

European Research Council (ERC) Funding Opportunities

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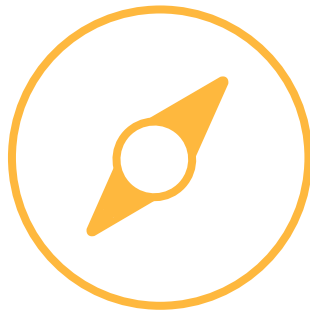
Emmy Noether-Jahrestreffen 2019

Outline

- KoWi & the ERC National Contact Point
- Context: Horizon 2020 & Horizon Europe
- ERC funding principles & schemes
- ERC application & peer review
- Success rates
- ERC calls 2020
- Further information & support

KoWi & the ERC National Contact Point

KoWi – European Liaison Office of the German Research Organisations



**Information &
training on EU
research funding**

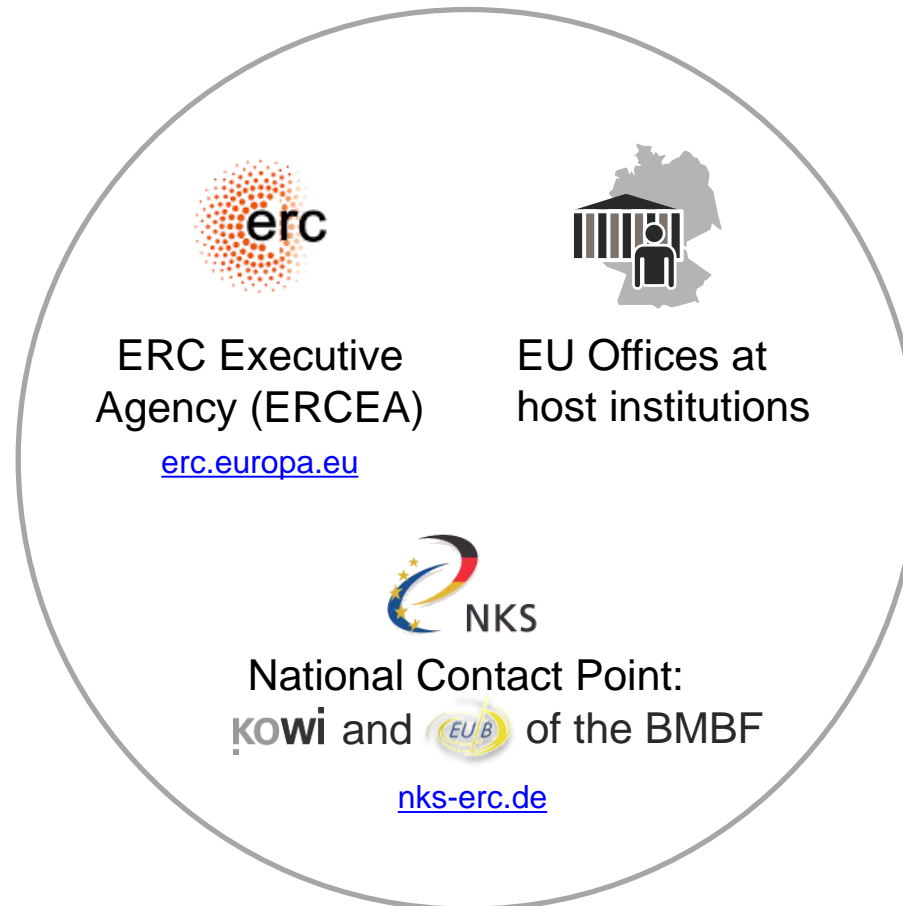


**Serving its
Association, with
focus on
universities**



**Networking
platform**

Support for ERC applications in Germany



Context: Horizon 2020 & Horizon Europe

Horizon 2020 (2014-2020)

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, marine, 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. Protecting freedom and security

**Part IV
Spreading excellence &
widening participation**

**Part V
Science with &
for Society**

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

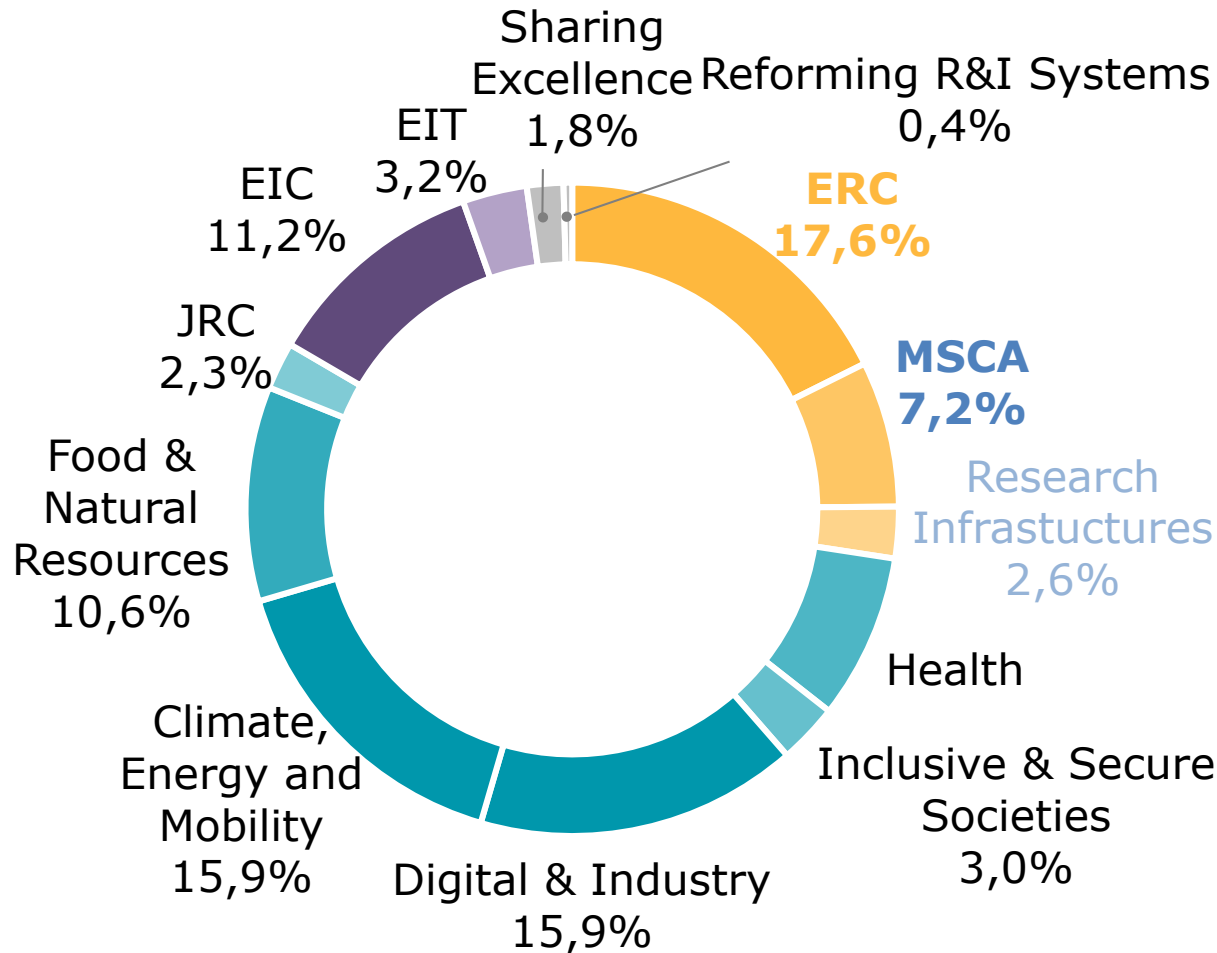
**The European
Institute of Innovation
and Technology (EIT)**

European Commission

Horizon Europe (2021-2027)



Horizon Europe budget (EC proposal)



Excellence Science
25,8 Bn. EUR • 28%

Global Challenges & Industrial Competitiveness
52,7 Bn. EUR • 56%

Open Innovation
13,5 Bn. EUR • 14%

Strengthening the European Research Area
2,1 Bn. EUR • 2%

Total: 94,1 Bn. EUR

ERC funding principles & schemes

Key principles

- EU funding of basic research (“frontier research”)
- Science-led ownership (Scientific Council)
- Open to all fields of research and to researchers of any age and nationality
- Scientific excellence is the sole criterion for evaluation
- Funding of individuals: Principal Investigator (+ team) & project
- Funding: 100 % of direct project costs: salary, travel, consumables, publications (Open Access), equipment (within the limits of depreciation rules); plus 25 % overhead
- Annual calls, online submission of proposals

ERC Funding Schemes

**Starting
Grant**

2 – 7 years after PhD

**Consolidator
Grant**

7 – 12 years after PhD

**Advanced
Grant**

10 year track record

**Proof of
Concept**

Exploring market potential
of ERC grants

**Synergy
Grant**

2-4 PIs pursuing ambitious &
integrated projects

StG

CoG

PI

Funding (for a max. duration of 5 years)

Host institution

Time commitment

Application procedure

2-7 years* after PhD

7-12 years* after PhD

(*extension in exceptional cases; special rules for MD)

1 (StG) or several (CoG) important publications as
main author/without participation of PhD supervisor

max. EUR 1.5 million

max. EUR 2 million

(in addition: up to EUR 1 million for major equipment, PIs from
Third Countries; access to RIs)

EU Member State or Associated Country

≥ 50%

≥ 40%

≥ 50% in Europe

single submission of full proposal,
two-step evaluation (including interview)

Prolonged eligibility (StG, CoG)

- Calculation of the eligibility time window: Time elapsed between date on the PhD certificate and 1 January of call year (i.e. 2020)
- Prolonged eligibility for parental leave
 - Mothers: 18 months per child
 - Fathers: documented time of leave taken
- Other reasons (after PhD):
 - Documented elapsed time for long-term illnesses (> 90 days)
 - Clinical training, national service

Eligibility of medical doctorates

- Additional requirement: PIs with medical doctorate (MD/Dr.med.) need to provide additional PhD or appointment that requires doctoral equivalency (postdoc fellowship, professorship, ...)
- Specific eligibility window:
 - Starting Grant: 4-9 years past 3rd medical examination (Staatsexamen)
 - Consolidator Grant: 9-14 years past 3rd medical examination (Staatsexamen)
- Date of medical doctorate does not count for eligibility window
- PIs with MD and PhD: date of earliest degree applies

ERC Advanced Grant

PI	Established researchers
Benchmark	Significant research achievements (indicative specs.) in the last 10 years
Funding	max. EUR 2.5 million for up to 5 years (in addition: up to EUR 1 million for major equipment, PIs from Third Countries; access to RIs)
Host institution	EU Member State/Associated Country
Time commitment	$\geq 30\%$ ($\geq 50\%$ in Europe)
Evaluation procedure	single submission of full proposal, two-step evaluation

ERC Synergy Grant

Target group

2-4 PIs, complementarity is essential

Benchmark

Ambitious research goals, could not be addressed by individual PIs

Funding

max. EUR 10 million for up to 6 years
(in addition: up to EUR 4 million for major equipment, PIs from Third Countries, access to RIs)

Host institution

EU Member State/Associated Country
(optional: 1 PI from Third Country)

Time commitment

$\geq 30\%$ ($\geq 50\%$ in Europe)

Procedure

single submission of full proposal,
three-step evaluation (including interviews)

ERC application & peer review

Application process

- Annually calls for proposals
- Specific (strict) deadline
- Proposal
 - submitted by the PI
 - jointly with the Host Institution (Host Support Letter)
- Online submission: Funding and Tenders Portal:
<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

Proposal elements

Part A (online forms)

Administrative Forms/ Proposal Submission Forms

- 1 - General Information
- 2 - Participants & Contacts
- 3 - Budget
- 4 - Ethics
- 5 - Call-specific questions

Part B

B1

Synopsis

CV

Track record

B2

**Scientific
proposal**

Supporting documentation

- Host Support Letter (Host Institution Binding Statement of Support)
- PhD-Certificate (and further documentation, StG & CoG only)
- Ethic review table & ethics self-assessment (if applicable)

Evaluation

- Peer-review by evaluation panels (ca. 15 members) and remote referees (specialists)
- Panel chairs will be known in advance; members afterwards
- 3 scientific domains
 - Physical Sciences & Engineering (PE): 10 Panels
 - Life Sciences (LS): 9 Panels
 - Social Sciences & Humanities (SH): 6 Panel
- Applicants choose panel/s (indicate keywords)
- Up to 3 reviewers can be excluded in advance

ERC Panels

Life Sciences

- LS1 Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, Structural Biology and Molecular Biophysics
- LS2 Genetics, 'Omics', Bioinformatics, Systems Biology
- LS3 Cellular and Developmental Biology
- LS4 Physiology, Pathophysiology and Endocrinology
- LS5 Neurosciences and Neural Disorders
- LS6 Immunity and Infection
- LS7 Applied Medical Technologies, Diagnostics, Therapies, and Public Health
- LS8 Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology
- LS9 Applied Life Sciences, Biotechnology and Molecular and Biosystems engineering

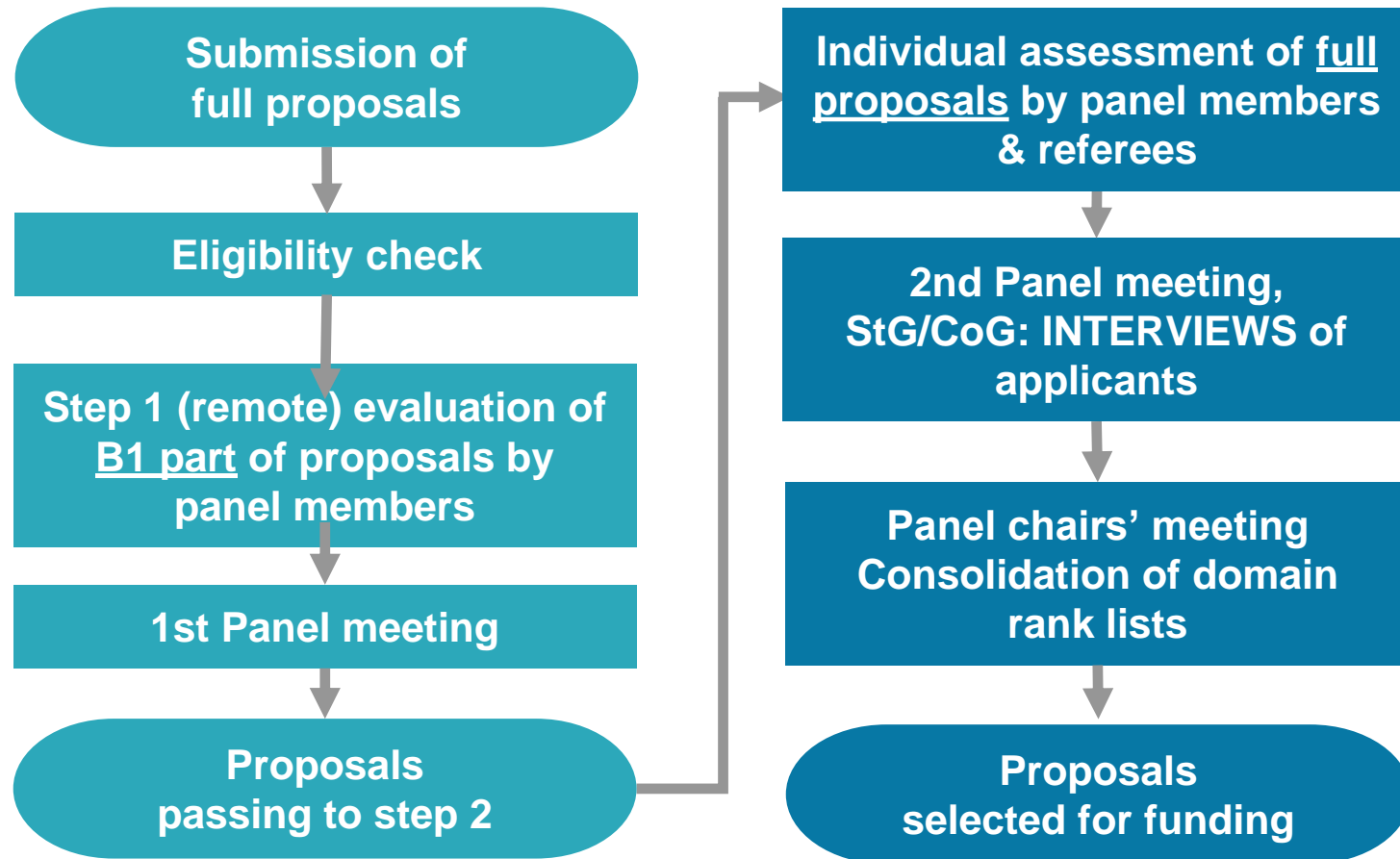
Physical Sciences & Engineering

- 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 Process Engineering
- PE9 Universe Sciences
- PE10 Earth System Science

Social Sciences and Humanities

- SH1 Individuals, Markets and Organisations
- SH2 Institutions, Values, Environment & Space
- SH3 The Social World, Diversity, Population
- SH4 The Human Mind and Its Complexity
- SH5 Cultures and Cultural Production
- SH6 The Study of the Human Past

StG, CoG & AdG: evaluation process



Evaluation criteria: project (I)

Ground-breaking nature & 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** (i.e. if successful the payoffs will be very significant, but there is a higher-than-normal risk that the research project does not entirely fulfil its aims)?

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 (based on the Extended Synopsis)?
- To what extent does the proposal **go beyond** what the individual Principal Investigators could achieve alone (for Synergy Grants, based on the Extended Synopsis)?
- To what extent is the **combination of scientific elements** put forward in the proposal crucial to address the scope and complexity of the research question (for Synergy Grants, based on the Extended Synopsis)?

Evaluation criteria: project (III)

- To what extent are the proposed research **methodology and working arrangements appropriate** to achieve the goals of the project (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?
- To what extent does the proposal involve the **development of novel methodology** (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?
- To what extent are the proposed **timescales, resources and PI commitment adequate** and properly justified (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?

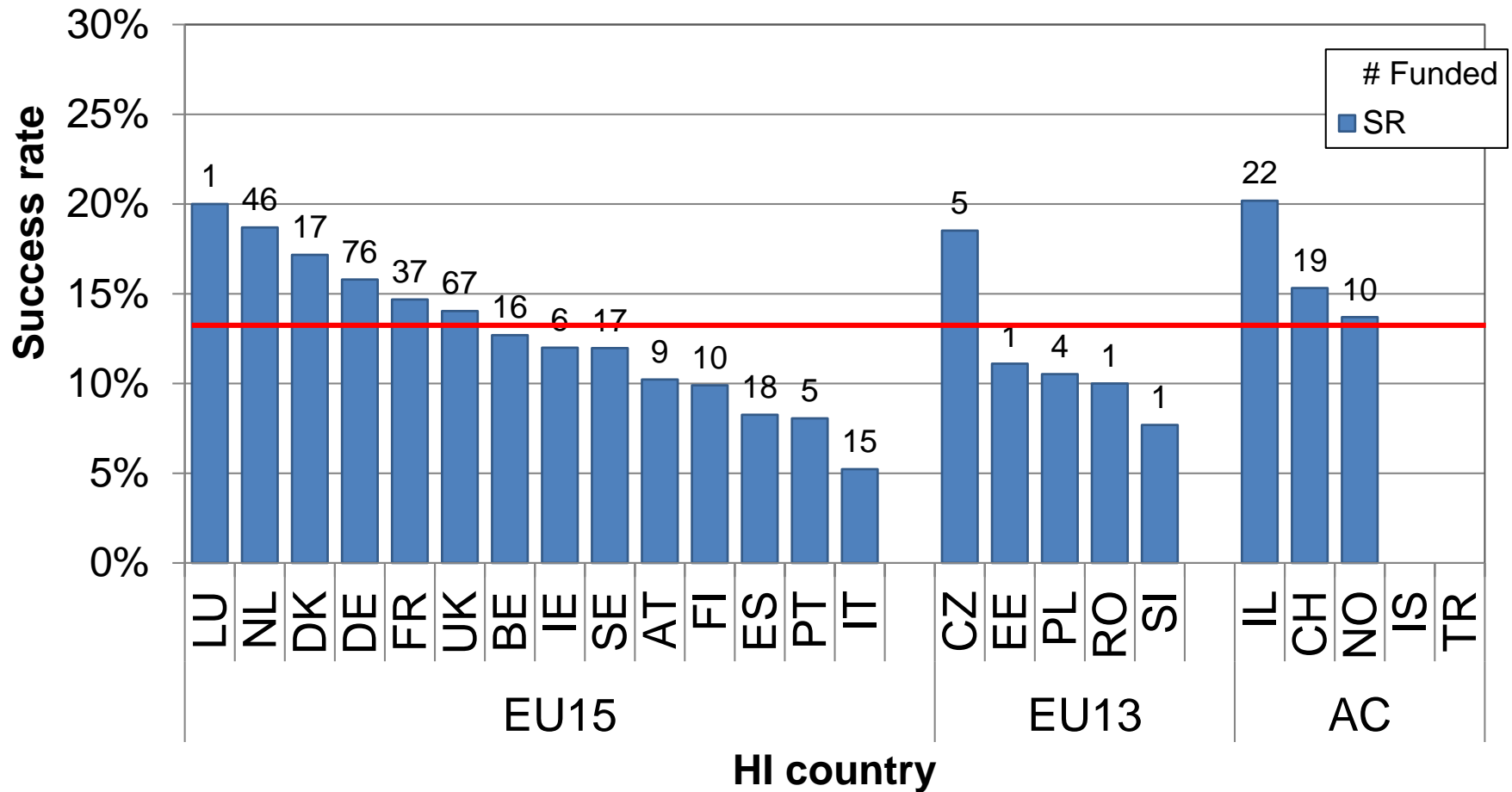
Evaluation criteria: PI

Intellectual capacity and creativity:

- To what extent has the PI demonstrated the ability to conduct **ground-breaking research**?
- To what extent does the PI provide evidence of creative **independent thinking**?
- To what extent does the PI have the **required scientific expertise and capacity** to successfully execute the project
- To what extent has the PI demonstrated sound **leadership** in the training and advancement of young scientists? (for AdG)

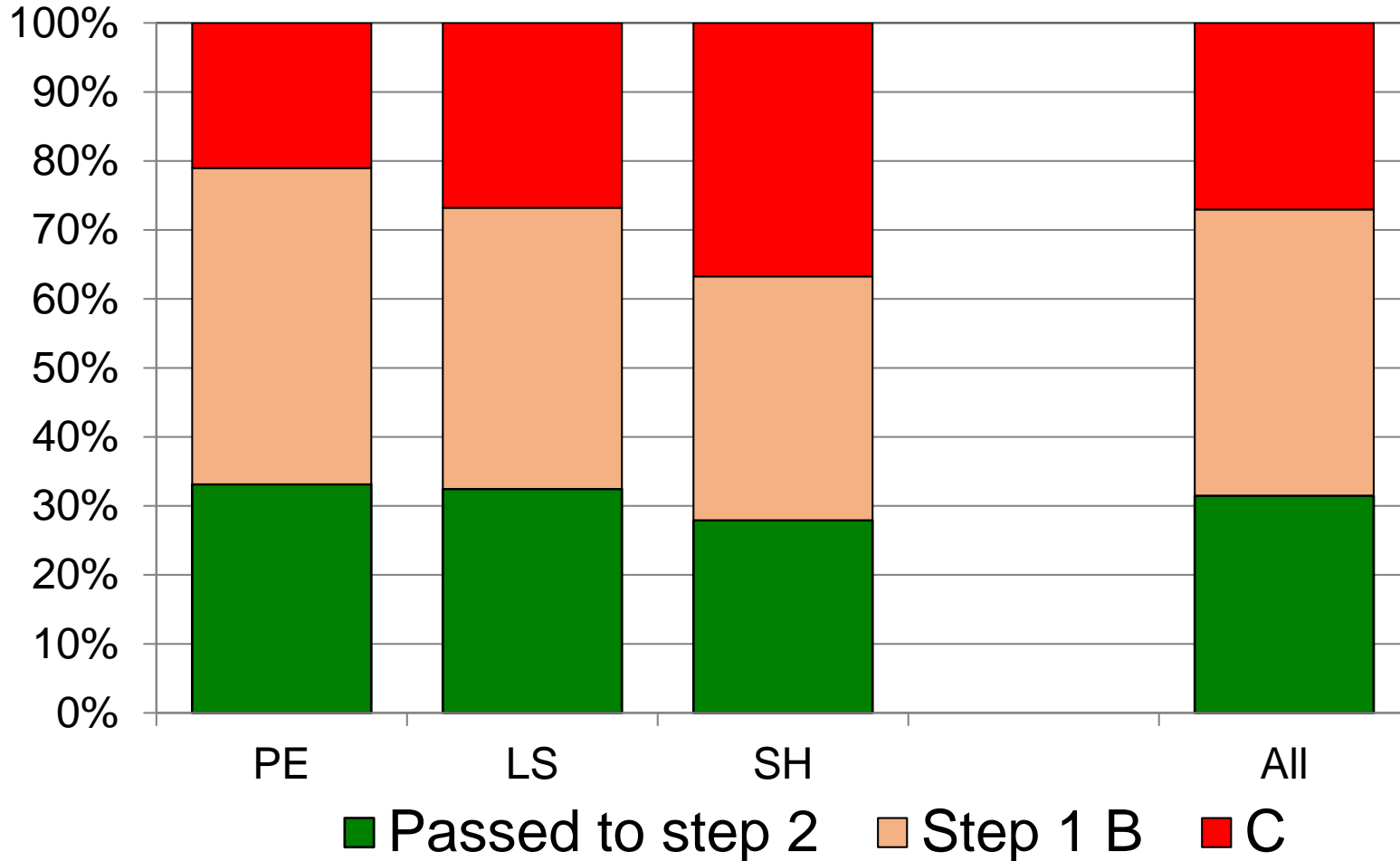
Success rates

Success rate by host country (StG 2018)



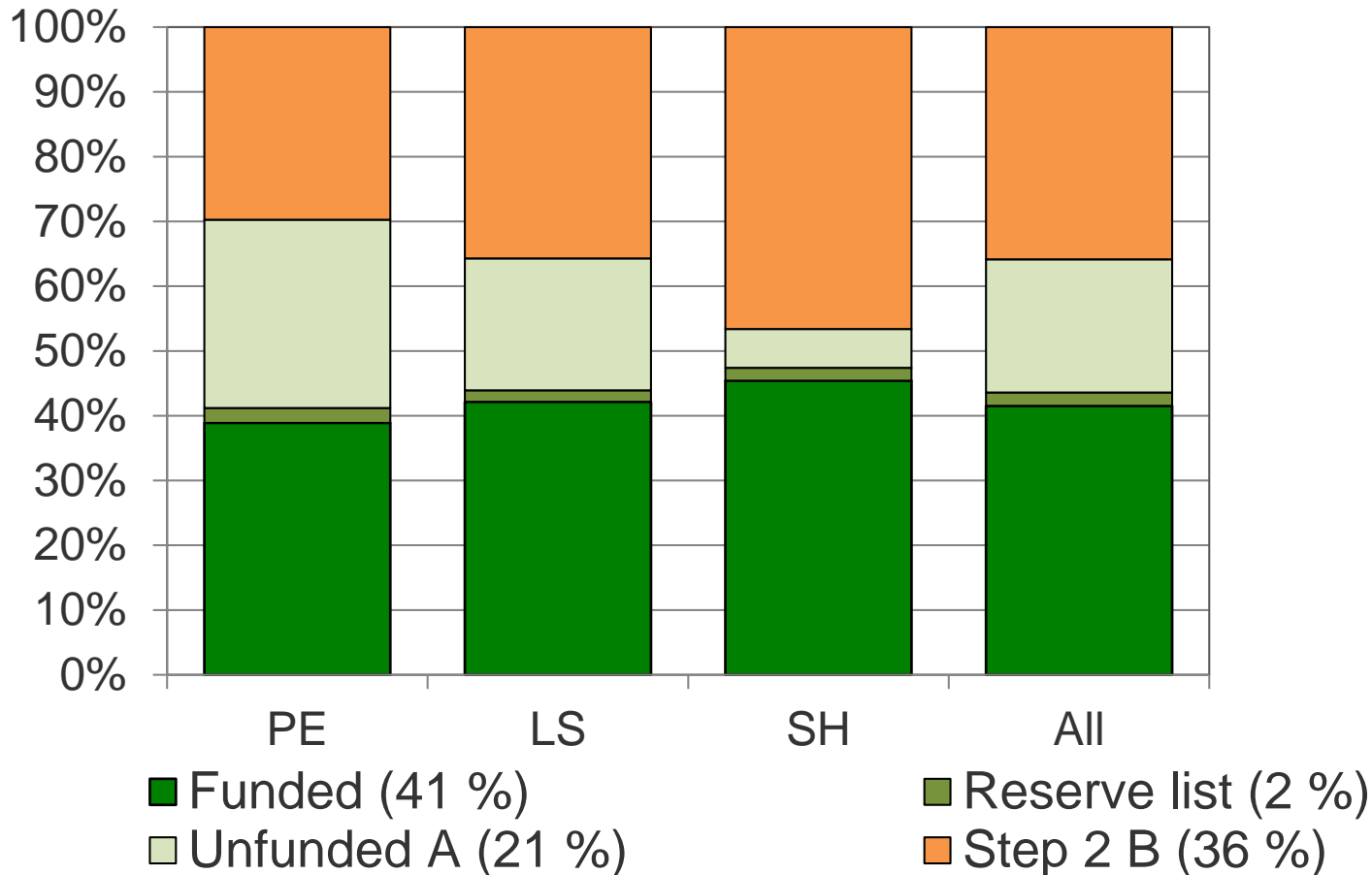
Source: ERC

Success rate 1st evaluation phase (StG 2019)



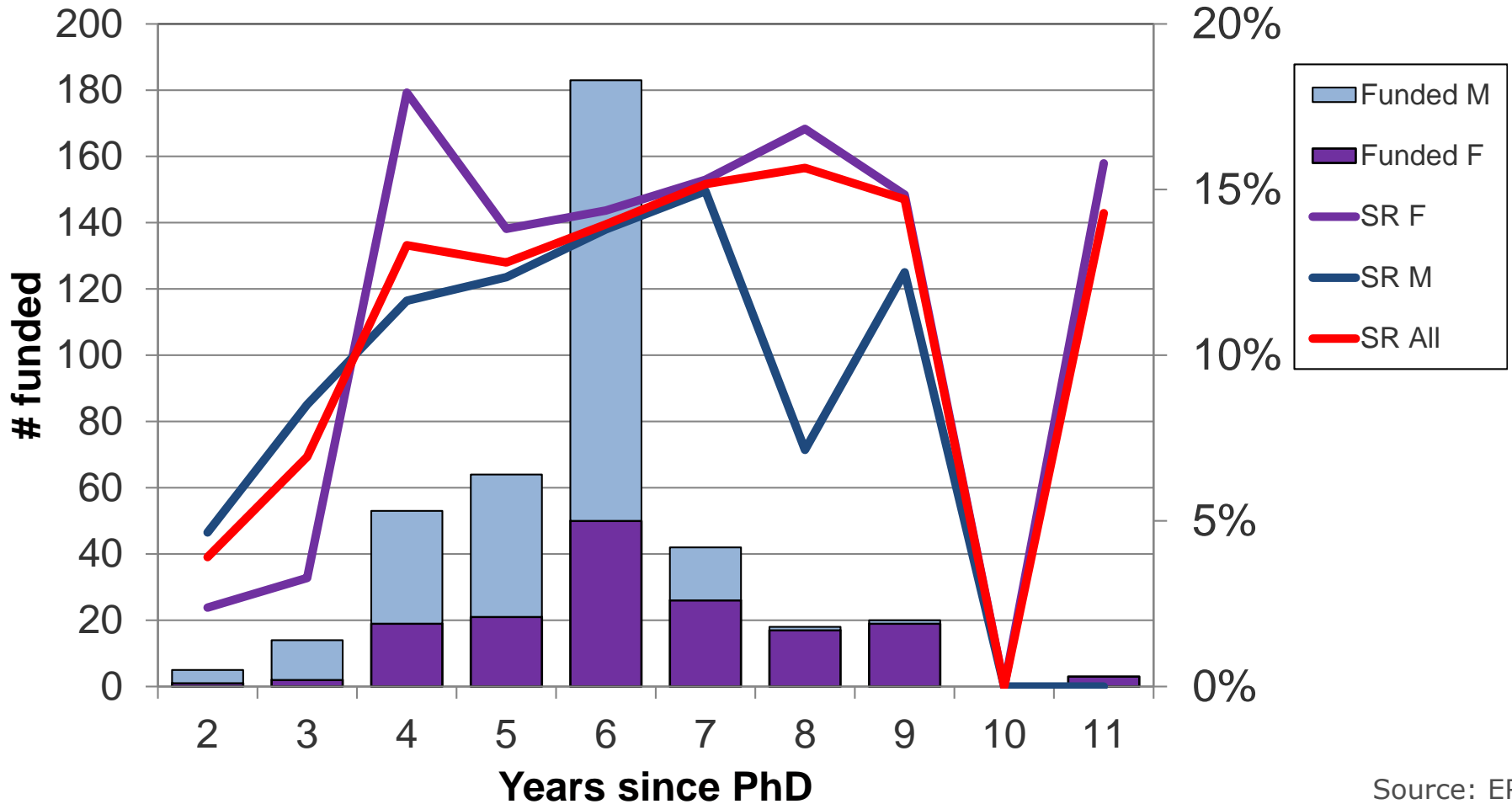
Source: ERC

Success rate 2nd evaluation phase (StG 2018)



Source: ERC

Success rate by years past PhD (StG 2018)



Source: ERC

ERC Calls 2020

ERC Call 2020 overview (I)

	<i>Starting Grant</i>	<i>Consolidator Grant</i>	<i>Advanced Grant</i>	<i>Synergy Grant</i>	<i>Proof of Concept Grant</i>
<i>Call identifier</i>	ERC-2020-StG	ERC-2020-CoG	ERC-2020-AdG	ERC-2020-SyG	ERC-2020-PoC
<i>Call Opens</i>	17/07/2019	24/10/2019	14/05/2020	18/07/2019	15/10/2019
<i>Call closes (cut-off dates for PoC)</i>	16/10/2019	04/02/2020	26/08/2020	05/11/2019	21/01/2020 23/04/2020 17/09/2020

ERC Call 2020 overview (II)

	<i>Starting Grant</i>	<i>Consolidator Grant</i>	<i>Advanced Grant</i>	<i>Synergy Grant</i>	<i>Proof of Concept Grant</i>
<i>Budget million EUR (estimated number of grants)</i>	677 (455)	657(343)	492 (209)	350 (39)	25 (167)
<i>Planned dates to inform applicants (after each step or cut-off date)</i>	20/05/2020	17/07/2020	25/01/2021	20/04/2020	02/05/2020
	07/08/2020	11/12/2020	23/04/2021	17/08/2020	31/07/2020
				09/11/2020	18/12/2020
<i>Indicative date for signature of grant agreements (by cut-off date for PoC)</i>	05/12/2020	03/04/2021	21/08/2021	19/03/2021	30/08/2020 28/11/2020 17/04/2021

ERC WP 2020

Restrictions on re-submission

Call to which the Principal Investigator applied under previous ERC Work Programmes and proposal evaluation outcome		2020 ERC calls to which a Principal Investigator is <i>not</i> eligible
2018 and 2019 Starting, Consolidator, Advanced Grant or Synergy	Rejected on the grounds of a breach of research integrity	Starting, Consolidator, Advanced and Synergy
2018 Starting, Consolidator, or Advanced Grant	C at Step 1	Starting, Consolidator and Advanced
2019 Starting, Consolidator, or Advanced Grant	A, or B at Step 2	No restriction
	B, or C at Step 1	Starting, Consolidator and Advanced Grant

Further information & support

Important Documents

- ERC Work Programme
- Information for Applicants
- ERC Rules for Submission and Evaluation
- Research Proposal templates

Information for Applicants to the
Starting and Consolidator Grant 2019 Calls



European Research Council
Executive Agency

Established by the European Commission



Horizon 2020
European Union Funding
for Research & Innovation

<https://erc.europa.eu>

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/h2020>

Funded projects (ERC website)

ERC FUNDED PROJECTS

Displaying 1 - 10 of 67. Show [10](#) | [20](#) | [50](#) results per page.

Project acronym	3DCellPhase-
Project	In situ Structural Analysis of Molecular Crowding and Phase Separation
Researcher (PI)	Julia MAHAMID
Host Institution (HI)	EUROPEAN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY LABORATORY
Call Details	Starting Grant (StG), LS1, ERC-2017-STG
Summary	+

FUNDING SCHEME

Starting Grant (StG) (67)
 Consolidator Grant (CoG) (47)
 Advanced Grant (AdG) (0)
 Proof of Concept (PoC) (19)
 Synergy Grants (SyG) (0)

CALL YEAR

- 2007 (32)
- 2009 (29)
- 2010 (78)
- 2011 (65)
- 2012 (77)
- 2013 (42)
- 2014 (71)
- 2015 (44)
- 2016 (64)
- 2017 (67)

RESEARCH DOMAIN

COUNTRY OF HOST INSTITUTION

ERC National Contact Point (Germany)

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