

FP7 IDEAS Programme

WP 2011 and the StG Call

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Unit A1, Support to the ERC Scientific Council

European Research Council

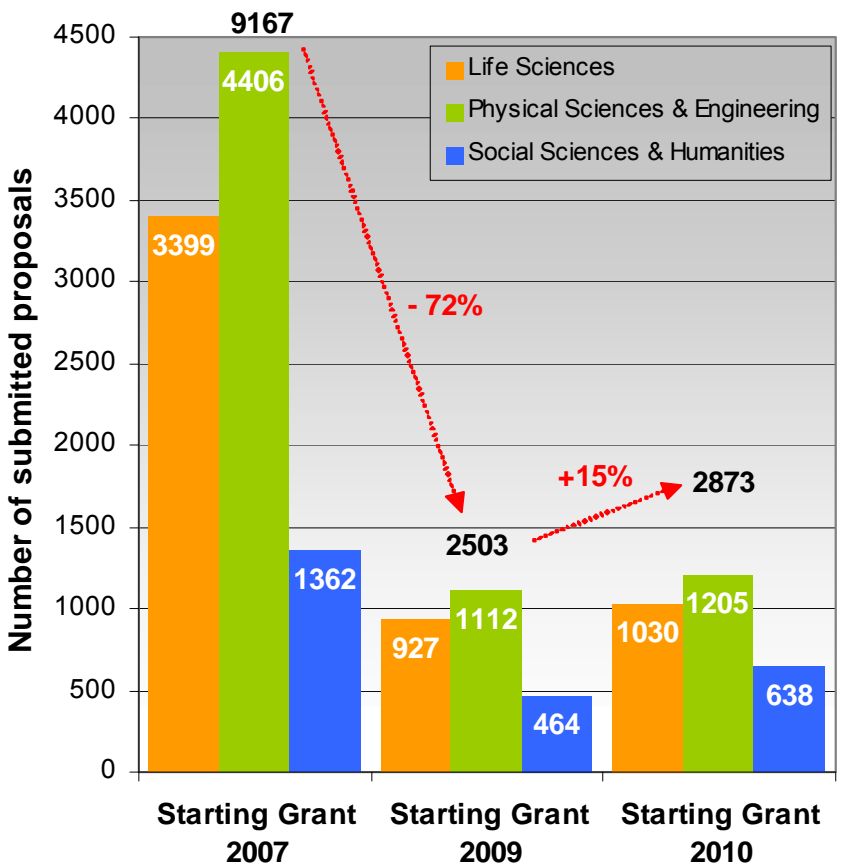


ERC Starting & Advanced grant calls 2007 - 2010

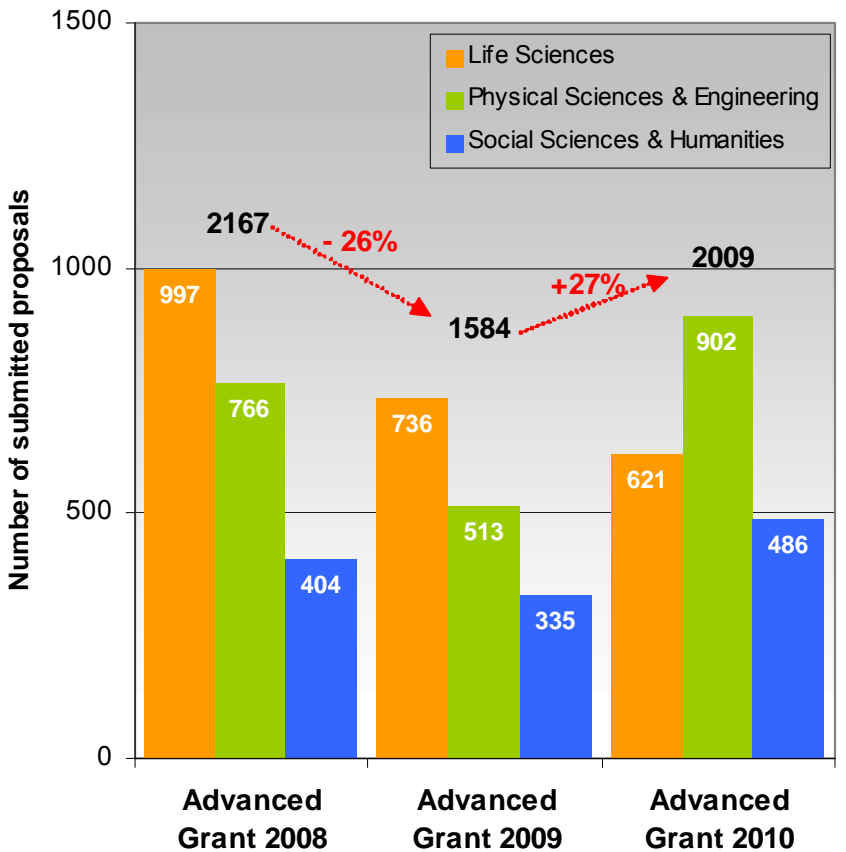
Submitted proposals by domain



Starting Grant Calls

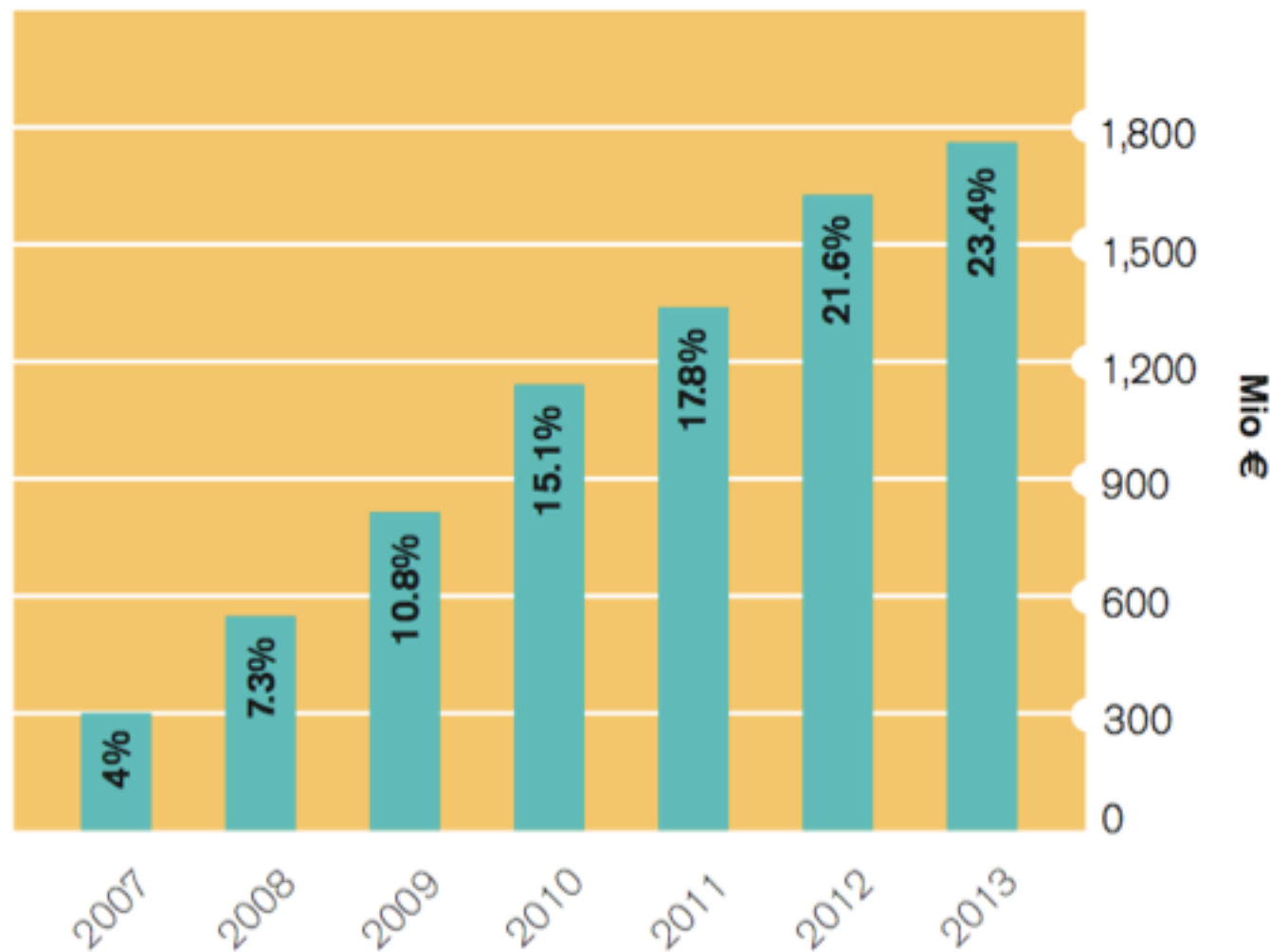


Advanced Grant Calls





ERC budget increases by € 250 M€ / year





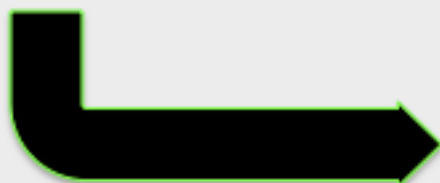
ERC budget € 1 billion/year (on average)

ERC budget

Averages to **€ 1 billion/year**



Less than 0.5% of R&D spending
In Europe



Compare with US institutions

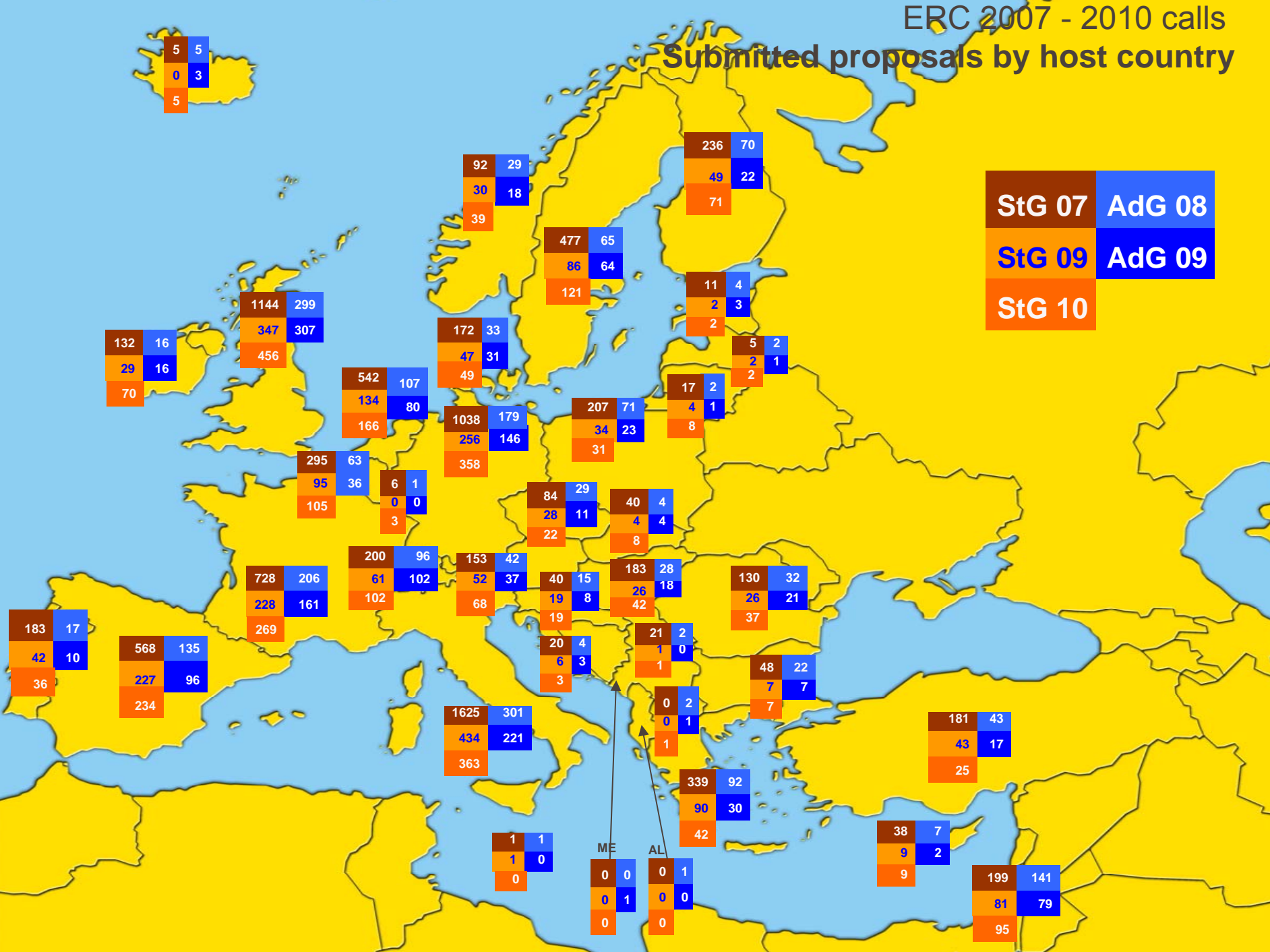
NSF → **\$ 6.85 billion** (2009)

NIH → **\$ 30.5 billion** (2009)

Annual R&D budget








Submitted proposals by host country

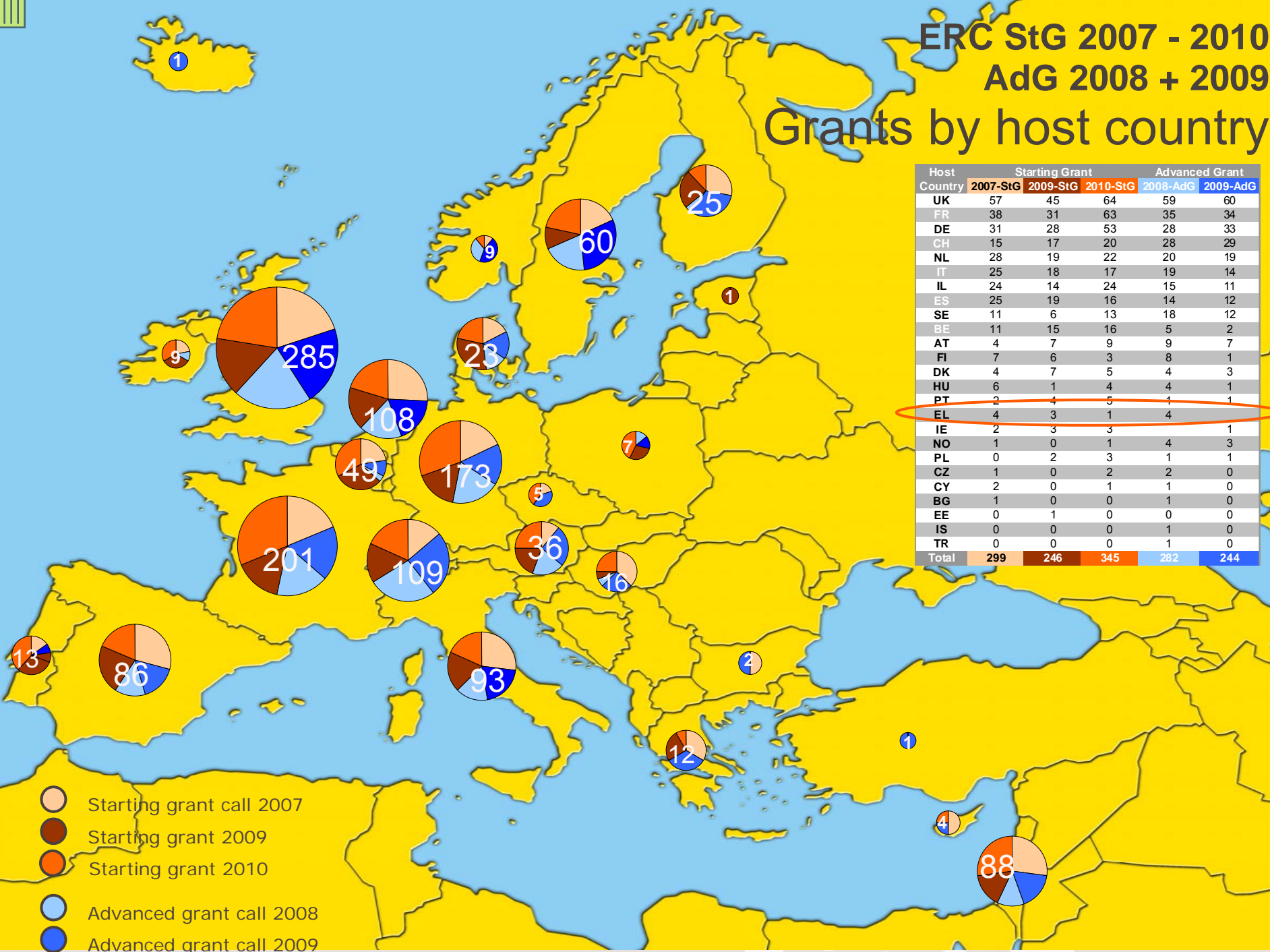


ERC StG 2007 - 2010 AdG 2008 + 2009

Grants by host country

Host Country	Starting Grant			Advanced Grant	
	2007-StG	2009-StG	2010-StG	2008-AdG	2009-AdG
UK	57	45	64	59	60
FR	38	31	63	35	34
DE	31	28	53	28	33
CH	15	17	20	28	29
NL	28	19	22	20	19
IT	25	18	17	19	14
IL	24	14	24	15	11
ES	25	19	16	14	12
SE	11	6	13	18	12
BE	11	15	16	5	2
AT	4	7	9	9	7
FI	7	6	3	8	1
DK	4	7	5	4	3
HU	6	1	4	4	1
PT	2	4	5	1	1
EL	4	3	1	4	1
IE	2	3	3	1	1
NO	1	0	1	4	3
PL	0	2	3	1	1
CZ	1	0	2	2	0
CY	2	0	1	1	0
BG	1	0	0	1	0
EE	0	1	0	0	0
IS	0	0	0	1	0
TR	0	0	0	1	0
Total	299	246	345	282	244

-  Starting grant call 2007
-  Starting grant 2009
-  Starting grant 2010
-  Advanced grant call 2008
-  Advanced grant call 2009



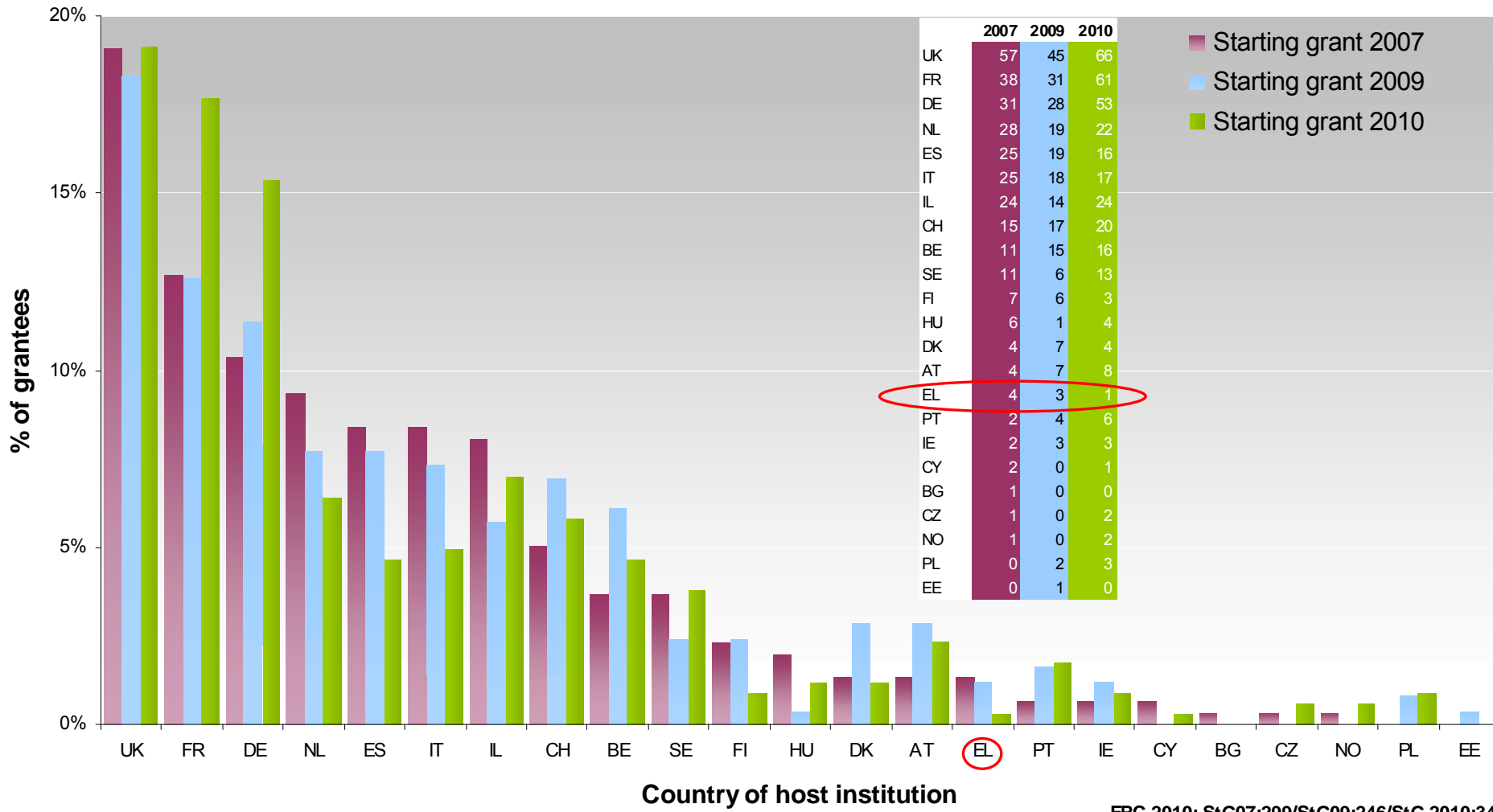


Comparison of the TOP European institutions

Institution	Grants
University Cambridge	27
EPF Lausanne	24
University Oxford	25
ETH Zürich	22
Imperial College	20
Hebrew University Jerusalem	20
University College London	19
Weizmann Institute	20
University Leuven	12
University Zürich	12
University Leiden	11
Karolinska Institut	10
University Munich	10
Technion	10
University Edinburgh	10
University Bristol	10
Free University Amsterdam	10

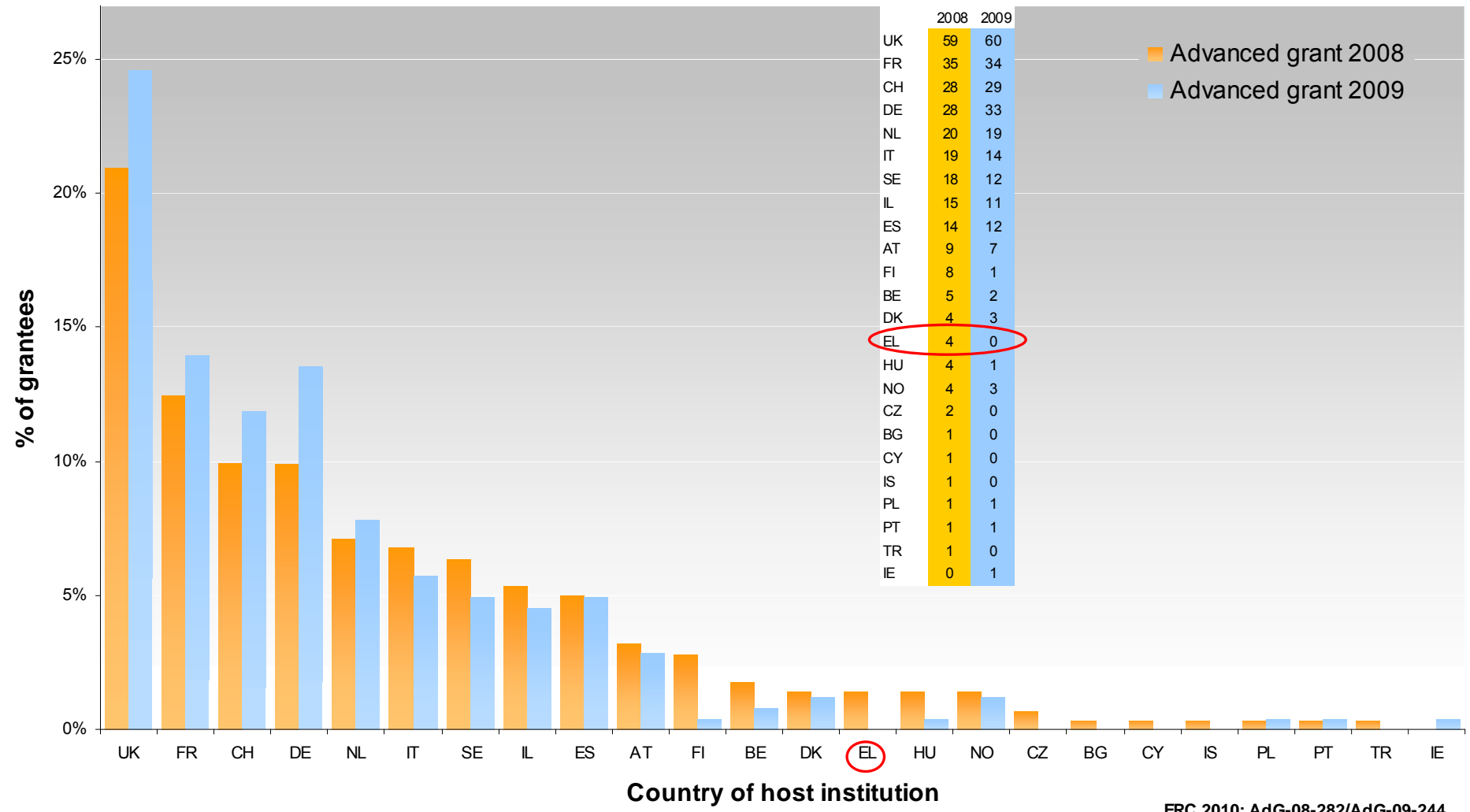


Share of selected proposals by country of host institution



ERC Advanced grants 2008 and 2009

Share of selected proposals by country of host institution



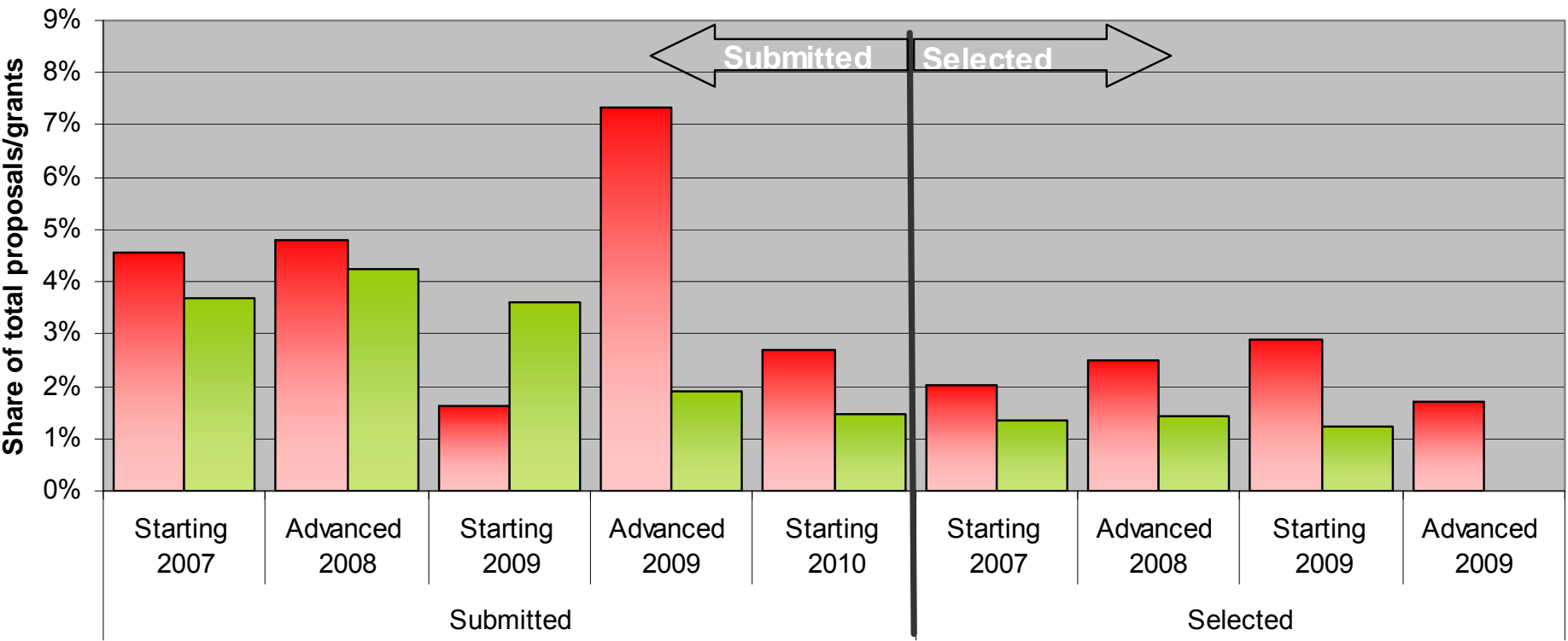


Share of submitted and selected proposals by Greek nationals and Greek host institutions



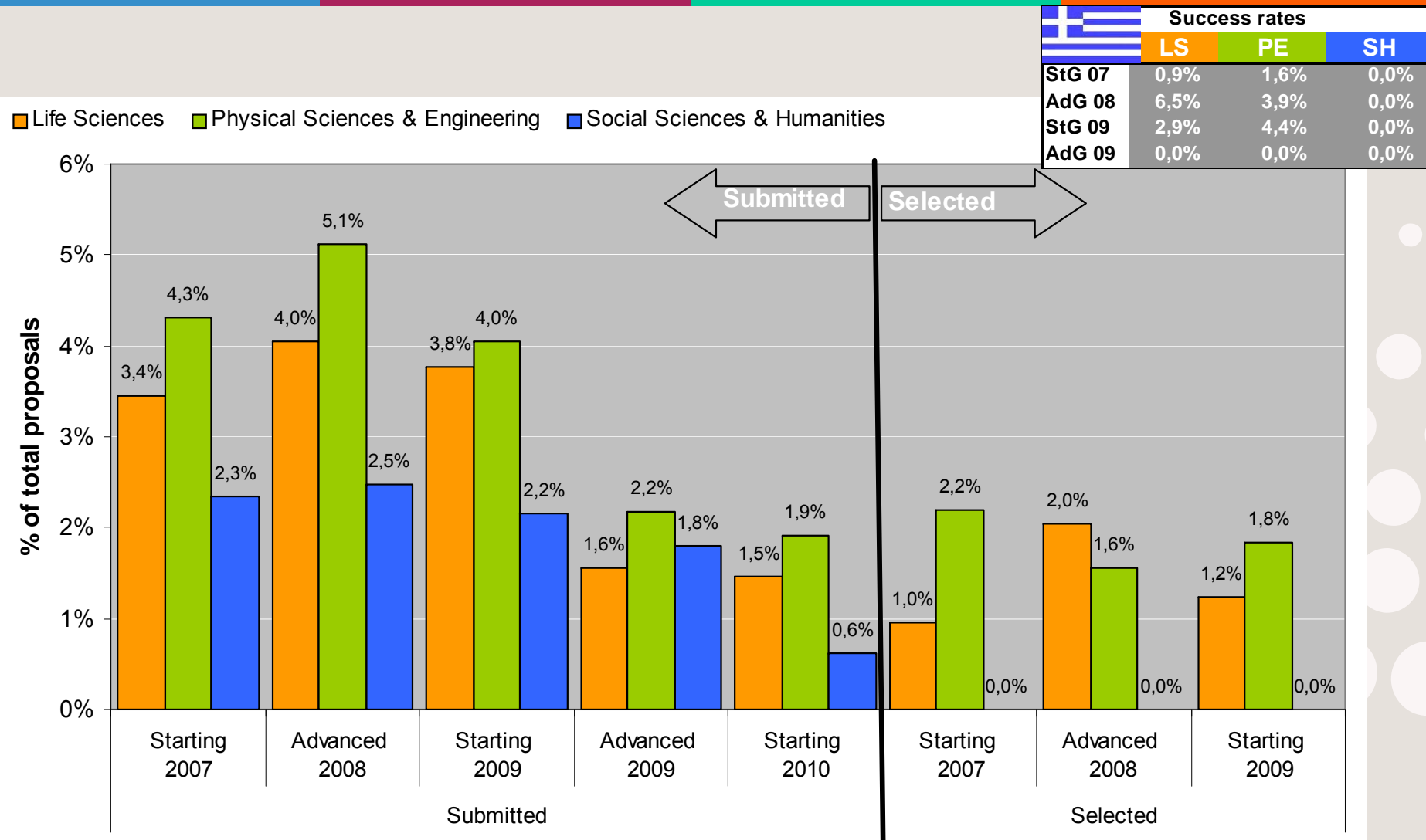
	Success rates			
	StG 07	AdG 08	StG 09	AdG 09
EL nationals	1,4%	6,7%	17,1%	3,4%
EL hosts	1,2%	4,3%	3,3%	0,0%
Calls: Average success	3,3%	9,7%	13,0%	15,0%

█ Greek Nationals █ Greek host institutions



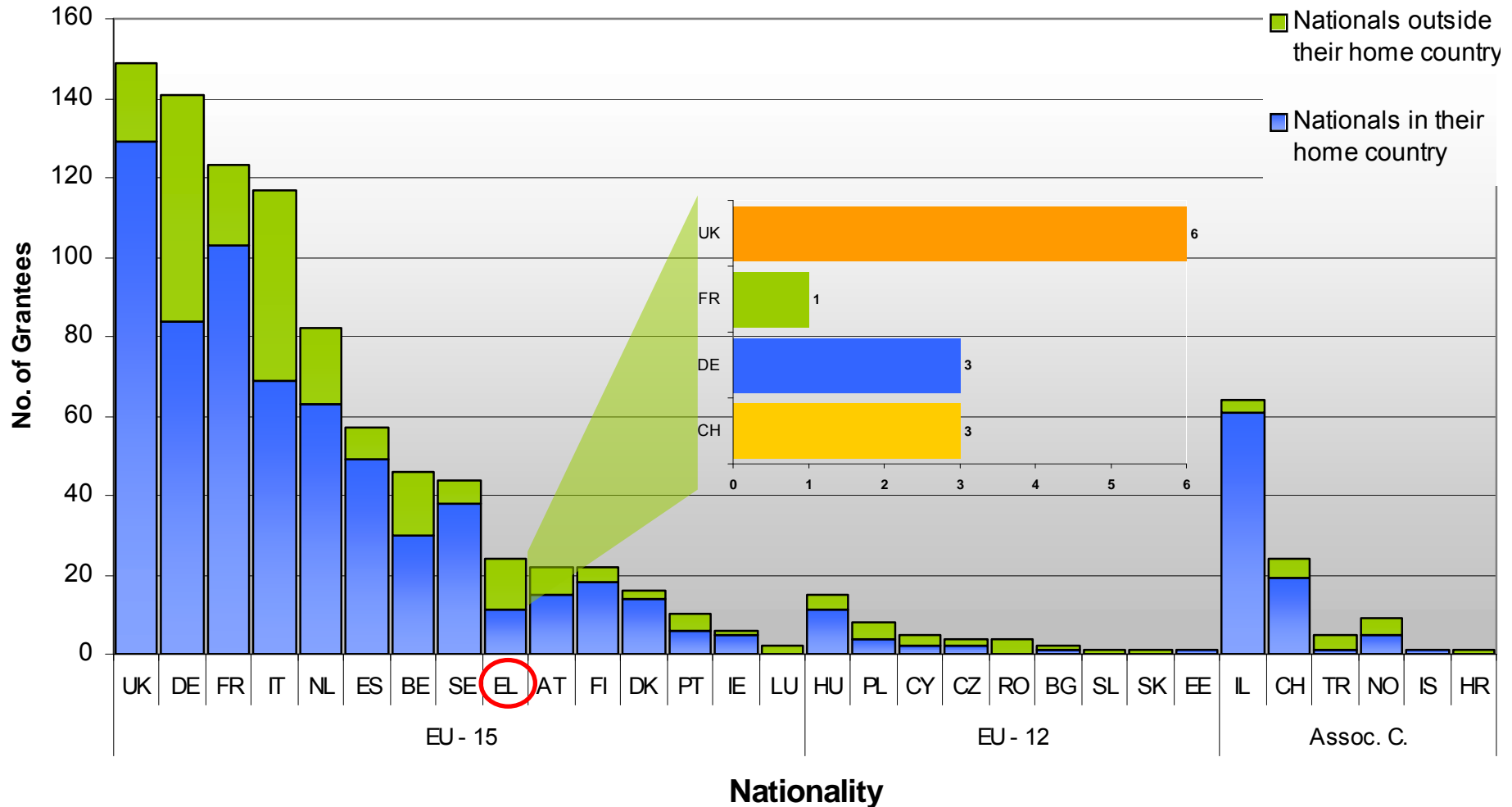


Share of submitted and selected proposals by Greek host institutions



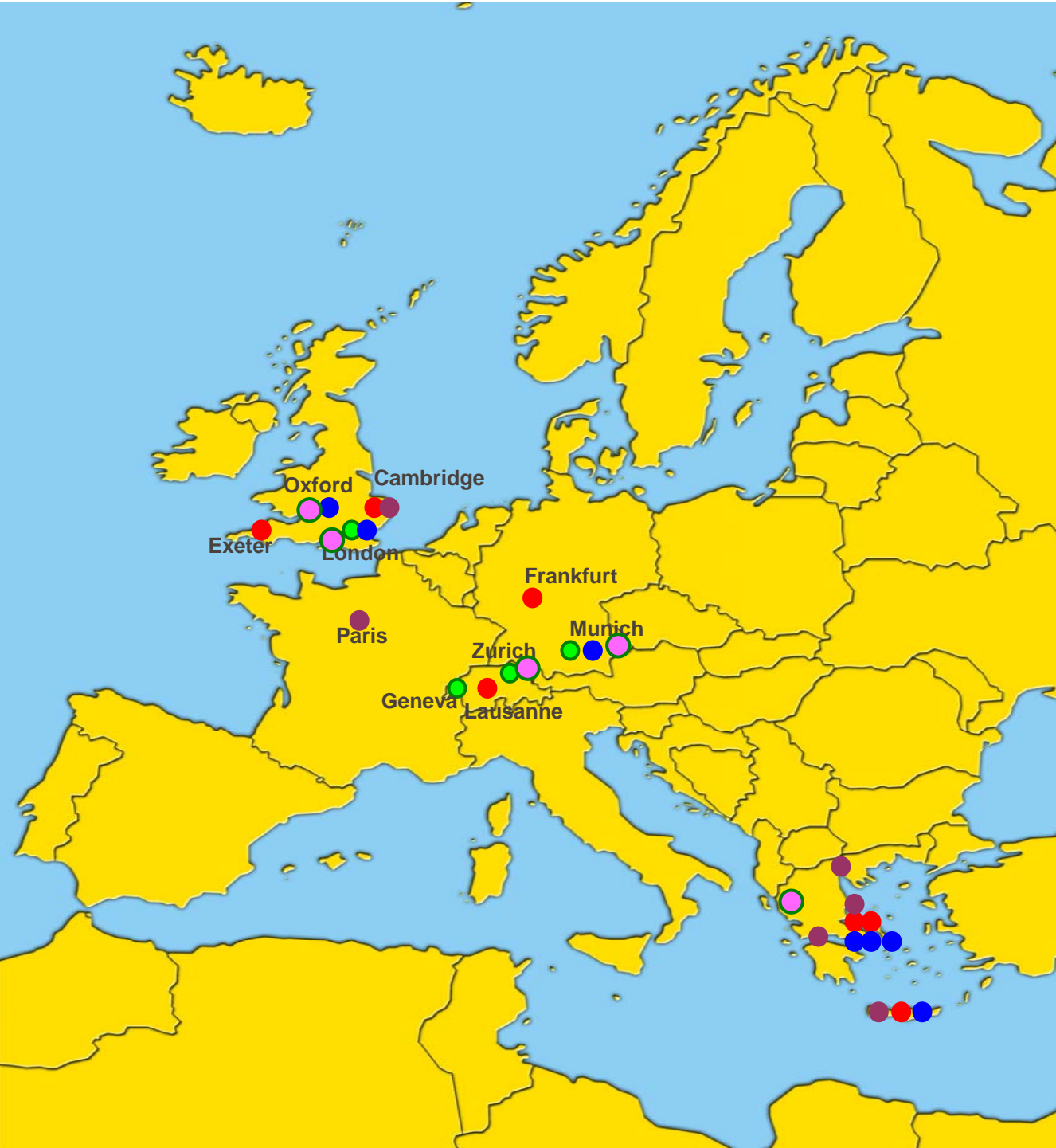


Nationality and host country



ERC StG 2007, StG 2009
AdG 2008, AdG 2009

Host institutions in Greece and Greek nationals in other European countries

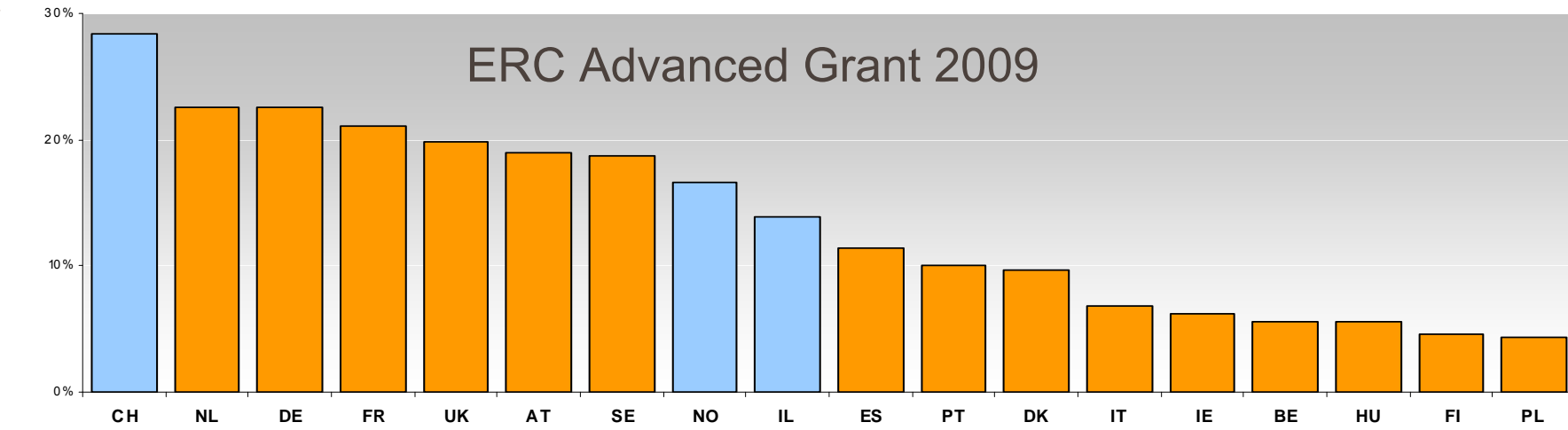
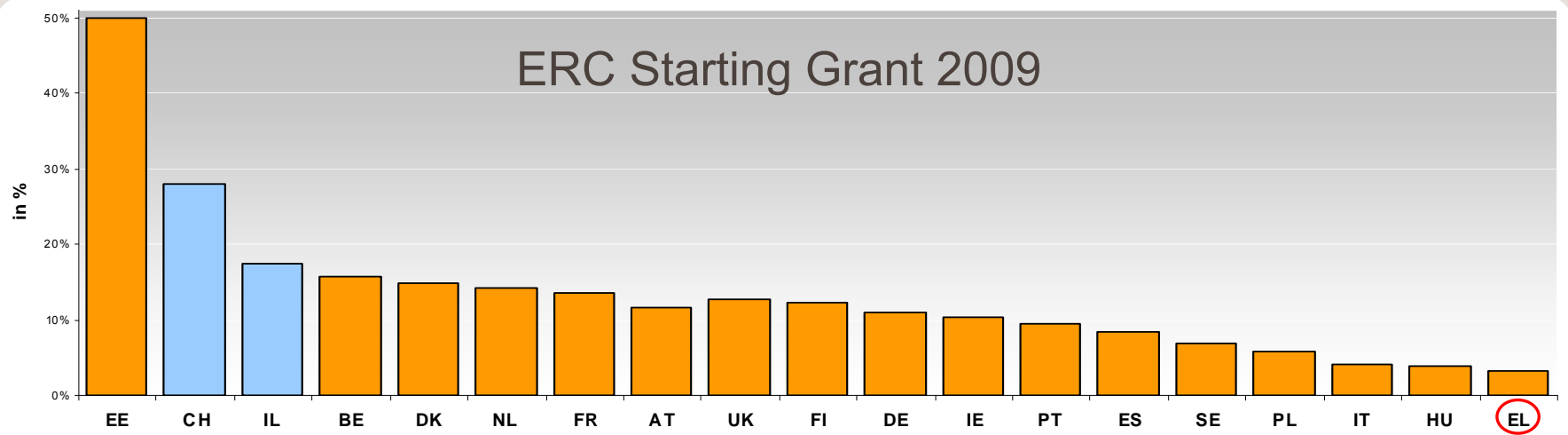


- Starting grant call 2007
- Advanced grant call 2008
- Starting grant 2009
- Advanced grant call 2009
- Starting grant 2010



Success rate by country of host institution

(i.e. ratio submitted – selected proposals)



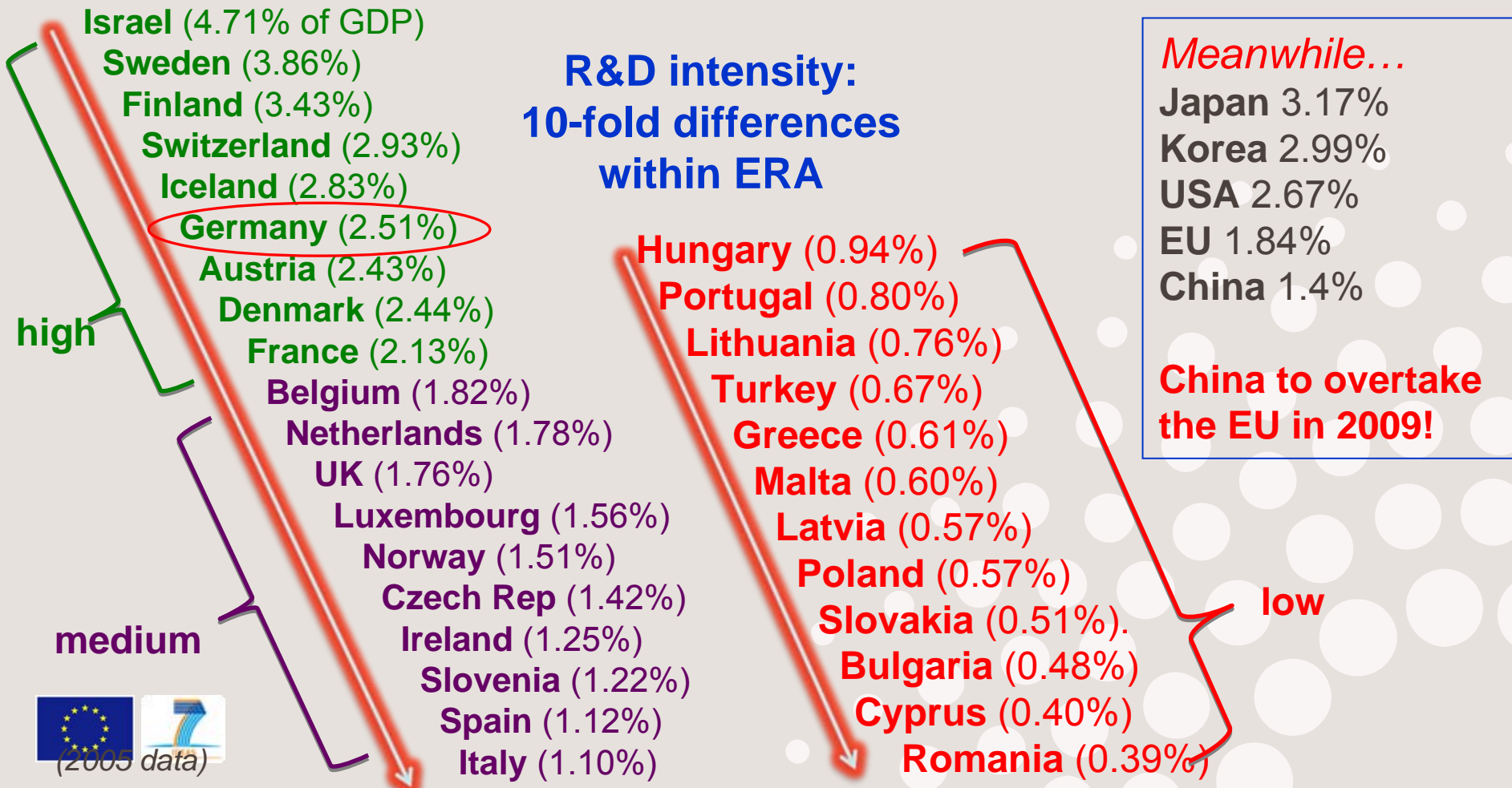
Source: All proposals (1584) and 244 selected



Disparate national policies: A major challenge

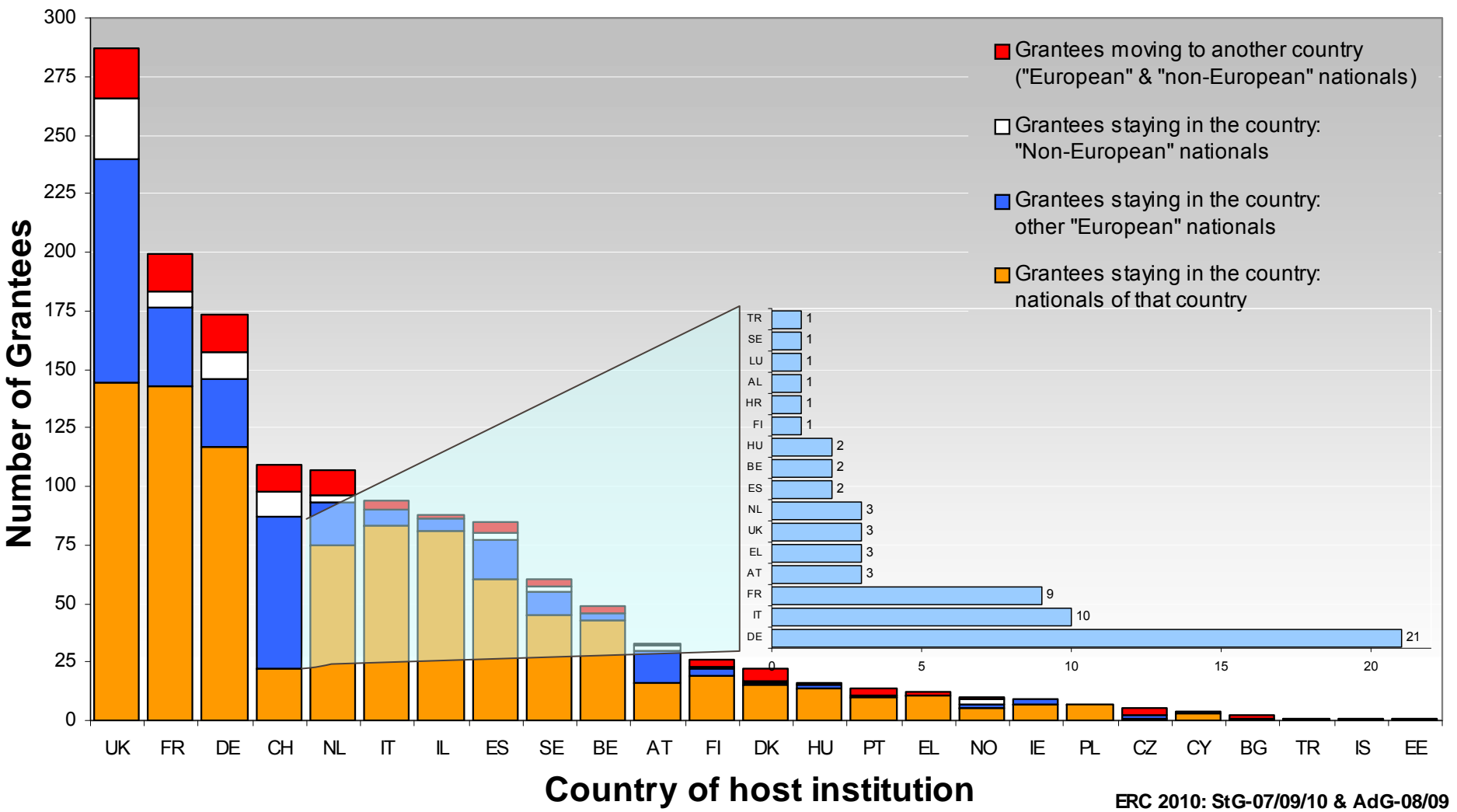
Variable R&D intensity (as % of GDP)

Europe (ERA) must be competitive as a continent,
but also as individual member states



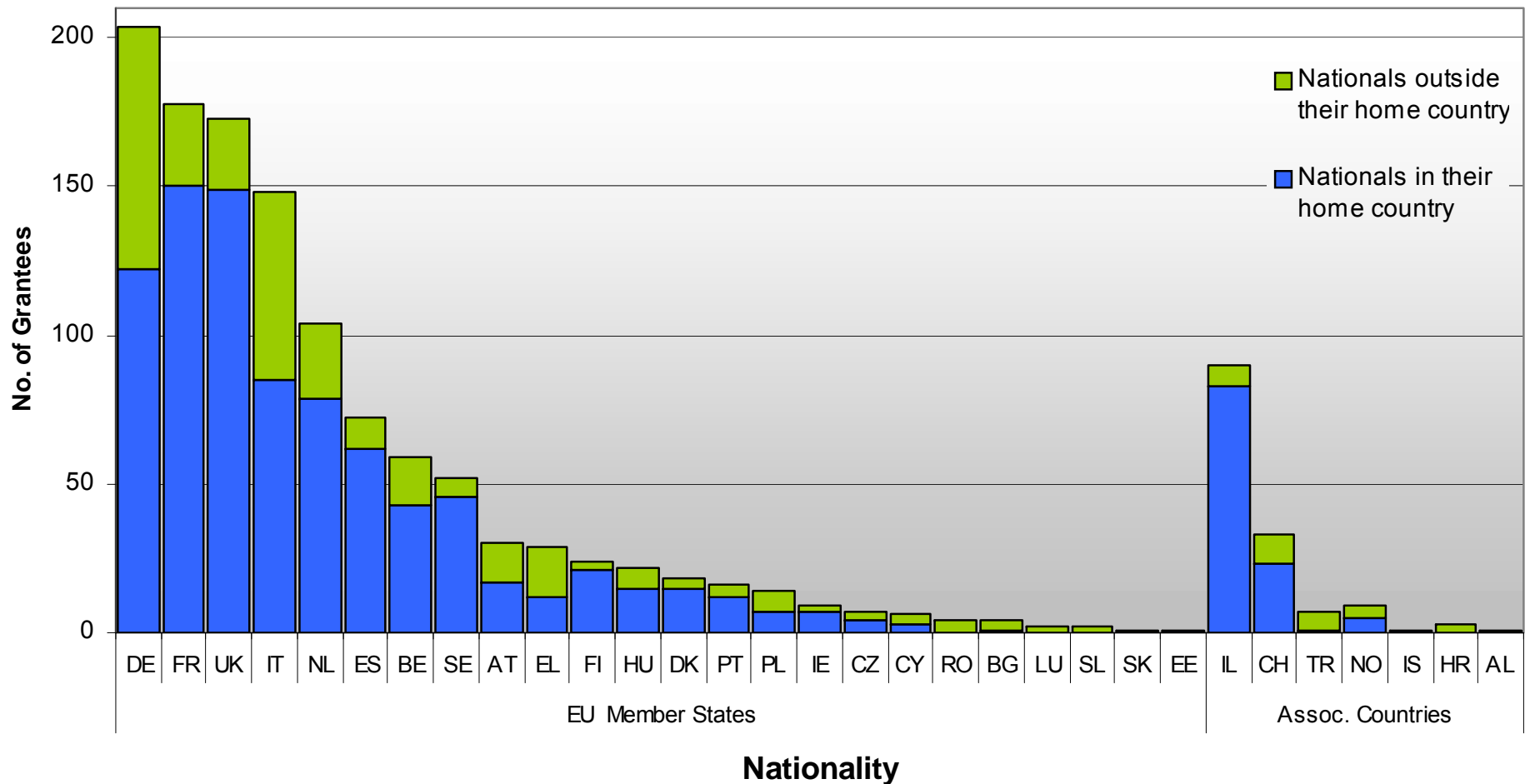


Origin of grantees





Nationality and host country





Early accomplishments

- About 400 publications in high impact scientific journals in 2009 and another 800 during the 1st half of 2010:

	No of article (2009)
Physical Review Lettres	18
Nature	10
Journal of the American Chemical Society	10
Physical Review B	10
Chemistry – A European Journal	7
PNAS	7
Organic Letters	7

Basis: ISI, a bibliographic databases indexing about 8000 most important scientific journals

- Training the next generation of researchers: 1000 individual research teams already funded by ERC
- The high number of excellent but unfunded ERC proposals elicited additional national funding from research funding organisations in France, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Hungary, Norway, Flanders
- An already highly respected peer review system: an investment for the future

- a) Stable and complementary grant schemes: StG, AdG
 - Investigator driven (“bottom-up”) actions
 - Highest quality research at the frontiers of knowledge with particular encouragement of interdisciplinarity
 - Evaluation of proposals on the basis of the sole criterion of excellence
 - Targeting investigators at two different career stages
- b) Equal funding for StG and AdG (EURO 660m each)
- c) Accompanying measures to allow the Scientific Council to carry out its duties and mandate

WP 2011

main changes

- Clarification of the treatment of cross panel proposals
- Further emphasis on supporting high-risk/ high-gain proposals
- The removal of the research environment criterion
- Simplified evaluation criteria overall
- Progressive removal of resubmission restrictions (StG and AdG now aligned)
- Extension of the StG to 2-12 years to support mid-career researchers (2-7 for "starters", 7-12 for "consolidators")
- Overall simplification of the text

WP 2011

other activities

- Expert groups to assist with specific topics in the M&E strategy
- Support to chair and vice chairs of Scientific Council
- Honoraria for Scientific Council members (pending new ERC Decision)
- ID Committee (pending new ERC Decision)

Timetable 2010-11



WP publication (adoption by the Commission): 20 July 2010	
Publication of the fourth StG call ERC-2011-StG: 21 July 2010	PE deadline: 14/10/2010 LS deadline: 09/11/2010 SH deadline: 24/11/2010
Publication of the fourth AdG call ERC-2011-AdG: 2 November 2010	PE deadline: 09/02/2011 LS deadline: 10/03/2011 SH deadline: 06/04/2011

Starting Independent Researcher Grants (Starting Grants)

Boost the independent careers of excellent researchers, by providing **adequate support** at the critical stage where they are **starting or consolidating** their own **independent** research team or programme.

- **Now 50% of Annual ERC Call Budget!**
- Annual calls: open late spring and close in autumn
- Grants of up to €2 million over 5 yrs (but normally €1.5 million)

Starting Independent Researcher Grants (Starting Grants) Eligibility

- 1. 2-12 yrs** from award of first PhD or equivalent* (**2011 call**)
- 2. Extensions (up to 16.5 years in total) for properly documented eligible career breaks only: maternity/paternity leave, national service, long-term illness and clinical qualifications. *For other „unavoidable statutory reasons“ please contact us for advice.***
- 3. No extensions for part time working, non-research careers, travel etc**

Starting Independent Researcher Grants (Starting Grants)

Starter vs. Consolidator

During evaluations, applicants will be split into two streams:

- **“Starter”** (2-7 years post PhD)
- **“Consolidator”** (Over 7 and up to 12 years post PhD)
- Budget split for each panel will be proportional to demand in each category
- “Starters” can ask for extensions to the normal 7 year post PhD limit for the reasons listed earlier (up to a maximum of 4.5 years extension)
- Reason for extension must have taken place before 7 years post PhD and supporting documentation must be provided (and eligible events that take place during the extension can lead to further extension)
- Supporting material (official documents) must be provided
- Applicant is responsible for making a clear case (in Part B1, Section 1A)

Final decision on stream is made by the panel



Starting Independent Researcher Grants (Starting Grants) Competitive Candidate

1. Already shown potential for research independence & evidence of maturity
2. Produced independently **at least one important publication without the participation of their PhD supervisor**
3. Be able to demonstrate a promising track record of early achievements appropriate to their field and career stage, including: **significant publications (as main author)** in peer-reviewed major international multidisciplinary journals or leading international journals in their field
4. May have monographs, invited presentations, granted patents, awards, prizes
5. Have good leadership potential

Starting Independent Researcher Grants (Starting Grants)

Individual team

Principal Investigator (PI)

- Must have the potential to be an independent research leader in their own right
- Has the ability to assemble a research group of team members
- Freedom to choose the research topic
- **Expected to devote at least 50% of working time to the ERC-funded project:**
- *Evaluation criteria include “Is the Principal Investigator strongly committed to the project and willing to devote a significant amount of time to it (they will be expected to devote at least 50% of their working time to the ERC-funded project)?”*
- Can be of any age, nationality or current location
- Chooses a host institution in EU Member State or Associated Country (or an „International European Interest Organisation“)
- Activities must be substantially in MS/AC (does not exclude fieldwork/research outside EU/AC in order to achieve the research objectives)
- Applies in conjunction with host and (if funded) signs „**supplementary agreement**“ with the host
- Host institution should not really be changed during review process but researchers can move once funded under certain conditions
- Resubmission rules apply to PI



Starting Independent Researcher Grants (Starting Grants)

Individual team

PI's Host Institution (HI)

- Can be any type of legal entity
- Must be in an EU Member State or Associated Country
- The PI does not have to be based there at the time of application
- Has the infrastructure and capacity to carry out frontier research project
- Must not constrain the PI to the research strategy of the institution

- Must provide appropriate conditions for the PI to direct independently the research and manage the ERC funding
- Has appropriate intellectual environment and infrastructural support (**but now no longer assessed as a separate criterion during Peer Review**)
- Is the „applicant legal entity“
- Normally employs the PI
- Signs a Supporting Statement as part of application
- If funded signs up to the Grant Agreement with ERC
- If funded, signs a „Supplementary Agreement“ with the PI
- Host institution should not really be changed during review process but researchers can move once funded under certain conditions

Starting Independent Researcher Grants (Starting Grants)

Individual team

Team Members

- Constitution of individual research team is flexible, commonly includes:
 - other researchers from the PI's research group or institution (senior researchers, post docs, graduate and PhD students...)
 - non-academic staff such as technicians/support staff can also be funded
- Normally, the PI's host institution will be the only institution
- But could have team members from other institutions in the same or different countries
 - If in EU/AC, it can be funded
 - If outside EU/AC, it can also be funded (If separate legal entities are involved their participation and funding their presence will be assessed during peer review: “is their participation fully justified by the scientific added value they bring to the project?”)
- Team (including any team members at other institutions) led by the PI so **NOT a traditional network or research consortium or network**
- Team members can be of any age, nationality & country of residence (not just EU/AC)
- Team members do not need to be independent
- Smaller role in application forms and review than the PI
- Named and/or un-named
- Resubmission rules do not apply to team members
- Institution (s) where team-members are based may sign up to Grant Agreement too



Starting Independent Researcher Grants (Starting Grants)

Funding levels - Duration

- **Up to €1.5 million over 5 years** ERC contribution (or pro-rata for shorter projects).

Can be higher, but only to cover:

- eligible “start-up” costs **for PIs moving from a third country** to the EU or an Associated Country.
- the **purchase of major equipment**.

If so, up to €2 million over 5 yrs ERC contribution (or pro-rata).

Limit includes direct (**100%** of eligible and approved direct costs funded) and indirect (**20%** of the total direct costs excluding subcontracting and third party resources not used on premises) costs!

Starting Independent Researcher Grants (Starting Grants)

Reapplication and multiple-application rules

- A PI who served as a panel member on a panel for a previous Starting Grant call may not apply to the Starting Grant call 2011 (**B panels in action**).
- Only one ERC grant managed by a PI or Co-I can be active at any time.
- A PI or Co-I may not be associated with more than one application to the ERC calls with deadlines during the same **calendar year**.
- A PI who has submitted an **eligible proposal** to the Starting Grant call 2010 may not apply to the Starting Grant call 2011, unless his/her proposal was evaluated **above the quality threshold at the end of step 1**.

Starting Independent Researcher Grants (Starting Grants)

Important practical questions

- **Parts of the application to be uploaded:**
- **Administrative Forms A1, A2 (each institution), A3**
- **Part B1 –Sections 1a-1d.**
- **Part B2 –Section 2 (including ethical issues table) and 3.**
- **Supplementary Documents:**
- **Commitment of Host Letter.**
- **Documents proving eligibility (incl. PhD certificate and evidence for an extension if applicable).**
- **Ethical Issues Annex, including any ethical approval already received (if applicable).**
- **Checked with your HI regarding the budget etc.**
- **Be ready to answer questions about your proposal and how you will manage your team? (step-2 interview).**
- **Remember you can submit your proposal on EPSS as many times as you wish before the deadline.**



Make sure you press submit on EPSS!

Starting Independent Researcher Grants (Starting Grants) Interviews

PIs with proposals taken to the second step of the review process will be interviewed by the Peer Review Panel or Sub-Panel

- **Must attend in person (no proxies).**
- **In very exceptional cases (pregnancy, immobility due to illness, out in research fieldwork) video or telephone conferencing are offered.**
- **Interviews last ~ 30 minutes (depending on panel).**
- **They start with a presentation by the PI on the outline of the research project and followed by a Q&A session.**
- **Panels will take into account the results of the interviews alongside the individual reviews.**
- **Travel is reimbursed.**

Starting Independent Researcher Grants (Starting Grants)

Further Info

ERC Website: <http://erc.europa.eu>

ERC Newsletter: <http://erc.europa.eu/index.cfm?fuseaction=reg.edit#01>

ERC Europa Helpdesk: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?lg=en&pg=enquiries>

EPSS Helpdesk: E-mail: support@epss-fp7.org

Tel: **+32 2 233 3760**

IPR helpdesk Website: www.ipr-helpdesk.org

EC FP7 Ethics Website: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ethics_en

Cordis FP7 pages: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html