The European Research Council

Information meeting about Excellence

- ERC Grant Funding Schemes

Line Fredslund Volkers, Ph.D.

Starting Grant Call Coordinator
Scientific Department
ERC Executive Agency

Århus, Wednesday 15 January 2014

erc

European Commission

Outline

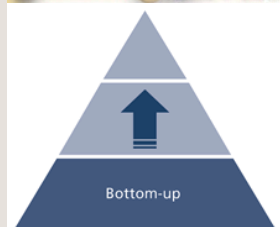➢ **The ERC in H2020**

➢ **Evaluation Process**

➢ **Preparing an application**

➢ **Statistics**

What is the ERC?

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

FP7: € 7.5 billion (2007-2013) - ~1.1 billion €/year
H2020: € 13 billion (2014-2020) - ~1.9 billion €/year

Legislation

➢ Scientific governance: independent Scientific Council with 22 members; 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!
➢ No predetermined subjects (bottom-up).
➢ Support of frontier research in all fields of science and humanities.
➢ Global peer-review.

European Commission

ERC Grant Schemes – Who can apply?

- **Excellent Researchers (PIs)**
  - → **Any nationality, age or current place of work**

- **In conjunction with a Host Institution**
  - → **Based in the EU or an Associated Country**

- **Individual research team**
  - → **Researcher has freedom to choose national or trans-national team, if scientific added value proven**

- **ERC Grants are portable**

ERC in Horizon 2020
Changes and continuity

➢ **Essential features maintained:**
- Same schemes, same principles, same selection procedures/criteria
- Independent Scientific Council with full authority over funding strategy
- Executive Agency with autonomous operation

➢ **Increased budget (13 Bio € in current prices for 2014-2020):**
- More opportunities than ever for top research talents

➢ **Strengthening the Scientific Governance of the European Research Council:**
- Strengthening the links between the Scientific Council and the Executive Agency
- Merging positions of President of ERC and Secretary General
- Full-time President based in Brussels
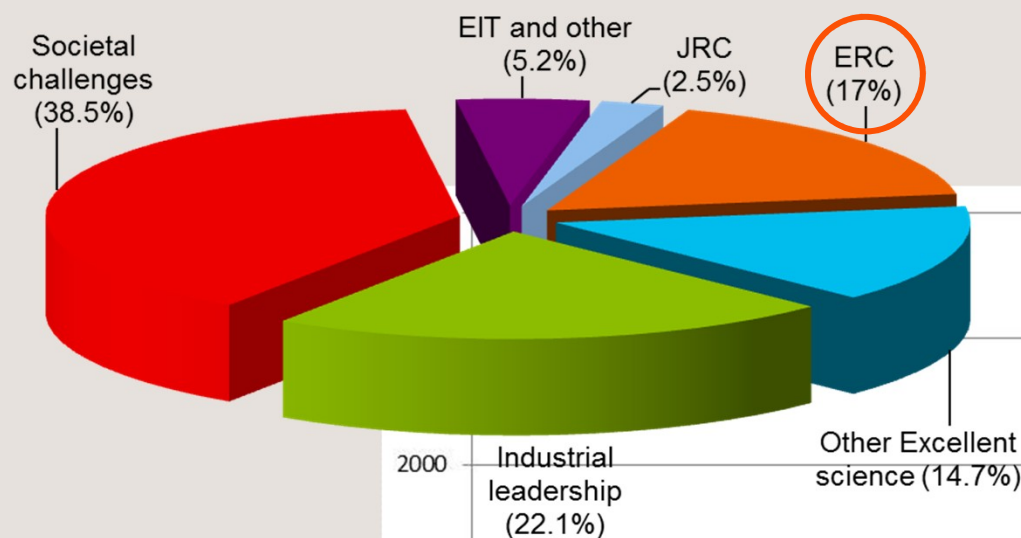- 3 Vice-Chairs elected from amongst the Scientific Council members

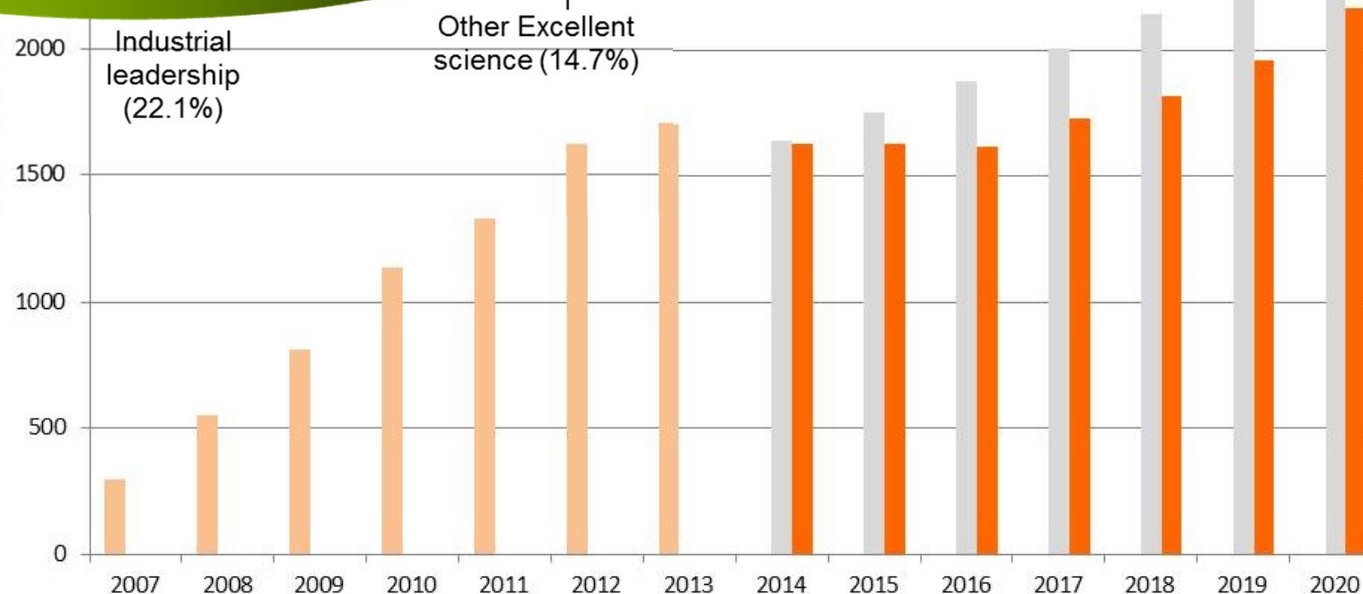# Horizon 2020 budget € 77 billion
ERC budget € 13 billion

ERC Grant schemes

Starting Grants

starters
(2-7 years after PhD)
up to € 2.0 Mio
for 5 years

Consolidator Grants

consolidators
(7-12 years after PhD)
up to € 2.75 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

Creative freedom of 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 up to 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.

Outline

> ## The ERC in H2020

> ## Evaluation Process

> ## Preparing an application

> ## Statistics

Excellence is the sole evaluation criterion

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

- Referees and panels evaluate and score each criterion, which results in a ranking of the proposals.

25 panels for all areas of science

erc
European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

Physical Sciences & Engineering

10 panels

- Mathematics
- Fundamental Constituents of Matter
- Condensed Matter Physics
- Physical and Analytical Chemical Sciences
- Synthetic Chemistry and Materials
- Computer Science and Informatics
- Systems and Communication Engineering
- Products and Processes Engineering
- Universe Sciences
- Earth System Science

Social Sciences & Humanities

6 panels

- Markets, Individuals and Institutions
- The Social World, Diversity and Common Ground
- Environment, Space and Population
- The Human Mind and Its Complexity
- Cultures and Cultural Production
- The Study of the Human Past

Life Sciences

9 panels

- Molecular and Structural Biology and Biochemistry
- Genetics, Genomics, Bioinformatics and Systems Biology
- Cellular and Developmental Biology
- Physiology, Pathophysiology and Endocrinology
- Neurosciences and Neural Disorders
- Immunity and Infection
- Diagnostic Tools, Therapies and Public Health
- Evolutionary, Population and Environmental Biology
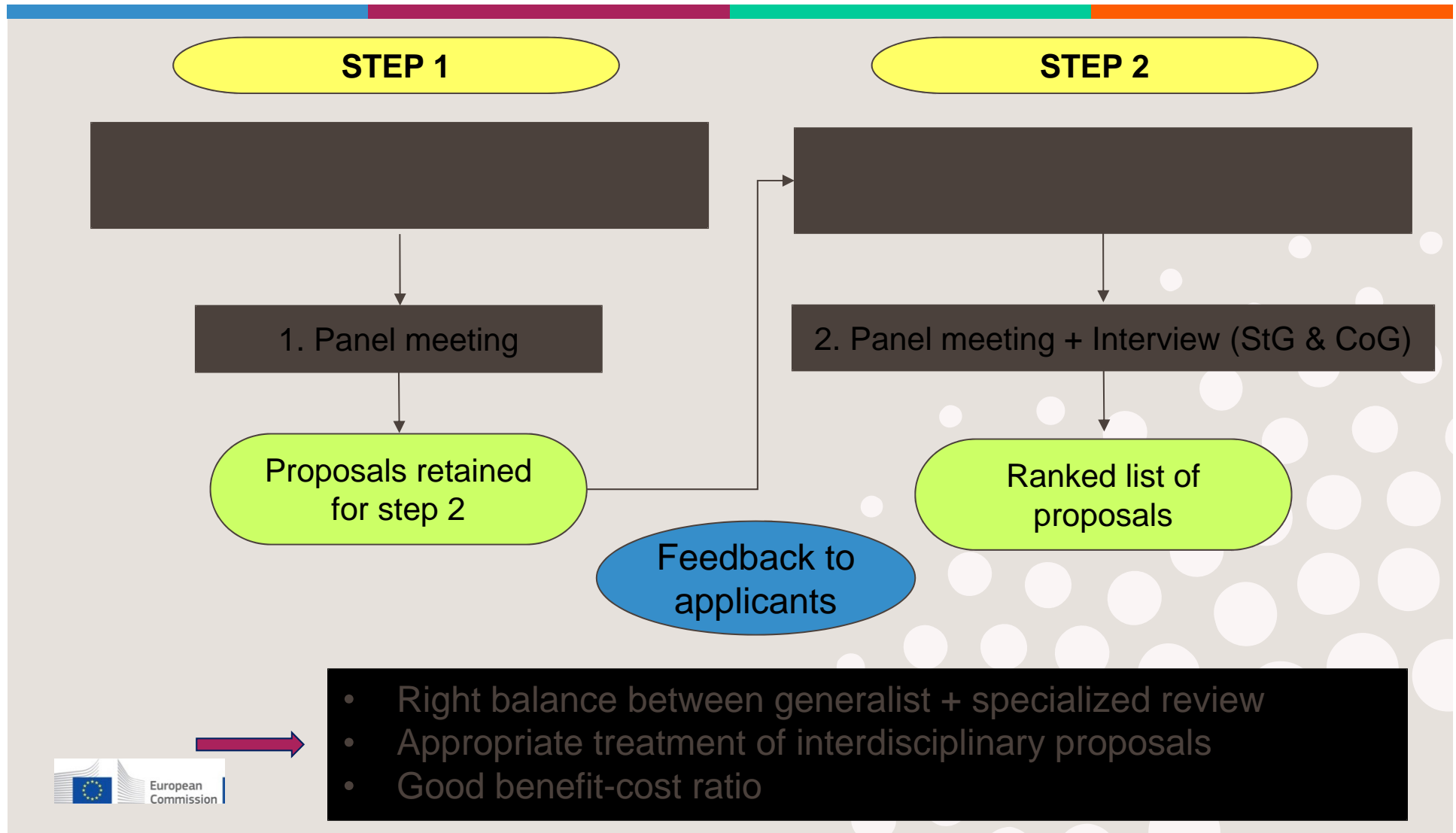- Applied Life Sciences and Non-Medical Biotechnology

European Commission

ERC basics
Evaluation of proposals: Review Procedure

STEP 1

STEP 2

1. Panel meeting

2. Panel meeting + Interview (StG & CoG)

Proposals retained for step 2

Ranked list of proposals

Feedback to applicants

- Right balance between generalist + specialized review
- Appropriate treatment of interdisciplinary proposals
- Good benefit-cost ratio

Eligibility and Re-submissions

- **Ineligible proposals**

  o Submission after the deadline.

  o Incomplete proposals.

  o No commitment letter from the HI.

  o PhD award date outside the window (StG and CoG).

- **Re-submissions**

  o Only one application per PI under the same WP.

  o If an applicant applied in 2013 – only eligible to 2014 calls if awarded at least an A or a B in Step 1.

ERC basics
Evaluation of proposals: peers

- ➢ **Panel members**: typically 375 / call
  - ▪ High-level scientists
  - ▪ Recruited by ScC from all over the world: ~14% from outside Europe
  - ▪ About 12-16 members plus a chair person
- ➢ **Referees**: typically 2000 / call
  - ▪ Evaluate only a small number of proposals
  - ▪ Similar to normal practise in peer-reviewed journals

Europe and Associated Countries (86%)
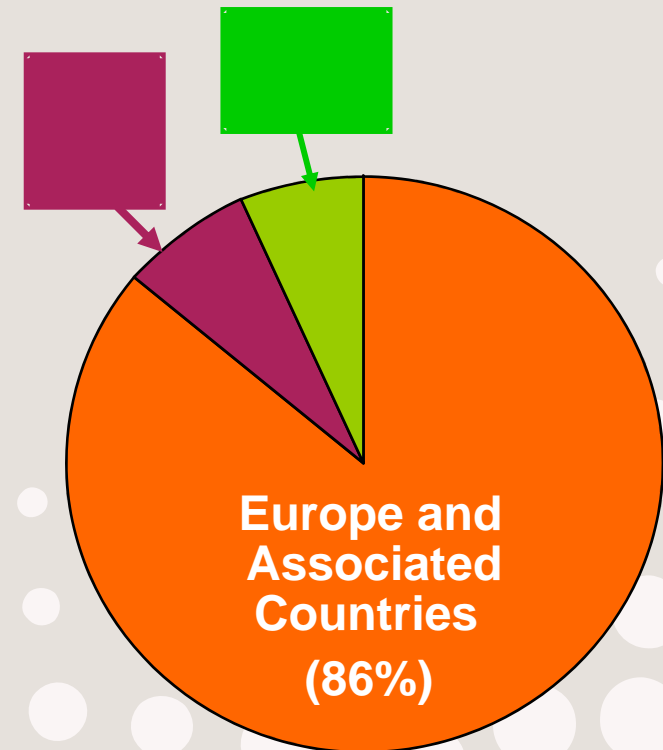
ERC panel members by country of HI and gender

ERC Starting and Advanced Grant calls 2007 - 2012
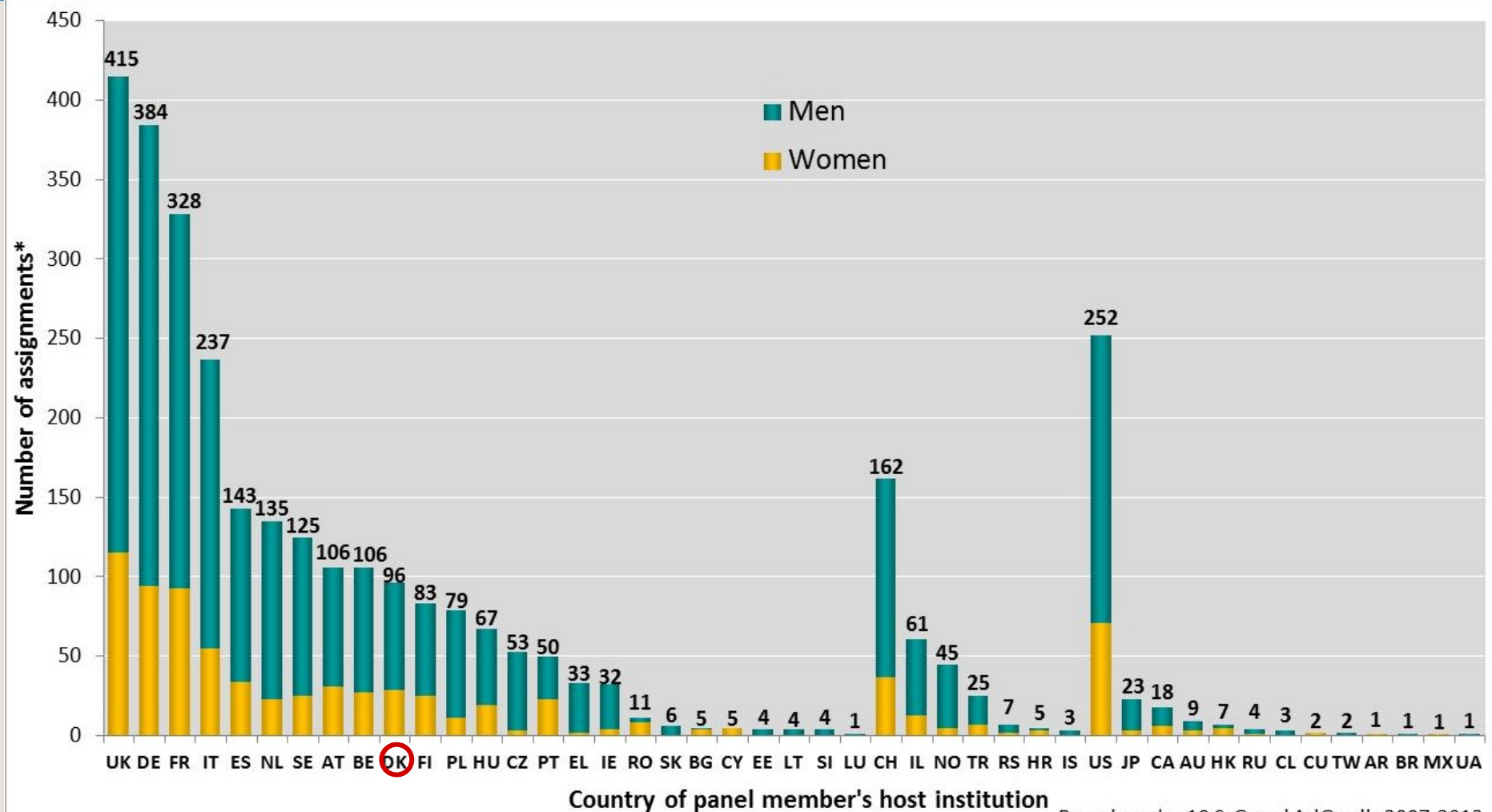
Based on the 10 StG and AdG calls 2007-2012

Feedback to Applicants

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

End of **Step 1**:

A	**Proposal is of sufficient quality to pass to Step 2 of the evaluation.**
B	Proposal is of high quality but not sufficient to pass to Step 2 of the evaluation. The applicant may also be subject to resubmission limitations in the next call(s).
C	Proposal is not of sufficient quality to pass to Step 2 of the evaluation. The applicant may also be subject to resubmission limitations in the next call(s).

European Commission

Feedback to Applicants

End of **Step 2**:

A	**Proposal fully meets the ERC's excellence criterion and is recommended for funding if sufficient funds are available.**
B	Proposal meets some but not all elements of the ERC's excellence criterion and will not be funded. The applicant may also be subject to resubmission limitations in the next call(s).

Outline

➢ **The ERC in H2020**

➢ **Evaluation Process**

➢ **Preparing an application**

➢ **Statistics**

ERC – Proposal Submission

- Via the Participant Portal –

  http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html

- One deadline per call.

- Submit to a specific panel (one of 25) but you can indicate a secondary panel.

- Online submission forms and the proposal (Part B) together with any supporting documentation.

| 19

Participant Portal

Participant Portal

ERC – Online Submission Forms
Overview
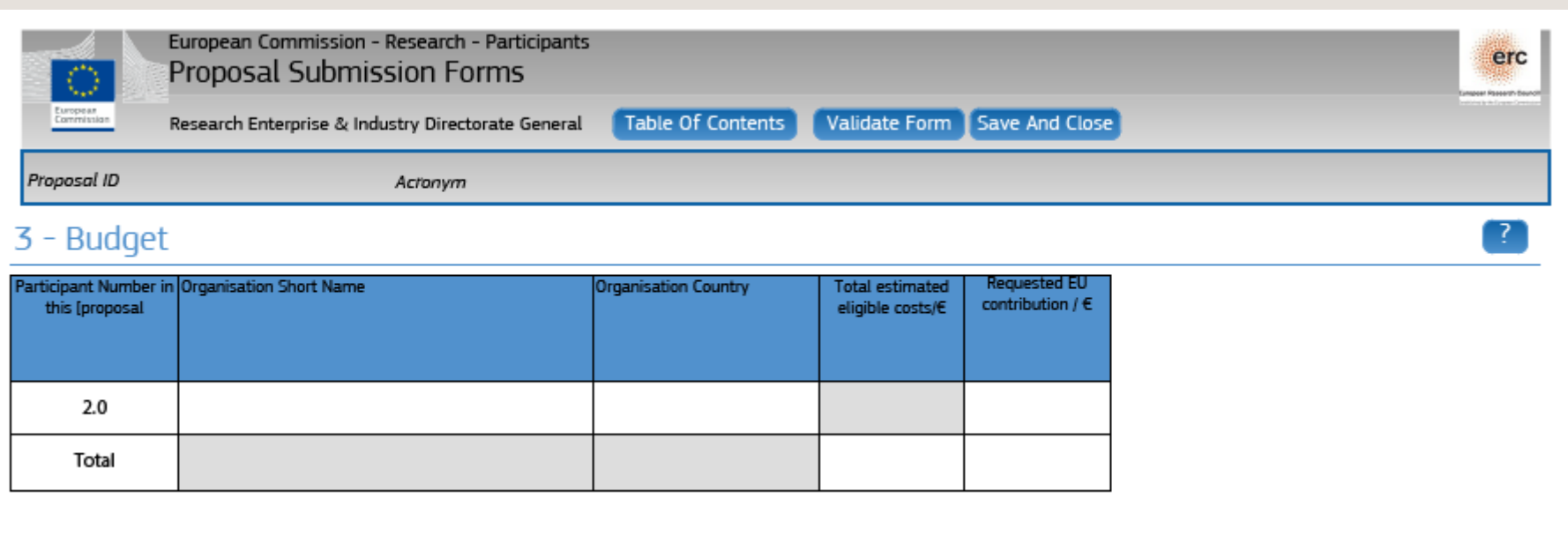
Section	Title	Action
1	General information	
2	Participants & contacts	
3	Budget	
4	Ethics	
5	Call-specific questions	

How to fill in the forms

The administrative forms must be filled in for each proposal using the templates available in the submission system. Some data fields in the administrative forms are pre-filled based on the previous steps in the submission wizard.

Simplified budget table – Part A

For each participant only <u>total costs</u> and <u>requested EU contribution</u> is asked

European Commission - Research - Participants
Proposal Submission Forms

Research Enterprise & Industry Directorate General | Table Of Contents | Validate Form | Save And Close

| Proposal ID | Acronym |

3 - Budget

Participant Number in this [proposal	Organisation Short Name	Organisation Country	Total estimated eligible costs/€	Requested EU contribution / €
2.0				
Total				

NB. Calculation of <u>indirect costs</u> will follow the general H2020 flat rate of 25% of the total eligible direct costs.

Ethics table :
Part of Online Submission Forms

European Commission - Research - Participants
Proposal Submission Forms

Research Enterprise & Industry Directorate General | Table Of Contents | Validate Form | Save And Close

Proposal ID	Acronym	Participant	Short Name

4 - Ethics

4.11 HUMAN EMBRYOS/FOETUS		Page
Does your research involve Human Embryonic Stem Cells (hESCs)? i	○ Yes ● No	
Does your research involve the use of human embryos?	○ Yes ● No	
Does your research involve the use of human foetal tissues / cells?	○ Yes ● No	
4.12 HUMANS		**Page**
Does your research involve human participants?	○ Yes ● No	
Does your research involve physical interventions on the study participants?	○ Yes ● No	
If your research involves processing of genetic information, please go to the section "Protection of personal data".	○ Yes ● No	
4.13 HUMAN CELLS / TISSUES		**Page**
Does your research involve human cells or tissues? (if human embryos/foetus, go to the section "Human Embryos/Foetus")	○ Yes ● No	
4.14 PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA ii		**Page**
Does your research involve personal data collection and/or processing?	○ Yes ● No	
Does your research involve further processing of previously collected personal data (secondary use)?	○ Yes ● No	

ERC – Online Submission Forms

- Examples of the forms will be made available on the Participant Portal website.

- To access the forms for your application, you will need to register.

- Please do so as soon as possible.

- Several new questions compared to 2013 calls.

- Ethics Review Table – now part of the online submission forms. Detailed guidance will be provided in the 'Information for Applicants to the Starting and Consolidator Grant 2014 Calls'.

ERC – Proposal Structure – Part B

- **Part B1 = 'The PI'**
  - → Extended synopsis (5 pgs.)
  - → CV (2 pgs.)
  - → Track-record (2 pgs.)
  - → *Funding-ID

- **Part B2 = Full Scientific Proposal (15 pgs.)**

- **Ethics Review information (where appropriate)**

- **Separate additional documents:**
  - → Host Institution Support Letter
  - → Copy of PhD document (StG and CoG only)
  - → Documents to prove extension to the eligibility window

ERC Starting and Consolidator Grants – Proposal Structure – Part B1

- Synopsis – remember that only Part B1 is reviewed at Step 1. Carefully review the evaluation questions that reviewers will be responding to.

- CV – model CVs will be made available in the Information for Applicants – only guidance – no obligation!

- *Funding – ID – a new obligatory table to be filled in – see next slide for the template.

New Funding ID table for Part B1

- Table format under Section b: Curriculum Vitae

- To give comparable level of details to the reviewers

On-Going grants

Project Title	Funding source	Amount	Period	Role of PI	Relation to ERC project

Applications

Project Title	Funding source	Amount	Period	Role of PI	Relation to ERC project

ERC Starting and Consolidator Grants – Proposal Structure – Part B2

- Full Scientific Proposal.

- Budget Table – new template compared to 2013.

- Please ensure that the calculations are correct and match what you have indicated in the online submission forms!

- Carefully justify the resources in the text.

ERC Starting and Consolidator Grants – Proposal Structure – Budget Table

(Provisional example)

Section c. Resources (incl. project costs)

(Note: To facilitate the assessment of resources by the panels, the use of the following budget table is strongly suggested. All eligible costs requested, should be included in the budget. **Please use whole Euro values only.**)

Cost Category			Total in Euro
Direct Costs[2]	Personnel	PI[3]	
		Senior Staff	
		Postdocs	
		Students	
		Other	
	i. Total Direct costs for Personnel (in Euro)		
	Travel		
	Equipment		
	Other goods and services	Consumables	
		Publications (including Open Access fees), etc.	
		Other (please specify)	
	ii. Total Other Direct Costs (in Euro)		
A – Total Direct Costs (i + ii) (in Euro)			
B – Indirect Costs (overheads) 25% of Direct Costs[4] (in Euro)			
C1 – Subcontracting Costs (no overheads) (in Euro)			
C2 – Other Direct Costs with no overheads[5] (in Euro)			
Total Estimated Eligible Costs (A + B + C) (in Euro)[6]			
Total Requested EU Contribution (in Euro)[6]			

The project cost estimation should be as accurate as possible. Significant mathematical mistakes may reflect poorly on the credibility of the costing table and the proposal overall. The evaluation panels assess the estimated costs carefully; unjustified budgets will be consequently reduced.

The requested contribution should be in proportion to the actual needs to fulfil the objectives of the project.

For the above cost table, please indicate the % of working time the PI dedicates to the project over the period of the grant:	%

- ➢ **Financial reporting periods disappear**
- ➢ **Detailed budget breakdown will be asked at granting**
- ➢ **Max 25% indirect costs**
- ➢ **Only bottom two figures will be asked in A forms**

StG/CoG Applicants with MDs

MD applicants need to provide :

- **certificates of MD basic studies and**

- **proof of an appointment that requires doctoral equivalency (e.g. post-doctoral fellowship, professorship appointment).**

Time reference for calculation of the eligibility time-window = the certified date of the MD completion plus two years

For further details, see ERC WP 2014 – Annex II

StG/CoG Applicants with MDs

For applicants holding **both** an MD and a PhD :

• MD takes precedence over PhD only when the applicant has held an appointment that requires a doctoral equivalency (e.g. post-doctoral fellowship, professorship appointment).

• Proof of completion of clinical training: no longer makes an MD applicant eligible.

• Clinical training: still counts as reason for extension of the eligibility window (up to a maximum of 4.5 Years).

ERC Grants – Selecting a Panel

- Review the members of the evaluation panels from previous years:

  → http://erc.europa.eu/evaluation-panels

- Review the funded proposals within a particular panel.

- *If you indicate a secondary panel (optional), then you are asked to explain the cross-panel/cross-domain nature of your proposal in Part B1.

Reviewer Exclusion

- Applicants can nominate up to three persons to be excluded from the evaluation of their proposal, specifying :
  - Name
  - Institution, City, Country
  - Webpage

- The concerned persons will be excluded from the evaluation of the proposal assuming that the ERCEA is still in a position to evaluate the proposal properly.

ERC Grants – General tips
Preparing an application

- **Register early**, get familiar with the system and templates and start filling in the forms

- Have all your documentation ready in time.

- Follow the formatting rules and page limits.

- Proof-read the proposal well.

ERC Grants – General tips
Preparation and editing

- Allow sufficient time to prepare your application.

- <u>Submit well in advance of the deadline</u> – you can overwrite any version submitted with a new one.

- Double and triple check that all documents are correct and have been submitted.

- Respect the page limits and proof-read your proposal well.

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

ERC – Recap of the changes for 2014

- More stringent resubmission restrictions.
- Eligibility rules for MDs.
- Simplified budget table (Parts A and B).
- Ethics table ⟶ Part of the online submission forms.
- Funding ID – changed format.
- Model CVs provided.
- Reason for exclusion of reviewers – not required.

Other changes

- Possibility to provide a Researcher ID (e.g. ORCHID) in A- and B-forms

- Interdisciplinary projects: justification paragraph in part B1

- The security scrutiny procedure will be abandoned

- Changes in the panel keywords for all SH panels (please see the WP and the GfA when published)

Guidelines and Other Resources

- Read the Guide for Applicants and the Ideas Work Programme.

- Any doubts about your eligibility or any other questions, contact one of the NCPs or the ERCEA.

- Have a look at what is already funded and the profile of the grantees.

ERC Frontier Research Grants

Information for applicants on the

Starting and Consolidator Grant 2014 Calls

XX January 2013

This document is published by the ERC Scientific Council on http://erc.europa.eu
It can also be downloaded from the Research and Innovation Participant Portal on http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
H2020 Specific Programme Part 1
Excellent Science

ERC – Funded Projects

Menu allows searching by Funding Scheme, Call Year and Country of Host Institution.

ERC Grants – Statistics

Menu allows searching by Funding Scheme, Domain/Panel and Grantees by Country of Host Institution.

This page provides **basic statistics for ERC funding activities**.

Please note that the data reflects the current status of the granting process. Therefore the total number of grants and grant distribution might differ from the indicative statistics, published at the release of the results, which are based on the outcome of the evaluation process.

You can use the menu on the left to select different views on the data.

ERC is continuously working to improve this service and expand the scope.
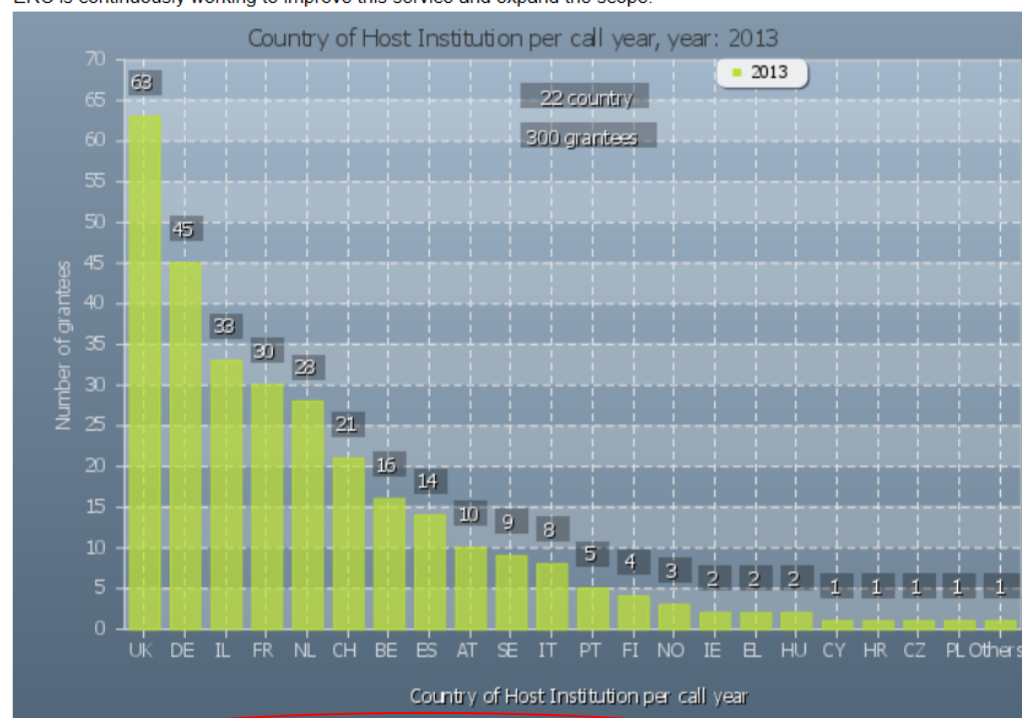
You can export the results in comma separated value (csv) file format or in PDF format.

Outline

- ➤ **The ERC in H2020**

- ➤ **Evaluation Process**

- ➤ **Preparing an application**

- ➤ **Statistics**

ERC Competitions

	Total number of applications	of which		
		Evaluated*	Funded	success rates**
Starting Grant 2007	9,167	8,787	299	3.4
Starting Grant 2009	2,503	2,392	245	10.2
Starting Grant 2010	2,873	2,767	436	15.8
Starting Grant 2011	4,080	4,005	486	12.1
Starting Grant 2012	4,741	4,652	566	12.2
Starting Grant 2013	3,329	3,255	300	9.2
Starting Grant	**26,693**	**25,858**	**2,332**	**10.5**
Advanced Grant 2008	2,167	2,034	282	13.9
Advanced Grant 2009	1,584	1,526	245	16.1
Advanced Grant 2010	2,009	1,967	271	13.8
Advanced Grant 2011	2,284	2,245	301	13.4
Advanced Grant 2012	2,304	2,269	319	14.1
Advanced Grant 2013	2,408	2,363	284	12.0
Advanced Grant	**12,756**	**12,404**	**1,702**	**13.9**
Proof of Concept 2011 - 1&2	151	139	51	36.7
Proof of Concept 2012 - 1&2	143	120	60	50.0
Proof of Concept 2013 - 1	145	139	33	23.7
Proof of Concept	**439**	**398**	**144**	**36.8**
Synergy Grant 2012	**710**	**697**	**11**	**1.6**

European Commission

* withdrawn and ineligible proposals not taken into account

** percentage of funded proposals in relation to evaluated proposals

Data as of 09/09/2013

Evaluated proposals from hosts in Denmark

ERC Starting and Consolidator Grant calls 2007-2013
ERC Advanced Grant calls 2008-2013

811 evaluated proposals from host institutions in Denmark, by ERC call and domain

Ineligible and withdrawn proposals not taken into account; *) all submitted for 2013 calls
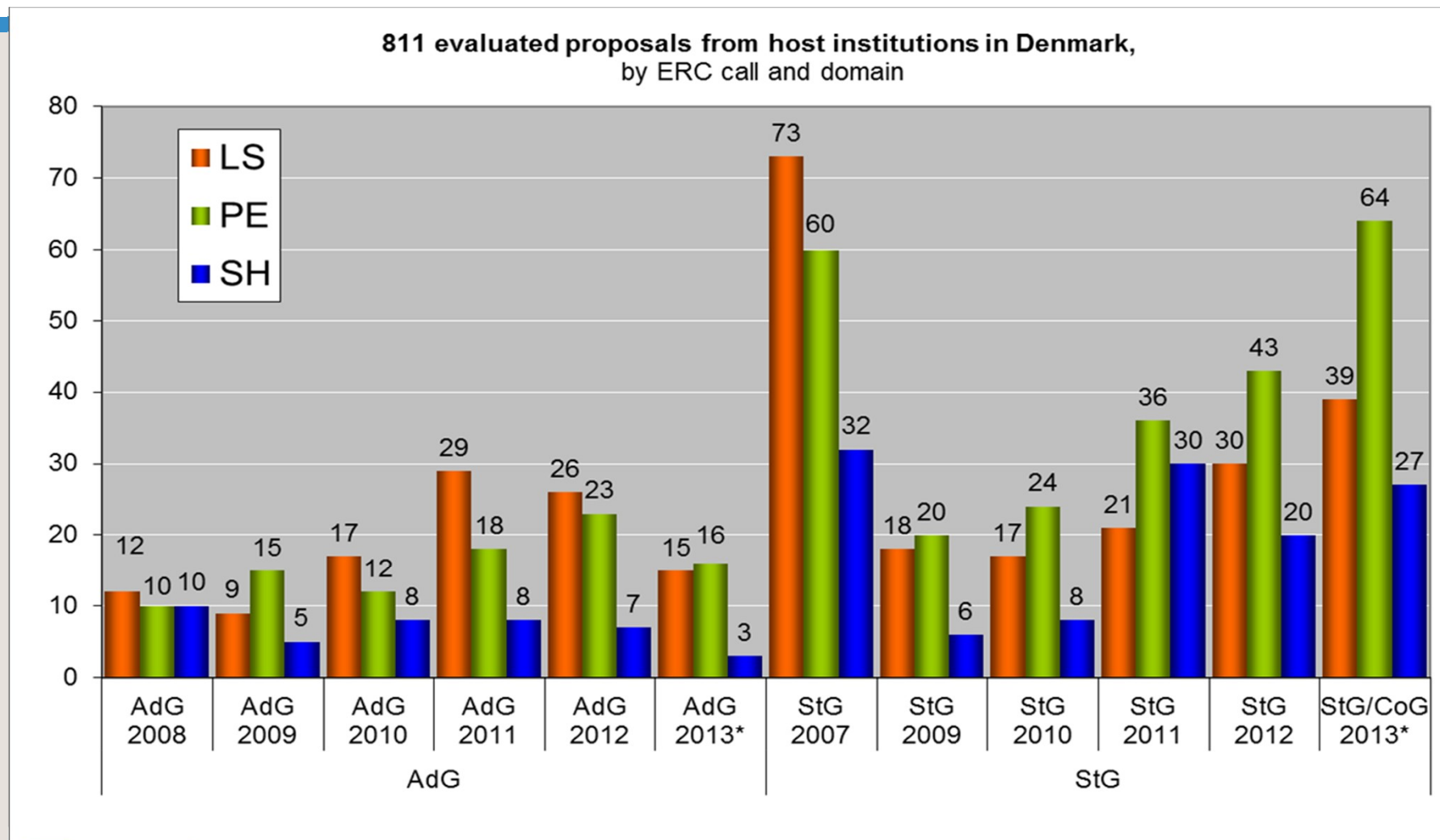
Evaluated proposals from HIs in Nordic countries

ERC Starting and Consolidator Grant calls 2007-2013
ERC Advanced Grant calls 2008-2013

Ineligible and withdrawn proposals not taken into account; all submitted for 2013 calls
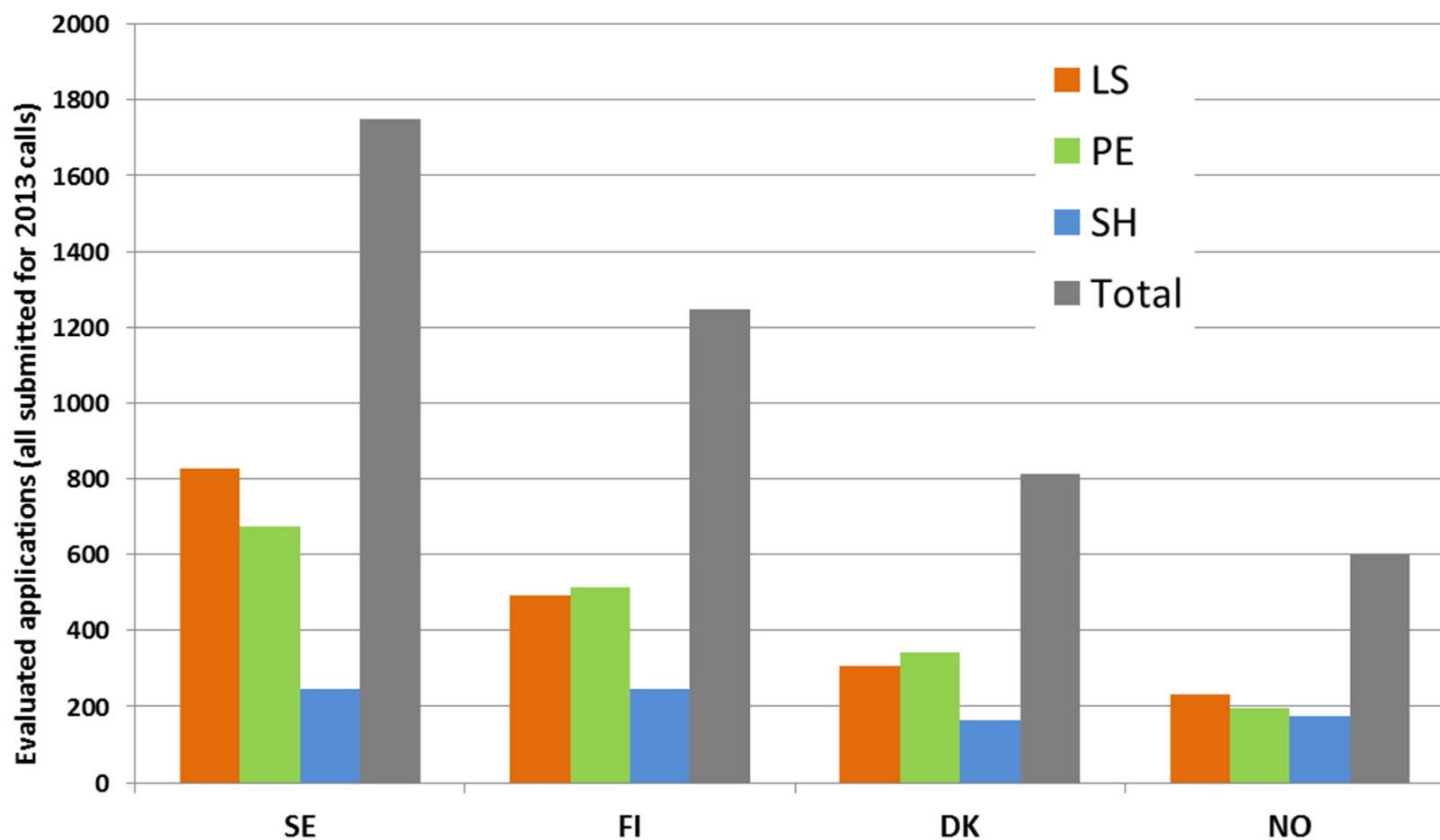
Granted proposals at host institutions in Denmark

ERC Starting grant 2007 - 2013
ERC Advanced grant 2008 – 2013

73 projects with a host institution in DK, by ERC call and domain

* current host institutions; data as of 09/09/2013
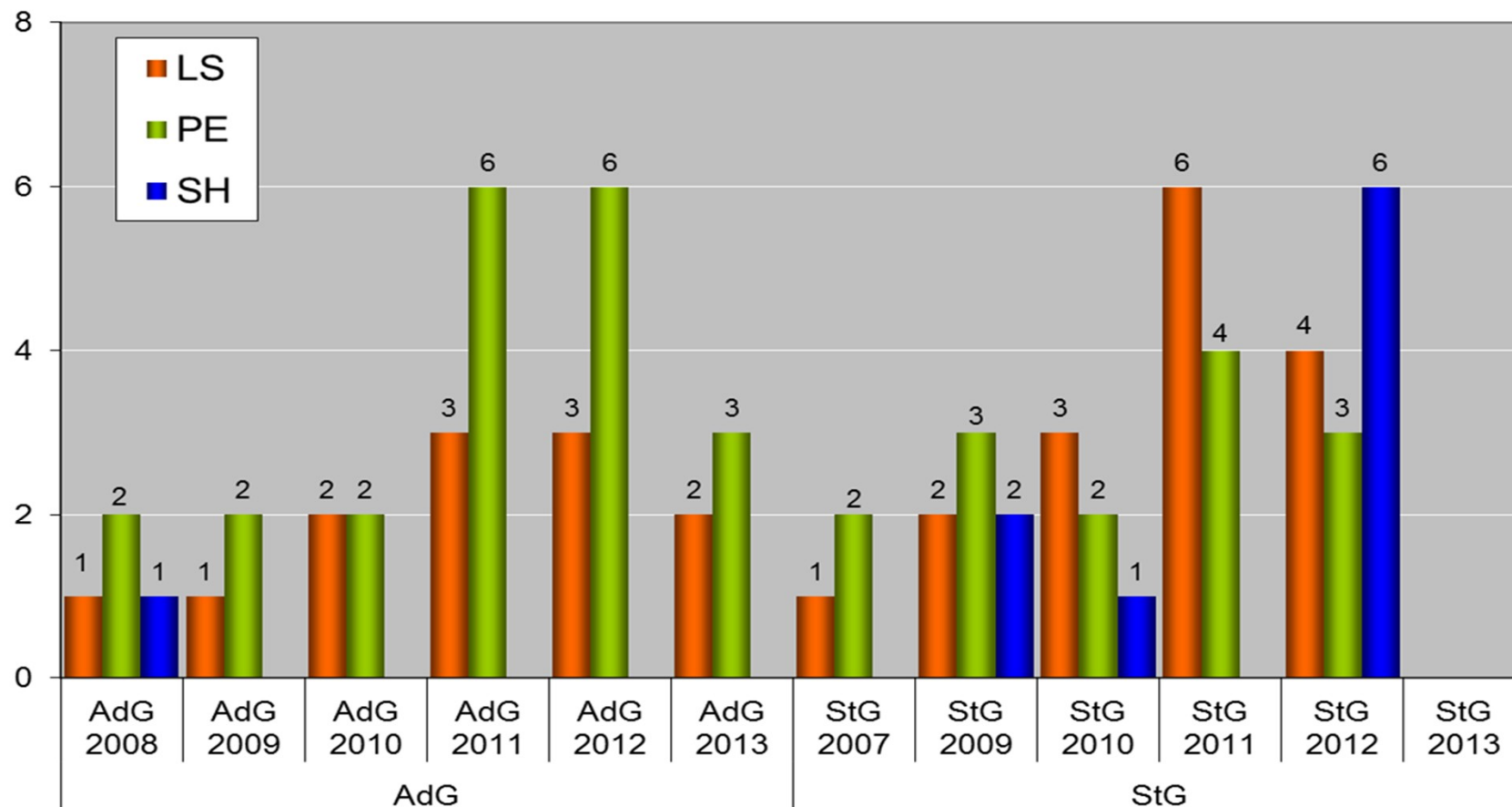
Success rates per domain

ERC Starting Grant calls 2007-2013
ERC Advanced Grant calls 2008-2013

*) First legal signatories of the first grant agreement taken into account
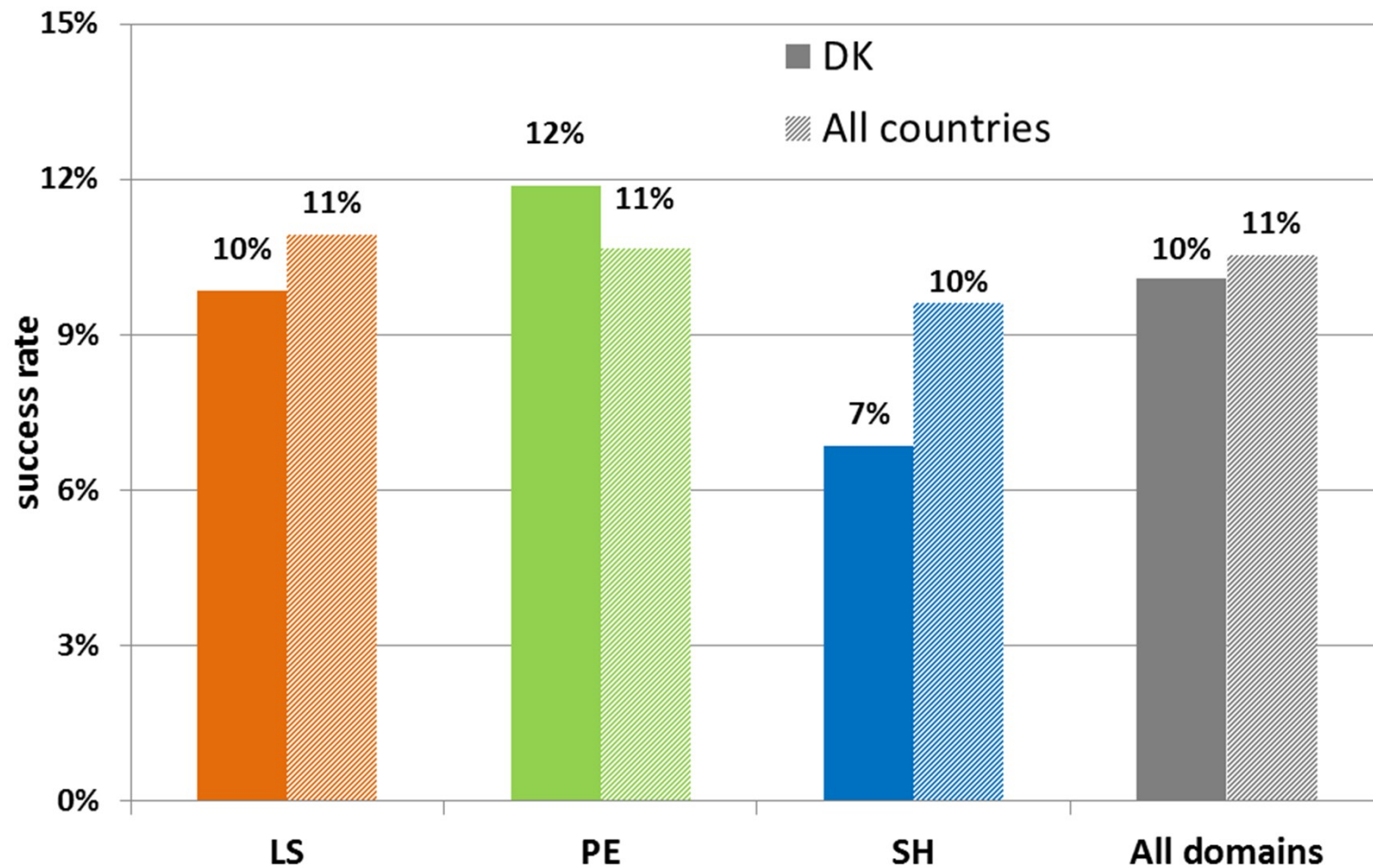
Granted proposals at HIs in Nordic countries

ERC Starting grant 2007 - 2013
ERC Advanced grant 2008 – 2013

* current host institutions; data as of 09/09/2013
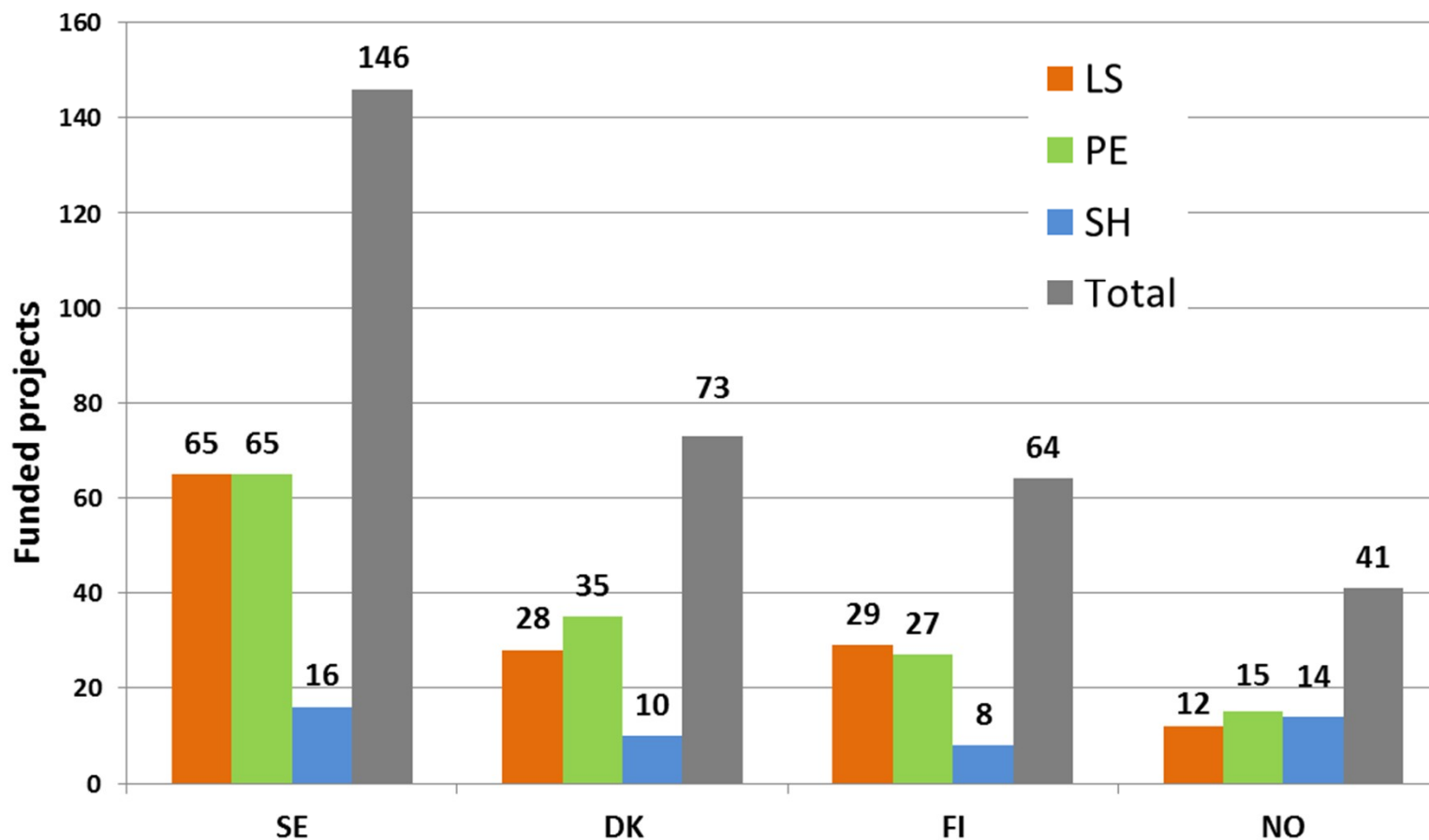
Success rates per country of Host Institution

ERC Starting grant calls 2007-2013
ERC Advanced grant calls 2008-2013

Success rates per country of HI

*) First legal signatories of the first grant agreement taken into account
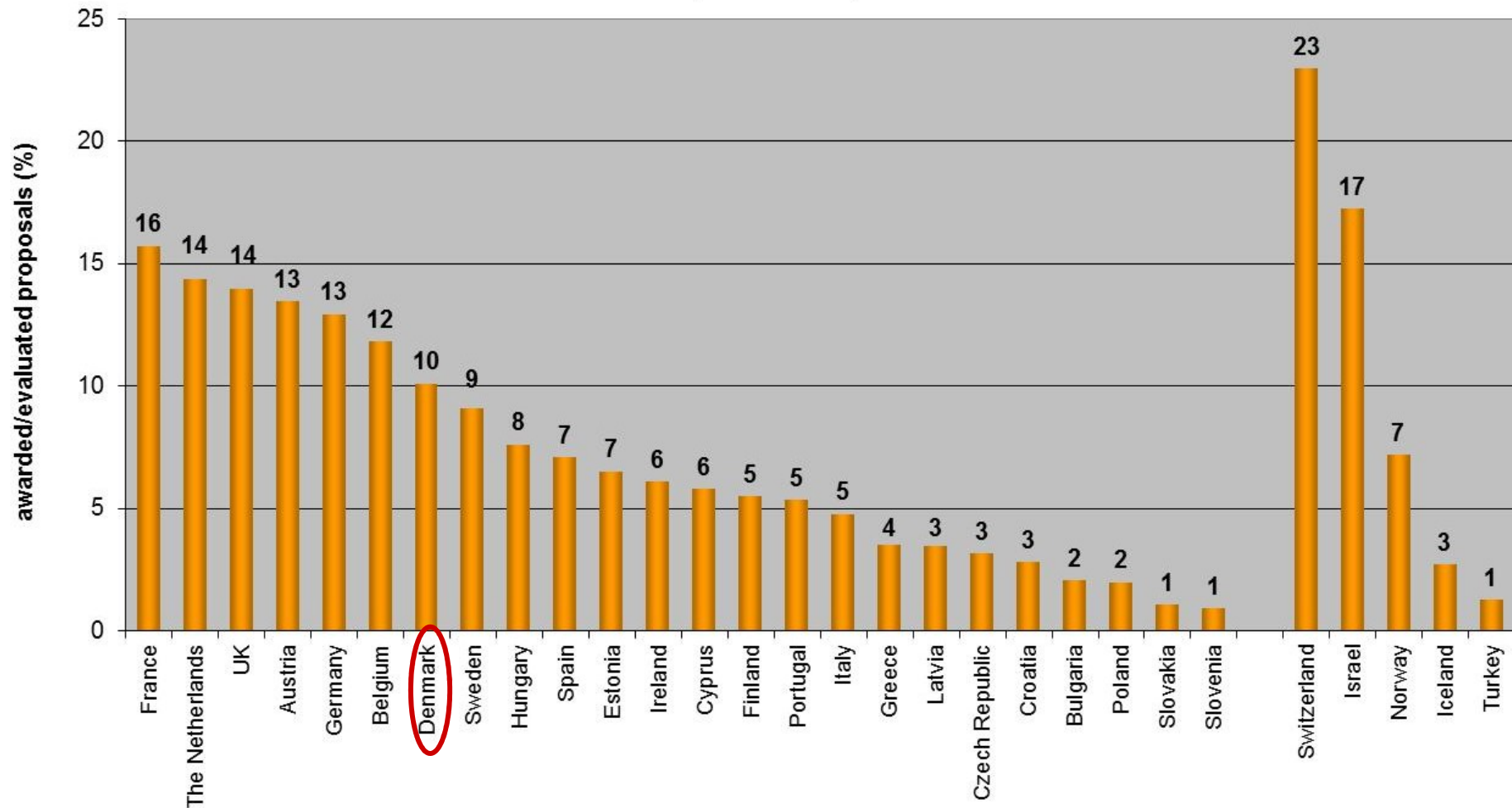
ERC grant distribution to countries of HI

ERC Starting grant calls 2007-2013
ERC Advanced grant calls 2008 -2013

*) Host institution refers to the organisation with which the first grant agreement was signed
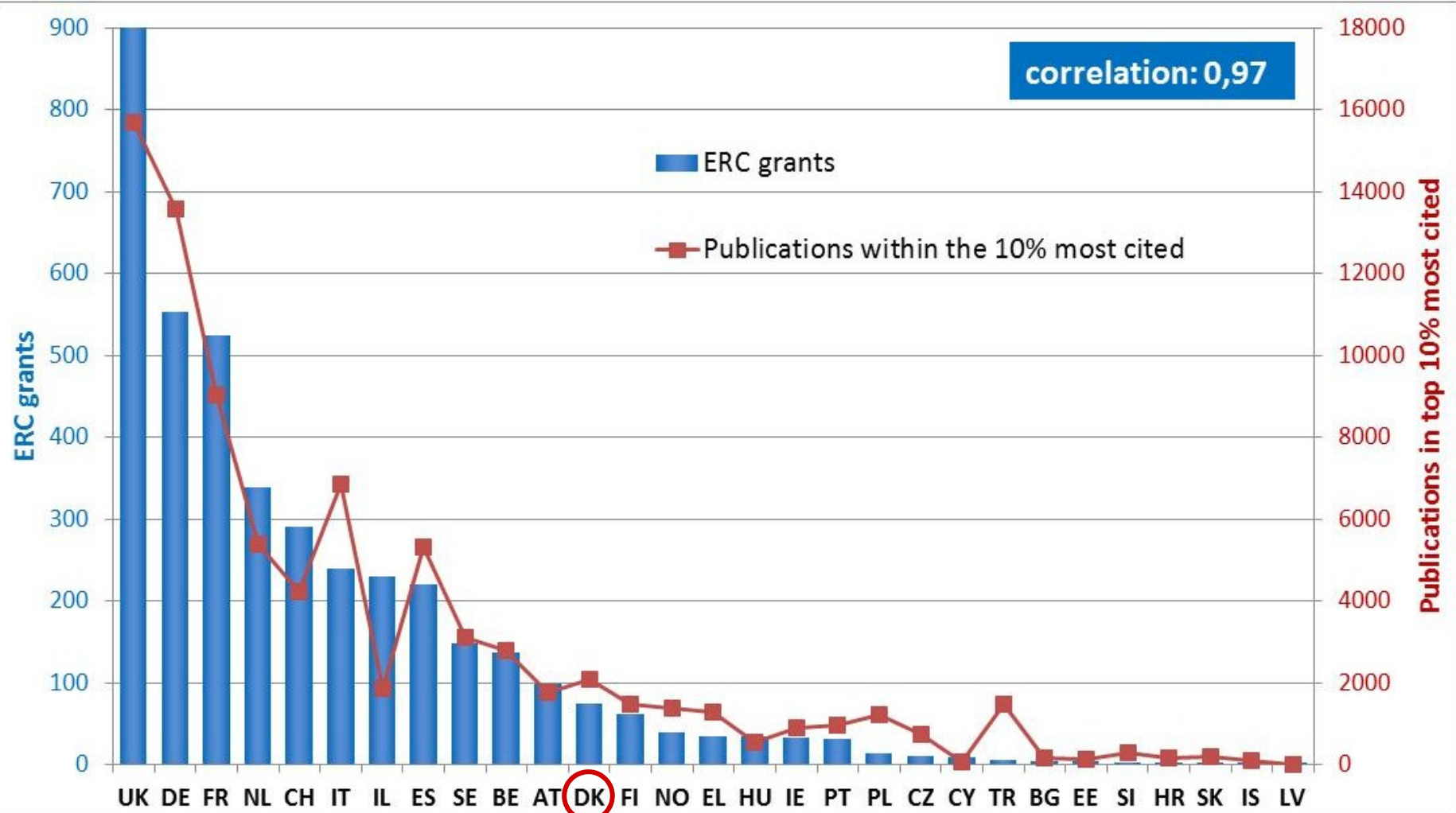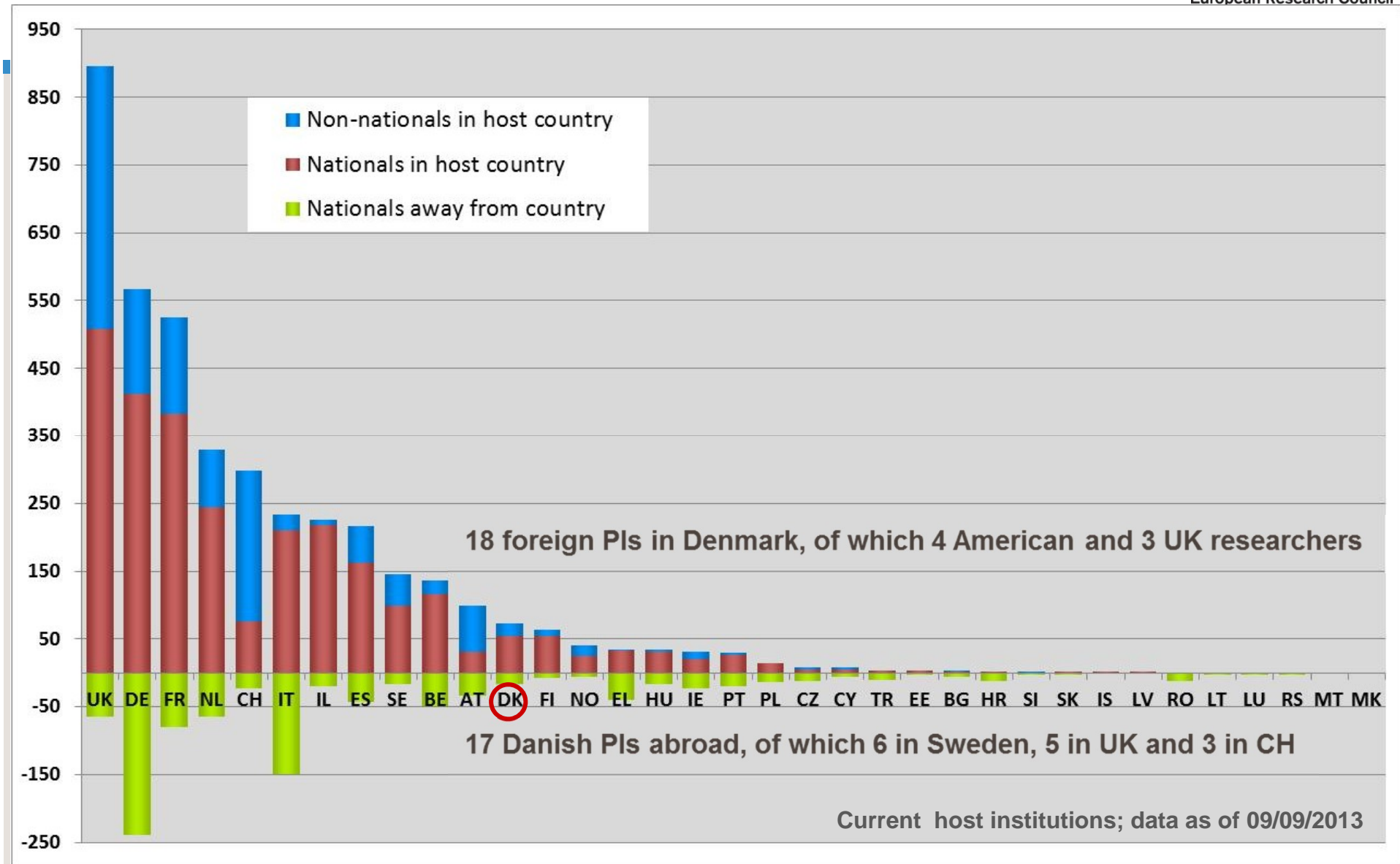
Mobility of researchers

ERC Starting Grant calls 2007-2013
ERC Advanced Grant calls 2008-2013

Host institutions in Denmark

ERC Starting grant 2007-2013
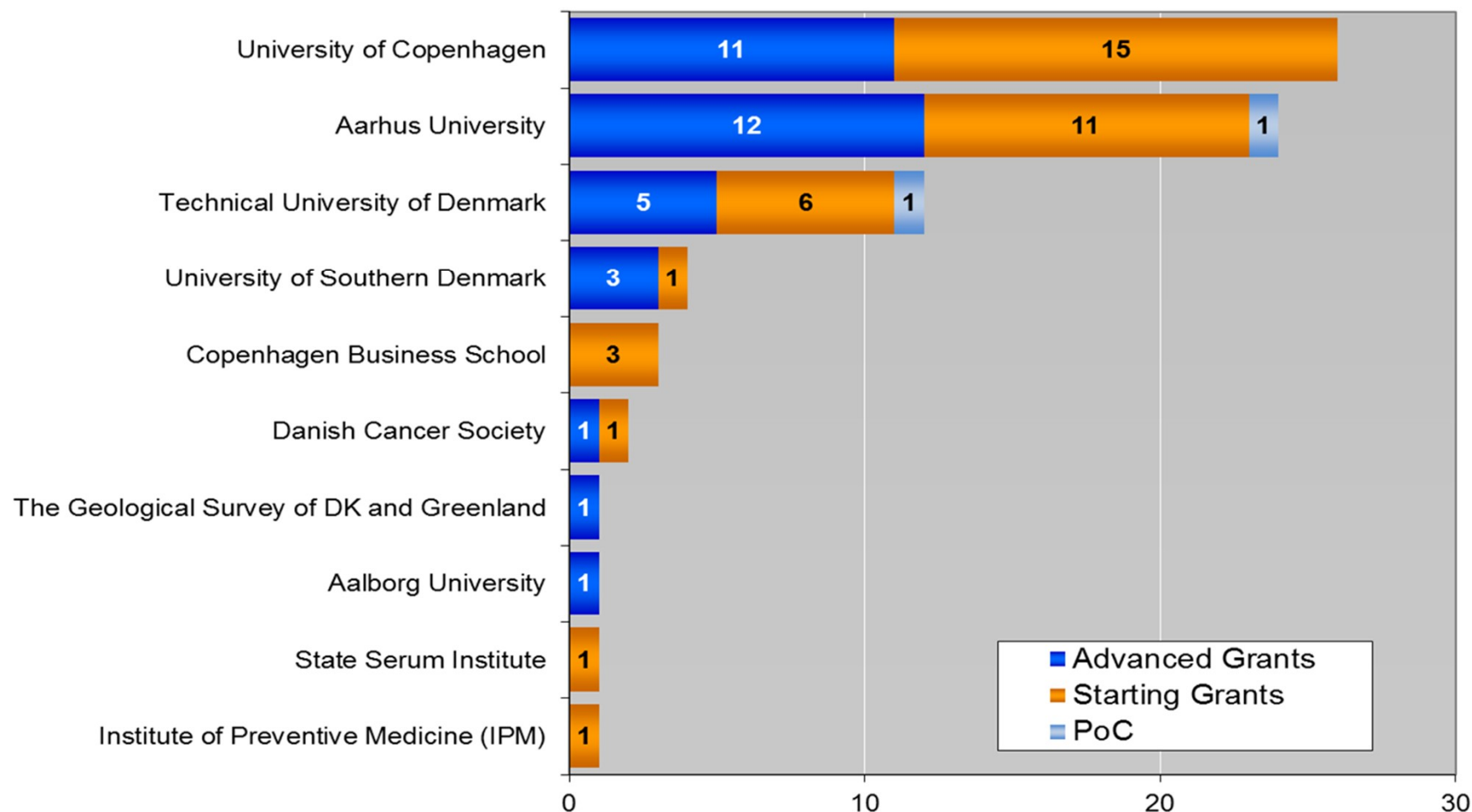ERC Advanced grant 2008 – 2013

Top host institutions in Nordic countries

ERC Starting grant 2007-2013
ERC Advanced grant 2008 – 2013
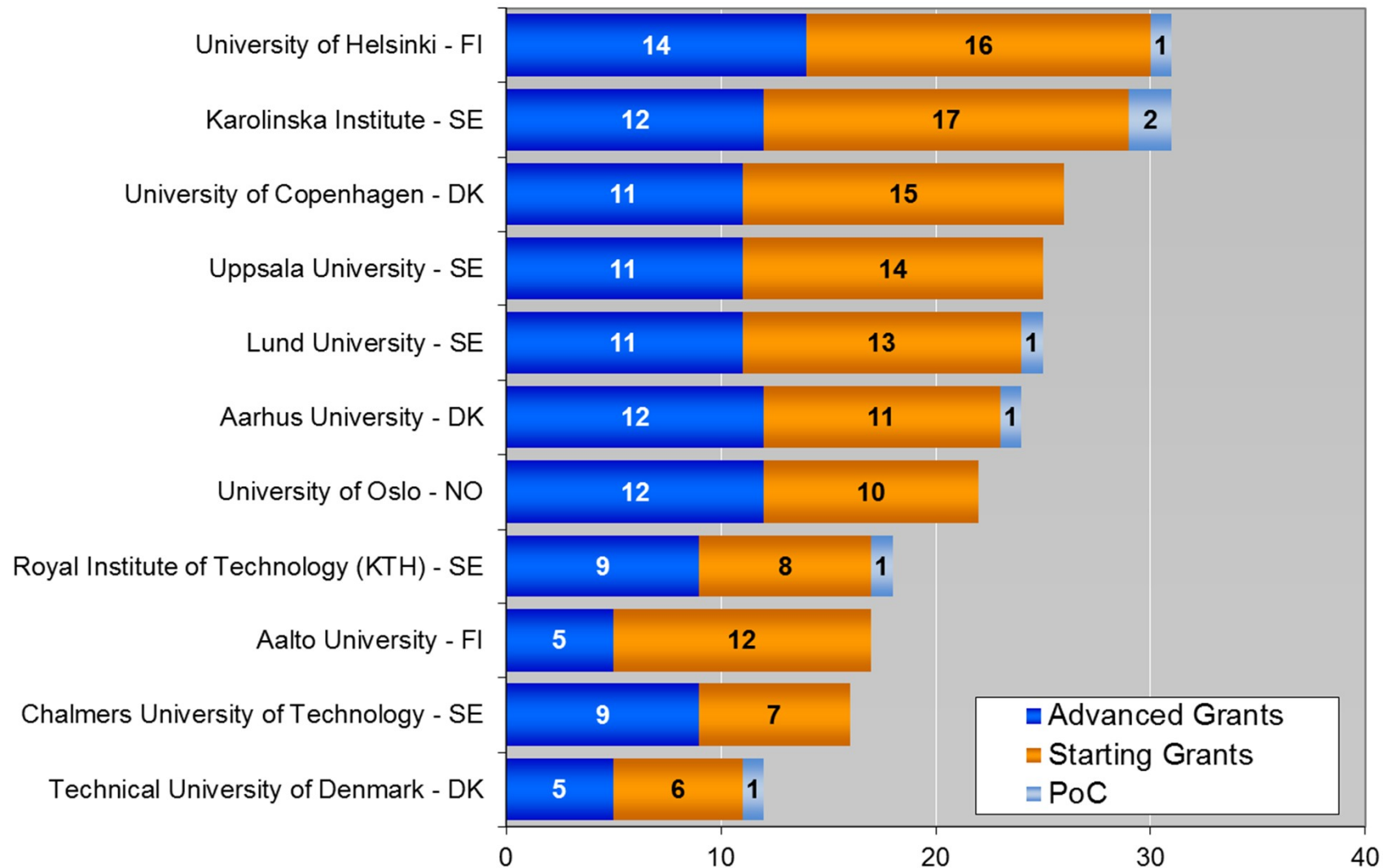
Current host institutions; data as of 09/09/2013

ERC in H2020

Work programme 2014, summary of main features

➢ **Indicative publication date of first calls : December 11, 2013**

➢ **Three ERC frontier research grants will be available under Work Programme 2014: Starting; Consolidator; and Advanced Grants**

➢ The Scientific Council will analyse the pilot phase of the **ERC Synergy Grant** (calls were made under Work Programmes 2012 and 2013) before deciding on the scope and timing of future calls. No SyG call under Work Programme 2014

➢ **Extension of restrictions on applications will apply to the 2015 calls based on the outcome of the evaluation of the 2014 calls**

➢ **ERC Principal Investigators will also continue to be able to apply for the Proof of Concept Grant, first introduced in 2011**

➢ **Overhead: 25%**

➢ **Indicative budget for 2015 to help the research community to plan applications**
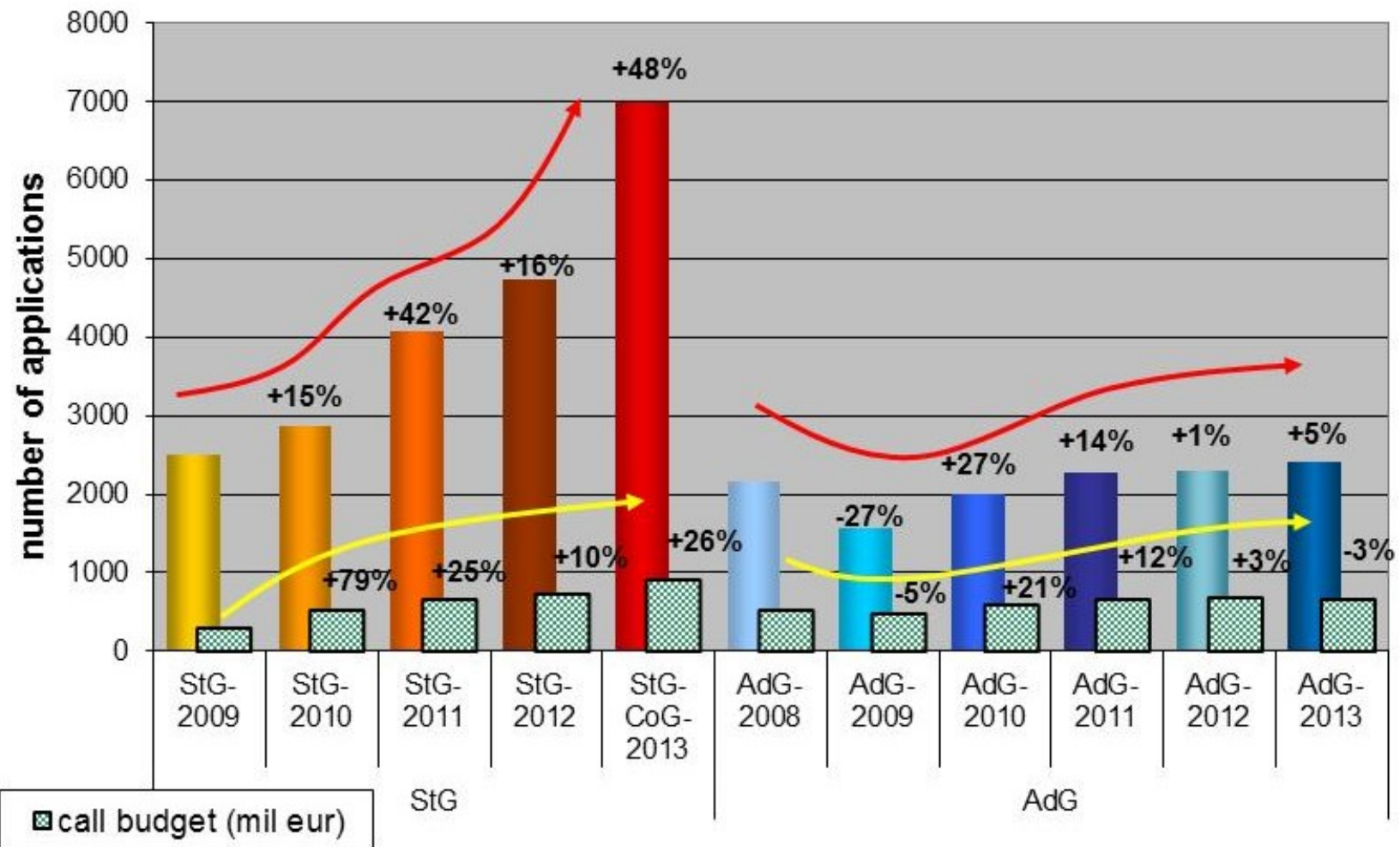
ERC prospects for the future

Rising applications

2014 Resubmission restrictions

- Increasing number applications causes low success rates and high panel workload

- Currently 2013 applicants who received "C" at step 1 cannot resubmit in 2014

- For 2014 applicants, tighter resubmission rules can be expected:

    ○ those who receive B (Step 1 or Step 2) have to wait out one year

    ○ those who receive a C will have to wait out two years

ERC in H2020
Work program 2014, indicative planning

Starting Grants ERC-2014-StG	485 M€	11 December 2013	25 March 2014
Consolidator Grants ERC-2014-CoG	713 M€	11 December 2013	20 May 2014
Advanced Grants ERC-2014-AdG	450 M€	17 June 2014	21 October 2014
Proof of Concept ERC-2014-PoC	15 M€	11 December 2013	DL1: 1 April 2014 DL2: 1 Oct. 2014

* Pending the adoption of the WP 2014

ERC – Further Information

More information on

http://erc.europa.eu

Support to applicants

http://erc.europa.eu/national-contact-points

To subscribe to ERC newsletter and newsalerts

http://erc.europa.eu/keep-updated-erc

Follow us on

https://www.facebook.com/EuropeanResearchCouncil

https://twitter.com/ERC_Research

Thank you !

Questions?

Contacts:

ERC-2014-STG-APPLICANTS@ec.europa.eu

ERC-2014-COG-APPLICANTS@ec.europa.eu

ERC-2014-ADG-APPLICANTS@ec.europa.eu

Line-Fredslund.Volkers@ec.europa.eu

ERC Starting and Consolidator Grants – Evaluation Questions - Project

1. Research Project

Ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility

Starting, Consolidator and Advanced

Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project

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 across disciplines)?

To what extent is the proposed research high risk/high gain?

Scientific Approach

To what extent is the outlined scientific approach feasible (based on the Extended Synopsis)?

To what extent is the proposed research methodology appropriate to achieve the goals of the project (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?

To what extent does the proposal involve the development of novel methodology (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?

To what extent are the proposed timescales and resources necessary and properly justified (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?

ERC Starting and Consolidator Grants – Evaluation Questions - PI

2. Principal Investigator

Intellectual capacity, creativity and commitment

Starting and Consolidator

Intellectual capacity and creativity

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

To what extent does the PI provide evidence of creative independent thinking?

To what extent have the achievements of the PI typically gone beyond the state-of-the-art?

Commitment

To what extent does the PI demonstrate the level of commitment to the project necessary for its execution and the willingness to devote a significant amount of time to the project (min 50% of the total working time on it and min 50% in an EU Member State or Associated Country) (based on the full Scientific Proposal).