

European Research Council (ERC) - Starting Grants & Consolidator Grants

Dominik Maas, KoWi/ NKS ERC



About KoWi

KoWi – European Liaison Office of the German Research Organisations

A service platform for German Research Organisations

- Supported by the "Association for the Promotion of European and International Cooperation in Science e.V."
- Financed by the German Research Foundation (DFG)
- Offices in Bonn and Brussels
- Activities:
 - Information, consulting and training to support the participation of researchers at German universities and research organisations in the European Framework Programme

Association for the Promotion of European and International Cooperation in Science e.V.

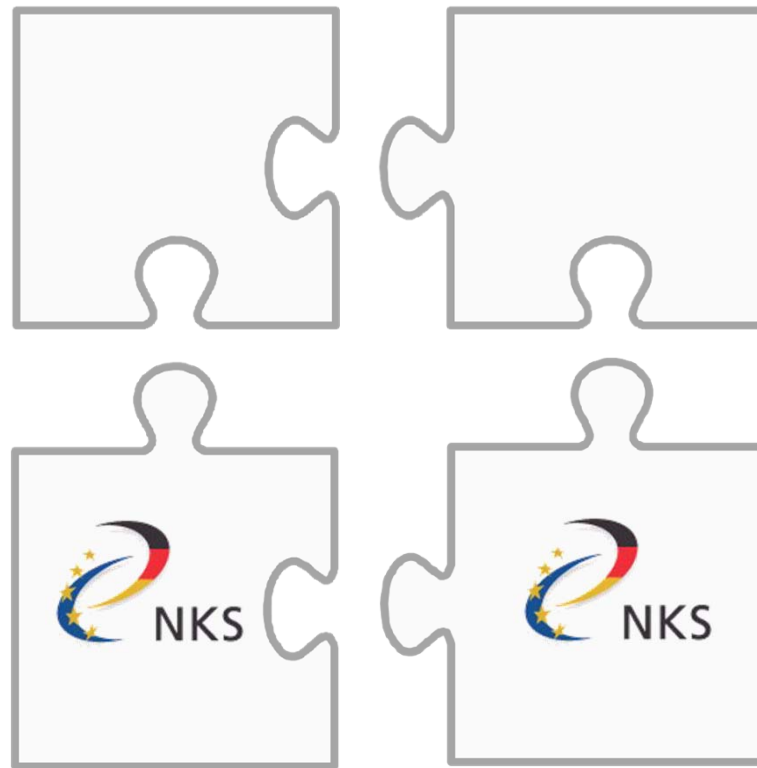


Support for ERC applications in Germany

Regional
consulting
services

EU-Liaison
Officers

National
Contact Point /
EU-Liaison
Office



National
Contact Point /
KoWi



Basic information on the ERC

Horizon 2020 – Framework Programme for Research and Innovation

Part I – Excellent Science

1. European Research
Council (ERC)

2. Future and Emerging
Technologies (FET)

3. Marie Skłodowska-Curie
Actions (MSCA)

4. European Research
Infrastructures, including
e-infrastructures

Part II – Industrial Leadership

1. Leadership in Enabling &
Industrial Technologies (LEIT)
 - Information and
Communication Technologies
 - Nanotechnologies, Advanced
Materials, Advanced
Manufacturing and Processing
and Biotechnology
 - Space

2. Access to Risk Finance

3. Innovation in SMEs

Part III – Societal Challenges

1. Health, demographic change
and wellbeing
2. Food security, sustainable
agriculture and forestry, marine
and maritime and inland water
research, and the bioeconomy
3. Secure, clean and efficient energy
4. Smart, green and integrated
transport
5. Climate action, environment,
resource efficiency and raw
materials
6. Inclusive, innovative and
reflective societies
7. Secure societies

Part IV
Spreading excellence &
widening participation

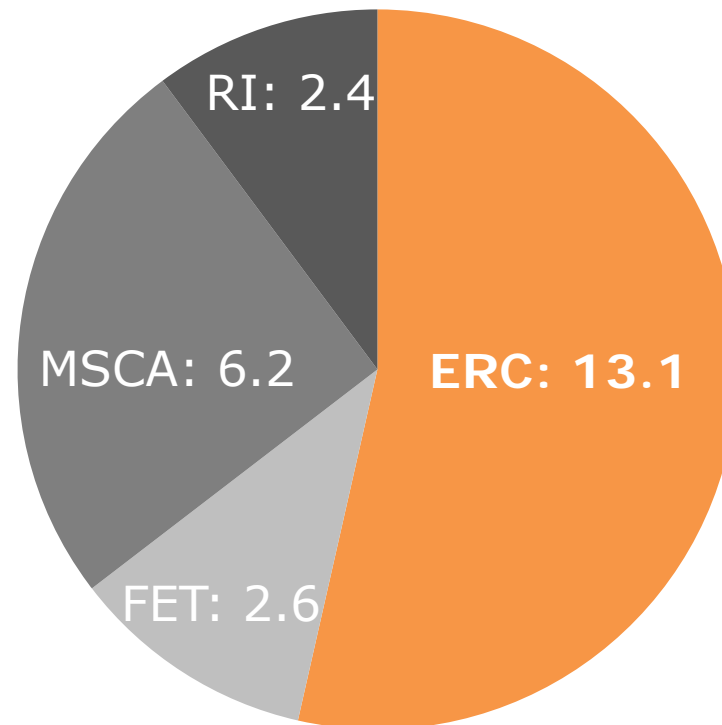
Part V
Science with &
for Society

Non-nuclear direct
actions of the Joint
Research Centre (JRC)

The European
Institute of Innovation
and Technology (EIT)

Horizon 2020 Budget

Excellent Science: 24,2 bn.



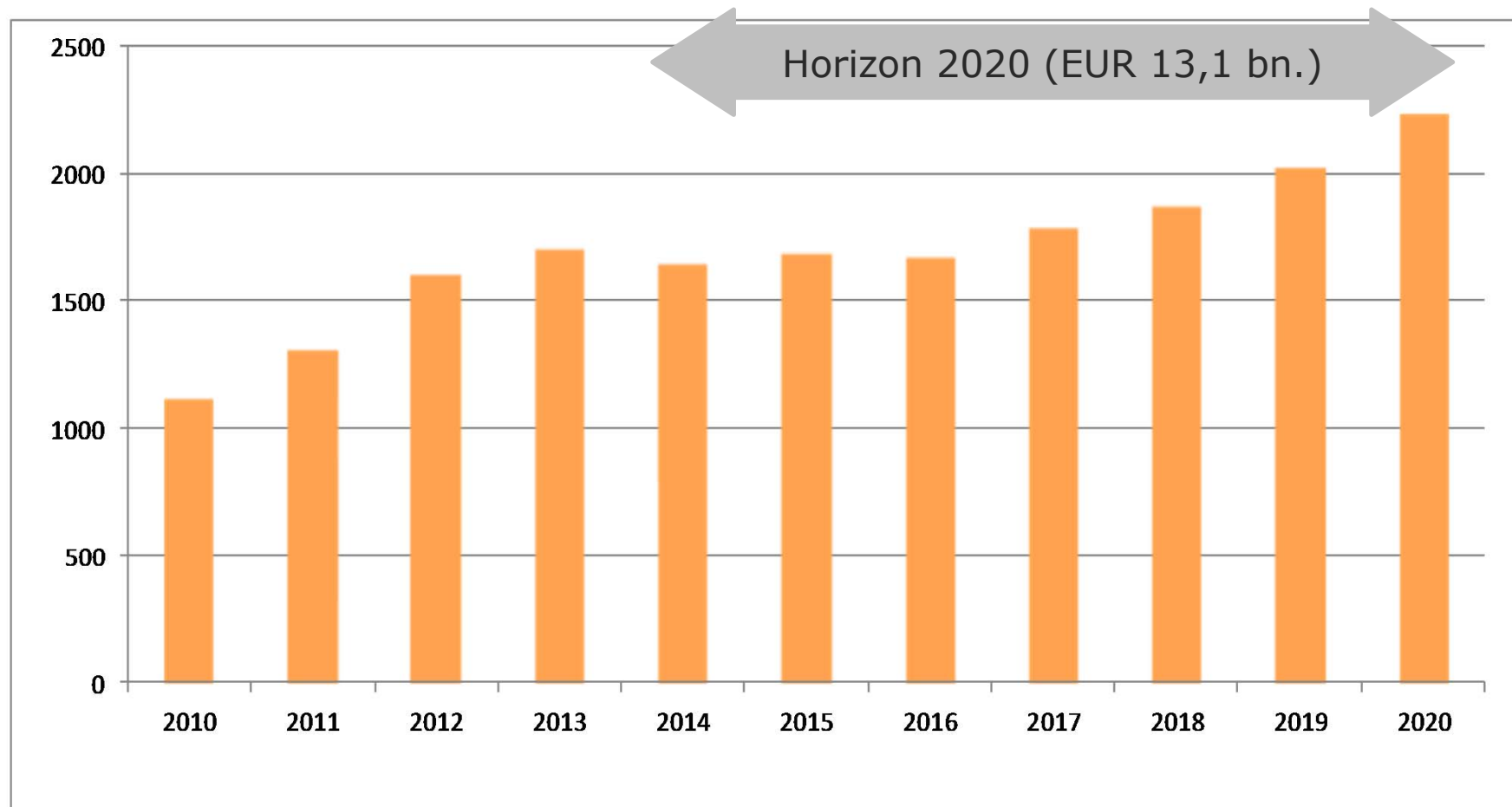
total:
ca. 74.8 bn.
(before EFSI
cuts: 77 bn.)

(in current prizes)

Source: REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation „Horizont 2020“ (2014-2020)

REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the European Fund for Strategic Investments

ERC budget 2010-2020



ERC – Underlying principles

- European funding of basic research (“frontier research”)
- Development of funding schemes is science-driven (Scientific Council)
- Open to all fields of research: bottom-up, investigator-driven
- Open for researchers of any age and nationality

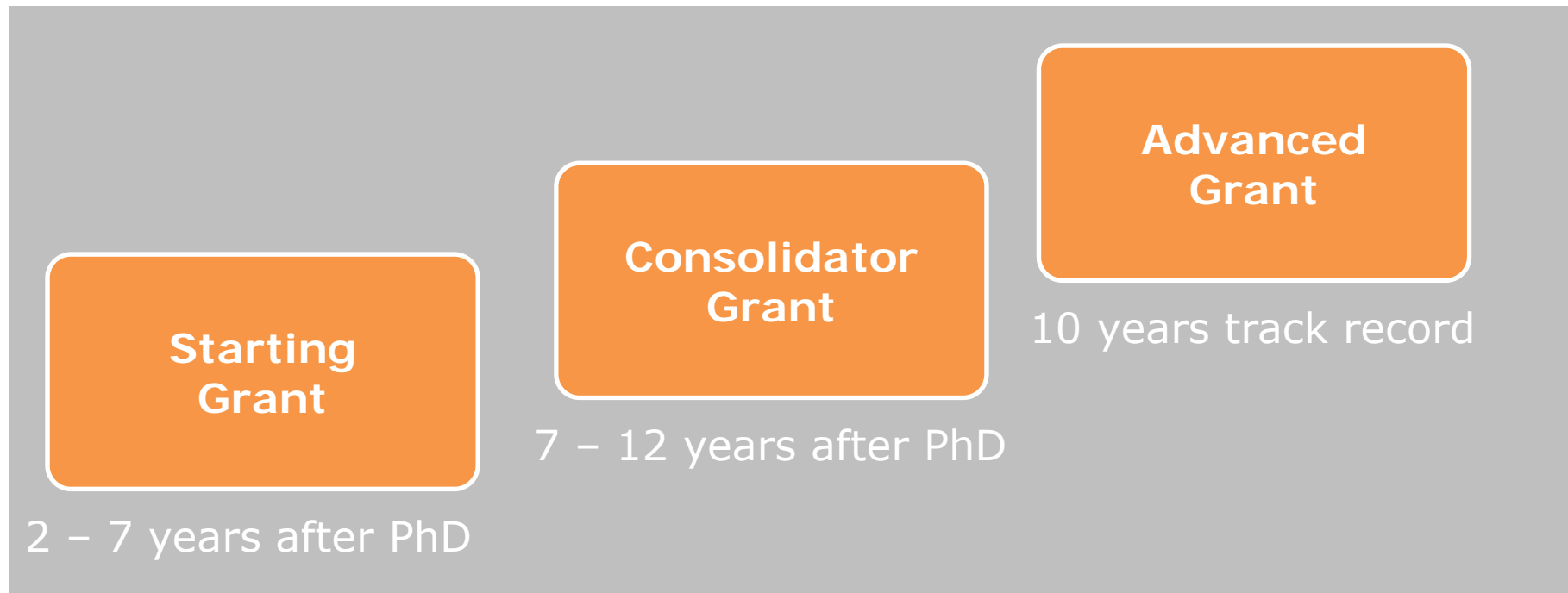
➡ Scientific excellence is the sole criterion for evaluation!

ERC – Funding modalities

- Funding of individuals: Principal Investigator + project
- Support for researchers to start or consolidate their own independent research team in Europe (MS or AC)
- Funding: 100% + 25%
 - All direct project costs: living allowance, travel expenses, consumables, publication costs (incl. Open Access), research-related costs, purchase of major equipment (within the limits of depreciation rules)
 - Additional financing of indirect costs: 25% overhead

ERC funding schemes

ERC – Funding schemes



„Prepare ideas from your
ERC Grant for the market“

**Proof of
Concept**

ERC Starting Grants & Consolidator Grants

Starting Grants – Overview

Target group	2-7 years after PhD (extensions possible in exceptional cases; special rules for MD)
Funding	max. EUR 1.5 million for max. 5 years (exception: + EUR 500,000 for major equipment or for PIs from Third Countries)
Host institution	in EU Member State or Associated Country
Time commitment	≥ 50% (≥ 50% in Europe)
Application procedure	single submission of full proposal, two-step evaluation (incl. interview)
Call	annually

Consolidator Grants – Overview

Target group	7-12 years after PhD (extensions possible in exceptional cases; special rules for MD)
Funding	max. EUR 2 million for max. 5 years (exception: + EUR 750,000 for major equipment or for PIs from Third Countries)
Host institution	in EU Member State or Associated Country
Time commitment	≥ 40% (≥ 50% in Europe)
Application procedure	single submission of full proposal, two-step evaluation (incl. interview)
Call	annually

Application

Prolonged eligibility

- Calculation of the eligibility time window:
 - Time elapsed between date on the PhD certificate and 1 January 2017
- Prolonged eligibility for maternity/paternity leave
 - Mothers: 18 months for each child born after or before PhD award
 - Fathers: actual documented amount of paternity leave for each child born after or before PhD award
- Other reasons:
 - Documented elapsed time for long-term illnesses (> 90 days), clinical training or national service after PhD

Medical Doctor (MD)

- Principal Investigators who are MDs have to have:
 - Additional PhD
 - OR
 - Appointment that requires doctoral equivalency (postdoc fellowship, professorship, ...)
 - AND
 - Research experience (in any case)
- Eligibility time-window:
 - 4-9 years past MD for Starting Grants
 - 9-14 years past MD for Consolidator Grants

Evaluation criteria – PI

I. 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**?
 - e.g. publications without PhD supervisor, own third party funding
- To what extent have the achievements of the PI typically gone **beyond the state-of-the-art**?

II. 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?
 - **StG: 50% time commitment**
 - **CoG: 40% time commitment**

Source: ERC WP 2017

ERC Starting Grantees – Profile features

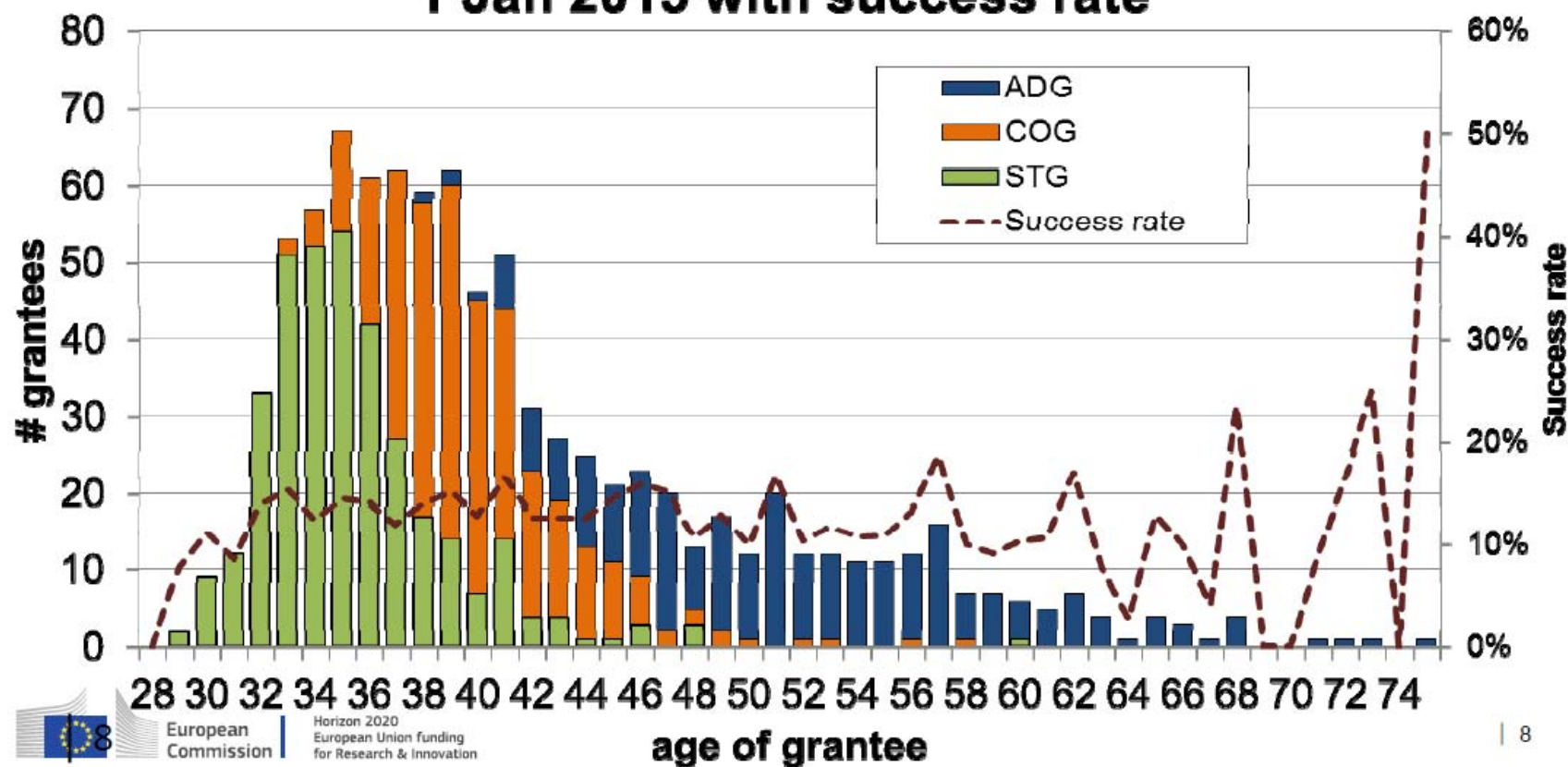
- Starting-Grantees usually have longer (and often several) “mobility experiences”
- Solid third-party funding (DFG, BMBF, EU etc.)
- Publications in the most high-ranking international journals
- Memberships in academies and editorial boards, review activities
- Distinct (inter)national research cooperation with leading scientists

2015 Calls: Age of grantees



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

STG COG ADG 2015 Age of grantees on 1 Jan 2015 with success rate



European
Commission

Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation

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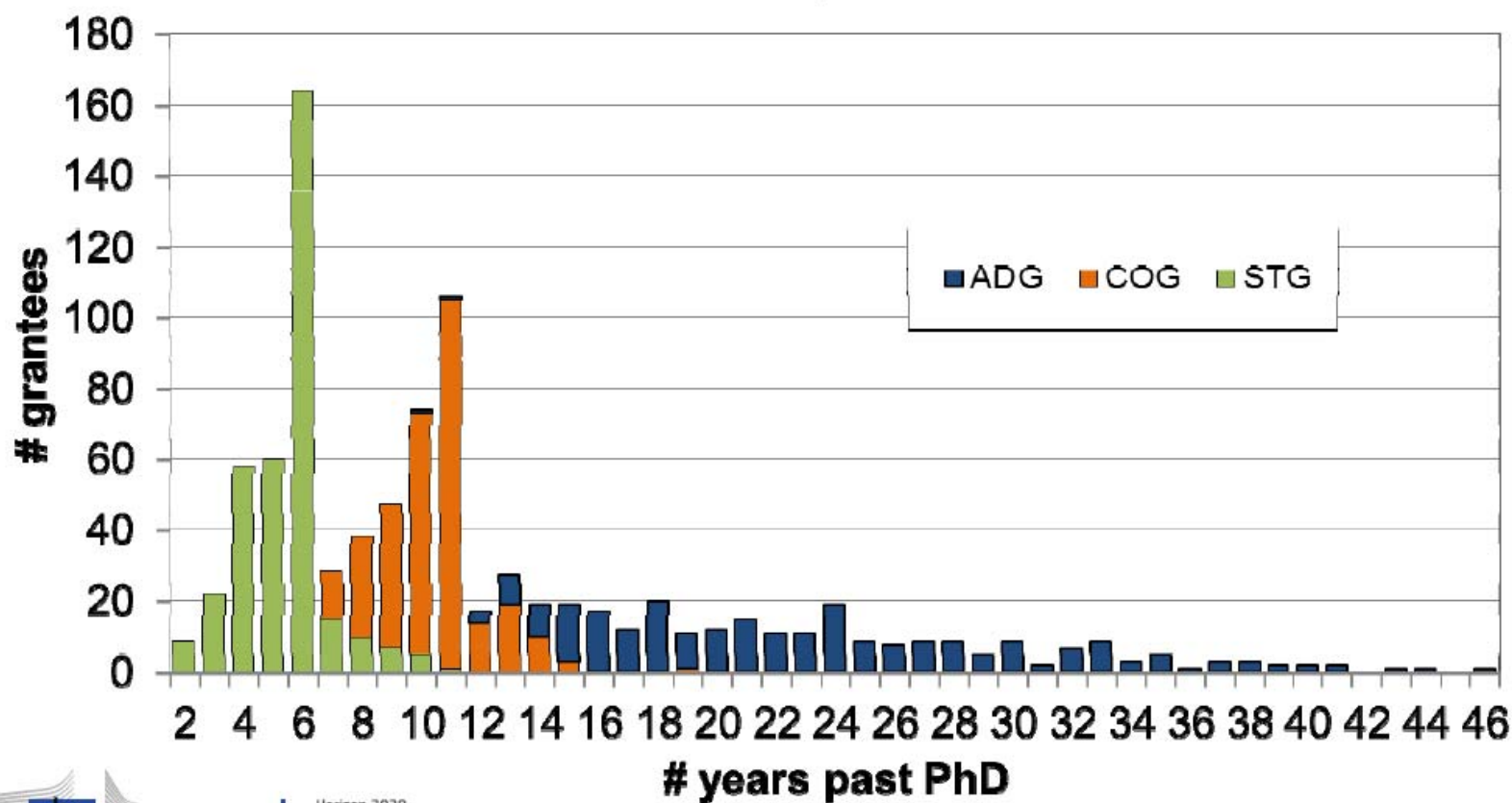
2015 Calls: "Academic age" of grantees



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

STG COG ADG - Years past PhD on 1 Jan 2015



European
Commission

Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation

Evaluation criteria – Project

- I. 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 between or **across disciplines**)?
 - To what extent is the proposed research **high risk/high gain**?

Source: ERC WP 2017

Evaluation criteria – Project

II. Scientific Approach

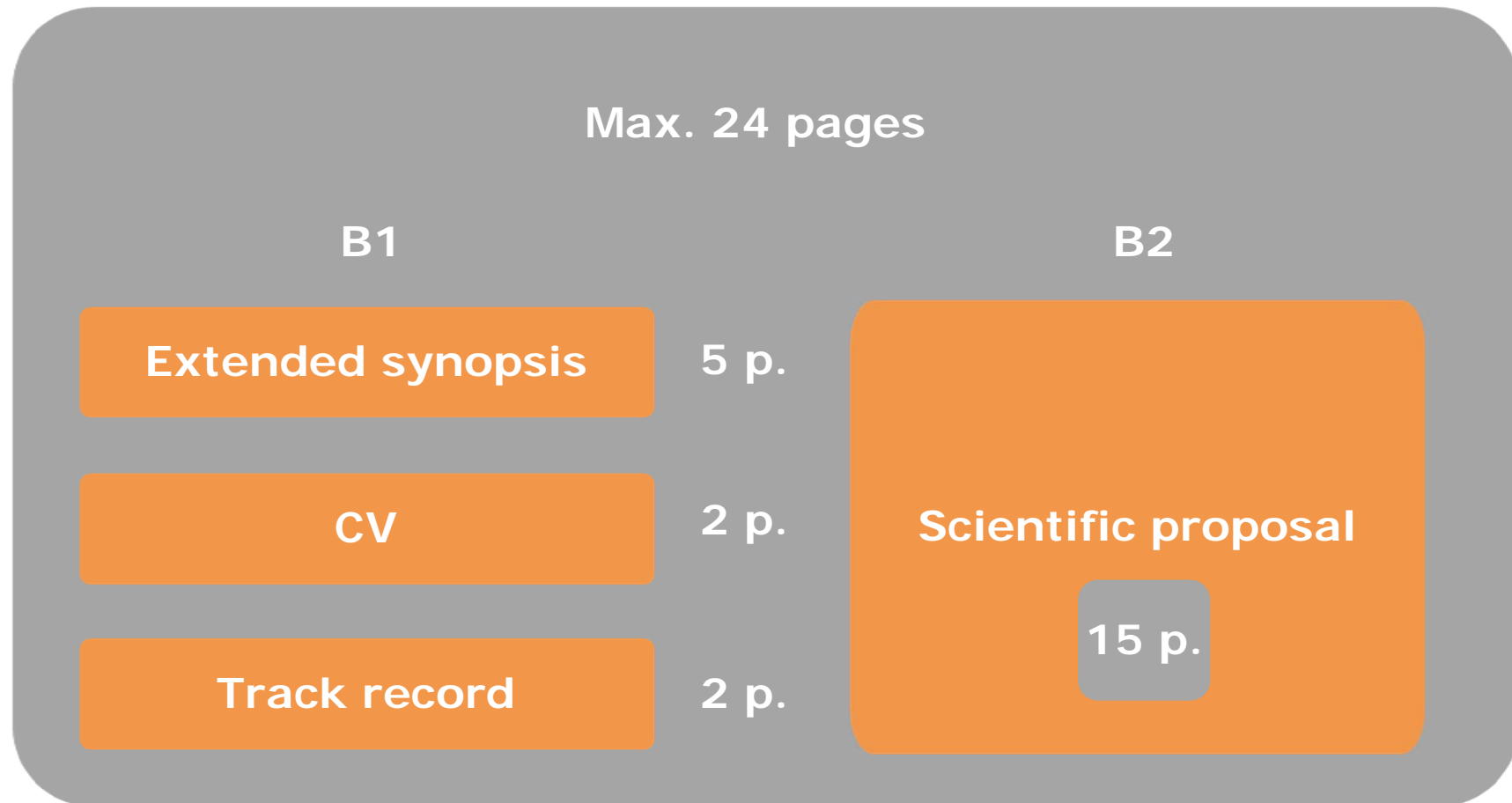
- To what extent is the outlined scientific approach **feasible** bearing in mind the extent that the proposed research is high risk/high gain?
- To what extent is the proposed research **methodology appropriate** to achieve the goals of the project?
- To what extent does the proposal involve the development of novel methodology?
- To what extent are the **proposed timescales and resources necessary and properly justified**?

Source: ERC WP 2017

Proposal

- Administrative forms (Part A)
 - 1 - General Information
 - 2 - Participants & Contacts
 - 3 - Budget
 - 4 - Ethics
 - 5 - Call-specific questions
- Research Proposal (Part B)
- Annexes
 - Host Support Letter (Commitment of the Host Institution)
 - PhD-Certificate
 - Ethics Self-Assessment (if applicable)
 - Further documents (if applicable)

Proposal in detail



Proposal in detail

Evaluation in step 1

B1

Extended synopsis

CV

Track record

- Concise presentation of scientific project
- Particular attention to the ground-breaking nature of the research
- Demonstration of the feasibility of the scientific approach
 - Short work plan, team composition and budget

Proposal in detail

Evaluation in step 1

B1

Extended synopsis

CV

Track record

- Standard academic and research record
- Clear explanation of research career gaps and/or unconventional paths
+ Funding ID

Proposal in detail

Evaluation in step 1

B1

Extended synopsis

CV

Track record

- Early achievements track record
- Publications in peer-reviewed international journals
- Conference proceedings
- Monographs
- Granted patent(s)
- Invited presentations
- Prizes, awards, memberships

Proposal in detail

State of the art and objectives

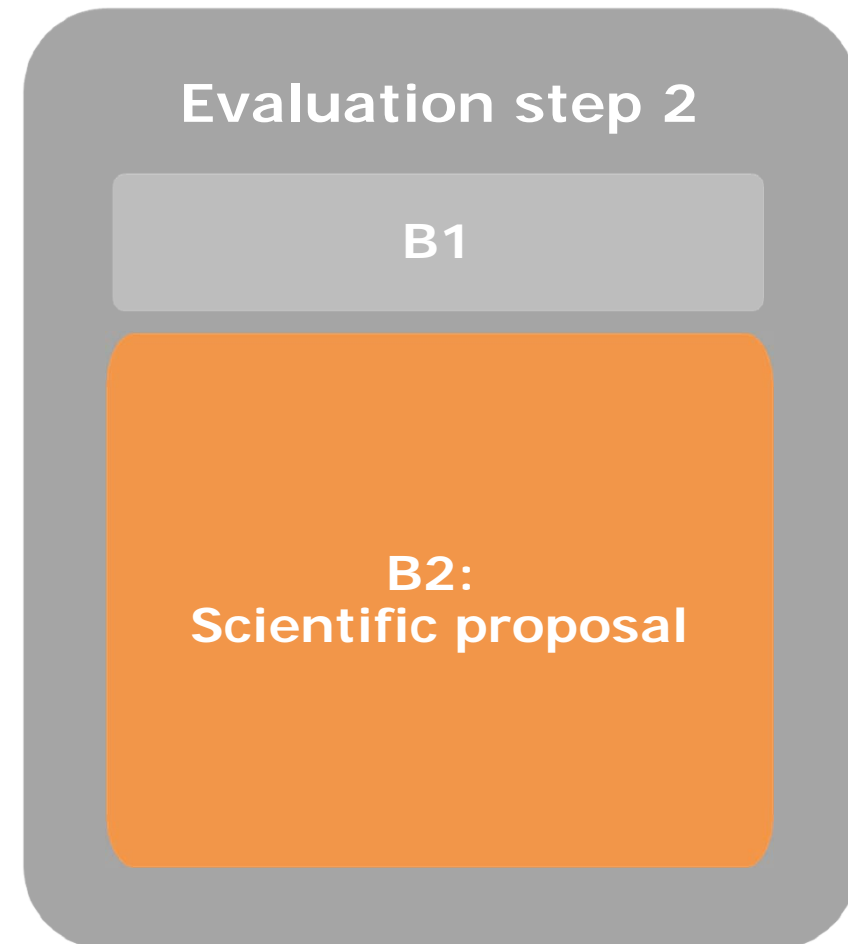
- Ground-breaking
- Potential impact

Research methodology

- High risk/high gain
- Feasibility

Resources

- Timescale / appropriate use
- Work plan, team composition and budget!



Starting & Consolidator Grants – Evaluation

Proposal & evaluation

Evaluation in step 1

Extended synopsis

CV

Track record

Evaluation in step 2

B1

Scientific proposal

Peer review evaluation

- Selection of evaluators through the Scientific Council
- Domain specific evaluation panels: panel chair and 10-15 panel members
- Three scientific domains:
 - Physical Sciences & Engineering (PE): 10 Panels
 - Life Sciences (LS): 9 Panels
 - Social Sciences & Humanities (SH): 6 Panels

Evaluation – two-step process

- Evaluation step 1:
 - Single (remote) evaluation through panel members
 - Overall evaluation in the panel (meeting)
- Evaluation step 2:
 - Single evaluation through panel members & external reviewers
 - Interview
 - Overall evaluation in the panel
- Both steps: Panel meetings establish a ranking list of proposals based on individual reviews
- Reviewers evaluate PI and proposal respectively on a scale from A to C (in both steps)

Physical Sciences and Engineering (PE)

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

Example Panel PE7 – Descriptors

PE7 Systems and Communication Engineering: Electrical, electronic, communication, optical and systems engineering

- PE7_1 Control engineering
- PE7_2 Electrical engineering: power components and/or systems
- PE7_3 Simulation engineering and modelling
- PE7_4 (Micro and nano) systems engineering
- PE7_5 (Micro and nano) electronic, optoelectronic and photonic components
- PE7_6 Communication technology, high-frequency technology, etc.)
- PE7_7 Signal processing
- PE7_8 Networks (communication networks, sensor networks, etc.)
- PE7_9 Man-machine-interfaces
- PE7_10 Robotics
- PE7_11 Components and systems for applications (in e.g. medicine, biology, environment)
- PE7_12 Electrical energy production, distribution, application

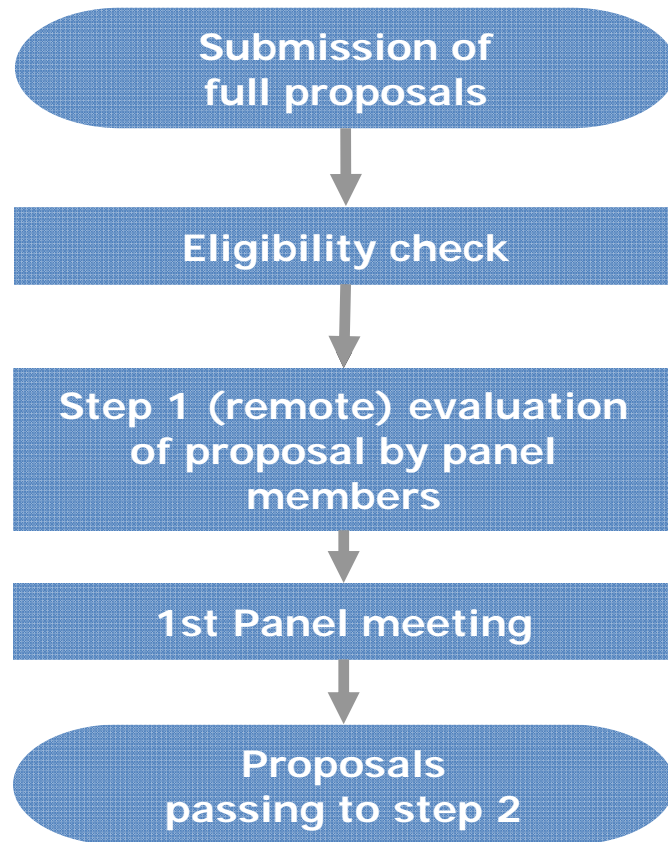
Keywords, not
sub-panels!

PE8 Products and Processes Engineering: Product design, process design and control, construction methods, civil engineering, energy processes, material engineering

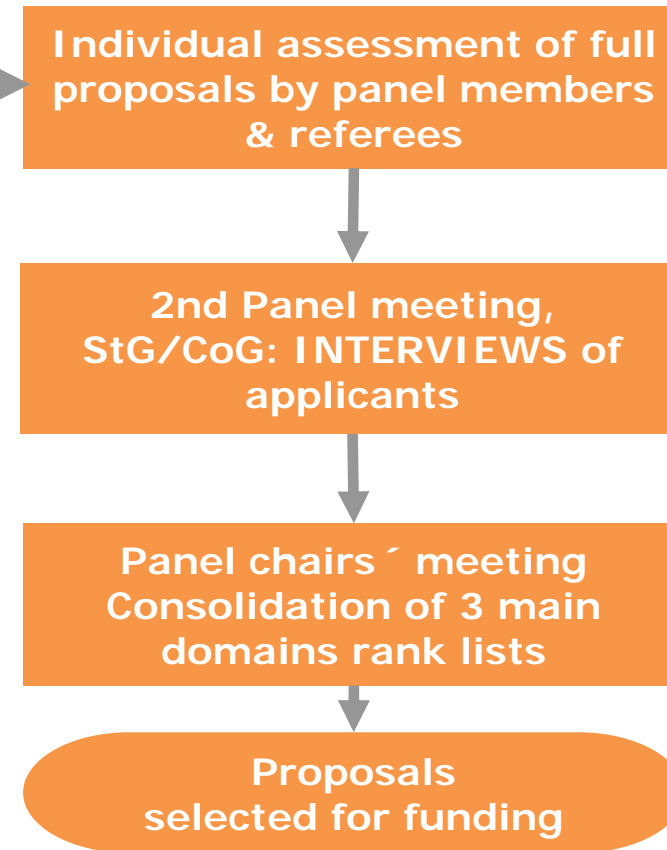
- PE8_1 Aerospace engineering
- PE8_2 Chemical engineering, technical chemistry
- PE8_3 Civil engineering, architecture, maritime/hydraulic engineering, geotechnics, waste treatment
- PE8_4 Computational engineering
- PE8_5 Fluid mechanics, hydraulic-, turbo-, and piston engines
- PE8_6 Energy processes engineering

Evaluation procedure – StG & CoG

Step 1



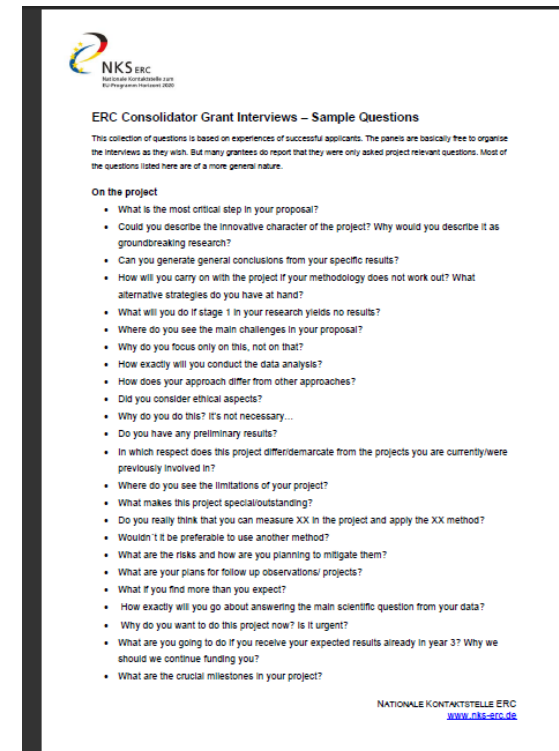
Step 2



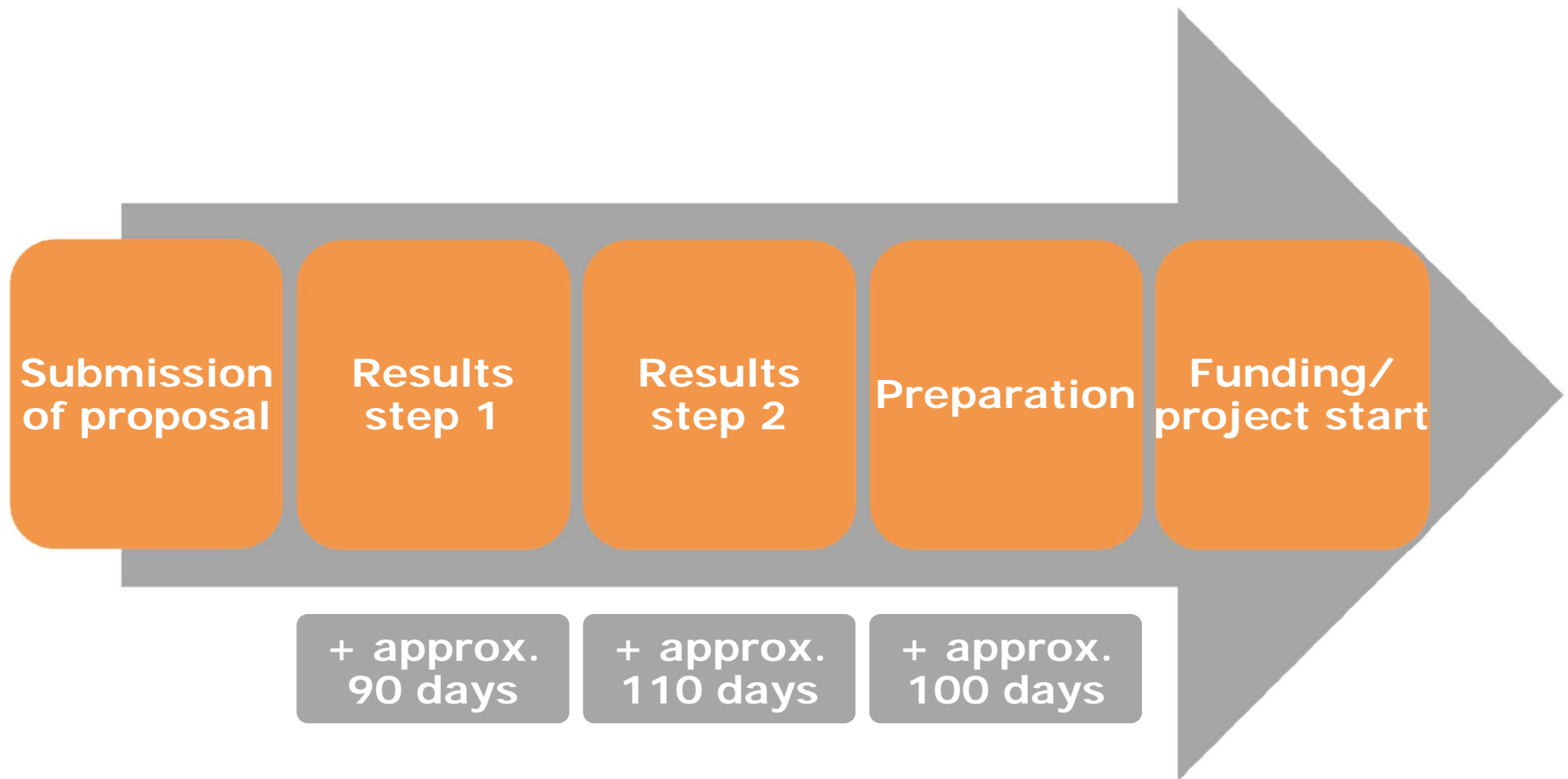
Source: ERC

Be prepared: Questions on your profile

- Prooven independency from PhD-supervisor
- Experience with Team-Leadership and Supervision
- Own qualification and ability to lead ground-breaking research
- Your scientific achievements (CV and Track Record)
- Future career aims



From submission to funding \approx 10 months



Resubmission in 2017?

Result step 1	2014 and before	2015	2016
A	yes	yes	yes
B	yes	yes	NO
C	yes	NO	NO

A in step 1 (passed to step 2): resubmit without limitations

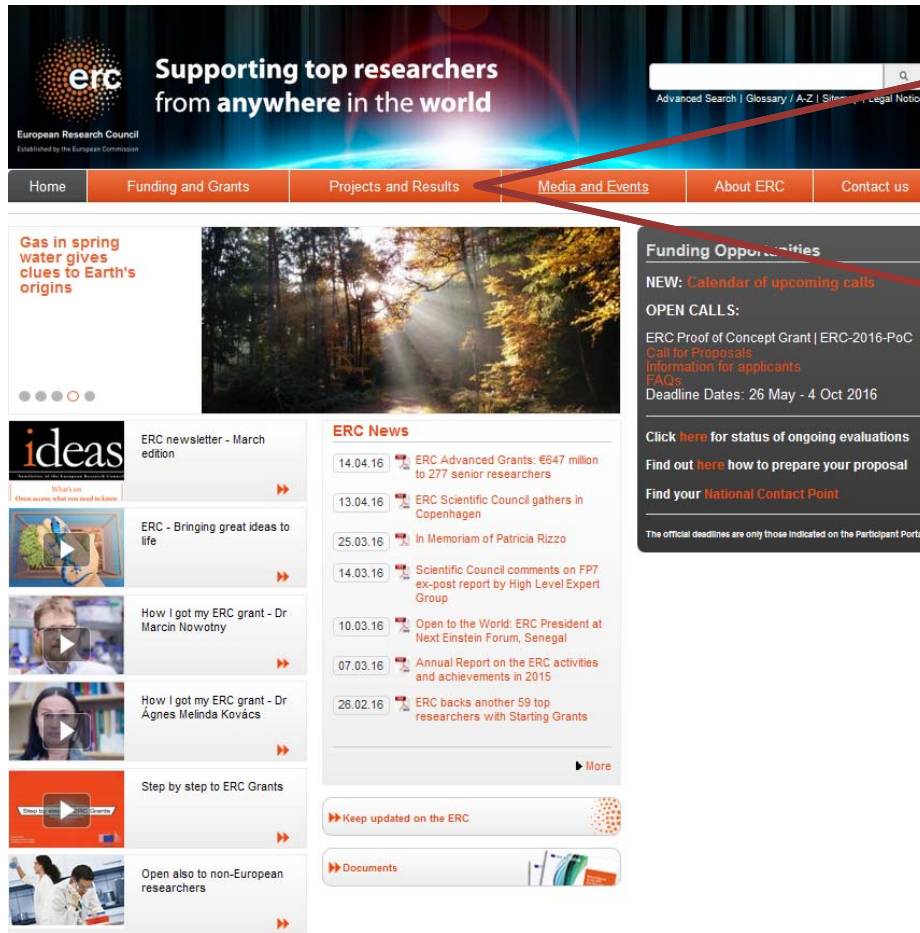
B in step 1: do not submit in the next call year

C in step 1: do not submit in the next two calls years

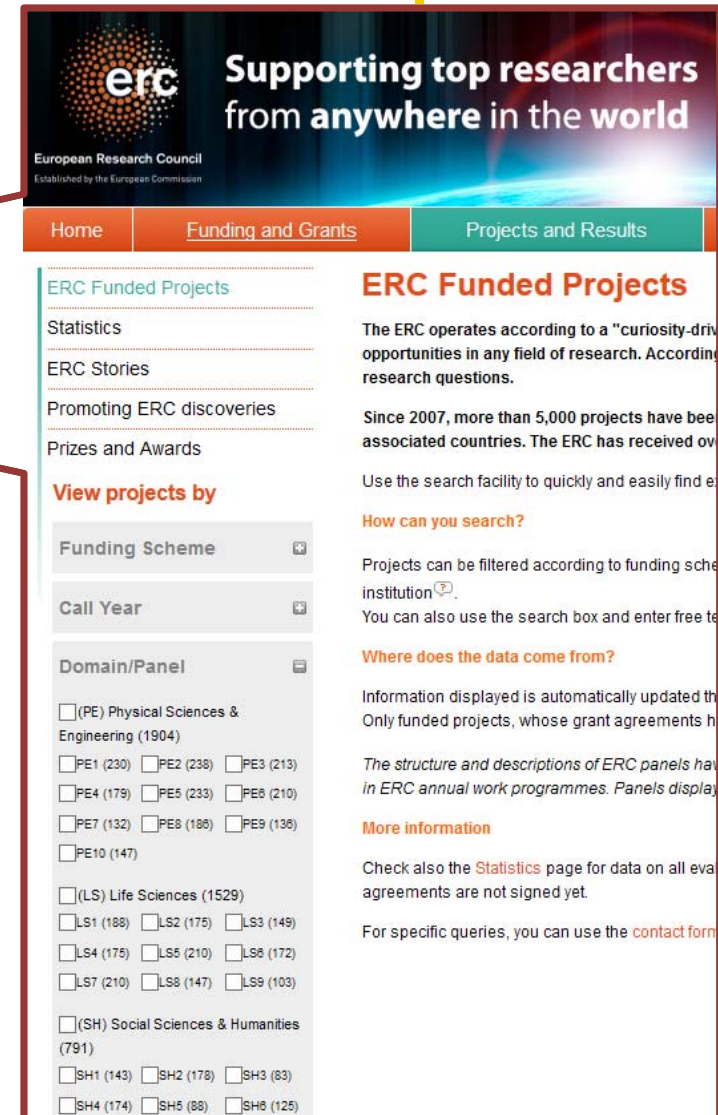
First reflections on the project

- Can you explain your **vision** for the project in one sentence?
- Which important (societal/ topic-related) **challenges** are you going to tackle with the project?
- Which are the **ground-breaking aspects** of your project?
- What is the expected **impact** of your project on your research field?
- Why are you the **right person** to carry out the project?

ERC Website: Project search



The screenshot shows the ERC website homepage. At the top, the ERC logo and tagline "Supporting top researchers from anywhere in the world" are displayed. Below this is a navigation bar with links: Home, Funding and Grants, Projects and Results, Media and Events, About ERC, and Contact us. The main content area features a large image of a forest with sunlight filtering through the trees. To the left, there are several featured articles and videos, including "Gas in spring water gives clues to Earth's origins" and "ERC newsletter - March edition". To the right, there is a section titled "Funding Opportunities" with links to "NEW: Calendar of upcoming calls", "OPEN CALLS:", "ERC Proof of Concept Grant | ERC-2016-PoC", "Call for Proposals", "Information for applicants", "FAQs", and "Deadline Dates: 26 May - 4 Oct 2016". Below this, there is a section titled "ERC News" with a list of recent news items, including "ERC Advanced Grants: €647 million to 277 senior researchers", "ERC Scientific Council gathers in Copenhagen", "In Memoriam of Patricia Rizzo", "Scientific Council comments on FP7 ex-post report by High Level Expert Group", "Open to the World: ERC President at Next Einstein Forum, Senegal", "Annual Report on the ERC activities and achievements in 2015", and "ERC backs another 59 top researchers with Starting Grants".



The screenshot shows the ERC website project search page. At the top, the ERC logo and tagline "Supporting top researchers from anywhere in the world" are displayed. Below this is a navigation bar with links: Home, Funding and Grants, and Projects and Results. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains links to "ERC Funded Projects", "Statistics", "ERC Stories", "Promoting ERC discoveries", and "Prizes and Awards". Below these links is a section titled "View projects by" with filters for "Funding Scheme", "Call Year", and "Domain/Panel". The "Domain/Panel" filter is expanded, showing a list of panels with checkboxes and counts: (PE) Physical Sciences & Engineering (1904), (PE1) (230), (PE2) (238), (PE3) (213), (PE4) (179), (PE5) (233), (PE6) (210), (PE7) (132), (PE8) (188), (PE9) (136), (PE10) (147), (LS) Life Sciences (1529), (LS1) (188), (LS2) (175), (LS3) (149), (LS4) (175), (LS5) (210), (LS6) (172), (LS7) (210), (LS8) (147), (LS9) (103), (SH) Social Sciences & Humanities (791), (SH1) (143), (SH2) (178), (SH3) (83), (SH4) (174), (SH5) (88), and (SH6) (125). The right column contains a section titled "ERC Funded Projects" with a paragraph explaining the ERC's mission and a search facility. Below this, there is a section titled "How can you search?" with a paragraph explaining the search filters. At the bottom, there is a section titled "Where does the data come from?" with a paragraph explaining the data source.

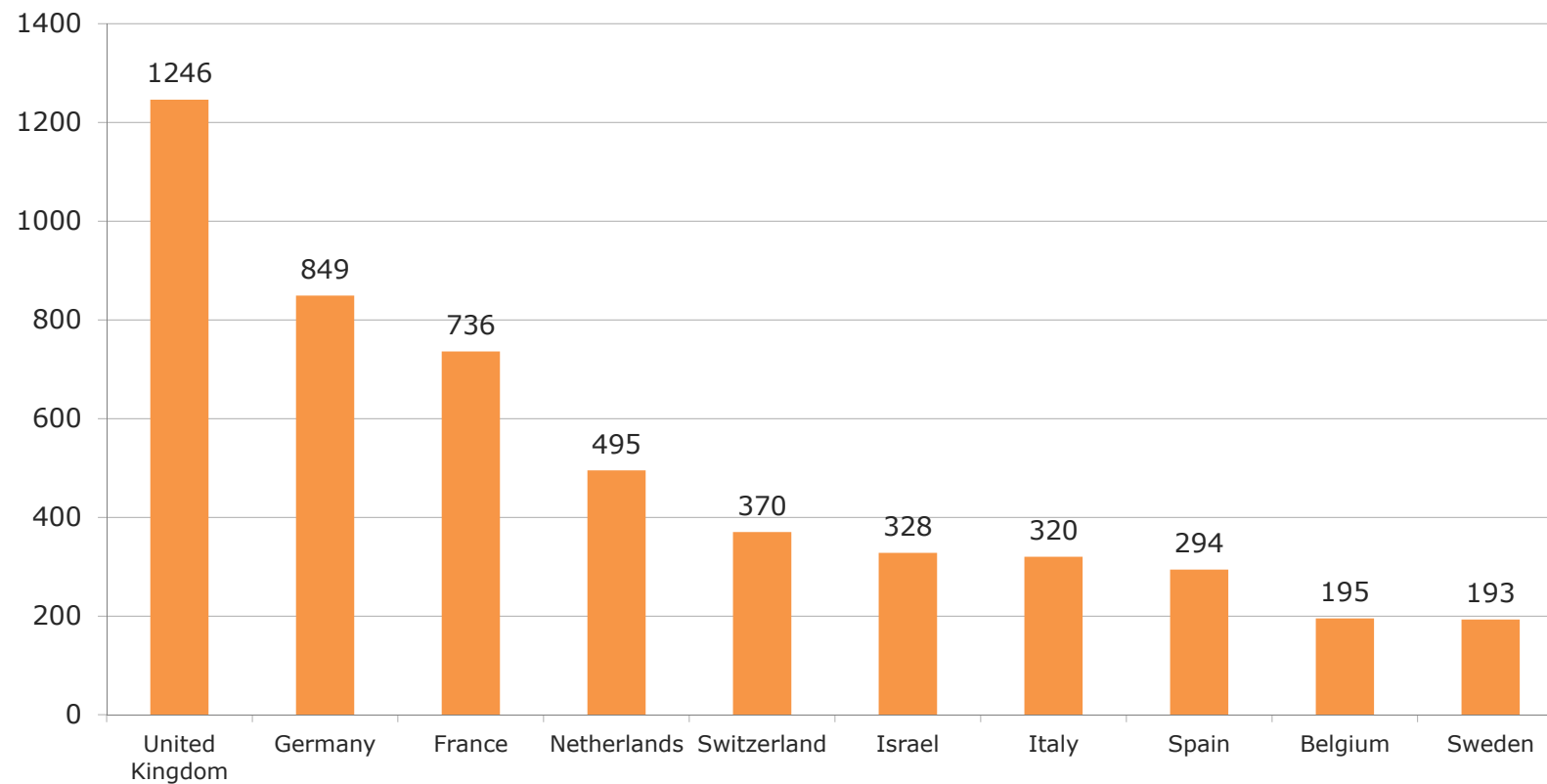
Success Rates, Calls & Deadlines

ERC Success Rates 2014 - 2016

Call year	2014	2015	2016
Starting Grants	11,5 %	12 %	11 %
Consolidator Grants	15 %	15 %	
Advanced Grants	8,3 %	14 %	

ERC-Grants by Host Institution Country

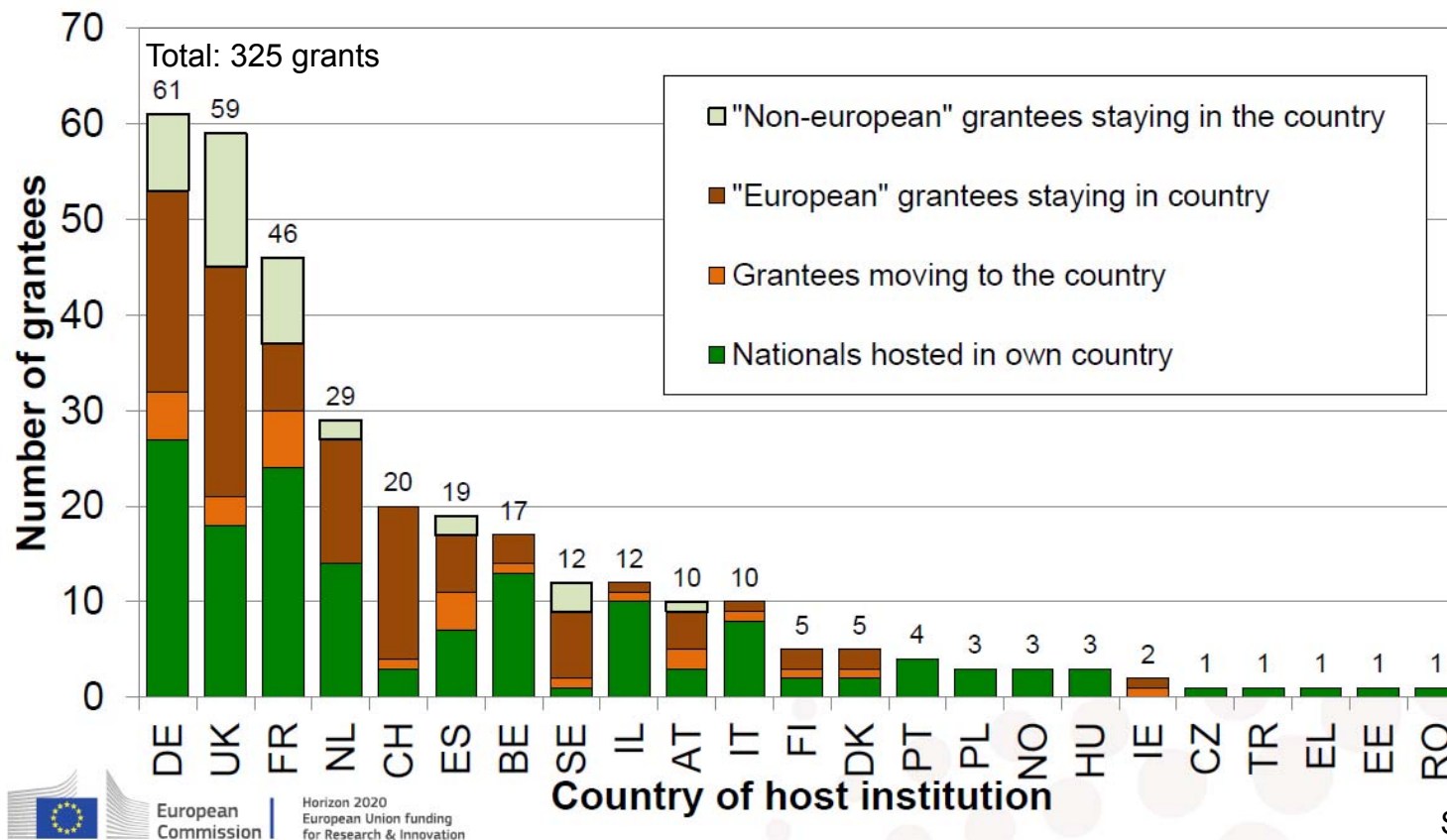
As of: March 2016



Statistic based on ERC data

ERC Starting Grant 2016

Mobility: Incoming and staying grantees



Source: ERC

Calls for proposals 2017

Publication of the Work Programme: 26 July 2016

<i>Funding scheme</i>	<i>Reference date</i>	<i>Call Opens</i>	<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Budget</i>
Starting Grants	01 January 2017	26 July 2016	18 October 2016	605 Mio.
Consolidator Grants	01 January 2017	20 October 2016	09 February 2017	575 Mio.
Advanced Grants		16 May 2017	31 August 2017	567 Mio.
Proof of Concept		2 August 2016	19 January 2017, 25 April 2017, 5 September 2017	20 Mio.

5 p.m. Brussels time

Support for applicants


ERC services at KoWi

- Individual support and supervision for applicants
- Homepage on ERC, incl. FAQs:
www.nks-erc.de
- Newsletter (available in English):
http://www.eubuero.de/newsletter_en.htm
- Information events, workshops and consulting for small groups at German universities and research organisations
- Interview trainings for the Starting and Consolidator Grants and on-site support in Brussels
- Consulting on ERC project management

ERC: Information online


Nationale Kontaktstellen (NKS)

Der Europäische Forschungsrat (ERC)



Der Europäische Forschungsrat (ERC)

Die Nationale Kontaktstelle zum Europäischen Forschungsrat (European Research Council, ERC) wird gemeinsam vom EU-Büro des BMBF (im DLR Projektträger) und der Kooperationsstelle EU der Wissenschaftsorganisationen (KoWi) betreut.



Wer wird gefördert?

Der Europäische Forschungsrat (European Research Council - ERC) ist eine von der Europäischen Kommission eingerichtete Institution zur Finanzierung von grundlagenorientierter Forschung. Er wird von 2014 - 2020 über das EU-Rahmenprogramm für Forschung und Innovation "Horizont 2020" finanziert.

- Starting Grants für Nachwuchswissenschaftler und -wissenschaftlerinnen (2 - 7 Jahre nach Ph.D.) mit bis zu 2 Mio. Euro über maximal fünf Jahre
- Consolidator Grants für Nachwuchswissenschaftler und -wissenschaftlerinnen (7 - 12 Jahre nach Ph.D.) mit bis zu 2,75 Mio. Euro über maximal fünf Jahre
- Advanced Grants für erfahrene exzellente Forschende mit bis zu 3,5 Mio. Euro über maximal fünf Jahre

Personen die bereits einen ERC Grant eingeworben haben und die aus dem Projekt entstandenen Ideen in Innovationen überführen möchten, können zusätzliche Mittel über die "Proof of Concept"-Ausschreibungen des ERC beantragen.

Koordinierung des NKS-Netzwerkes

- Erstinformation
- Recht & Finanzen
- Der Europäische Forschungsrat (ERC)
 - The European Research Council (ERC) (English)
 - Aktuelles
 - Ausschreibungen
 - ERC-Antragstellung
 - ERC-Begutachtung
 - ERC-Projektmanagement
 - ERC-Porträts
 - Schon Gewusst? (FAQs)
 - Dokumente
 - Veranstaltungen
 - Ansprechpartner/innen in der NKS ERC
 - Künftige und neu entstehende Technologien: Future and Emerging Technologies (FET)
 - Forschungsinfrastrukturen
 - Verbreitung von Exzellenz und Ausweitung der Beteiligung
 - Wissenschaft mit und für die

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Gas in spring water gives clues to Earth's origins

Funding Opportunities

NEW: Calendar of upcoming calls

OPEN CALLS:

ERC Proof of Concept Grant | ERC-2016-PoC
Call for Proposals
Information for applicants
FAQs
Deadline Dates: 26 May - 4 Oct 2016

Click [here](#) for status of ongoing evaluations

Find out [here](#) how to prepare your proposal

Find your [National Contact Point](#)

The official deadlines are only those indicated on the Participant Portal

ERC News

- 14.04.16 ERC Advanced Grants: 6647 million to 277 senior researchers
- 13.04.16 ERC Scientific Council gathers in Copenhagen
- 25.03.16 In Memoriam of Patricia Rizzo
- 14.03.16 Scientific Council comments on FP7 ex-post report by High Level Expert Group
- 10.03.16 Open to the World: ERC President at Next Einstein Forum, Senegal
- 07.03.16 Annual Report on the ERC activities and achievements in 2015
- 26.02.16 ERC backs another 59 top researchers with Starting Grants

[More](#)

[Keep updated on the ERC](#)

[Documents](#)

ideas ERC newsletter - March edition

ERC - Bringing great ideas to life

How I got my ERC grant - Dr Marcin Nowotny

How I got my ERC grant - Dr Ágnes Melinda Kovács

Step by step to ERC Grants

Open also to non-European researchers

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European Research Council (ERC)

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Together with the EU-Bureau of the BMBF

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