The European Research Council

ERC grants 360°

Overview of the ERC, ERC grants,
evaluation criteria and process, statistics across years,
ERC support schemes to applicants

Riga, 06 February 2025

Janka Mátrai

Scientific Project Adviser, LS2 and LS5 Life Sciences panels
Widening European Participation Working Group
ERC Executive Agency

European Research Council
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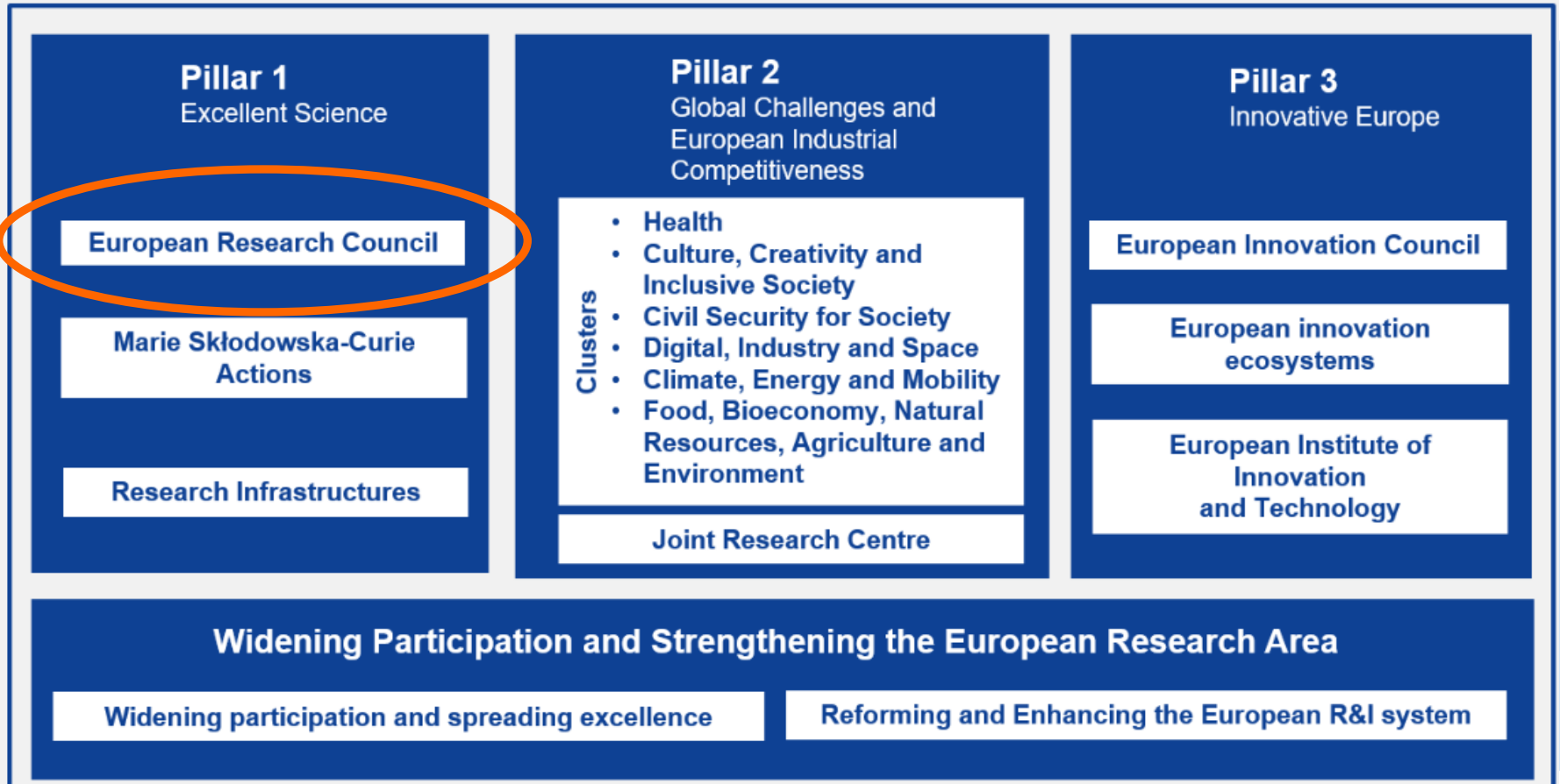
Introduction to the ERC

1. What is the ERC?

2. How to apply for an ERC grant?

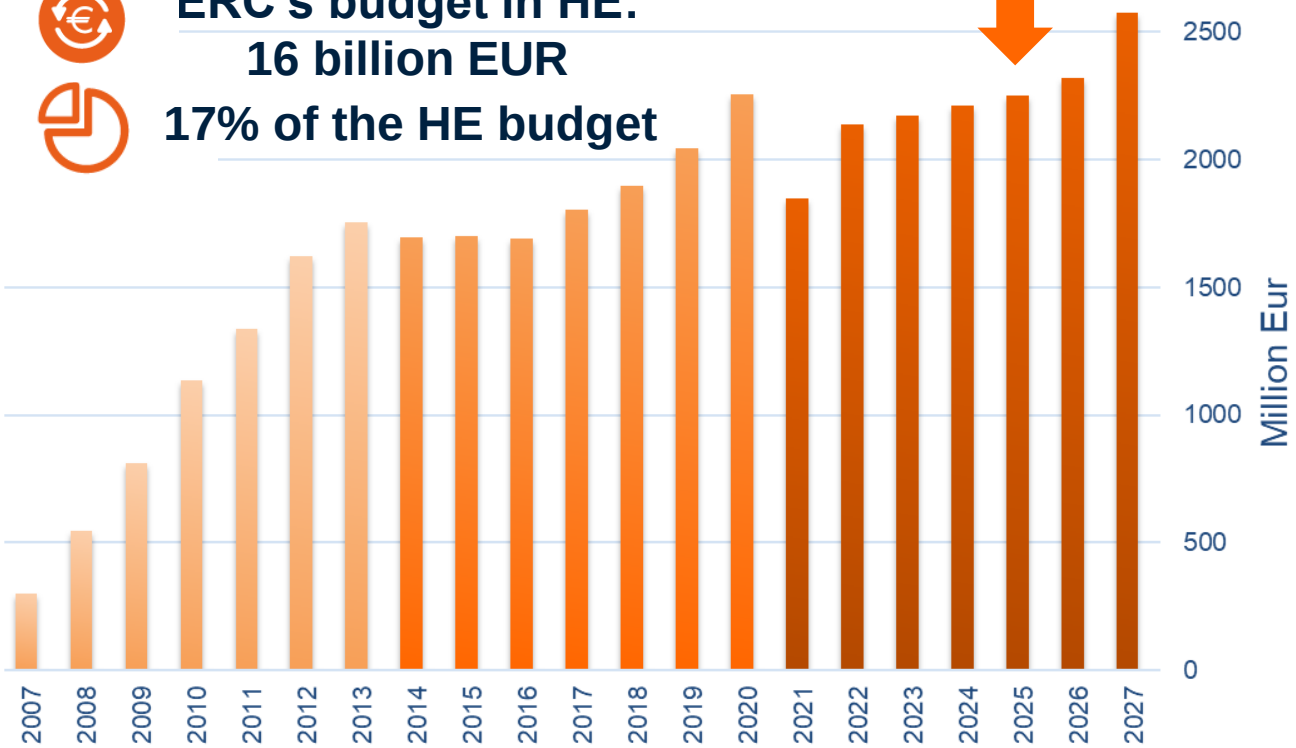
ERC Budget 2007 – 2027: EUR 36.5 billion



ERC Budget 2007 – 2027: EUR 36.5 billion

- FP7: €7.5 billion
- H2020: €13 billion
- HE: €16 billion
- FP10: 2x € HE?

ERC's budget in HE:
16 billion EUR
17% of the HE budget



[Draghi's report]

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ERC's Scientific Council

Life Sciences

Geneviève ALMOUZNI
(Molecular Cell Biology)

Liselotte HØJGAARD
(Medicine)

Leszek KACZMAREK
(Neurobiology)

Dirk INZÉ
(Plant Biology)

Luke O'NEILL
(Biochemistry & Immunology)

Jesper SVEJSTRUP
Vice-President
(Biochemistry)

Maria LEPTIN
ERC President
(Cell Biology)

Gerd GIGERENZER
(Psychology)

Eystein JANSEN
Vice-President
(Earth Science)

Social Sciences and Humanities

Harriet BULKELEY
(Geography)

Mercedes GARCÍA-ARENAL
(History)

Torsten PERSSON
(Economics)

Giovanni SARTOR
(Law)

Milena ŽIC FUCHS
(Linguistics)

Physical Sciences and Engineering

Ben FERINGA
(Organic Chemistry)

Tom HENZINGER
(Computer Science)

Chryssa KOUVELIOTOU
(High-Energy Astrophysics)

Sylvie LORENTE
(Mechanical Engineering)

László LOVÁSZ
(Mathematics)

Björn OTTERSTEN
(Electric Engineering)

Nicola SPALDIN
(Materials Theory)

Alice VALKÁROVÁ
(Physics)

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ERC Scientific Council's Working Group on WEP

The ERC Executive Agency (ERCEA)

The ERCEA implements the ERC's strategy as set by the Scientific Council and manages ERC's operations

By courtesy of Art & Build Architect / Montois Partners / credits: S. Brison

ERC invests in Excellence and Scientific Freedom

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SEAL OF EXCELLENCE COLLABORATION
PORTABLE TOPIC OF OWN CHOICE

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCHERS
FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

LONG TERM
GRANTS

PIONEERING PROJECTS

IN ANY FIELD OF FRONTIER RESEARCH

INDEPENDENCE EXCELLENT TEAM TOPIC OF OWN CHOICE NEGOTIATE BEST CONDITIONS

- Life Sciences
- Physical Sciences and Engineering
- Social Sciences and Humanities

ERC Grant Schemes

Starting Grants
Starters, 2-7 years after PhD
up to € 1.5 Mio for 5 years

Synergy Grants
2-4 PIs up to € 10.0 Mio for 6 years
1 PI can be based outside EU/AC

Consolidator Grants
Consolidators (7-12 years after PhD)
up to € 2 Mio for 5 years

Proof-of-Concept
bridging gap between research - earliest stage of marketable innovation
lump sum €150,000 for ERC grant holders

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

ERC Advanced Grants - Lump Sum

ERC Grant Schemes

Starting Grants
Starters, 2-7 years after PhD
up to € 1.5 Mio for 5 years

Reasons for additional funds, up to 1M:

- start-up costs for moving to Europe
- access to large facilities
- major equipment
- other major experimental and field work costs, excluding personnel costs

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

ERC Advanced Grants - Lump Sum

Evaluation criterion

Excellence

is the sole evaluation criterion

Excellence of the Research Project

- Ground-breaking nature
- Ambition
- Feasibility of the research project

Excellence of the Principal Investigator

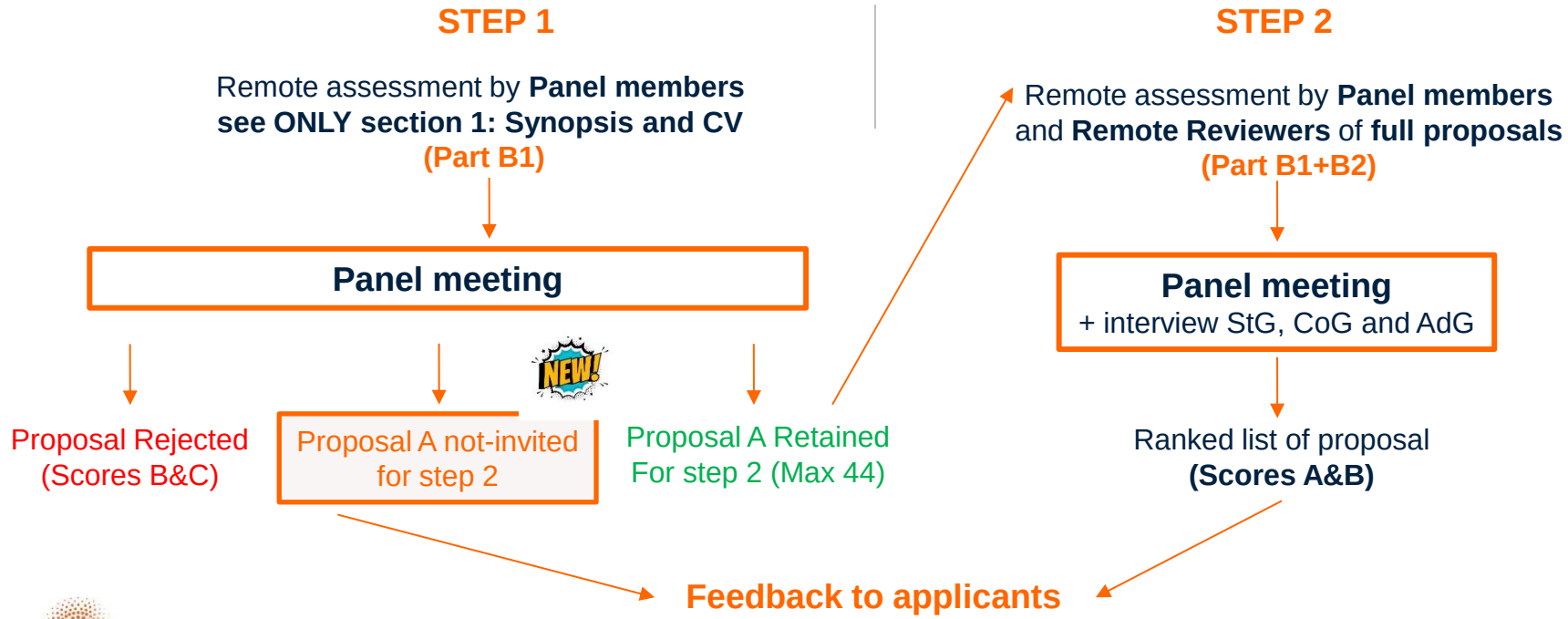
- Intellectual capacity
- Creativity
- Commitment

Evaluation of research proposals

ERC 2025 Work Programme

Evaluation process

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



Proposal scored A not-invited for step 2: no reapplication restrictions

Contrary to What You May Think

- ALL scientific fields are eligible for ERC funding – **no predetermined priorities**
- Frontier research is also expected in the **pharmacological, medical/clinical and cross-disciplinary fields**
- **Proof of Concept grants** can be a way to better design and prepare for future clinical trials
- The **Host Institution (HI)** is **not** an **evaluation criterion**
- The success rate **is not linked to academic age**
- Mobility is not an evaluation criterion – **independence**
- **Supervision activities and obtained funds:** not evaluation criteria
- **Ambitious projects**, **no novel methodology** is required

Evaluation of research proposals

How to apply for an ERC grant?

1. What is the ERC?

2. **How to apply for an ERC grant?**

Step 1: Get the information (early on)!

- Register early, get familiar with the European Commission's Funding and Tender portal and download the templates:

EU Funding & Tenders Portal

- Read the **call documents** (Information for Applicants, Work Programme, Q&A, Guide for peer reviewers)
- Talk to your **institution's grant office and/or NCP**
- **Talk to ERC grantees**
- **Contact the ERCEA** to ask all your questions well ahead of the submission deadline– e.g.: ERC-2025-ADG-APPLICANTS@ec.europa.eu
- **Get written consent (email) of your collaborators** before the submission deadline

Step 1: Get the information (early on)!

European Commission | EU Funding & Tenders Portal

Sign in EN

Home | Funding | Procurement | Projects & results | News & events | Work as an expert | Guidance & documents | Search...

engage in activities that serve EU policies.

More details

Filters

Quick search

ERC 2025

Programming period

Programme

Call

Submission status

All filters

GRANTS RECOMMENDED FOR YOU

Do you want to receive personalised recommendations? Log in to your F&T profile or register an account to activate them.

6 item(s) found

Relevance

Programme: Horizon Europe (HORIZON)

ERC PROOF OF CONCEPT GRANTS

ERC-2025-POC | Call for proposal

Opening date: **13 November 2024** | Next deadline: **13 March 2025** | Multiple Cut-off

Open For Submission

Type of action: **HORIZON ERC Proof of Concept Grants**

ERC SYNERGY GRANTS

ERC-2025-SyG | Call for proposal

Closed

Host Institution (HI) – freedom of the grantee

- **Your choice** (in an EU Member State/Associated Country)
- **You can change it** during the project's life
- **Negotiate with the HI** (your position, equipment, administrative support, access to infrastructure, etc.)
- HI is **not an evaluation criterion**

Rumour: *The quality/fame of the HI is increasing my chances/scores.*

✘**NOT true**: the HI is not an evaluation criterion!

Step 2: choose your grant type & make sure you are eligible!

- Window is calculated as according to the 1st of January of the year of the Call.

The reference date shall be the certified date of the successful defence of the first PhD degree.

- If you previously applied to an ERC call, **check resubmission restrictions**
- **Minimum 50% of PI working time** in an EU Member State or Associated Country
- **Time commitment on the project**: Min. 50% (StG), 40% (CoG), 30% (AdG/SyG)
- For submission deadlines: **ERC's Homepage**

Eligibility window extensions

Extensions of eligibility window possible for StG and CoG:

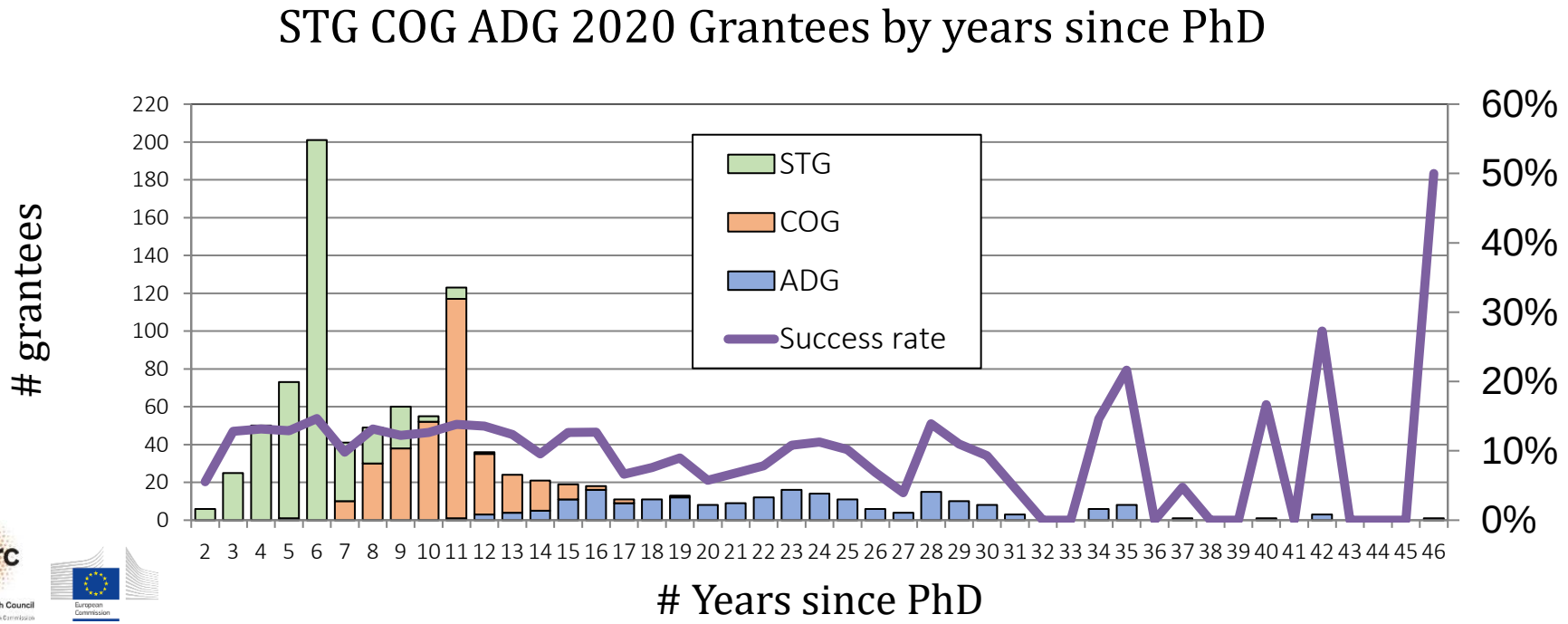
- Maternity – 18 months per child (before or after PhD)
- Paternity – actual time taken off
- Long-term illness (for the PI or a close family member)
- Disability: Extension corresponding to the reduced amount of working time
- Military service
- Clinical training
- Natural disaster
- Seeking asylum

No limit to the total years of extension

Step 3: Decide when to apply

Rumour: *I should wait until the end of the eligibility window to accumulate enough seniority: only then I will be competitive.*

✘**NOT true:** The success rate is virtually flat across the eligibility window (StG, CoG).



Step 4: Choose you panel

Life Sciences

- LS1 Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures and Functions
- LS2 Integrative Biology: From Genes and Genomes to Systems
- **LS3 Cell Biology, Development, Stem Cells and Regeneration**
- LS4 Physiology in Health, Disease and Ageing
- **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

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 Processes Engineering
- PE9 Universe Sciences
- PE10 Earth System Science
- PE11 Materials Engineering

Social Sciences and Humanities

- SH1 Individuals, Markets and Organisations
- SH2 Institutions, Governance and Legal Systems
- SH3 The Social World and Its Interactions
- SH4 The Human Mind and Its Complexity
- SH5 Texts and Concepts
- SH6 The Study of the Human Past
- SH7 Human Mobility, Environment, and Space
- **SH8 Studies of Cultures and Arts**

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ERC Descriptors 2024

Step 4: Choose you panel

Physical Sciences & Engineering

- PE1 Mathematics
- PE2 Fundamental Constituents of Matter
- PE3 Condensed Matter Physics

Rumour: *Choose the panel "strategically" in order to increase chances of success.*

✘**NOT true**: Choose the panel that best fits the proposal. The budget is distributed among the scientific panels as a function of demand → success rate is equal amongst panels! If you choose the "wrong" one because it has an X, Y, Z reputation, you will most probably hurt your proposal's chances of success.

Rumour: *The panel descriptors represent ERC scientific priorities.*

✘**NOT true**: The panel descriptors are indicative so that PIs can see what expertise is in a panel.

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.

ERC Descriptors 2024

- SH6 The Study of the Human Past
- SH7 Human Mobility, Environment, and Space
- **SH8 Studies of Cultures and Arts**

Step 5: Start writing … It's all about finding the right balance

PART A – admin forms online

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

Annexes – submitted as .pdf

- Statement of support of HI
- copy of PhD or equiv. (StG & CoG)

If applicable:
- document for extension of eligibility window (StG & CoG)
- explanatory info on ethical issues

Seen by the panel

PART B1 – submitted as .pdf

Abstract and Cross-Panel explanation	1 p.
Extended Synopsis	5 p.
CV & Track Record	4 p.

PART B2 – submitted as .pdf

Scientific Proposal	14 p.
Funding ID	1 p.

CV and Track Record

- No prescriptive Principal Investigator profiles, but 3 sections - **No numerical scoring**

1. **PERSONAL DETAILS**

   PI's education and key qualifications, current position(s) and relevant previous positions they have held.

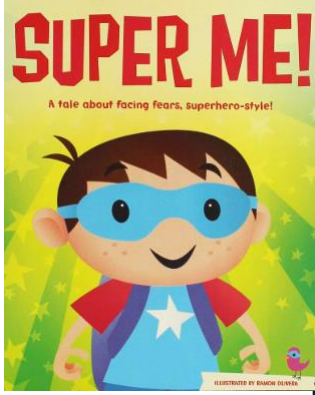
2. **RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS (<=10) AND PEER RECOGNITION**
   - demonstrating advancement in the field, with emphasis on more recent achievements
   - prizes, fellowships, academy membership, etc.

   *The applicant can provide a **short, factual narrative** on the significance of the listed achievements and recognitions in relation to the research field and the proposed project.*

3. **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

   Relevant additional information on their research career to provide context when assessing their research achievements and peer recognition.
   - career breaks, diverse career paths, life events
   - other noteworthy contributions to research community

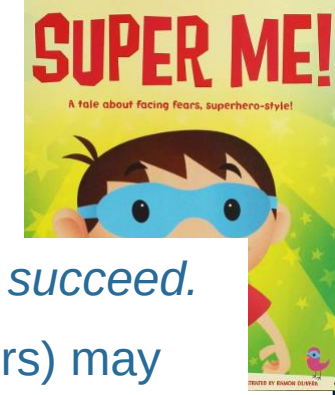
When writing your CV and Track Record



- Use the **recommended template** and write as much as possible
- The **CV/Track Record** part of B1 is still **very important**
- **Tell your story!**
- Convince the panel that **you are at the forefront** of your research field
- Explain **publishing habits** in your field and country if needed
- Describe accurately any other activity that can **indicate scientific maturity**
- If you know that you have **gaps or other issues** in your CV, explain them in the **'Additional Information'** section

Evaluation of research proposals

When writing your CV and Track Record



Rumour : *One needs publications in Nature/Science/High IF journals to succeed.*

✘**NOT true**: however, publishing with senior scientists (former supervisors) may raise doubts about maturity/scientific independence.

Rumour : *One needs to say how many people they have supervised.*

✘**NOT true**: The scientific council concluded that the supervision element becomes a proxy that is in part a reflection of the excellence of the environment rather than the research team leader. Since they were unable to come up with any other reliable and fair measure for ‘good mentorship’, they thus concluded that this information should no longer be asked for.

Evaluation of research proposals

CV and Track Record - be your own critic

- Have I shown my scientific leadership?
- Am I able to work independently, and to manage a 5-year project with a substantial budget? List prior research endeavours, explain your role and contribution.
- Am I internationally active? Speaker in international conferences, served in committees, have become an editor, given expert service, etc. Do I have any international collaborations?

Work programme

Intellectual capacity and creativity

*To what extent has the PI demonstrated the **ability** to conduct ground-breaking research?*

*To what extent does the PI provide **evidence of creative and original thinking**?*

*To what extent does the PI have the **required scientific expertise and capacity** to successfully execute the project?*

Research Project

Streamlined evaluation questions

No explicit reference to ‘high-risk/high-gain’

- Instead: ‘ground-breaking, ambitious, and feasible’.
- **The ERC will always encourage risky research.**

No explicit reference to ‘novel methodologies’

- ‘Novel methodologies’ is an element that may be positive but is not strictly necessary for an excellent proposal

Work programme

Ground-breaking nature, ambition, and feasibility

To what extent does the proposed research address important challenges?

*To what extent are the objectives **ambitious and beyond the state of the art (e.g., novel concepts and approaches or development between or across disciplines)?***

*To what extent is the outlined scientific approach **feasible** bearing in mind the groundbreaking nature and ambition of the proposed research (Step 1)?*

*To what extent are the proposed research **methodology and working arrangements** appropriate to achieve the goals of the project (Step 2)?*

*To what extent are the **proposed timescales, resources, and PI commitment** adequate and properly justified (Step 2)?*

Part B1: finding the right balance

STEP 1

Remote assessment by **Panel members** of **section 1 – Synopsis and CV** (B1)

Part B1 gives the first impression of your project/yourself and will determine if you pass to Step 2. Thus,

- avoid jargon
- no excessive highlighting
- no typos (or track changes)
- proper legends, axes to the figures/tables
- do not oversell it – but be convincing
- ambitious – yet feasible
- not incremental – yet support your hypothesis

Part B1 - be your own critic

- Is my **project new, innovative**, bringing in new solutions/theories?
- Does it **promise to go substantially beyond the state of the art?** Something significant, that will last, not just something that will be improved in 5 years (one major step better then several small steps).
- **Why is my project important?** Answering a complete question (not only ‘what’ but also ‘why’) - Think Big! Make sure that your idea needs an ERC to do it!
- How can **I prove/support my case?** Do I have a hypothesis? Do I have supporting evidence? Have I proven the project's feasibility? Are my goals realistic?
- **Is it timely?** (Why wasn't it done in the past?)
- **What are the risks?** Is it justified by a substantial potential gain? Do I have a **plan for managing** the risk? Make sure that your risk is not too early on in the project. Have I proposed **alternatives?**
- Why am I **the best/only person** to carry it out? Know your competitors – what is the state of play, and why is your idea and scientific approach outstanding compared to them?
- Have I given a **realistic picture of my collaborations?** Show that you can drive the collaborations but that it is you who will be leading the project.

Some more rumours…

Rumour 1: *You can only apply for an ERC grant if you are a highly accomplished scientist.*

✘**NOT true**: Accomplishments are appreciated in relation to your stage/seniority and the evidence of your capacity to conduct the research you propose and creativity.

Rumour 2: *To be successful, you need to continue on an established research line, to prove continuity and credibility.*

✘**NOT true**: Generally, the opposite is true.

Rumour 3: *If you have already obtained on ERC grant you are less/more likely to get another one.*

✘**NOT true**: Panels look at each proposal on its own merit.

Rumour 4: *The more socially or medically relevant a grant proposal is, the higher the chances of it getting funded.*

✘**NOT true**: ERC funds frontier research, not research that promises to be only an incremental advancement of knowledge. This is irrespective of the field and whether it has societal, medical or clinical applications.

Part B2: filling in the details

- **Do not repeat the synopsis**, go into details on your methodology and work plan!
- Explain your **hypothesis** or provide **supporting evidence** (if it exists)
- **Do and redo** the structure of the work packages until you are fully convinced
- Make sure that the quantitative and qualitative **differences to the state-of-the-art** are clear and referenced - show you did your homework!
- Provide alternative strategies to **mitigate risks**
- Make sure that there is an obvious **link between B1 and B2!**
- Fill in your **Funding ID fully**

Rumour : *I need preliminary results.*

✘**NOT true**: however, explain how the literature supports your hypothesis.

Part B2 - be your own critic

- Make the project **easy to read and attractive** – use paragraphs and correct typos!
- Check **coherence of figures**
- Use **full space** (14 p.)
- Make sure you give **full references** (these are excluded from page count)
- You should add/describe some sort of **timeline**
- Think about the **project team & collaborators** - explain involvement of team members and collaborators (be careful though: ERC proposals are **NOT consortium**)

Resources and budget: explain them properly

- Budget analysis carried out **in Step 2 evaluation**
- Panels ensure that **resources requested are reasonable and justified**
- **Budget cuts need to be justified** on a proposal-by-proposal basis.
- Costs are often cut **when they have not been explained!**
- Panels **do not "micro-manage"** project finances
- Awards made on a **"take-it-or-leave-it" basis**: no negotiations
- Ask for funding for **Open Access (publications and data) – this is obligatory** in HE!

Rumour 1: *If I do not ask for a large sum, I have no chances- only complex and expensive projects get funded.*

✘**NOT true**: There are many areas where it may make little or no sense to ask for the maximal amount of funds. No grant was ever rejected for asking too few funds.

Rumour 2: *Ask for funding beyond the max, the panel will anyhow cut it down.*

✘**NOT true**: unexplained or non-motivated requests can be cut down.

Step 6: Proof-read and Submit!

- A submitted proposal can be **revised until the call deadline** by submitting a new version and overwriting the previous one.

- Once you submit, all you need to do is wait!

☺ It's our turn to do the work!

Step 7: I have been invited for an interview – now what?

- Have **clear and representative slides and focus on SCIENCE!** Don't try to make a business presentation – you are talking to scientists
- **Do not read the presentation** (online setting), don't explain you CV (keep time!)
- **Anticipate questions.** Prepare also for cases where you do not have an answer ….
- Know the **details of your proposal and methods**, as well as **your research area** – who are your main **competitors/collaborators?**
- If you have **new data – present it!**
- PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE!!!!! – **Mock interviews**
- When the panel asks questions, don't answer with "excellent question"
- Just in case, be able to answer the questions:
    - Which 2 sentences you hope will be added to a textbook thanks to your ERC project?
    - Where do you want to be in 5 years?

Typical reasons for rejection – it's all about the right balance!

Research Project

- Scope: Too narrow ←→ too broad/unfocussed
- Incremental ←→ unfeasible (B1!)
- Collaborative project, several PIs
- Work plan not detailed enough/unclear
- Insufficient risk management
- Part B2 did not give sufficient information on the methodology

Principle Investigator

- Insufficient track-record

Interview

- Vaguely addressed questions
- Panel not convinced it's their own idea/project
- Lack of supporting evidence
- Similar work published in the meantime
- Unaddressed issues

If rejected, **KEEP TRYING!!!**

Reapplications have a higher success rate

Use the feedback from evaluation reports

2025-26 Call Calendar

ERC calls	Call Opening	Submission Deadline
Starting Grants ERC-2025-StG	10/07/2024	15/10/2024
Synergy Grants ERC-2025-SyG	11/07/2024	06/11/2024
Consolidator Grants ERC-2025-CoG	26/09/2024	14/01/2025
Advanced Grants ERC-2025-AdG	22/05/2025	28/08/2025

2026 calls are not yet open.

Apply for ERC Grants

Manage Your ERC Project

2025-26 Call Calendar

ERC – Grants & Funding Opportunities

Funding opportunities

13 MAR 2025

ERC Proof of Concept (ERC-2025-POC)

For ERC grant holders to explore the innovation potential of their ERC frontier research project

Go to call details

18 SEP 2025

ERC Proof of Concept (ERC-2025-POC)

For ERC grant holders to explore the innovation potential of their ERC frontier research project

Go to call details

2026 calls are not yet open.

Apply for ERC Grants

Manage Your ERC Project

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Where can you find information?

7 Videos - ERC Classes

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

Step by Step to the ERC application process

NEW!

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To take home:

- Please (re)apply in time,
  only if you play, you can win!

- The **project is more important** than the CV

- Excellence is broad –
  any great idea has a chance!

The Masks, by Aleksandra Beļcova (1892-1981)

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The European Research Council

Lack of ambition?

Situation with ERC grants in
Widening European Participation (WEP)
countries, including Latvia

Riga, 06 February 2025

Janka Mátrai

Scientific Project Adviser, LS2 and LS5 in the Unit ‘Life Sciences’
Widening European Participation Working Group
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Success rate by country of Host Institution

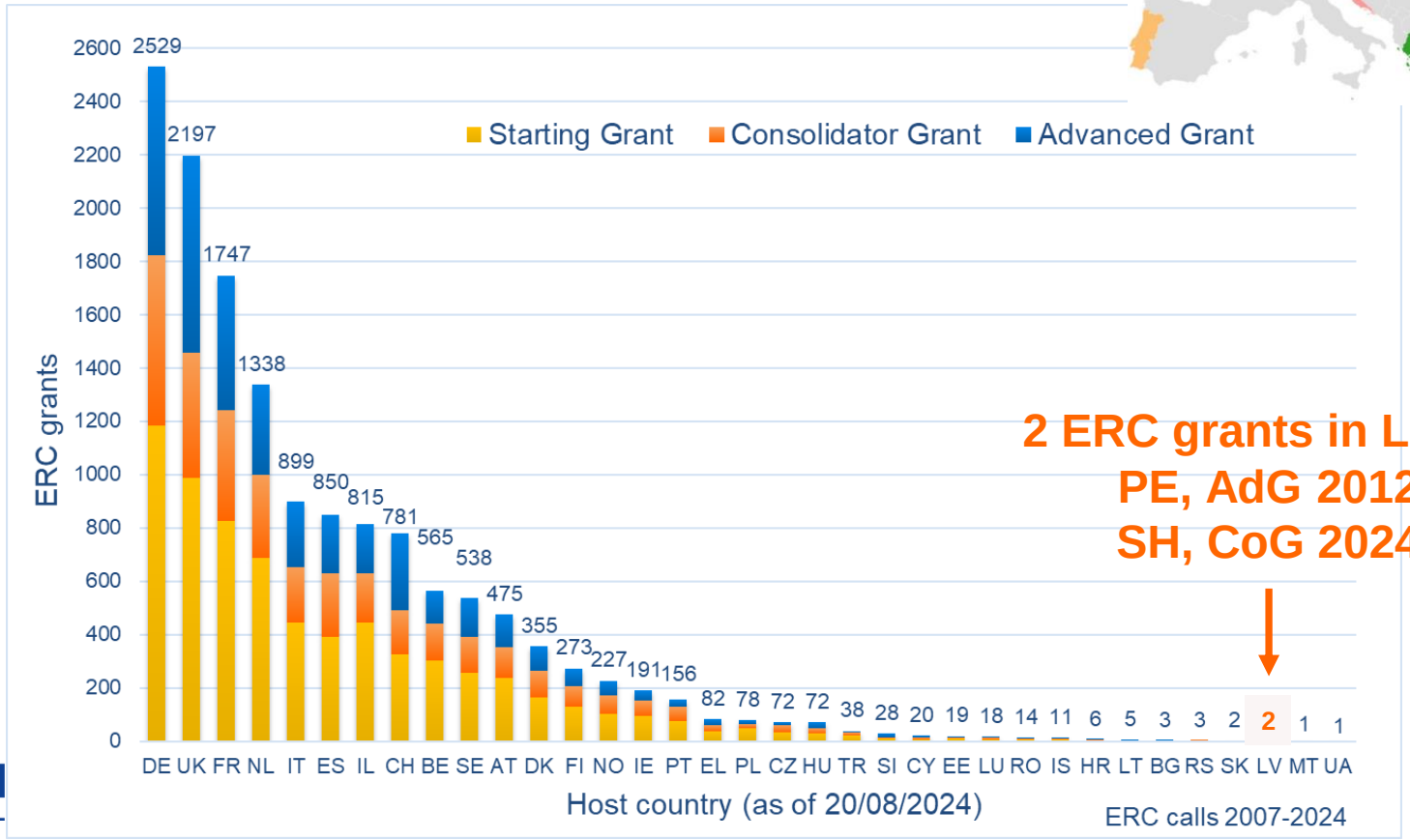
Average success rate: 12%

Success rate (%)

25
20
15
10
5
0

NL	DE	FR	AT	BE	DK	LU	SE	IE	ES	HU	FI	PT	CZ	IT	CY	EE	SI	EL	PL	LT	HR	MT	RO	BG	SK	LV	CH	IL	UK	NO	IS	TR	RS	UA
17	17	16	*15	14	12	11	11	9	9	8	7	7	*7	6	6	6	*5	5	4	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	21	20	14	10	9	4	2	1
										EU																				A.C.				

Grants per country of Host Institution



2 ERC grants in Latvia
PE, AdG 2012
SH, CoG 2024

ERC funded research projects in Latvia

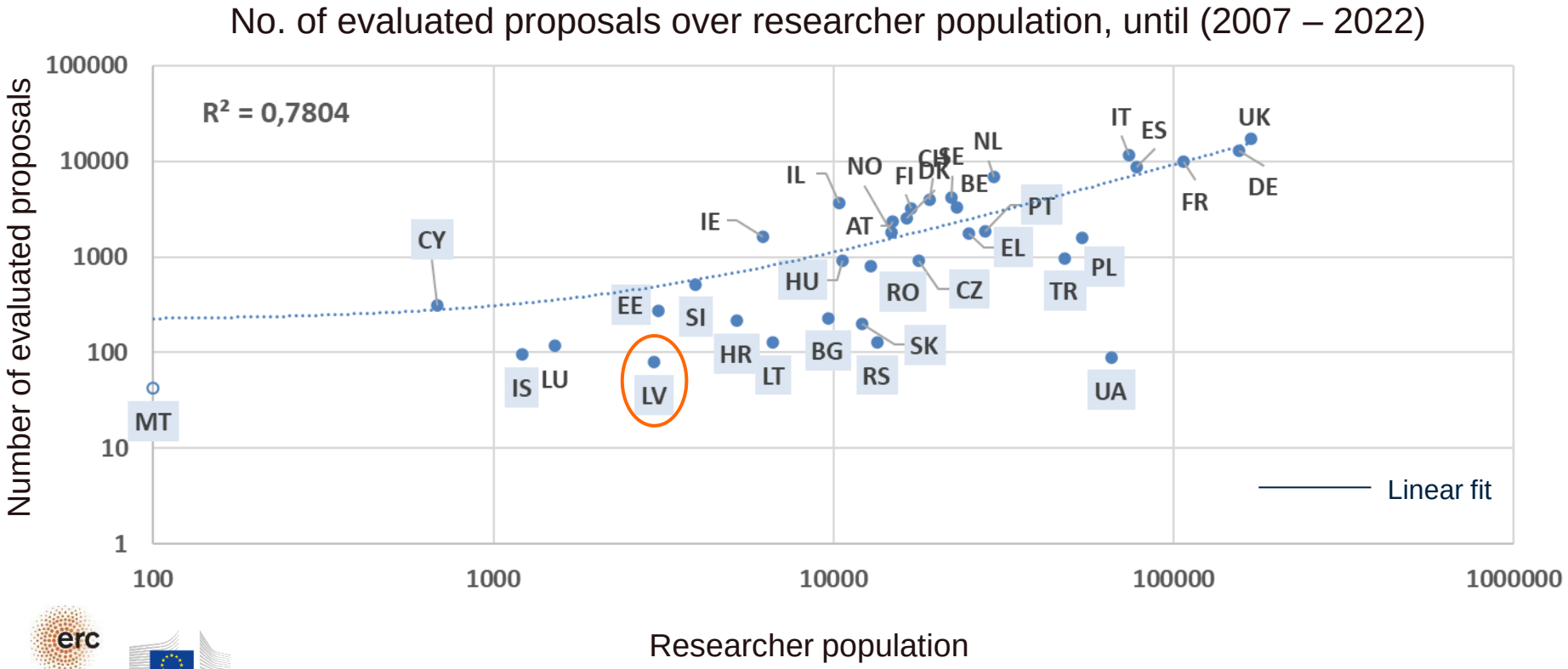
Dashboard of ERC funded projects

‘MQC - Methods for Quantum Computing’ PE6 AdG 2012
Prof Andris Ambainis,
The aimed at studying the computer science aspects of QIS, to develop new quantum algorithms and, more generally, new algorithmic techniques for developing quantum algorithms, limits of quantum computing and how ideas from quantum information can lead to very surprising connections between different fields.
Ambainis-lab

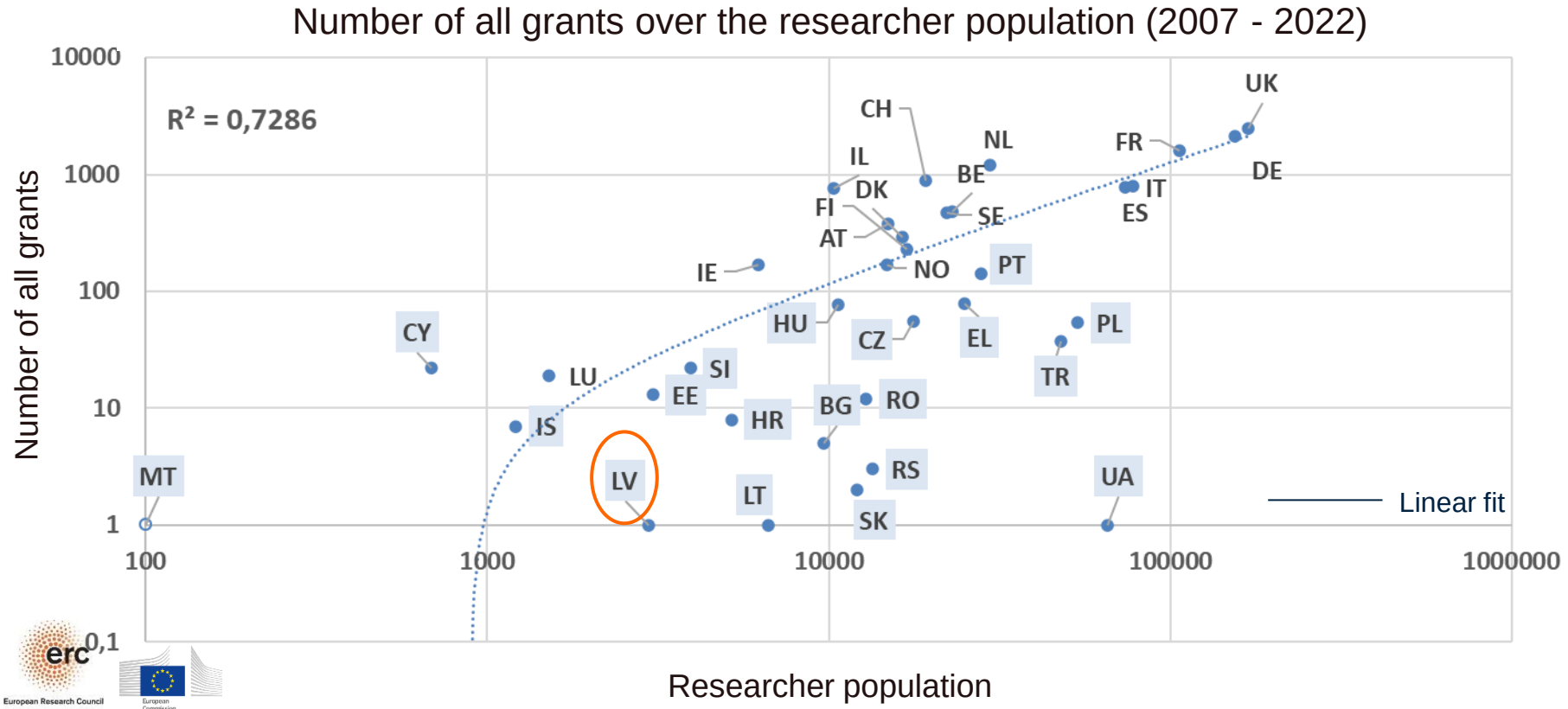
‘WICE - Welcoming immigrants in Central and Eastern Europe: lessons from Russia's invasion of Ukraine’ SH7 CoG 2024
Prof Inta Mieriņa, University of Latvia
While most previous research focuses on negative narratives surrounding immigration, this project seeks to learn from the experience with Ukrainian refugees in CEE and looks for practical solutions on how to effectively counter the negative narratives. In addition to qualitative research methods, it relies on a novel experimental survey design based on full factorial analysis to test how attitudes are influenced by different characteristics of migrants and different framing (information treatment).

Inta Mieriņa - The Center for Migration and Diaspora Research

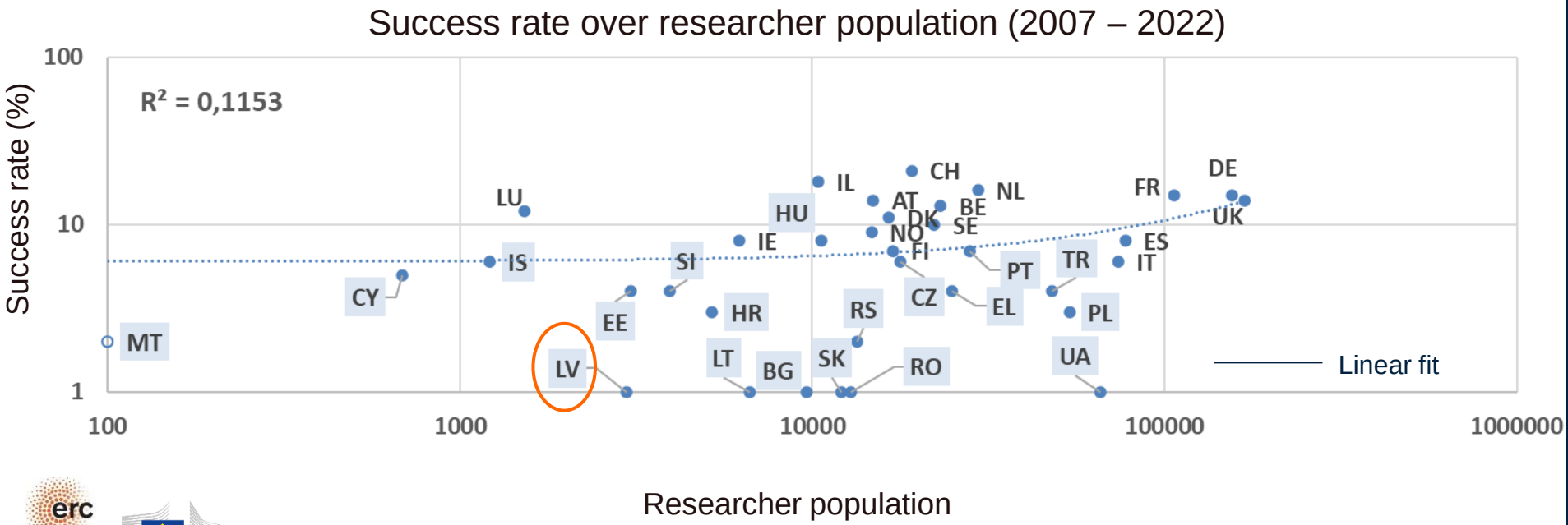
Number of evaluated proposals in WEP Countries



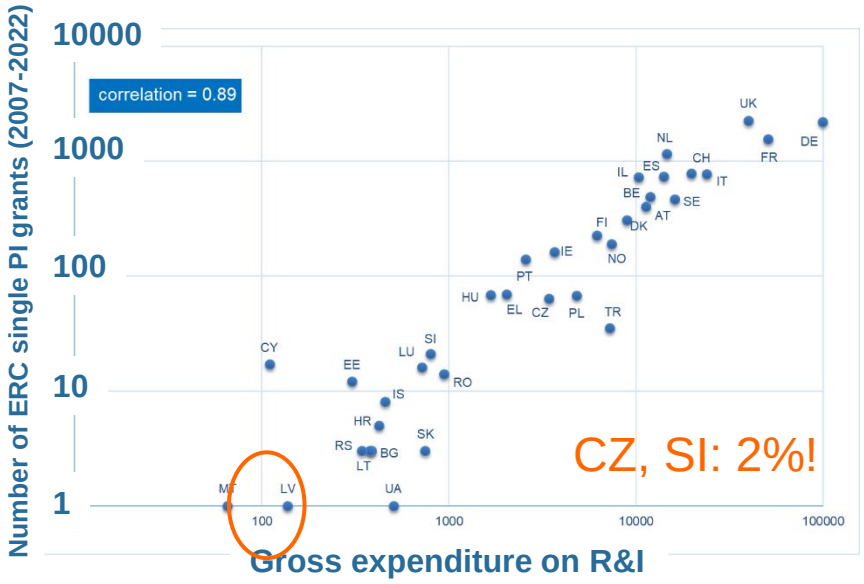
Number of single PI grants in WEP Countries



Success rates in WEP Countries



Top publications - Number of grants – GDP spent on R&I



ERC - the activity and success rate of the Czech Republic

ERC grants strengthen excellent research not only in South Moravia

Two ERC Starting Grants are coming to Czechia

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

European Commission

WEP scientists…

Observations

- apply in fewer numbers and are less successful
- mostly fail at Step 1
- have poorer grantsmanship skills, not poorer CVs
- when applying from non-WEP to WEP countries: equally successful to non-WEP applicants
- reapply with the same rate as the non-WEP applicants
- often have the attitude: “I don’t have any chance”

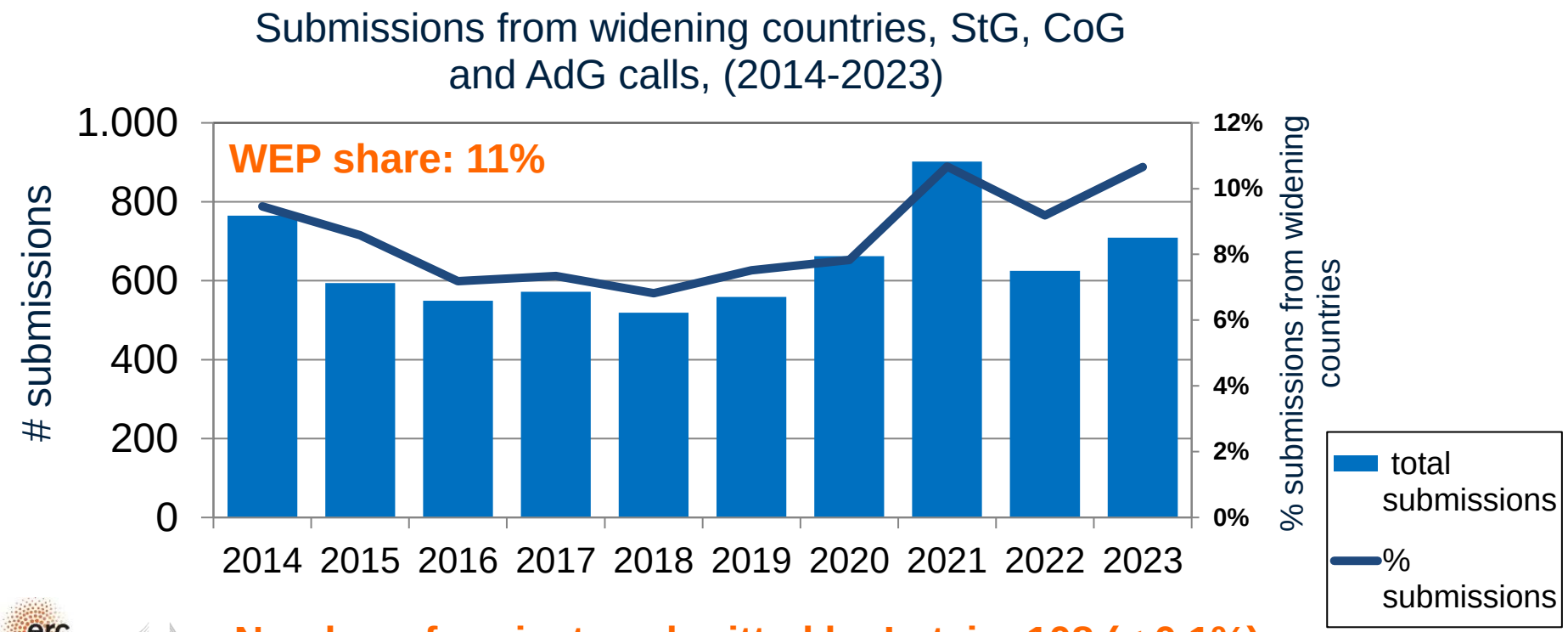
Challenges*

- Low national investment into R&I
- Poor support by granting offices -if any- or by National Contact Points
- Lower exposure to international research and innovation networks, larger distance between research and innovation
- Poorer research facilities and conditions, salaries, equipment, etc.

***Overcoming innovation gaps in the EU-13 Member States**

Exploring the performance gap in EU Framework Programmes between EU13 and EU15 Member States

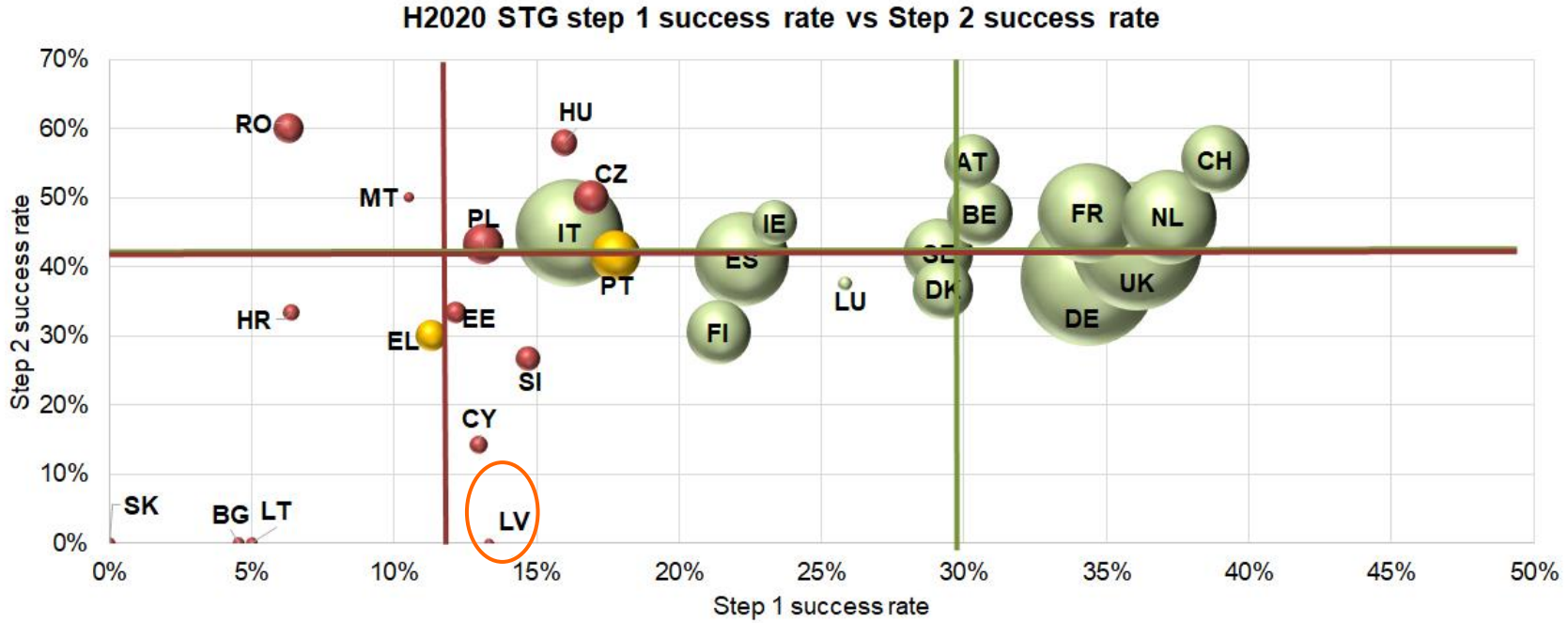
Submissions to Horizon Europe by WEP countries:



Number of projects submitted by Latvia: 108 (< 0.1%)

H2020 Success rates for all Member States and CH - STG

Most of the WEP applications are lost in Step 1

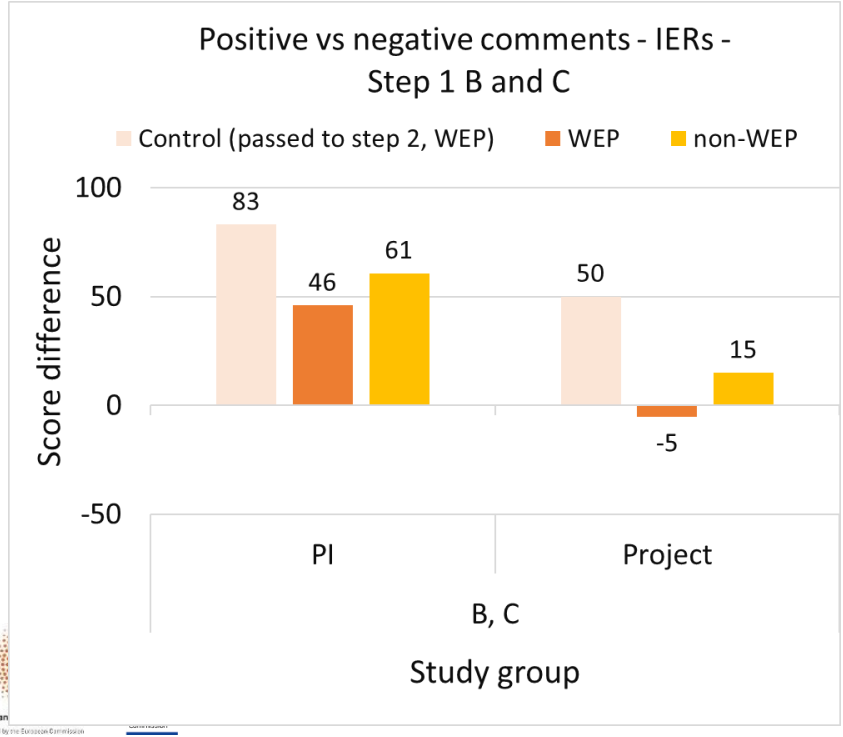


It is mostly the project that is killing the WEP applications


Sofie K. Christensen


Veronica Caraffini

Pilot study of individual evaluation reports (IERs), STG 2022



The CV of the applicants going to the WEP host institutions does not appear to be the decisive factor in the low success rate

Communicate this finding to potential WEP applicants to challenge misconception

Instead, it appears that the proposal, the grantsmanship is more important

Support applicants with grantsmanship

Extend support to research managers/grant support

Specific opportunities for future WEP applicants

Davide Innocenti

- **Visiting Fellowship:** visit an ERC lab and then write your ERC application

  Success rate of VFP fellows is **higher than of WEP applicants**, in particular for STG, 13%

- **Mentoring Initiative:** personalised guidance on how to write an ERC grant

Additional Opportunities

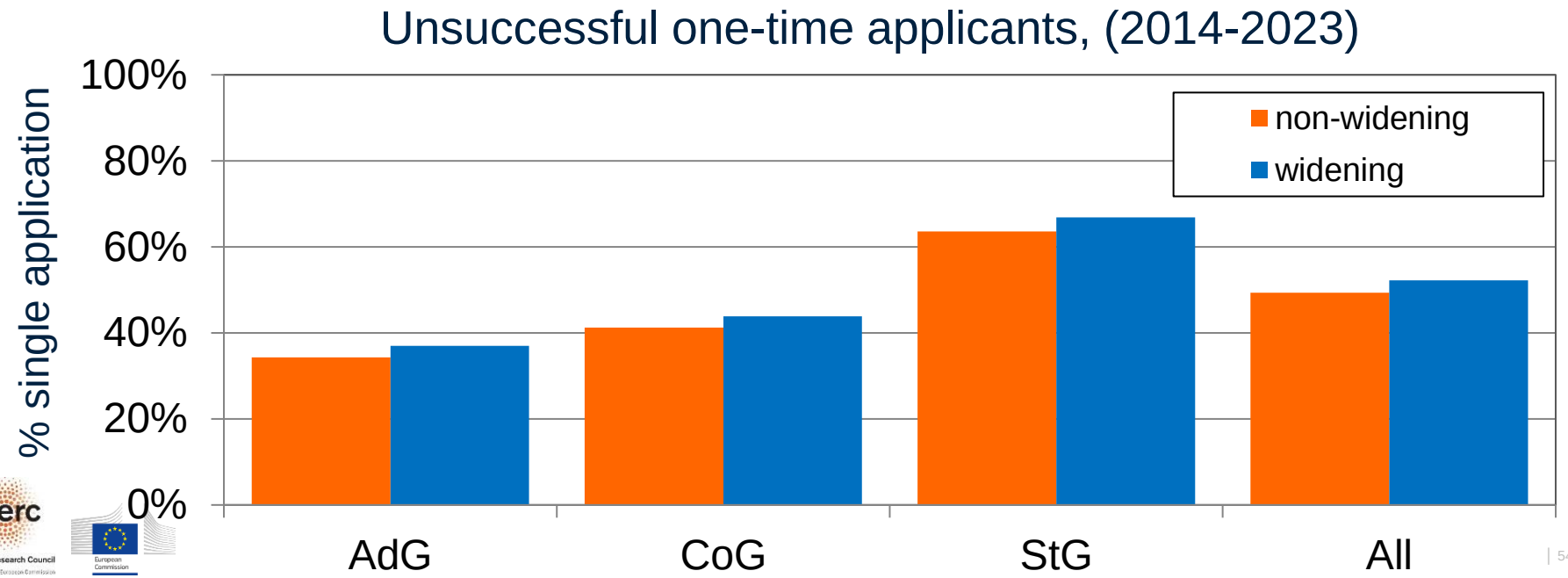
- Non-ERC instruments:

- the **European Regional Development Fund**

Widening European Participation actions **Reforming and Enhancing the European R&I System**

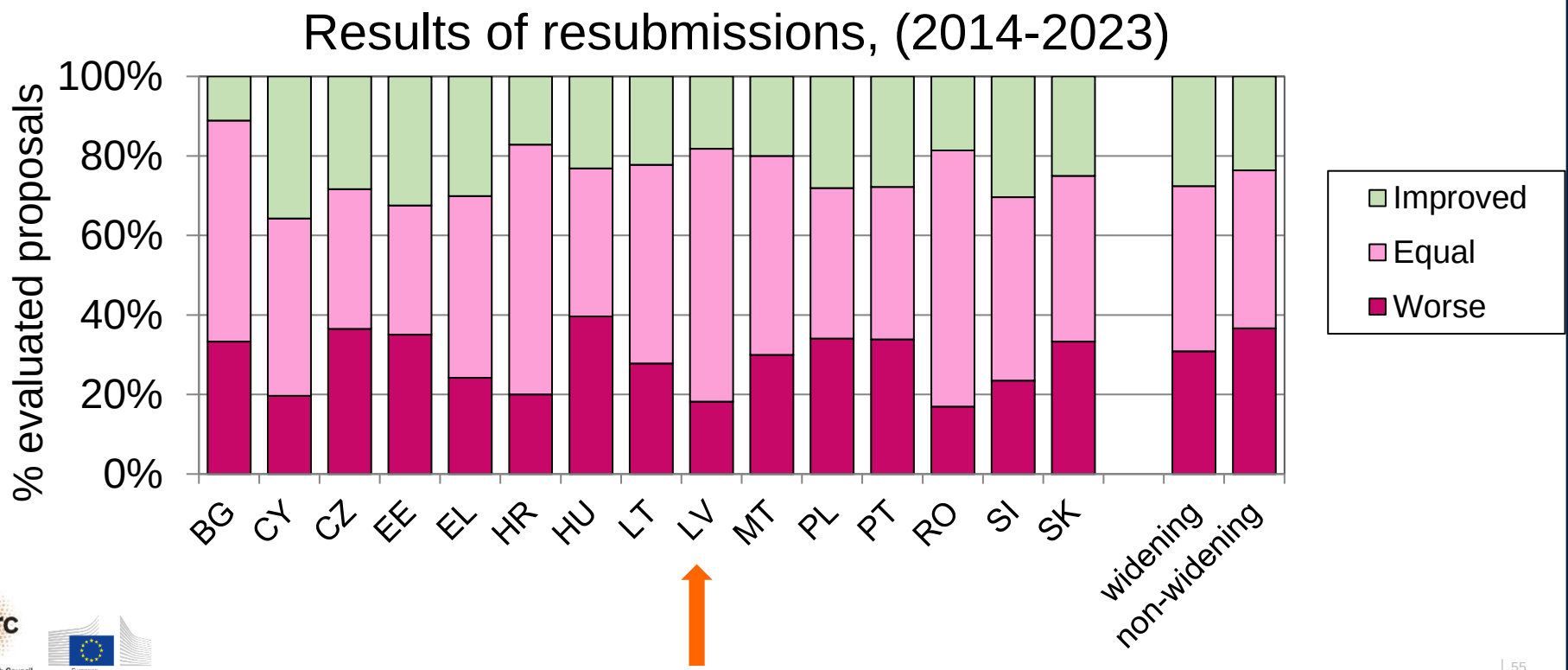
Unsuccessful applicants who never reapplied

In all call types, the % WEP single applications is very similar to that of the non-WEP countries.



Applicants who have never been funded, but reapplied:

Widening applicants with at least 2 submissions between 2014-2023
Comparison of results with previous submission



To take home:

- **Invest into R&I!** – the ERC can't solve all the problems
- Improve the **support network!**
- Improve your **grantsmanship!**
- Use our instruments: **Visiting Fellowships & the Mentoring Initiative**

Sailors, by Romans Suta (1896-1944)

janka.matrai@ec.europa.eu

Thank You!

More information: **ERC's Homepage**

National Contact Points: **ERC National Contact Points**

ERC News Alerts: **ERC Keep Updated**

Funding & Tender Opportunities: **Funding & Tenders Portal**

Databases of funded projects: **ERC Dashboard** & **Cordis Europa**

Follow us on:

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- **ERC X**
- **ERC LinkedIn**
- **ERC YouTube**

WEP Working Group of the ERCEA

Ágnes Kulcsár | Mary Loukatari | Janka Mátrai | Gordana Popovic | Jana Šiftá

… and the great work of many other colleagues in the A1, A2 and B units.

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

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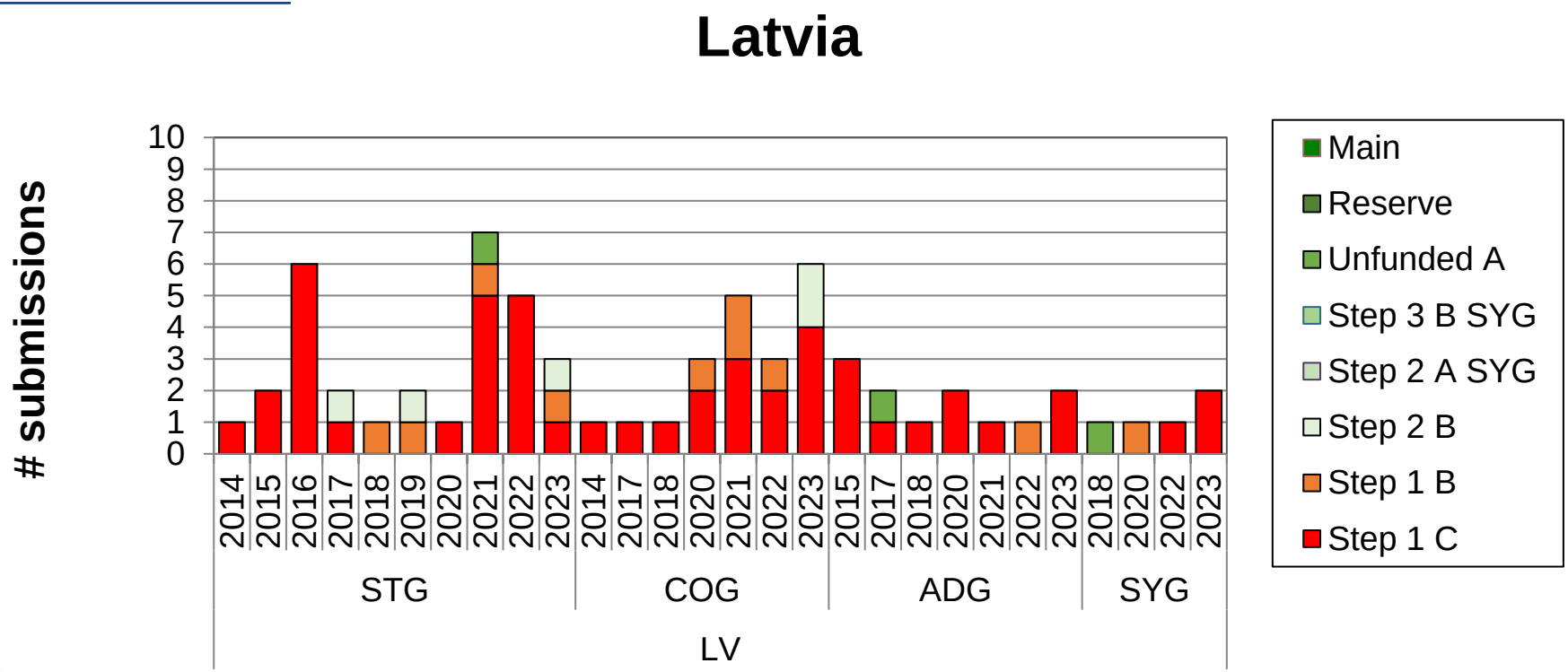
2014-2023: Results of proposals evaluated



Choosing the right Panel is very important!

- Proposals are initially assigned to the Panel of the PI's choice
- The PI can flag one “Secondary Review Panel” → the PI must explain the interdisciplinary nature of the proposal in Part B1

- Transfer of proposals between panels may occur if:
  - there is a clear mistake on part of the applicant
  - the necessary expertise is available in a different panel
  - Both Panel Chairs must agree on the transfer.

Rumour: *Choose the panel "strategically” in order to increase chances of success.*

✘**NOT true**: Choose the panel that best fits the proposal. The budget is distributed among the scientific panels as a function of demand → success rate is equal amongst panels! If you choose the "wrong" one because it has an X, Y, Z reputation, you will most probably hurt your proposal's chances of success.

Choose your descriptors and free keywords carefully in Part A!

Descriptors and free keywords

- influence which panel will evaluate your proposal
- are the basis of allocation to the panel members
- will determine whether a cross-panel evaluation is necessary

Rumour: *The panel descriptors represent ERC scientific priorities.*

✘**NOT true**: The panel descriptors are indicative so that PIs can see what expertise is in the Panel. It is the PIs that choose the subject of their proposal, and the Panels use the excellence criterion to judge whether it should be funded.

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.

CV and Track Record

Proposals will continue to be evaluated on the sole criterion of *scientific excellence*.

Evaluation **primarily focused** on the ground-breaking nature, ambition, and feasibility of the **proposed research project.**

No numerical scoring of the Principal Investigator. Instead, an overall assessment of PI's intellectual *capacity and creativity*, with a focus **on the extent to which the PI has the required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project.**

Lump Sum Funding (Advanced Grant)

Pilot lump sum model for the Advanced Grant call:

- A lump sum contribution for the entirety of the project defined upfront and by project (capped at funding scheme ceiling):
  - budget based on estimated costs
  - assessed during the evaluation (justification/plausibility)
  - broken down by beneficiary
- One scientific mid-term report, one single payment at the end of the project
- Payment based on completion of activities and not on successful outcome
- Additional funding and portability available; deviations/amendments - possible

ERC Advanced Grants - Lump Sum

Summary of Novelties – Work Programme 2024-25

Assessment	No prescriptive PI profiles	Evaluation Procedure	Lump Sum Pilot	Panels
• Ground-breaking • Ambitious • Feasible	• Up to 10 research outputs • Short narrative • Career breaks, diverse paths	• Up to 44 proposals in step 2 (exc. SyG) • 'A not invited' can reapply next year	• AdG only • One amount • Payment based on the work done (not success) • Additional funding and portability	• New Panel – SH8 • Changes in description of LS3/LS5 panels

Explore the ERC projects portfolio:

https://erc.europa.eu/projects-statistics/erc-dashboard

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

Search the website | Search

Apply for a grant | Manage your project | Projects & statistics | Support | News & events | About the ERC

Homepage > Projects & statistics > ERC dashboard

ERC dashboard

ERC dashboard

ERC Dashboard

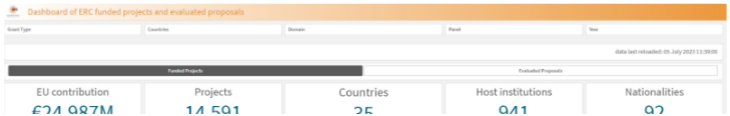
Advanced analytics tool (ERIS)

Science stories

Mapping ERC frontier research

Need data on ERC grants? New dashboard is here

The dynamic platform for ERC funded projects and evaluated proposals is a user-friendly interface with powerful filter options.
You can effortlessly filter by funding scheme, country, year, panel, and more. Plus, export results and graphs to further analyze and showcase your findings.



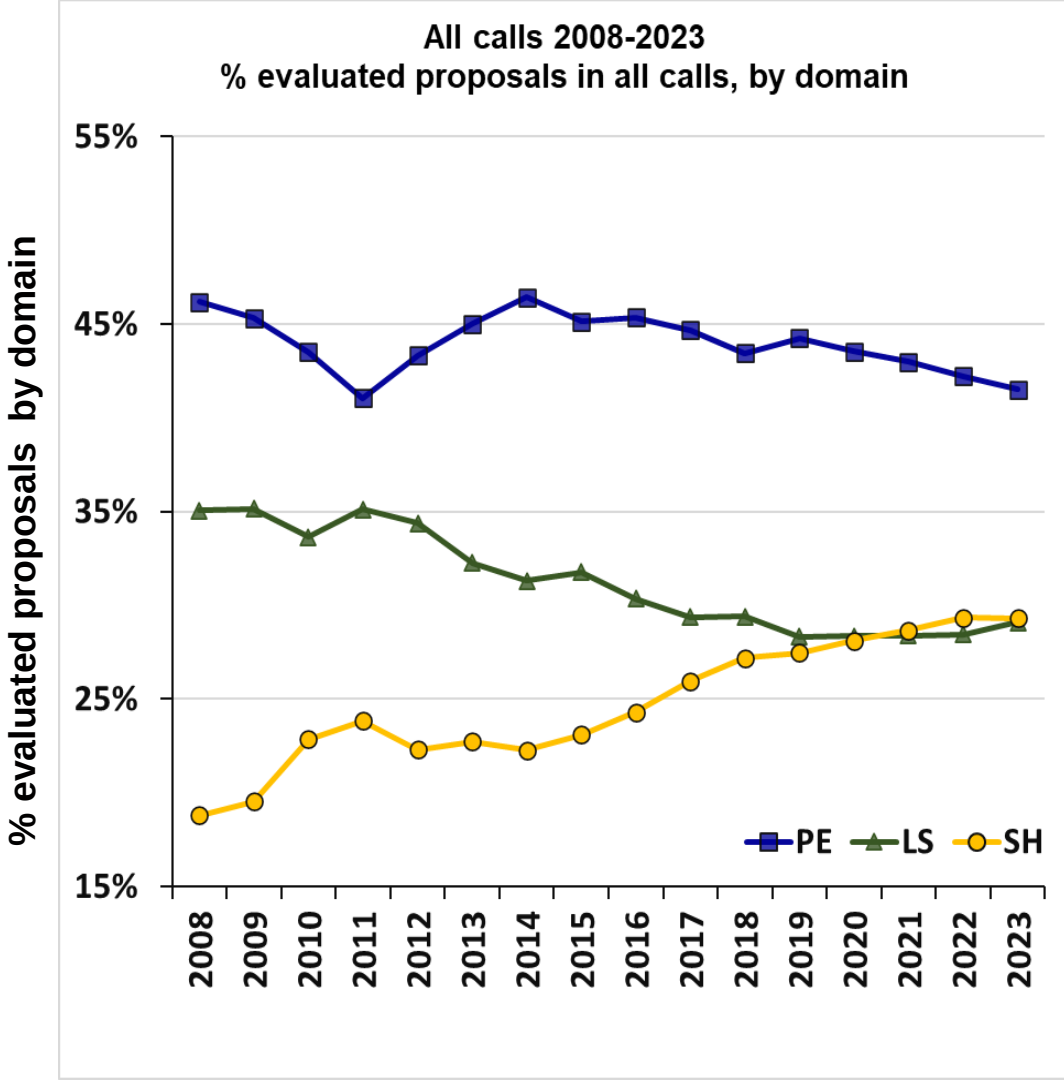
Share your experience

Please contact us at erc-webmaster@ec.europa.eu to share your feedback and suggestions regarding this new tool.

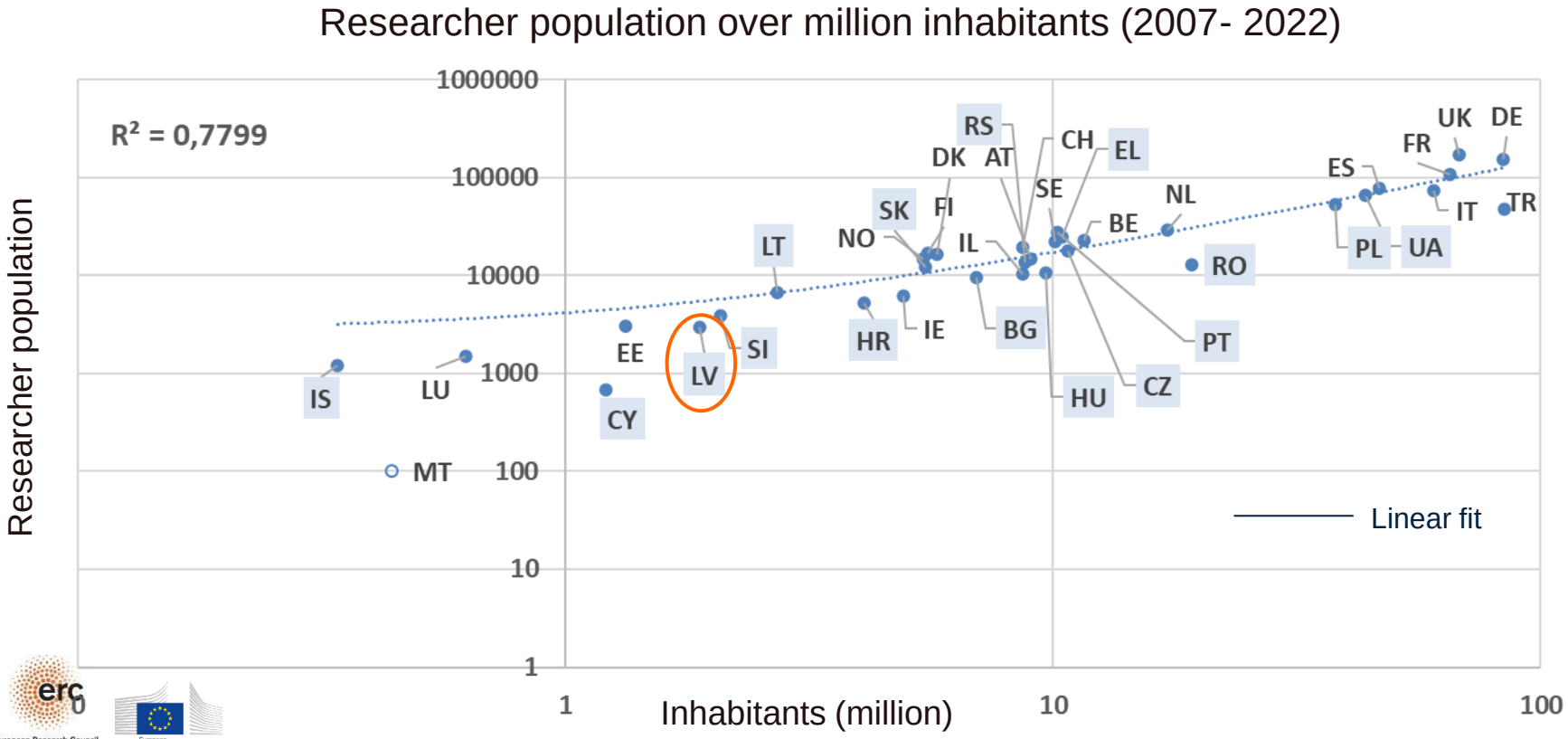
Challenges faced by the LS domain

- **Erosion of the LS domain**
- **Imbalance between LS panels**
- **Strong self-selection**

- **Missed opportunities: below 30% of the budget** for LS scientists, compared to the other domains
- Keep in mind that **budgets are allocated to panels as a function of demand** (i.e., based on the pro-rata of requested budget per panel)
- ERC funds both fundamental and clinical medical research



Researcher population in Widening European Participation (WEP) Countries



ERC Visiting Fellowship Programmes (VFP)

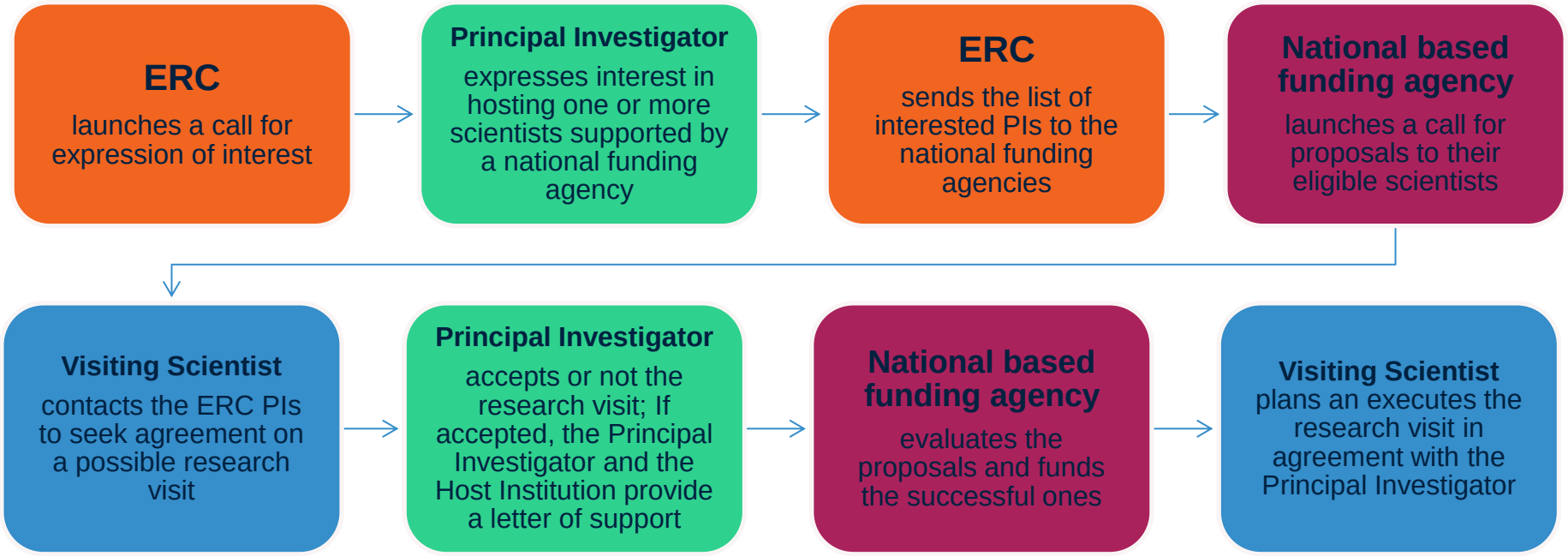
ERC promotes the efforts of national and regional authorities that set up and fund mobility programmes to allow potential ERC candidates to visit and gain experience with ERC-funded teams.

VFP in few points:

- Duration of visits 1-6 months *(up to 2019 the minimum duration was 3 month).*
- Visiting fellows commit to apply for an ERC grant in specified timeframe.
- Visiting fellows need to have a letter of support of the proposed host researcher and institution when applying.
- National/regional funding agencies cover the travel and salary costs of the fellows for the duration of the visit.

Additional Opportunities

Implementing Arrangements procedures



Action taken by

ERC ERC Principal Investigator Funding agency Visiting scientist

Beware of Open Access: Publications

Deposition	Immediate deposition in OA repository
Version of the publication to be shared in OA	Final accepted manuscript (AAM) or published version (VoR)
Open Access **repository**	‘**Trusted** repository for scientific publications’
Embargo period	**No embargo period**: immediate open access upon publication

Licence of the deposited version of the publication	Creative Commons (**CC BY**) or equivalent; for long-text formats CC BY-NC/ND/NC-ND acceptable (**book chapters are treated like articles!**)
Publication **metadata** (deposited version)	**More detailed metadata**, for example on licence, research data, outputs/ tools, PIDs, etc.
Publication **fees** (APC, BPC, other fees)	‘**Only publication fees in full open access venues** for peer-reviewed scientific publications are eligible for reimbursement’

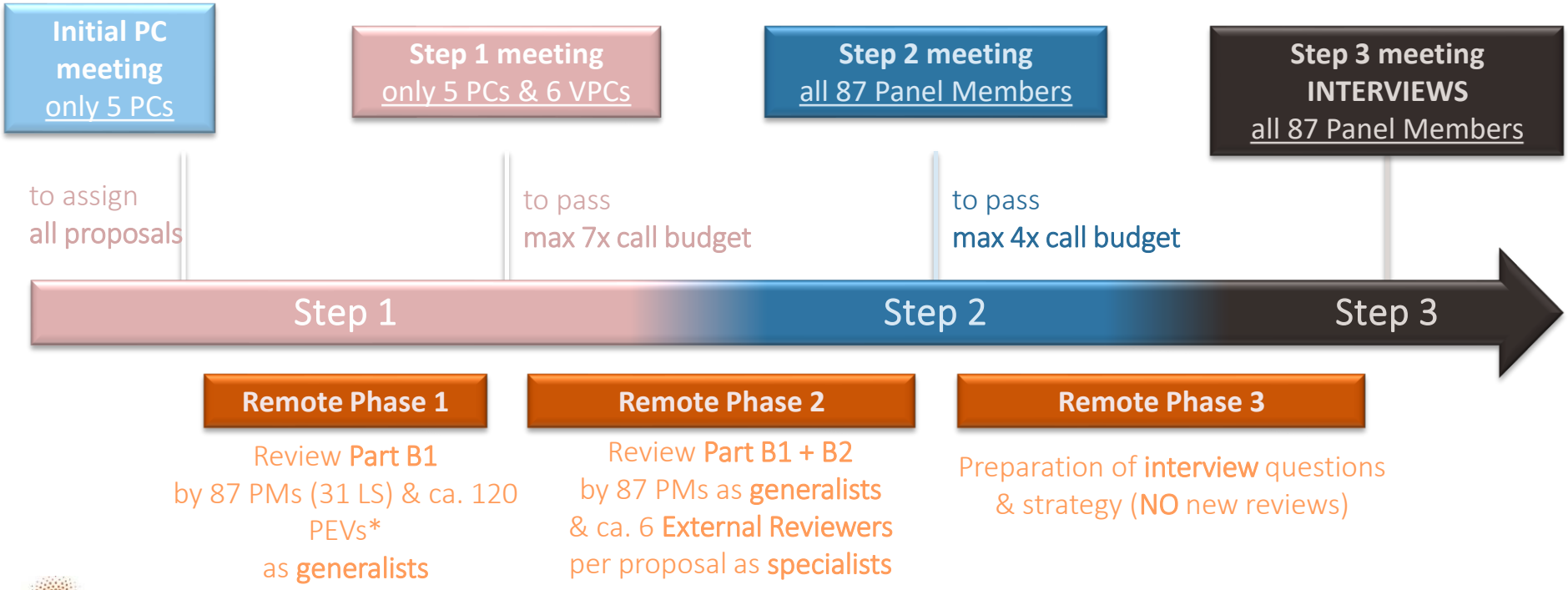
Beware of Open Access: Data

Deposition and **sharing** of data	PIs **must deposit** ‘digital research data generated in the project’ as soon as possible (to be outlined in the DMP)
Data Management Plan (DMP) (due at month 6)	**All** ERC projects
Data **repository**	‘**Trusted** repository’
Licence	Creative Commons (**CC BY or CC0**) or equivalent

Evaluation Process Overview

3-STEP EVALUATION

with **interviews** with all PIs in Step 3



*PEV = panel evaluator
(Panel Member serving in another ERC call)

Be aware of Open Access

Open Science

The ERC supports the principle of open access to:

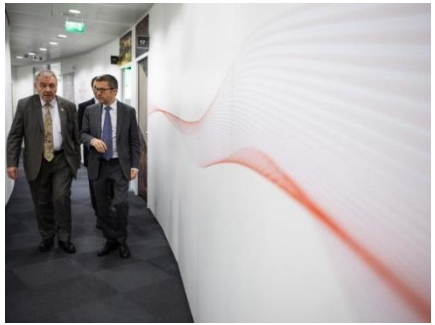
1. Scientific publications

The obligations of the grant agreement related to open access apply to all peer-reviewed scientific publications related to results from the project.

2. Research data

A Data Management Plan (DMP) must be submitted at the latest at the end of month 6 of project implementation.

ERC’s evaluation facilities



ERC in figures

Over **13,000**
top researchers funded since the ERC creation in 2007

Over **90,000**
researchers and other professionals employed in ERC research teams

Over **2,400**
patents and other IPR applications generated by ERC funding

Over **400**
start-ups identified as founded or co-founded by ERC grantees

Over **220,000**
articles from ERC projects published in scientific journals

Over **900** research institutions hosting ERC grantees – universities, public or private research centres in the EU or Associated Countries

89
nationalities of grant holders

14 Nobel Prizes, **6** Fields Medals, **11** Wolf Prizes and other prizes awarded to ERC grantees

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