

The European Research Council



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Established by the European Commission

Achievements and Opportunities

Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON
ERC President

Horizon 2020 is the European Union's funding programme for research and innovation for **2014 – 2020** *"supporting activities covering the whole spectrum from idea to market"*.

➤ **Three principal pillars:**

- Excellent science
- Industrial leadership
- Societal challenges

Horizon 2020 Excellent Science Pillar



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- **European Research Council**
Frontier research
- **Future and Emerging Technologies**
Collaborative research to open new fields of research and innovation
- **Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions**
Opportunities for training and career development
- **Research Infrastructures** (including e-infrastructures)
Ensuring access to world-class facilities

What is the ERC?



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A bottom-up, individual-based, pan-European competition with host institution in EU or Associated States.

Strategy

- Support for **individual** scientists
- **International** peer-review
- **No predetermined subjects** (bottom-up)
- Support of **frontier research** in **all fields of science and humanities**
- Look for **high gain/high risk ambitious projects**

Legislation

- Scientific governance by an independent 22-member **Scientific Council**, which has **full authority** over **funding** and **evaluation**
- Support by the **ERC Executive Agency** (autonomous)
- Only criterion: **quality of research** aiming for **excellence**

What is ERC?



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The European Commission

- Provides financing
- Guarantees autonomy of the ERC
- Assures ERC's integrity and accountability
- Adopts annual work programmes

The ERC Scientific Council

- 22 members who are active researchers in their communities
- Appointed by the Commission
- Establishes overall scientific strategy
- Controls quality of operations and management
- Ensures communication with the scientific community

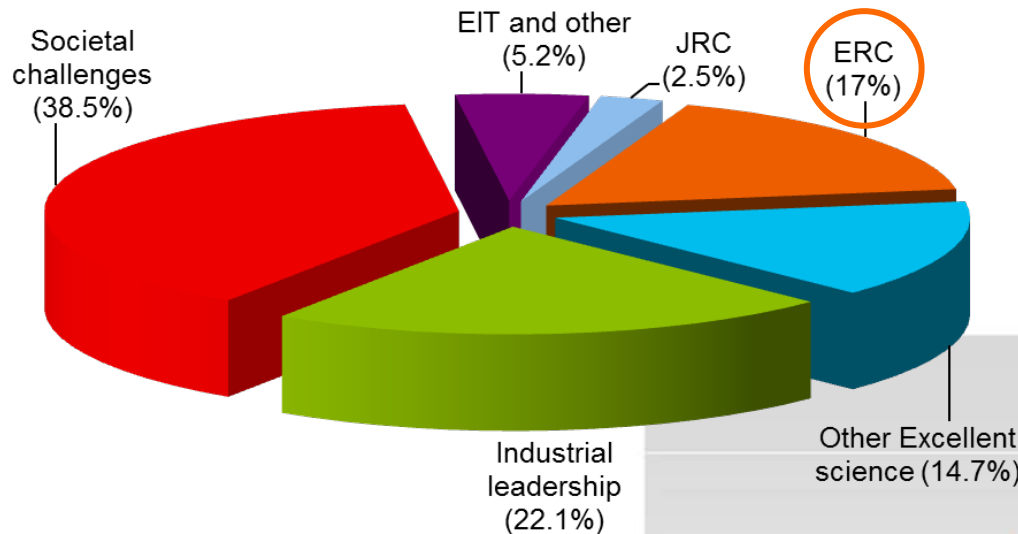
The ERC Executive Agency (ERCEA)

- Executes annual work programme
- Implements calls for proposals
- Organises peer review evaluation
- Establishes and manages grant agreements with Host Institution
- Administers scientific and financial aspects
- Carries out communications activities

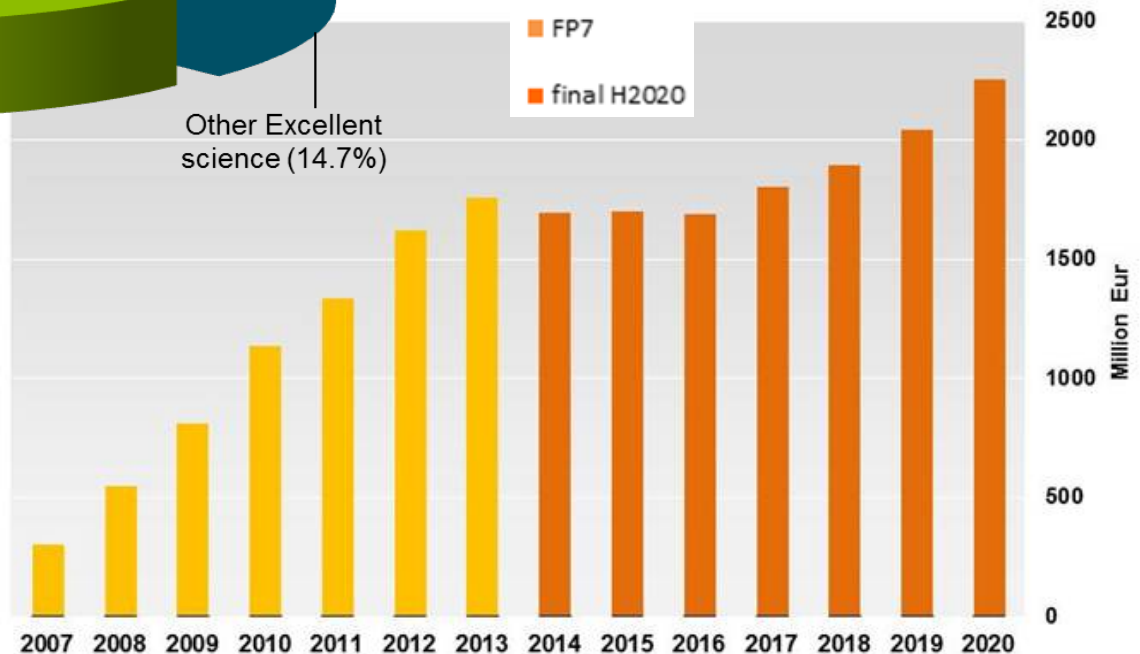
Horizon 2020 Budget



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H2020 budget € 77 billion
ERC budget € 13 billion



FP7 budget € 50.5 billion
ERC budget € 7.5 billion

ERC Funding Schemes



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Starting Grants

starters
(2-7 years after PhD)
up to € 1.5 Mio
for 5 years

Consolidator Grants

consolidators
(7-12 years after PhD)
up to € 2.25 Mio
for 5 years

Advanced Grants

track-record of
significant research
achievements in the
last 10 years
up to € 3 Mio
for 5 years

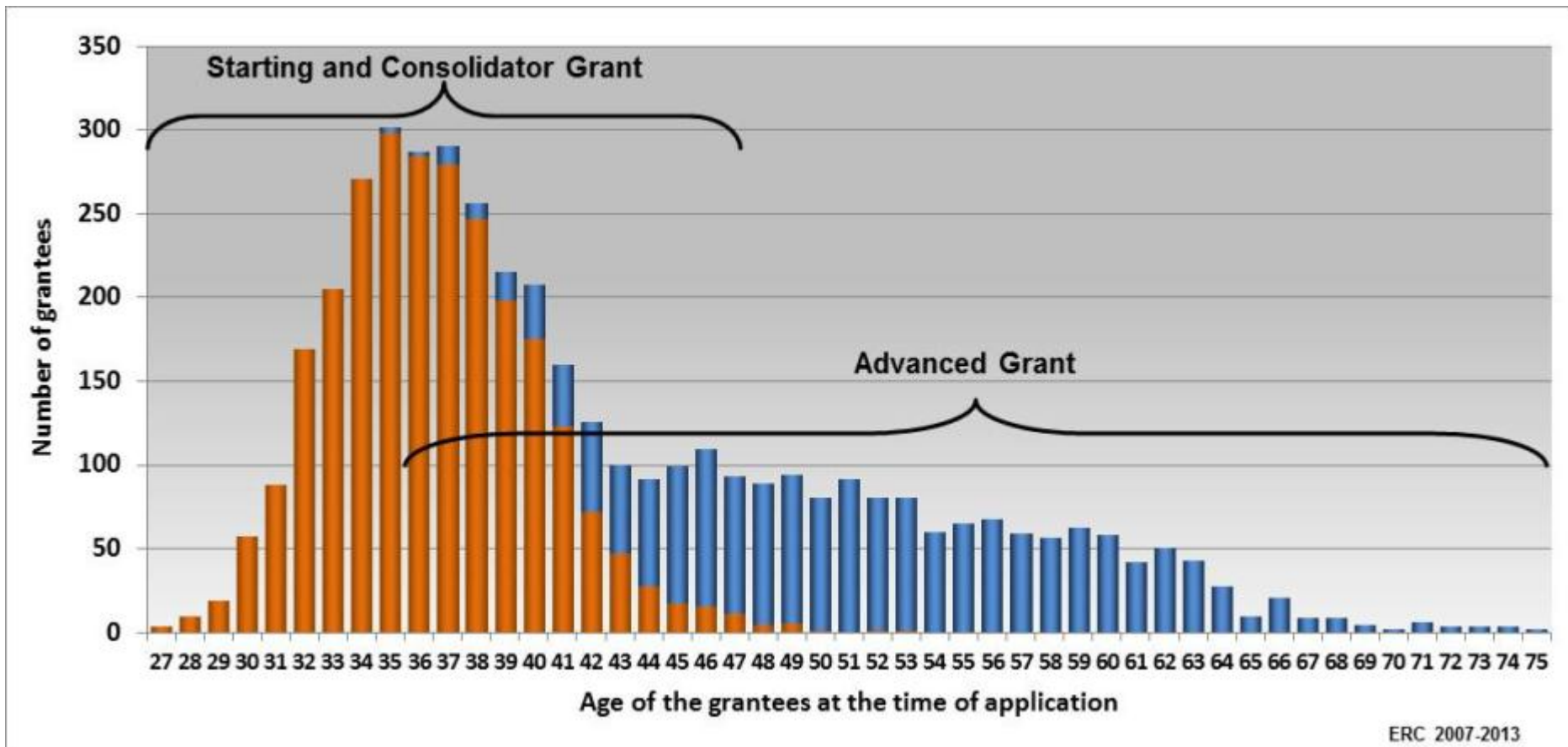
Proof-of-Concept

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

Age Distribution of ERC Grantees



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ERC Panel Evaluation Structure



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Physical Sciences & Engineering

- **PE1 Mathematics**
- PE2 Fundamental constituents of matter
- PE3 Condensed matter physics
- PE4 Physical & Analytical Chemical sciences
- PE5 Materials & Synthesis
- **PE6 Computer science & informatics**
- PE7 Systems & communication engineering
- PE8 Products & process engineering
- PE9 Universe sciences
- PE10 Earth system science

Social Sciences and Humanities

- SH1 Individuals, institutions & markets
- SH2 The social world, diversity and common ground
- SH3 Environment ,space and population
- SH4 The Human Mind and its complexity
- SH5 Cultures & cultural production
- SH6 The study of the human past

Life Sciences

- LS1 Molecular & Structural Biology & Biochemistry
- **LS2 Genetics, Genomics, Bioinformatics & Systems Biology**
- LS3 Cellular and Developmental Biology
- LS4 Physiology, Pathophysiology & Endocrinology
- LS5 Neurosciences & neural disorders
- LS6 Immunity & infection
- LS7 Diagnostic tools, therapies & public health
- LS8 Evolutionary, population & environmental biology
- LS9 Applied life sciences & biotechnology

ERC in Reality



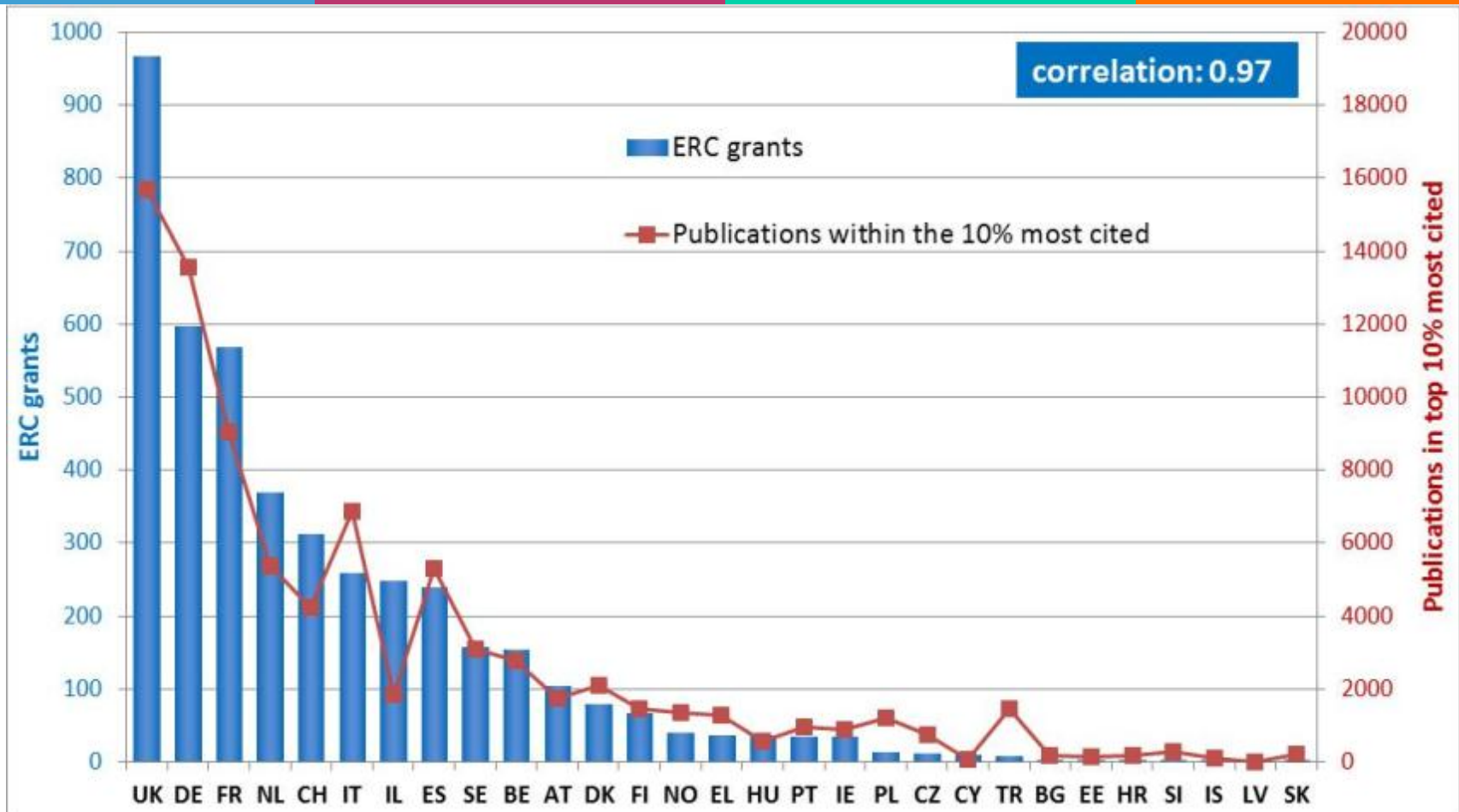
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- **4 300 researchers** funded (65% are at an **early-career** stage);
64 nationalities represented (EU has **28!**)
- **Highly competitive** (average success rate tending to 10%)
- Grants located in almost **600** different institutions in **29** countries
- **50%** of grantees in **50** institutions
- **Benchmarking** effect: impact on national programmes and agencies;
national funding for best "runners-up"
- **Efficient** and **fast** grant management
- **Highly recognized** by the research community beyond Europe

ERC Grant Distribution by Countries



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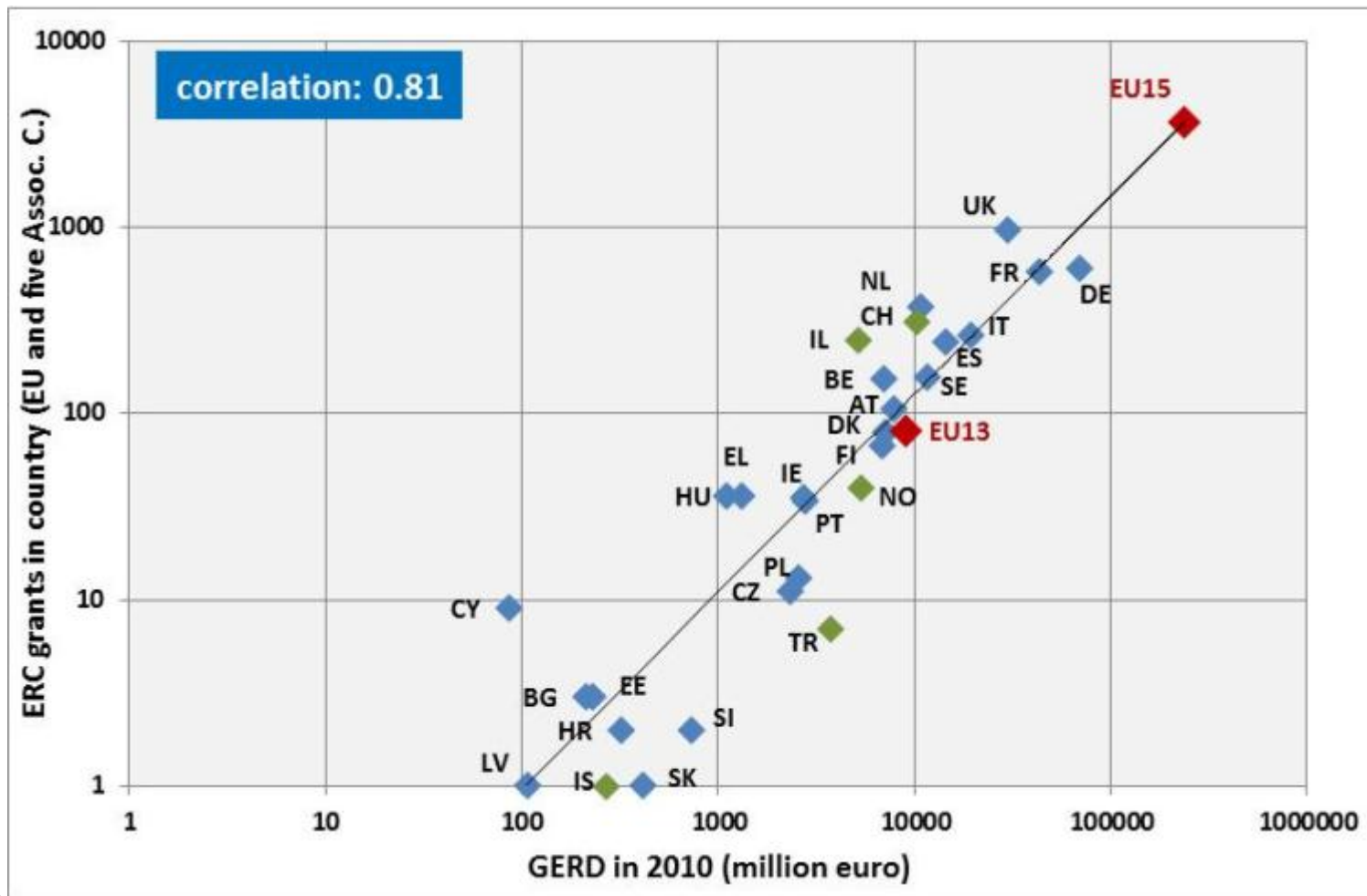


*) Host institution refers to the organisation with which the first grant agreement was signed

Grant Distribution vs. R&D Spending



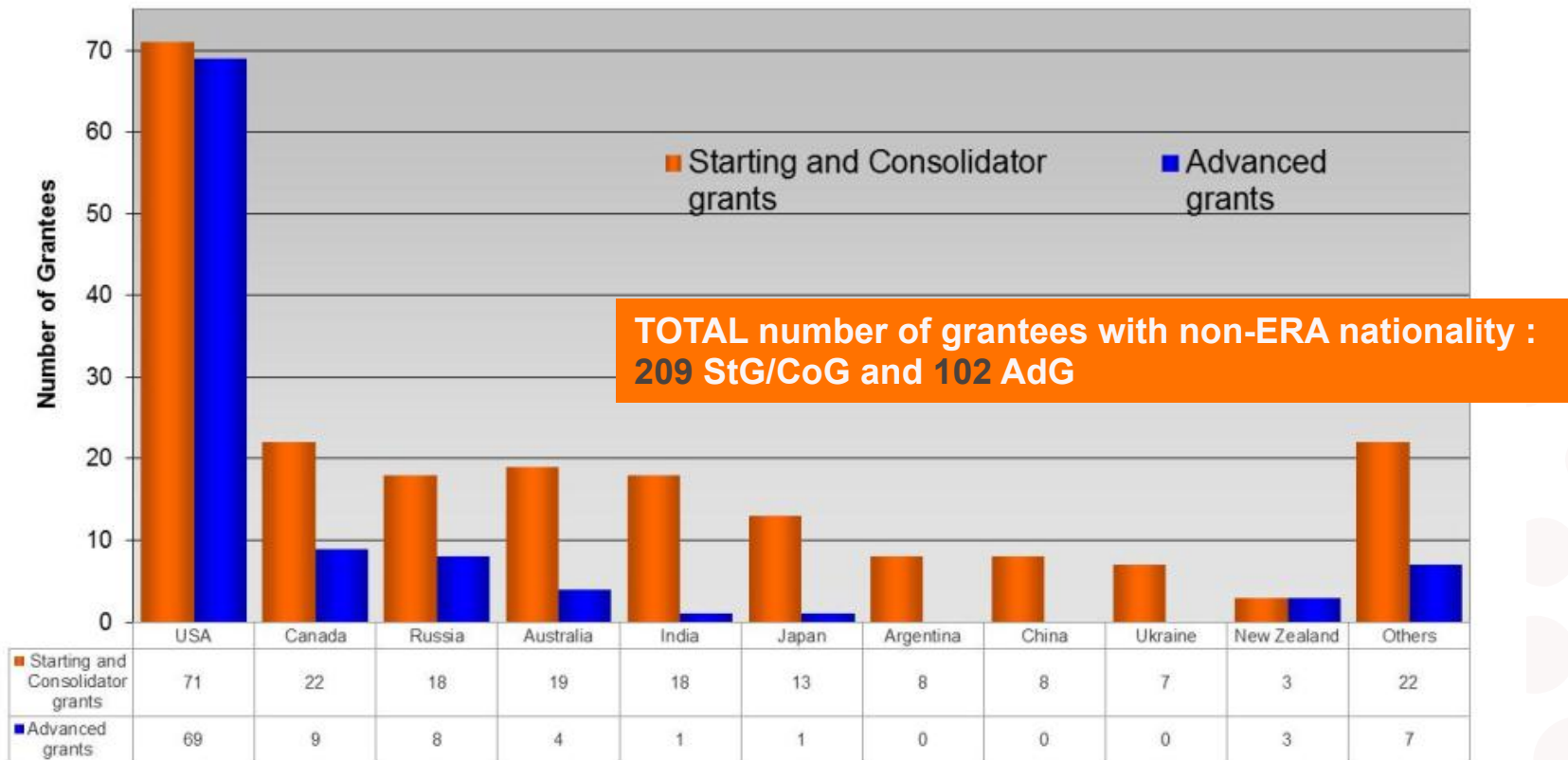
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Non-ERA Nationals ERC Grantees



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*) nationality as last declared by the principal investigator

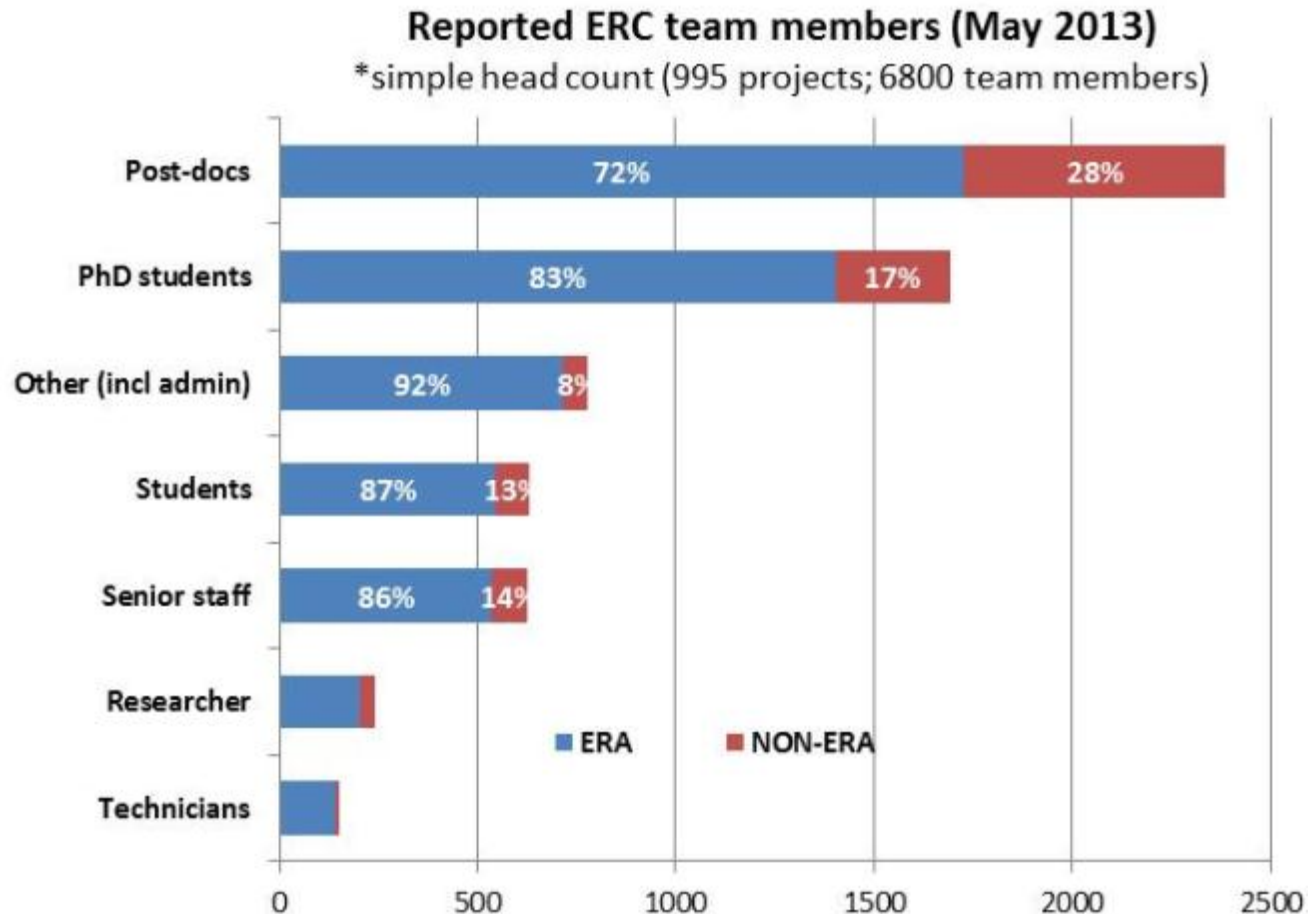
Nationality

Data as of 21.8.2014

Developing a New Generation



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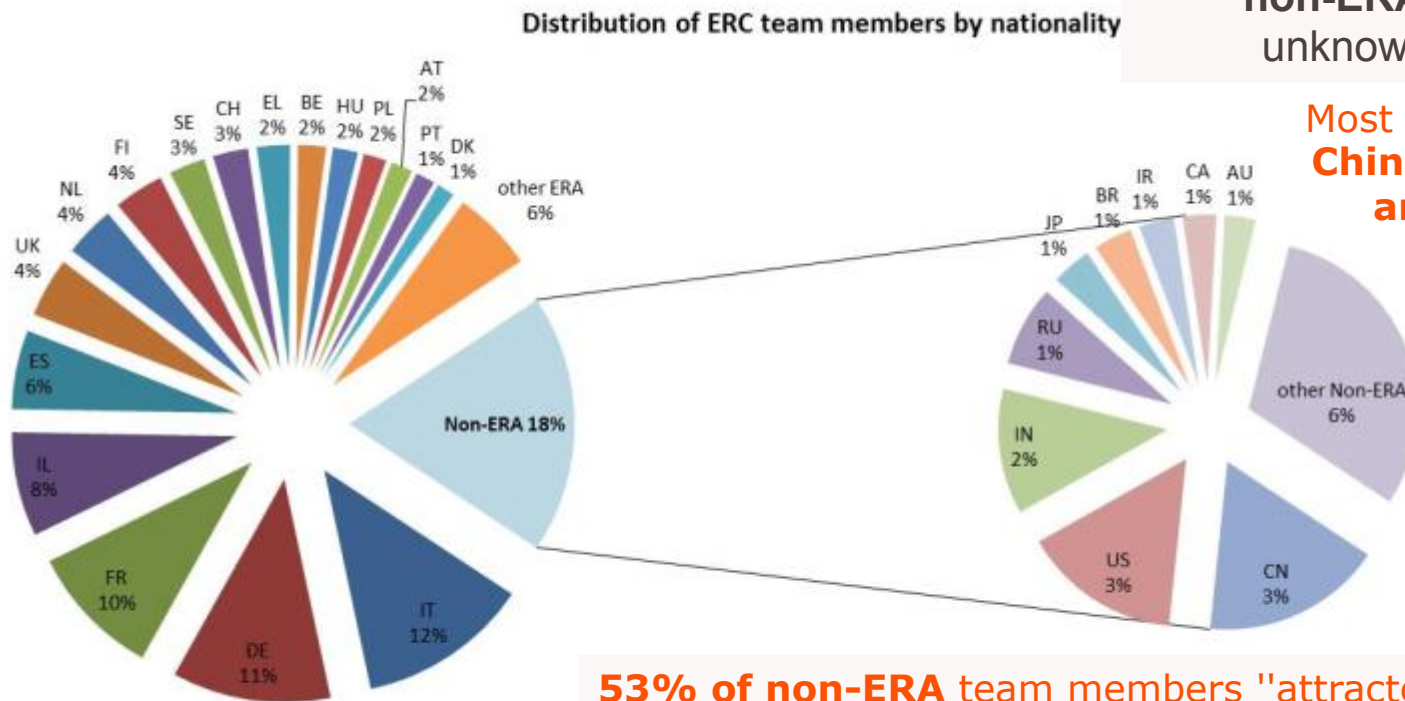


Nationalities in ERC Project Teams



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Nationality of ERC project teams (PIs not included)
Analysis of 995 Starting and Advanced Grants



EU: 67%
Assoc. Countries: 12%
non-ERA: 18%
unknown: 3%

Most non-ERA from
**China, US, India,
and Russia**

53% of non-ERA team members "attracted" to Europe with the ERC grant (10% of all team members)

Many Happy Returns to ICTP on behalf of **ERC!**



The Abdus Salam
International Centre
for Theoretical Physics

50th Anniversary 1964–2014

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More information on ERC at:
erc.europa.eu

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