
- Success rates from reapplicants are typically 1.5 times higher than call success rates
- Read the information for applicants



Contrary to what you may think.....



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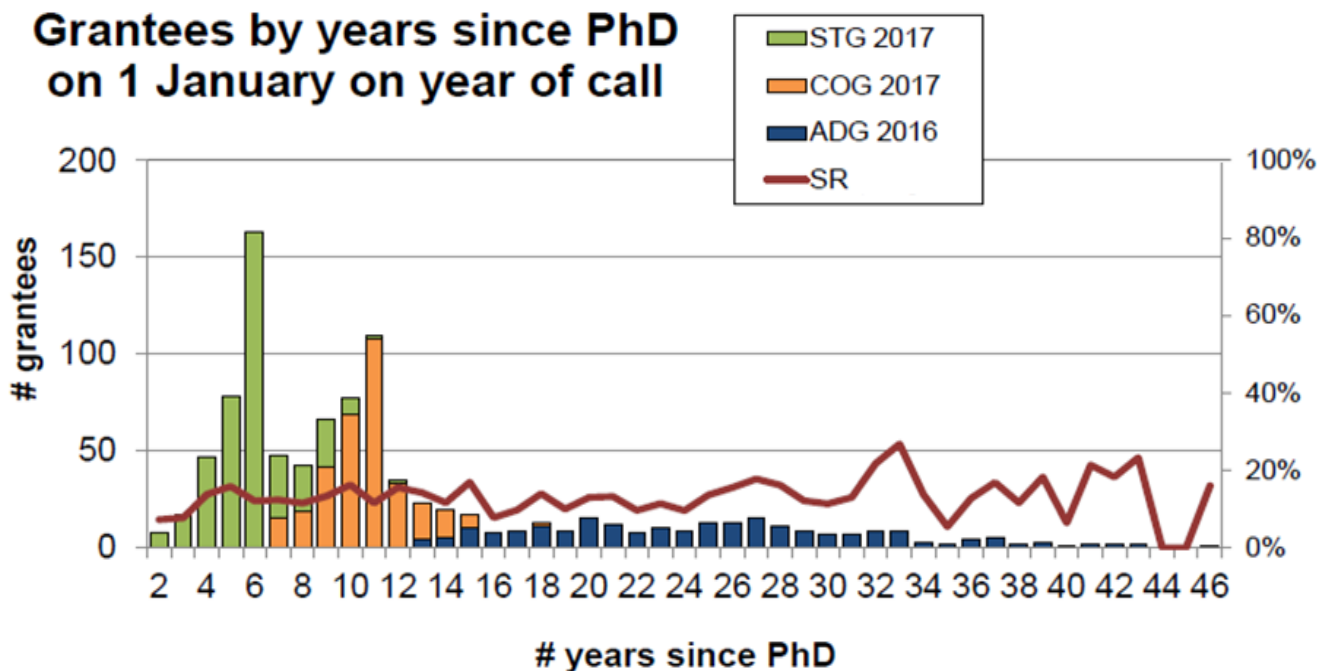
- ERC funds 'frontier research', including applied research
- The budget is distributed among the scientific panels as a function of demand.
- Publication record is not decisive in selection decisions.
- The Host Institution is not an evaluation criterion.
- The success rate is virtually flat across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

Preparing your proposal

Shall I apply now or wait another year?



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Supporting researchers



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- Support independence, recognition & visibility of potential PIs
- Follow which projects are funded in the concerning fields
- Support potential applicants from an early stage
- Encourage realistic size/budget
- Offer them best conditions for their work
- Enable them to focus on a research topic of own choice, with a team of own choice



Preparing an application

Check the already Funded Projects



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

The screenshot shows the top of the ERC website. On the left is the ERC logo and the text "European Research Council Established by the European Commission". In the center is the slogan "Supporting top researchers from anywhere in the world". On the right is a search bar and navigation links: "Advanced Search | Glossary | A-Z | Sitemap". Below this is a navigation bar with buttons for "Home", "Funding and Grants", "Projects and Results", "Media and Events", "About ERC", and "Contact us".

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

The screenshot shows the left-hand navigation menu. It includes links for "ERC Funded Projects", "Prizes and Awards", "ERC Stories", and "Statistics". Below these are filter sections: "Funding Scheme" with a dropdown arrow, "Research Area" with a dropdown arrow, "Country of Host Institution" with a dropdown arrow, and a "Free text search" field with a search icon. At the bottom is a "Clear all" button.

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'.

Preparing an application

Check past panel members for the call

[Home](#) | [Funding and Grants](#) | [Projects and Results](#) | [Media and Events](#) | [A](#)

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

- Funding Schemes
- ▼ [Apply for Funding](#)
 - Step by Step
 - Call for Proposals
 - [Evaluation Panels](#)
 - 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.

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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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 -  www.facebook.com/EuropeanResearchCouncil
 -  twitter.com/ERC_Research
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Some useful tools and links

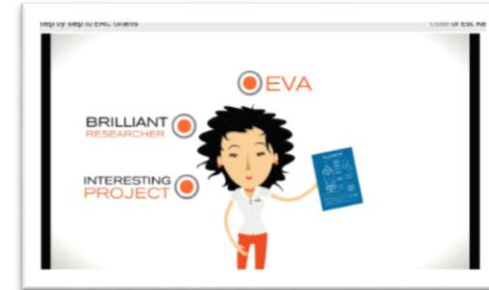


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- Read Information for Applicants and Work Programme
- View the step-by-step video Introduction to application process, including tips & tricks for the interview <https://vimeo.com/94179654>
- Consult ERC website for latest funding opportunities, view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





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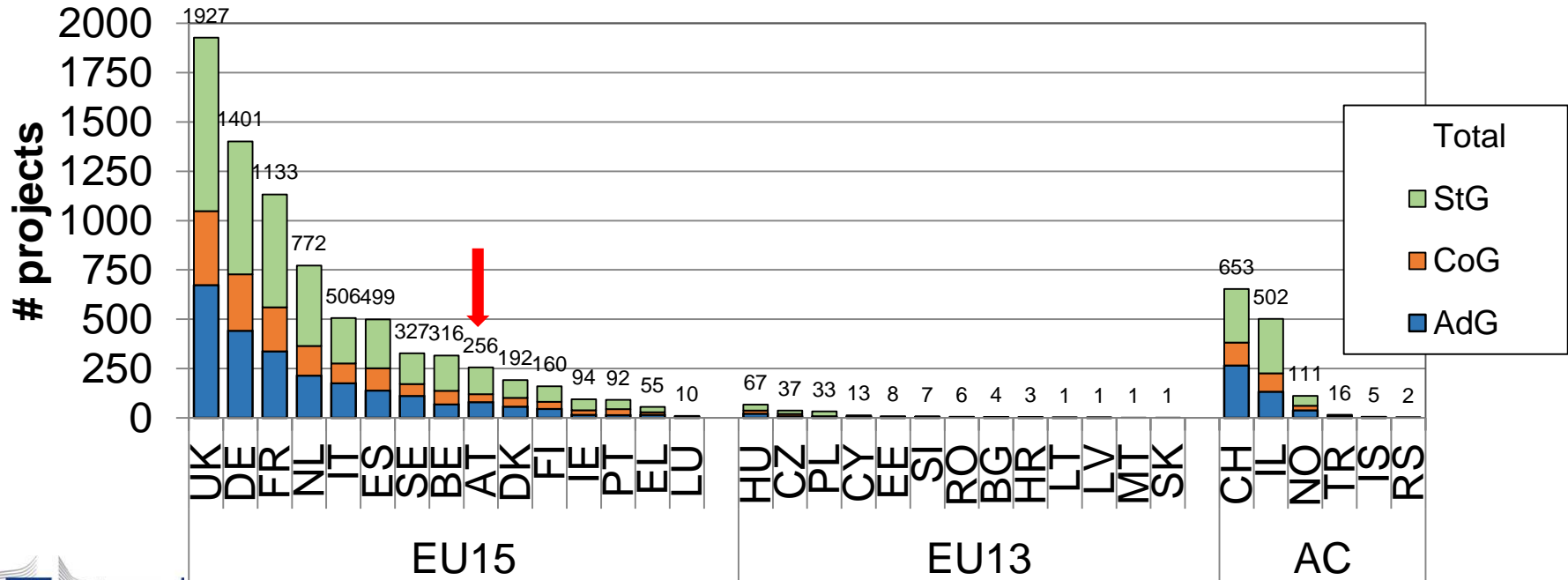
ERC and Austria

ERC Funded Projects by Country of HI

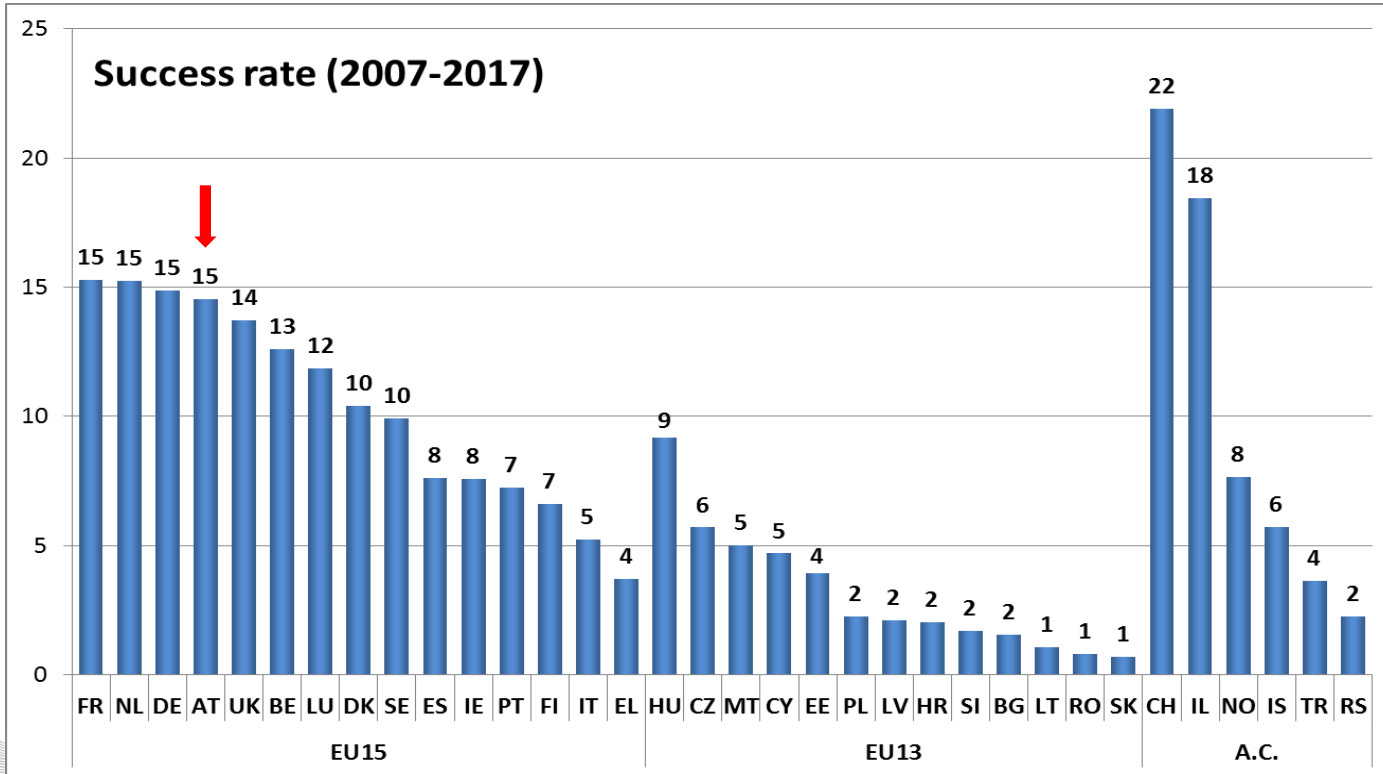


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ERC grants 2007 to present



Success Rate by Country of HI

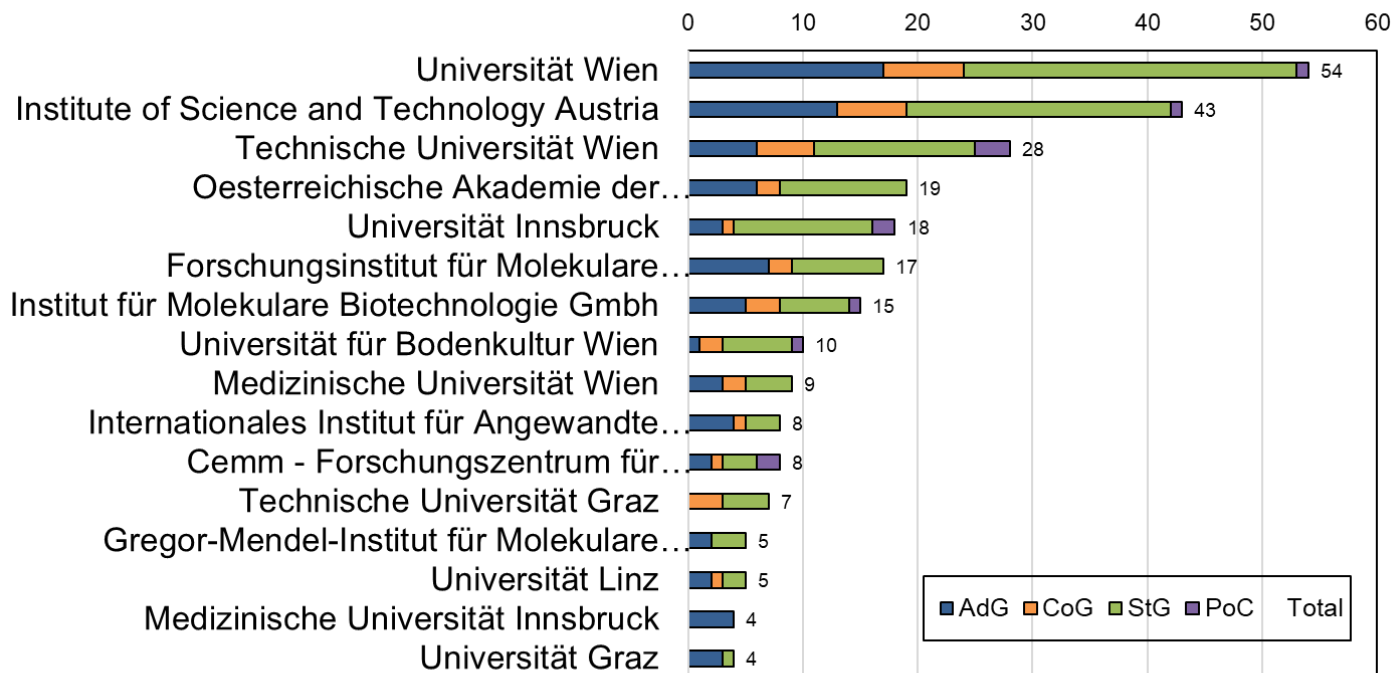


Top Host Institutions in Austria



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Grants signed in Austria 2007-2018

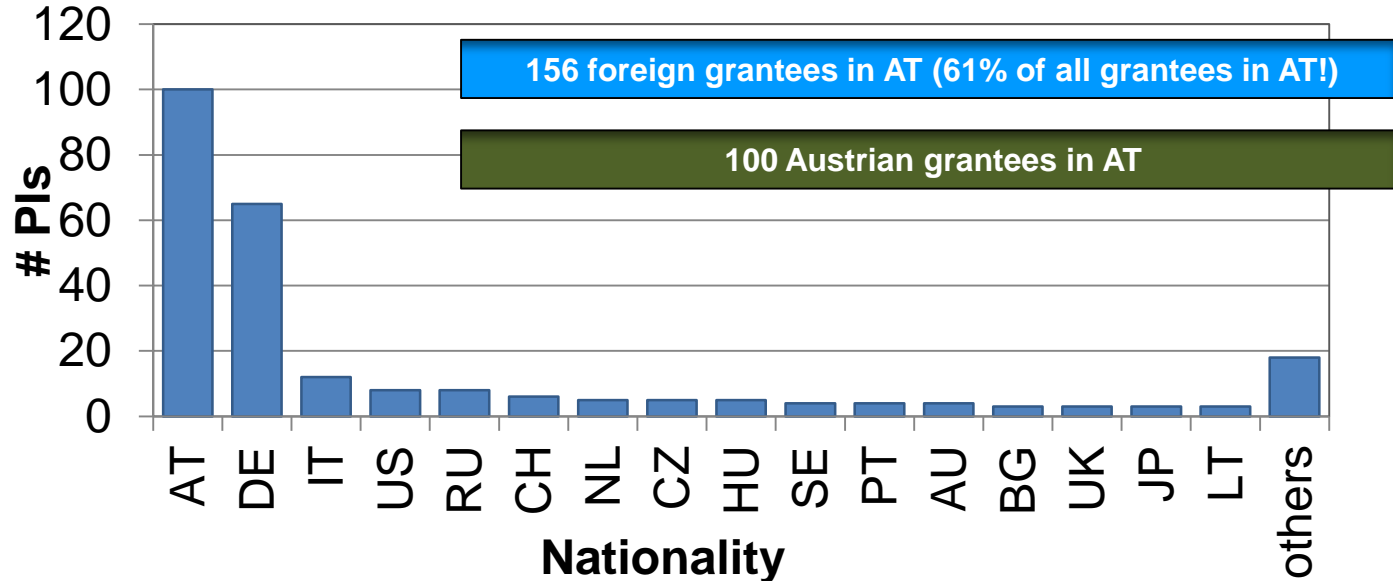


Foreign Grantees in Austria

Austrians PIs in 12 other countries, mainly DE, CH and UK



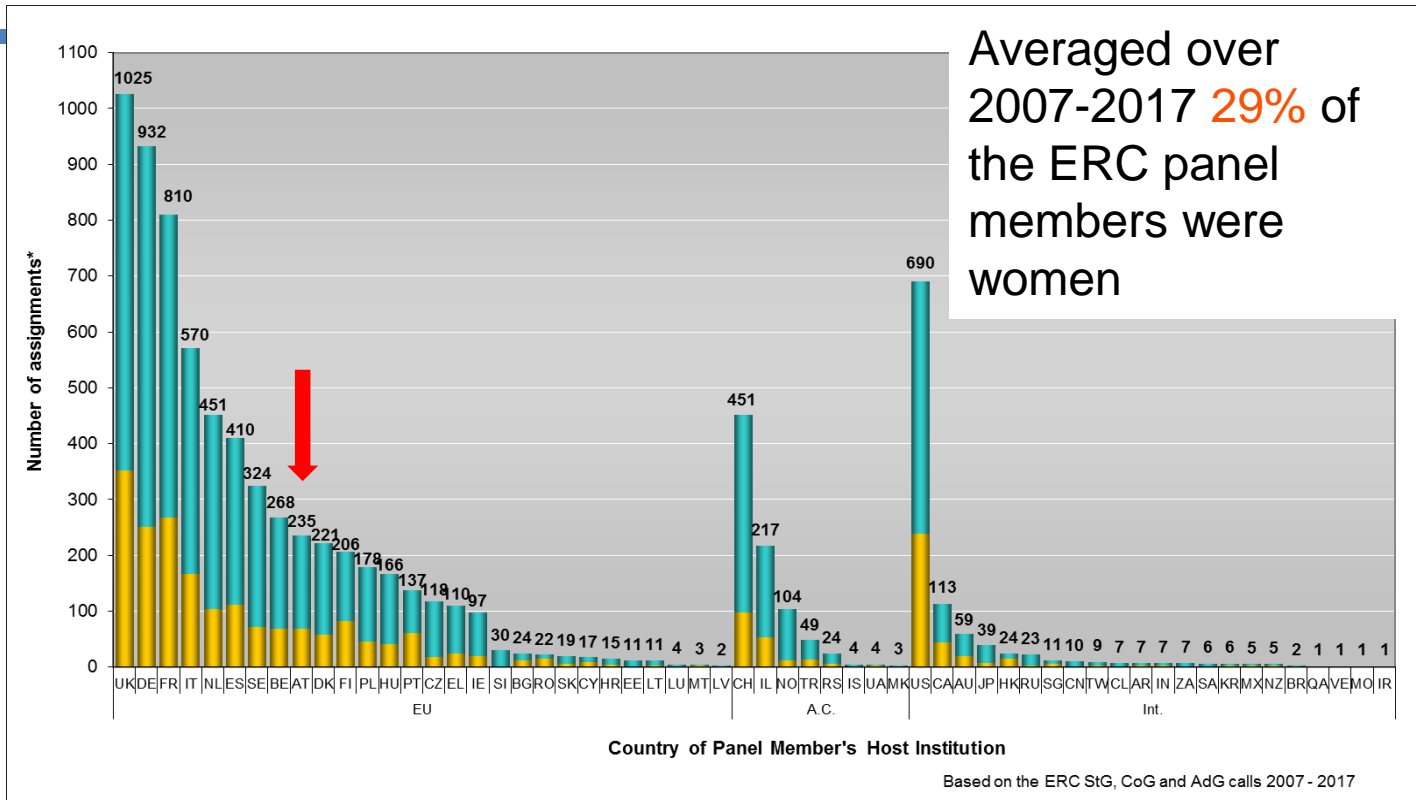
Nationalities working in Austria



ERC Panel Members by Country of HI and Gender



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ERC Delivers

After 11 Years, a Success Story



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



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



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



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



€ 13 billion
ERC budget for 2014-2020 under
Horizon 2020



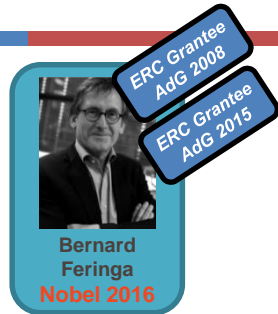
78
nationalities of
grant holders

Nobel Prize to ERC grantees

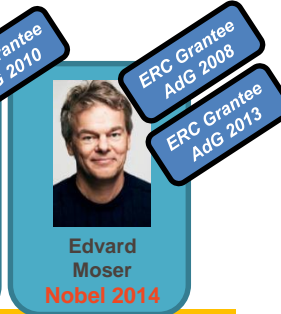


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The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2016 was awarded jointly to Jean-Pierre Sauvage, Sir J. Fraser Stoddart and Bernard L. Feringa *"for the design and synthesis of molecular machines"*.



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



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"*.



2 other ERC grantees received the Nobel prize in 2010 and 2012
Other 7 ERC grantees were already Nobel laureates at the moment they received the ERC grant