

FP7 IDEAS Programme

European Research Council



The European Research Council





What is the ERC?

ERC is a new type of funding body in Europe to support excellence in frontier research, a bottom-up, individual-team, pan-European competition

Legislation

- Scientific Council with 22 members
- Support by the ERC Executive Agency
- Significant budget (1.2 billion €/year)
- Excellence as the only valid criterion

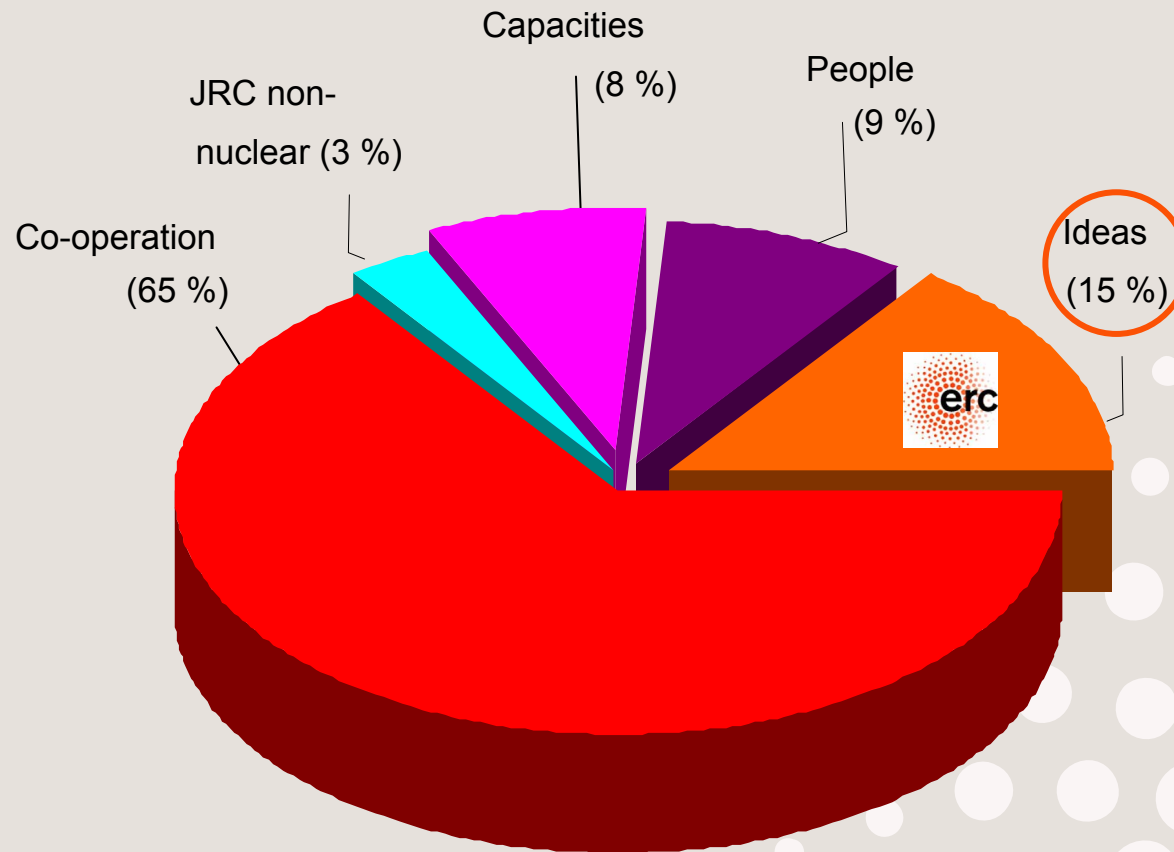
Strategy

- Support for the individual scientist
- International peer-review
- No predetermined subjects (bottom-up)
- Support of frontier research in all fields of science and humanities



FP7 budget €50.5 billion

ERC budget € 7.5 billion; Increase by € 250 M/year





After 5 years of existence...

- ~2 600 researchers funded (58% are at early-career stage)
- 53 nationalities represented
- Working in >480 different institutions in 26 countries
- average success rate 12%
- 50% of grantees in 50 institutions; “Excellence attracts excellence”



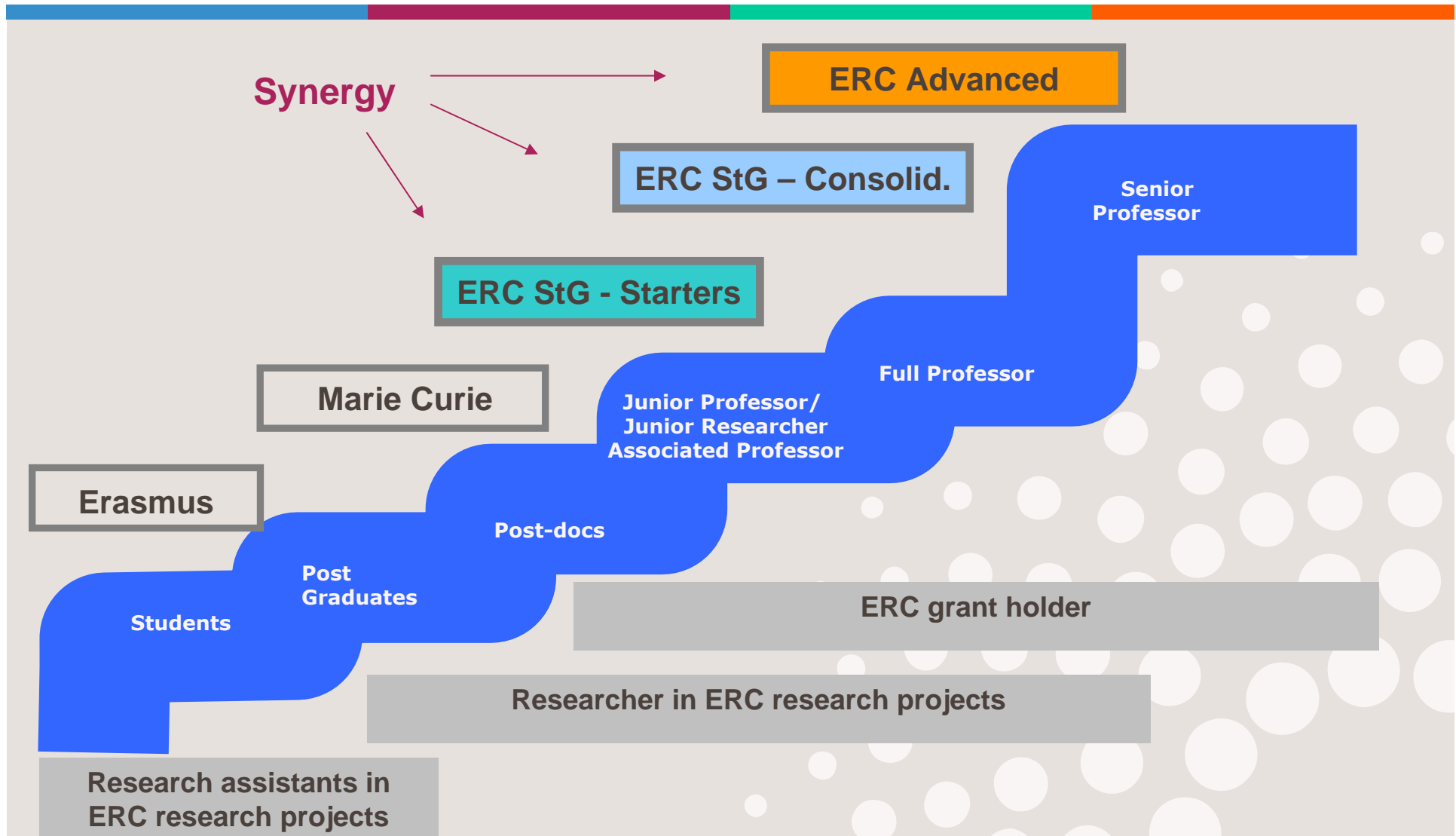
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ERC grant schemes





Researchers Career development and complementary funding schemes



ERC Granting schemes

Starting Grants

starters (2-7 years after PhD)
consolidators (7-12 years after PhD) up to € 2.0 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

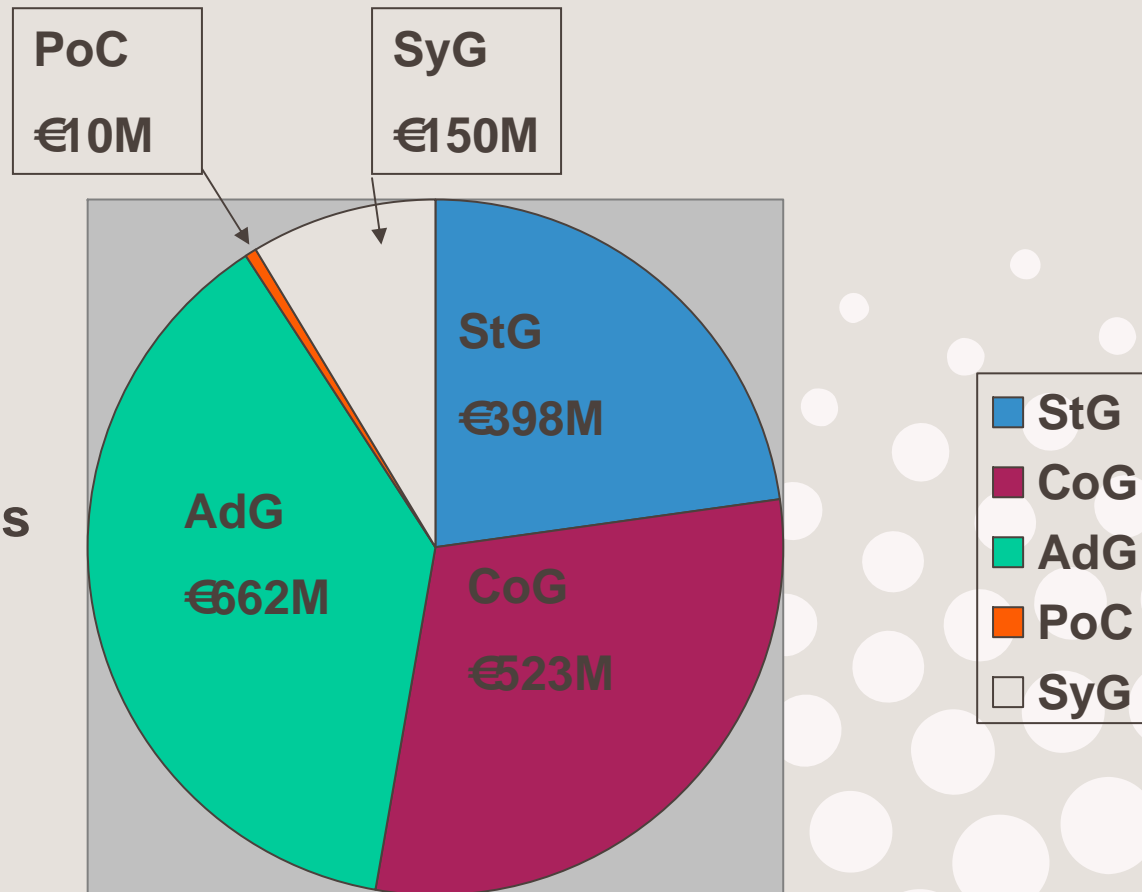
bridging gap between research - earliest
stage of marketable innovation
up to €150,000 for ERC grant holders



ERC grant schemes

2013 total budget: **€1,754M**

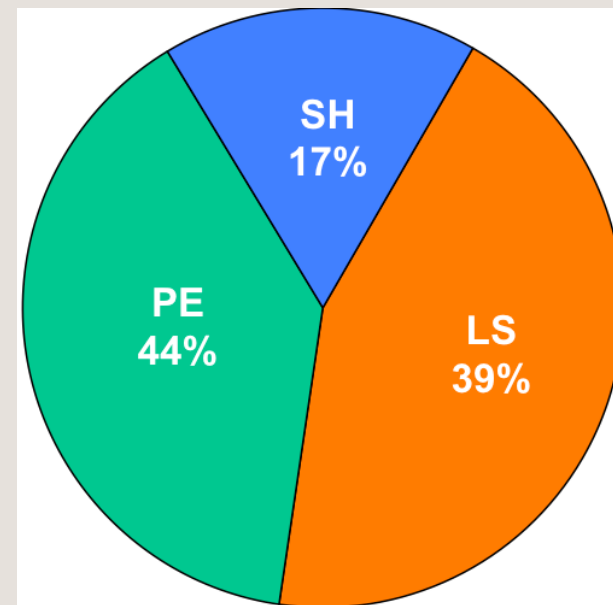
- AdG: Advanced Grants
- StG: Starter Grants
- CoG: Consolidator Grants
- Syn: ERC Synergy
- PoC: Proof of Concept



Call budget distribution for 2013 calls

Indicative call budget

- Life Sciences – **LS**
- Physical Sciences & Engineering – **PE**
- Social Sciences & Humanities – **SH**



- ➔ Within each domain, **budget is broken down according to total funding requested per panel** (equal chance in each panel)



ERC Grant Schemes

Panel structure : 3 domains and 25 panels

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 & society
- SH4 The Human Mind and its complexity
- SH5 Cultures & cultural production
- SH6 The study of the human past

Physical Sciences & Engineering

- PE1 Mathematical foundations
- 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 Granting schemes

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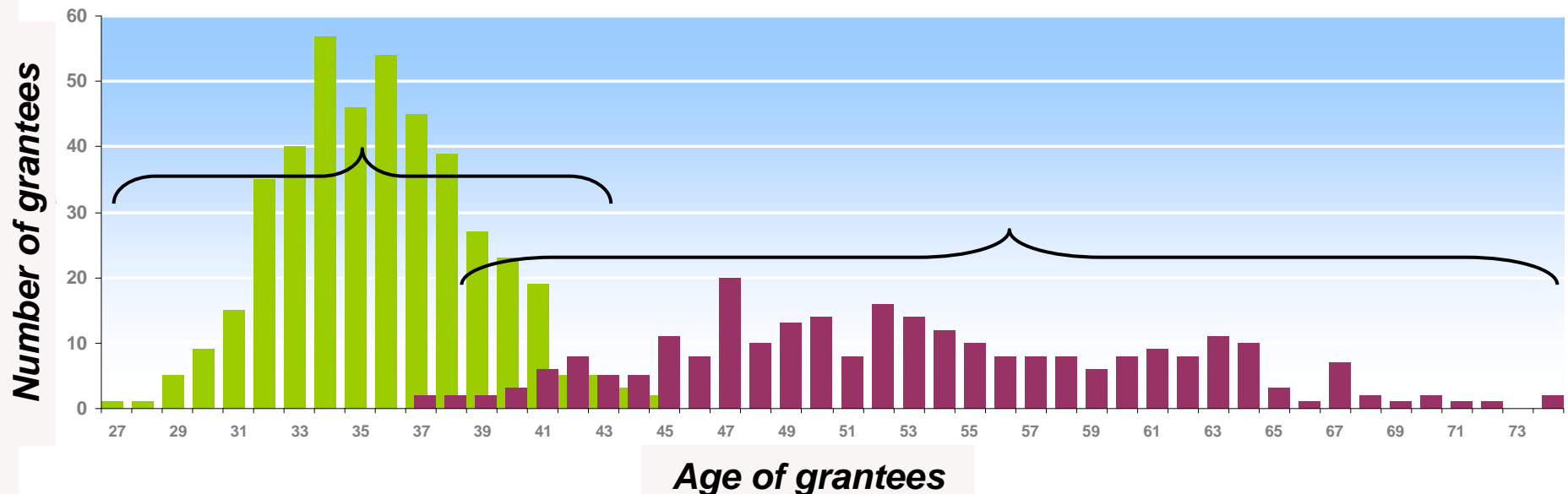


Starting Grants

- Attract/retain **next-generation top scientists**
- Address **funding gap** early in independent career
- Establish or consolidate an independent **research team & program**
- Up to **€ 2.0 Mio**

Advanced Grants

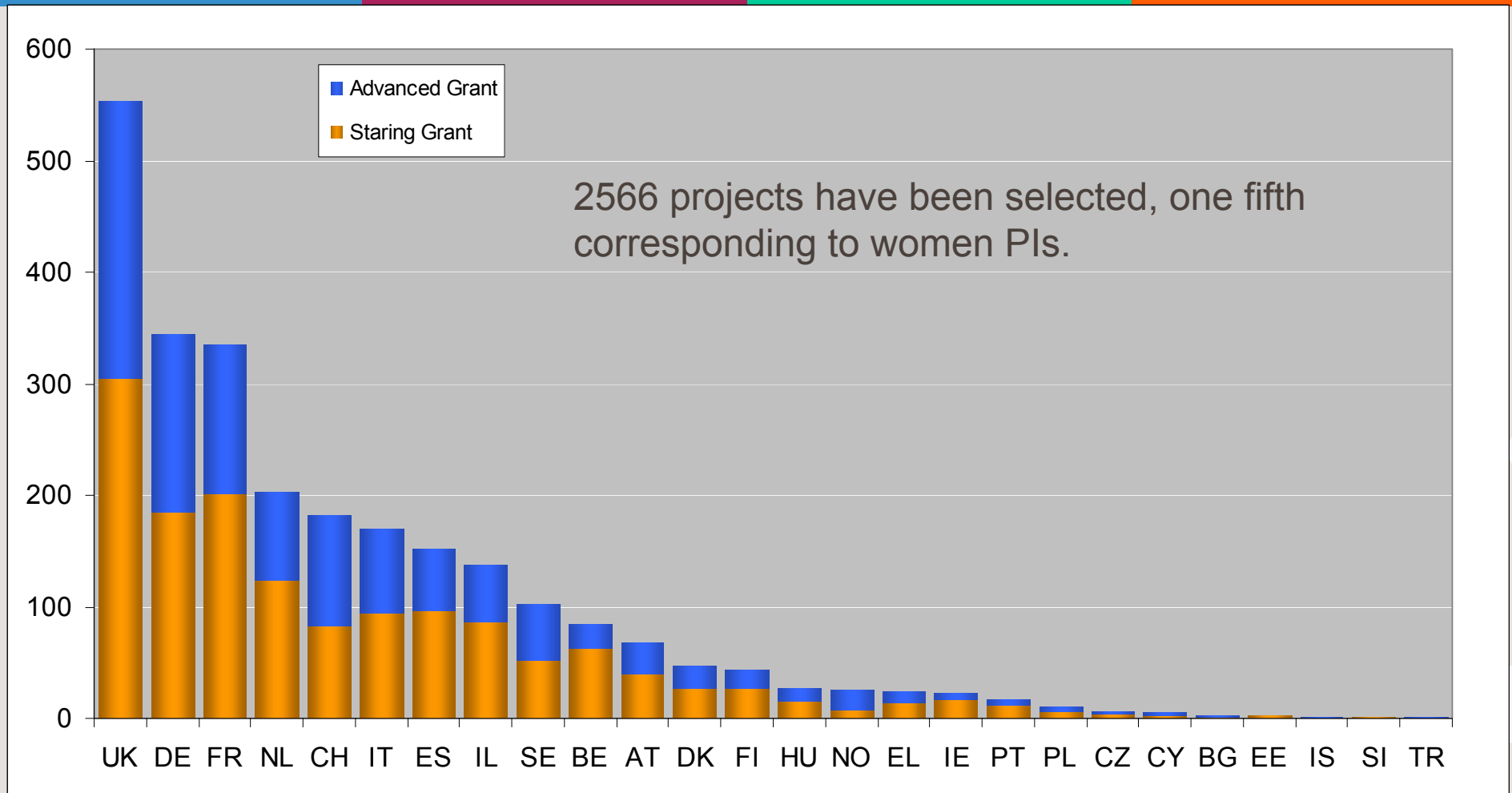
- Attract/retain **current world-top scientists**
- Stimulate investigator-driven, **breakthrough research**
- Up to **€ 3.5 Mio**



ERC grant distribution to countries of HI

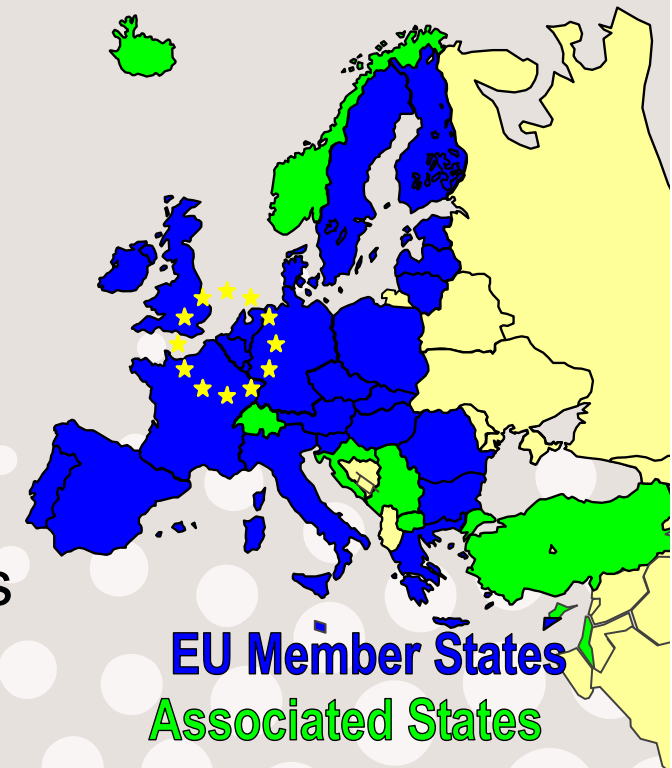
ERC Starting & Advanced grant calls 2007 – 2011

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ERC Grant schemes: Who can apply?

- Excellent Researchers (PIs)
 - Any nationality, any age or any current place of work
- In conjunction with a Host Institution
 - Based in EU or associated countries



Host institution

Not evaluated during evaluation process!

Applicant legal entity: institution that engages and hosts the PI for the duration of the project

Any type of legal entity: universities, research centres, business research units ... **as long as it is in MS or AC**

Commitment of HI: to ensure that the PI may

- apply for funding independently
- manage research and funding for the project
- publish independently as senior author
- have access to reasonable space and facilities



Attractive features for researchers from outside Europe



Incentive:

- Additional “start-up” funding for scientists moving to Europe (EUR 500 000 for Starter and Consolidator and EUR 1 Million for Advanced grantees)

Flexibility:

- Host institution shall be in an EU member state or AC
- Grantee can keep affiliation with home institute outside Europe (“significant part” of work time in Europe)
- Team members can be based outside Europe
- Grantee can move within Europe with the grant

Negotiation:

- Several European countries/host institutes assist applicants and reward grantees with top-up funds or long-term professorships

Simple and flexible grants for researchers from outside Europe

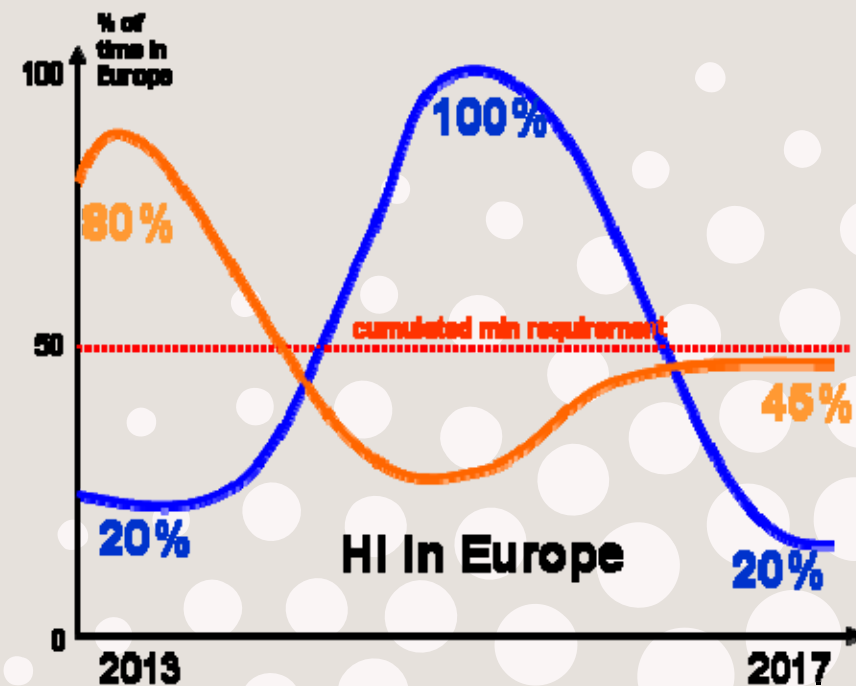
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Coming to Europe doesn't mean burning bridges:

- Grantee can **keep affiliation** with home institute outside Europe
- Grantee must spend a “significant part” (min. 50 %) of the work time in Europe

Example: use of the flexibility





Creative freedom for the individual grantee

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

Evaluation Criteria

Excellence as sole criterion, to apply to:

1. Research Project (RP)

- Ground breaking nature
- Potential impact
- Scientific Approach
- Added value of the Group (only SyG)

2. Principle Investigator (PI)

- Intellectual capacity
- Creativity

The profile of a StG applicant

“Am I competitive enough?”



Potential for research independence

- evidence of scientific maturity
- track-record of early research achievements appropriate to the research field and career stage
- at least one publication without participation of PhD supervisor

Promising track-record of early achievements

- significant publications
- invited presentations in conferences, ...

Specific stage of research career at time of application

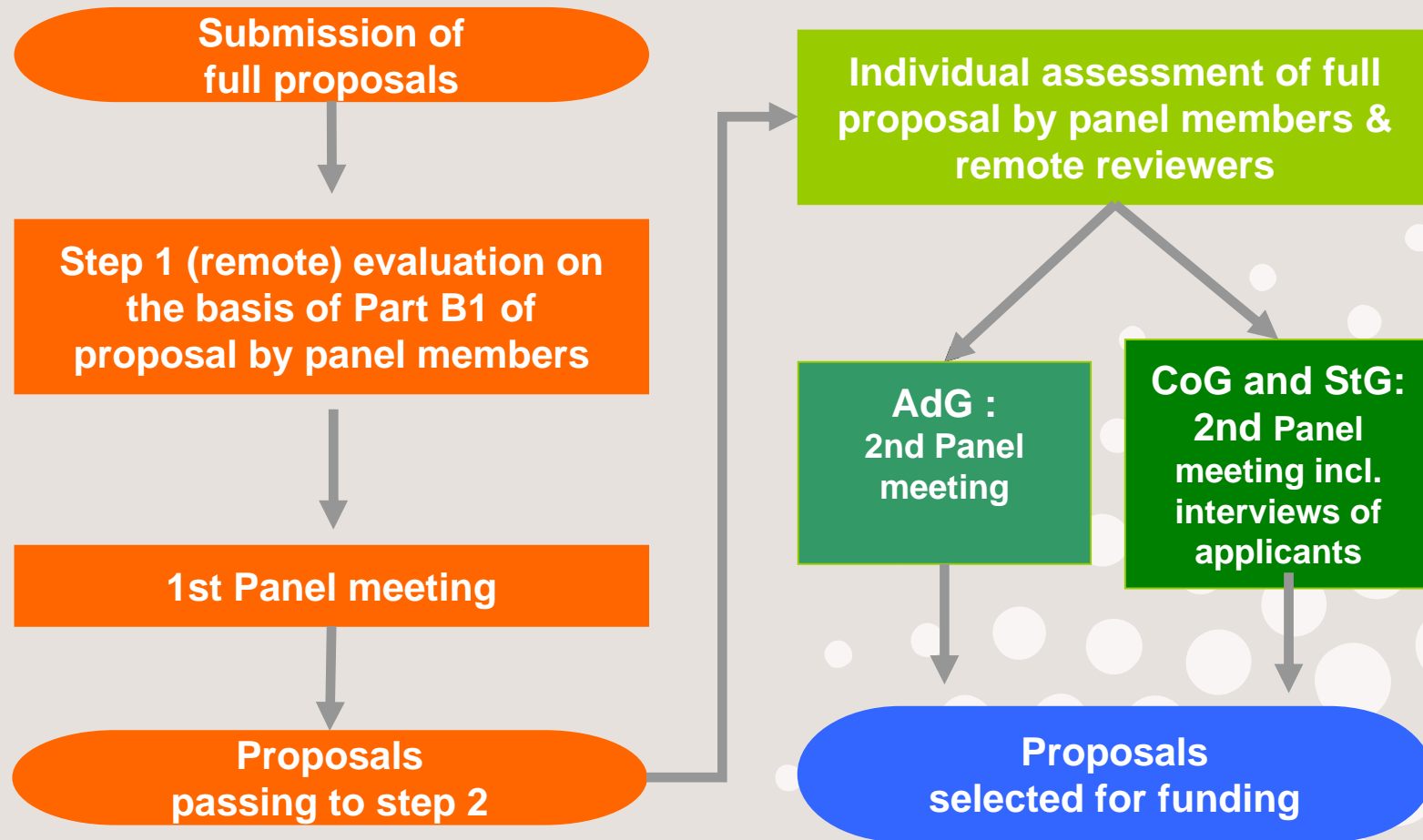
- starters
- consolidators

} **Streaming – comparable success rates**

ERC Grants: how does it operate?

Submission, evaluation and selection

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How to apply ?

Submission of proposals

- Single submission
 - ➔ “1 stage, 2 step” evaluation
- Electronic submission
- Deadlines strictly enforced
- Proposals have two parts:
 - ➔ Part A: Administrative forms
 - ➔ Part B: Scientific proposal itself

Proposal structure: Part A

- **Part A:** “Administrative forms” containing
 - ➔ A1 Information on PI
 - ➔ A2 Information on Host Institution
 - ➔ A3 Budget breakdown by year and partner
 - Not detailed



Submission of proposals

Details of Part B

Part B1 = Section 1 of Part B = “The PI”

- Scientific Leadership Potential (1 page)
- CV (2 pages): academic and research record, funding, career breaks
- Early achievements track record (2 pages: publications, patents, conferences, prizes and awards)
- **Extended synopsis (5 pages)**
 - Ground breaking nature of research
 - Feasibility

Only part B1 is evaluated in Step1!

Submission of proposals

Details on Part B

- **Part B2 = Section 2 of part B = Full Scientific proposal (15 page):**
 - ➔ More detailed description and methodology
 - ➔ Potential Impact
 - ➔ Costs
 - ➔ Dedication
- **Annexes:**
 - Ethical Review information (only where appropriate)
 - Separate additional documents:
 - Host Institution Support Letter
 - Copy of Ph.D.
 - Documents to prove extension to eligibility window



New instrument: ERC Synergy Grant

- For small groups of 2 to 4 excellent Principal Investigators (PIs) with complementary skills, knowledge and resources.
- Unique configuration of PIs to jointly identify and tackle exciting research problems aiming at breakthrough discoveries.

ERC Call Name	Call Budget	Grant Size
ERC Synergy Grant ERC-2013-SyG	€150M	Max. €15M for up to six years



Timetable of 2013 ERC calls

ERC calls	Call Publication	Submission Deadline
Starting Grants ERC-2013-StG	10 July 2012	17 Oct. 2012
Advanced Grants ERC-2013-AdG	10 July 2012	22 Nov. 2012
Synergy Grants ERC-2013-SyG	10 October 2012	10 Jan. 2013
Consolidator Grant ERC-2013-CoG	7 November 2012	21 Feb. 2013

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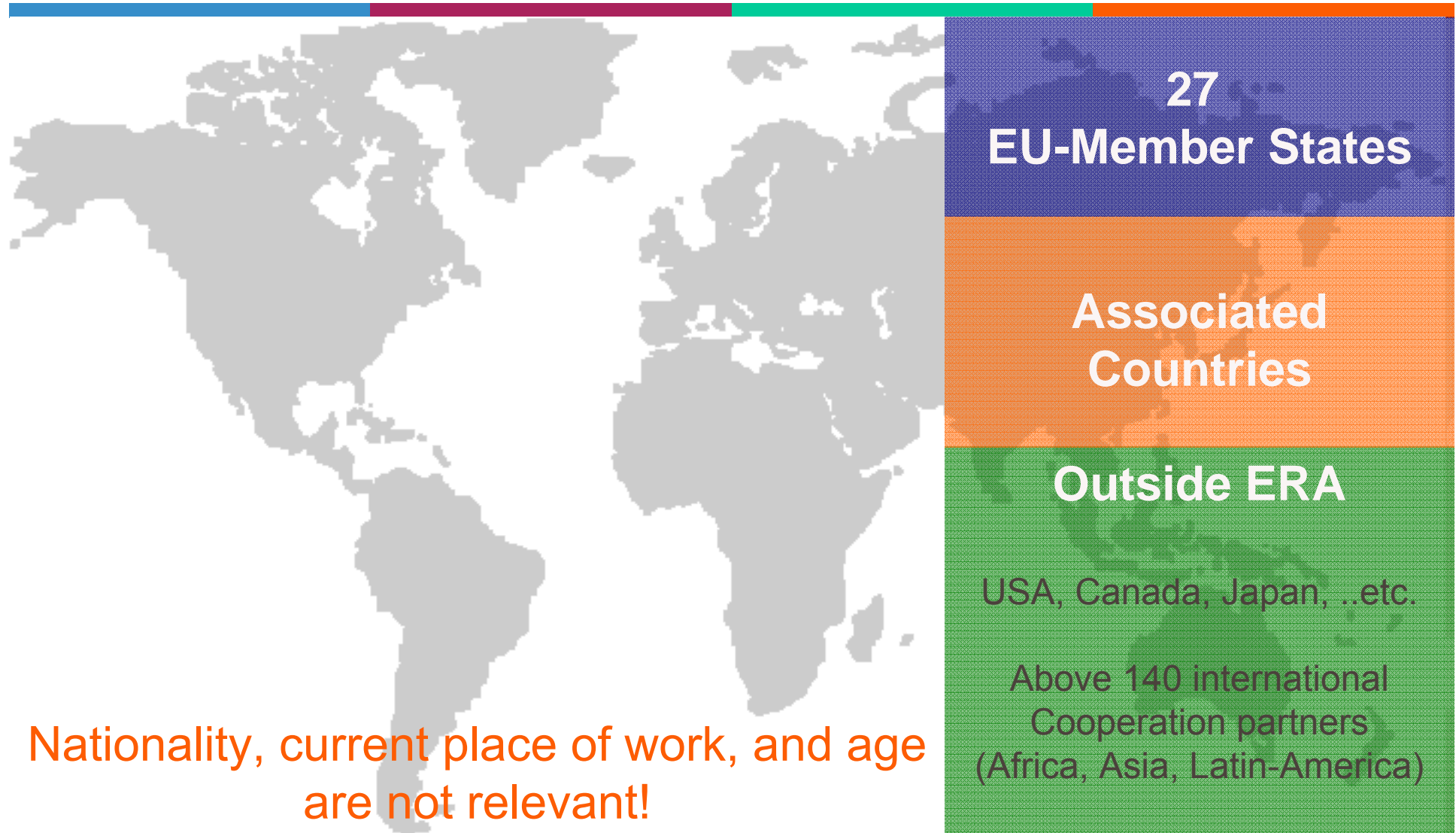
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International participation



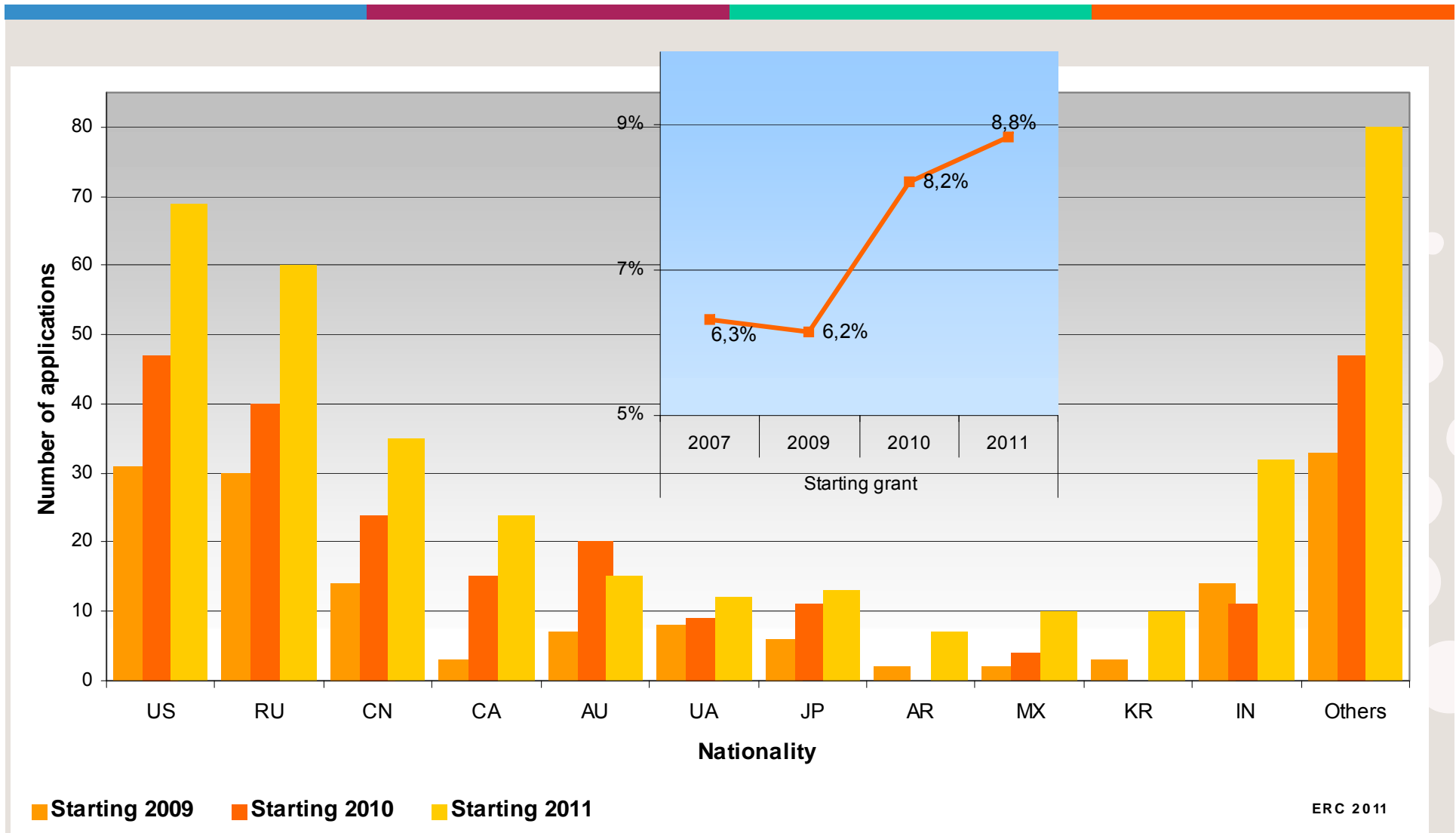
Potential applicants from the whole world!



Submitted proposals from researchers with non-ERA nationality

ERC Starting grant calls 2009 - 2011

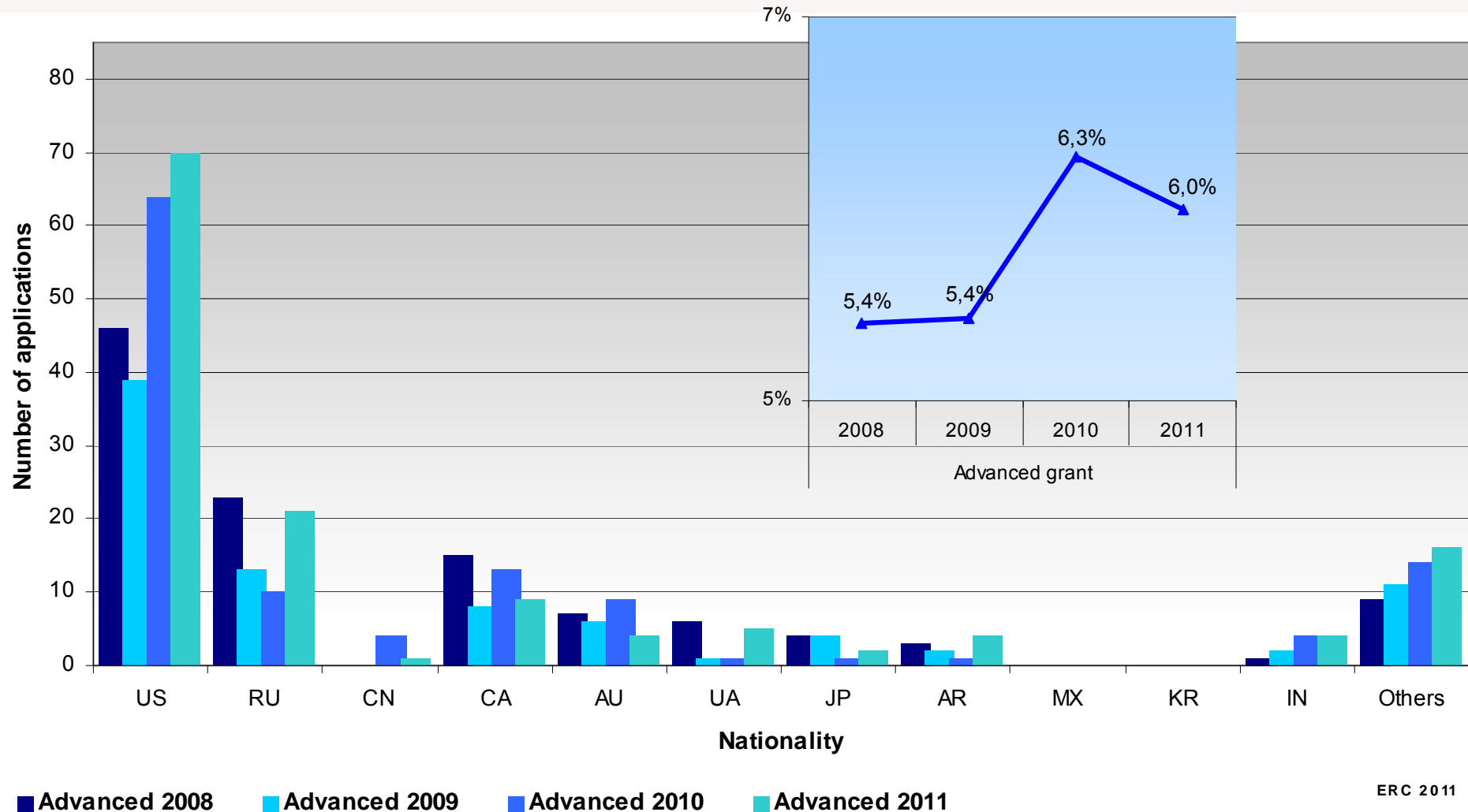
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Submitted proposals from researchers with non-ERA nationality

ERC Advanced grant calls 2008 - 2011

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Submitted proposals by Indian researchers



Submitted applications from Indian researchers

StG calls	AdG Calls	All ERC calls	Life Sci	Phys&Eng	Soc&Hum
127	11	138	33	96	9

Country of Host Institution	
UK	51
DE	19
NL	12
FR	11
CH	11
Other	34
Total	138

- 11 Indian applicants were resident in India at the time of application
- 3 applied from US, 3 from Turkey, 1 from Norway and all the rest from various EU countries (46 from UK, 15 from Germany, 14 from France, 13 from The Netherlands etc).

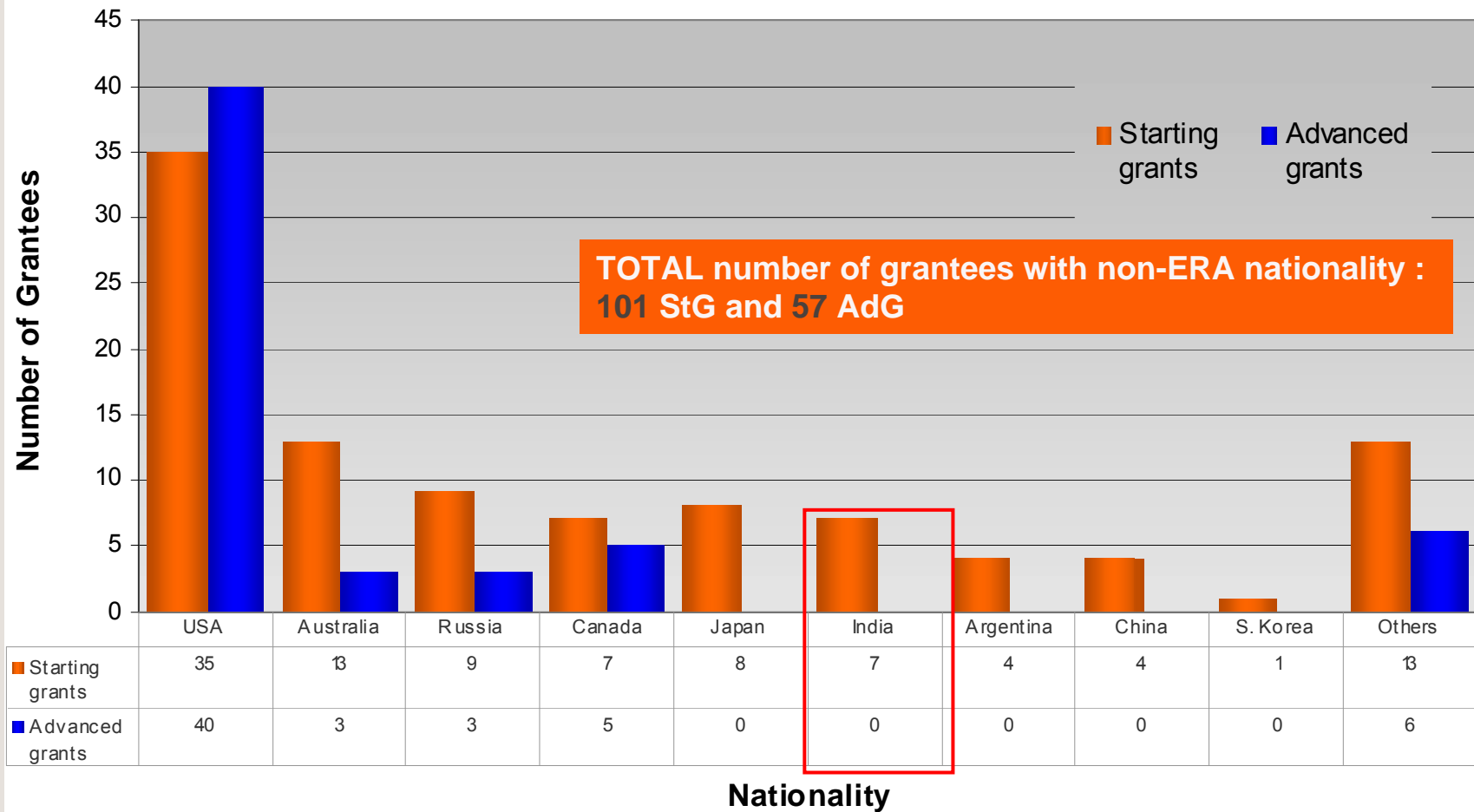
ERC grantees with a non-ERA nationality

ERC Starting and Advanced Calls 2007 – 2011

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ERA = EU Member States and FP7 Associated Countries



*) nationality as last declared by the principal investigator

Grantees with Indian nationality

ERC Starting Calls 2007 – 2011

ERC Advanced Calls 2008 - 2011

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Country*	Host Institution**	HI Country	ERC Call	Domain	Grantees
India	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH Zurich)	CH	StG 2010	Life Science	7
	European Molecular Biology Laboratory	DE	StG 2010	Life Science	
	National Institute for Research in Computer Science and Automatic Control (INRIA)	FR	StG 2010	Phys Sci & Eng.	
	Institute of Science and Technology Austria	AT	StG 2011	Phys Sci & Eng.	
	University of Bristol	UK	StG 2010	Life Science	
			StG 2011	Phys Sci & Eng.	
	University of Southampton	UK	StG 2011	Phys Sci & Eng.	

**) nationality as last declared by the principal investigator*

***) current host institution (data as of 03/05/2012)*

Basis: ERC calls Starting Grants and Advance Grants 2007-2011

➤ all Indian grantees were resident outside India at the time of application



Where to find more information

Ideas NCP (National Contact Points)

http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=FP7NCP_THIRD&QM_CCY_D=IN&QZ_WEBSRCH=

ERC Website

<http://erc.europa.eu/>

SPECIFIC INFO FOR NON-EUROPEAN RESEARCHERS: <http://erc.europa.eu/non-european-researchers>

ERC on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/ERC/109690865723702#!/EuropeanResearchCouncil>

#ERC on Twitter

Quarterly e-newsletter and e-News Alerts

Register on <http://erc.europa.eu/keep-updated-erc>

Vacancies for team member of an ERC project - EURAXESS

<http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/jobs/index>

Any other question

<http://erc.europa.eu/send-us-message>

Thank you 😊

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We support ideas
that can change
Europe and the World



ERC: <http://erc.europa.eu/>

Participant Portal : <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal>

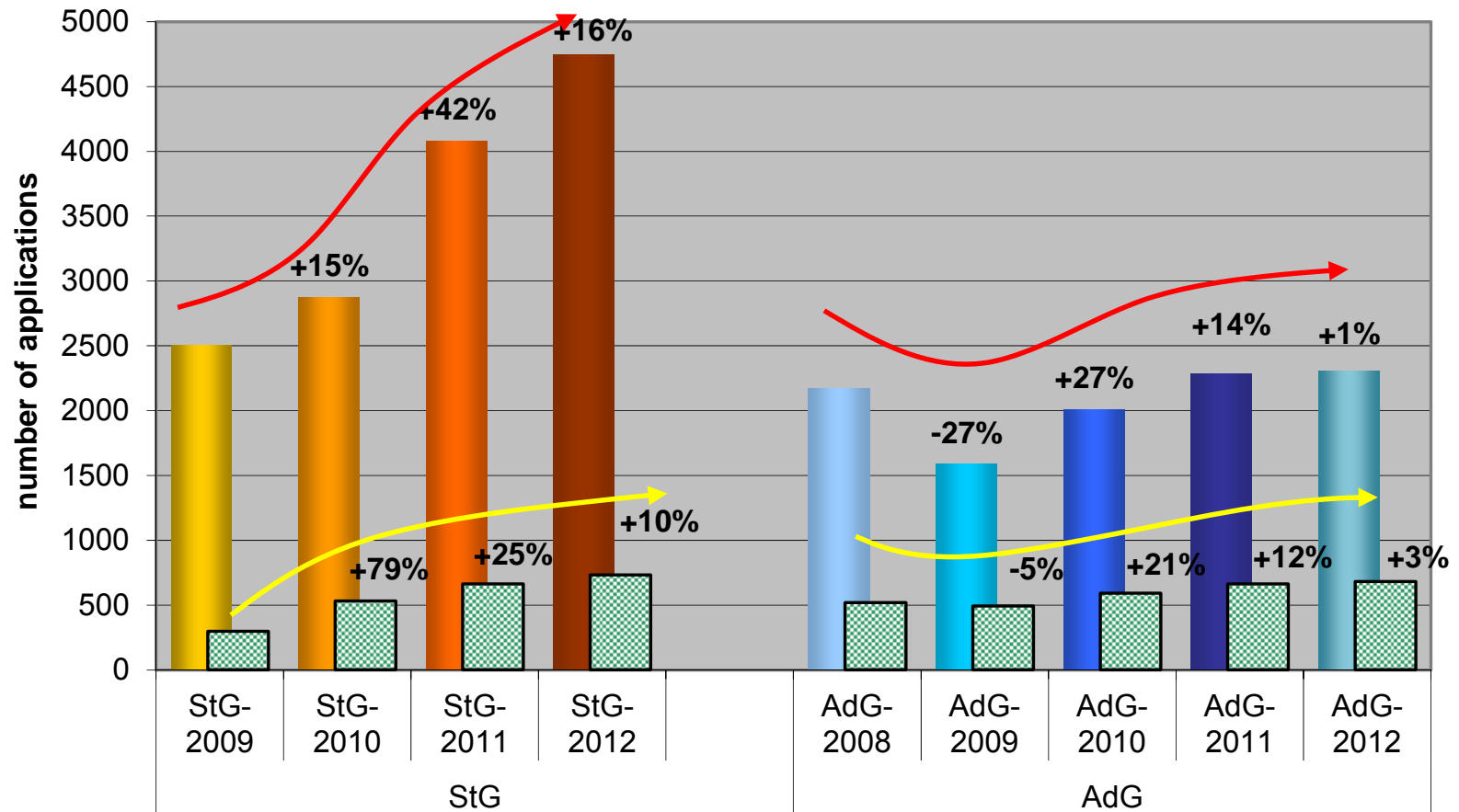
EXTRA SLIDES

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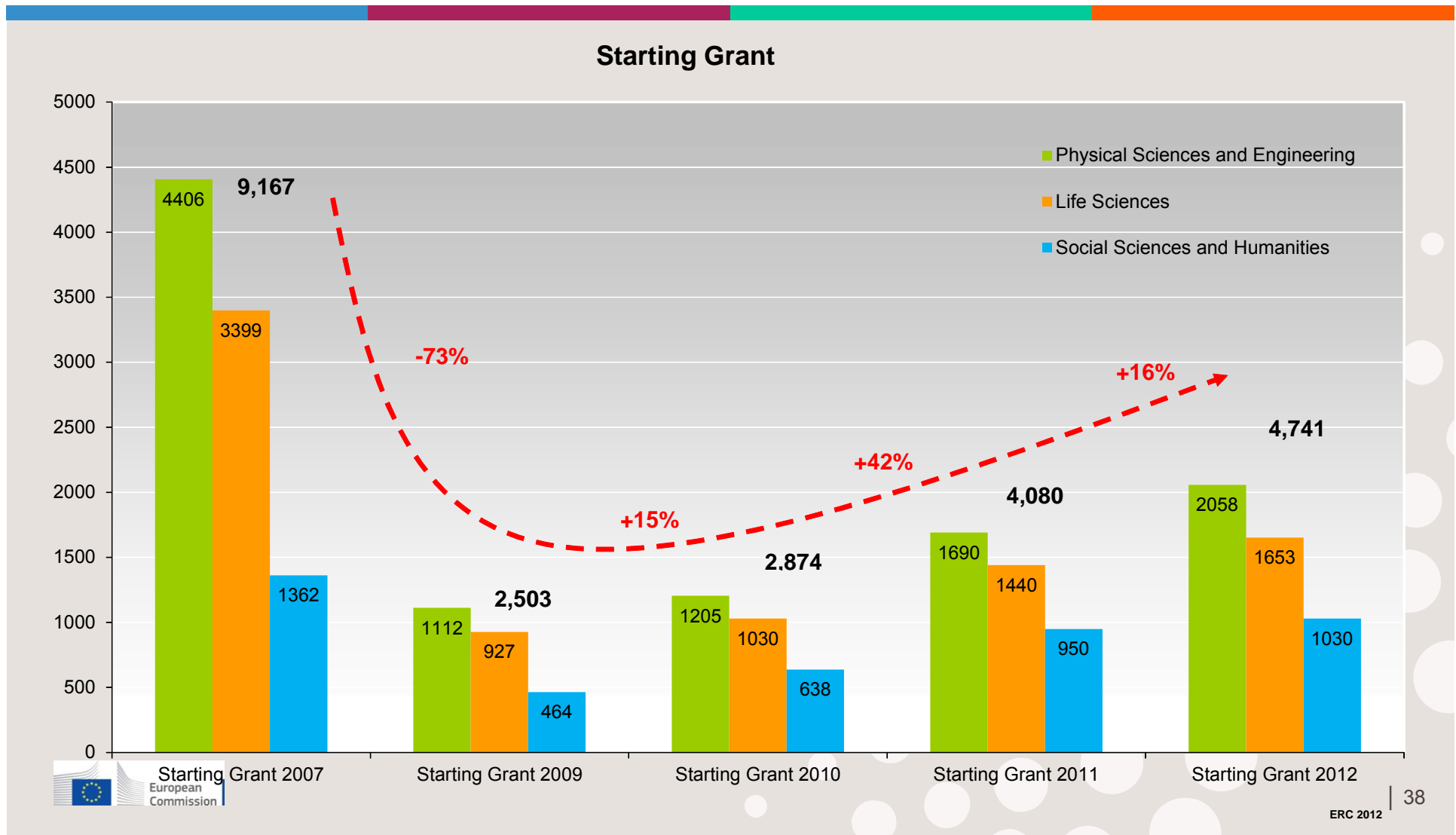
Rising applications



■ call budget (mil eur)

Submitted proposals by domain

ERC Starting grant calls 2007 - 2012



Submitted proposals by domain

ERC Advanced grant calls 2008 - 2012

