

# The European Research Council

---

ERC Info Session  
Webinaire, 4 July 2023

Monique Smaïhi,  
Call Coordination sector,  
ERC Executive Agency, Scientific Department



**European Research Council**

Established by the European Commission



# ERC in Figures: After 15 Years



Over **11,000**  
top researchers funded since  
the ERC creation in 2007



Over **200,000**  
articles from ERC projects published  
in scientific journals



Over **80,000**  
researchers and other professionals  
employed in ERC research teams



Over **890** research institutions hosting  
ERC grantees – universities, public or  
private research centres in the EU or  
Associated Countries



Over **2,200**  
patents and other IPR applications  
generated by ERC funding



**87**  
nationalities of  
grant holders



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



European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission



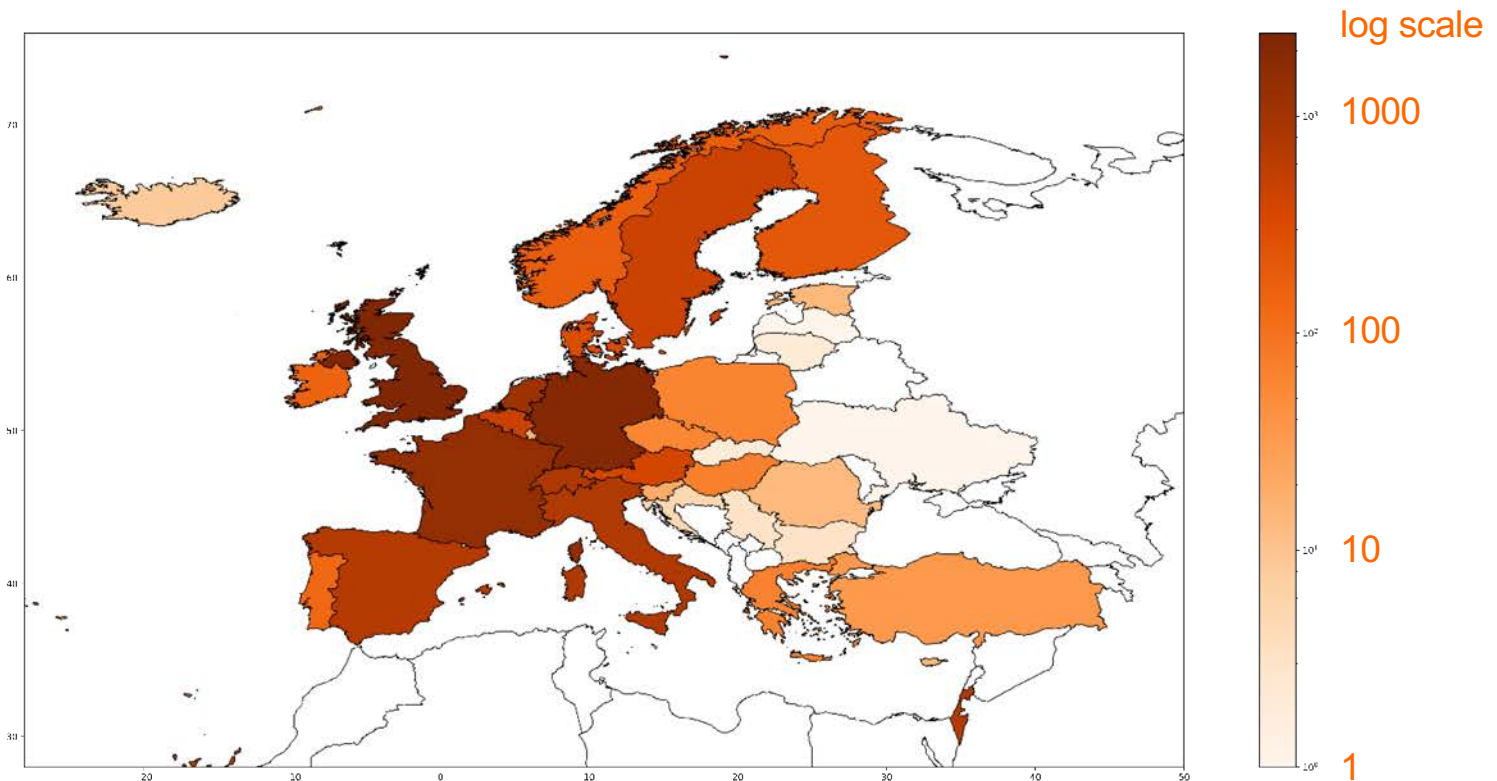
# ERC-funded projects by country of Host Institution

1,558 ERC main grants  
based in France

Total grant value over  
2.8 billion euro

Success rate: 15%

Host countries as of  
28/03/2023



# Outline

---

**Part 1 – Grant schemes in WP2024**

**Part 2 – Eligibility & Application**

**Part 3 – Evaluation**

**Part 4 – Statistics**

# Provisional Call Calendar – Work Programme 2024

	<i>Starting Grant</i>	<i>Consolidator Grant</i>	<i>Advanced Grant</i>	<i>Synergy Grant</i>	<i>Proof of Concept Grant</i>
<i>Call opens</i>	11/07/2023	12/09/2023	29/05/2024	12/07/2023	16/11/2023
<i>Call deadline (cut-off date)</i>	24/10/2023	12/12/2023	29/08/2024	08/11/2023	14/03/2024 17/09/2024
<i>Budget (m EUR)</i>	601	584	578	400	30

# ERC funding schemes : 2024 Calls

---



## Starting Grant

Size of the grant: up to €1.5 million + up to €1 million

Duration: up to 5 years

Completion of the first PhD (defence date) :  
2-7 years prior to 1 January 2024



## Consolidator Grant

Size of the grant: up to €2 million + up to €1 million

Duration: up to 5 years

Completion of the first PhD (defence date) :  
7-12 years prior to 1 January 2024



## Advanced Grant

Size of the grant: up to €2.5 million + up to €1 million

Duration: up to 5 years

~~An excellent scientific track record of recognized  
achievements in the last 10 years~~



European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission



# ERC funding schemes

---



## Synergy grant

Size of the grant: €10 million + up to €4 million

Duration: up to 6 years

Be composed of 2 to 4 researchers and their research groups (**one researcher can be based outside EU/AC**)



## Proof of Concept

Size of the grant: €150 000

Duration: up to 18 months

Demonstrate that the idea funded by the original ERC grant has innovation potential and significant economic or societal benefits

# Additional funding

---

Up to € 1M for Starting / Consolidator / Advanced grants

Up to € 4M for Synergy grants

Additional funding can be requested to cover the costs below:

- (a) *"start-up" costs for Principal Investigators moving to the EU or an Associated Country from elsewhere as a consequence of receiving the ERC grant and/or*
- (b) *the purchase of major equipment and/or*
- (c) *access to large facilities and/or*
- (d) *other **major experimental and field work costs**, excluding personnel costs.*



# WP2024 Novelties I – Panel Reorganisation

## New panel structure

- **New Panel – SH8 – *Studies of Cultures and Arts***
  - combines cultural studies, art history, architecture, music, performing arts, museum studies, cultural heritage and other fields (from SH5) with social anthropology (from SH3)
- **LS3 – *Cell Biology, Development, Stem Cells and Regeneration***
  - new title to make it explicit that both stem cell and regeneration biology fields are addressed
- **LS5 – *Neuroscience and Disorders of the Nervous System***
  - new sub-title (“*In humans and all other organisms*”) to make it explicit that the panel covers research in humans, as well as in other organisms

# WP2024 Novelties II – Research Assessment

- No prescriptive **Principal Investigator profiles**
- New **Curriculum Vitae and Track Record** template (4 pages):
  - Personal details: education, employment
  - Research achievements\* ( $\leq 10$ ):
    - demonstrating advancement in the field
    - emphasis on more recent achievements
  - Peer recognition: prizes, fellowships, academy membership, etc.
  - Additional information:
    - career breaks, diverse career paths, life events
    - other contributions to research community

\* Applicant may provide a **short narrative** describing the scientific importance of the research outputs and the role played by the Principal Investigator in their production.



# WP2024 Novelties III – Research Assessment

[Evaluation of ERC grant proposals: what to expect in 2024 | ERC \(europa.eu\)](https://erc.europa.eu)

---

- Evaluation **primarily focused on the proposed research project:**
  - Ground-breaking nature, ambition, and potential impact
  - Feasibility of the scientific approach
- **Intellectual capacity, creativity, and commitment of the PI** also evaluated
- Streamlined **evaluation questions**

# WP2024 Novelties IV – Evaluation

---

- **Evaluation:**
  - No budget multiplier in StG, CoG, AdG: **up to 44 proposals per panel in Step 2**
  - **New A-score at Step 1** (StG, CoG, AdG, SyG):
    - **‘A invited’** – *high quality proposals to pass to Step 2*
    - **‘A not invited’** – *high quality proposals exceeding the threshold for Step 2, but not subject to resubmission restrictions*
- **New resubmission restriction:** applicants selected for funding and preparing a grant agreement in a 2023 ERC call, may not apply to StG, CoG, AdG in 2024 ERC calls

# WP2024 Novelties V – 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
  - Payment based on **completion of activities** and not on successful outcome
  - **Additional funding** and **portability** available

# Work Programme 2024 – Summary of Novelties

## FOCUS ON RESEARCH



- Ground-breaking
- Ambitious
- Feasible

Assessment

- Up to 10 research outputs
- Short narrative
- Career breaks, diverse paths

No prescriptive PI profiles

- Up to 44 proposals in step 2 (exc. SyG)
- 'A not invited' can reapply next year



Evaluation Procedure

- AdG only
- One amount
- Payment based on the work done (not success)
- Additional funding and portability

Lump Sum Pilot

- New Panel – SH8
- Changes in description of LS3/LS5 panels

Panels

# Evaluation panel structure

---

## 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

## Life Sciences

- LS1 Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures and Functions
- LS2 Integrative Biology: From Genes and Genomes to Systems
- **LS3 Cellular, Developmental and Regenerative Biology => 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

## 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**



European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission



# ERC Panel descriptors - example

## SH6 panel - The Study of the Human Past

### Archaeology and History

- SH6\_1 Historiography, theory and methods in history, including the analysis of digital data
- SH6\_2 Classical archaeology, history of archaeology, social archaeology
- SH6\_3 General archaeology, archaeometry, landscape archaeology
- SH6\_4 Prehistory, palaeoanthropology, palaeodemography, protohistory, bioarchaeology
- SH6\_5 Palaeography and codicology
- SH6\_6 Ancient history
- SH6\_7 Medieval history
- SH6\_8 Early modern history
- SH6\_9 Modern and contemporary history
- SH6\_10 Colonial and postcolonial history
- SH6\_11 Global history, transnational history, comparative history, entangled histories
- SH6\_12 Social and economic history
- SH6\_13 Gender history, cultural history, history of collective identities and memories, history of religions
- SH6\_14 History of ideas, intellectual history, history of economic thought
- SH6\_15 History of science, medicine and technologies

descriptors are not ERC priorities



# Outline

---

**Part 1 – Grant schemes in WP2024**

**Part 2 – Eligibility & Application**

**Part 3 – Evaluation**

**Part 4 – Statistics**

# Who can apply?

---

- Researchers of any : Age, nationality, current place of work
- Host Institution in the European Union or in one of the associated countries

## StG and CoG – *Eligibility criteria*

---

- « **PhD eligibility reference date** » rule (already in place for 2023 calls):

*The reference date towards the calculation of the eligibility period shall be the **certified date of the successful defence of the PhD. Document provided by the awarding institution.***

- *Allows for the eligibility window to reflect the **real academic age** instead of the “administrative age” of the PI.*
- *Puts an end to confusion about “award according to national rules” - brings clarity to applicants.*



European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission



## 2024 Calls : StG and CoG: Extension of the Eligibility windows

- For documented situations occurring before the call deadline -

- **Maternity leave:** +18 months for each child born before/after the date of the successful defence of their PhD degree;
- **Paternity leave:** documented time taken for each child born before or after the date of the successful defence of PhD degree;
- **Long-term illness** – *including disability* (>90 days for the PI or a close family member) or **national service:** documented amount of leave taken for each incident that occurred after the date of the successful defence of PhD degree;
- **Clinical training:** documented amount of clinical training received **after** the reference date of the first eligible degree, **up to a maximum of 4 years;**
- **Natural disaster and seeking asylum :** documented time of PI's inability to work



# ERC Proposal structure

In step 1 only part B1 is reviewed.

Applicants submit their proposal via the common submission system linked to the Funding and Tenders Portal (SEP submission)

## Administrative forms (Part A)

- 1 – General information
  - 2 – Administrative data of organisations
  - 3 – Budget and resources description
  - 4 – Ethics & Security
  - 5 – Call specific questions\*
- 1-4 ERC keywords are selected, panels are not defined at submission*

## Annexes

Commitment of all the Host Institutions, PhD certificate (StG & CoG), ethics documentation, etc.

## Part B1 (submitted as pdf)

*Evaluated in Step 1 & Step 2*

- a – Extended synopsis 5 pages
- b – **Curriculum vitae & Track-record** 4 pages

## Part B2 (submitted as pdf)

*NOT evaluated in Step 1 (only in Step 2)*

- Scientific proposal 15 pages
- a – State-of-the-art and objectives
- b – Methodology
- c – **Funding ID**

\* Maximum 3 reviewers can be excluded



European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission



# Choose your panel in Part A (Administrative form)

---

- Descriptors are **not exhaustive** (not a classification)
- **Any topic/field is equally welcome**, whether mentioned in panel structure or not
- Descriptors and free keywords used by panel chair to assign reviewers → **choose carefully**
- If proposal is across panels: reviewers from both panels used. **Explain why proposal is “cross-panel” in Part B1**

## Part B1

---

- Highlight the ground-breaking character
- Risk mitigation
- Also for generalists who should easily identify the ground-breaking nature and feasibility of the proposal
- Feasibility (scientific approach)

At Step 1: only Part B1 is evaluated (by panel members and cross-panel reviewers (if needed))

## Part B2 (max. 14 pages)

Reviewed at Step 2 by Panel members + external reviewers

- Do not repeat the synopsis
- Extensive methodology and work plan. Show that you know the alternative methodologies and argue why your choice is the best.
- Go into more detail with the state of the art
- Provide alternative strategies to mitigate risks
- Explain involvement/profiles of team members
- Justify requested resources – **Part A** (check coherence of budget figures, justify requested resources, based on the research proposed)
- Ask funding for Open Access –full open access venues (mandatory) – **Part A**



# Outline

---

**Part 1 – Grant schemes in WP2024**

**Part 2 – Eligibility & Application**

**Part 3 – Evaluation**

**Part 4 – Statistics**

# Organisation of the ERC evaluations

## Each panel

- 15-16 members (selected by the ScC)
- Thematic distribution
- Rules : geography, gender...
- Contract : 4 calls (odd/even years)
- Renewal : 25% per year

## Role of the Agency representative (Scientific Officer)

- Technical support
- Ensure there is no conflict of interest
- Close coll. with panel members
- Ensure no bias in the evaluation
- Ensure only ERC criteria are applied

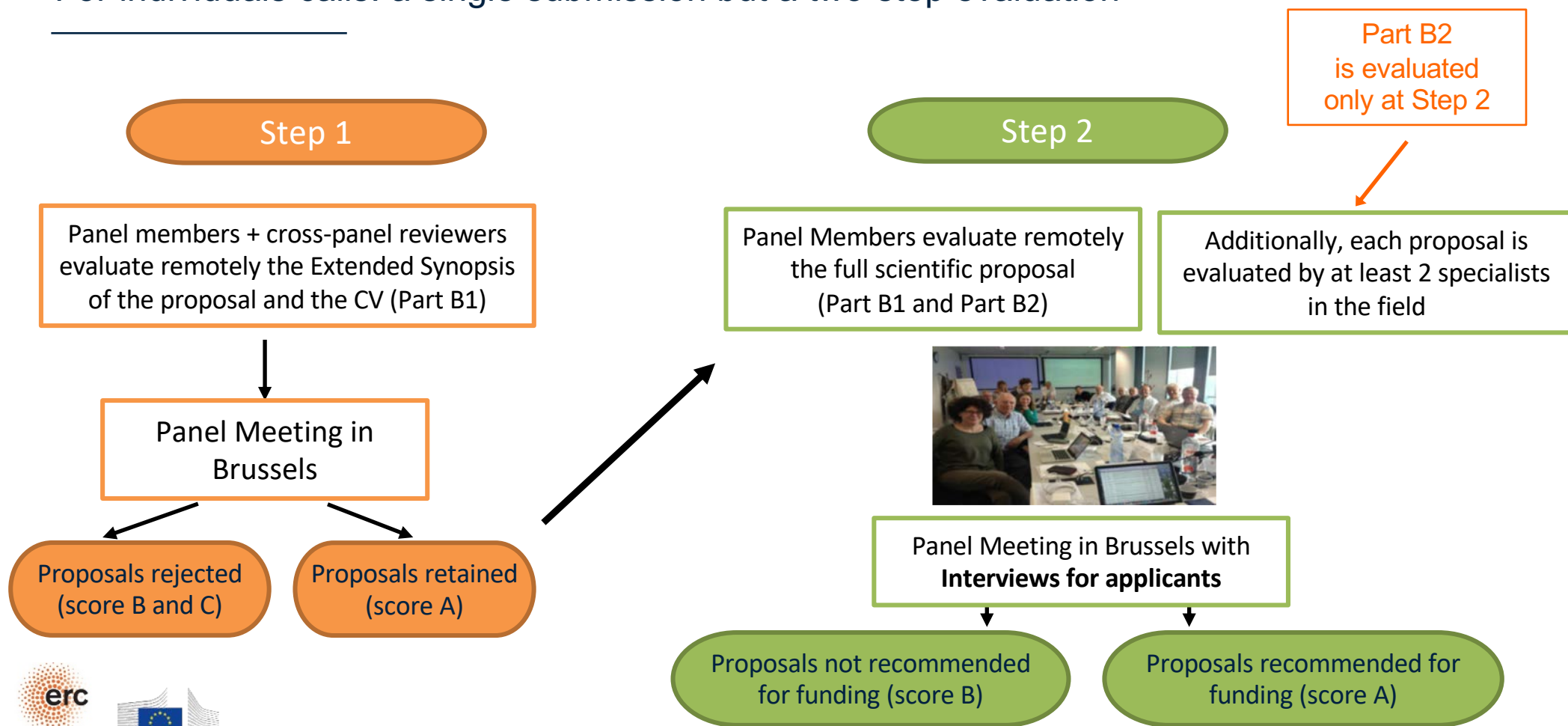
Guarantee an evaluation based only on the scientific quality of the projects (no thematic, geographical bias, ...)

~1400 panel members/year - ~600 days of meetings/year - ~700 new projects ERC/year



# How are the ERC proposals evaluated

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



# Key points

---

- Do not work right up to the deadline: it can undo weeks/months of hard work (e.g. submission of early draft, connection failure, IT malfunctions)
- Remember that Part B1 will be seen by "generalists" (panel members)
- If you make it to Step 2, reviewers (including specialists – external reviewers) see both B1 and B2, so do not duplicate part B1 in part B2.
- Do not include unnecessary partners and collaborators; it is not a "consortium"



European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission



## Contrary to what you may think

---

- ERC funds "**frontier research**", including applied research.
- The **budget** is distributed among the scientific panels as a function of demand.
- The **panel descriptors** do not represent ERC scientific priorities.
- The **success rate** is virtually flat across the eligibility window (StG, CoG).
- **Publication record** is not decisive in selection decisions.
- The **Host Institution** is not an evaluation criterion.



European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission



# Four main tips

---

1. Consult the Information for Applicants
2. Register early on the F&T Portal
3. Contact the ERCEA and ask all your questions to the call coordinators well ahead of the submission deadline
4. Get the written consent of your collaborators before the submission deadline (a simple email exchange is OK)

# Outline

---

**Part 1 – Grant schemes in WP2024**

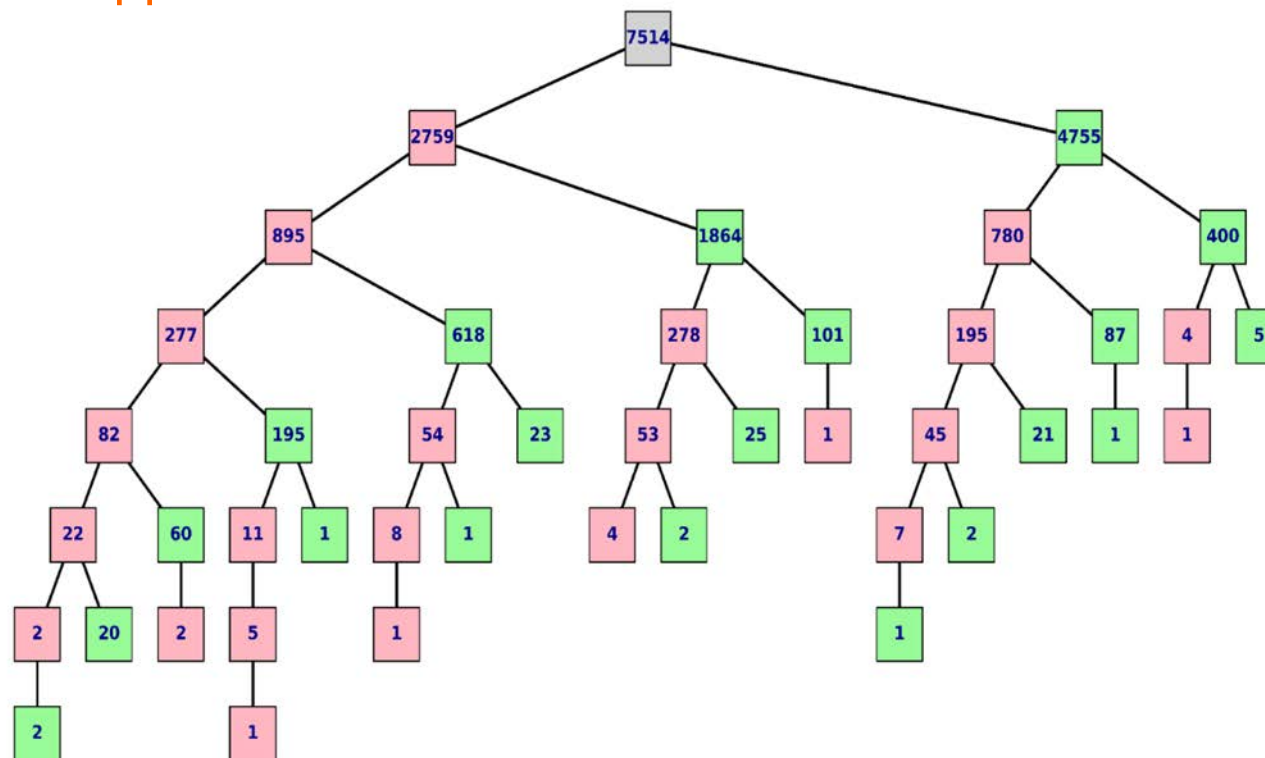
**Part 2 – Eligibility & Application**

**Part 3 – Evaluation**

**Part 4 – Statistics**

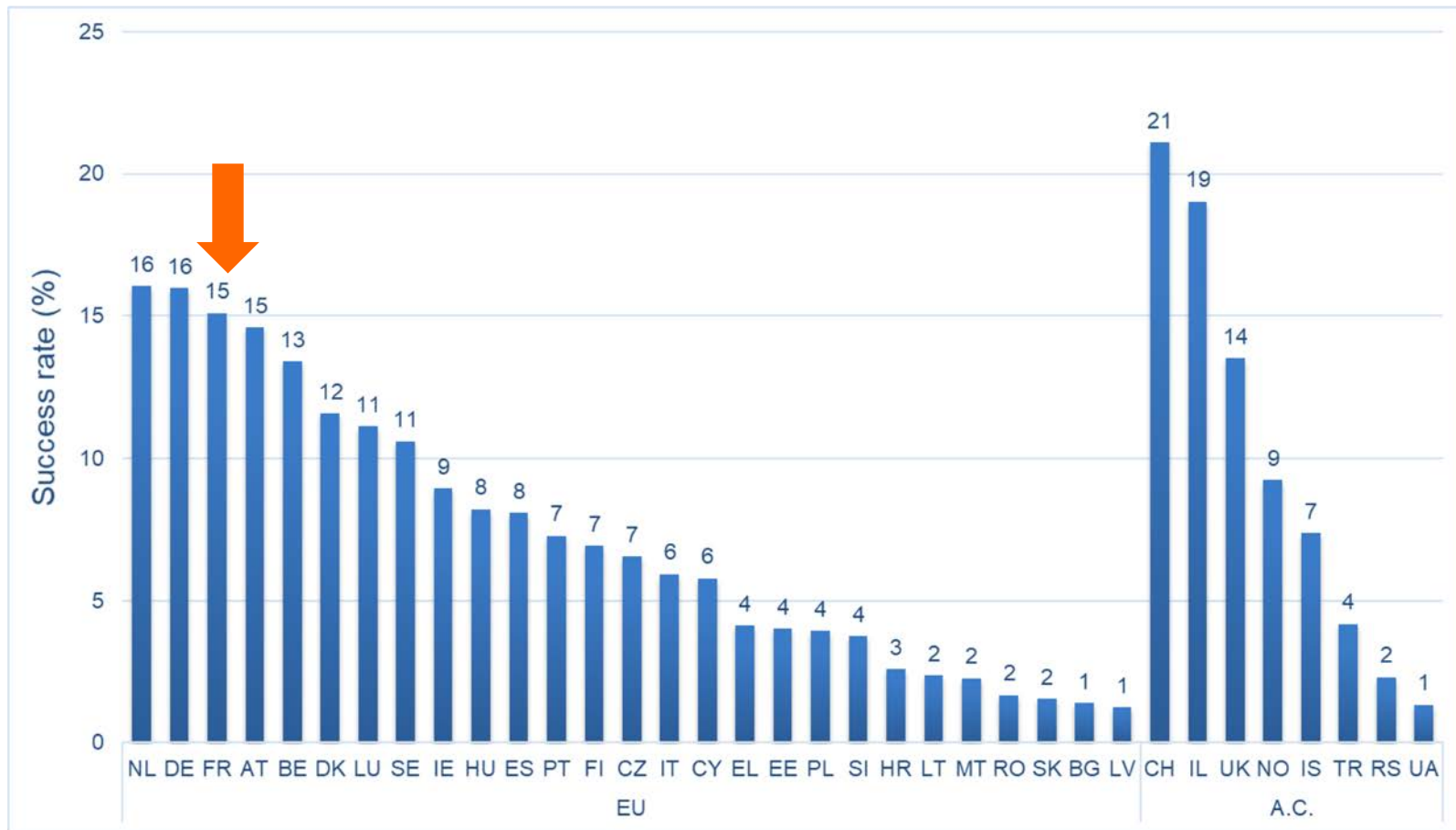
# ERC grantees 2007-2017 :Applications before and after funding 7514 grantees

- Unsuccessful application
- Successful application





# Success rate by country of Host Institution



Success rate (2007-2022)



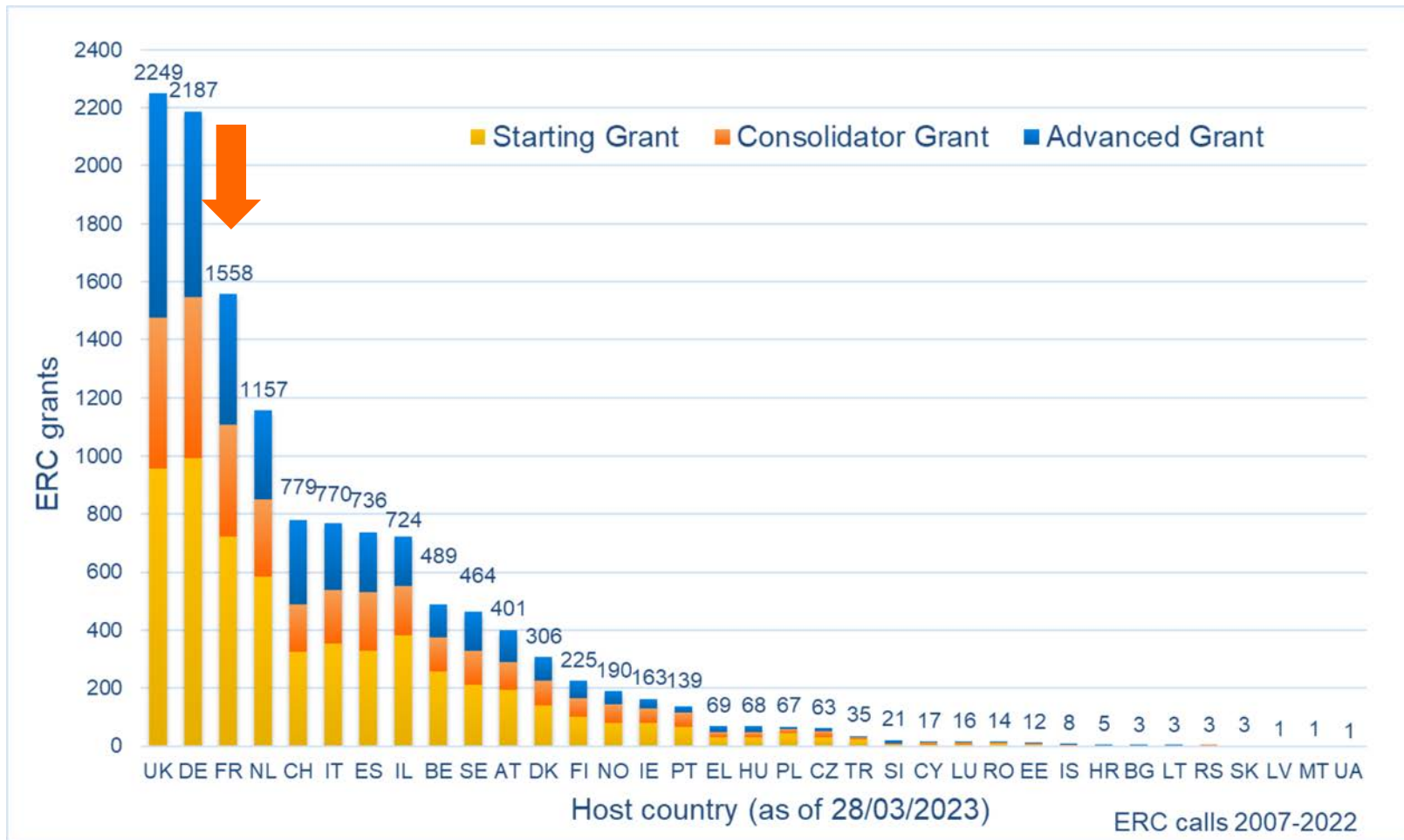
European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission



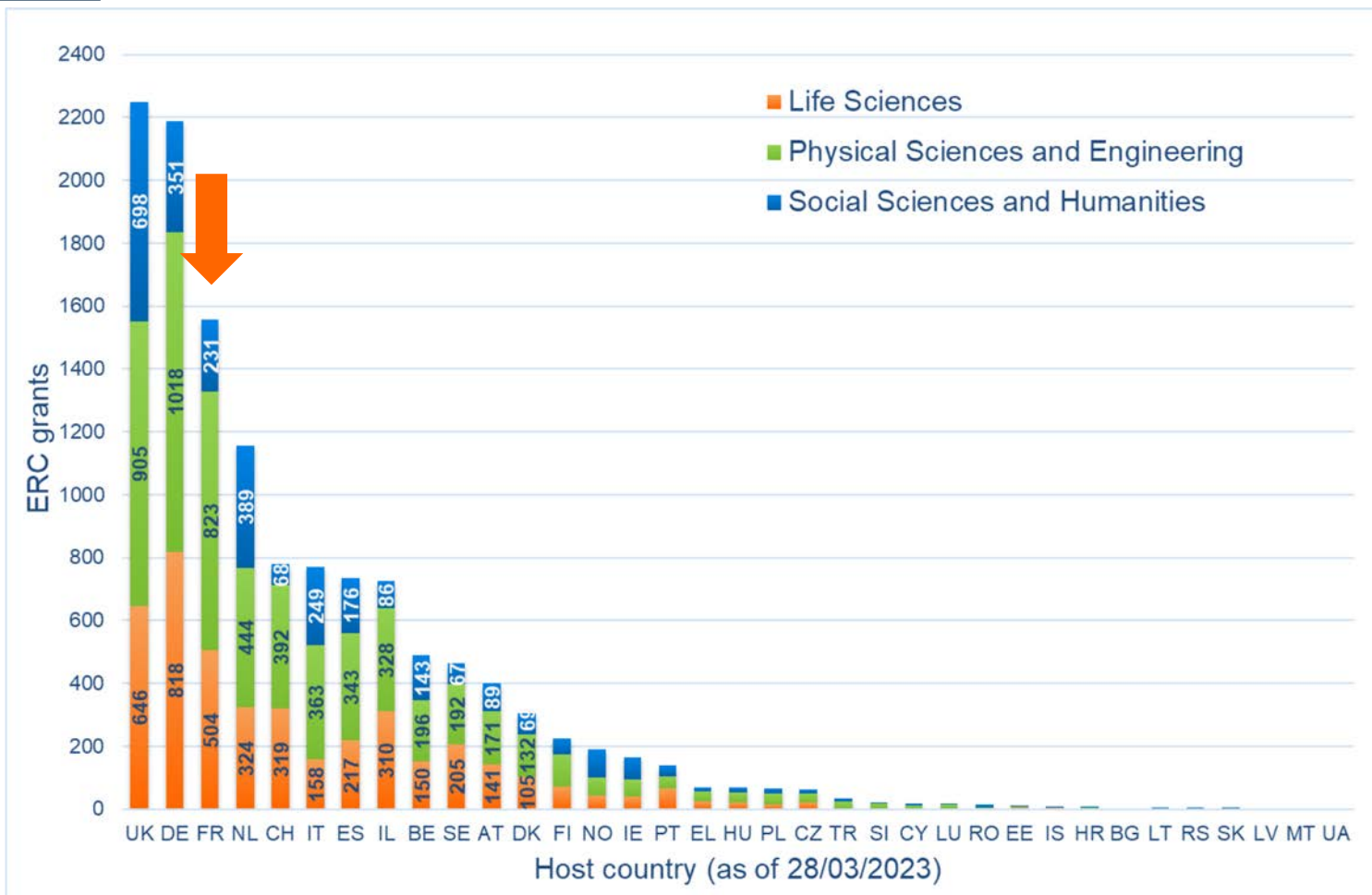
## Success rate of Host Institution in France by domain

Success rate (%)	FP7	H2020	HE
LS	15.5	14.8	16.9
PE	15.1	14.8	19.5
SH	16.5	10.4	16.5
Total	15	14	18

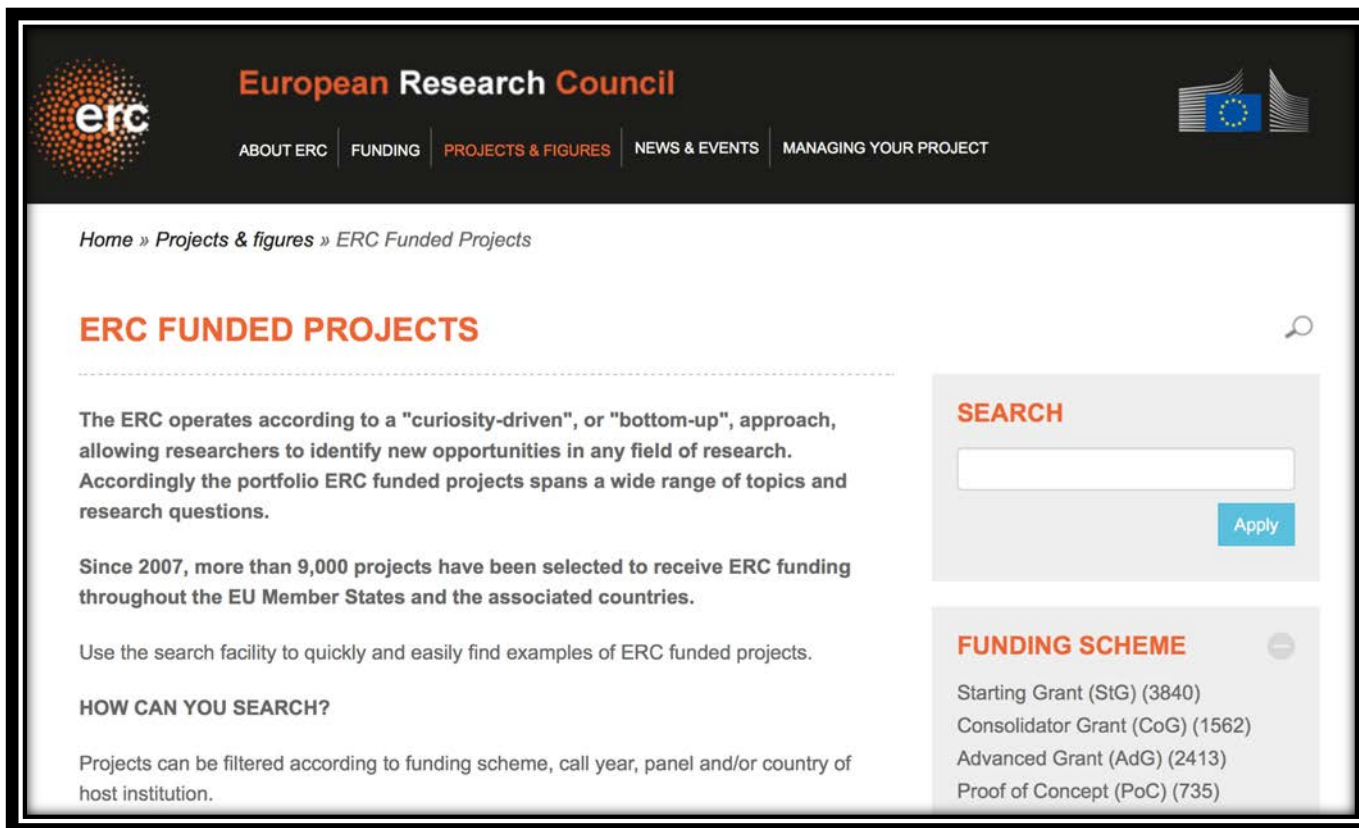
# ERC-funded projects by country of Host Institution



# ERC-funded projects by domain



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



The screenshot shows the 'ERC FUNDED PROJECTS' page on the European Research Council website. The page features a navigation menu with 'ABOUT ERC', 'FUNDING', 'PROJECTS & FIGURES', 'NEWS & EVENTS', and 'MANAGING YOUR PROJECT'. The main content area includes a breadcrumb trail 'Home » Projects & figures » ERC Funded Projects', a search bar with an 'Apply' button, and a 'FUNDING SCHEME' section listing various grant types and their counts. The text describes the ERC's 'curiosity-driven' approach and mentions that over 9,000 projects have been funded since 2007.

**erc** European Research Council

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

Home » Projects & figures » ERC Funded Projects

## ERC FUNDED PROJECTS

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

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

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

### HOW CAN YOU SEARCH?

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

**SEARCH**

Apply

**FUNDING SCHEME**

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

# ERC Contact Information

---

**StG:** [ERC-2023-STG-APPLICANTS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:ERC-2023-STG-APPLICANTS@ec.europa.eu)  
[ERC-2024-STG-APPLICANTS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:ERC-2024-STG-APPLICANTS@ec.europa.eu)

**CoG:** [ERC-2023-COG-APPLICANTS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:ERC-2023-COG-APPLICANTS@ec.europa.eu)  
[ERC-2024-COG-APPLICANTS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:ERC-2024-COG-APPLICANTS@ec.europa.eu)

**AdG:** [ERC-2023-ADG-APPLICANTS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:ERC-2023-ADG-APPLICANTS@ec.europa.eu)  
[ERC-2024-ADG-APPLICANTS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:ERC-2024-ADG-APPLICANTS@ec.europa.eu)

# Thank You!

More information: [erc.europa.eu](http://erc.europa.eu)

National Contact Point: [erc.europa.eu/national-contact-points](http://erc.europa.eu/national-contact-points)

Sign up for news alerts: [erc.europa.eu/keep-updated-erc](http://erc.europa.eu/keep-updated-erc)

Funding & Tender Opportunities: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

Follow us on



[www.facebook.com/EuropeanResearchCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/EuropeanResearchCouncil)



[twitter.com/ERC\\_Research](https://twitter.com/ERC_Research)



[www.linkedin.com/company/european-research-council](http://www.linkedin.com/company/european-research-council)



<https://www.youtube.com/c/EuropeanResearchCouncil>

# Where can you find more information?

---



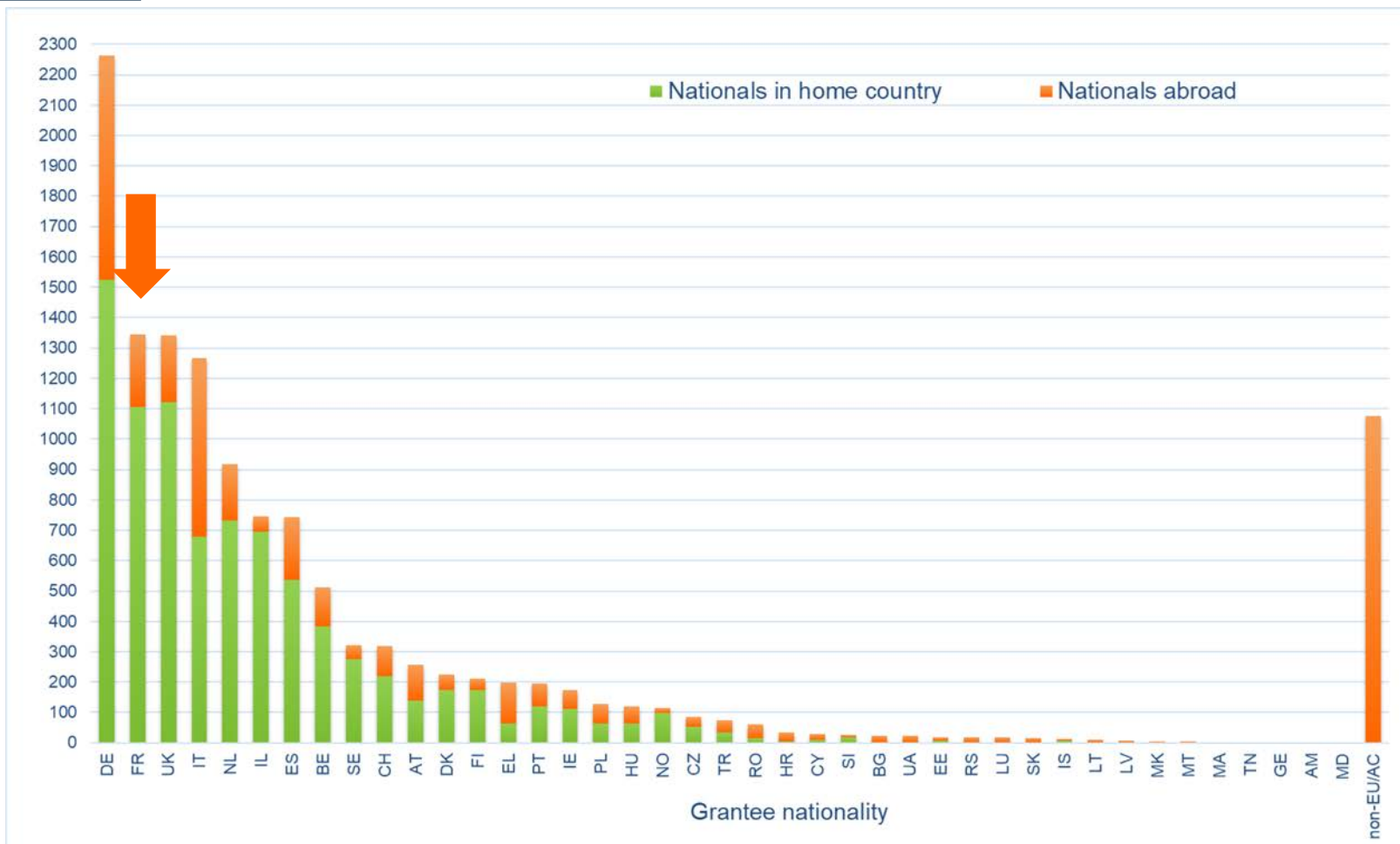
## Videos - ERC Classes

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

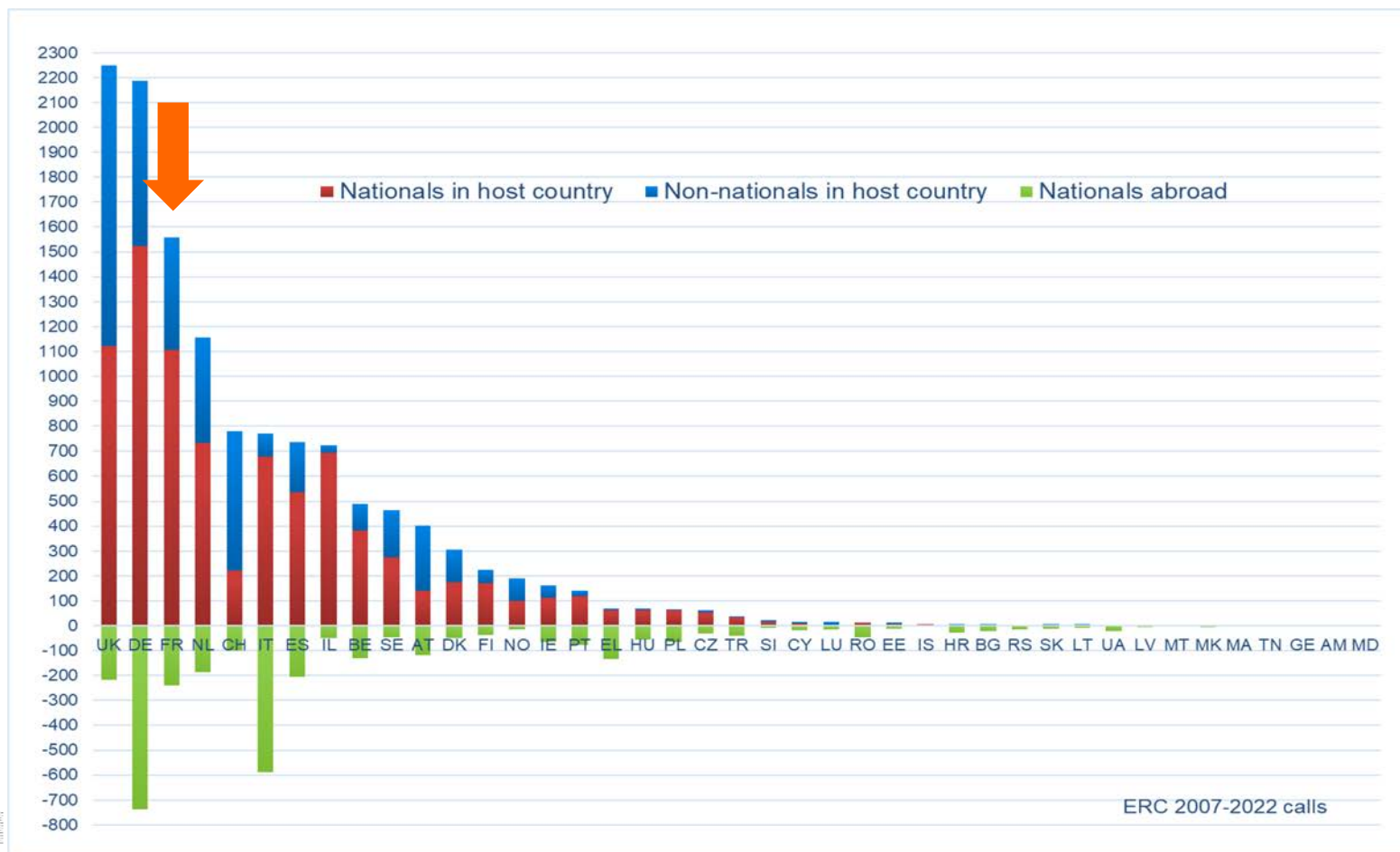
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbFbzkVWgCU&list=PLtv6FnsXqnXAYRk6HCErwMxwML0ZKoMcy>



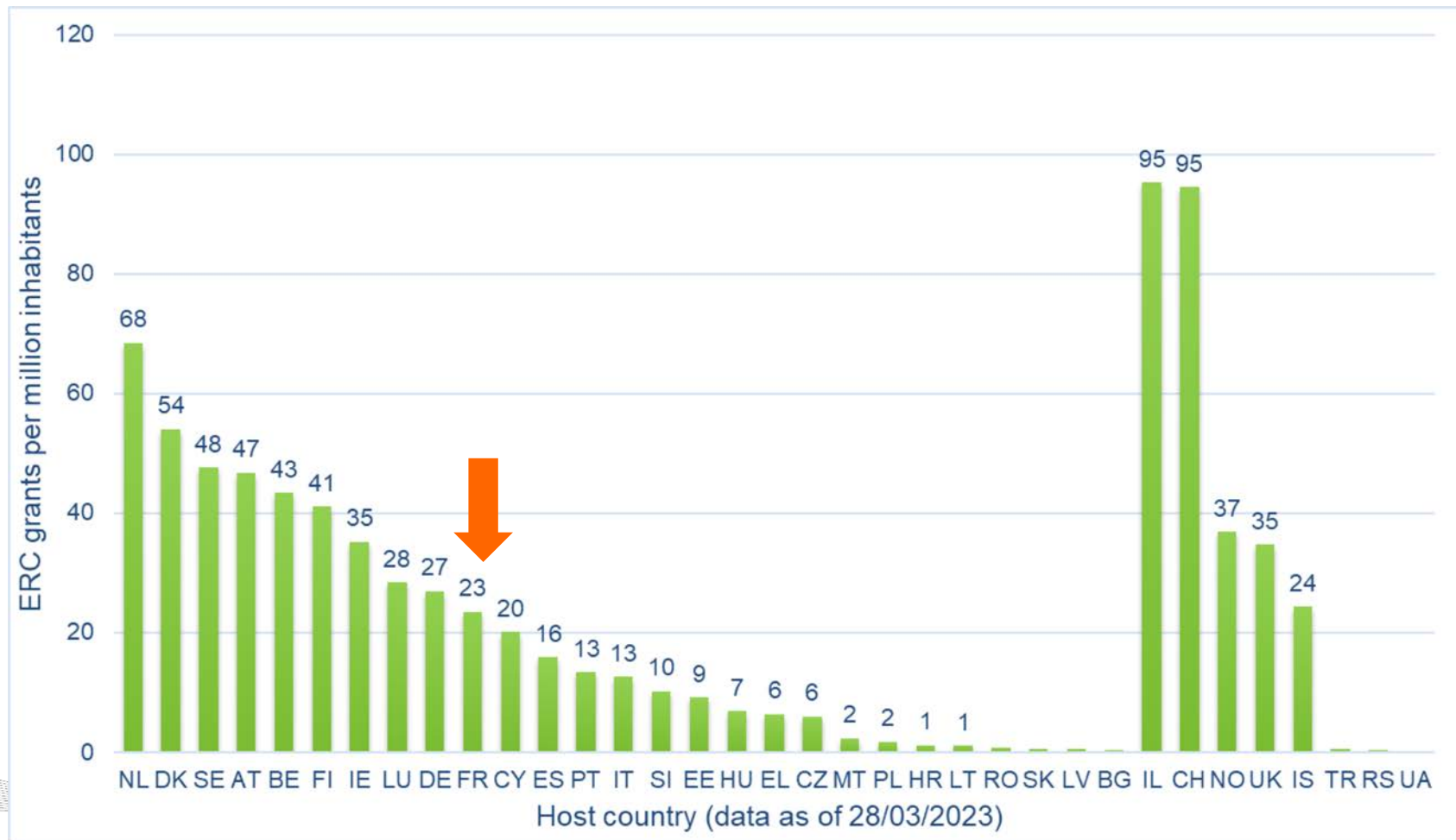
# Nationals at home and abroad



# Grantees at home and abroad



# ERC grants per population



# Top host institutions in France

	StG	CoG	AdG	Grand Total
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>1558</b>
National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS)	331	184	174	689
National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM)	66	47	33	146
French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission	50	14	22	86
National Institute for Research in Computer Science and Automatic Control (INRIA)	38	8	19	65
Pasteur Institute	25	11	14	50
Sorbonne University	12	16	7	35
Curie Institute	16	4	10	30
Sciences Po	12	7	5	24
French National Institute for Agricultural Research	10	4	7	21
Normal Superior School (ENS)	10	2	9	21
Toulouse School of Economics	8	3	9	20
University Grenoble Alpes	4	9	7	20
University of Lyon 1 (Claude Bernard)	10	3	5	18
Polytechnic School - Palaiseau	10	5	2	17
Other	122	64	130	316



European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission



# ERC Work Programme 2024

---

- ERC Work Programme 2024 **approved by the Scientific Council** in February 2023
- **European Commission to adopt** the ERC Work Programme 2024 in early July 2023
- The current budget appropriations – **EUR 2.16bn** – include the amount originally agreed in the Multiannual Financial Framework + fines + EFTA country contributions
- Additional funding from Associated Countries of some **EUR 120m** is expected (+ any increase due to successful participation in 2022 calls)

# Association Agreements

---

## **Signed and Ratified**

Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo\*, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Tunisia, Türkiye, and Ukraine

## **Transitional Arrangements**

Morocco, New Zealand (Pillar II only), United Kingdom

## **Under Negotiation**

Canada, Republic of Korea

## **Special Cases**

Lichtenstein, Switzerland: not associated to Horizon Europe

Russia: Cooperation with public entities or related bodies halted



European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission



\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSC 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

# Novelties VI – Additional Clarifications

---

- Time Commitment: any working time spent working for an **international European research organisation** counts as time spent in an EU Member State/Associated Country
- Eligibility for funding **team members in third countries**: same for all ERC calls
- **Equipment as capitalised cost**: must be clearly listed and justified in the proposal

# Novelties VII – Complementary Funding and Other Actions

---

- **Complementary Funding:**
  - Proof of Concept – *two cut-off dates instead of three*
  - Biennial Public Engagement with Research Award – *up to six prizes of EUR 10,000 each to be awarded*
- **Other Actions:**
  - Support to programme monitoring and evaluation (thematic analyses and impact studies)
- **Public Procurement:**
  - Support and technical assistance for proposal evaluation, the establishment of ERC Archives, and data management for programme evaluation and monitoring



# 2024 calls : Starting and Consolidator grant profiles

- BENCHMARKS

StG	CoG
should have already shown evidence of the potential for research independence, (for example having produced at least one important publication as main author or without the participation of their PhD supervisor).	should have already shown evidence of research independence.

- Applicant may provide a short narrative describing the scientific importance of the research outputs and the role played by the Principal Investigator in their production.



European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission



# Ethics and Security

You can contact directly the ERCEA ethics team: [ERC-ETHICS-REVIEW@ec.europa.eu](mailto:ERC-ETHICS-REVIEW@ec.europa.eu)

---

## Ethics issues

1. Human embryonic stem cells (hESCs) & human embryos
2. Research involving humans
3. Human cells or tissues
4. Personal data
5. Animals
6. Non-EU countries
7. Environment, health and safety
8. Artificial intelligence
9. Other ethics issues

## Security issues

1. EU classified information
2. Potential misuse of results
3. Use of information/materials subject to national security restrictions

# Eligibility check

---

All proposals are checked against the following eligibility criteria:

- Submission before the deadline,
- Completeness (presence of all requested components)
- Eligible Principal Investigator: PhD restriction – resubmissions
- Eligible Host Institution: in EU or Associated States or International European Interest Organisation or JRC

In case of eligibility extensions : all documents are checked.

If necessary, contact with Principal Investigator or Host Institution

If the question is not clear-cut, an eligibility review committee is convened.

# Evaluation criteria

Research Project	Principal Investigator
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Ground breaking nature</li><li>▪ Potential impact</li><li>▪ Scientific Approach</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Intellectual capacity</li><li>▪ Creativity</li><li>▪ Expertise</li></ul>

- **Multi- or interdisciplinary** proposals - cross boundaries between different fields of research, or
- **Pioneering** proposals addressing new and emerging fields of research, or
- Proposals introducing **unconventional, innovative** approaches and scientific inventions.

# DORA

## *Updated guidance on the track record for applicants*

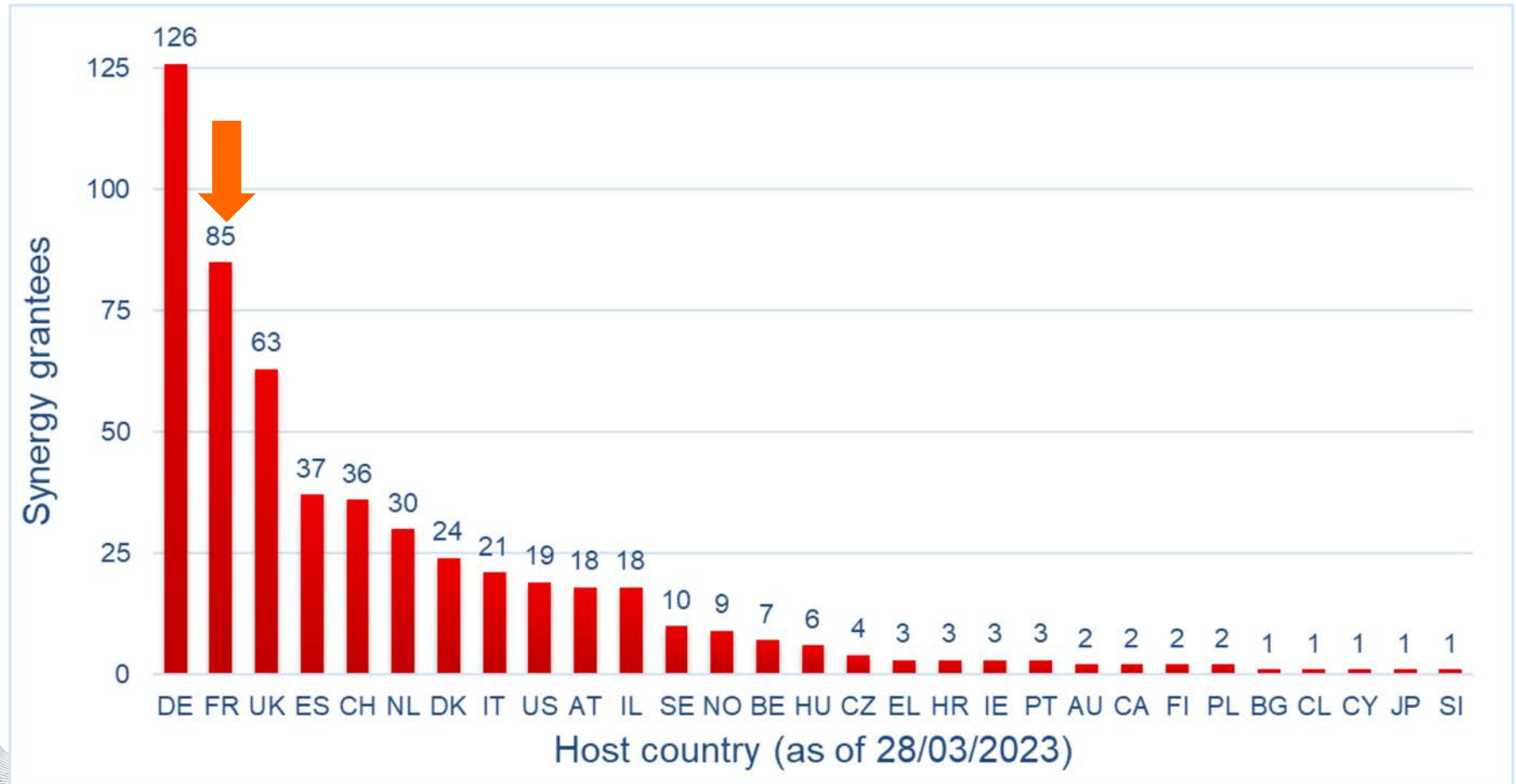
---

**In light of the DORA principles, the ERC Scientific Council integrated the following advice in the ERC Work Programme:**

- Journal Impact Factor: not accepted anymore among the field relevant bibliometric indicators that may be included as part of the publications track record;
- Principal Investigators can provide a short narrative describing the scientific importance of the research outputs and the role played by the Principal Investigator in their production.

<https://sfdora.org/resource/european-research-council-erc/>

# Synergy grantees



European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission



# ERC Proof of Concept 2011-2022

