

# The European Research Council within Horizon Europe

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# ERC has a unique mission



European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission

"The ERC's mission is to encourage the **highest quality research** in Europe through **competitive funding** and to support investigator-driven **frontier research** across all fields, on the basis of **scientific excellence**."

ERC is....

Funding: it is part of Horizon Europe



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EUR 16 billion  
ERC budget in Horizon Europe



17%  
of the entire  
Horizon Europe budget

# ERC calls

## ERC Governance



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### 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 identification committee
- President appointed by the EC following recommendation of a search committee (4 years, renewable once)
- Establishes overall scientific strategy and annual work programmes
- Identifies evaluators
- Controls quality of operations and management
- Ensures communication with the scientific community

### The ERC Executive Agency

- Executes annual work programme
- Implements calls for proposals
- Organises peer review evaluation
- Signs and monitors grant agreements
- Carries out communications activities
- Provides support to the Scientific Council





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INDIVIDUAL RESEARCHERS  
FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD  
**LONG TERM  
GRANTS**

TO HIGH-RISK/HIGH-GAIN PIONEERING PROJECTS  
IN ANY FIELD OF FRONTIER RESEARCH



Life Sciences



Physical Sciences and Engineering



Social Sciences and Humanities

# What does ERC offer?

Creative freedom to the individual grantee



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ERC offers independence, recognition & visibility

- Work on any research topic: **bottom-up**
- Gain **financial autonomy** for 5 years
- Negotiate the **best work conditions** with the host institution
- Attract **top team members and collaborators** (EU and non-EU), flexible team structure
- **Team members can be based fully outside EU/AC** if justified in the proposal and considered necessary by the panel.
- **Portability** of grants
- **Attract additional funding and gain recognition:** ERC is a quality label



## 1. ERC granting schemes

### Starting Grant

starters  
(2-7 years after PhD)

up to M€ 1.5  
for 5 years

### Consolidator Grant

consolidators  
(7-12 years after PhD)

up to M€ 2  
for 5 years

### Advanced Grant

significant track-record  
in the last 10 years

up to M€ 2.5  
for 5 years

### Proof-of-Concept

verify potential  
for marketable innovation  
up to €150,000 for ERC grant holders

### Synergy Grant

2-4 Principal Investigators  
up to M€ 10 for 6 years

# Additional funding



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Additional funding can be requested to cover the costs below:

- Up to € 1M for Starting / Consolidator / Advanced grants
  - Up to € 4M for Synergy grants
- (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.*



# Who can apply?



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- **Excellent Researchers**
- **Any nationality, any age** or any current working place in the world
- The Host Institution must be in a EU member state or an associated country
- If granted, you need to spend at least 50% of your working time in the EU or associated countries
- **SOLE SELECTION CRITERION: scientific excellence of the PI and the project**

**No priorities, No quotas - the Host Institution is NOT an evaluation criterion**



# ERC calls

## ERC funding schemes for individual PIs



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- No nationality constraint
- All fields of knowledge are eligible
- No scientific priorities
- Light project monitoring
  
- ❑ Host institution must be located in the European Union or in any of the Associated Countries
- ❑ Grantee can keep affiliation with home institute outside Europe (“significant part” of work time in Europe, at least 50%)
- ❑ Team members can be based outside Europe
  
- Additional “start-up” funding for scientists moving to Europe of up to EUR 1 Million

# ERC calls

## ERC funding schemes for groups of PIs



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- No nationality constraint
- All fields of knowledge are eligible
- No scientific priorities
- Light project monitoring
  - ❑ One of the PIs may be engaged to a host institution located outside the European Union or the Associated Countries with no time commitment in Europe required
  - ❑ Note that except the PI applying with an outside country host institution, each PI has to spend at least 50% of their working time in an EU Member State or Associated Country. All PIs have to devote at least 30% of their working time to the ERC-funded project, regardless of the country they work in



European  
Commission

Horizon 2020  
European Union funding  
for Research & Innovation

# ERC

## HOST COUNTRIES



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### 27 EU Member States (MS):

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden

### Horizon Europe Associated Countries (AC)\* :

- **Agreements in place:** Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey

### In process of association (transitional arrangement):

- Albania, Morocco, Ukraine, United Kingdom\*

\* *PI can apply with a British host university. The ERC can however only sign the grant on condition that the UK has associated to Horizon by the time of the signature. So for the 2021 cohort, this meant that PIs had to move to EU/AC with their grant thus exercising grant portability or loose the grant.*

\*based on [HE association agreements status](#) as of June 2022



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## Host Institution

- Any legal entity (public or private), which has the infrastructure and the capacity to carry out a frontier research project, such as a university, a research organisation or a private company performing research.
- It must be established under national law in an EU Member State or an Associated Country.
- It may also be an International European Interest Organisation (such as CERN, EMBL, etc.), the European Commission's Joint Research Centre or an entity created under EU law.



# ERC 2022- 2023 Calls Calendar



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ERC calls	Call Opening	Submission Deadline
<b>Starting Grants</b> ERC-2022-StG	12/07/2022	25/10/2022
<b>Consolidator Grants</b> ERC-2022-CoG	28/09/2022	02/02/2023
<b>Advanced Grants</b> ERC-2022-AdG	08/12/2022	23/05/2023
<b>Synergy Grants</b> ERC-2022-SyG	13/07/2022	08/11/2022
<b>Proof of Concept</b> ERC-2022-PoC	20/10/2022	24/01/2023 20/04/2023 14/09/2023



## Excellence

is the sole evaluation criterion

### Excellence of the Research Project

- Ground breaking nature
- Potential impact
- Scientific Approach

### Excellence of the Principal Investigator

- Intellectual capacity
- Creativity
- Commitment

# ERC Panel structure



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## Life Sciences (LS)

- LS1 Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures and Functions
- LS2 Integrative Biology: from Genes and Genomes to Systems
- LS3 Cellular, Developmental and Regenerative Biology
- LS4 Physiology in Health, Disease and Aging
- 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

- 3 Domains / 27 Panels
- Operated by the Scientific Department B

NEW in HE!

## Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH)

- SH1 Individuals, Markets and Organisations
- SH2 Institutions, Governance and Legal Systems
- SH3 The Social World and Its Diversity
- SH4 The Human Mind and Its Complexity
- SH5 Cultures and Cultural Production
- SH6 The Study of the Human Past
- SH7 Human Mobility, Environment, and Space

## Physical Sciences & Engineering (PSE)

- PE1 Mathematics
- PE2 Fundamental Constituents of Matter
- PE3 Condensed Matter Physics
- PE4 Physical & 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

# 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, AdG).
- The Host Institution is not an evaluation criterion.



# What is the Implementing Arrangement (IA)?

- IA designed to boost opportunities for researchers supported by non-European agencies to temporarily join the research teams of ERC grantees in Europe;
- 16 national funding agencies from 12 countries have signed IAs with EC, which includes two funding agencies from India (DST-SERB & ICSSR);
- IA help to connect researchers with complementary strengths and share interests through international mobility;
- 400+ researchers visited an ERC project since 2012
- The visiting researcher is the one taking the initiative in the "matchmaking" (it is not the ERC/the ERC PI/the non-European agency...);
- The visiting researchers are selected by the non-European funding agencies from a pre-defined pool of researchers;
- The ERC does not intervene in the selection process.



# Implementing Arrangement with SERB



## DST-Science & Engendering Research Board (SERB)

- Field: Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math (STEM);
- Visit & Duration: single and long term (e.g. 6 to 12 months);
- Eligible: **only SERB grantees** (PhD, Post-Doc, Early Stage Researchers);
- Funding: Travel expenses by SERB and Per-Diems by ERC host lab;
- It is expected that research visits begin at least 6 to 12 months prior to the termination date of SERB funding;
- Final decision by SERB - for more details [click here](#)

# Implementing Arrangement with ICSSR



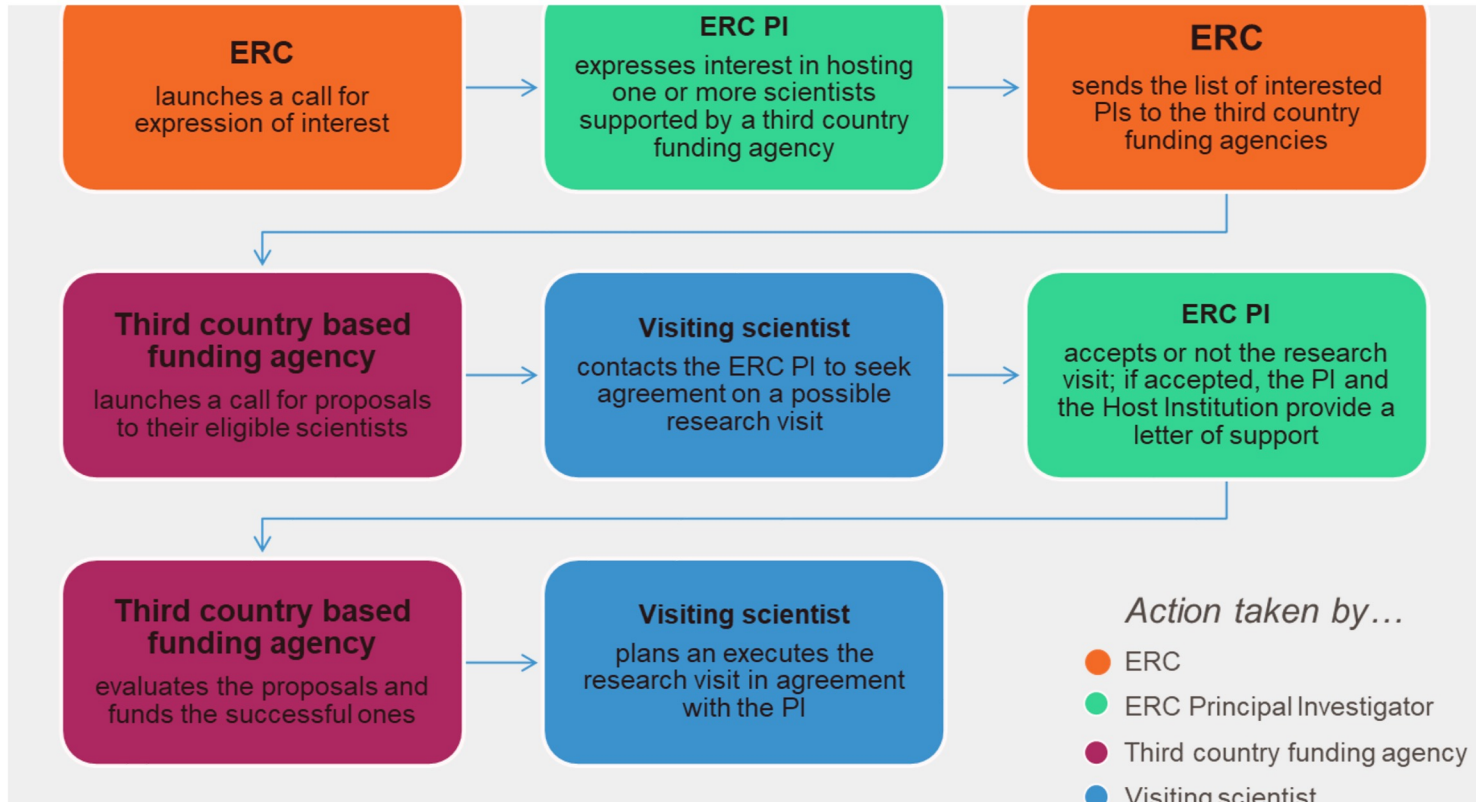
## Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)

- Field: Social Science & Humanities (SSH);
- Visit & Duration: single and short term (up to 2 months);
- Eligible: **only ICSSR grantees** (PIs, Senior Fellows, Post-Doc);
- Funding: Travel expenses, visa and insurance by ICSSR and Per-Diems by ERC host lab;
- It is expected that research visits begin at least 6 months prior to the termination date of ICSSR funding;
- Final decision by ICSSR -for more details [click here](#)

# Implementing Arrangements The Process



European Research Council



# How to apply?

The ERC sends each funding agency a listing of interested ERC PIs or teams, with a description of their projects.

- Find out whether you are eligible for funding under the International Arrangements;
- Approach directly to the relevant funding agency (SERB/ICSSR);
- If you are eligible, it will tell you appropriate category (PhD, Post-Doc, Early Researcher, PI, SF etc.).
- You can then contact the ERC PI offering a position to express an interest in working in the research team;
- When you and the PI have agreed on the details, the ERC Host Institution will send a 'letter of intent' or 'support letter' on behalf of the PI to your funding agency to apply for funding;
- Your national funding agency can take final decision on your visit/project.

**Call will be in November 2022 | mobility to take place in summer 2023**



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# Some statistics





# ERC in figures



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**>12,000**

Total projects funded by  
ERC since 2007



**85**

Nationalities  
(ERC grantees)



**35**

EU and Associated  
Countries hosting ERC  
projects



**>150,000**

publications reported  
by ERC projects



**>1,300**

prestigious prizes  
awarded to  
ERC grantees



**>80,000**

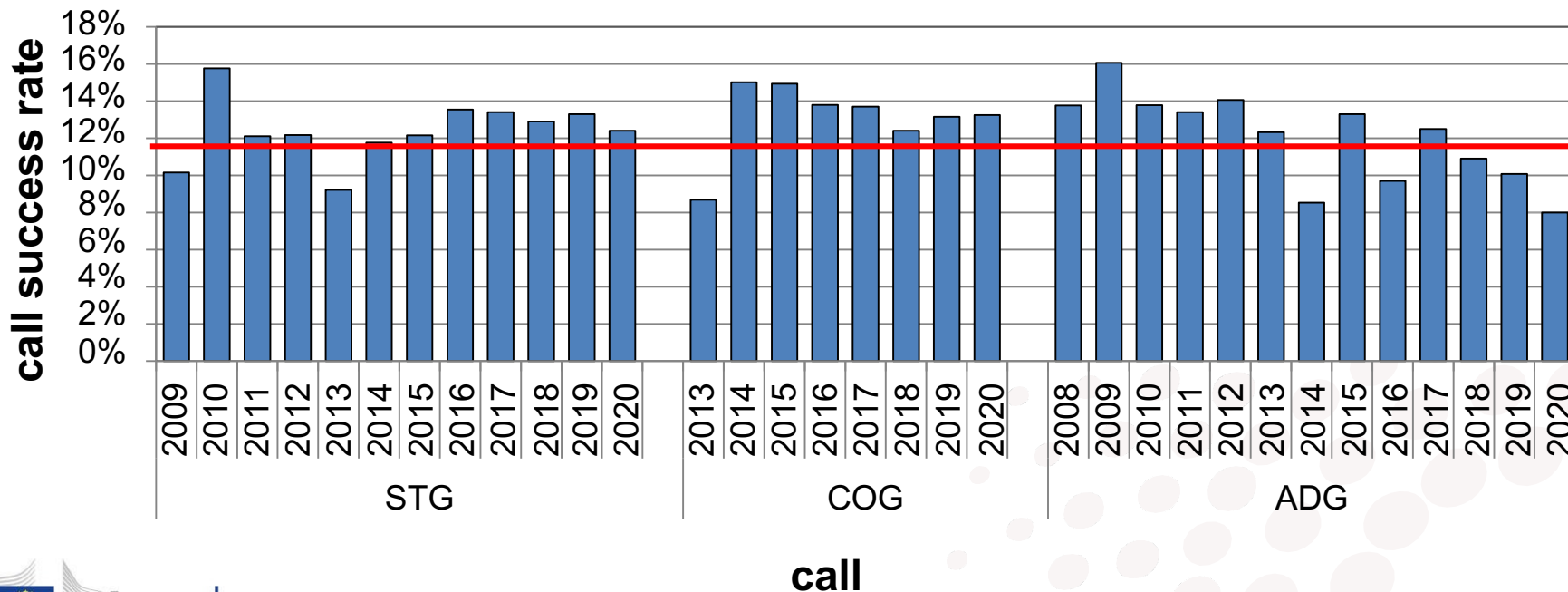
researchers and other  
professionals  
hired in ERC teams

# Call success rates 2008-2020



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## 2008-2020 call success rate (evaluated proposals)

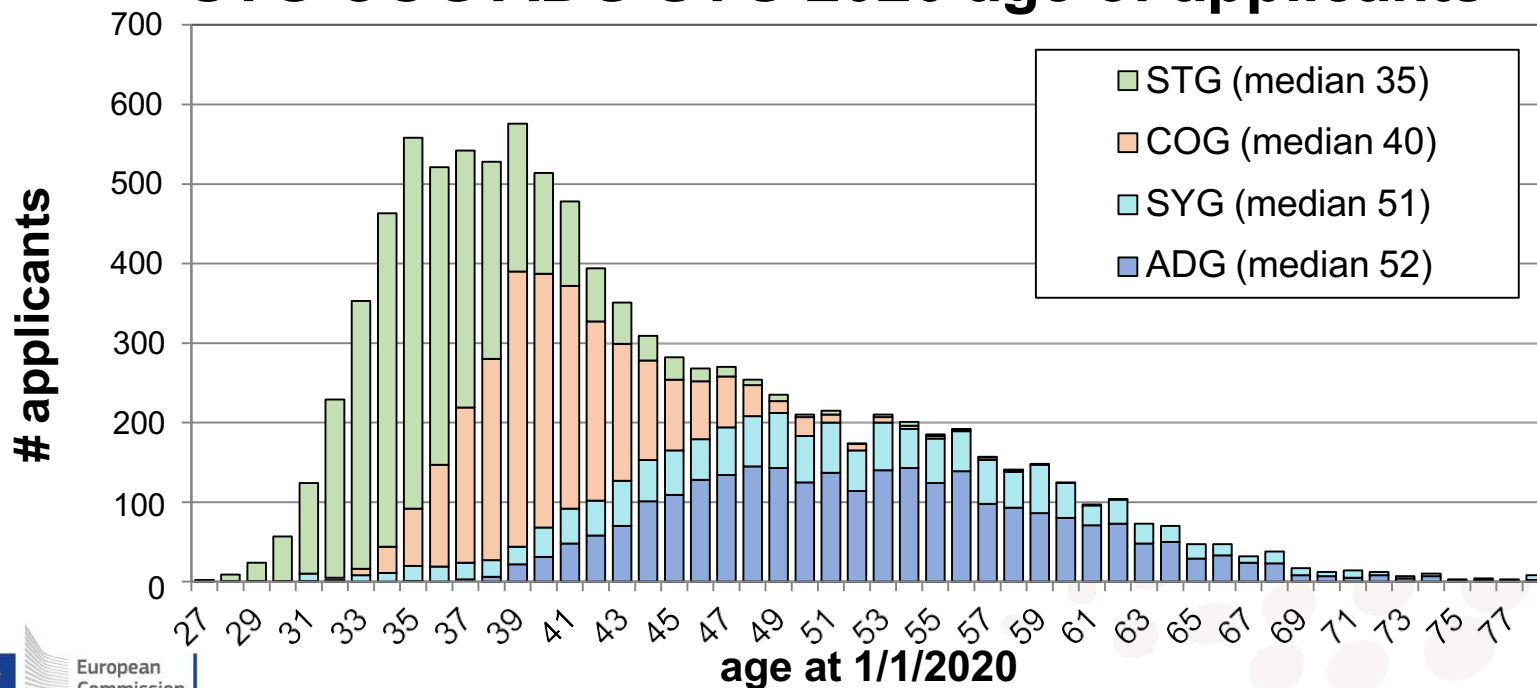


# Some funding statistics: Age of applicants



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## STG COG ADG SYG 2020 age of applicants

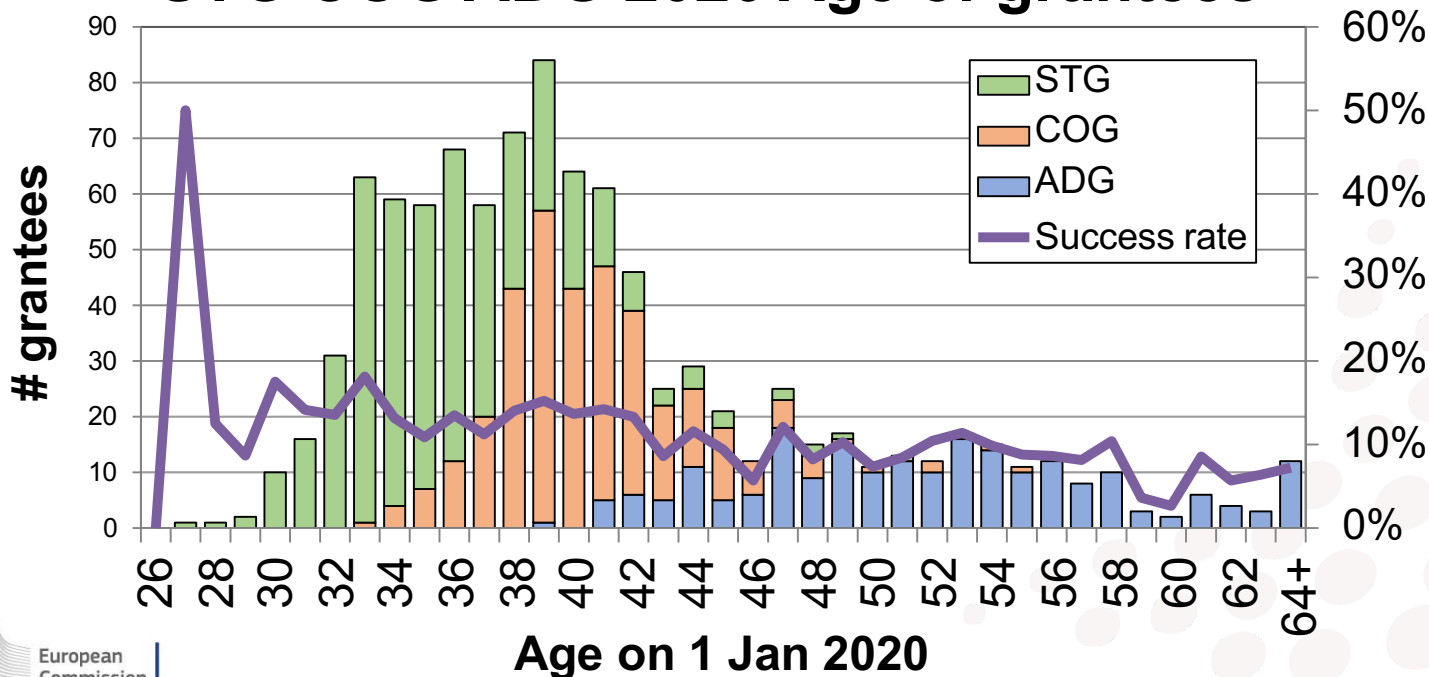


# Some funding statistics: Age of grantees



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## STG COG ADG 2020 Age of grantees

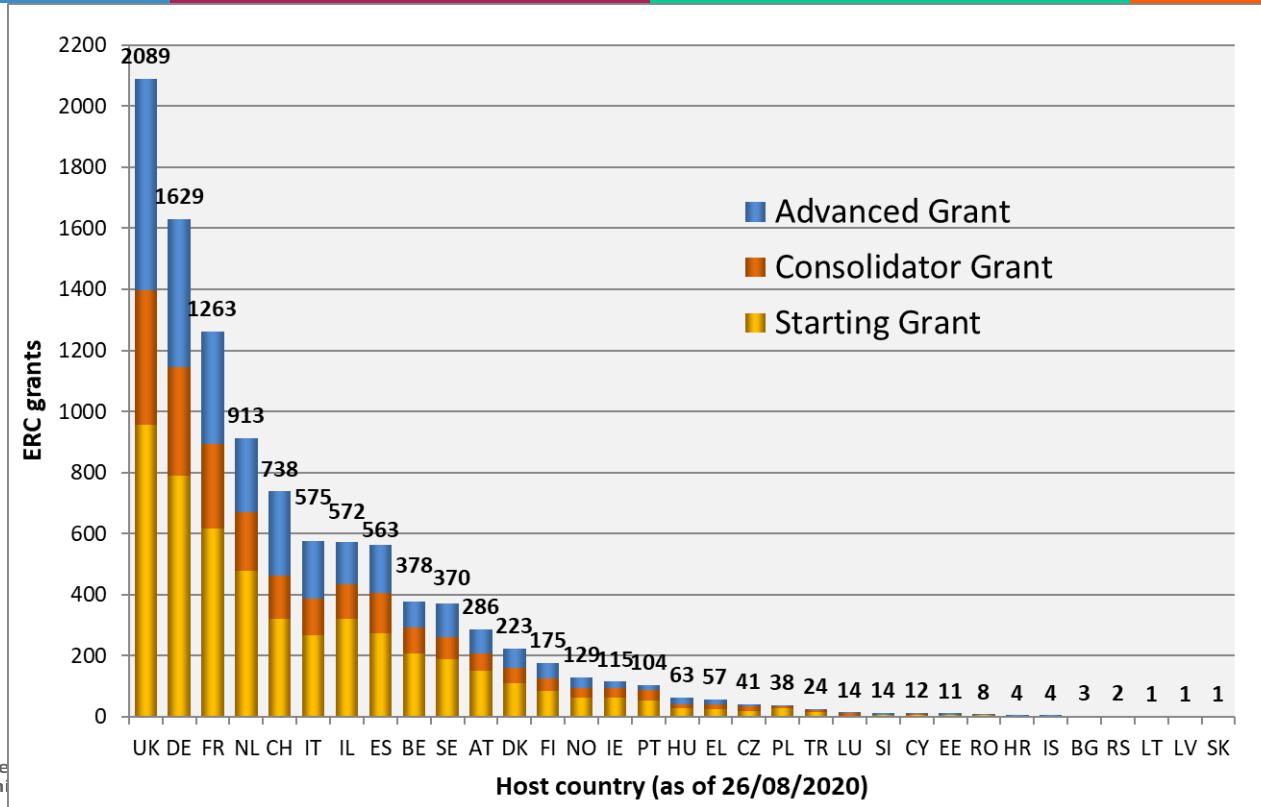


# ERC calls

## ERC grants by HI countries



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# International participation

## 50 third-country nationalities



Over 8% of all ERC grants to principal investigators of third-country nationality



Non-EU/AC Principal Investigators	Starting and Consolidator grants	Advanced grants	Total grants
USA	264	128	392
Canada	93	16	109
India	67	3	70
Russia	61	9	70
China	64	1	65
Australia	53	11	64
Japan	32	8	40
New Zealand	20	6	26
Argentina	21	1	22
Other	130	13	143
<b>Total</b>	<b>805</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>1001</b>

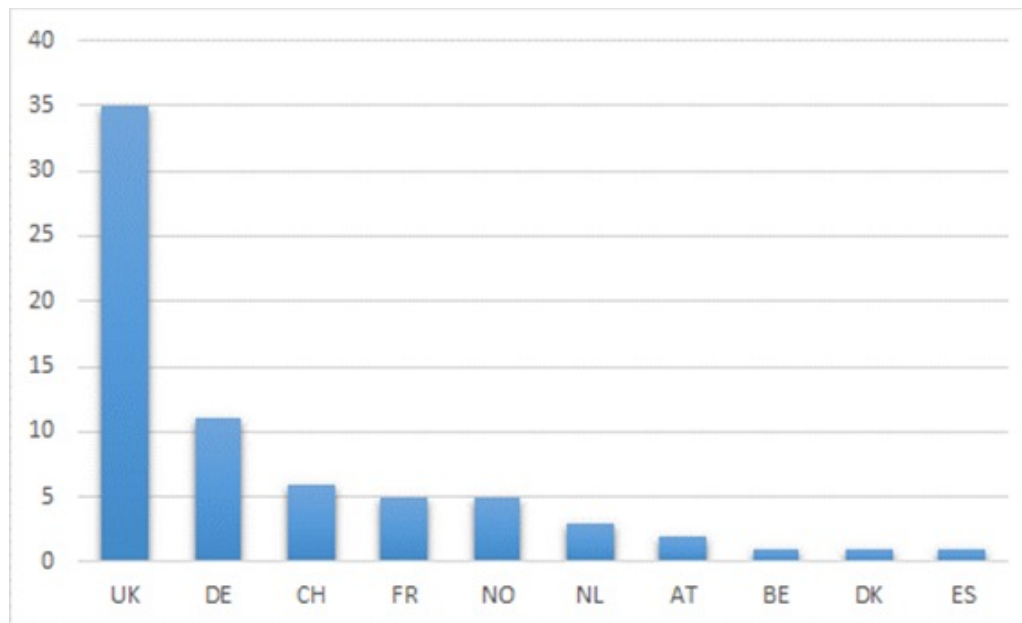
# ERC Indian grantees

## Countries of host institution



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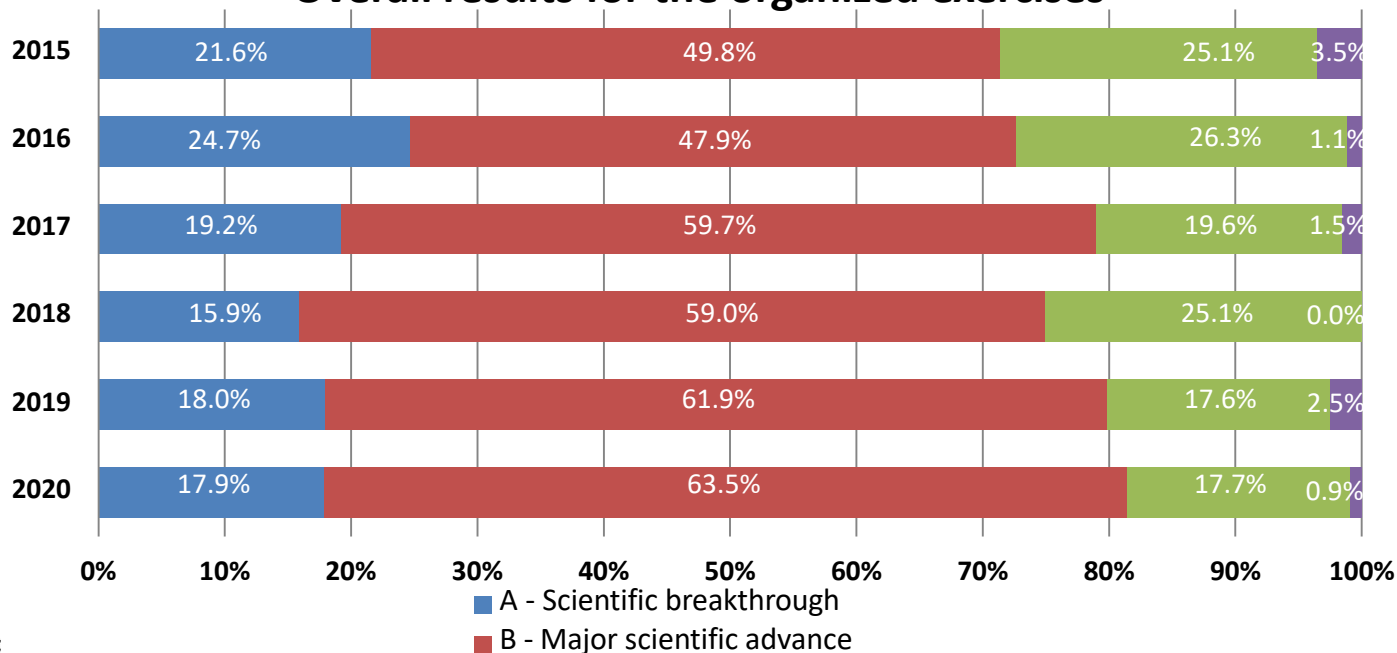
# Qualitative Evaluation of ERC Completed Projects

Comparison of all SAP evaluation results



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## Qualitative evaluation of completed ERC projects Overall results for the organized exercises



# Where can you find more information?



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## 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>

# Where can you find more information?



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Our website:

[erc.europa.eu](https://erc.europa.eu)

Our social media channels:



National Contact Points (NCP):

<https://erc.europa.eu/funding/national-contact-points>

Funding & Tender Opportunities:

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



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# Thank you!

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