

The European Research Council

ERC info session
ELTE University, 20 October 2022

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B5 – Social Sciences and Humanities



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

Presentation outline

1. ERC and Horizon Europe
2. ERC calls and evaluation process
3. ERC in Hungary
4. Other ERC initiatives and more information



ERC is....

1. Part of Horizon Europe



EUR 16 billion
ERC budget in Horizon Europe



17%
of the entire
Horizon Europe budget

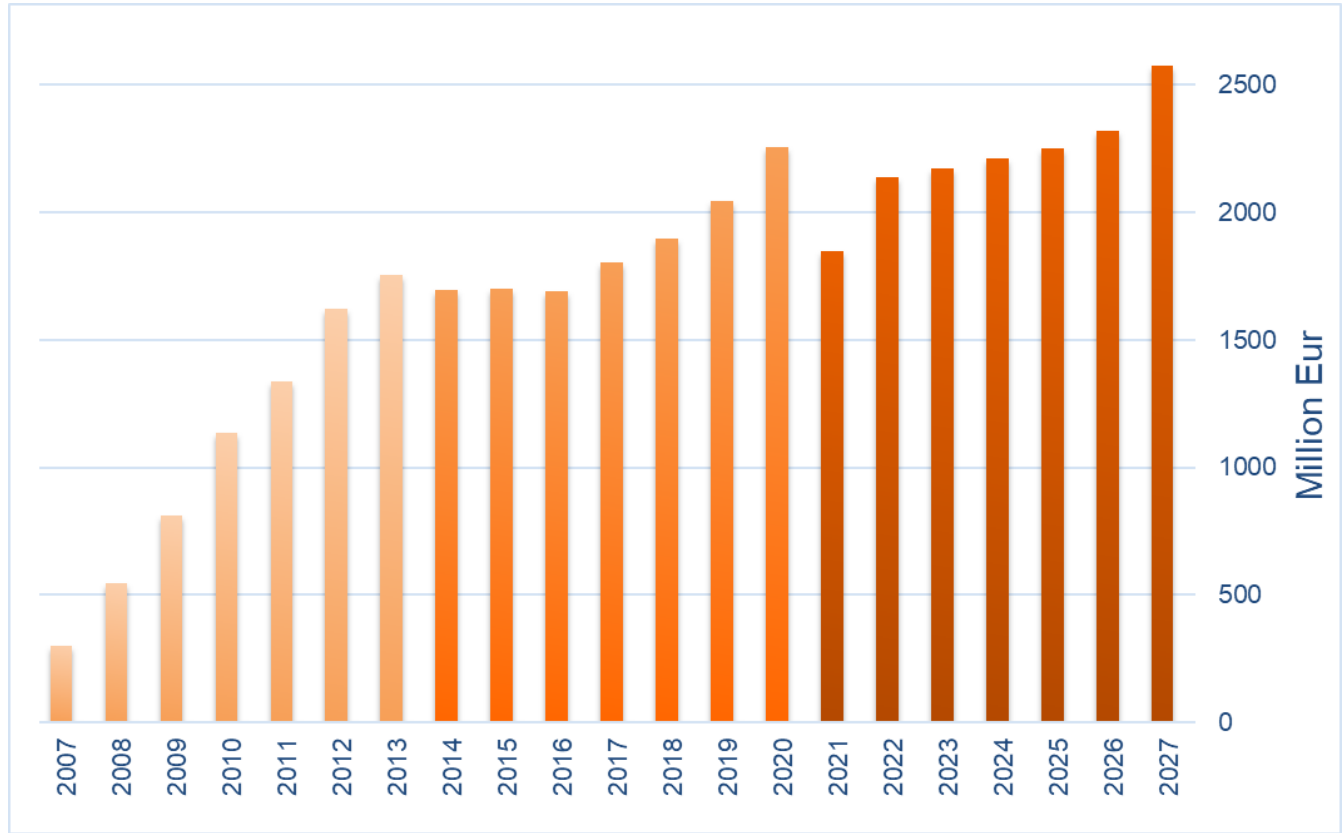


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ERC Budget

- FP7: €7.5 billion
- H2020: €13 billion
- HE: €16 billion



ERC is....

2. Scientific Council Members



Prof. Maria
LEPTIN
(Biology)
ERC President



Prof. Eveline
CRONE
(Psychology)
Vice-President



Prof. Andrzej
JAJSZCZYK
(Electronics and Communication Engineering)
Vice-President



Prof. Nektarios
TAVERNARAKIS
(Molecular Systems Biology)
Vice-President



Prof. Geneviève
ALMOUZNI
(Biology)



Prof. Paola
BOVOLENTA
(Neurobiology)



Prof. Ben
FERINGA
(Organic Chemistry)



Prof. Mercedes
GARCÍA-ARENAL
(History)



Prof. Gerd
GIGERENZER
(Psychology)



Prof. Liselotte
HØJGAARD
(Medicine)



Prof. Dirk
INZÉ
(Plant Biology)



Prof. Eystein
JANSEN
(Earth Science)



Prof. Chryssa
KOUVELIOTOU
(High-Energy Astrophysics)



Prof. Sylvie
LORENTE
(Mechanical Engineering)



Prof. László
LOVÁSZ
(Mathematics)



Prof. Kurt
MEHLHORN
(Computer Science)



Prof. Nicola
SPALDIN
(Materials Theory)



Prof. Giovanni
SARTOR
(Law)



Prof. Jesper
SVEJSTRUP
(Biology)



Prof. Alice
VALKÁROVÁ
(Physics)



Prof. Milena
ŽIC FUCHS
(Linguistics)

ERC is....

3. The ERCEA

The ERC Dedicated Implementation Structure

Implements the ERC strategy as set by the Scientific Council and manages ERC operations



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European
Commission



ERC Basics



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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



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ERC in Figures



Over **12,000**
top researchers funded since
the ERC creation in 2007



Over **80,000**
researchers and other professionals
employed in ERC research teams



Over **2,200**
patents and other IPR applications
generated by ERC funding



Over **400**
start-ups identified as founded
or co-founded by ERC grantees



Over **200,000**
articles from ERC projects published
in scientific journals



Over **900** research institutions hosting
ERC grantees – universities, public or
private research centres in the EU or
Associated Countries



87
nationalities of
grant holders



12 Nobel Prizes, **6** Fields Medals, **11** Wolf Prizes
and other prizes awarded to ERC grantees



Why Should one Apply for an ERC grant?

ERC grants provide independence, recognition & visibility

- Research topic of own choice, with a team of own choice
- True financial autonomy for 5 years (or 6 years)
- Negotiate with the host institution the best conditions of work
- Attract top team members (EU and non-EU) and collaborators
- Portability of grants within Europe
- Attract additional funding



ERC Grant Schemes



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



Synergy Grants

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

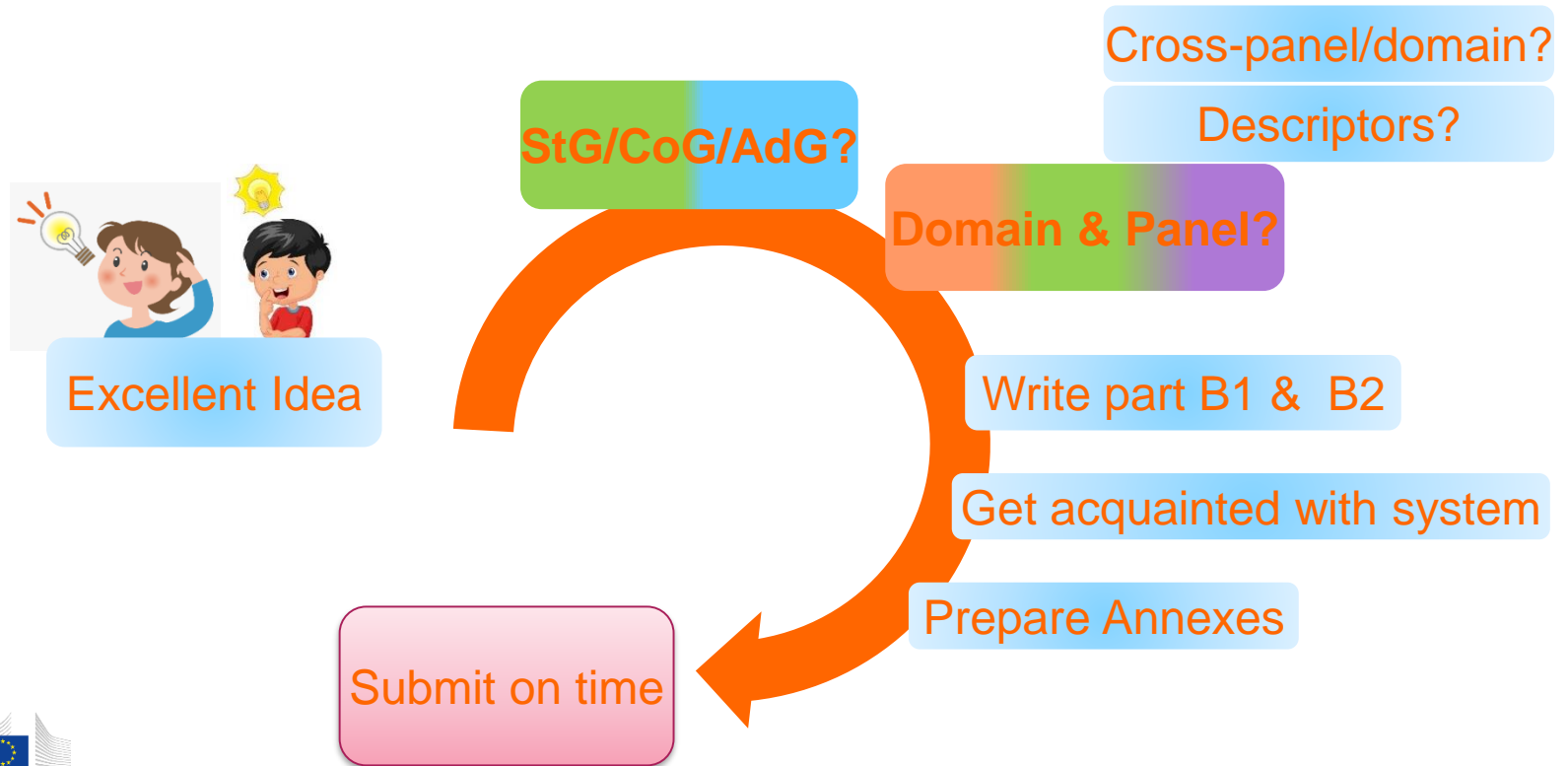


Proof-of-Concept

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



Evaluation process > Submitting an ERC proposal



ERC Proposal Structure

Apply through the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

Administrative forms (Part A)

- 1 – General information (here to add the *ERC evaluation panel*)
 - 2 – Administrative data of participating organisations and PI (PhD dates!)
 - 3 – Detailed *Budget*
 - 4 – Ethics
 - 5 – Call specific questions
- You may indicate up to four ERC keywords*

Annexes

PhD certificate, HI support letter, and any documentation needed on eligibility and ethics issues

Part B1 (submitted as pdf)

Evaluated in Step 1 & Step 2

- a – Extended synopsis 5 pages
- b – Curriculum vitae 2 pages
- Appendix – Funding ID
- c - Track-record 2 pages

References do not count towards the page limit

Part B2 (submitted as pdf)

NOT evaluated in Step 1 (only in Step 2)

- Scientific proposal 14 pages
- a – State-of-the-art and objectives
- b – Methodology



Evaluation Panel Structure (2021-2023)

Life Sciences

- 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 Ageing
- 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

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 Processes Engineering
- PE9 Universe Sciences
- PE10 Earth System Science
- PE11 Materials Engineering

Social Sciences and Humanities

- 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



Evaluation Panel Structure (2021-2023)

Life Sciences

- LS1 Molecular Biology, Biophysics, Immunology
- LS2 Microbiology, Infectious Diseases, Immunology
- LS3 Cell Biology, Developmental Biology, Plant Biology
- LS4 Plant and Environmental Sciences
- LS5 Evolution, Systematics, Conservation
- LS6 Human Health, Disease, and Therapeutics
- LS7 Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Human Diseases
- LS8 Environmental Biology, Ecology and Evolution
- LS9 Biotechnology 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

The ERC panel structure is not intended as a complete scientific classification!

There are no ERC thematic priorities.

Main purpose: guidance for applicants.

- 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



Hints and tips - Key messages

- Have an original idea, design its implementation, and get a letter of support from a Host Institution where the project is to be carried out (EU/AC)
- Be ambitious and "daring"; panels instructed to seek out high-risk research
- Part B1 will be seen by "generalists" (panel members)
- If you make it to Step 2, reviewers see both B1 and B2, so do not repeat / duplicate part B1 in part B2
- Read carefully the evaluation criteria and try to ensure that the reviewers can find the answers to them in your proposal (part B2 is not a mere repetition of part B1)
- Justify requested resources – explain your budget properly
- Get feedback from your peers
- Submit your research proposal before the deadline
- Get well prepared for the interview – organise mock interviews



Contrary to What You May Think

- ERC funds "frontier research", including applied research.
- The budget is distributed among panels as a function of demand.
- The panel descriptors do not represent ERC scientific priorities.
- The success rate is flat across the eligibility window (StG, CoG).
- The Host Institution is not an evaluation criterion.
- Interdisciplinarity is not a precondition.
- Societal impact is not an evaluation criterion.
- Proposals shorter than five years are equally welcome.
- The content of the proposed research determines its budget.
- Applicant's career stage matter, publication record is not decisive on its own.
- Re-applying pays off (valuable feedback; success rate increases).



Evaluation: Principle



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

2022 & 2023 Call Calendar

	<i>Starting Grant</i>	<i>Consolidator Grant</i>	<i>Advanced Grant</i>	<i>Rectangular Snip Synergy Grant</i>
<i>Call identifier</i>	ERC-2023-StG	ERC-2023-CoG	ERC-2023-AdG	ERC-2023-SyG
<i>Call opens</i>	12/07/2022	28/09/2022	08/12/2022	13/07/2022
<i>Call deadline</i>	25/10/2022	02/02/2023	23/05/2023	08/11/2022



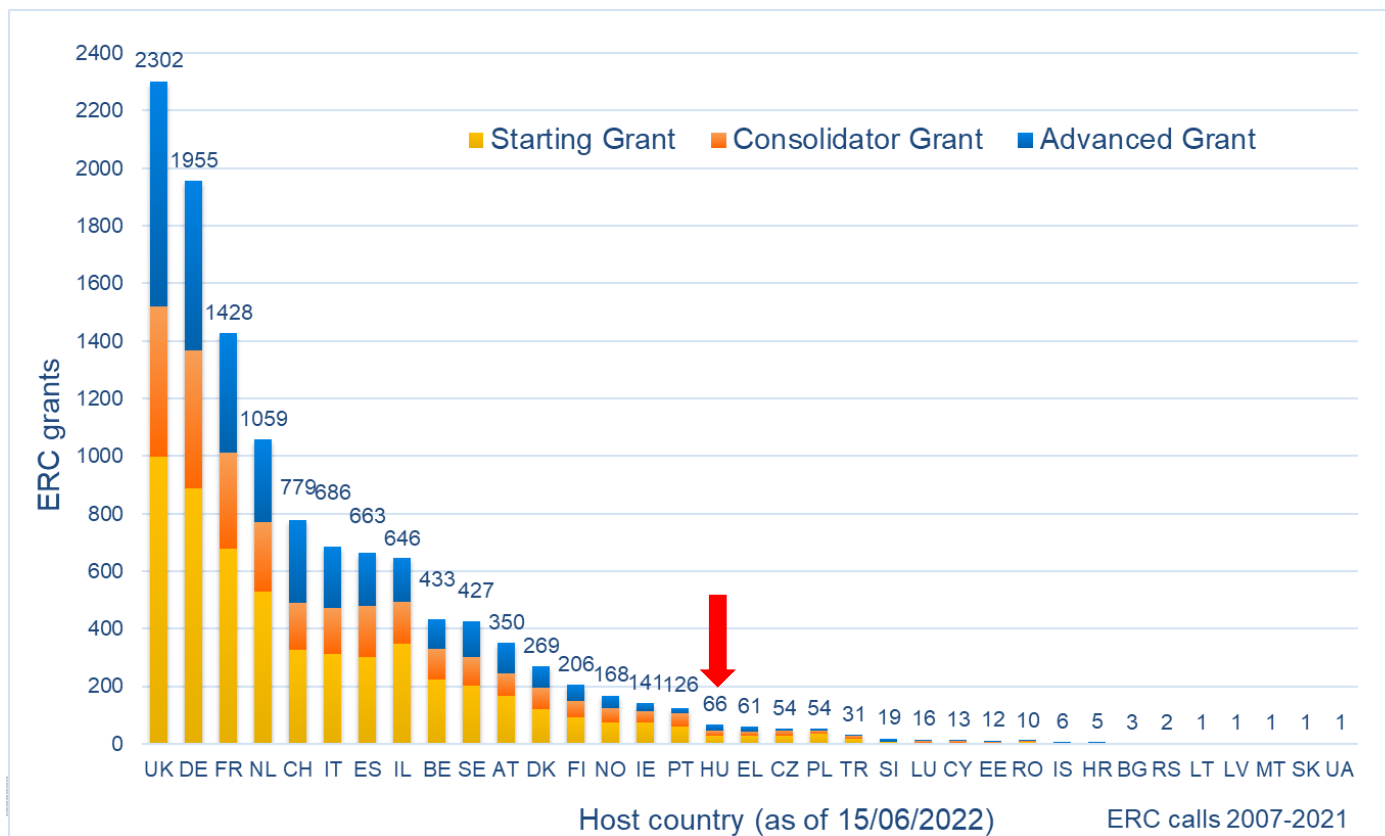
2022 & 2023 Call Calendar

ERC calls	Call Opening	Submission Deadline
Proof of Concept ERC-2022-PoC2	16/11/2021	15/02/2022, 19/05/2022, 29/09/2022
Proof of Concept (TBC) ERC-2023-PoC	20/10/2022*	24/01/2023, 20/04/2023, 14/09/2023*



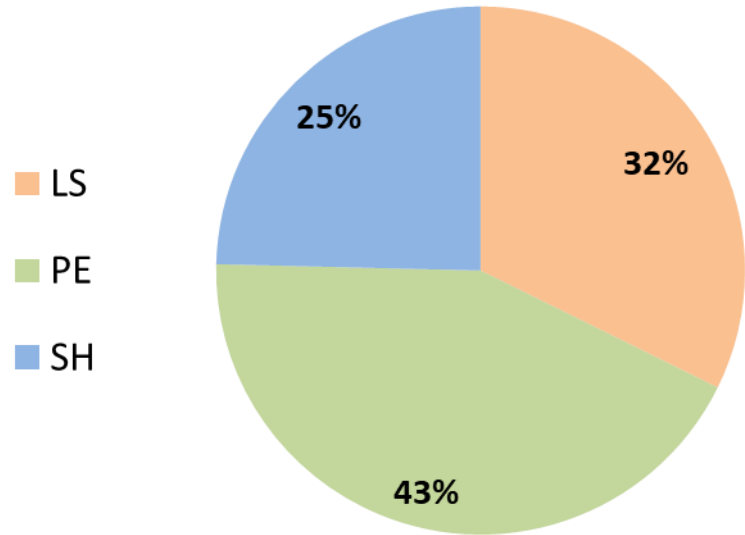
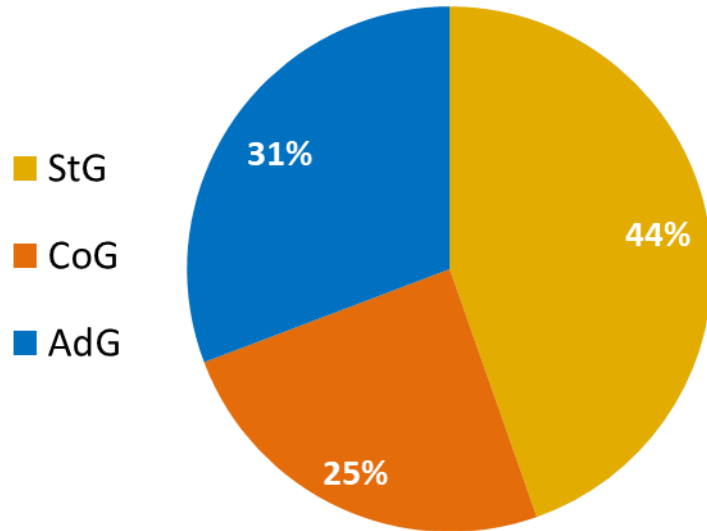
ERC and Researchers in Hungary

ERC Funded Projects by Country of Host Institution



ERC Funded Projects in Hungary

66 ERC main grants based in Hungary with a total grant value of over 100 million Euro



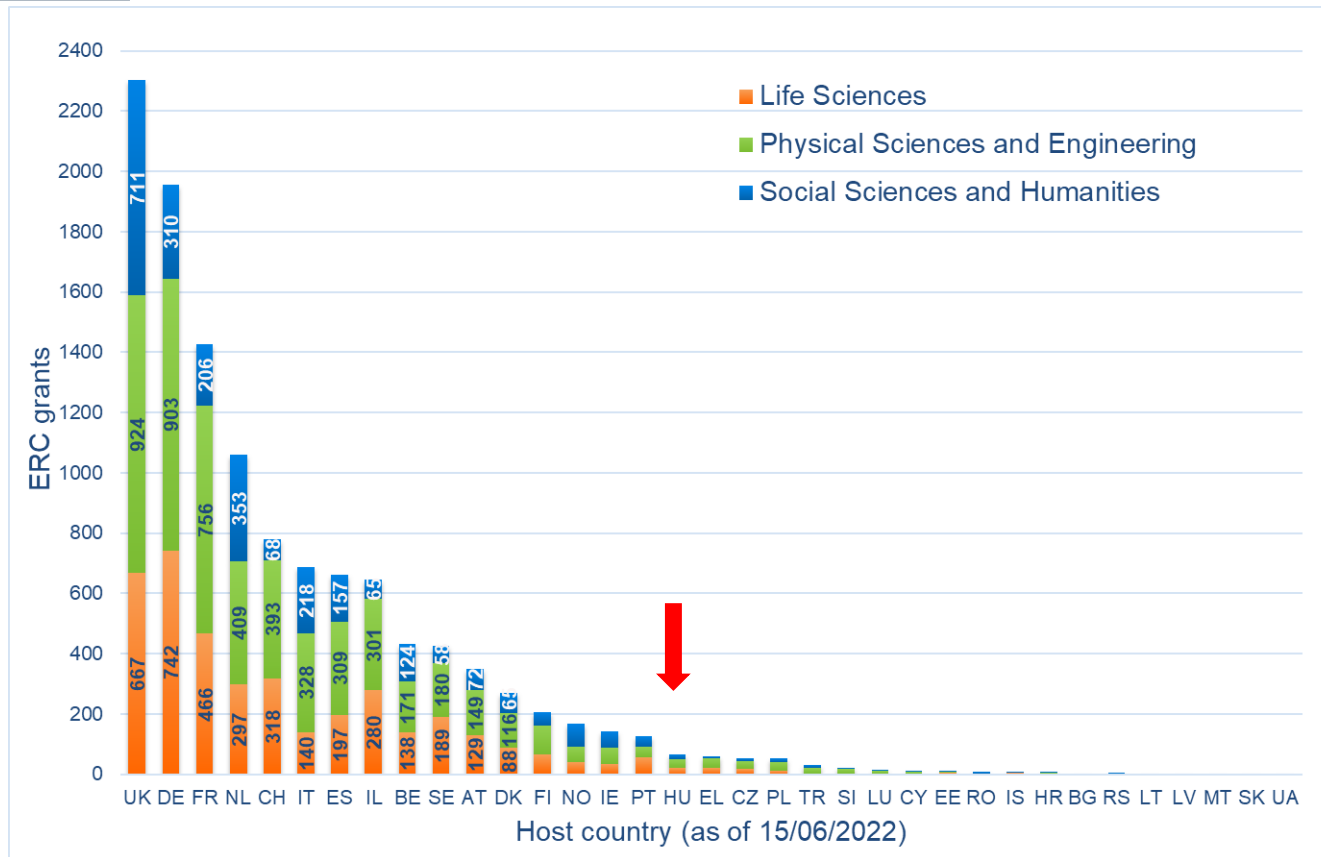
ERC Host Institutions in Hungary

	Starting	Consolidator	Advanced	Grand Total
	29	16	21	66
Central European University	5	3	3	11
Alfred Renyi Institute of Mathematics		3	7	10
Institute of Experimental Medicine	2	4	4	10
Eotvos Lorand University	6		2	8
University of Szeged	3	1	2	6
Biological Research Center	2	1	1	4
Budapest University of Technology and Economics	3		1	4
Research Centre for the Humanities		2	1	3
Research Centre for Astronomy and Earth Sciences	1	1		2
Centre for Energy Research	1			1
Computer and Automation Research Institute	1			1
Institute of Nuclear Research	1			1
Institute of Political History		1		1
Obuda University	1			1
Research Center for Natural Sciences	1			1
Semmelweis University	1			1
Wigner Research Centre for Physics	1			1

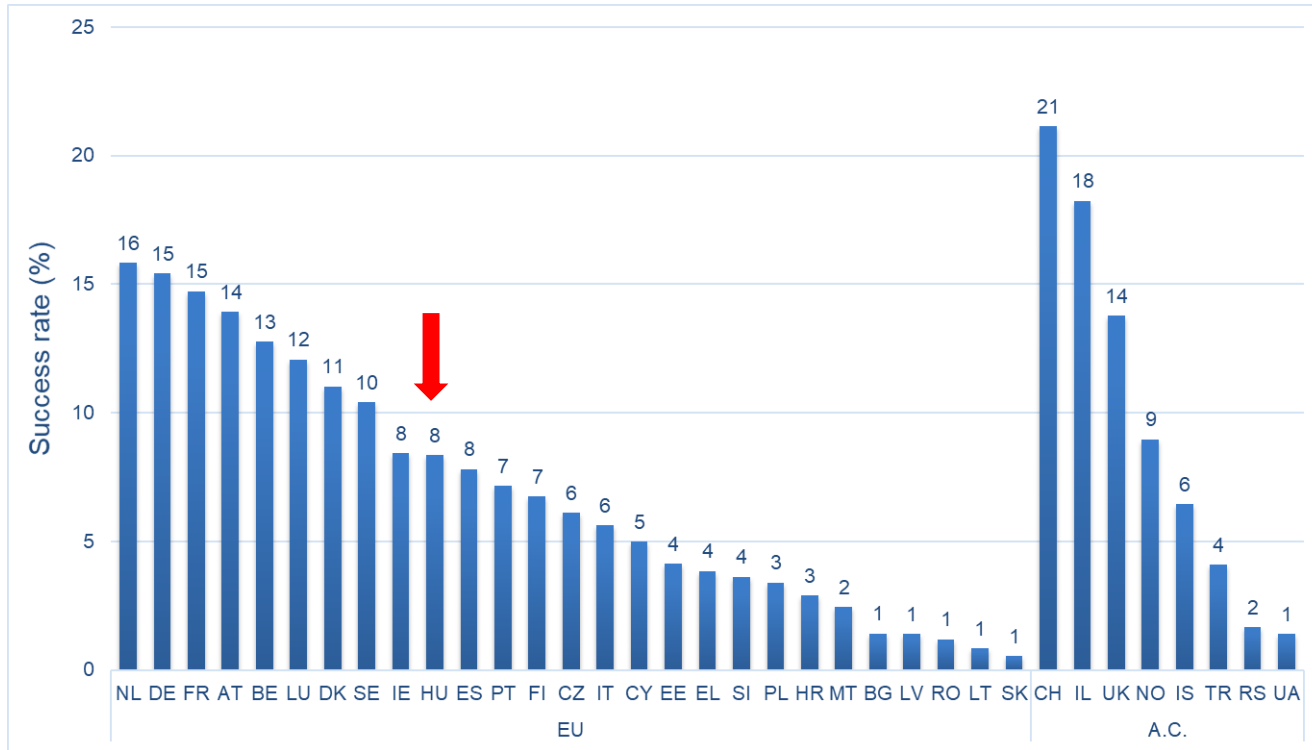
	LS	PE	SH	Grand Tot
	21	29	16	66
Central European University			11	11
Alfred Renyi Institute of Mathematics		10		10
Institute of Experimental Medicine	10			10
Eotvos Lorand University	3	4	1	8
University of Szeged	2	4		6
Biological Research Center	4			4
Budapest University of Technology and Economics		4		4
Research Centre for the Humanities			3	3
Research Centre for Astronomy and Earth Sciences		2		2
Centre for Energy Research		1		1
Computer and Automation Research Institute		1		1
Institute of Nuclear Research		1		1
Institute of Political History			1	1
Obuda University		1		1
Research Center for Natural Sciences	1			1
Semmelweis University	1			1
Wigner Research Centre for Physics		1		1



ERC Funded Projects by Domain



Success Rate by Country of Host Institution



Success rate (2007-2021)

ERC Widening Participation Policies



Policymakers renew call to strengthen R&D budgets in central and eastern Europe

An economic crisis fuelled by war, energy shortages and inflation looks likely to put further strain on national R&D budgets

08 Sep 2022

News



The Widening: Can Europe bridge its east-west innovation gap?

Science | Business is launching a **brand-new newsletter** focusing on the research and innovation divide in Europe

07 Sep 2022

News

Objectives

Dedicated Working Group of the ERC Scientific Council on Widening European Participation

- To capitalise on the full European potential for frontier research without departing from the ERC's principle of excellence
- Contribute to a truly inclusive European culture of competitiveness in science
- Strengthen participation in ERC calls by researchers from less research-performing regions
- Facilitate policy dialogue with relevant stakeholders to promote national and local support to promising scientists in less research-performing regions



How: Inspiring Reform

- 11 Widening Countries introduced initiatives to finance their best unfunded ERC applicants.
- A number of countries established funding schemes inspired to the ERC model.

Ex: In Poland the National Science Centre (NCN) has been set up in 2010 to fund basic research, with ERC as an explicit model



How: Concrete Measures

- Continuously monitoring the participation to the ERC calls and the success rates
- Guaranteeing a fair evaluation processes in view of optimal inclusiveness
- Raising awareness on ERC among potential applicants and host institutions
- Providing recommendations to national policy-makers, such as:
 - ✓ support ERC finalists with national funding
 - ✓ support ERC applicants improve their proposals
 - ✓ make participation in ERC calls an essential component in national evaluations
 - ✓ ensure a truly and competitive academic environment



ERC Visiting Fellowship Programmes (VFP)

ERC promotes the efforts of national and regional authorities that set up and fund mobility programmes to allow potential ERC candidates to visit and gain experience with ERC-funded teams

VFP in few points:

- Duration of visits 1-6 months (*up to 2019 the minimum duration was 3 months*)
- Visiting fellows commit to apply for an ERC grant in specified timeframe
- Visiting fellows need to have a letter of support of the proposed host researcher and institution when applying
- National/regional funding agencies cover the travel and salary costs of the fellows for the duration of the visit



ERC VFP participation

12 countries/regions participate in the scheme as of today:

- Czech Republic
- Estonia
- Poland (not participating since 2020)
- Slovenia
- Belgium (Flanders region)
- Slovak Republic
- Croatia
- Georgia
- Hungary (re-joined in 2022)
- Romania
- Republic of Serbia
- Italy



ERC Mentoring Initiative -1

- ERC wishes to contribute to national programmes that support ERC applicants in less performing countries
- These national programmes often lack access to international expertise to mentor ERC applicants
- To address the problem, ERC identifies a pool of mentors among its grantees and former evaluators, available to provide training, scientific feedback, and other forms of mentoring to ERC applicants in less performing countries
- How: ERC launches yearly calls for interest among its grantees and former evaluators. The list is provided to target countries via the National Contact Points



ERC Mentoring Initiative - 2

Participants in 2021:

- Cyprus (Research and Innovation Foundation; coordinates NCPs)
- Czech Republic (Czech National Expert Group; closely cooperates with the NCP)
- Estonia (The Estonian Research Council; plays the role of the NCP)
- Hungary (Hungarian Academy of Sciences; hosts NCP)
- Italy (Italian National Research Council; will operate through NCPs)
- Malta (Malta Council for Science and Technology; plays the role of the NCP)
- Poland (NCP through NCBR, NCN, and FNP)
- Slovakia (Horizon National Office in Slovakia)
- Turkey (TUBITAK; plays the role of the NCP)



Where Can You Find More Information?



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=xbFbz kVWgCU&list=PLtv6FnsXqnXAYRk6HCEr wMxwML0ZKoMcy>



Get inspired by browsing through the ERC-funded projects on our (new) website – <https://erc.europa.eu>

An official website of the European Union How do you know?

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Search the website

[Apply for a grant](#) [Manage your project](#) [Projects & statistics](#) [News & events](#) [Help & contact](#) [About the ERC](#)

Homepage > Project & statistics

Project database

Statistics

Science stories

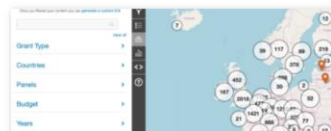
Mapping ERC frontier research

Project & statistics

You want to see what we have funded so far?

Dive into the database to get detailed info on the granted projects or use the statistics tool. In addition, you can read about some of the amazing research carried out in the stories section.

Data and statistics



Thank You!

More information: erc.europa.eu

National Contact Point: erc.europa.eu/national-contact-points

Sign up for news alerts: erc.europa.eu/keep-updated-erc

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

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Thank you! Köszönöm!

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