

The European Research Council



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The ERC: a Success Story for the EU

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CRG

BIST founding Conference

March 31st, 2017



Celebrating ERC-10 in Europe and beyond

- ✓ ERC Week: 13-19 March
- ✓ >140 events in 35 countries
- ✓ Twitter: **#ERC10yrs**
- ✓ More information:
erc.europa.eu/ERC10yrs/erc-week





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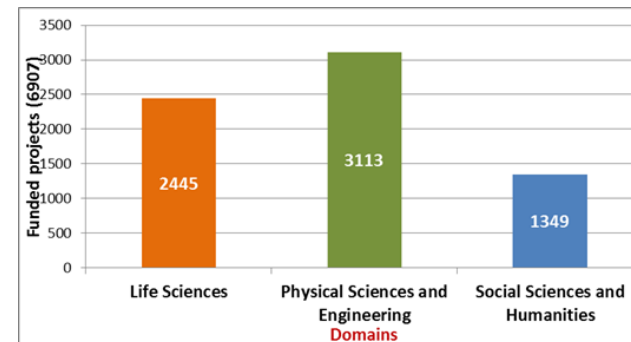
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Beyond the first 10 years

The ERC in a Nutshell

The ERC in a Nutshell

- Set up in 2007 by the EU, the ERC funds ambitious projects in frontier research. It aims at:
 - Supporting high quality excellent frontier research throughout Europe in all scientific domains: Life Sciences (LS), Physical Sciences and Engineering (PE), and Social Sciences and Humanities (SH)
 - Retaining and attracting the best scientific talent to Europe, by offering very substantial grants for up to 5 years





The European Commission

- **Provides financing** through the EU framework programmes
- **Guarantees autonomy of the ERC**
- **Assures the integrity and accountability of the ERC**
- **Adopts annual work programmes** as established by the Scientific Council

The ERC Scientific Council

- **22 prominent researchers** proposed by an independent identification committee
- **President** appointed following recommendation of an independent search committee
- **Appointed by the Commission** (4 years, renewable once)
- **Establishes overall scientific strategy**; annual work programmes; peer review methodology; selection and accreditation of experts
- **Controls quality of operations and management**
- **Ensures communication with the scientific community**

The ERC Executive Agency

- **Executes annual work programme** as established by the Scientific Council
- **Implements calls for proposals** and provides information and support to applicants
- **Organises peer review evaluation**
- **Establishes and manages grant agreements**
- **Administers scientific and financial aspects** and follow-up of grant agreements
- **Carries out communications activities** and ensures information dissemination to ERC stakeholders

The ERC Scientific Council



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Jean-Pierre



Vice
President

BOCK
Klaus



Vice
President

KONDOROSI
Eva



Vice
President

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BOVOLENTA
Paola



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Margaret



CLARK
Christopher



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Tomas



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Michael



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Kurt



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Nektarios



THORNTON
Janet



VERNOS
Isabelle



VEUGELERS
Reinhilde



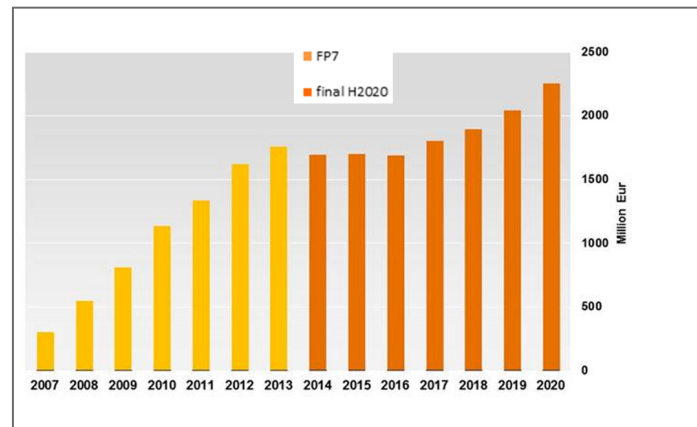
WIEVIORKA
Michel



ZWIRNER
Fabio

The ERC in a Nutshell

- ✓ The ERC is a key component of Horizon 2020, the EU programme for Research and Innovation
- ✓ €13 billion budget for 2014-2020
(i.e. 17% of the Horizon 2020 budget)
- ✓ Over 60,000 applications received
around 7,000 projects funded
- ✓ Highly competitive calls:
success rate is around 11%



The ERC in a Nutshell

- Three core funding schemes:
 - Starting Grants, Consolidator Grants and Advanced Grants
- For top researchers of any nationality and age who wish to carry out their frontier research in EU Member States or associated countries
- 1 project, 1 Principal Investigator, 1 Host Institution, 1 selection criterion



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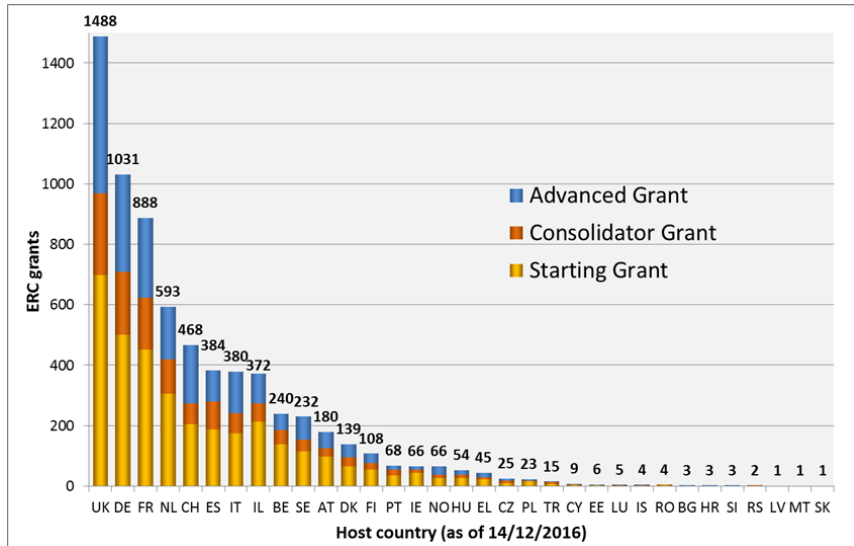
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Beyond the first 10 years

10 Reasons to Celebrate

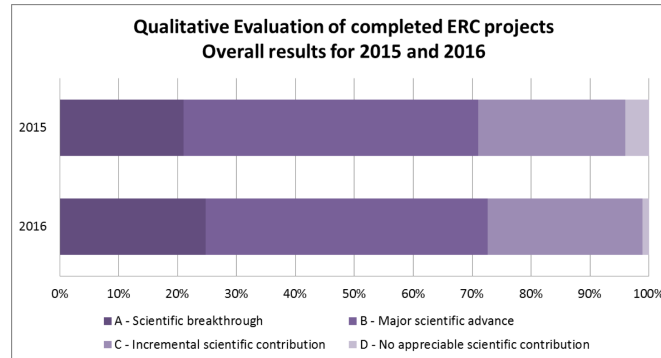
1. Supporting Research Talent

- ✓ 7,000 "research champions" and their teams supported
- ✓ 50,000 team members, mostly PhDs and postdocs, working on ERC projects



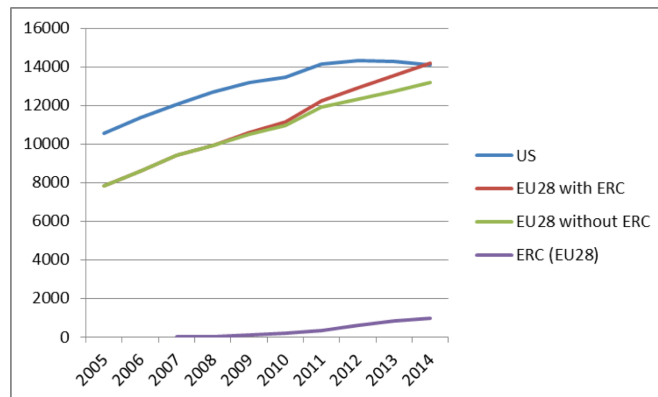
2. Advancing the Frontiers of Knowledge

- ✓ 73% of a sample of completed ERC projects resulted in scientific breakthroughs or major advances
- ✓ ERC grantees won prestigious awards:
6 Nobel Prizes, 4 Fields Medals, 5 Wolf Prizes...



3. Enhancing Visibility of European Research Results

- ✓ 100,000 publications resulting from ERC projects
- ✓ 7% of these publications rank in the top 1% most cited worldwide. Also thanks to this, in 2014 Europe surpassed the US for the first time in this top 1%.



4. Attracting Scientific Talent

- ✓ The ERC tackles the brain-drain by making Europe a more attractive place for bright minds
- ✓ Around 17% of the ERC team members are from non-EU countries
- ✓ 9 countries (including US, China, Korea, Brazil) have signed specific agreements with the EU that allow ERC grantees to cooperate with young scientists from around the world



5. Promoting Innovation



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- ✓ There is no innovation without frontier research!
- ✓ Almost 600 Proof of Concept Grants awarded
- ✓ ERC projects have led to 800 patent applications and setting up 75 new ventures (2007-2013)



6. Addressing Societal Challenges

- ✓ The ERC funds projects related to major health challenges, energy efficiency, demographic changes, etc.
- ✓ ERC-funded research contributes to economic growth and benefits the society at large



7. Inspiring Reforms in Europe

- The ERC has set the benchmark of competitive funding of basic research
- New scientific councils and funding schemes launched in EU Member States
- 17 countries have introduced initiatives to finance their best unfunded applicants



8. Leading the Scientific Community

- ✓ Research integrity
- ✓ Open access
- ✓ Gender balance
- ✓ Widening European participation



9. Boosting Research Careers

- ✓ 2/3 of ERC grants go to early career researchers
- ✓ ERC grants have a strong, positive effect on grantees' careers
- ✓ They contribute to the consolidation of research teams
- ✓ Key role in training and developing a new generation of top scientists



10. Engaging with Audiences around the World



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Wide media coverage



Events around the world



10.000 articles in the media every year



> 500.000 visitors of the ERC website per year



Media Monitoring | 1 Jan - 31 Dec 2016

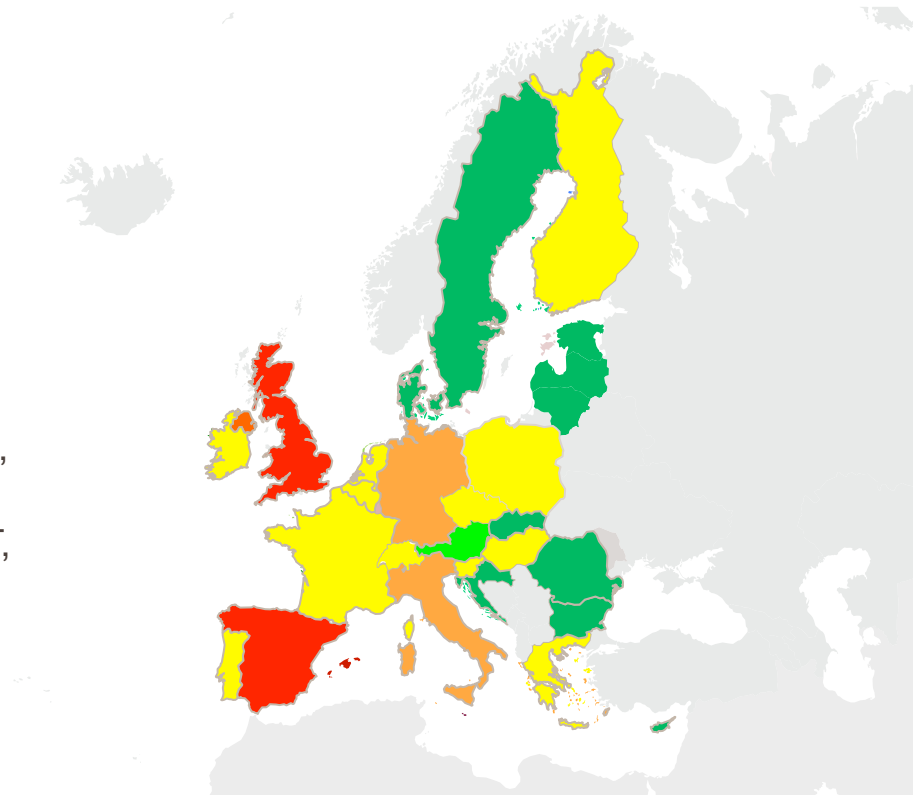


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- **Total coverage**
around **10,521** media items

- **Geographic spread**

- **1000 and more:** ES, UK
- **700 – 999:** DE, IT
- **400 – 699:** AT
- **100 – 399:** BE, CH, CZ, FI, HU, EL, IR, FR, NL, PL, PT, SL
- **less than 100:** BG, CY, DK, EE, HR, LU, LV, LT, MT, RO, SK, SE





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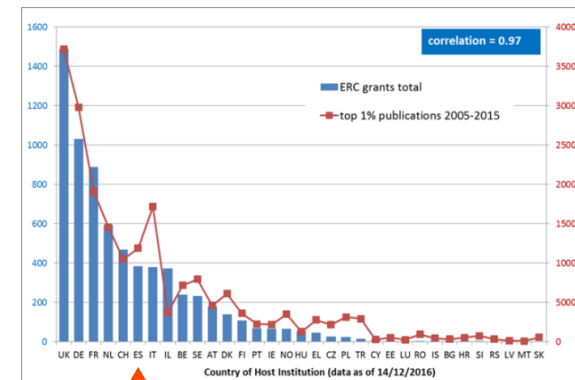
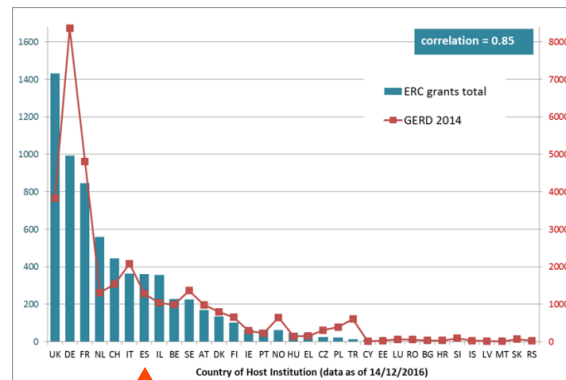
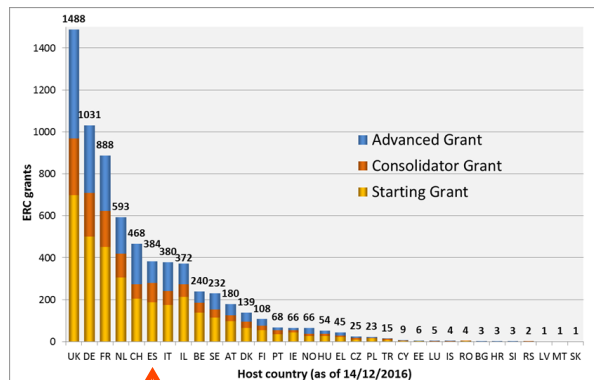
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The ERC In Spain

The ERC in Spain



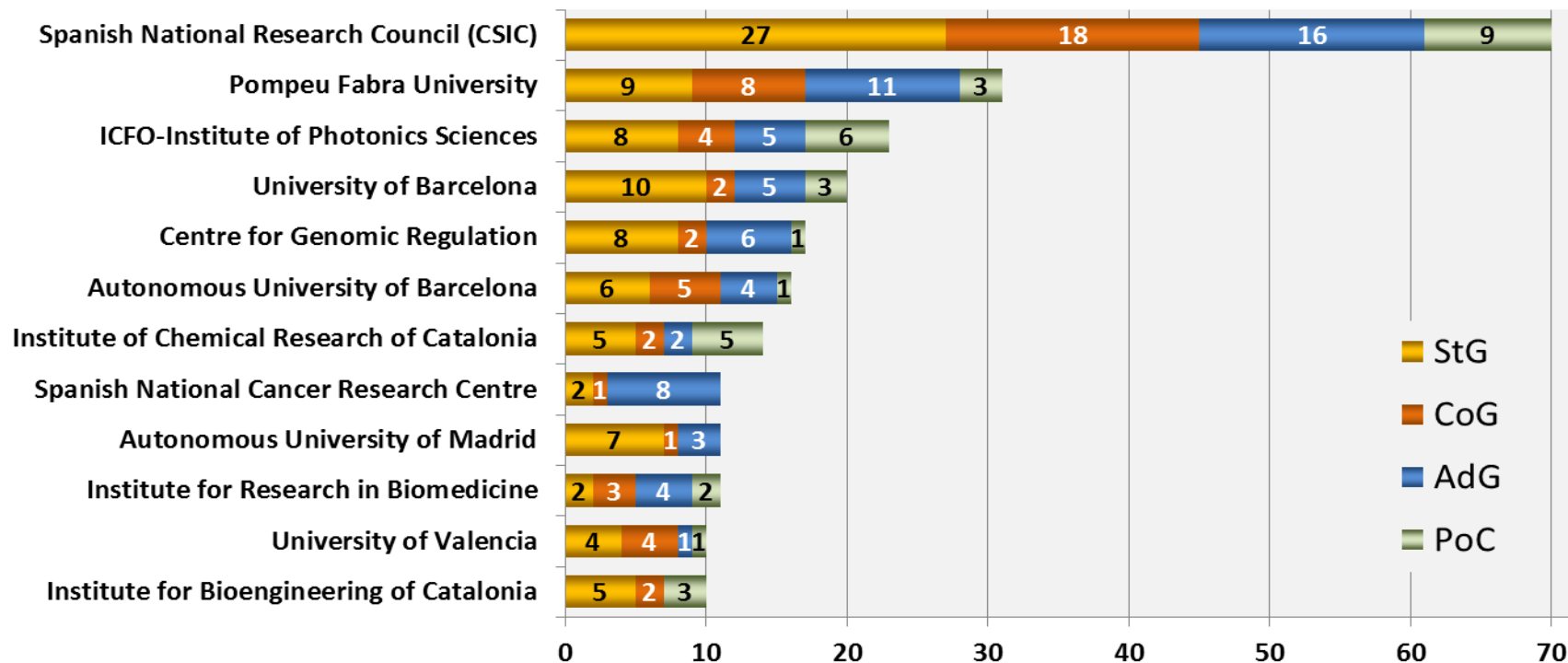
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Top Host Institutions in Spain



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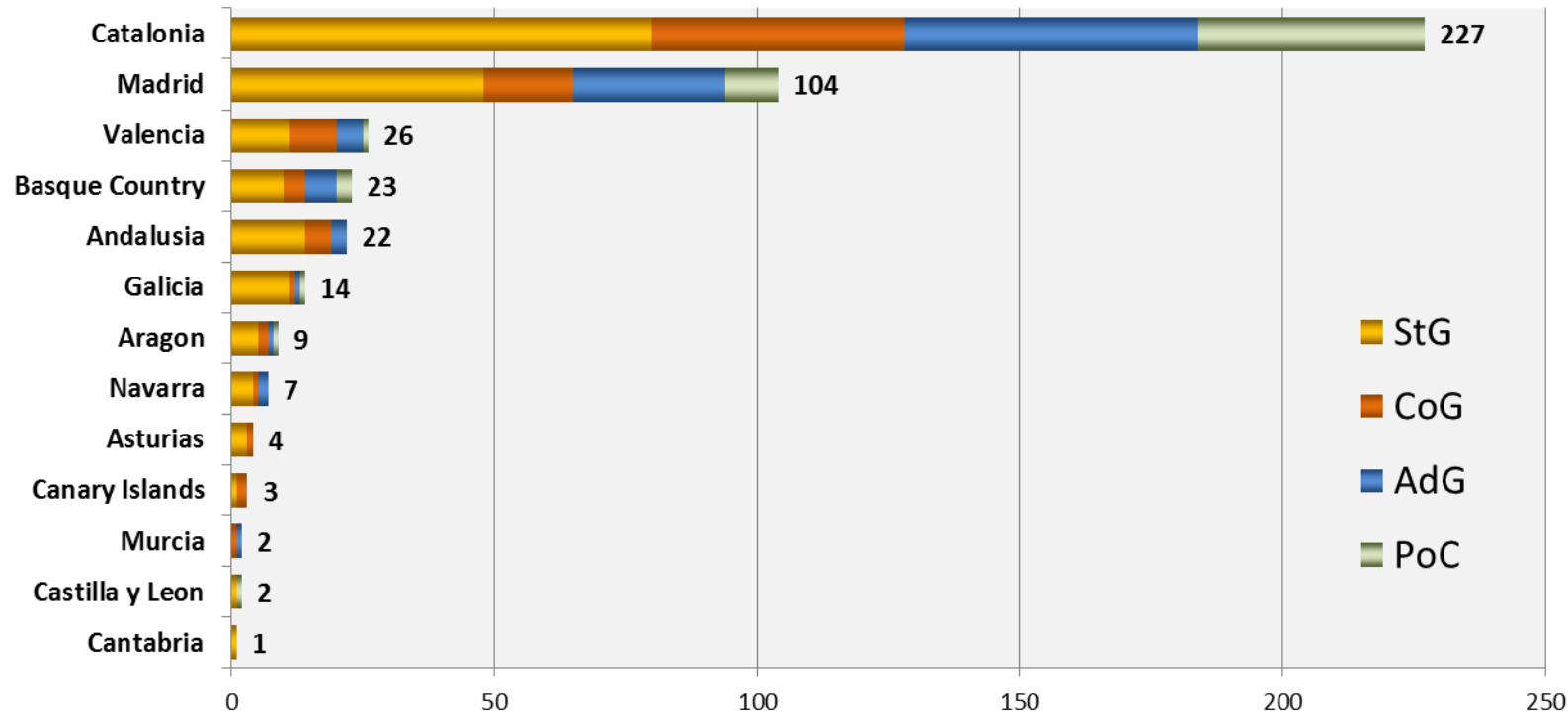


Current Host Institutions (data as of 14/12/2016)

ERC Grants by Region



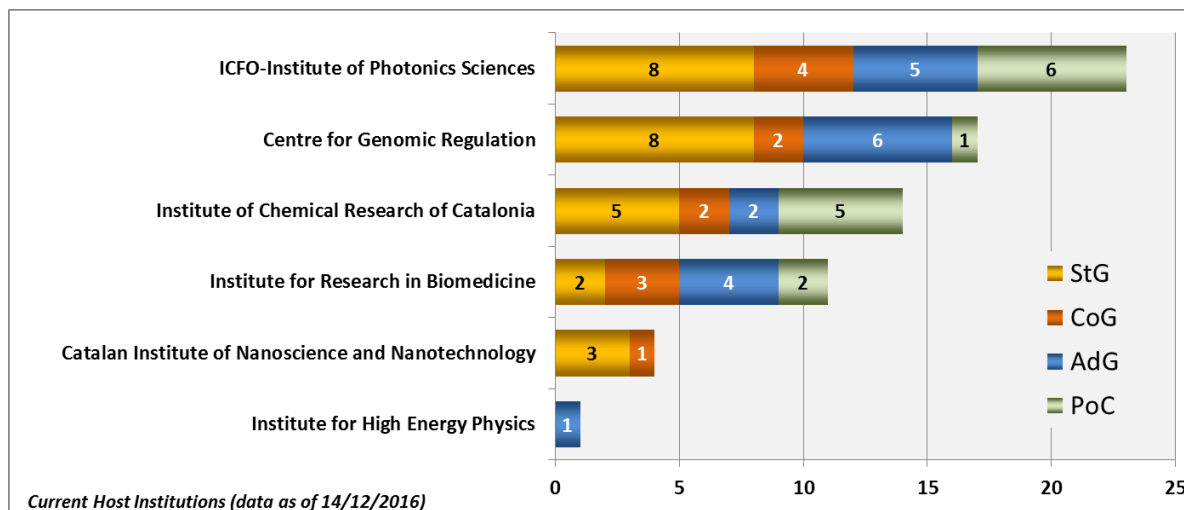
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ERC Grants at the BIST Institutes



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European
Commission

Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation



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The Secrets of the ERC Success

The secrets of a success

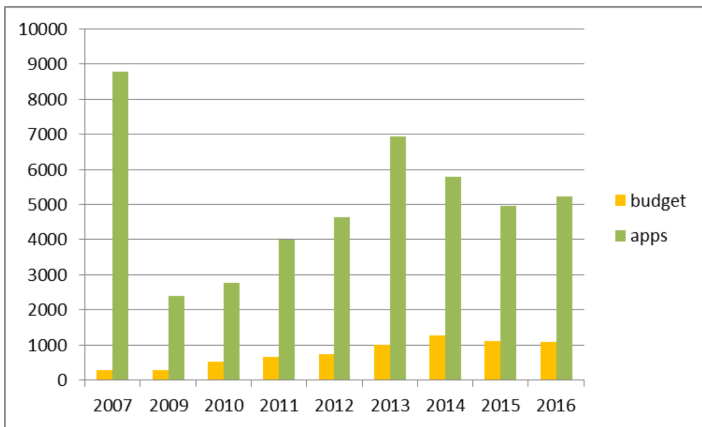
- ✓ The Scientific Council: 22 renowned scientists as decision makers
- ✓ The evaluators: high-level scientists from all over the world
- ✓ Strict bottom-up approach: no thematic priorities, all disciplines eligible
- ✓ Scientific and financial independence of the grantees
- ✓ The size of the grants: €1.5 million for Starting Grants, €2 million for Consolidator Grants, €2.5 million for Advanced Grants
- ✓ The simplicity of the schemes and of the procedures
- ✓ A very efficient management by the executive agency (ERCEA)

Future Challenges



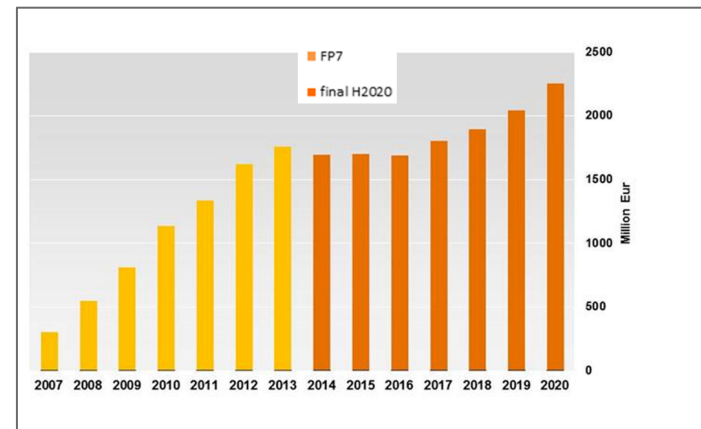
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- Need for an enhanced budget for research in the next framework programme



60 000 applications
(less than 5% of public sector researchers)

1300
“A” scored
proposals unfunded
already in Horizon
2020



Future Challenges

- Enough room for curiosity-driven research in a bottom-up approach
- Schemes welcoming interdisciplinarity
- Need to preserve ERC main features and specificities
- Coordination with the programmes of national agencies
- Need to promote the impact of the ERC outside the scientific community

Thank you!



Key figures

7,000

top researchers funded

50,000

researchers & other professionals
hired in ERC teams

with **€12 billion**



Breakthroughs

73%

of completed projects
led to breakthroughs/major
advances



Scientific impact

> 5,500

articles among
1% most cited
scientific journals



Open to the World

9

international initiatives
for non-EU talent
to join ERC teams



Prestigious prizes, e.g.

6

Nobel
Prizes

5

Wolf
Prizes

4

Fields
Medals



ERC as model

15

EU countries set up
ERC-like structures/funding
schemes