

ERC Work Programme 2022

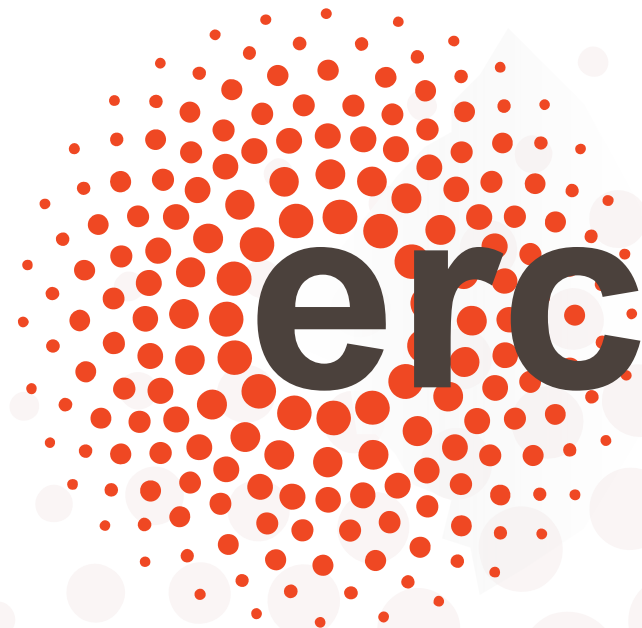


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Support to the Scientific Council



The European Research Council



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Outline:

- ERC funding schemes
- Work Programme 2022
- ERC and Spain





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ERC funding schemes

ERC funding schemes

Starting Grants

1 Principal Investigator
(2-7 years after PhD)
up to € 1.5 +1.0 Mio
for 5 years

Consolidator Grants

1 Principal Investigator
(7-12 years after PhD)
up to € 2.0 +1.0 Mio
for 5 years

Advanced Grants

1 Principal Investigator
up to € 2.5+1.0 Mio
for 5 years

Synergy Grants

2 – 4 Principal Investigators
up to € 10.0+4.0 Mio for 6 years

Proof-of-Concept

Inquiring on the innovation potential
up to €150,000 for ERC grant
holders

PI Profile:

- Any current place of work but working or moving to work in Europe (EU member state or Horizon Europe Associated Country)
- Any nationality or age
- StG: 2 and up to 7; CoG: 7 and up to 12 years of experience after PhD; AdG: no constraints
- Potential (StG) or evidence (CoG) for independence and maturity; strong leadership (AdG)
- Good track-record appropriate to their research field and career stage

PI Commitment:

- Minimum 50% (StG), 40% (CoG), 30% (AdG) of PI working time on ERC project
- Minimum 50% of PI working time in a EU Member State or Associated Country

ERC funding schemes

Funding



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Starting Grant (StG):

Up to 1.5 million € for a period of 5 years (pro rata for projects of shorter duration). Up to 1.0 million € additional

Consolidator Grant (CoG):

Up to 2.0 million € for a period of 5 years (pro rata for projects of shorter duration). Up to 1.0 million € additional

Advanced Grant (AdG):

Up to 2.5 million € for a period of 5 years (pro rata for projects of shorter duration). Up to 1.0 million € additional

additional



to cover (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 (d) other major experimental and fieldwork costs, excluding personnel costs

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Role of host institution



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- Is located in an EU Member State or an Associated Country
- Hosts the PI for the duration of the project
- Is a legal entity: university, research center, business research unit, etc.
- Is committed to ensure that the PI may:
 - Apply for funding independently
 - Manage research and funding project
 - Publish independently as senior author
 - Have access to reasonable space and facilities
- Signs Grant Agreement
- Overhead: 25%

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Features of the ERC grants



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- No constraints on eligible costs as long as they are for the execution of the project
- Rules of the HI apply
- High flexibility: aims of the project can be modified through amendments to the grant agreement
- Grants have a light reporting along the project lifetime: financial report every 18 months, scientific report at mid-term and end of the project
- Grants have 25-40% pre-financing
- PI is empowered to manage the research activity and the funds of the project
- Grants are portable

ERC funding schemes

Evaluation panel structure



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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 Process 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**

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Synergy grants: principles



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- For small groups of 2 to 4 Principal Investigators (PIs) with complementary skills, knowledge and resources.
- Appropriate configuration of PIs to jointly identify and tackle research objectives aiming at breakthrough discoveries.
- Excellence is the sole criterion of evaluation.
- Good track-record appropriate to their research field and career stage.
- 'Bottom-up' - research priorities and the configuration of the group determined by the individual investigators.
- Projects expected to cover more than one discipline or research field, but not obligatory.

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Synergy grants: commitment and funding



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- PIs must be strongly committed to the project and engage in a genuine collaboration.
- One of the PIs will act as 'Corresponding PI'
- PIs may apply from any country, institution worldwide.
- PIs must devote at least 30% of their working time on the project
- All but at most one PI (who cannot be the corresponding PI) is expected to devote 50% of their working time in an EU Member State or Associated Country.
- Attractive, long-term funding - maximum grant of 10 million € for a period of up to six years. Up to 4 million € additional.

additional



to cover (a) eligible "start-up" costs for Principal Investigators moving from a another country to the EU or an Associated Country 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 other major experimental and field work costs, excluding personnel costs.

ERC funding schemes

Proof of Concept



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Aim:

To maximise the value of the excellent research that the ERC funds, by funding further work to verify the innovation potential of ideas arising from ERC funded projects (technical validation, market research, clarifying IPR strategy, investigating business opportunities, etc.).

Eligibility:

Holders of an ERC grant with an idea substantially drawn from an ERC-funded project. Researchers whose ERC grant ended less than 12 months before the publication date of the call are also eligible.

Size:

Up to €150,000 over 18 months (lump sum grant).

Evaluation:

Single panel made of technology-transfer experts.



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ERC WP 2022 state of play



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- ERC WP 2022 adopted by the European Commission on 14 July 2021;
- First ERC WP 2022 calls, SyG and PoC1, open on 15 July 2021;
- Call calendar is compressed due to the transition to Horizon Europe;
- Calls open to applicants established in United Kingdom and in countries associated to Horizon 2020 and negotiating an association agreement;
- Grant agreement signature on hold until association agreement concluded.

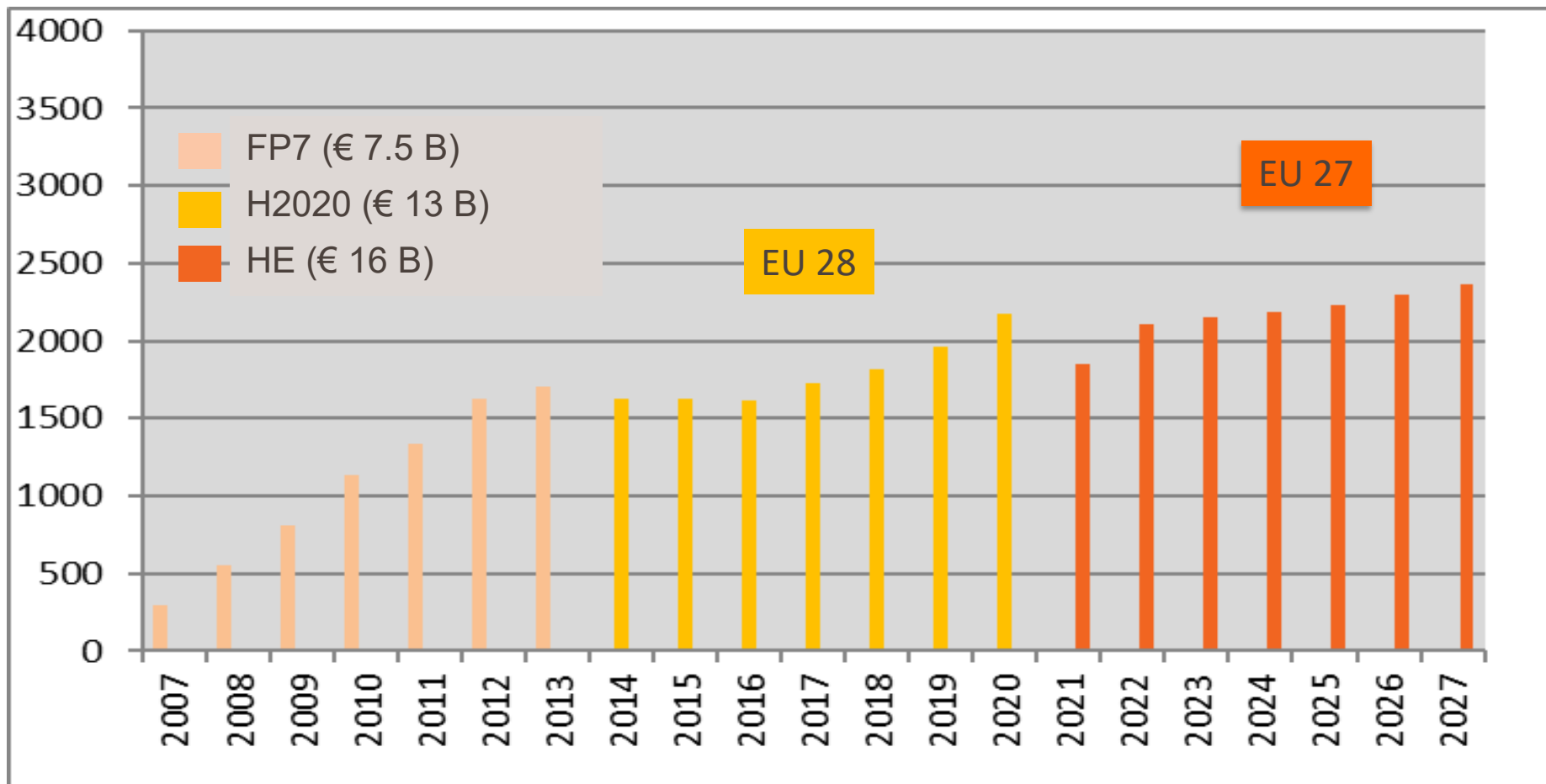
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Budgetary overview: annual distribution



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Budgetary overview: general features



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- Contributions from Associated Countries, including UK, are now a sizeable percentage of the expected budget: 20+% ...but are uncertain;
- Work Programme budget - EUR 2.45 billion - already includes EUR 313 million expected as Associated Country contributions, in addition to the funding from the main Horizon Europe budget lines;
- If association agreements are concluded and enter into force, a further top-up in the range of EUR 50-100+ million is expected;
- Scientific Council will decide on final budget allocation once the budgetary situation is clear;
- For now, the Work Programme budget reflects the traditional budget allocation principles used by the Scientific Council, with budgetary priority to early career researcher profiles.

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Budgetary overview: additional considerations



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- The number of applications and the expected success rates are difficult to predict due to:
 - Association agreement uncertainties,
 - Large swings in the number of applications in the last two years,
 - Unusual and compressed calls calendar,
 - Impact of teleworking and of Covid-19 outbreak response measures.
- The numbers of applications submitted in the WP2021 calls show a variety of behaviours:
 - StG 2021 vs. StG 2020: + 24%,
 - CoG 2021 vs. CoG 2020: + 5.6%,
 - AdG 2021 vs. AdG 2020: - 35%.
- Late-in-the-year association agreements top-up to provide added flexibility, enabling the ERC to adjust the budget on the fly.

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Call calendar: main funding



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	Starting Grant	Consolidator Grant	Advanced Grant	Synergy Grant
Call identifier	ERC-2022-StG	ERC-2022-CoG	ERC-2022-AdG	ERC-2022-SyG
Call opens	23/09/2021	19/10/2021	20/01/2022	15/07/2021
Call deadline	13/01/2022	17/03/2022	28/04/2022	10/11/2021
Budget million EUR (estimated number of grants)	749 (502)	776 (388)	555 (223)	297 (33)
Planned dates to inform applicants after each step	22/07/2022 09/12/2022	02/09/2022 01/02/2023	19/12/2022 03/04/2023	12/05/2022 05/09/2022 08/11/2022
Indicative date for signature of grant agreements	08/04/2023	29/05/2023	01/08/2023	17/03/2023

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Call calendar: complementary funding



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	Proof of Concept Grant	Proof of Concept Grant	Public Engagement with Research Award
Call identifier	ERC-2022-PoC1	ERC-2022-PoC2	ERC-2022-PER
Type of action	ERC frontier research grant	ERC frontier research grant	Recognition prize
Opening of the call or contest	15/07/2021	16/11/2021	5/10/ 2021
Cut-off dates or deadline for applications	14/10/2021	15/02/2022 19/05/2022 29/09/2022	11/01/ 2022
Budget EUR (estimated number of grants or prizes)	25 000 000 (167)	25 000 000 (167)	30 000 (3)
Planned dates to inform applicants (by cut-off date for call ERC-2022-PoC2)	21/01/2022	23/05/2022 29/08/2022 17/01/2023	Third quarter of 2022
Indicative date for signature of grant agreements or award of the prize	19/05/2022	21/09/2022 27/12/2022 15/05/2023	Third quarter of 2022

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PoC revision and novelties: rationale



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- Horizon Europe regulation defines the ERC Proof of Concept as an “ERC frontier research” action. Frontier research action can be evaluated only according to the single evaluation criterion of “excellence”;
- Horizon Europe regulation introduces the European Innovation Council, including its funding scheme EIC Transition;
- Scientific Council needed to decide how to take into account changed context for grant design.

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PoC revision and novelties: HE PoC



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- Objective: facilitating the exploration of the commercial and social innovation potential of ERC-funded research.
- Scope enlarged to include further research activities needed to explore the innovation potential of the idea proposed;
- Evaluation based on the sole criterion of excellence, comprising:
 - Breakthrough innovation potential,
 - Approach and methodology,
 - Principal Investigator: capacity and commitment;
- Data Management Plan required as for all other grants (within 6 months from project start).

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Public Engagement with Research Award



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- Reserved to ERC Principal Investigators of ongoing projects or projects that have ended less than 24 months prior to the deadline;
- One proposal per ERC project maximum;
- Three prizes, EUR 10 000 each, under three categories:
 - *Involve* (citizen science)
 - *Inspire* (public outreach)
 - *Influence* (media and policy)

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Proposal: updated guidance on track record (DORA)



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Review of funding strategy in light of *DORA* (Declaration on Research Assessment) * the following advice is integrated in the WP2022:

- Journal Impact Factor not accepted among the field relevant bibliometric indicators that may be included as part of the publications track record required for applications to the main frontier research grants,
- The track record should specify that the list of achievements under each Principal Investigator profile is not exclusive, other types of achievements can be included if relevant to the research field and project proposal,
- Within the existing proposal template and page limits, Principal Investigators can provide a short narrative description of the scientific importance of the research outputs submitted as part of the proposal, and of the role that the Principal Investigator played in their production.

* <https://sfdora.org/>

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Evaluation: hardship measures related to Covid-19



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In the context of the Covid-19 outbreak, applicants may mention in their research proposal (Curriculum Vitae) any specific situation caused by the pandemic that had a negative effect on their curriculum vitae or track record.

Features:

- Similar to the approach used for career breaks and unconventional research career paths,
- Case-by-case evaluation by each Panel based on the applicant's statements,
- Part B1 template of the proposal includes a dedicated section to describe the Covid-19 impact to scientific productivity (this includes a tick box and a short free text).

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New eligibility condition: Gender Equality Plan



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- Host Institutions must have a Gender Equality Plan (GEP) in place for the duration of the project, for calls with deadlines in 2022 (all except one PoC call and the Synergy Grant Call in year 2021);
- The absence of a GEP does *not affect the evaluation* of a proposal. However, a GEP *must be in place by the time of the signature of a grant*, at the latest;
- The attention of applicants is called at the time of application about the consequence of the absence of a GEP at the time of the signature of the grant;
- The Gender Equality Plan requirement is detailed in the new Annex 5 of the Work Programme. Minimum process-related requirements:
 - Formal document published on the institution's website and signed by the top management,
 - Commitment of resources and gender expertise to implement it,
 - Production of sex/gender disaggregated data on personnel (and students for establishments concerned) and annual reporting based on indicators,
 - Awareness raising/trainings on gender equality and unconscious gender biases for staff and decision-makers.

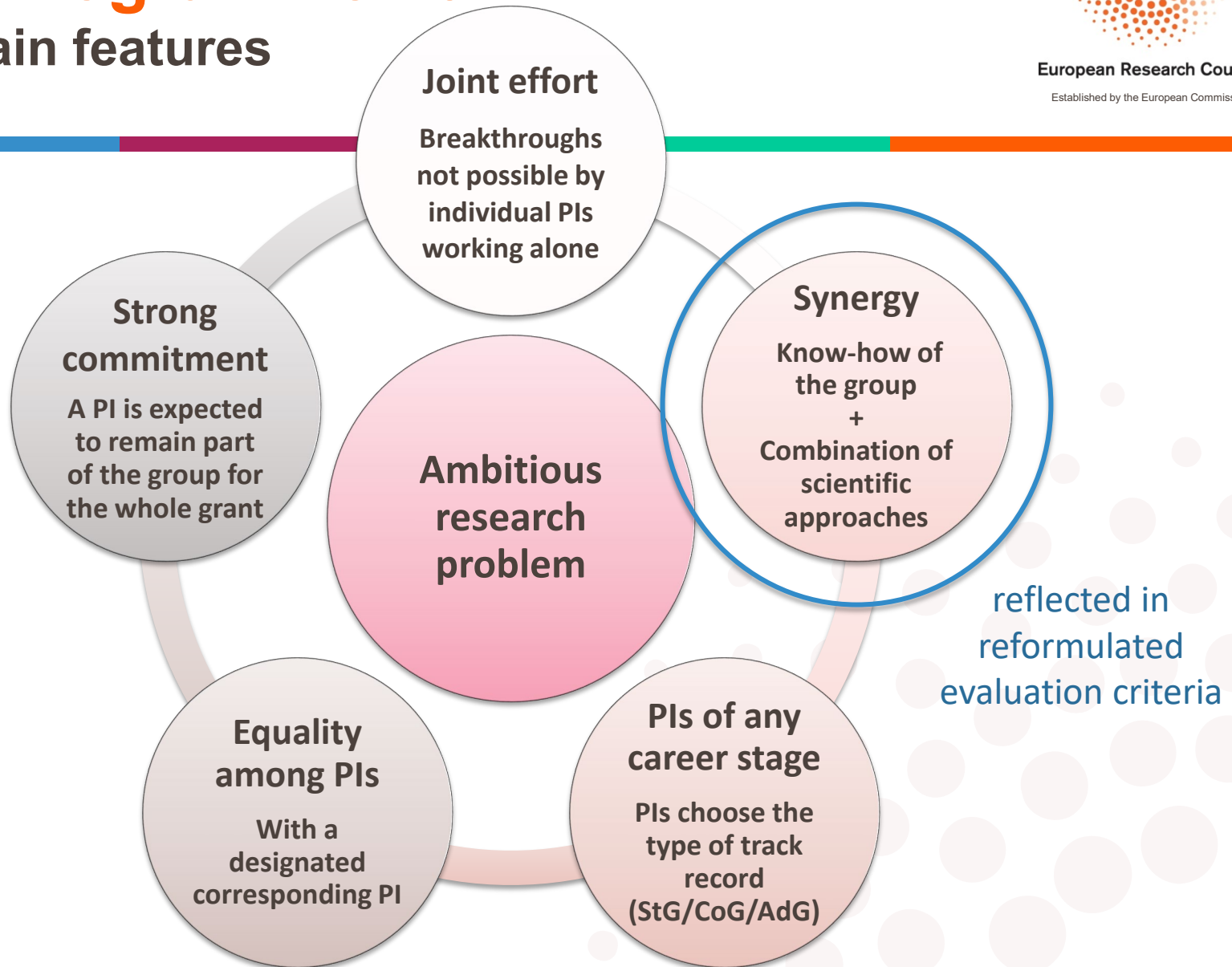
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SyG: main features



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SyG: modifications in the evaluation criteria



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The below evaluation criteria will be used at *all steps*, thus the answers to these questions should be found in part B1 already, as only the extended synopsis is evaluated at step 1.

Evaluation of the Principal Investigators (previously evaluated only as from step 2):
To what extent does the Synergy Grant Group successfully demonstrate in the proposal that it brings together the know-how ~~elements~~— such as skills, knowledge, experience, expertise, disciplines, ~~methods, approaches~~, teams – necessary to address the proposed research question?

Evaluation of the Research Project – Scientific Approach:

‘To what extent do the Principal Investigators succeed in proposing a combination of scientific approaches ~~elements put forward in the proposal~~ that are crucial to address the scope and complexity of the research questions to be tackled?’



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ERC and Spain

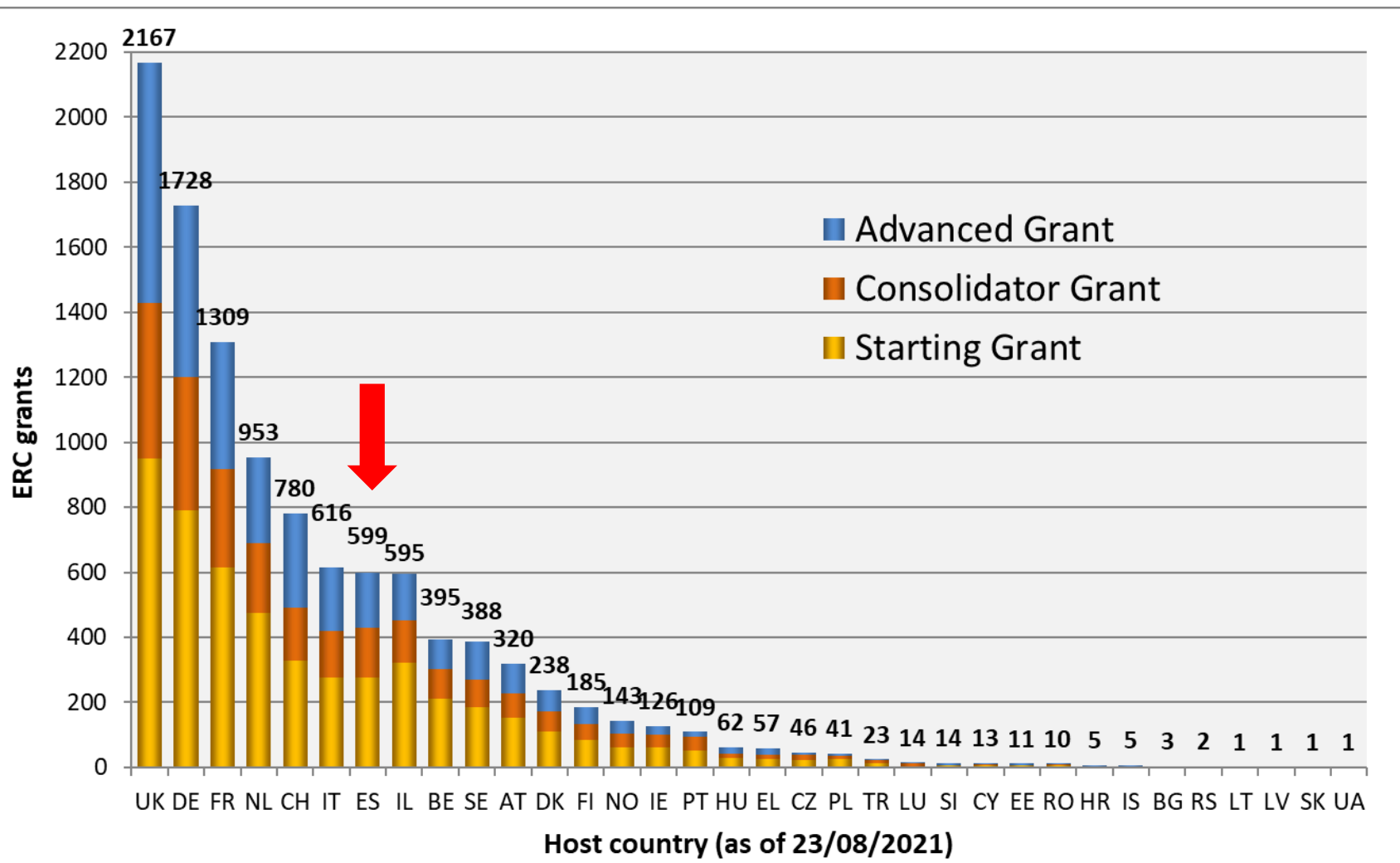
Spain at ERC

ERC StG, CoG and AdG funded projects by country HI



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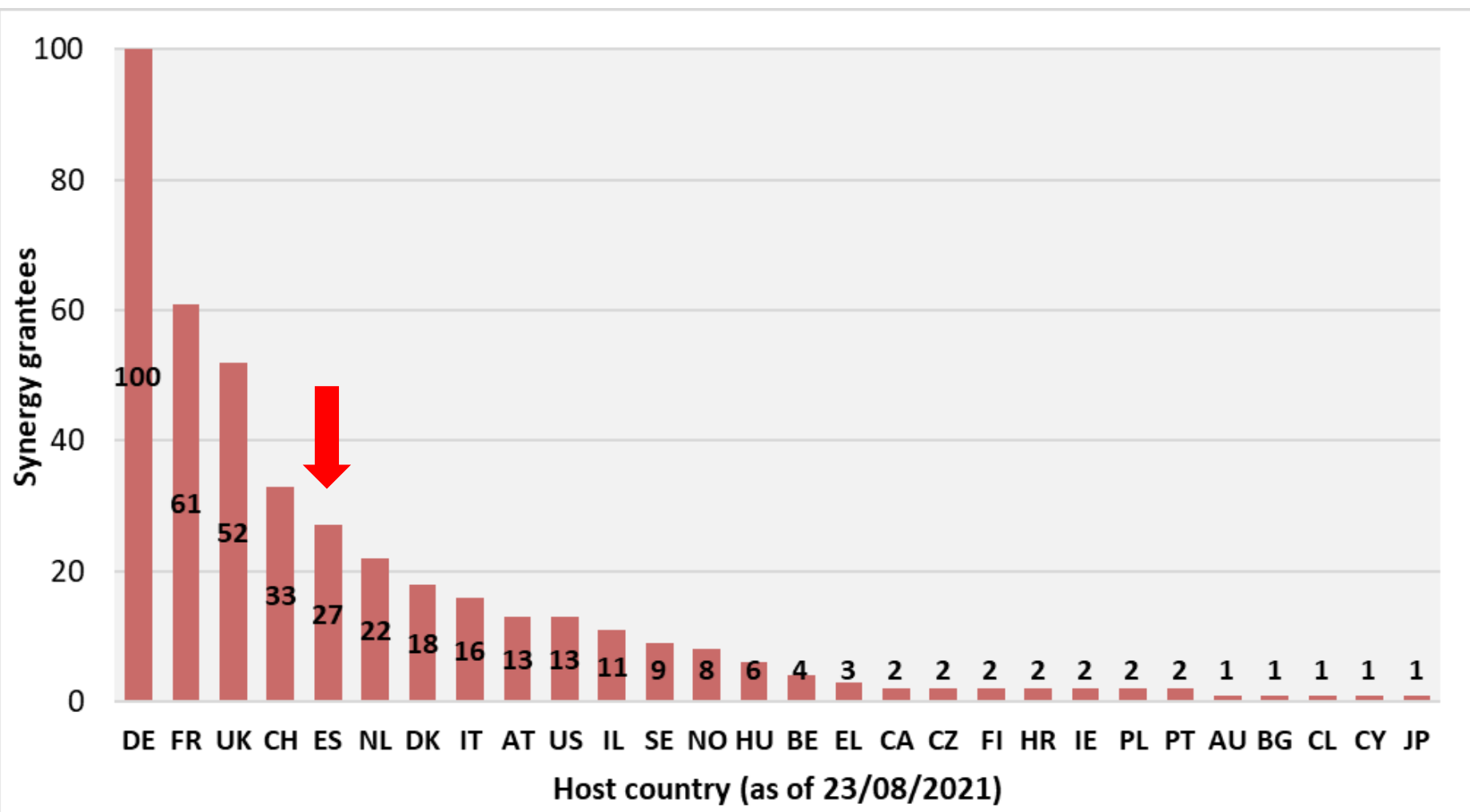
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ERC SyG funded projects



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Spain at ERC

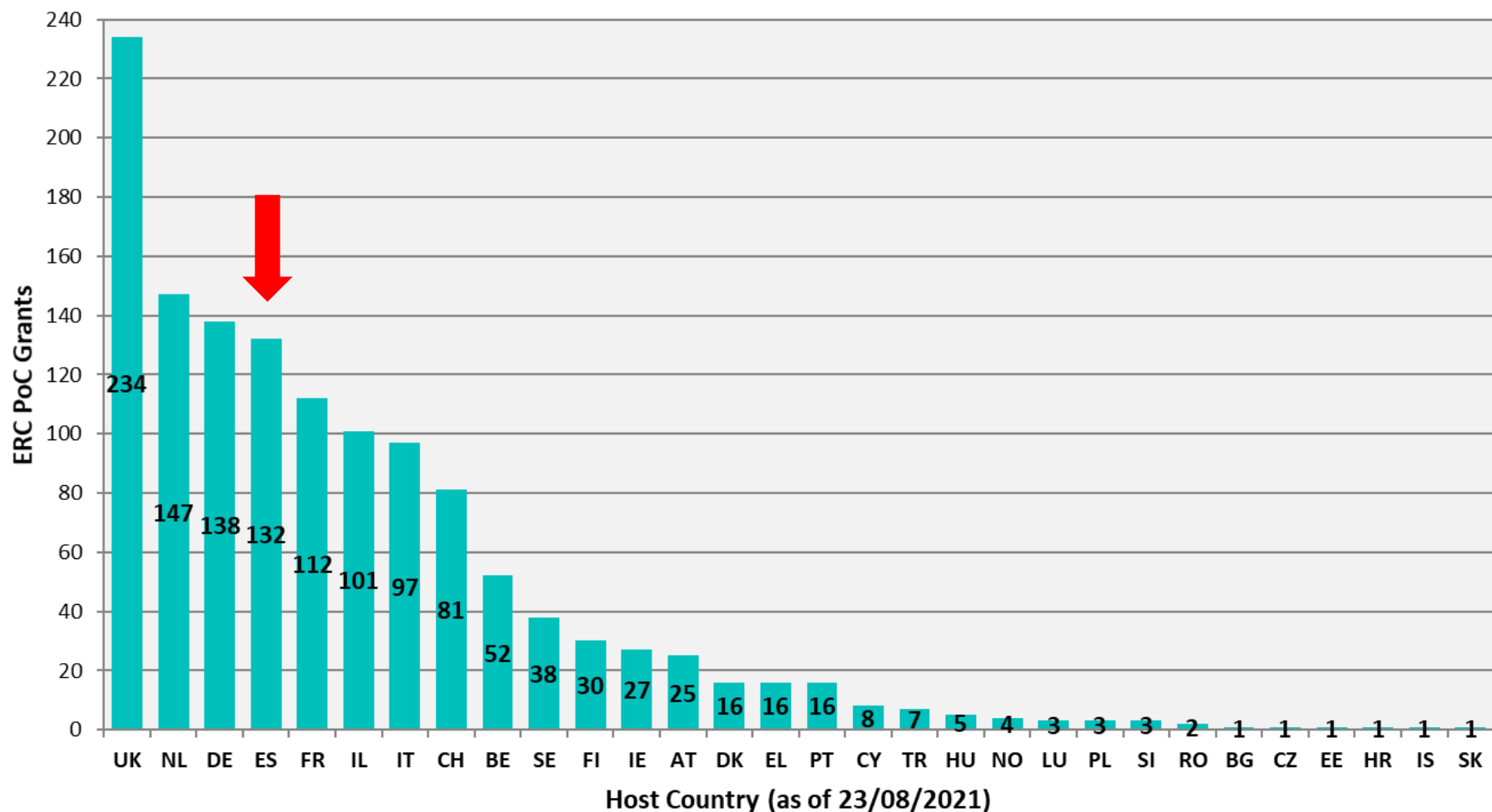
ERC Proof of Concept 2011-20

Overall PoC share 10%



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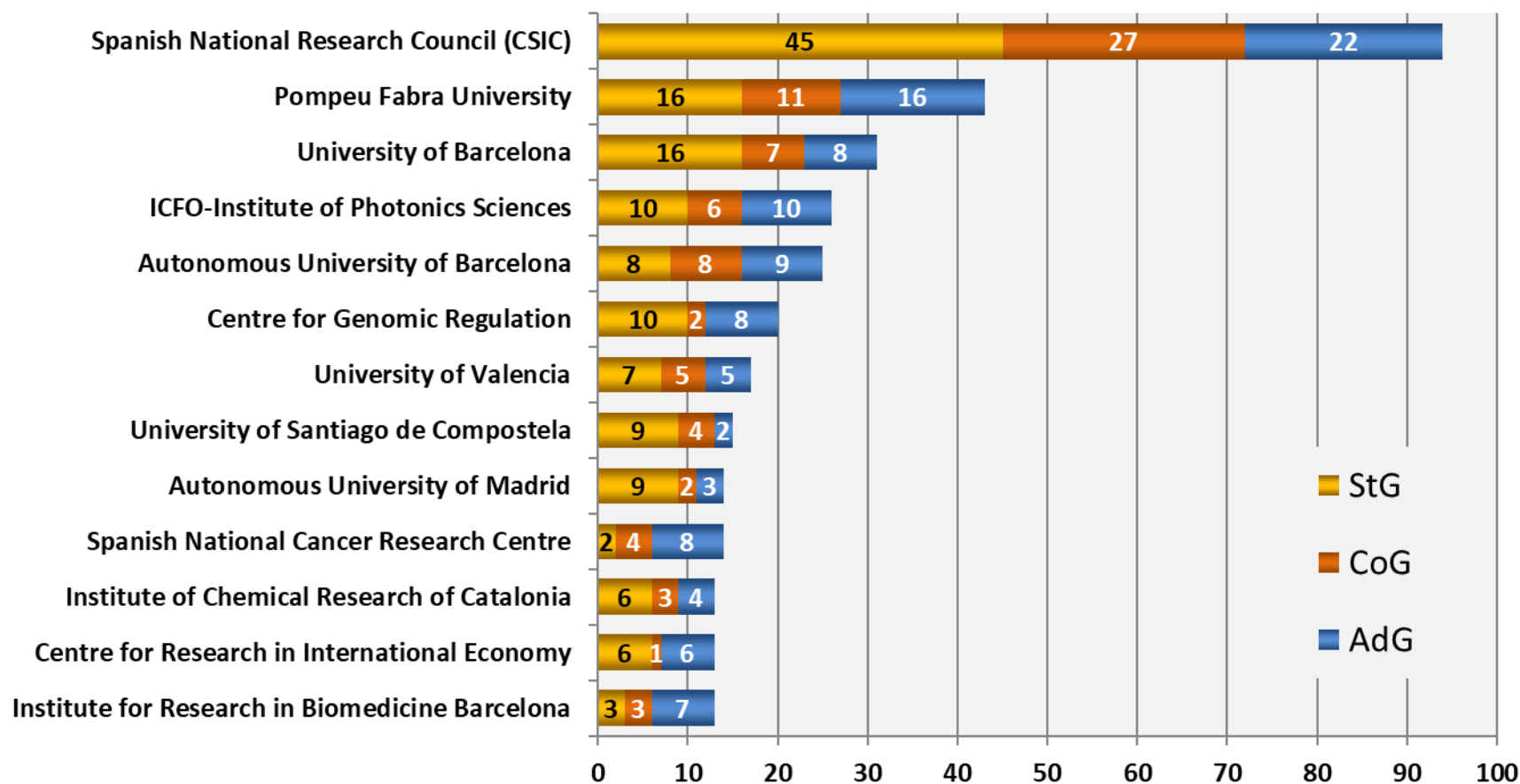
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Top HIs in Spain



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Current Host Institutions (data as of 28/03/2021)

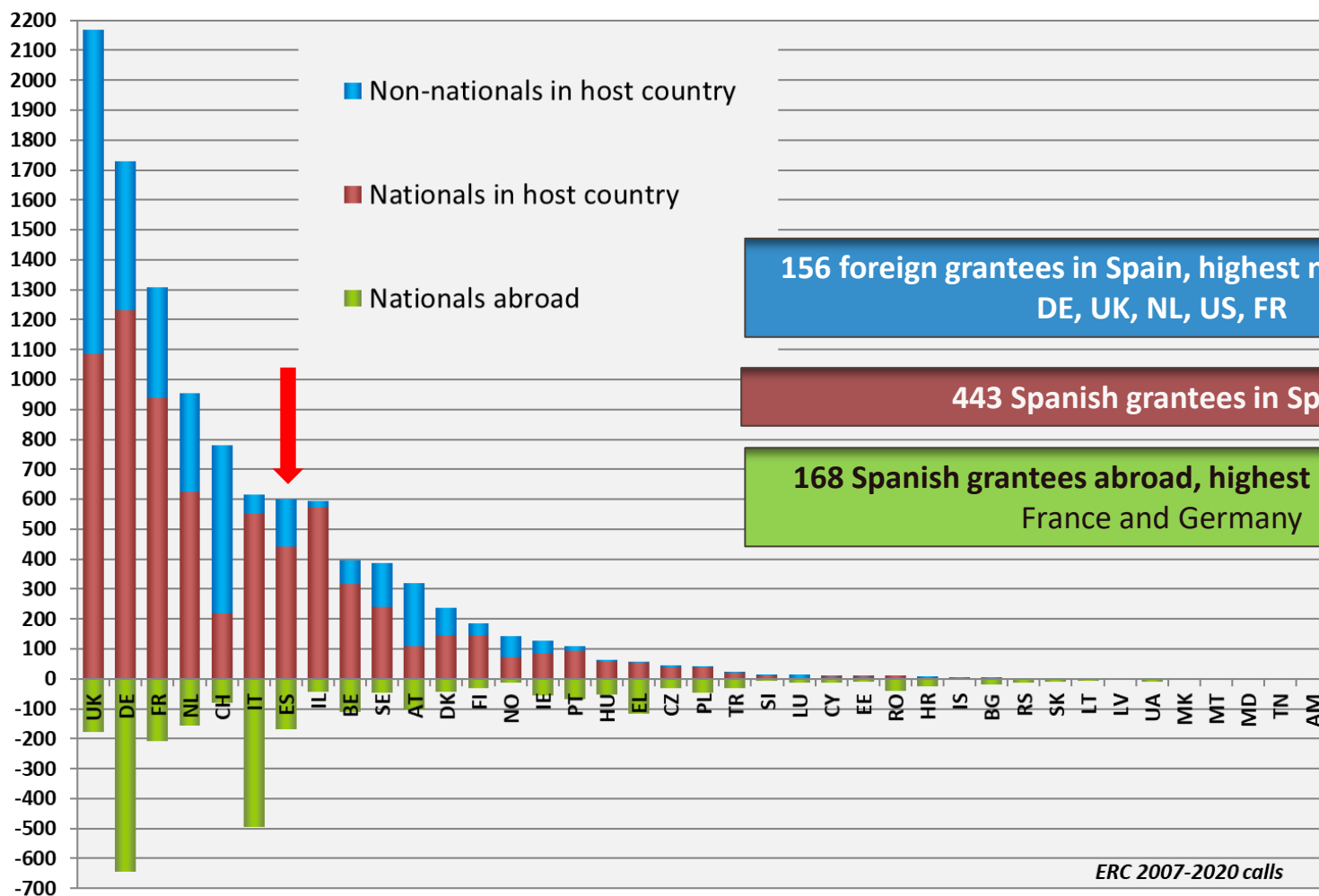
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Grantees at home and abroad



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156 foreign grantees in Spain, highest numbers from IT, DE, UK, NL, US, FR

443 Spanish grantees in Spain

168 Spanish grantees abroad, highest numbers in UK, France and Germany

Spain at ERC

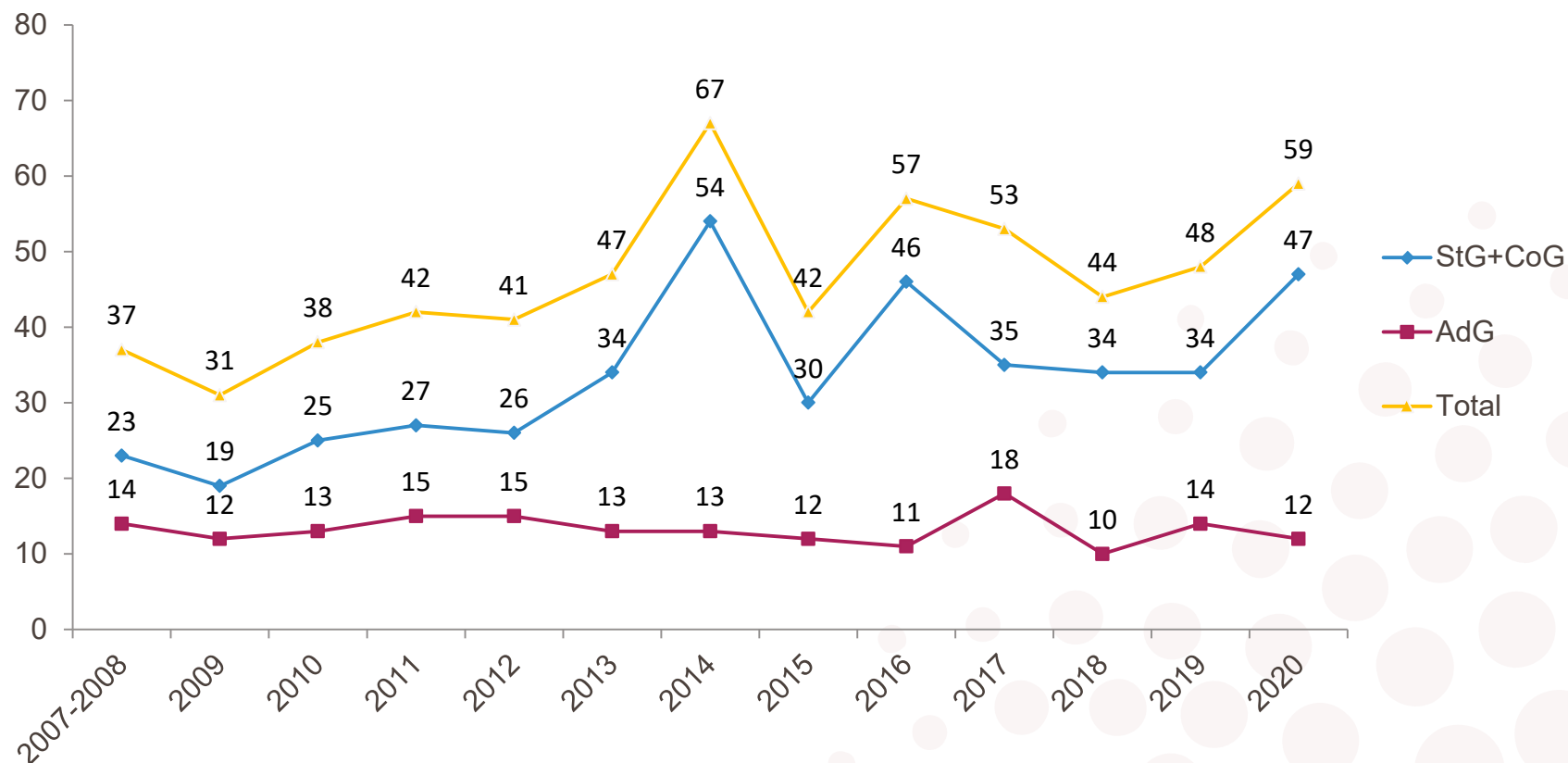
Evolution of the number of grants with Spanish HI

Total: 606 grants



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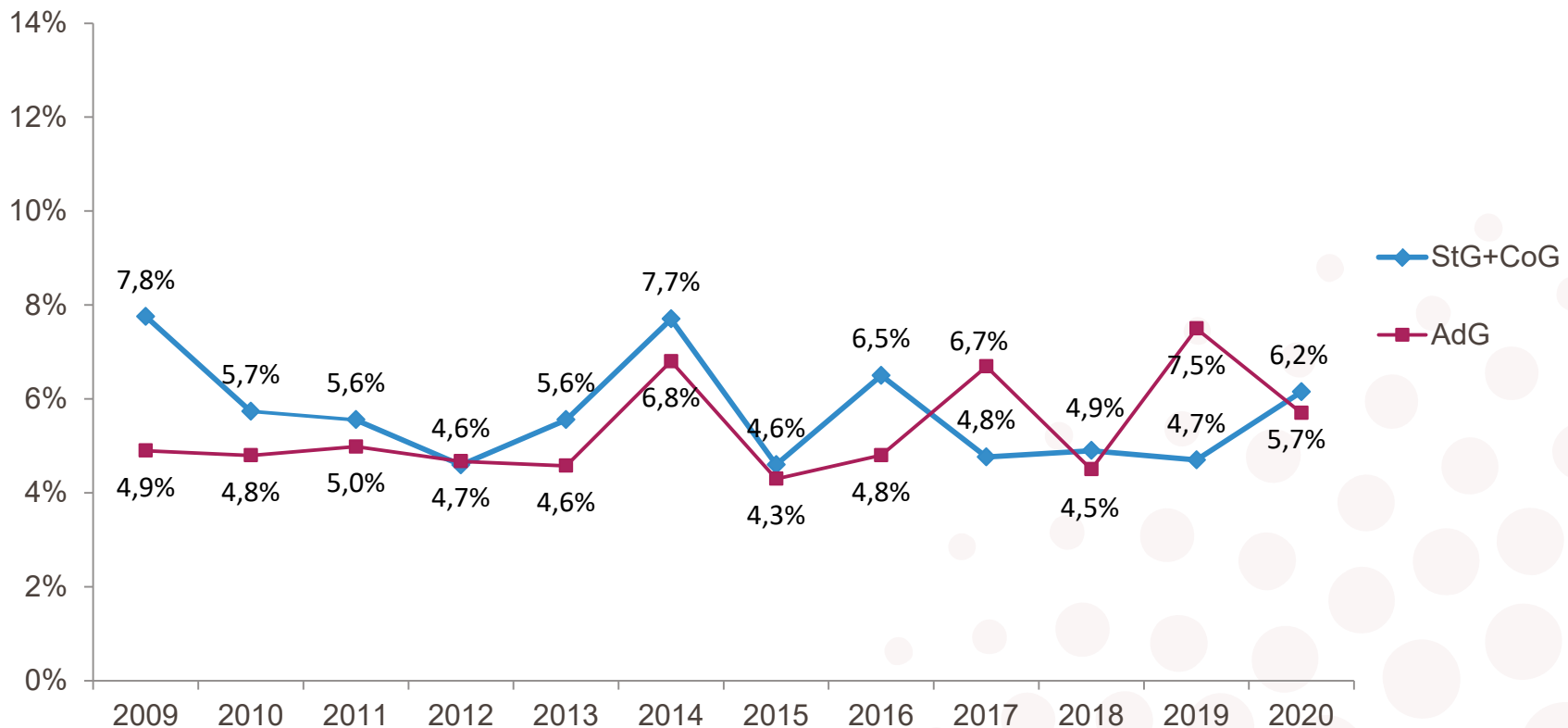
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2013: 14 StG and 20 CoG
2014: 22 StG and 32 CoG
2015: 12 StG and 18 CoG

2016: 23 StG and 23 CoG
2017: 22 StG and 13 CoG
2018: 17 StG and 17 CoG

2019: 20 StG and 14 CoG
2020: 25 StG and 22 CoG



2013: 4,7% in StG and 6,4% in CoG
2014: 6,7% in StG and 8,6% in CoG
2015: 3,4% in StG and 6,0% in CoG

2016: 5,9% in StG and 7,3% in CoG
2017: 5,4% in StG and 4,0% in CoG
2018: 4,2% in StG and 5,8% in CoG

2019: 4,9% in StG and 4,4% in CoG
2020: 5,7% in StG and 6,7% in CoG

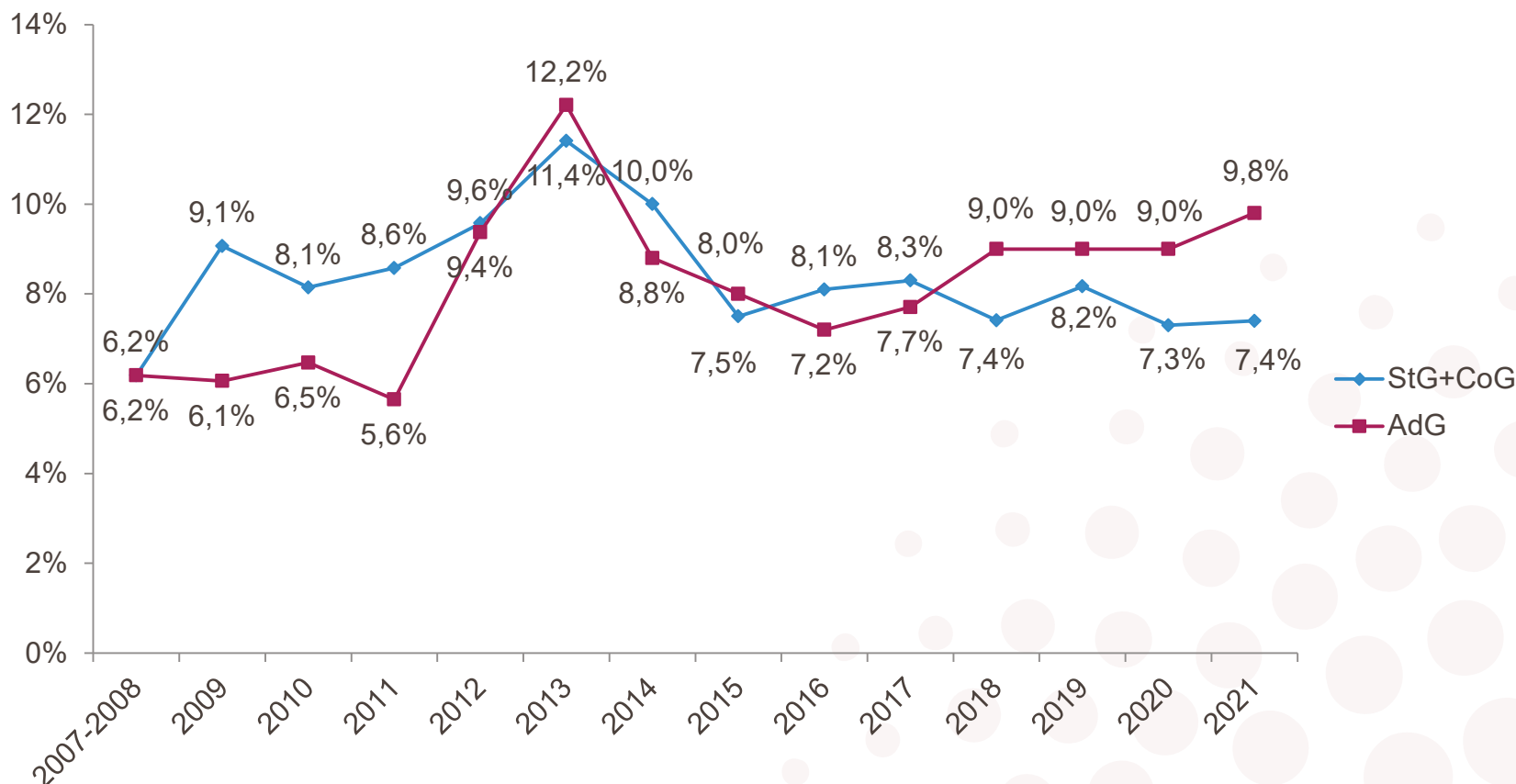
Spain at ERC

Evolution of the % of applications with Spanish HI



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2013: 10,7% in StG and 12,4% in CoG

2014: 8,6% in StG and 11,8% in CoG

2015: 6,9% in StG and 8,3% in CoG

2016: 7,7% in StG and 8,7% in CoG

2017: 7,4% in StG and 9,3% in CoG

2018: 6,9% in StG and 8,1% in CoG

2019: 7,6% in StG and 8,8% in CoG

2020: 6,3% in StG and 8,6% in CoG

2021: 6,9% in StG and 8,2% in CoG

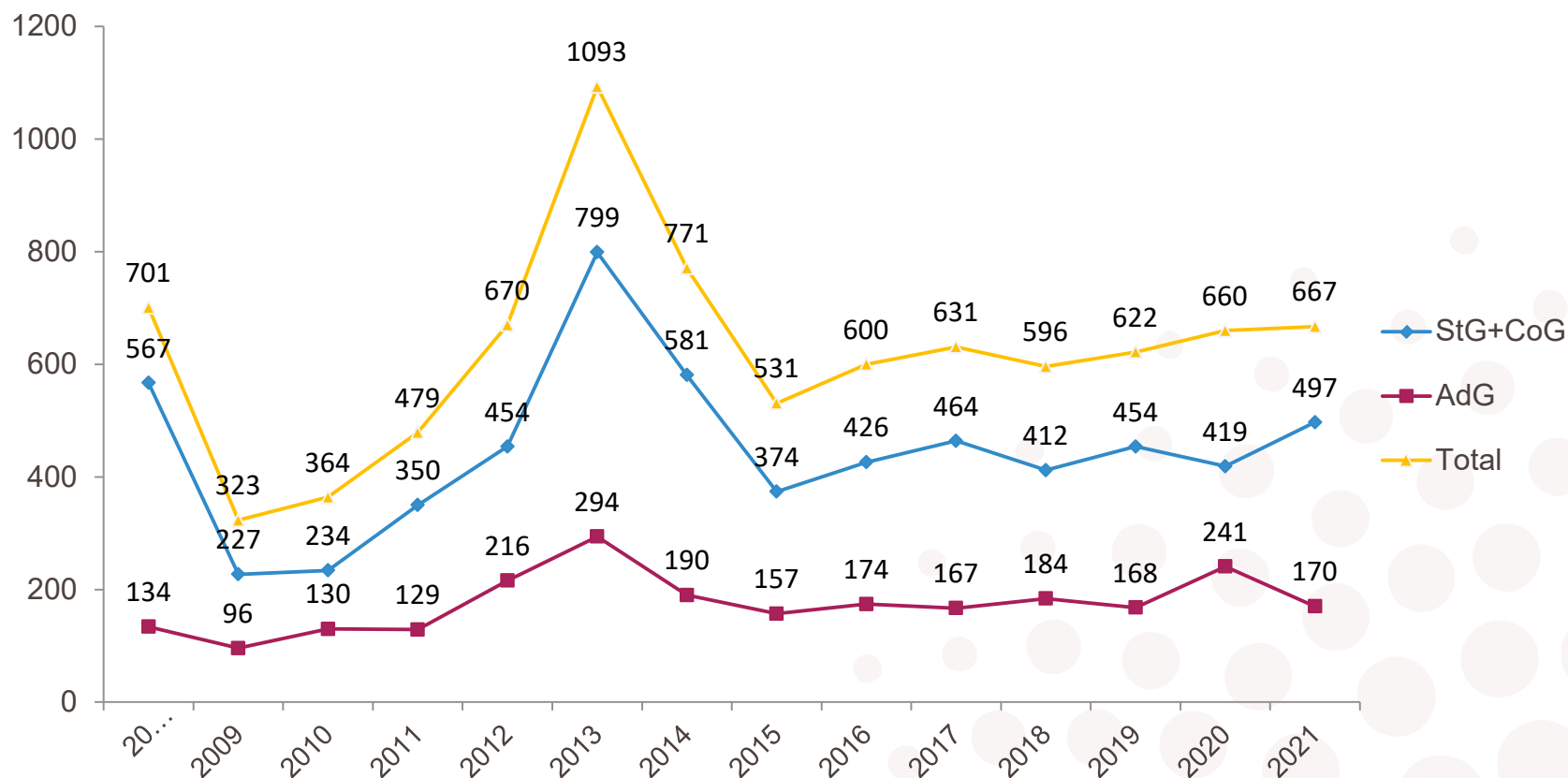
Spain at ERC

Evolution of the number of applications with Spanish HI



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2013: 354 StG + 445 CoG
2014: 283 StG + 298 CoG
2015: 203 StG + 171 CoG
2016: 226 StG + 200 CoG

2017: 228 StG + 236 CoG
2018: 218 StG + 194 CoG
2019: 237 StG + 217 CoG
2020: 205 StG + 214 CoG

2021: 280 StG + 217 CoG

Spain at ERC

Distribution of grants by domain and panel ERC StG, CoG and AdG grants calls 2007 – 2020



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Life Sciences

Panel	Total	Spain	%
LS1 Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, Structural Biology and Molecular Biophysics	364	9	2.5%
LS2 Genetics, 'Omics', Bioinformatics and Systems Biology	371	23	6.2%
LS3 Cellular and Developmental Biology	342	12	3.5%
LS4 Physiology, Pathophysiology and Endocrinology	415	41	9.9%
LS5 Neuroscience and Neural Disorders	502	15	3.0%
LS6 Immunity and Infection	356	9	2.5%
LS7 Applied Medical Technologies, Diagnostics, Therapies, and Public Health	555	25	4.5%
LS8 Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology	428	19	4.4%
LS9 Applied Life Sciences, Biotechnology and Molecular and Biosystems Engineering	310	27	8.7%
	3643	180	4.9%

Spain at ERC

Distribution of grants by domain and panel ERC StG, CoG and AdG grants calls 2007 – 2019



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Physical Sciences & Engineering

Panel	Total	Spain	%
PE1 Mathematics	468	24	5.1%
PE2 Fundamental Constituents of Matter	569	28	4.9%
PE3 Condensed Matter Physics	509	36	7.1%
PE4 Physical and Analytical Chemical Sciences	447	18	4.0%
PE5 Synthetic Chemistry and Materials	568	53	9.3%
PE6 Computer Science and Informatics	566	25	4.4%
PE7 Systems and Communication Engineering	406	21	5.2%
PE8 Products and Processes Engineering	559	60	10.7%
PE9 Universe Sciences	392	15	3.8%
PE10 Earth System Science	425	8	1.9%
	4909	288	5.9%

Spain at ERC

Distribution of grants by domain and panel ERC StG, CoG and AdG grants calls 2007 – 2019



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Social Sciences and Humanities

Panel	Total	Spain	%
SH1 Individuals, Markets and Organisations	336	43	12.8%
SH2 Institutions, Values, Environment and Space	493	19	3.9%
SH3 The Social World, Diversity, Population	317	20	6.3%
SH4 The Human Mind and Its Complexity	490	12	2.4%
SH5 Cultures and Cultural Production	364	11	3.0%
SH6 The Study of the Human Past	409	26	6.4%
	2409	131	5.4%

Thank you for your attention



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