



ERC
in the EU Research Funding Landscape
Now and in the Future

Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON
ERC President

A Radical Step Forward for Science in Europe

Mission: To raise the level, dynamism and creativity of the whole European research system by:

- **Supporting the emergence of research leaders**
- **Improving the career prospects of early stage researchers**
- **Providing a benchmark for all of Europe's national research authorities and individual institutions**

ERC is Different

Scientific Governance

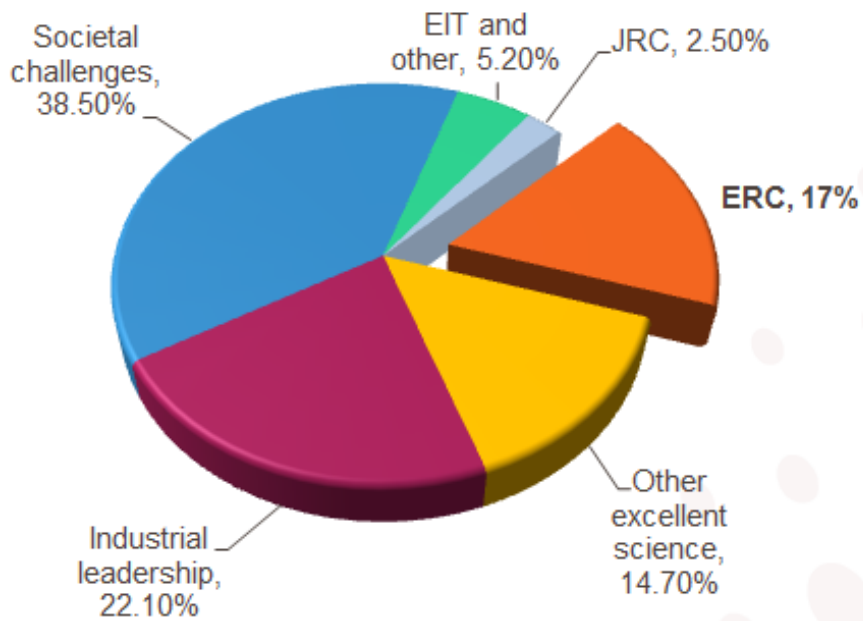
- Independent Scientific Council with 22 members including the ERC President; full authority over funding strategy and evaluation
- Support by a Dedicated Implementation Structure (ERC Executive Agency)

Scientific Freedom

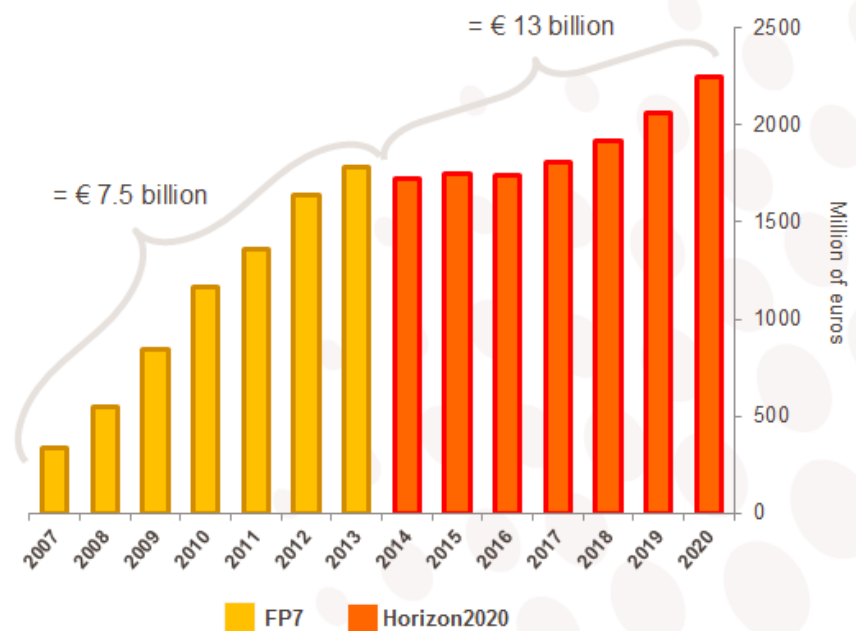
- Scientific quality as the only criterion for selection
- Support to the individual scientist – no consortia!
- No predetermined subjects (bottom-up)
- Support to Frontier Research in all fields of Science and Humanities
- International peer-review

ERC Budget

Horizon 2020 budget distribution



ERC budget per year



ERC Grant Schemes



European Research Council

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Starting Grants

starters
(2-7 years after PhD)
up to € 1.5 Mio
for 5 years

Consolidator Grants

consolidators
(7-12 years after PhD)
up to € 2 Mio
for 5 years

Advanced Grants

track-record of
significant research
achievements in the
last 10 years
up to € 2.5 Mio
for 5 years

Proof-of-Concept

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

Synergy Grants (re-launched 2018)

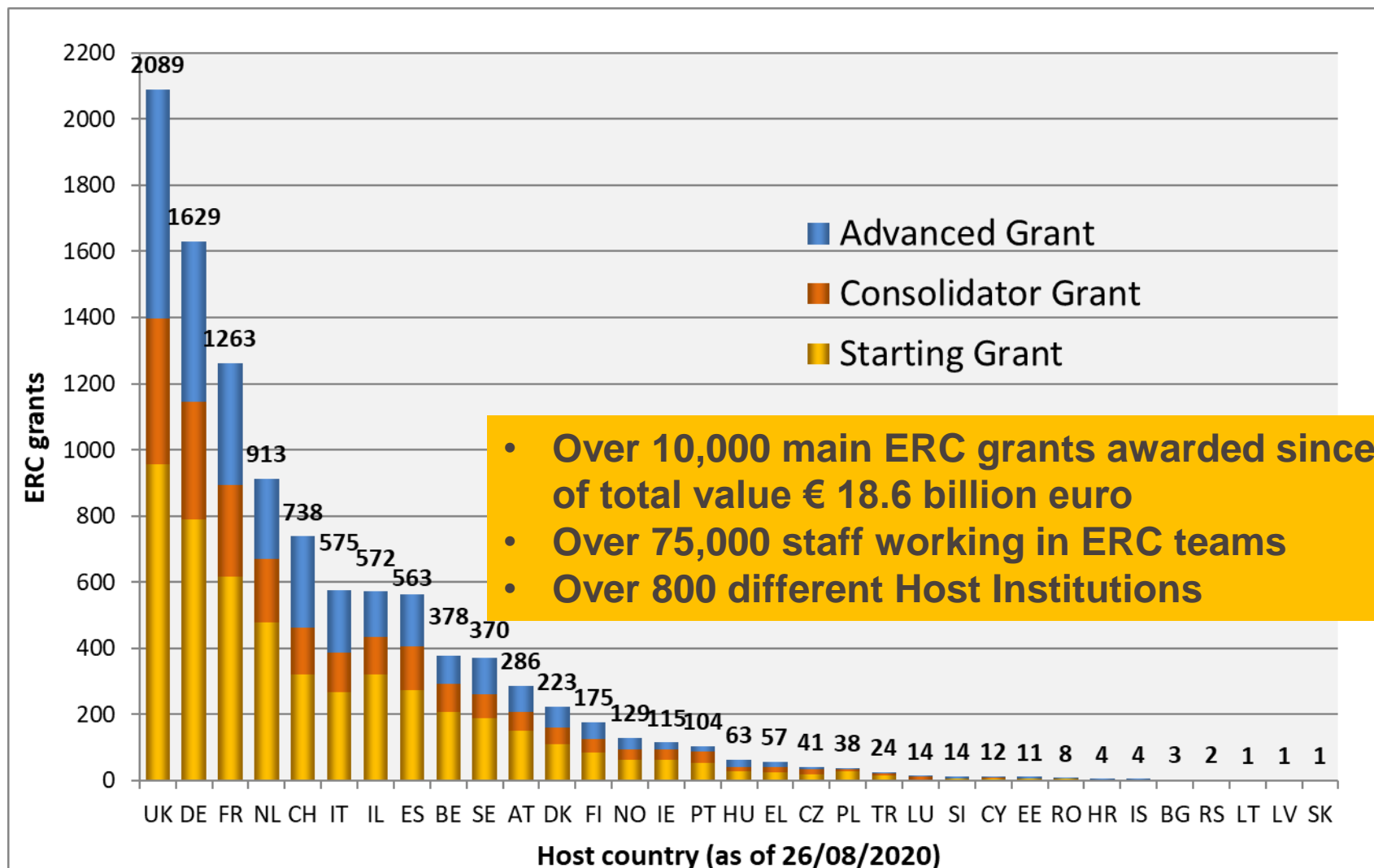
2 – 4 Principal Investigators
up to € 10.0 Mio for 6 years
1 PI can be based outside EU/AC

ERC Main Grants



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- Over 10,000 main ERC grants awarded since 2007, of total value € 18.6 billion euro
- Over 75,000 staff working in ERC teams
- Over 800 different Host Institutions

ERC Grants in the Nordic Countries



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Host country	StG	CoG	AdG	Total	Total (€)	PoC	Synergy grantees
DK	109	52	62	223	400,904,171	16	14
FI	85	42	48	175	317,268,684	30	2
IS	1	2	1	4	7,871,670	1	
NO	62	33	34	129	237,277,362	4	5
SE	188	72	110	370	673,760,265	35	6
Total	445	201	255	901	1,637,082,152	86	27

Top Host Institutions in Nordic Countries	StG	CoG	AdG	Total
DK: University of Copenhagen	51	29	24	104
FI: University of Helsinki	40	18	23	81
SE: Lund University	35	17	20	72
SE: Karolinska Institute	29	14	24	67
NO: University of Oslo	33	16	15	64
SE: Uppsala University	34	9	16	59
DK: Aarhus University	25	12	16	53
FI: Aalto University	18	10	13	41
SE: Stockholm University	23	7	11	41

ERC Ex-post Evaluations

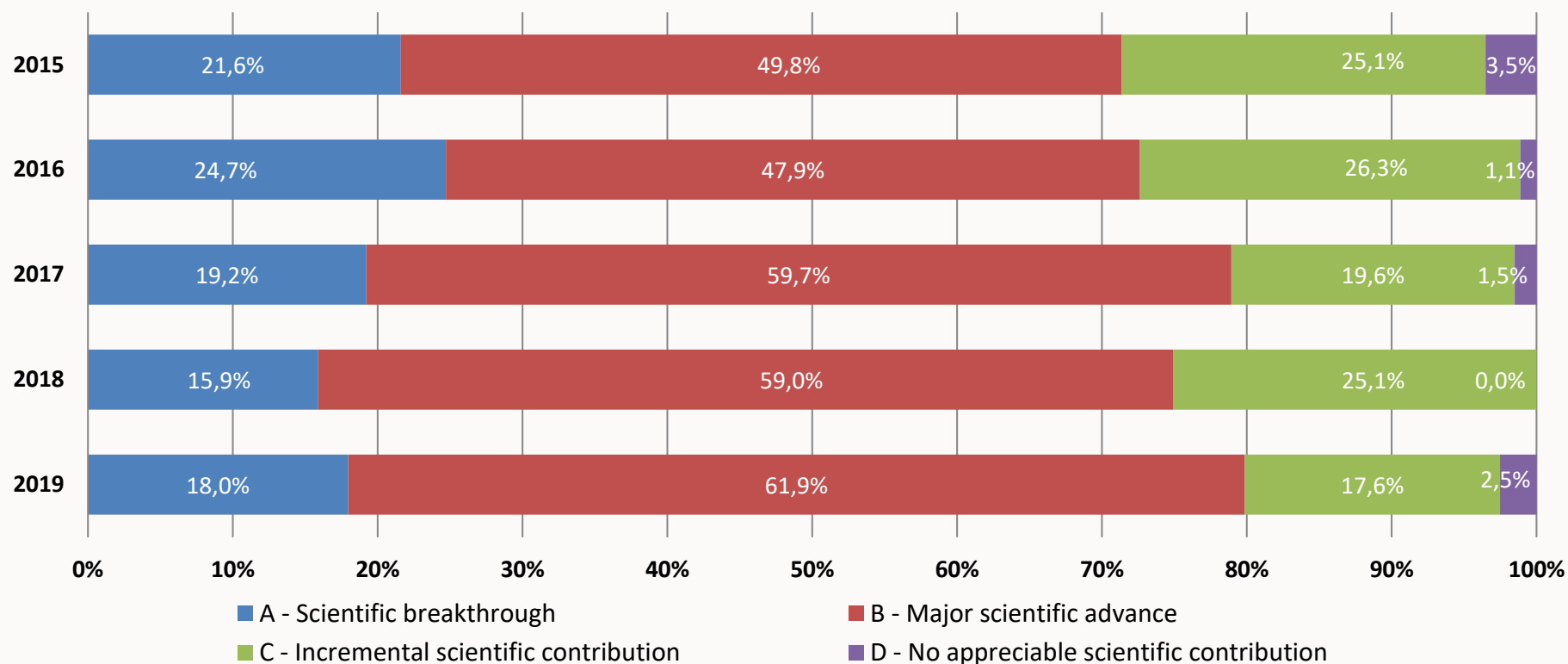


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20% of ERC-funded Projects Deliver Scientific Breakthroughs

Qualitative evaluation of completed ERC projects
Overall results from 2015 to 2019



ERC Funds the Best Research of All Major Funders in the World

"The ERC had the highest category normalised citation impact, the highest percentage of papers in the world's top 1% and the highest percentage of papers involving international co-authorship of the 50 funders most frequently acknowledged by authors in the Web of Science between 2007 and 2016. Of the 100 most frequently acknowledged funders, only three (all large pharmaceutical companies) have a higher citation impact – though not substantially higher."

Table 2. The 50 most frequently acknowledged funders in the Web of Science sorted by category normalised citation impact, 2007-16⁶

Name	Papers	Category normalized citation impact	Percentage top 1% papers	Percentage internationally collaborative papers
European Research Council (ERC)	40,422	2.46	4.84%	59.24%
Wellcome Trust	41,040	2.10	3.60%	55.62%
United States Department of Energy (DOE)	123,864	2.09	3.92%	39.39%
NIH National Cancer Institute (NCI)	55,496	2.08	3.68%	29.69%
Medical Research Council UK	38,442	2.08	3.76%	48.81%
NIH National Heart Lung & Blood Institute (NHLBI)	30,092	1.95	3.27%	28.81%
Swiss National Science Foundation	50,598	1.90	3.01%	59.03%
Federal Ministry of Education & Research (BMBF)	43,462	1.75	2.68%	48.12%
National Institutes of Health (NIH) – USA ⁷	617,950	1.73	2.61%	28.37%
National Science Foundation (NSF)	380,893	1.73	2.76%	36.36%
National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia	40,898	1.70	2.31%	42.24%
Australian Research Council	65,631	1.65	2.26%	50.65%
French National Research Agency	41,385	1.62	2.04%	47.65%
Ministry of Science and Technology, China	32,098	1.61	2.49%	28.98%
Swedish Research Council	41,161	1.60	2.09%	57.87%
Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)	60,697	1.58	2.07%	43.01%

Horizon Europe: Evolution not Revolution

Specific objectives of the Programme

Support the creation and diffusion of high-quality knowledge

Strengthen the impact of R&I in supporting EU policies

Foster all forms of innovation and strengthen market deployment

Optimise the Programme's delivery for impact in a strengthened ERA



Pillar 1
Open Science

European Research Council

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Research Infrastructures



Pillar 2
Global Challenges and Industrial Competitiveness

- Clusters**
- Health
 - Inclusive and Secure Society
 - Digital and Industry
 - Climate, Energy and Mobility
 - Food and natural resources

Joint Research Centre



Pillar 3
Open Innovation

European Innovation Council

European innovation ecosystems

European Institute of Innovation and Technology

Strengthening the European Research Area

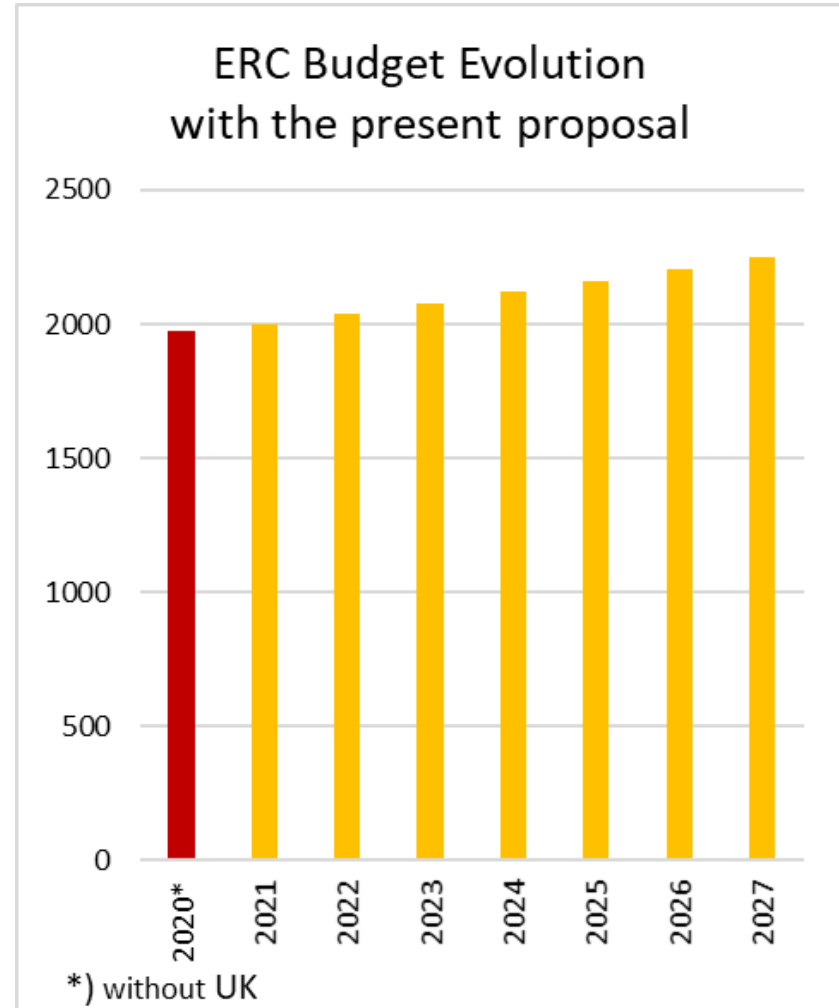
Sharing excellence

Reforming and Enhancing the European R&I system

Possible ERC Budget Evolution

The ERC Budget Evolution with the present proposal giving €14.86bn to the ERC in current prices, forces a freeze over the next 7 years with only inflation increases.

the ERC Scientific Council requests an absolute minimum budget of €16.6bn in current prices (or €14.7bn in constant 2018 prices) over the next 7 years



The European Research Council



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