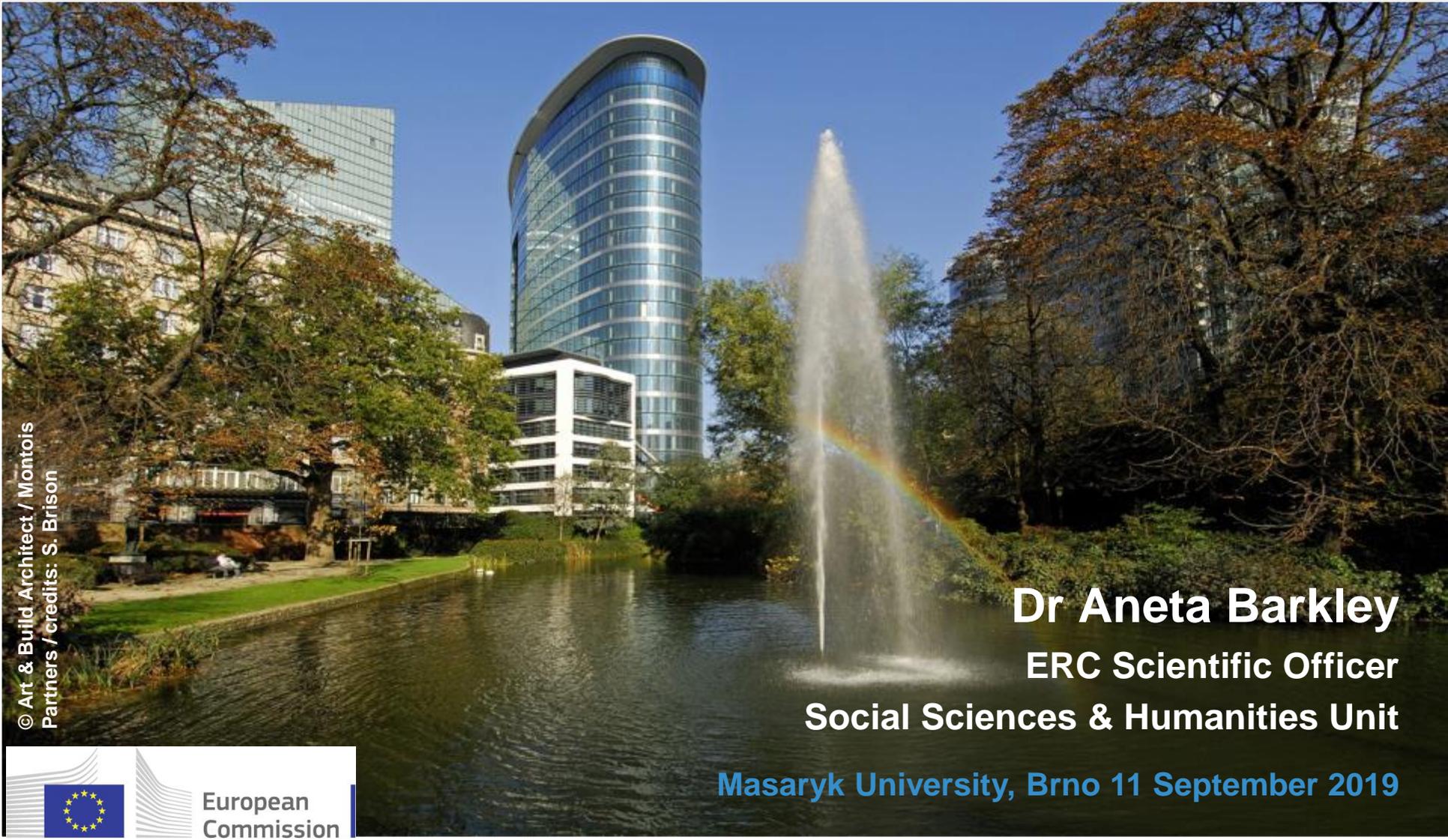




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# The European Research Council

Supporting your research with the ERC



**Dr Aneta Barkley**

**ERC Scientific Officer**

**Social Sciences & Humanities Unit**

**Masaryk University, Brno 11 September 2019**

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Partners / credits: S. Brisson

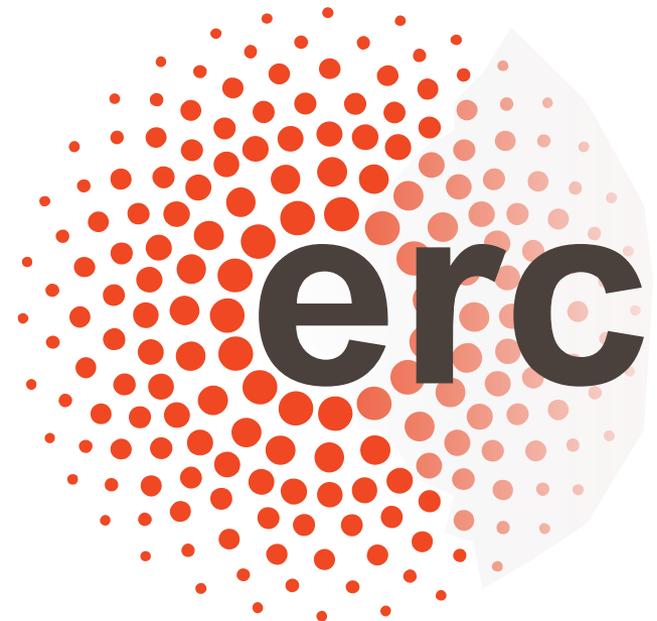


# Overview



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- What is the ERC?
- Brief overview of ERC Grants
- Some tips for potential applicants



# ERC is.... the Scientific Council

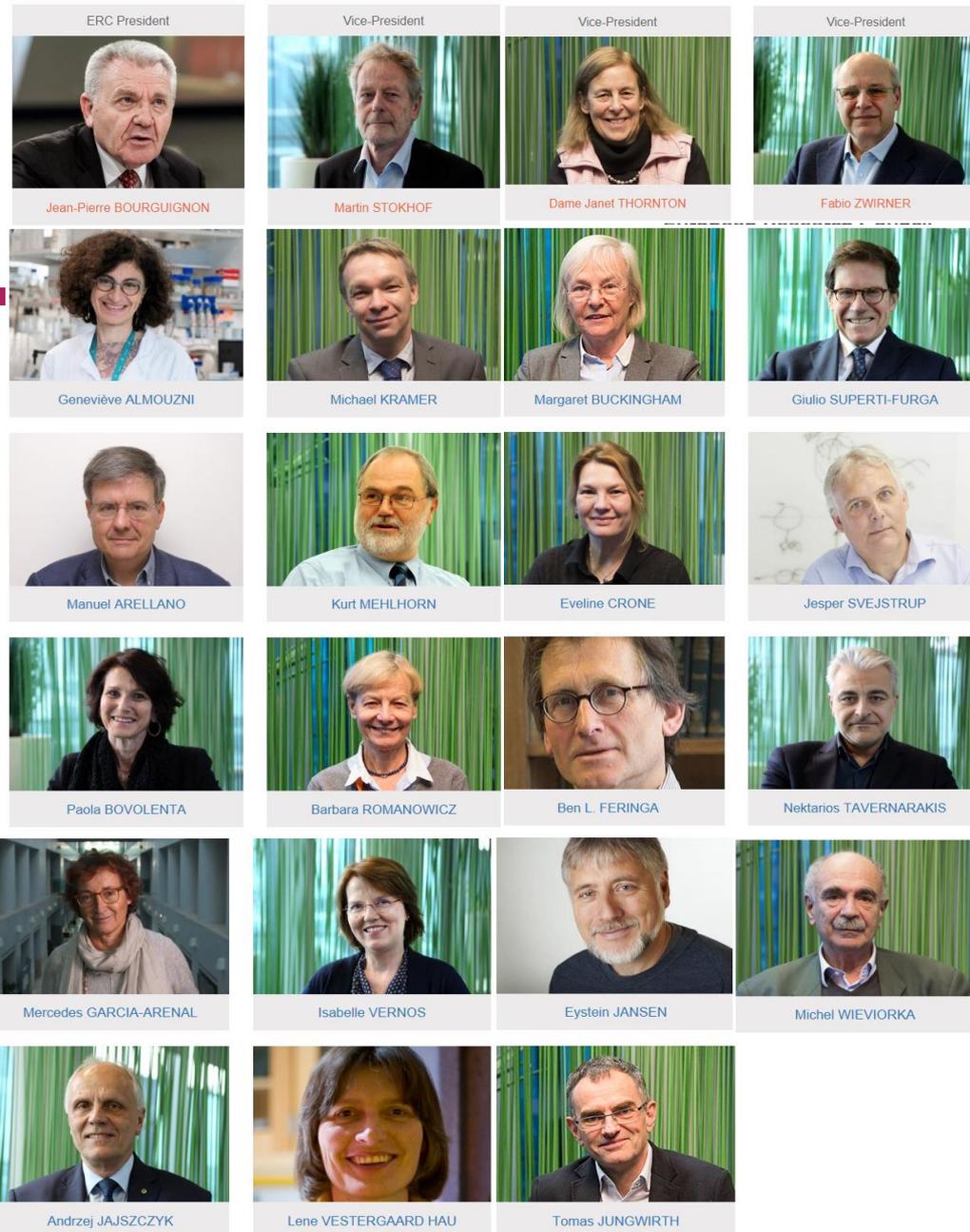
## The ERC Scientific Council

- 22 prominent researchers appointed by the Commission
- 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



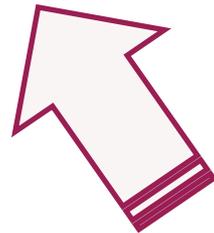
# ERC is.... the ERCEA



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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

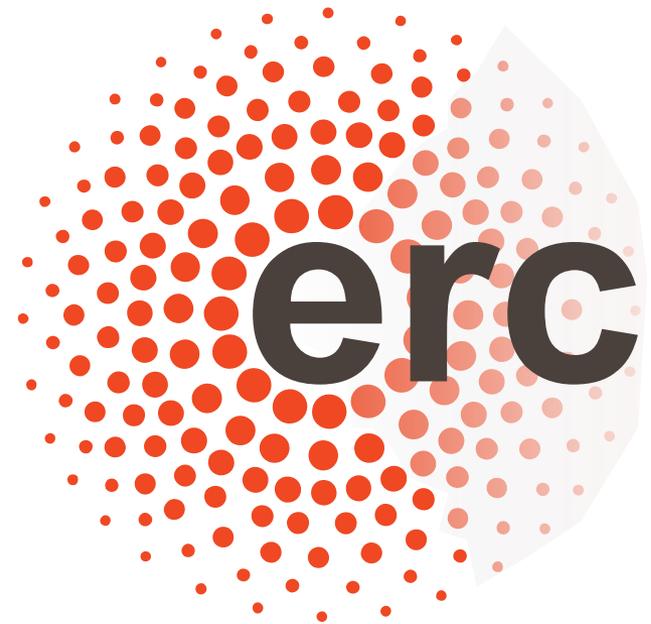
- Work closely with the panel members
- Manage all practical aspects of the evaluations
- Carry out scientific follow-up

# The ERC's mission is...



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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**.



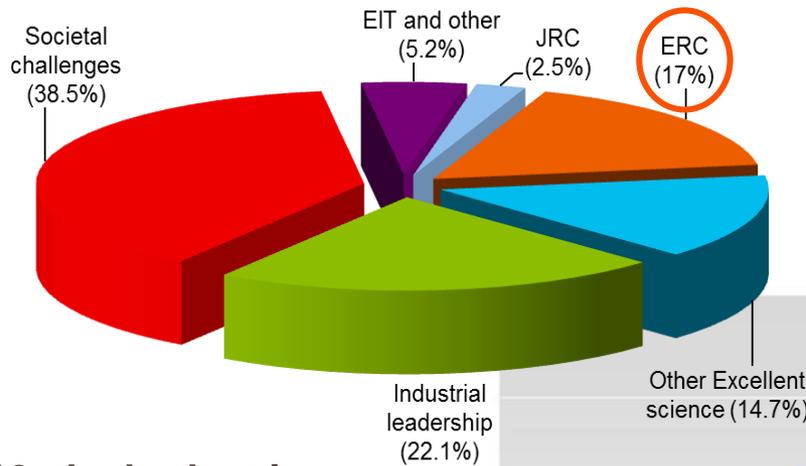
# ERC is....

## funding: it is part of H2020



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### ERC Budget € 13 billion

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





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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), flexible team structure
- **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 working place in the world
- Any topic
- In conjunction with a Host Institution based in **EU or associated countries**
- If granted, you need to spend at least 50% of your working time in the EU or associated countries



# ERC Funding Schemes



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## Starting Grants

starters  
(2-7 years after PhD)  
up to € 1.5M (+1M)  
for 5 years

## Consolidator Grants

consolidators  
(7-12 years after PhD)  
up to € 2 M (+1M)  
for 5 years

## Advanced Grants

10-year track-record of  
significant research  
achievements  
up to € 2.5 M (+1M)  
for 5 years

## Proof-of-Concept

for ERC grant holders only

Supporting innovative potential of  
ideas from ERC projects  
Lump sum €150,000 for 1 year

## Synergy Grants (re-launched 2018)

2 – 4 Principal Investigators at any career stage  
up to € 10.0 M (+4M), for 6 years

**NEW (2019):** one PI can be based outside EU/AC

# Additional Opportunities

## Visiting Research Fellowships



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Placements available **via national or regional funding agencies.**

Funding covers all costs of the research visit including salary, travel and reasonable subsistence costs.

However, you must apply for an ERC grant after the visit within a time specified in your funding agreement.



Currently in place:

- **Belgium (Flanders)**, with the Research Foundation Flanders (FWO)
- **Czech Republic**, with the Czech Science Foundation (GA CR)
- **Estonia**, with the Estonia Research Council (ETag)
- **Hungary**, with the National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NKFIH)
- **Poland**, with the National Science Centre (NCN)
- **Slovenia**, with the Slovenian Research Agency (ARRS)
- **Croatia**, with the Croatian Science Foundation (HRZZ)
- **Georgia**, with the Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation (SRNSFG)
- **Slovak Republic**, with the Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS)

# 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

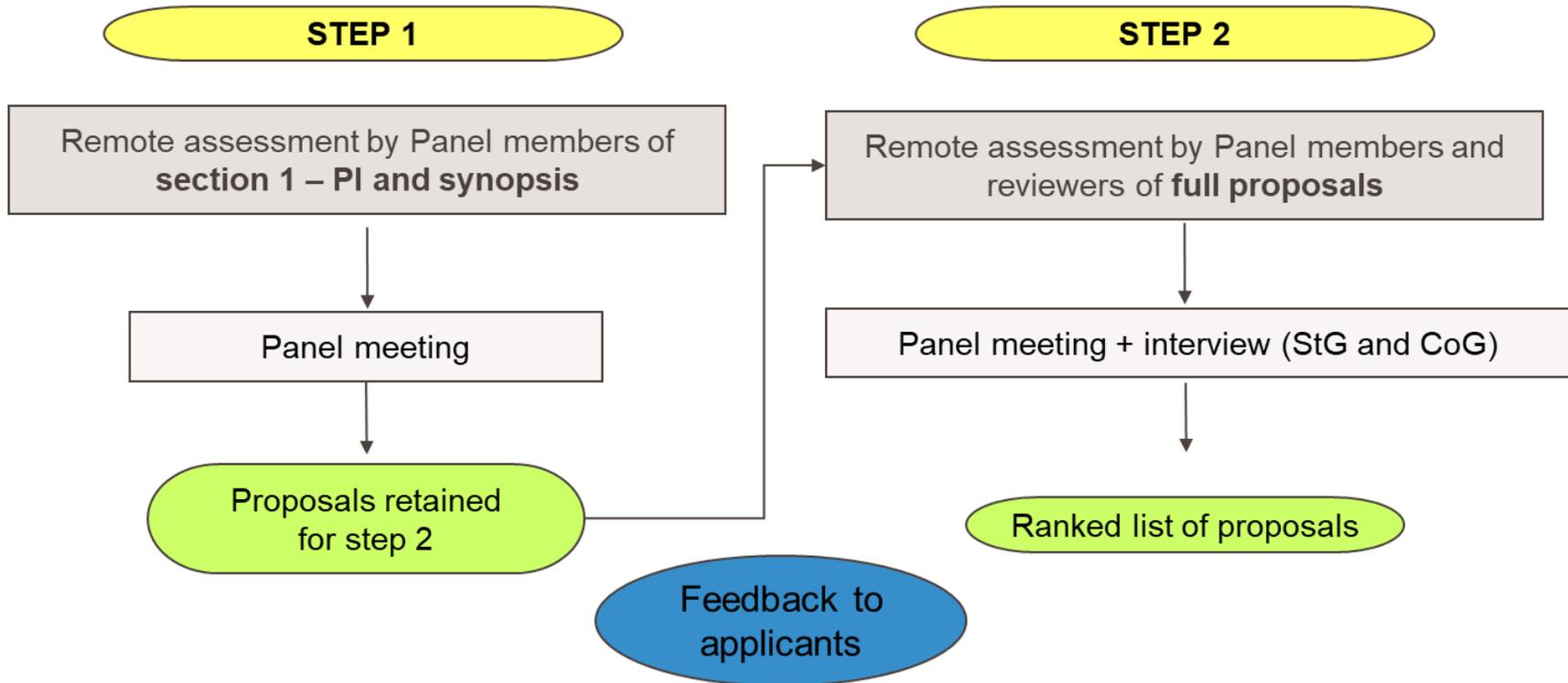
- **PE1** Mathematics
- **PE2** Fundamental Constituents of Matter
- **PE3** Condensed Matter Physics
- **PE4** Physical & Analytical Chemical Sciences
- **PE5** Synthetic Chemistry and Materials
- **PE6** Computer Science and Informatics
- **PE7** Systems and Communication Engineering
- **PE8** Products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

# Evaluation

Review procedure (StG, CoG and AdG)



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

# 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.



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# 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.

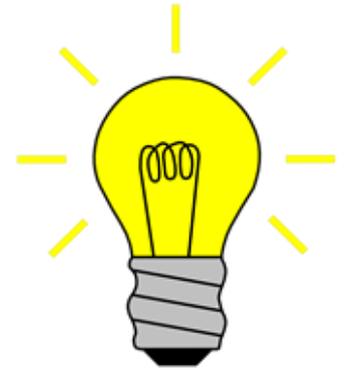
# Particular emphasis on.....



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## Frontier of science, scholarship and engineering, i.e.

- ✓ 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.



# HOW TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT A SUCCESSFUL ERC RESEARCH PROPOSAL?



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- 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 (EU/AC)
- Consider the balance between addressing **generalists and specialists**, and the difference between part B1 and part B2 of the written proposal
- **Submit** your research proposal **before the deadline**
- **Mock Interviews** (StG/CoG)
- If rejected, **keep trying!** (reapplications have a much higher success rate – benefit of using feedback from evaluation reports)



# ONLINE SUBMISSION

## Proposal structure



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### **PART A** – administrative online forms

- Section 1** Proposal and PI info
- Section 2** Host Institution info
- Section 3** Budget
- Section 4** Ethics
- Section 5** Call-specific Questions

### **PART B1** – submitted as .pdf

Abstract	1 p.
Extended Synopsis	5 p.
(Recommended Model) CV	2 p.
Funding ID	1 p.
Track Record	2 p.

### **Annexes** – submitted as .pdf

Statement of support of HI

*If applicable:*

- explanatory information on ethical issues

### **PART B2** – submitted as .pdf

Scientific Proposal	15 p.
---------------------	-------

# NEW ONLINE BUDGET TABLE

## 3 - Budget

Beneficiary Short Name	Direct costs														A. Total Direct Costs	B. Indirect Costs	C1. Subcontracting Costs	C2. Costs of inkind contributions not used on the beneficiary's premises	Total Estimated Eligible Costs	Requested EU contribution
	Personnel						Other direct costs							A.3 Internally invoiced goods and services						
	PI	Senior Staff	Postdocs	Students	Other Personnel costs	A.1. Total direct costs for personnel	Travel	Equipment - including major equipment	Other goods and services				A.2. Total Other Direct Costs							
									Consumables incl. fieldwork and animal costs	Publications (incl. Open Access fees) and dissemination	Other additional direct costs	Total other goods and services								
The Chancellor, Masters And Scholars Of The University Of Oxford	?				?	790000.00	60000	395000	106000	35000	0	141000.00	596000.00	96000	1623000.00	405750.00	10000	25000	2063750.00	0.00
Total	150000	152000	365000	123000	0	790000.00	60000	395000	106000	35000	0	141000.00	596000.00	96000	1623000.00	405750.00	10000	25000	2063750.00	0.00

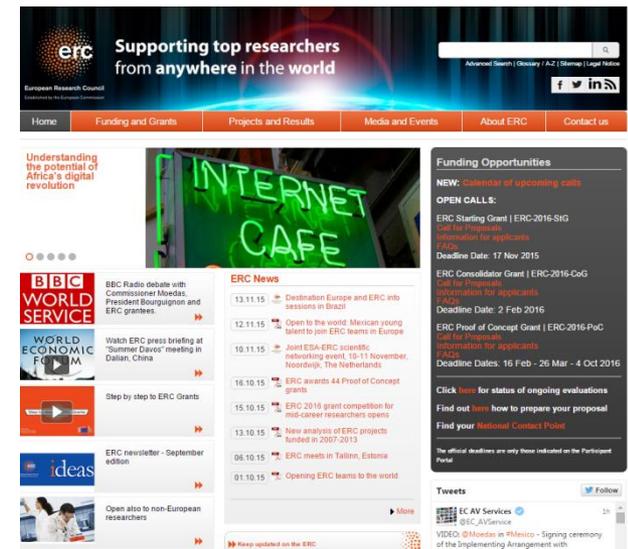
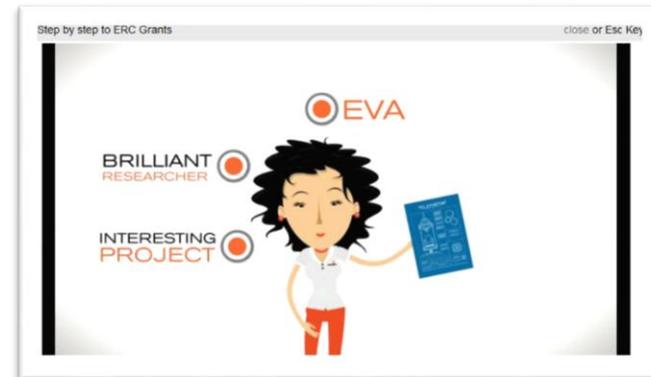
- ONE budget line per beneficiary
- All costs have to be described and justified in the text box below the budget table
- Justify requested resources / Explain involvement of team members

# 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



Get inspired by browsing through the ERC-funded projects on our website – <https://erc.europa.eu>



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A screenshot of the ERC website's 'ERC FUNDED PROJECTS' page. The page has a dark header with the ERC logo on the left, navigation links in the center, and the European Union flag on the right. The main content area is white and contains a breadcrumb trail, a search bar, and a list of funding schemes. The search bar is on the right side of the page, and the funding scheme list is on the left side of the page.

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ABOUT ERC | FUNDING | PROJECTS & FIGURES | NEWS & EVENTS | MANAGING YOUR PROJECT

Home » Projects & figures » ERC Funded Projects

## ERC FUNDED PROJECTS

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

Since 2007, more than 9,000 projects have been selected to receive ERC funding throughout the EU Member States and the associated countries.

Use the search facility to quickly and easily find examples of ERC funded projects.

### HOW CAN YOU SEARCH?

Projects can be filtered according to funding scheme, call year, panel and/or country of host institution.

**SEARCH**

Apply

**FUNDING SCHEME**

- Starting Grant (StG) (3840)
- Consolidator Grant (CoG) (1562)
- Advanced Grant (AdG) (2413)
- Proof of Concept (PoC) (735)

# PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

ERC Work Programme 2019/2020 calendar

<https://erc.europa.eu/document-category/work-programmes>



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ERC calls	Budget (M €)	Grants	Call Opening	Submission Deadline(s)
Proof of Concept 2019	25	167	6 October 2018	19 September 2019
Starting Grants 2020	677	455	17 July 2019	16 October 2019
Synergy Grants 2020	350	39	18 July 2019	5 November 2019
Consolidator Grants 2020	657	343	24 October 2019	4 February 2020
Advanced Grants 2020	492	209	14 May 2020	26 August 2020
Proof of Concept 2020	25	167	15 October 2019	21 January 2020 23 April 2020 17 September 2020



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# The European Research Council

- More information: [erc.europa.eu](http://erc.europa.eu)
- National Contact Point: [erc.europa.eu/national-contact-points](http://erc.europa.eu/national-contact-points)
- Sign up for news alerts: [erc.europa.eu/keep-updated-erc](http://erc.europa.eu/keep-updated-erc)
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# Thank you!

Aneta.Barkley@ec.europa.eu

# WHEN PREPARING YOUR PROPOSAL ASK YOURSELF...



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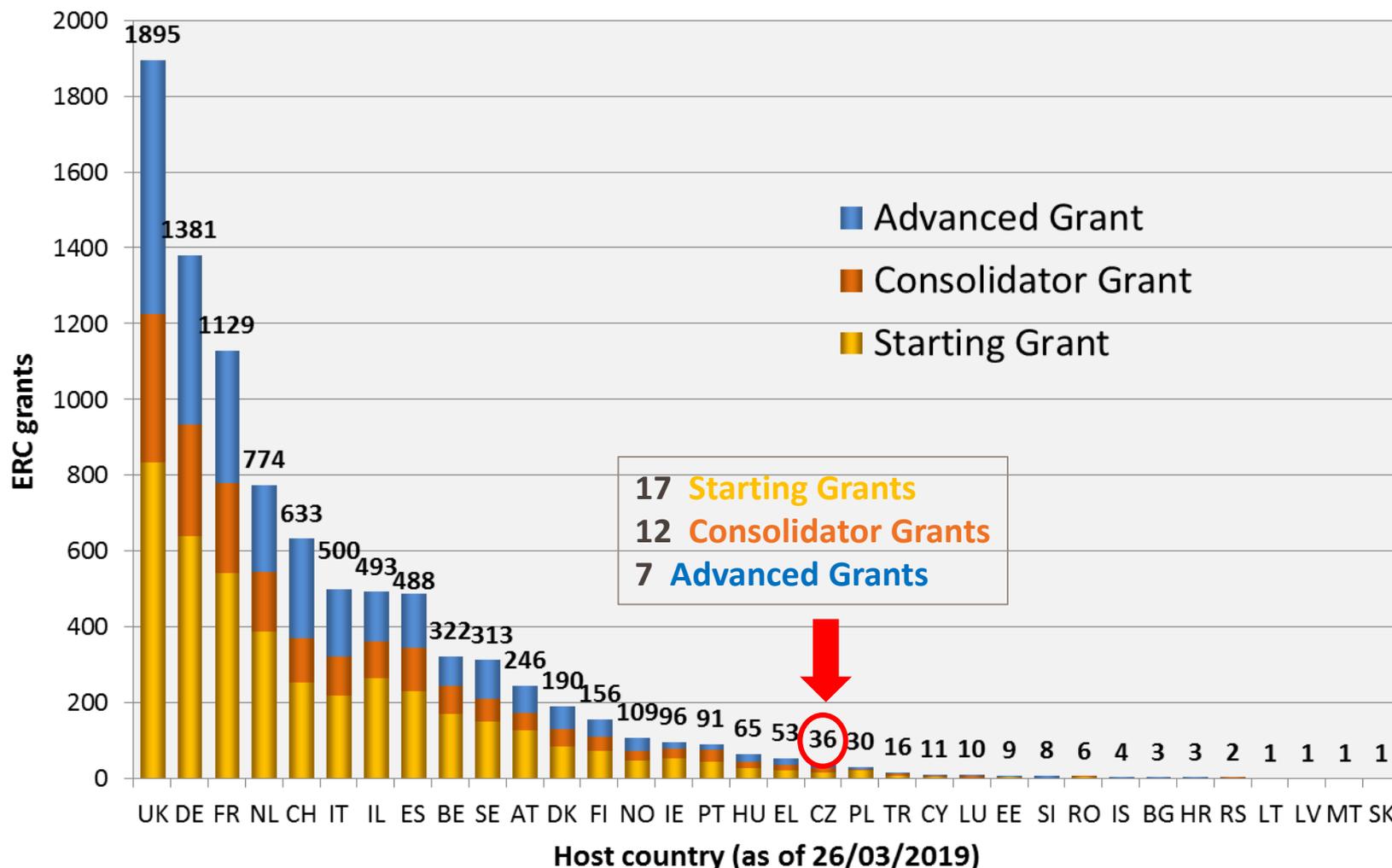
- Does my project bring **new**, innovative aspects?
- Does it promise to go **substantially beyond the state of the art?** – no incremental research. **Think big!**
- Know your competitors – what is the **state of play** and why is your idea and scientific approach outstanding?
- Only the extended Synopsis 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)

# ERC Grants by Call

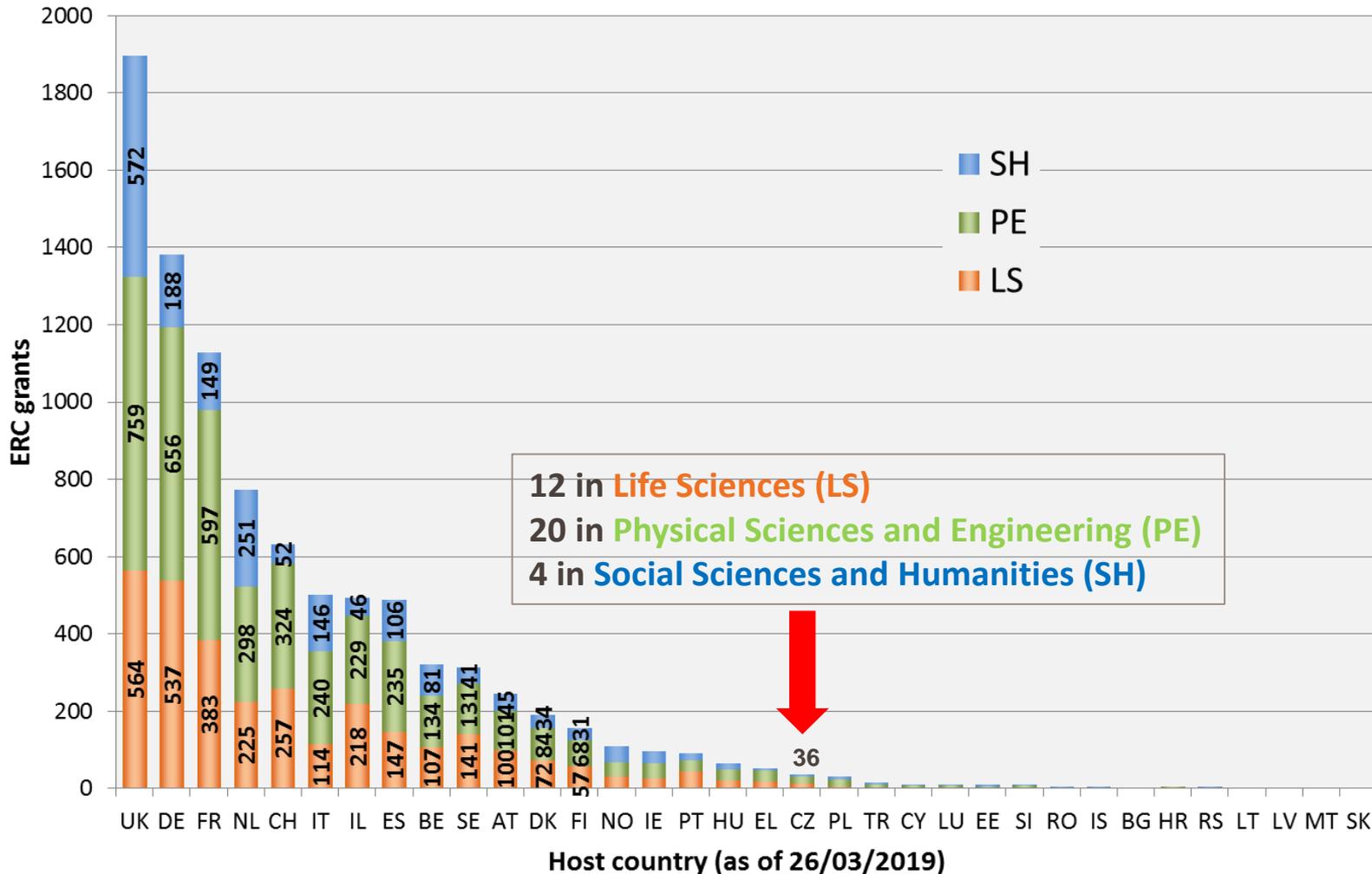


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# ERC Grants by Domain

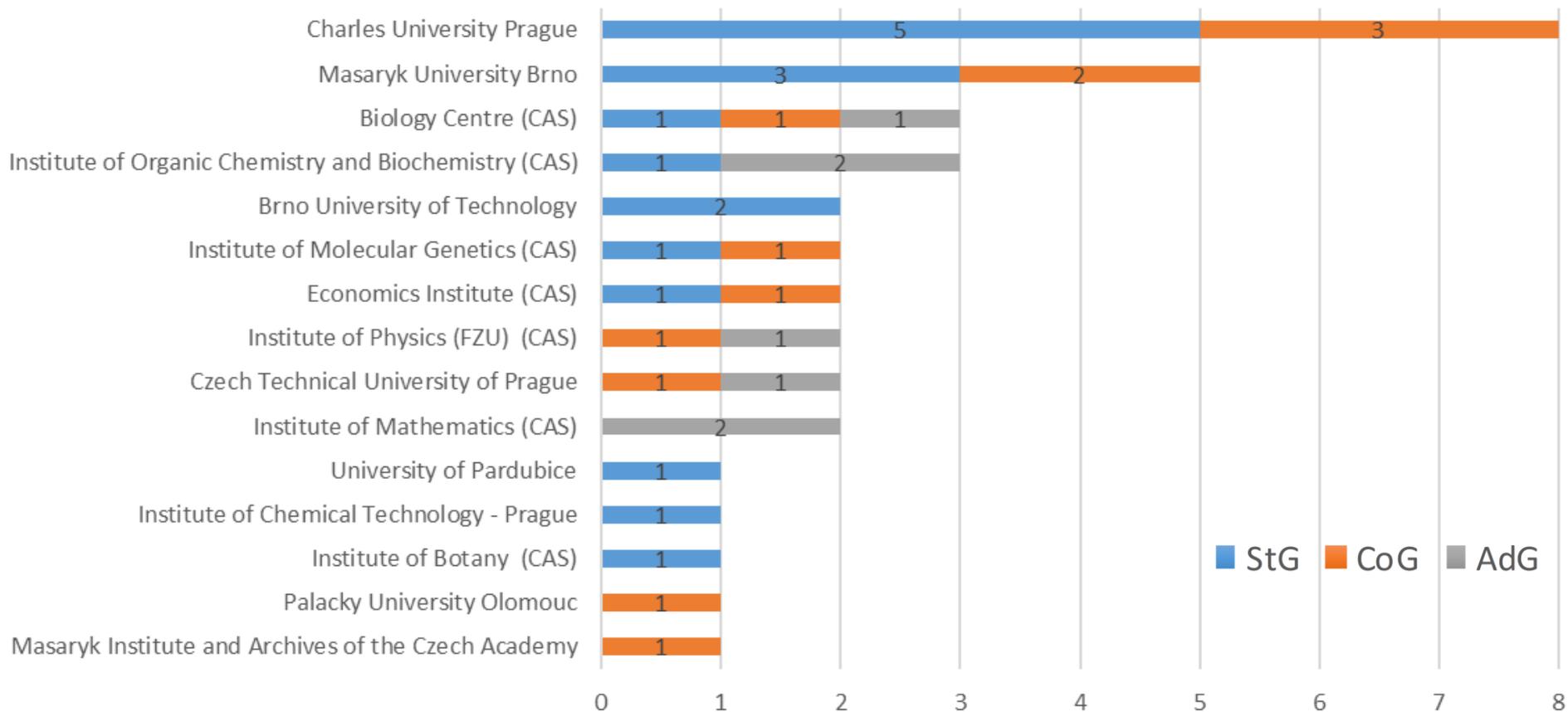


# Host Institutions in Czech Republic



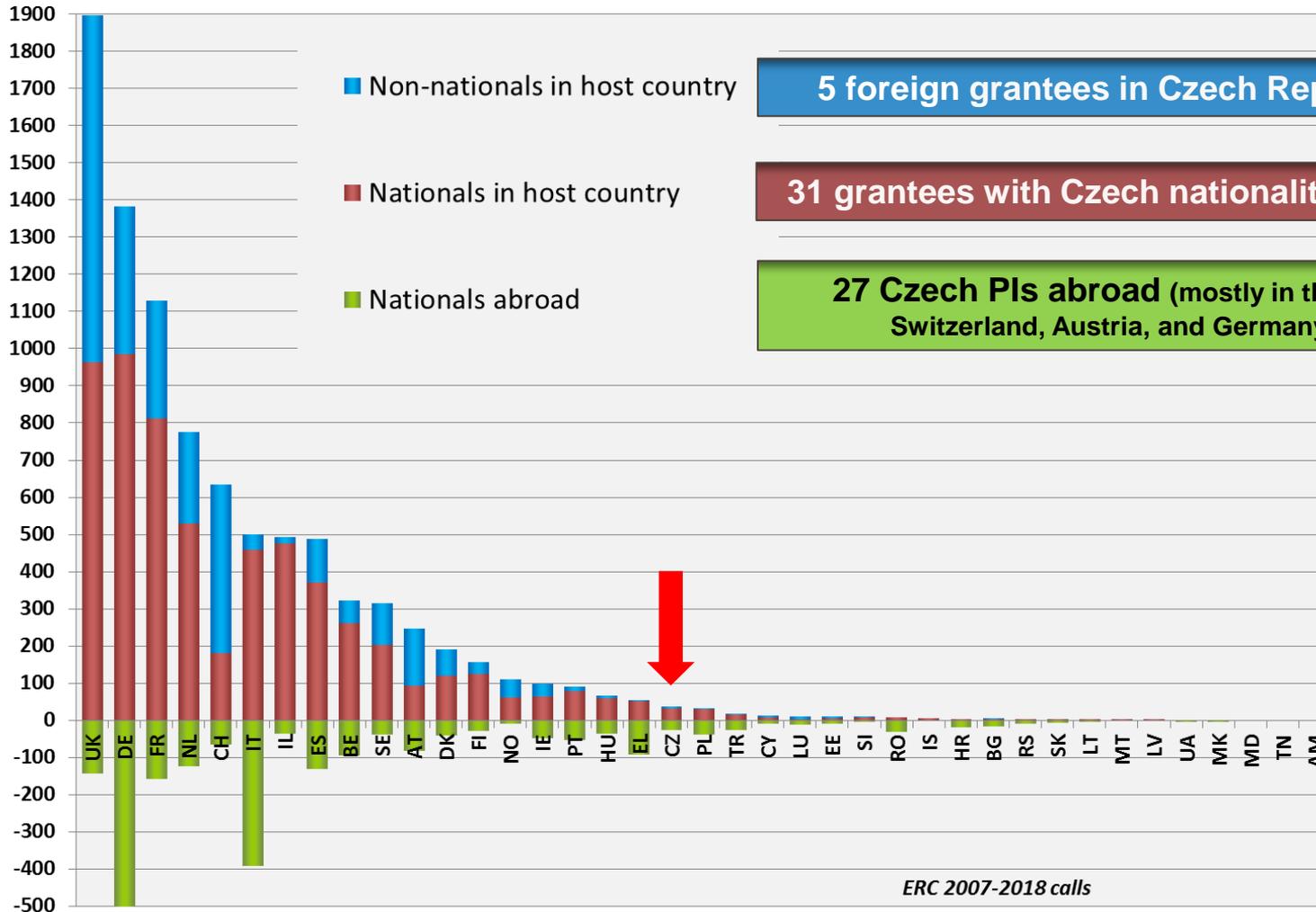
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■ StG ■ CoG ■ AdG

# Grantees at Home and Abroad



**5 foreign grantees in Czech Republic**

**31 grantees with Czech nationality in Czech Republic**

**27 Czech PIs abroad (mostly in the UK, Switzerland, Austria, and Germany)**

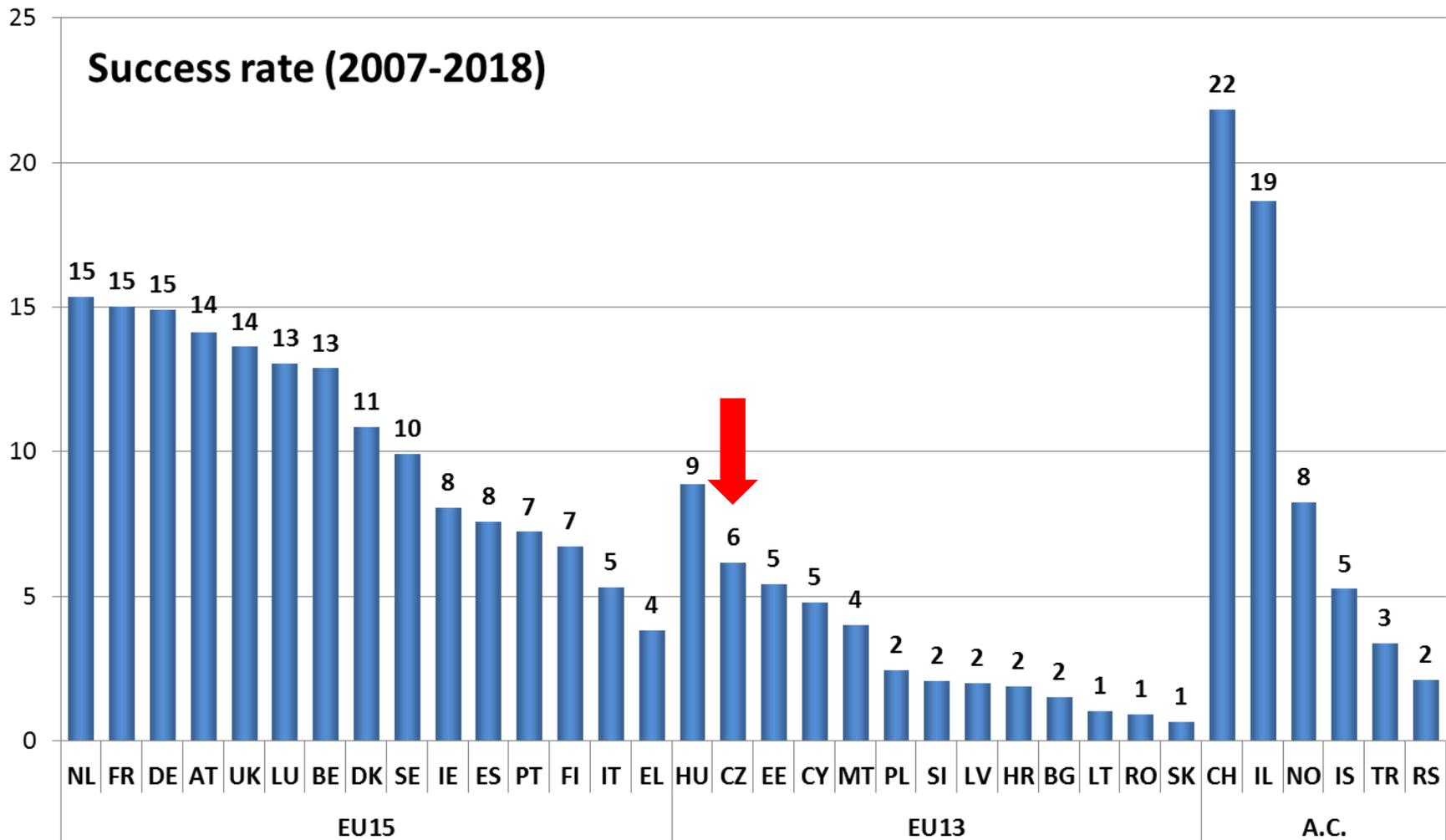
ERC 2007-2018 calls

# Success Rate by Country



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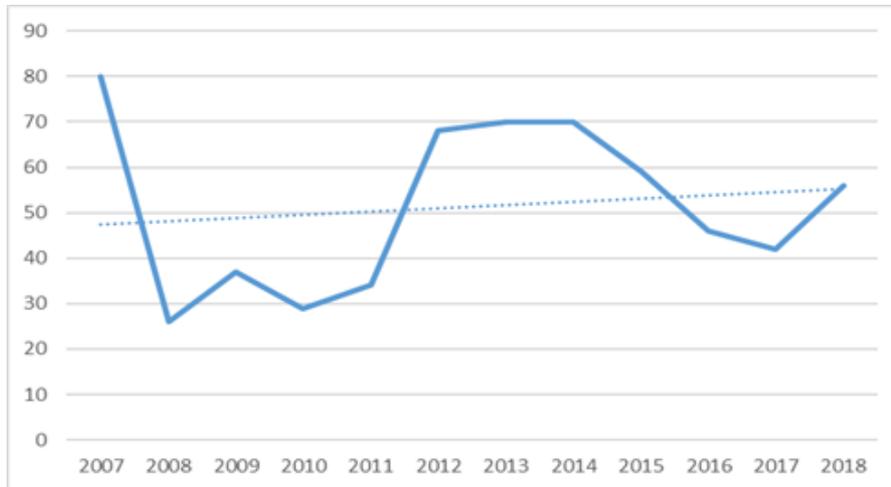
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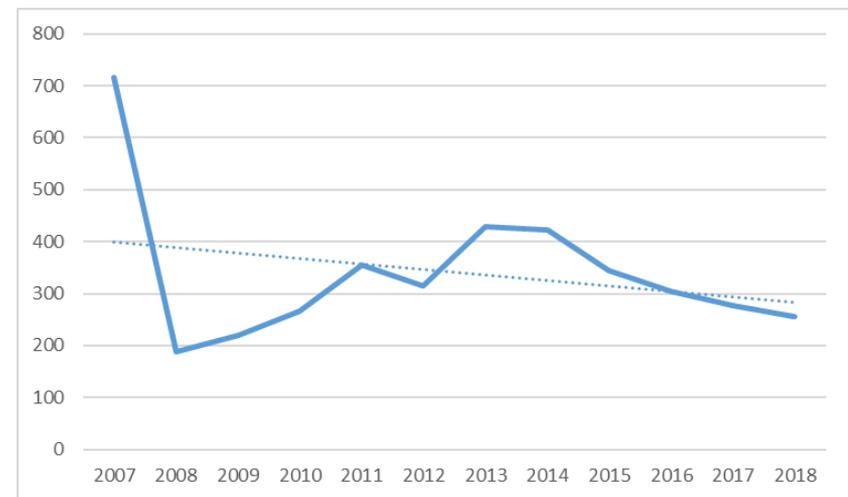
# Slight increase in ERC applications

## Number of evaluated proposals in ERC calls 2007-2018

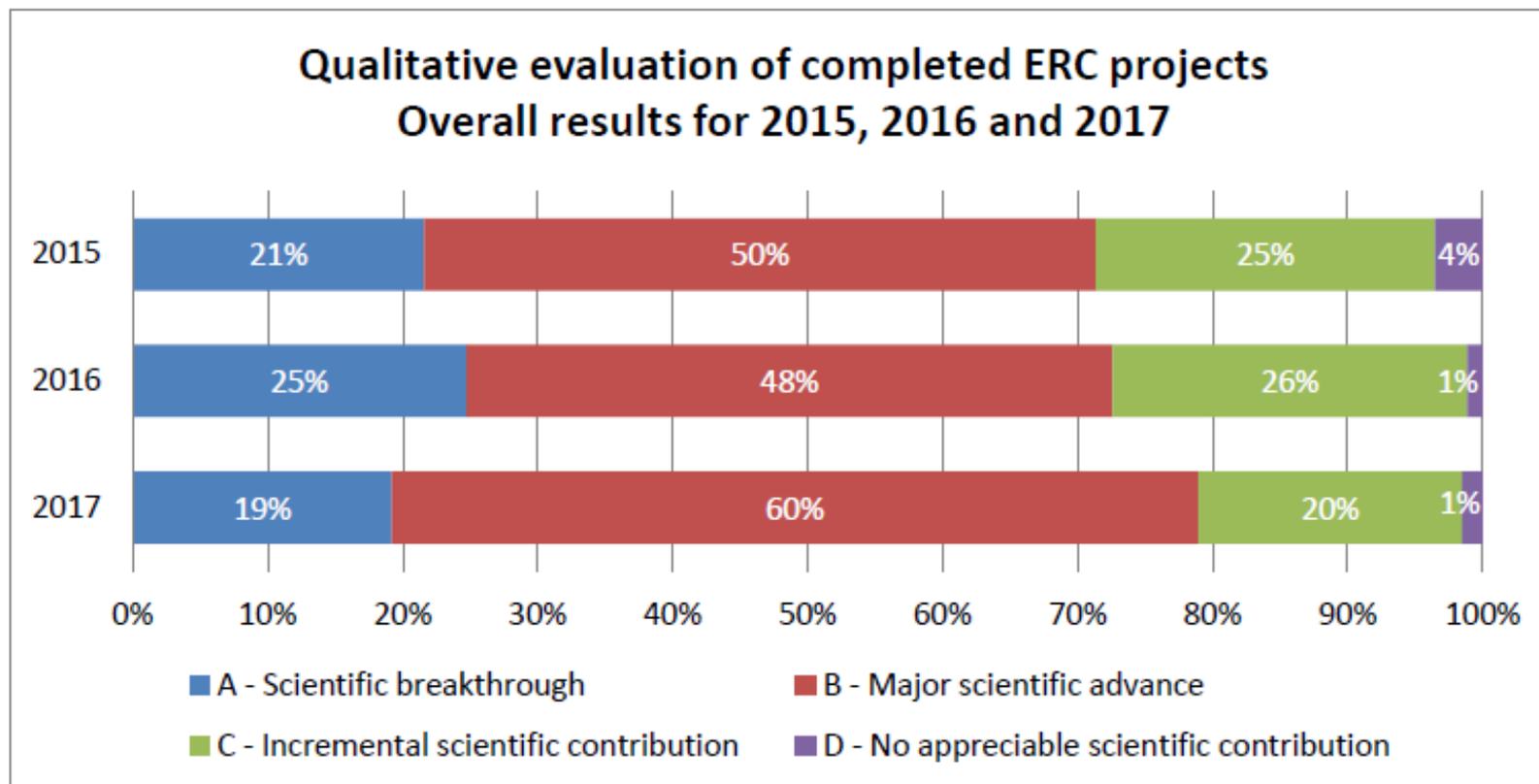
### Researchers based in Czech Republic



### Total researchers based in EU 13



# 21% of the ERC-funded Projects Deliver Scientific Breakthroughs



**Call to which the Principal Investigator applied under previous ERC Work Programmes and proposal evaluation outcome**

**2020 ERC calls to which a Principal Investigator is not eligible**



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<b>2018 and 2019 Starting, Consolidator, Advanced Grant or Synergy</b>	Rejected on the grounds of a breach of research integrity	Starting, Consolidator, Advanced and Synergy
<b>2018 Starting, Consolidator, or Advanced Grant</b>	C at Step 1	Starting, Consolidator and Advanced
<b>2018 Synergy Grant</b>	A, or B at Step 3	No restriction
	B at Step 1 or 2	No restriction
	C at Step 1	Advanced and Synergy Grant
<b>2019 Starting, Consolidator, or Advanced Grant</b>	A, or B at Step 2	No restriction
	B, or C at Step 1	Starting, Consolidator and Advanced Grant
<b>2019 Synergy Grant</b>	A, or B at Step 3	No restriction
	B at Step 2	No restriction
	B at Step 1	Synergy
	C at Step 1	Advanced and Synergy Grant

# Restrictions – Synergy 2019



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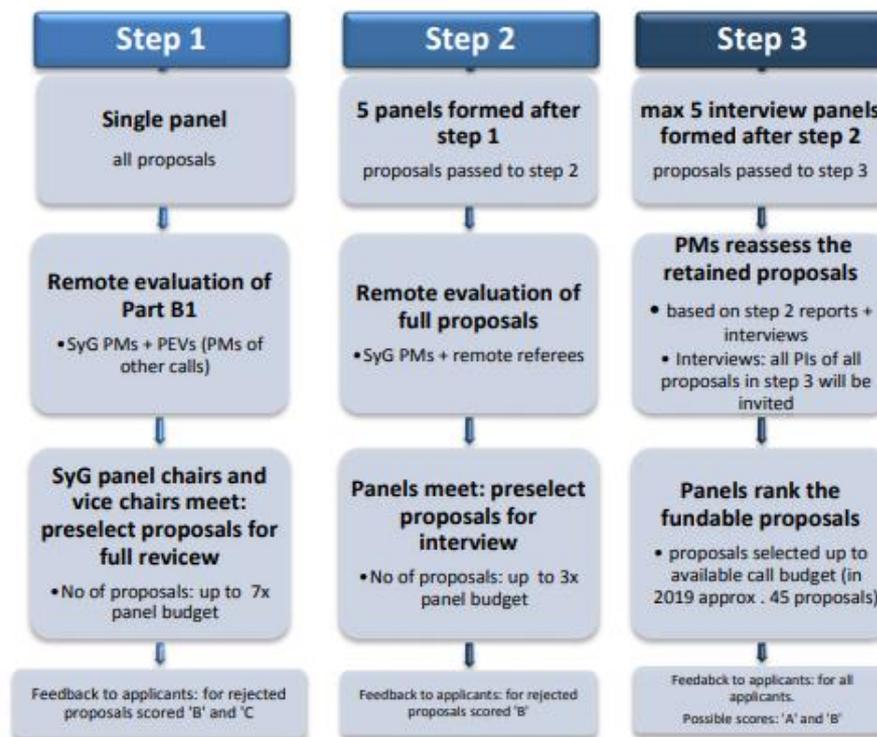
PI's previous ERC application	Evaluation outcome	Restricted from applying to 2019
2017 Starting, Consolidator, Advanced Grant	Rejected for breach of research integrity	STG, COG, ADG, SYG
	C at Step 1	STG, COG, ADG
2018 Starting, Consolidator, Advanced Grant	Rejected for breach of research integrity	STG, COG, ADG, SYG
	A, or B at Step 2	No restriction
	B or C at Step 1	STG, COG, ADG
2018 Synergy Grant	Rejected for breach of research integrity	STG, COG, ADG, SYG
	A, or B at Step 3	No restriction
	B at Step 1 or Step 2	SYG
	C at Step 1	STG, COG, ADG, SYG

# Synergy: evaluation process



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**Figure 1** shows the schematic representation of the 2019 evaluation process. PM: panel member; PEV: panel evaluator. PEV is an ERC term used for panel members of the other ERC frontier calls reviewing ERC SyG proposals

# Horizon 2020 Associated Countries



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- Iceland
- Norway
- Albania
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- North Macedonia
- Montenegro
- Serbia
- Turkey
- Israel
- Moldova
- Switzerland
- Faroe Islands
- Ukraine
- Tunisia
- Georgia
- Armenia

# Additional reason for additional budget



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*„Additional funding up to the amounts set out in the table below can be requested in the proposal to cover the following eligible costs when these are necessary to carry out the proposed work: (a) "start-up" costs for Principal Investigators moving to the EU or an Associated Country from elsewhere as a consequence of receiving the ERC grant and/or (b) the purchase of major equipment and/or (c) access to large facilities and/or (d) **other major experimental and field work costs, excluding personnel costs.**“ (WP2020, page 22)*