

# European Research Council

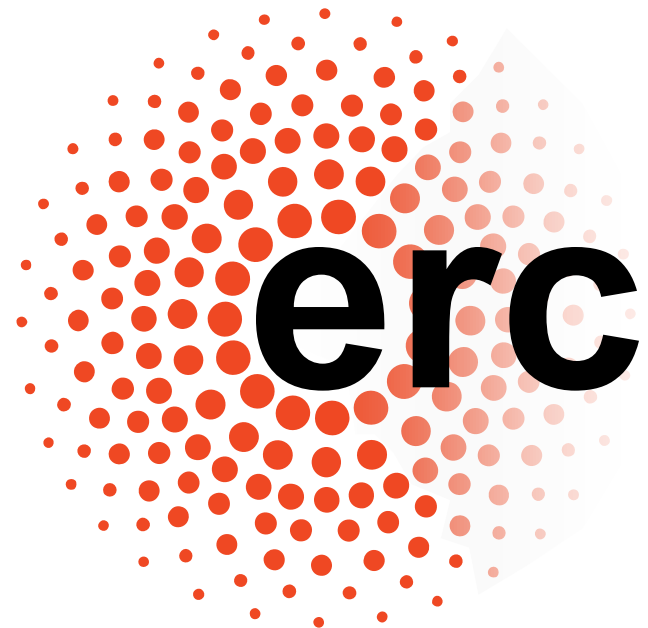


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## Funding opportunities at the ERC: application and evaluation process

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# Outline



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- **What is the ERC?**
- **What does ERC offer?**
- **How ERC research proposals are evaluated?**
- **Some tips on preparing an ERC proposal**
- **Opportunities to visit ERC Principal Investigators**

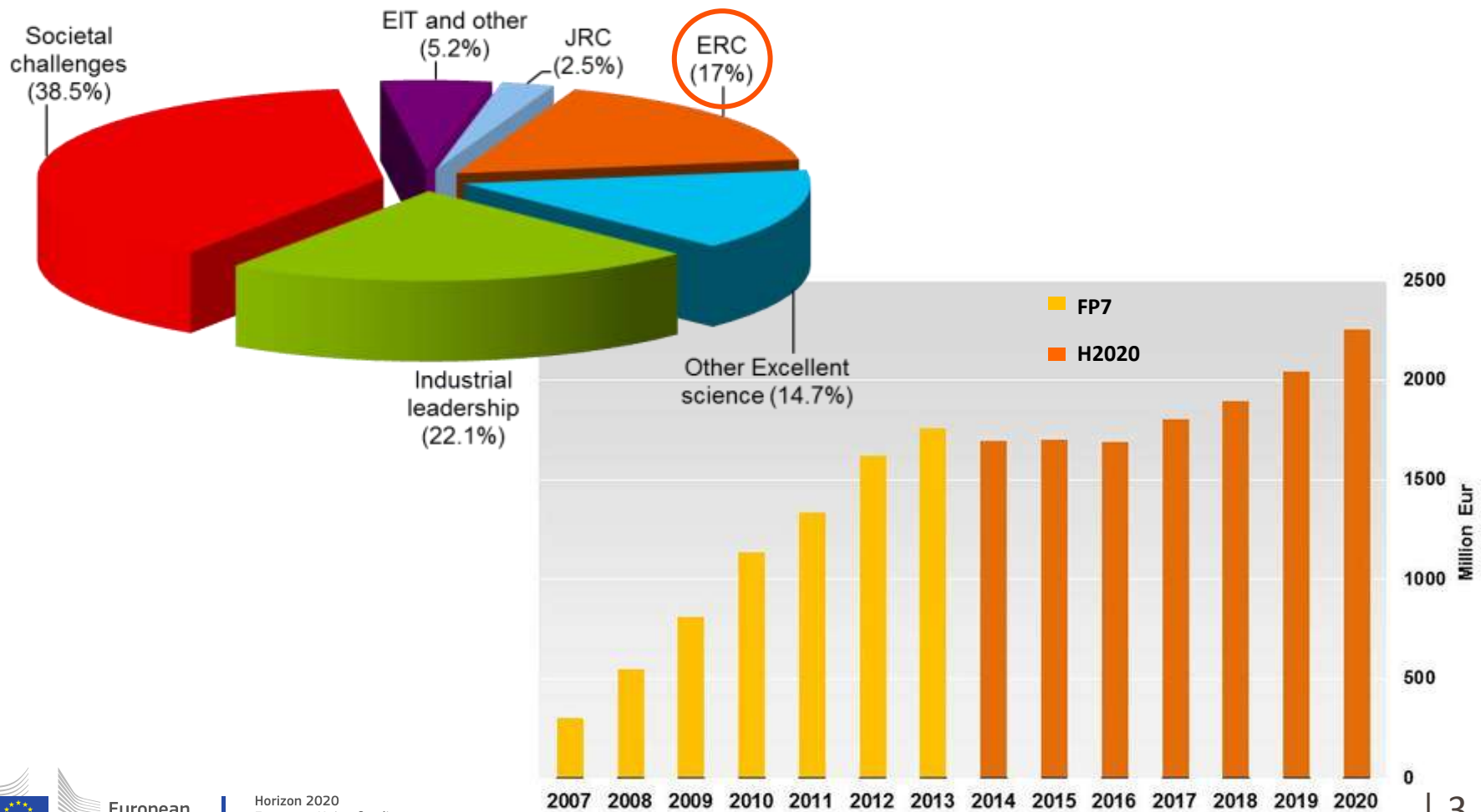
# What is the ERC?

Horizon 2020 Budget € 77 billion

ERC Budget € 13 billion



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# What does ERC offer?

## ERC Grant Schemes



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### Starting Grants

starters  
2-7 years after PhD  
( $\geq 50\%$  commitment)  
up to € 2.0 Mio  
for 5 years

### Consolidator Grants

consolidators  
7-12 years after PhD  
( $\geq 40\%$  commitment)  
up to € 2.75 Mio  
for 5 years

### Advanced Grants

track-record of  
significant research  
achievements in the  
last 10 years  
( $\geq 30\%$  commitment)  
up to € 3.5 Mio  
for 5 years

### Proof-of-Concept

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

# What do ERC grants offer?

## Creative Freedom of the Individual Grantee

### ERC offers independence, recognition & visibility

- fund research on **any topic: completely "bottom-up"**
- **financial autonomy** for 5 years
- ability to negotiate with the host institution the **best conditions** of work
- to attract **top team members and collaborators**
- **portability**
- **ability to attract additional funding**

# How to prepare and submit an ERC research proposal?

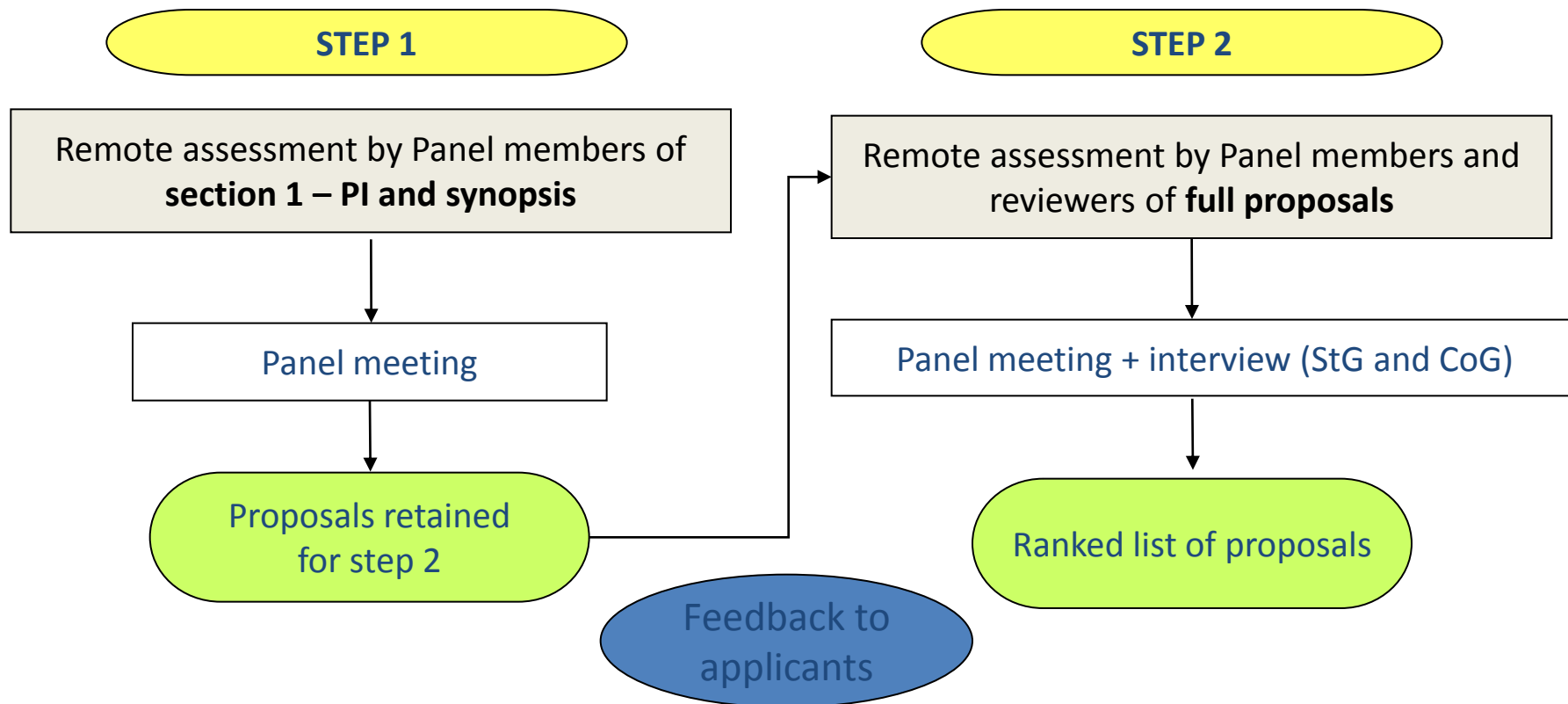
- Have a bright, original and exciting idea
- Design a research project to implement the idea
- Get a letter of support from a HI where the project is to be carried out (the HI must be located in EU or any of the H2020 associated countries)
- Write your research proposal and submit it within the deadline!
- All electronic / web based

# How ERC research proposals are evaluated?

## Evaluation of proposals: review procedure



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- Right balance between generalist + specialized review
- Appropriate treatment of interdisciplinary proposals

# ERC Evaluation process (StG, CoG & AdG)

## Panel structure : 3 domains and 25 panels

Each panel :  
Panel Chair and  
10-16 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 Individuals, Markets & Organisations
- SH2 Institutions, Values, Environment and Space
- SH3 The Social World, Diversity & 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

# How to prepare and submit an ERC research proposal?

## Proposal structure



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### PART A – online forms

- A1** Proposal and PI info
- A2** Host Institution info
- A3** Budget

### Annexes – pdf upload

- HI support letter (template!)
- copy of PhD (StG, CoG);
- document for extension of eligibility window (StG, CoG)

### PART B – Word template; pdf upload

#### **B1**

- Extended Synopsis 5 p.
- CV 2 p.
- Early Achievements (StG and CoG) or 10-year Track Record (AdG) 2P

#### **B2**

- Scientific Proposal 15p
  - Methodology
  - Planning and Budget
  - ...

# How ERC research proposals are evaluated?

## *Quality / Excellence* is the sole evaluation criterion



Evaluation of *quality / excellence* at two levels:

- **Research Project**

- ✓ Ground breaking nature
- ✓ Potential impact
- ✓ Scientific Approach

- **Principal Investigator**

- ✓ Intellectual capacity
- ✓ Creativity
- ✓ Commitment

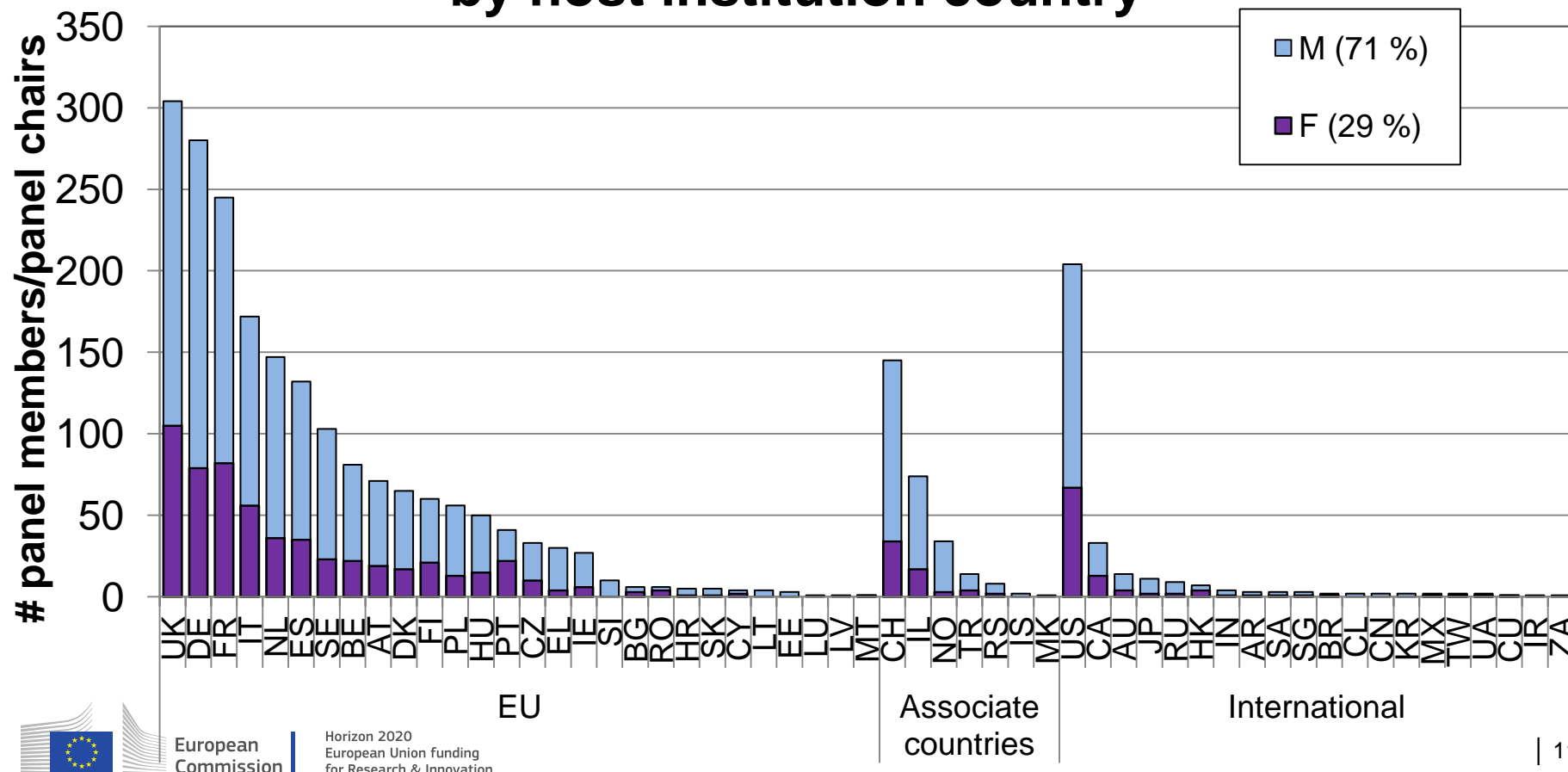
# ERC panel members by country of HI and gender

ERC Starting, Consolidator and Advanced grant calls 2007 - 2014



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## ERC STG COG ADG panel members 2007-2014 by host institution country

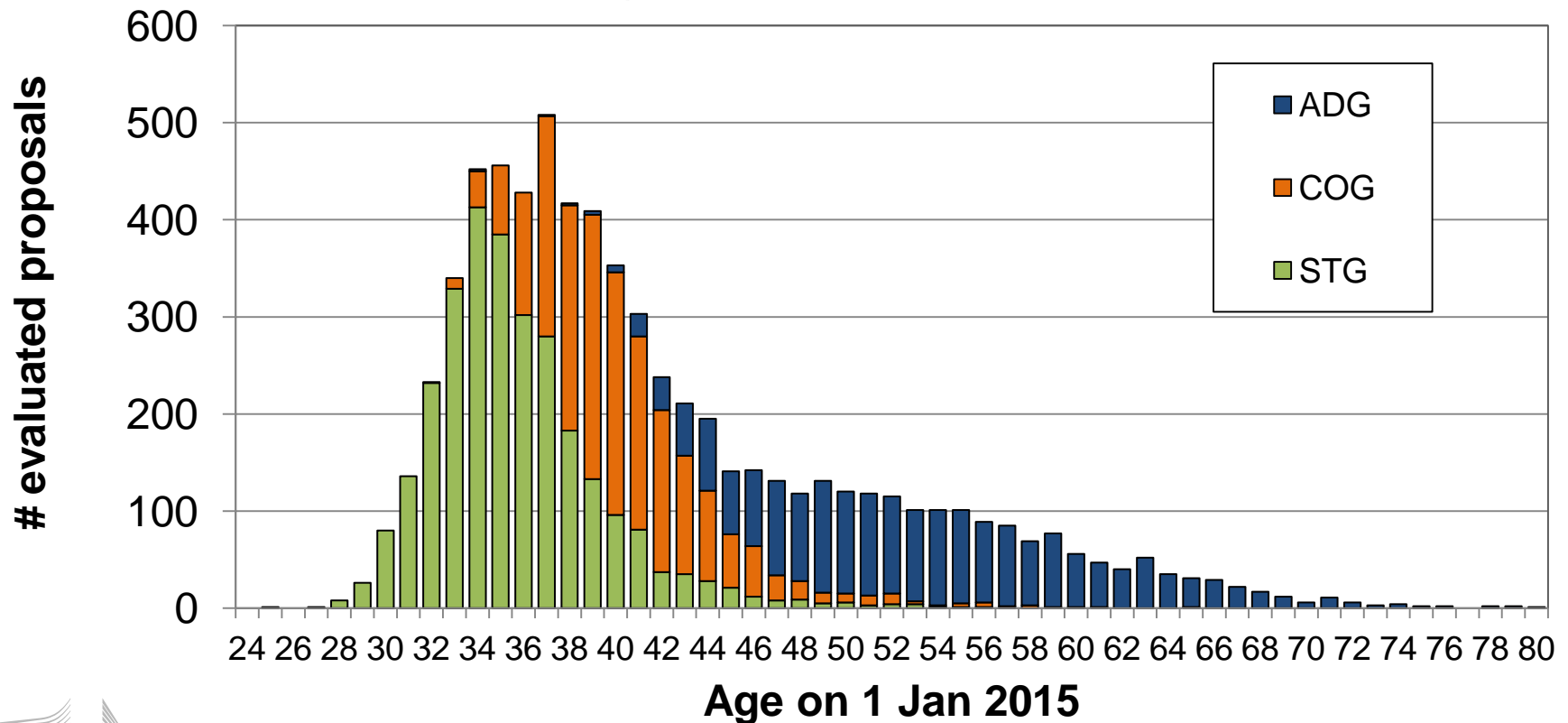


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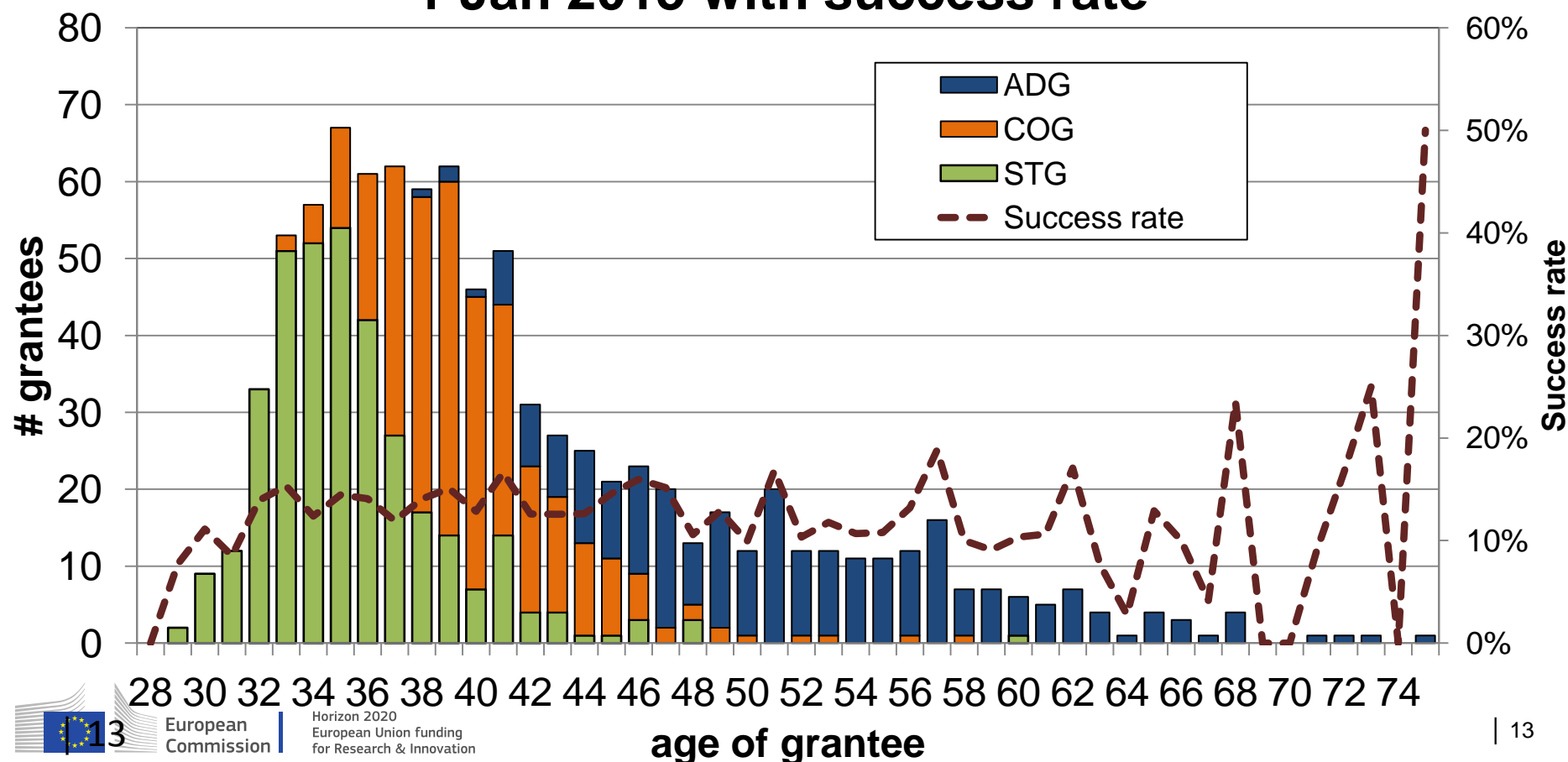
# 2015 Calls: Age of applicants

## STG-COG-ADG 2015 Age of applicants



# 2015 Calls: Age of grantees

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



# Extensions of eligibility window



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## Extensions of eligibility window possible for StG and CoG for documented cases of:

- Maternity – 18 months per child **(before or after PhD)**
- Paternity – actual time taken off
- Military service
- Medical speciality training
- Caring for seriously ill family members
- No limit to the total extension

# A few tips and advice (1/2)

- Be ambitious and "daring"; panels instructed to seek out high-risk research
- Grab interest and attention of readers/ reviewers
- Remember that Part B1 will be judged by "generalists" (i.e. panel members) in Step 1
- If you make it to Step 2, all reviewers see both B1 and B2, so do not repeat / duplicate part B1 in part B2
- Do not include unnecessary partners and collaborators; it is not supposed to be a "consortium"

# Some tips and advice (2/2)



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- **For interviews (StG and CoG):**
  - Get Panel Members interested in you and what you are doing
  - Practice thoroughly, several (many?) times; *typically* a 10 minute presentation followed by 15 minutes of questions
  - Panels want to see that these are *your* ideas, not those of your supervisor
  - Expect to be nervous; it is normal

# Japanese participation to date & next Call Deadlines



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**PIs:** Over the years we have funded 20 Japanese PIs, plus 3 EU nationals in Japan at time of application

**Panel Members:** 11 Japanese panel members, plus to EU nationals in Japan

## Next deadlines:

- AdG 2016: 1 September 2016
- StG 2017: 18 Oct 2016:
- CoG 2017: 9 February 2017



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# ERC International Implementing Arrangements

- goal is to provide opportunities in Europe for scientists supported by non-EU funding agencies to temporarily join a research team run by an ERC grantee.
- We contact all our PIs to see if they are willing to host a researchers from one of these countries
- List of interested PIs sent to national funding agency, in this case JSPS
- This list is then circulated to local researcher, in this JSPS Research Fellows
- Interested parties contact and make arrangements directly and bilaterally with ERC PIs

# Opportunities to visit ERC Principal Investigators

Implementing arrangements are in place with the following non-EU countries:

- **USA**, National Science Foundation (2012)
- **Republic of Korea**, National Research Foundation (2013)
- **Argentina**, Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation (2015)
- **China**, National Natural Science Foundation of China (2015)
- **Japan**, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (2015)
- **South Africa**, National Science Foundation (2015)
- **Mexico**, National Council of Science and Tech. of the United Mexican States (2016)

So far some ~130 visits have been arranged in this manner from all these countries.

<https://erc.europa.eu/implementing-arrangements>

Inside the parentheses: the year when the first call for expression of interest is launched by ERC

# For further information...



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- **ERC Web site: <http://erc.europa.eu/>**
- **Documents:**
  - ERC Work Programme (published annually)
  - Information for Applicants (published with each call)
- **National Contact Points**
- **European Commission "Research Participant Portal"**



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# Thank you