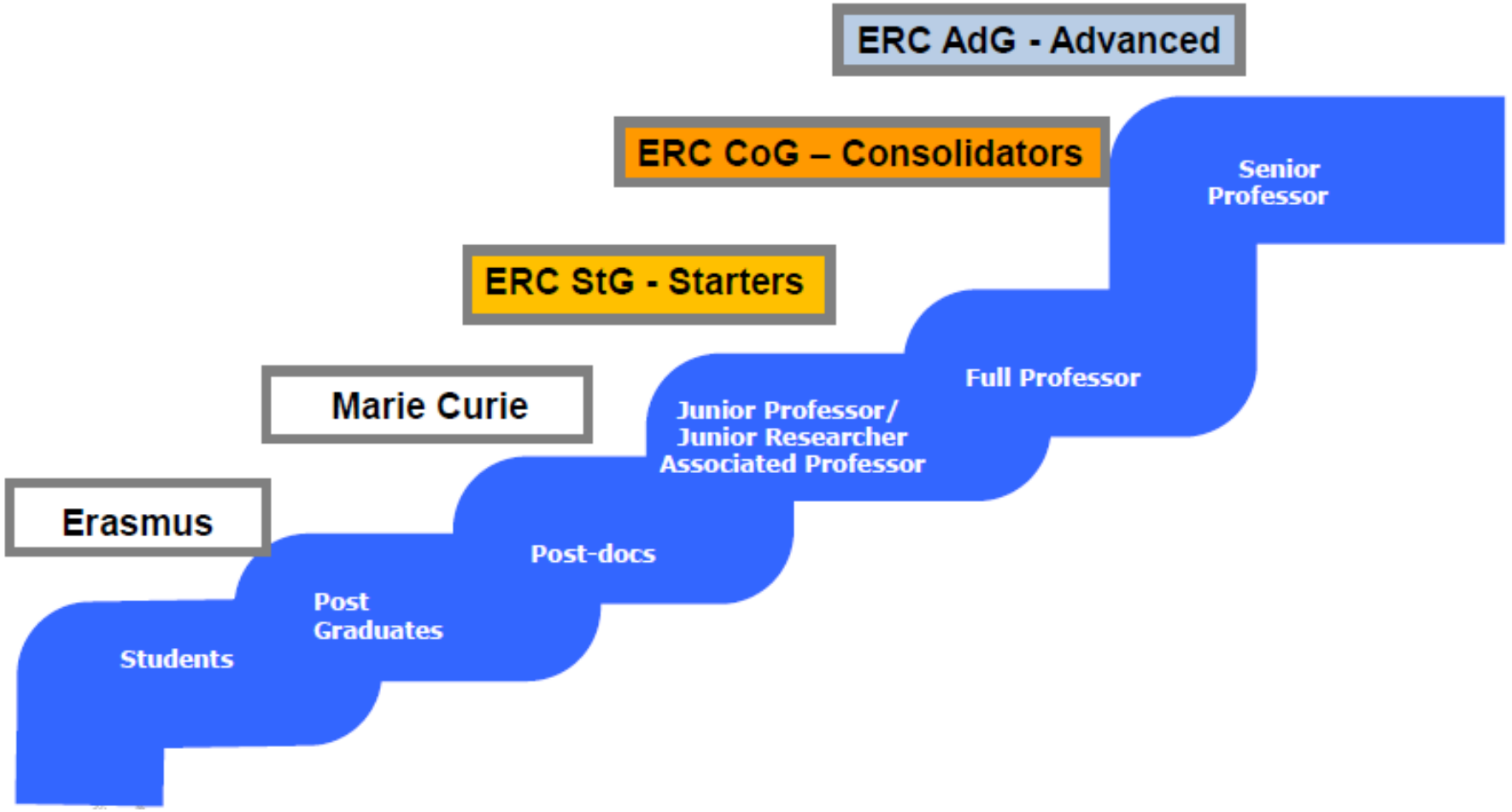
European Research Council
Funding and Grants

Sumathi Subramaniam
Forskningsadministrativavdelingen

ERC Strategic Principles: What is special about the ERC?

- **All fields of science and scholarship are eligible**
  - Investigator-driven, bottom-up
- **Scientific Excellence is the only criterion**
  - Individual team + research project
  - Irrespective of nationality, gender or age of researchers
- **Investment in research talent**
  - Attractive, flexible grants, up to five years
  - Under control of the Principal Investigator
- **Independent individual teams in Europe**
  - All nationalities can apply
  - Host organisation to be located in EU or Associated Country
- **Portability of grants**

Researchers career development and complementary funding schemes



ERC Grant Schemes

Starting Grants
2-7 years after PhD

up to € 1.5 million
(additional € 0.5 million)

Duration: up to 5 years

Consolidator Grants
7- 12 years after PhD

up to € 2.0 million
(additional € 0.75 million)

Duration: up to 5 years

Advanced Grants
Track record of significant achievements
in the last 10 years

up to € 2.5million
(additional € 1.0 million)

Duration: up to 5 years

Proof-of-Concept
Bridging gap between research – earliers stage of marketable innovation
up to € 150, 000 for ERC grant holders

Duration: up to 18 months

Synergy Grants

up to € 15 million

Duration: up to 6 years

100% of the total eligible, direct costs; 25% flat-rate indirect costs
Can re-budget as necessary during project implementation

Eligible Principle Investigator

	Starting Grant	Consolidator Grant	Advanced Grant
Specific Eligibility Criteria	Principal Investigator shall have been awarded his/her first PhD ≥ 2 and ≤ 7 years prior to 1 January 20xx	Principal Investigator shall have been awarded his/her first PhD > 7 and ≤ 12 years prior to 1 January 20xx	none

Extension of eligibility window:

Maternity
Paternity
Long-term illness (>90 days), clinical training, national service

ERC Grant Schemes

Starting Grants
2-7 years after PhD

at least one important publication without the participation of their PhD supervisor.

significant publications
(as main author)

Consolidator Grants
7- 12 years after PhD

several important publication without the participation of their PhD supervisor.

significant publications
(as main author)

Advanced Grants

track record of significant research achievements
in the last 10 years

Examples of evaluator comments from the Evaluation Summary Reports

Establishment or consolidation of independence:
There is no evidence of independence or of independent postdoctoral training since (with exception of two co-authorships from her undergraduate work) her PhD supervisor is senior or co-senior author on all of her publications.

Establishment or consolidation of independence:
The PI is in transition to group leader. However, since her career has been developing mostly in the same Centre, some doubts arise about her independence

The PIs track record is good but not outstanding. The project is good and important, but it rests largely on methods already developed rather than on truly novel approaches.

The scientific performance of the PI as reflected by his list of publications and scientific achievements is not sufficient to be competitive.

ERC Grant Schemes

Starting Grants
2-7 years after PhD

minimum 50%
working time
on ERC project

minimum of 50%
working time
in an EU Member State
or Associated Country.

Consolidator Grants
7- 12 years after PhD

minimum 50%*
working time
on ERC project

minimum of 50%
working time
in an EU Member State
or Associated Country.

Advanced Grants

minimum 30%
working time
on ERC project

minimum of 50%
working time
in an EU Member State
or Associated Country

* 40% from 2015

Proposal Description (single submission of full proposal)

A	B1	B2	Other Uploads
Proposal info ***Host Institution info*** ***PI info*** ***PI Department info*** ***Total Budget*** ***Consent*** ***Ethics Review Table***	***Extended Synopsis:*** ***5 pages*** ***Curriculum Vitae:*** ***2 pages*** ***Funding ID :*** ***no page limit*** ***Track Record:*** ***2 pages***	***Scientific Proposal including costings table:*** ***15 pages***	***Host Institution Binding Statement of Support*** ***Copy of PhD and supporting documentation for eligibility checking*** (for Starting and Consolidator Grants only). **Ethical Issues Annex:** **no page limit**

Evaluation Criteria

Excellence as sole criterion, to apply to:

Research Project

- ➔ Ground breaking nature
  - ➔ **Looking for High-risk/ High-gain research**
- ➔ Potential impact
- ➔ Scientific Approach

Principle Investigator (PI)

- ➔ Intellectual capacity
- ➔ Creativity

ERC Evaluation Panel Structure (StG, CoG, AdG): 25 panels x 2

Each panel :
Panel Chair and
10-15 Panel Members

Life Sciences (LS) → 9

LS1 Molecular & Structural Biology & Biochemistry

LS2 Genetics, Genomics, Bioinformatics & Systems Biology

LS3 Cellular & Developmental Biology

LS4 Physiology, Pathophysiology & Endocrinology

LS5 Neurosciences & Neural disorders

LS6 Immunity & Infection

LS7 Diagnostic Tools, Therapies & Public health

LS8 Evolutionary, Population & Environmental Biology

LS9 Applied Life Sciences & Non-Medical Biotechnology

Social Sciences and Humanities (SH) → 6

SH1 Markets, Individuals & Institutions

SH2 The Social World, Diversity & Common Ground

SH3 Environment, Space & Population

SH4 The Human Mind and its Complexity

SH5 Cultures & Cultural Production

SH6 The Study of the Human Past

Physical Sciences & Engineering (PE) → 10

PE1 Mathematics

PE2 Fundamental Constituents of Matter

PE3 Condensed Matter Physics

PE4 Physical & Analytical Chemical sciences

PE5 Synthetic Chemistry & Materials

PE6 Computer Science & Informatics

PE7 Systems & Communication Engineering

PE8 Products & Process Engineering

PE9 Universe Sciences

PE10 Earth System Science

Panel Descriptors - examples

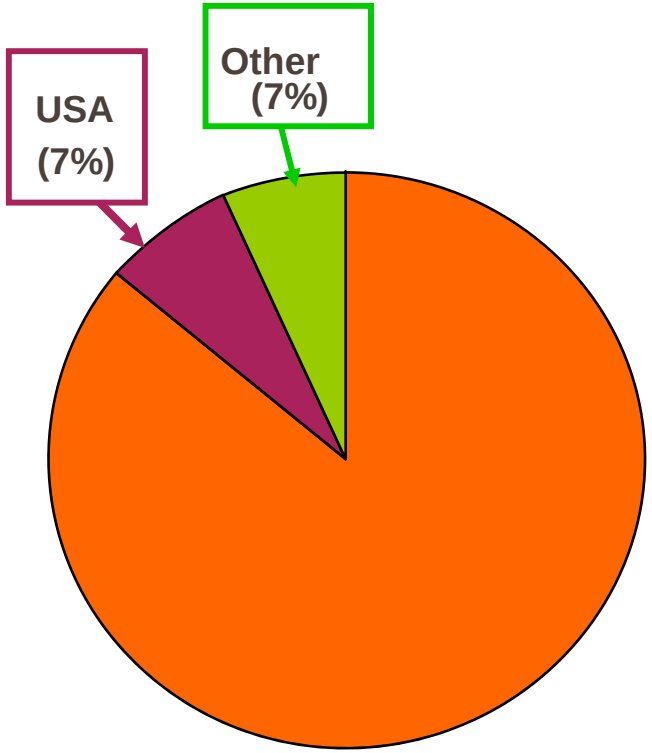
- **SH2 The Social World, Diversity and Common Ground:** Sociology, social anthropology, political science, law, communication, science and technology studies
- SH2_1 Social structure, inequalities, social mobility
- SH2_2 Diversity and identities, gender, interethnic relations
- SH2_3 Social policies, welfare and educational systems
- SH2_4 Democratisation, social movements, social integration
- SH2_5 Political systems and institutions, governance
- SH2_6 Conflict and conflict resolution, violence
- SH2_7 Legal studies, constitutions, human rights, comparative law
- SH2_8 International relations, global and transnational governance
- SH2_9 Communication and information, networks, media
- SH2_10 Social studies of science and technology

PE10 Earth System Science: Physical geography, geology, geophysics, atmospheric sciences, oceanography, climatology, cryology, ecology, global environmental change, biogeochemical cycles, natural resources management

PE10_1 Atmospheric chemistry, atmospheric composition, air pollution
PE10_2 Meteorology, atmospheric physics and dynamics
PE10_3 Climatology and climate change
PE10_4 Terrestrial ecology, land cover change
PE10_5 Geology, tectonics, volcanology
PE10_6 Palaeoclimatology, palaeoecology
PE10_7 Physics of earth's interior, seismology, volcanology
PE10_8 Oceanography (physical, chemical, biological, geological)
PE10_9 Biogeochemistry, biogeochemical cycles, environmental chemistry
PE10_10 Mineralogy, petrology, igneous petrology, metamorphic petrology
PE10_11 Geochemistry, crystal chemistry, isotope geochemistry, thermodynamics
PE10_12 Sedimentology, soil science, palaeontology, earth evolution
PE10_13 Physical geography
PE10_14 Earth observations from space/remote sensing
PE10_15 Geomagnetism, palaeomagnetism
PE10_16 Ozone, upper atmosphere, ionosphere
PE10_17 Hydrology, water and soil pollution
PE10_18 Cryosphere, dynamics of snow and ice cover, sea ice, permafrosts and ice sheets

Who evaluates the proposals?

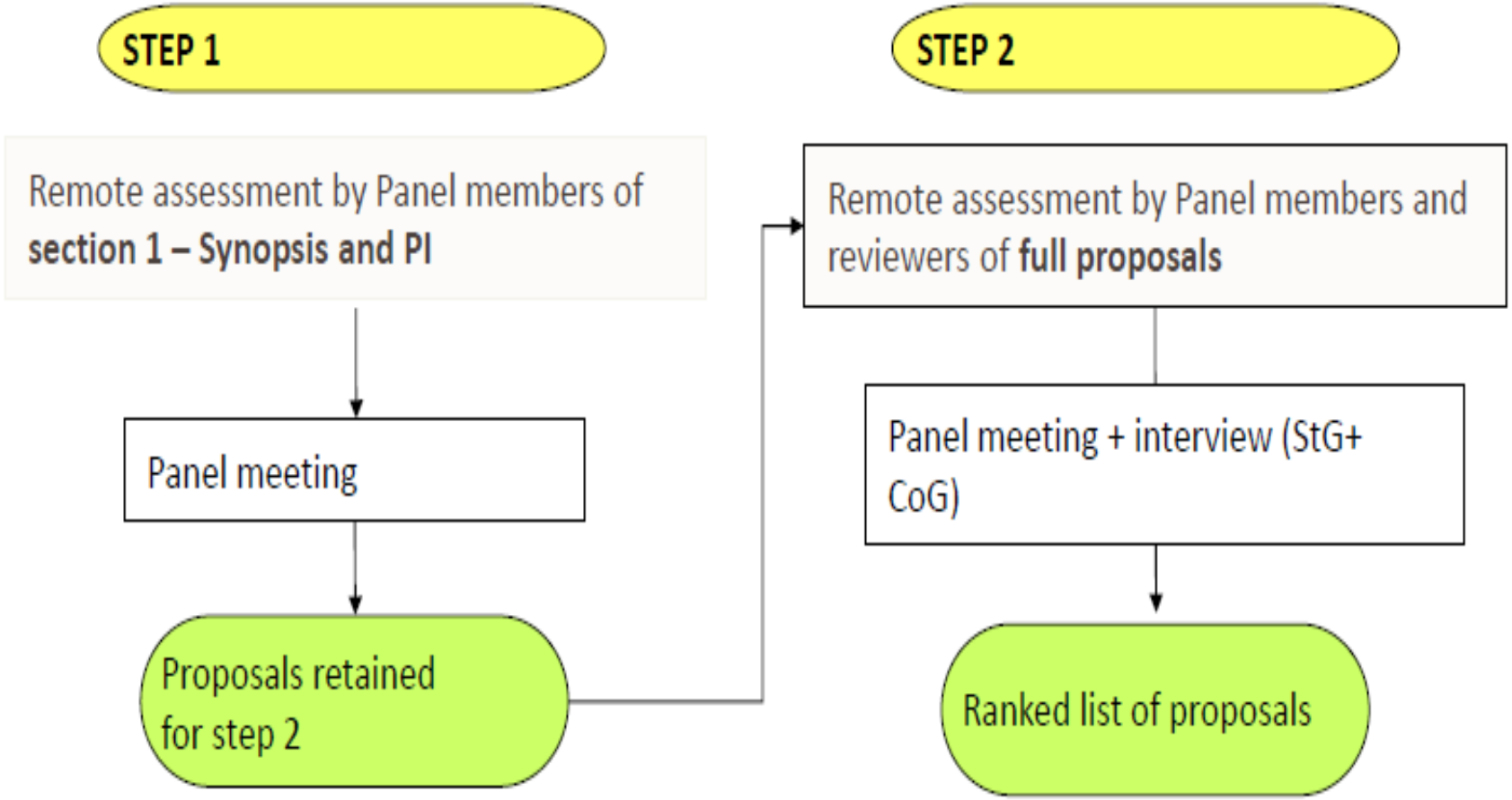
- **Panel members**: typically 600 PMs involved per call
  - ➔ High-level scientists
  - ➔ Recruited by ScC from all over the world
  - ➔ About 10-15 members plus chair person



- **Remote Referees**: typically 2000 / call
  - ➔ Each evaluate only a small number of proposals

Need to track down our UiB reviewers

Evaluation of Proposals



Resubmission restrictions

- Ever increasing number of applications causes low success rates and high panel workload
- New for 2014 call applicants:
  - those who receive a B (Step 1 or Step 2) have to wait out one year
  - those who receive a C will have to wait out two years
  - rule maintained in 2015

A researcher participating as Principal Investigator in an ERC frontier research project may not submit a proposal for another ERC frontier research grant, unless the existing project ends no more than two years after the call deadline.

A Principal Investigator who is a serving Panel Member for a 2014/2015 ERC call or who served as a Panel Member for a 2012/2013 ERC call may not apply to a 2014/2015 ERC call for the same type of grant.

Success rates

ERC FP7

	Total number of applications	of which		
		Evaluated*	Funded	success rates**
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
Consolidator Grant 2013	3,673	3,604	311	8.6
Starting and Consolidator Grant	**30,366**	**29,462**	**2,643**	**10.2**
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	291	12.3
Advanced Grant	**12,756**	**12,404**	**1,709**	**13.9**
Synergy Grant 2012	**710**	**697**	**11**	**1.6**
Synergy Grant 2013	**449**	**427**	**13**	**3.0**

ERC Statistics – Norway & UiB

NORWAY	Evaluated Grants (2007-2014)	Awarded Grants (2007-2013)
StG	415	17
CoG	87	1
AdG	183	24

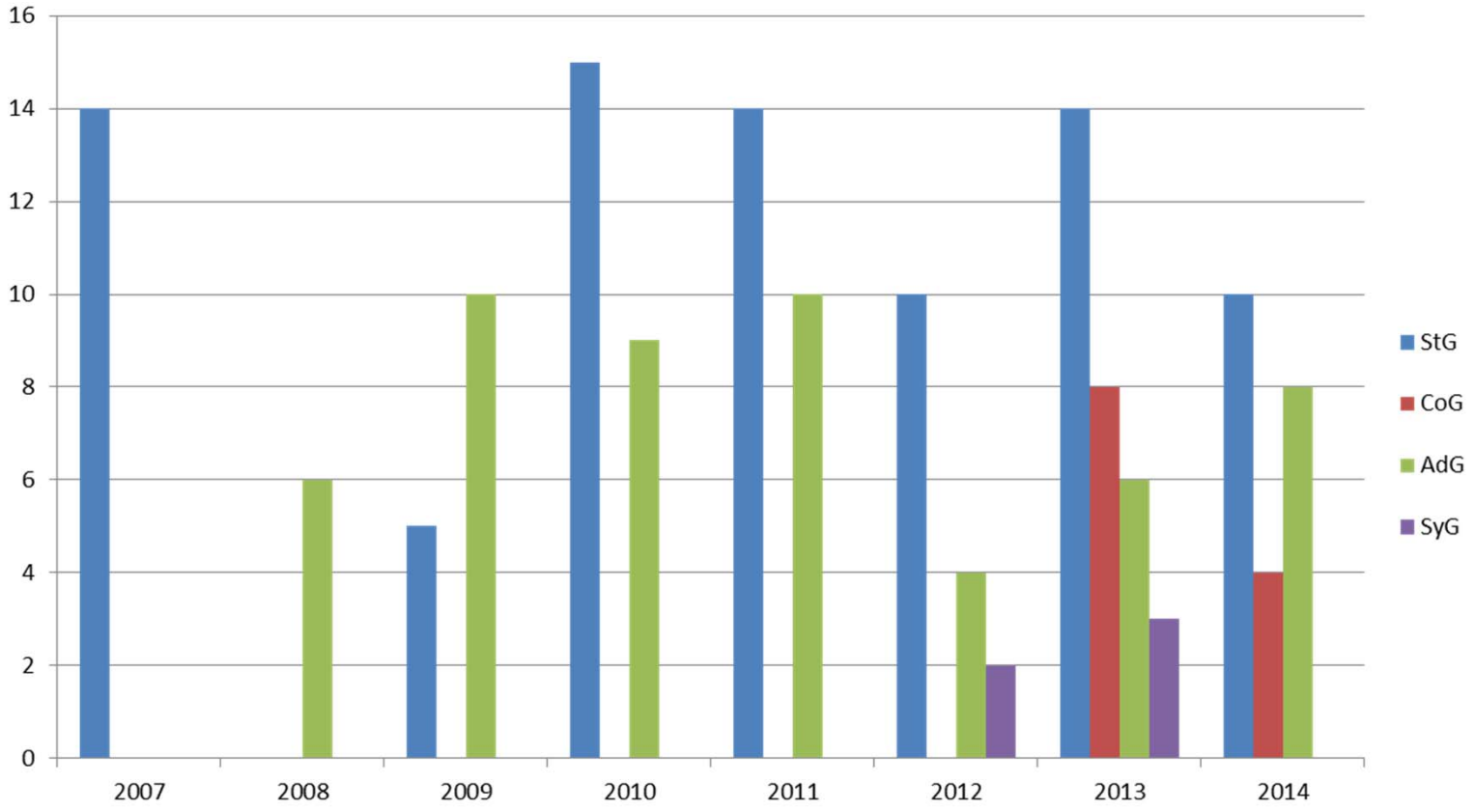
Awarded Grants (2007-2013)	UiB	UiO	NTNU	UiT	Norges Miljo – Og-Biovit Uni
StG	1 (+2)	10	3	2	1
CoG					
AdG	7	12	4	1	
SyG	1				

Necessary to strengthen capacity
i.e. build CVs of the young group leaders

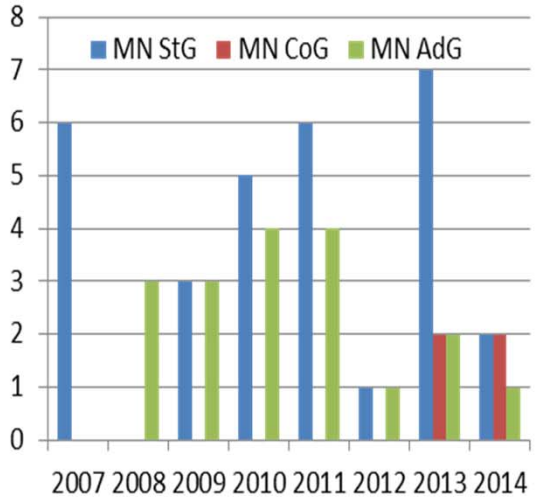
UiB	StG	CoG	AdG	SyG
Total applications (2007-2014)	78	12	53	5
Awards (2007-2013)	1 (+2)	0	7	1
Interviews (2007-2013)(2014)	14 (3)	(3)		

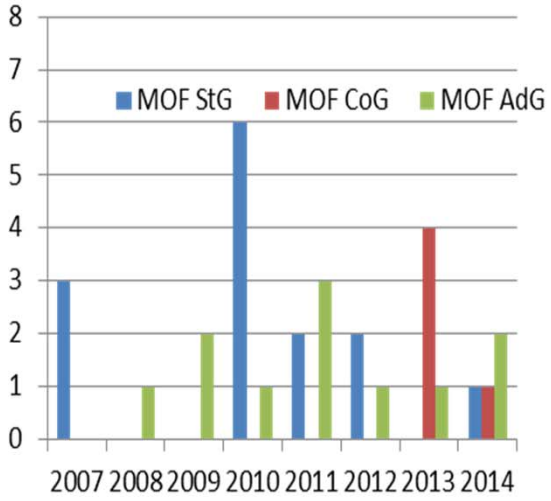
UiB ERC Statistics

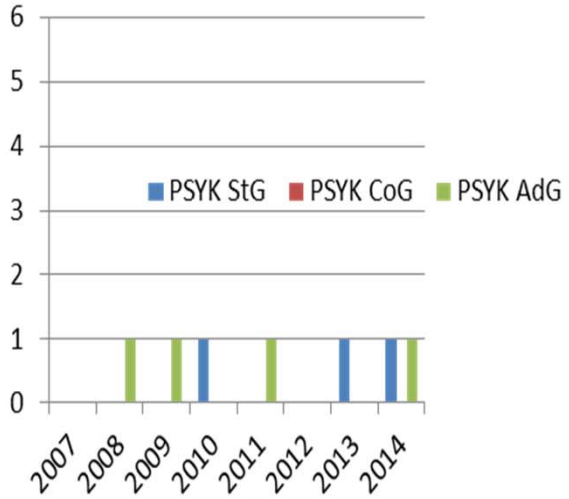
Total number of submissions/year

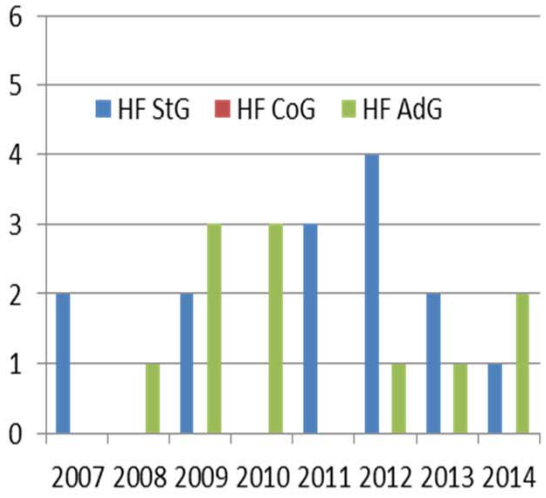


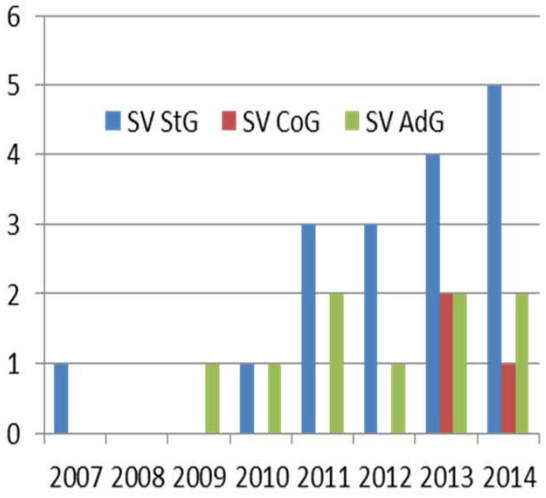
UiB: Submissions by Faculty



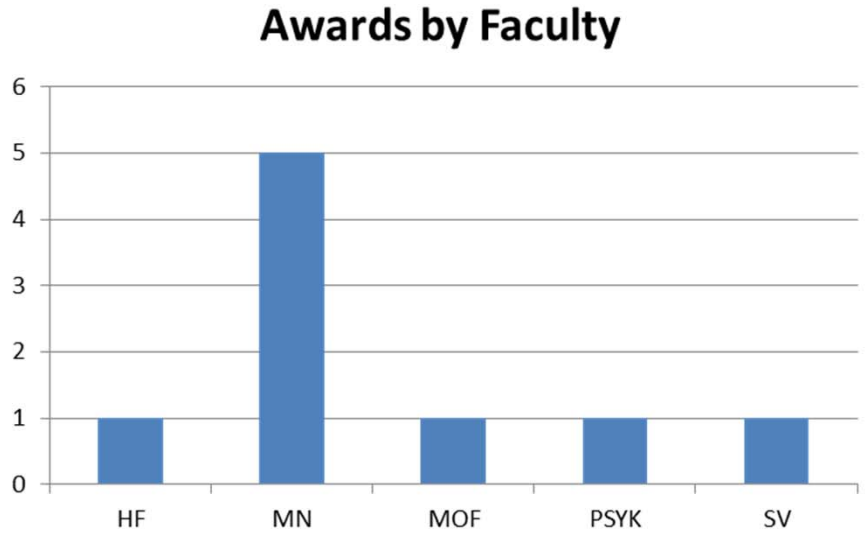


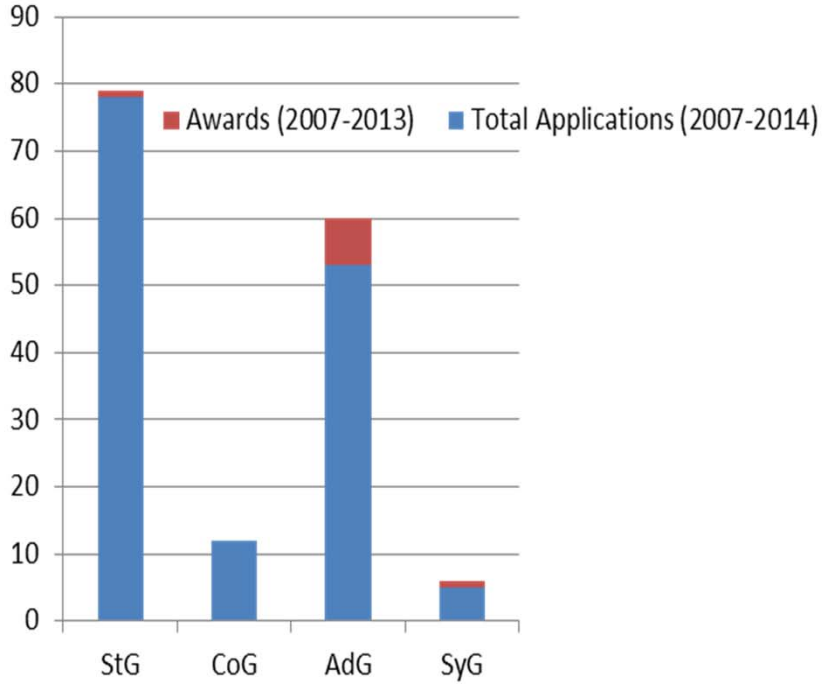


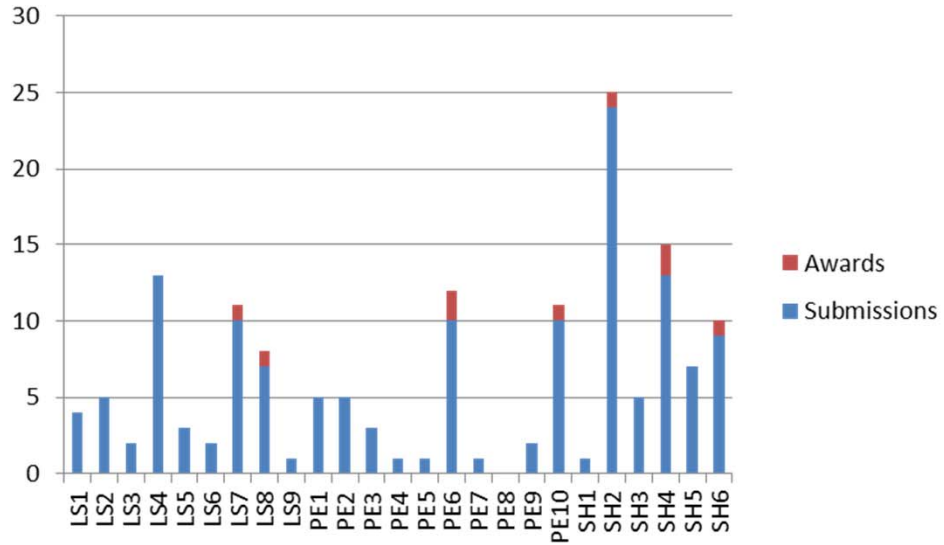




UiB: Awards

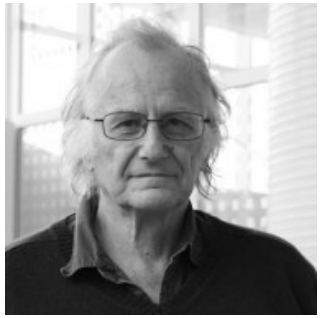






Submission to similar panels & implications for UiB researchers

Our pride and joy



Granted/Evaluated

Granting Scheme	Norway	Denmark	Sweden	Finland	The Netherlands
StG (2007-2013)	17/360 4.7%	40/490 8%	82/1185 6%	37/873 3%	192/1693 11%
CoG (2013)	1/55	6/76	10/127	4/115	28/261
AdG (2008-2013)	24/183 13%	34/243 14%	65/431 15%	23/364 6%	135/660 20%
SyG (2012-13)	1/14	-	-	-	5/57

Country	Higher-Education Institution	No	StG/CoG	AdG	Total	LS	PE	SH
UK	University of Oxford	1	63	58	121	37	51	33
UK	University of Cambridge	2	69	49	118	40	57	21
UK	University College London	3	55	30	85	34	18	33
CH	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH Zurich)	4	35	46	81	25	53	3
CH	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL)	5	44	36	80	23	55	2
IL	Weizmann Institute	6	51	28	79	45	33	1
IL	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	7	43	30	73	33	26	14
UK	Imperial College	8	34	27	61	23	38	
UK	University of Edinburgh	9	24	21	45	10	21	14
BE	University of Leuven	9	30	15	45	12	23	10
UK	University of Bristol	10	18	21	39	8	25	6
DE	University of Munich (LMU)	11	14	24	38	16	16	6
NL	University of Amsterdam	11	21	17	38	3	11	24
NL	Radboud University Nijmegen	12	25	12	37	14	11	12
NL	Leiden University	13	21	15	36	1	17	18
NL	Utrecht University	14	20	13	33	8	17	8
IL	Technion - Israel Institute of Technology	14	25	8	33	9	23	1
CH	University of Zurich	14	18	15	33	21	5	7
UK	King's College London	15	22	9	31	12	5	14
IL	Tel Aviv University	15	17	14	31	11	17	3
CH	University of Geneva	15	14	17	31	19	9	3
FI	University of Helsinki	16	16	14	30	21	7	2
SE	Karolinska Institute	16	18	12	30	28		2
Country	Research Organisation	No	StG	AdG	Total	LS	PE	SH
FR	National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS)	1	143	66	209	59	119	31
DE	Max Planck Society	2	65	45	110	58	45	7
FR	National Institute of Health and Medical Research (Inserm)	3	39	18	57	54	1	2
FR	French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission	4	34	9	43	7	35	1
ES	Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)	5	25	15	40	15	20	5
FR	National Institute for Research in Computer Science and Automatic Control (INRIA)	6	19	12	31		31	

Top European Institutions hosting at least 30 ERC Grantees by funding Schemes

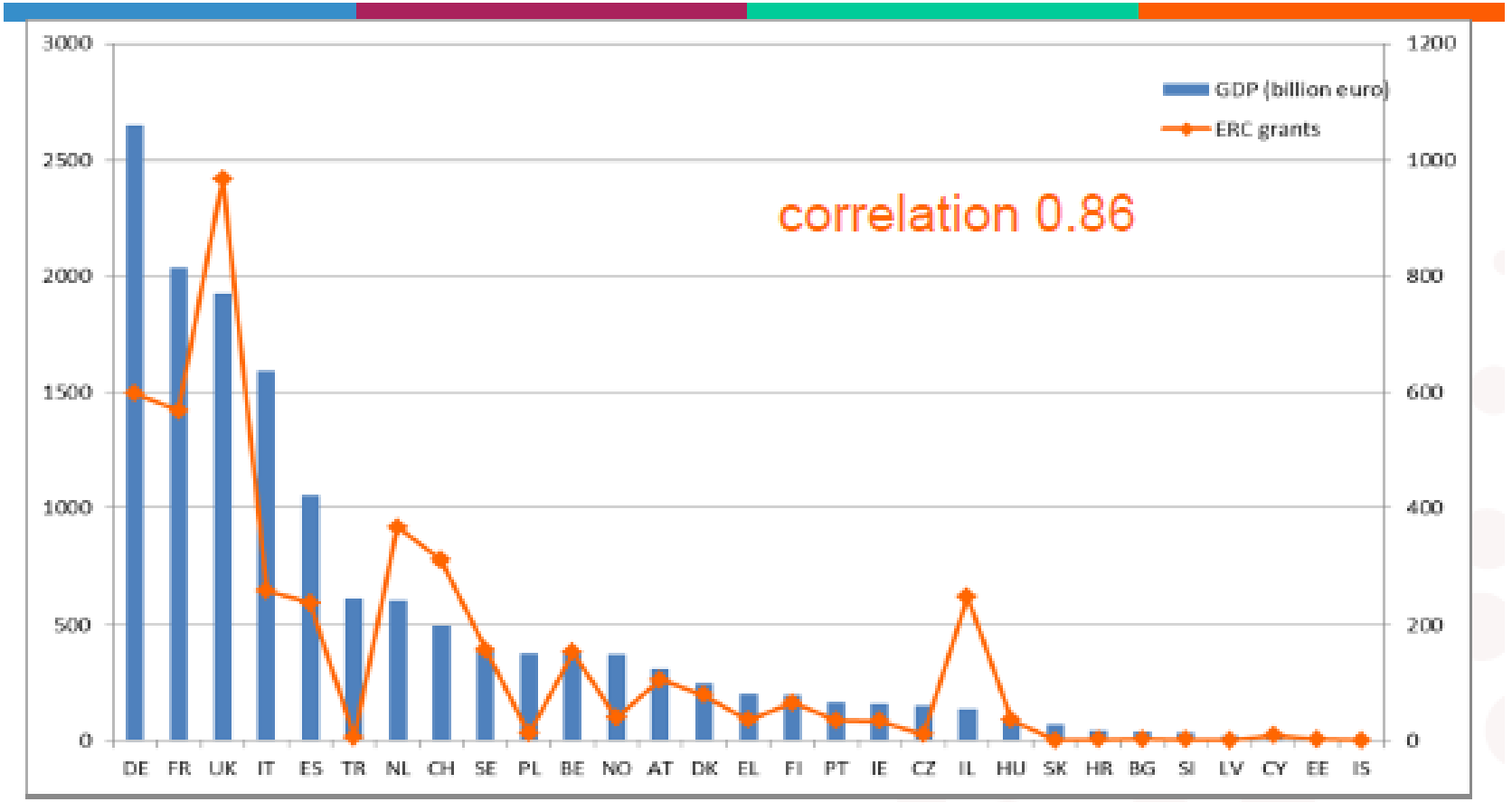
StG/CoG 2007-2013
AdG 2008-2013

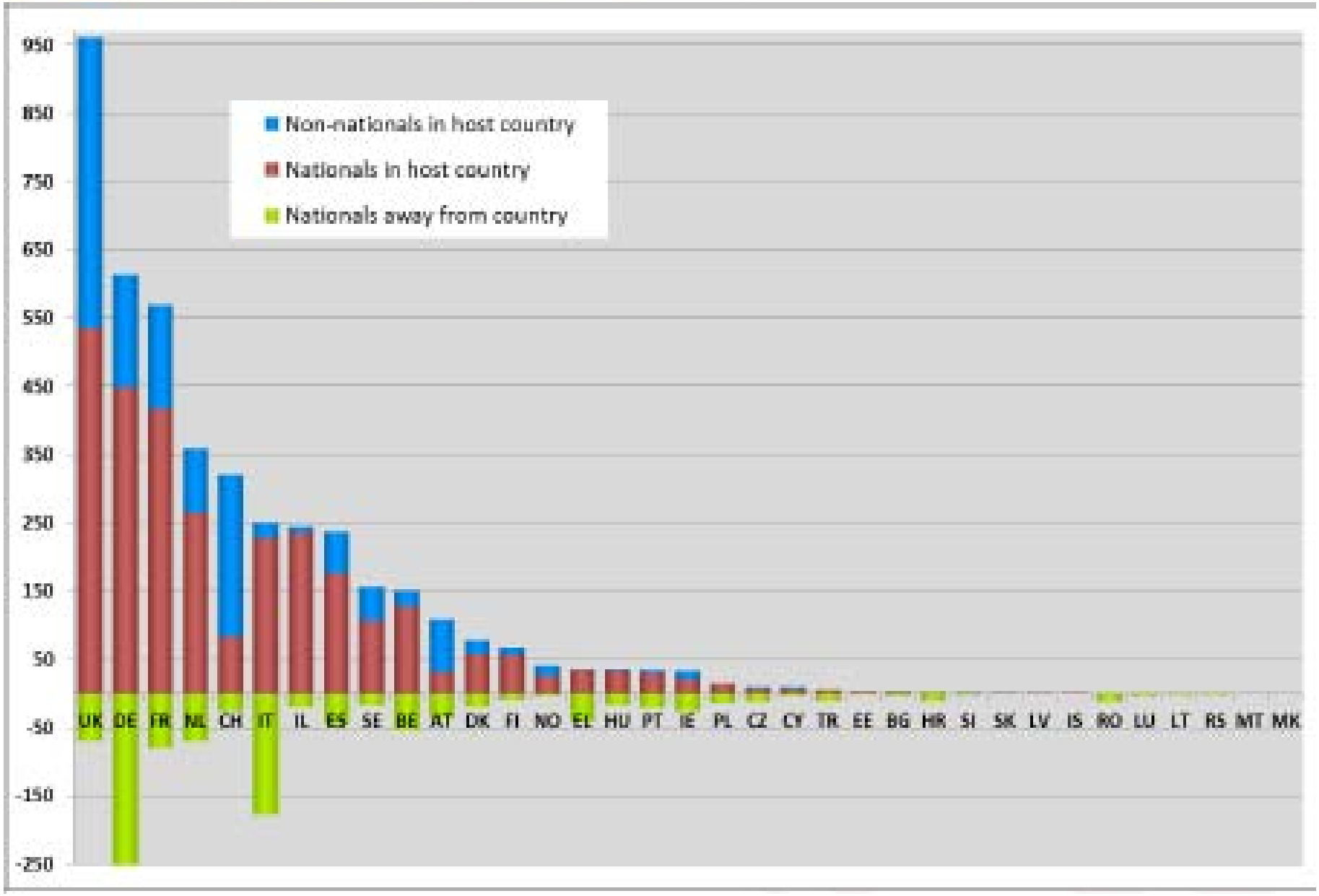
First legal signatories of the grant agreement

Data as of 11.2.2014

Grant Distribution vs R&D Spending

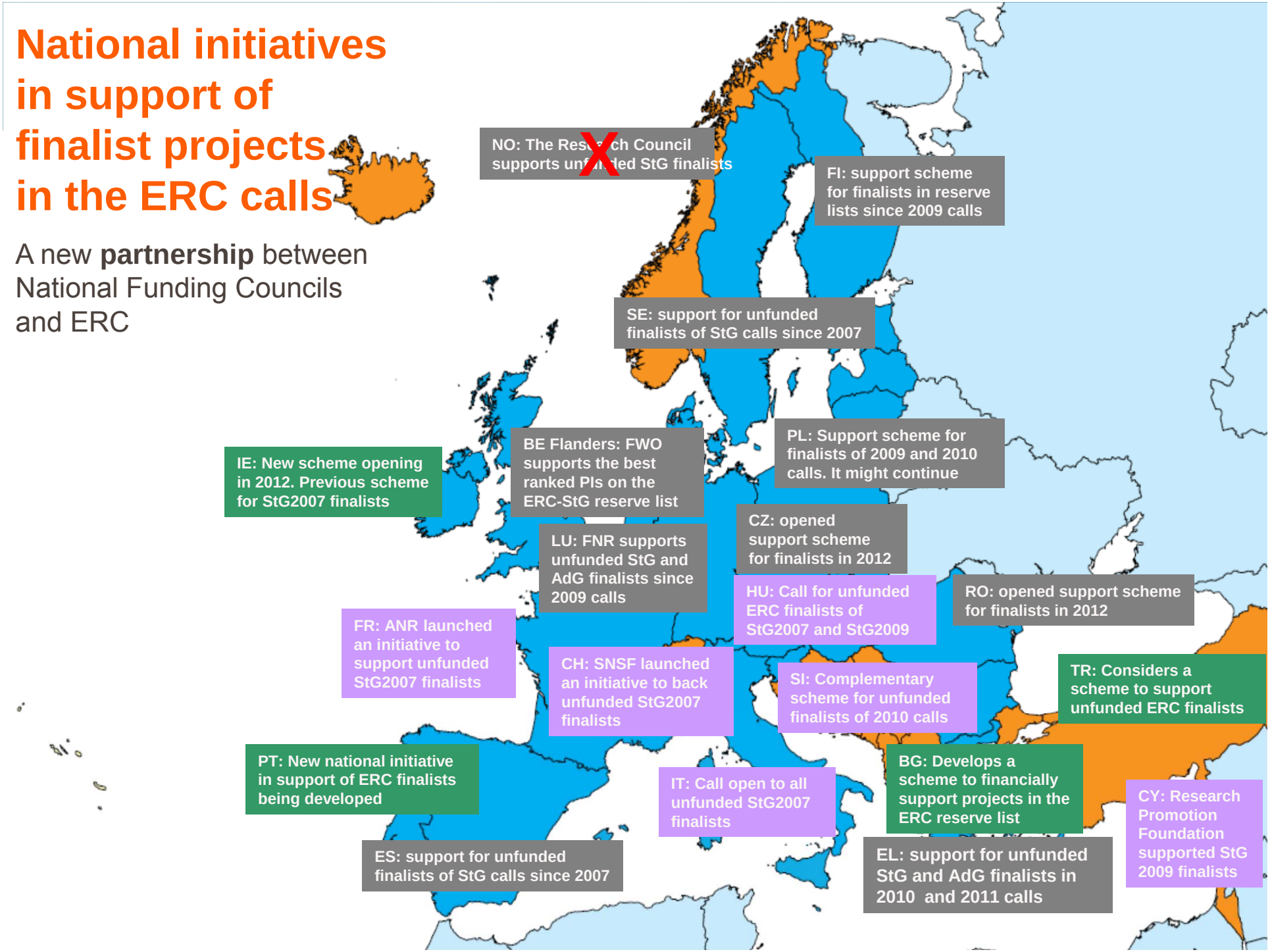
European Research Council
Established by the European Commission




950
850
750
650
550
450
350
250
150
50
-50
-150
-250
Non-nationals in host country
Nationals in host country
Nationals away from country
UK DE FR NL CH IT IL ES SE BE AT DK FI NO EL HU PT IE PL CZ CY TR EE BG HR SI SK LV IS RO LU LT RS MT MK

National initiatives in support of finalist projects in the ERC calls

A new **partnership** between National Funding Councils and ERC



Expected deadlines 2015

	Starting Grant	*Consolidator Grant*	*Advanced Grant*	*Proof of Concept Grant*
Call identifier	ERC-2015-StG	ERC-2015-CoG	ERC-2015-AdG	ERC-2015-PoC
Expected deadline(s)	3 February 2015	12 March 2015	2 June 2015	23 April 2015 1 October 2015
Budget million EUR (estimated number of grants)	411 (315)	603 (340)	640 (285)	15 (100)