The European Research Council

Jornadas informativas ERC

Laura Lobato Bailón

05/06/23

European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

ERC is part of Horizon Europe

EUR 16 billion
ERC budget in Horizon Europe

17%
of the entire
Horizon Europe budget

ANY FIELD OF RESEARCH

PORTABLE

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCHERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

LONG TERM GRANTS

AMBITION

GROUND-BREAKING

FEASIBILITY

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

European Commission

ERC – Funding schemes

Individual

Starting

Consolidator

Advanced

Collective

Synergy

Bringing close to the market

PoC

ERC – Funding schemes

Individual

Starting

Consolidator

Advanced

Collective

Synergy

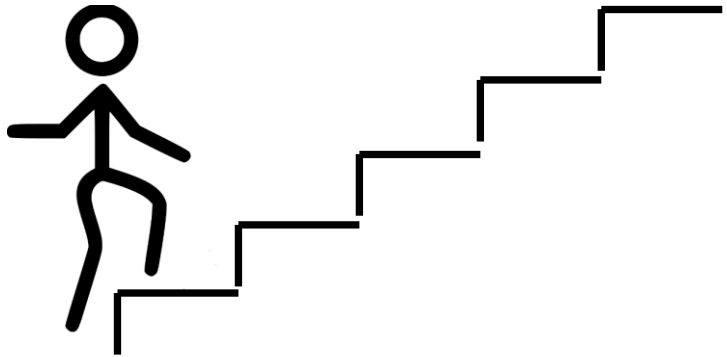
Bringing close to the market

PoC

ERC – Funding schemes

Starting

2-7 years



50%

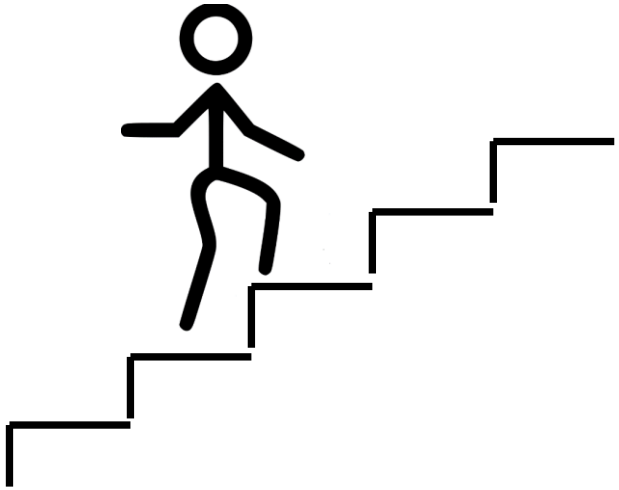
1.5 M
(+ additional 1M€)

50%

5 years

Consolidator

7-12 years



40%

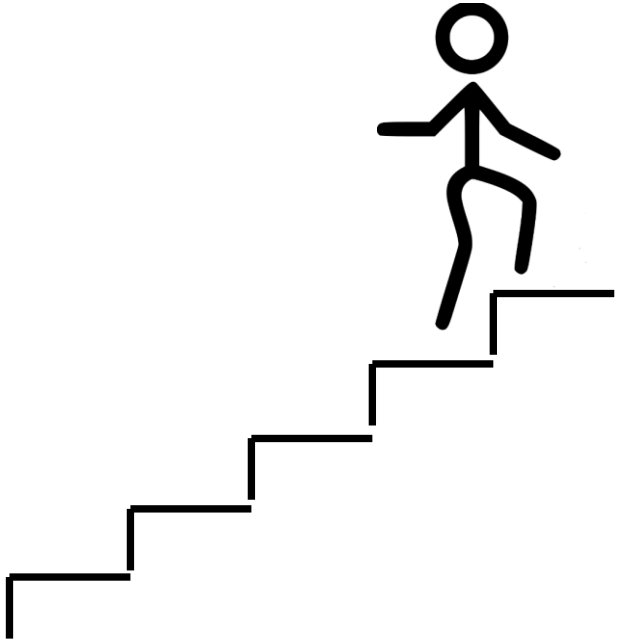
2.0 M
(+ additional 1M€)

50%

5 years

Advanced

Significant research achievements in the last 10 years



30%

2.5 M
(+ additional 1M€)

50%

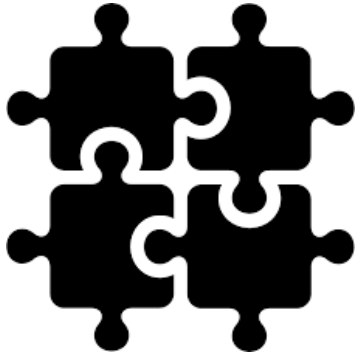
5 years

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

European Commission

Synergy

2 to 4
PI's



1

30%

10M

(+ additional 4M€)

6 years

50%, except
non EU/AC PI

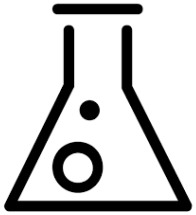
European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

European Commission

Evaluation Panels (StG, CoG & AdG)

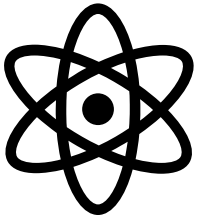
LS

9



PE

11



SH

8

WP24

Descriptors WP24

Targeted panel ***(Secondary Panel)***

ERC_panel_structure_2024_calls.pdf (europa.eu)

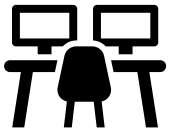
Evaluation process for individual calls: Step 1

REMOTE ASSESSMENT

Proposals are assigned to PMs

Proposals with a 2nd panel or interdisciplinary proposals

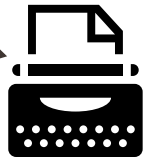
Panel members are acting as generalists



***(X4)**

Part B1 (extended synopsis – 5pg.) + CV and Track record

WP24



Write their individual review

Evaluation process for individual calls: Step 1

PANEL MEETING

Panel members ~13-18

Ranked list

Nomination of RRs

Feedback to applicants

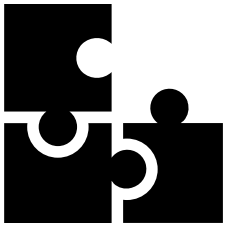
Resubmission restrictions :
A – not invited: can resubmit next year
B – needs to wait for 1 year
C – needs to wait for two years

WP24

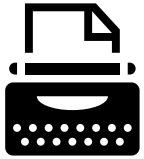
Evaluation process for individual calls: Step 2

REMOTE ASSESSMENT

Panel members and RRs



Part B1+CV+Track record
Part B2
Budget



Individual reviews

Evaluation process for individual calls: Step 2

PANEL MEETING

Remote interviews
~ 25'
A maximum of 44 interviews

WP24

On-site PMs

Ranked list

Feedback to applicants

No resubmission restrictions
(though you may get an A or a B)

Expected changes for the WP2024

• LS3 title • LS5 subtitle and descriptors • New SH8 panel (“Studies of Cultures and Arts”)	FOCUS ON RESEARCH  • Ground-breaking • Ambition • Feasibility	• CV and track record merged (4pg) • Include up to 10 research outputs 	• Up to 44 proposals can pass to step 2 • New score in step 1: “A-not passing”	• Only for AdG • Payment based on the work done and reported, irrespective of the actual costs
Panels	Assessment	Broad assessment of the PI	Evaluation procedure	Lump Sum funding

This information is without prejudice and subject to the formal adoption of the 2024 ERC Work Programme.

Then… What for 2024?

Excellence

is the sole evaluation criterion

Excellence of the Research Project

- Ground breaking nature
- Scientific impact
- Scientific Approach

Excellence of the Principal Investigator

- Intellectual capacity
- Creativity
- Commitment

Proposal Structure

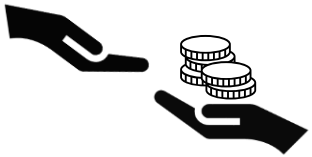
- Part A: Administrative form and Proposal Budget
- Part B1 – Synopsis (5 pages) and CV+Track Record (4 pages)
- Part B2 - Scientific proposal (14 pages)
  - State-of-the-art and objectives
  - Methodology
- Host Institution support letter
- PhD certificate

Annexes: Extension request documents, ethics docs, etc

For StG2024 - check Guidelines in the 2024 Information for Applicants

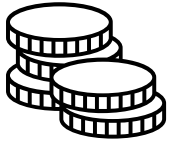
Contrary to what you may expect…

HI or mobility are not part of the evaluation criteria



Funding ID is not an evaluation criterion

Supervision of students is not part of the evaluation criteria for StG or CoG



Budget is allocated on demand

Rumour: Choose the panel "strategically" in order to increase chances of success

NOT true: The budget is distributed among the scientific panels as a function of demand ➔ success rate is equal amongst panels ➔ choose the Panel that is right for your proposal!

Tentative calendar for the 2024 calls:

	Starting Grant	Consolidator Grant	Advanced Grant	Synergy Grant	Proof of Concept Grant
Call opens	11/07/2023	12/09/2023	29/05/2024	12/07/2023	16/11/2023
Deadline to submit applications	24/10/2023	12/12/2023	29/08/2024	08/11/2023	14/03/2024 17/09/2024
Budget	€601m	€584m	€578m	€400m	€30m

Why to apply for an ERC grant?

Independence

Recognition

Visibility

Work on a research topic of own choice

Gain financial autonomy for five years

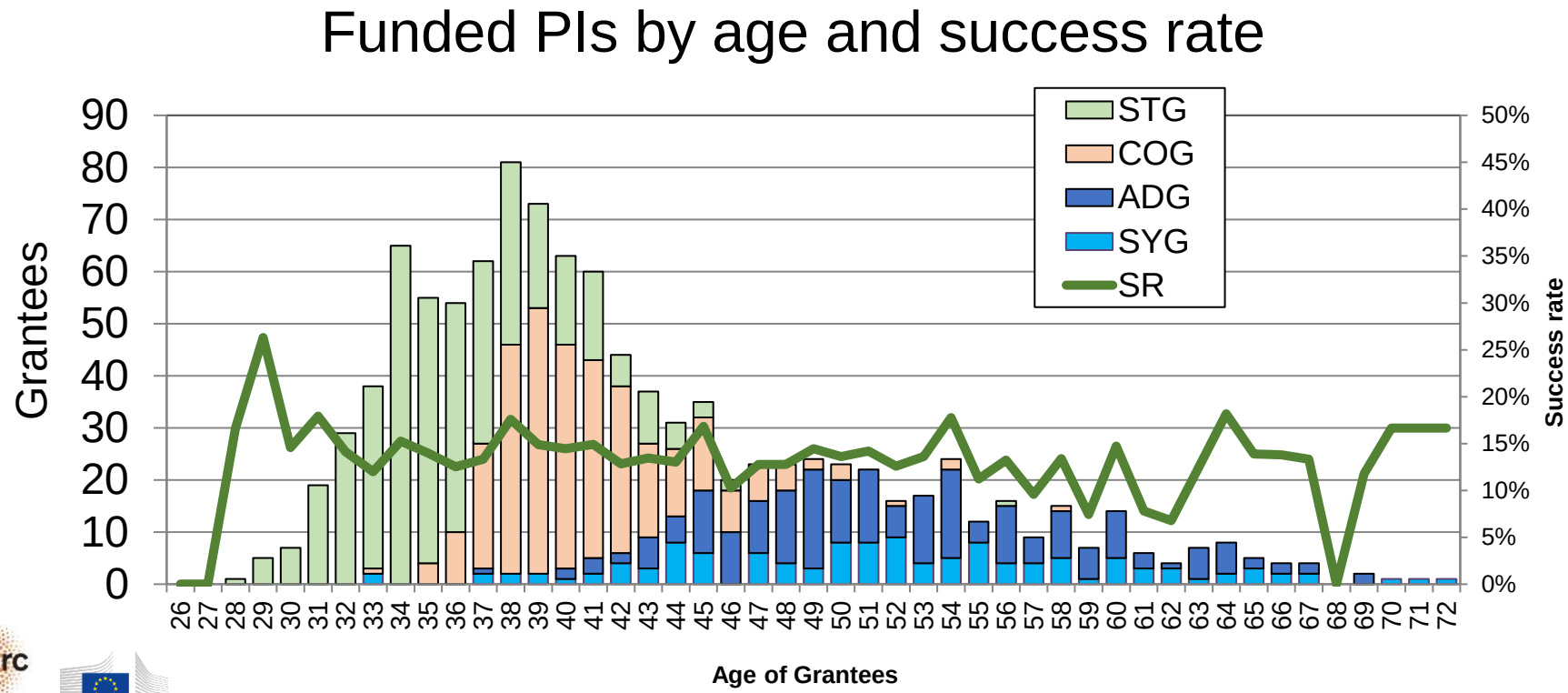
Negotiate the best conditions of work with the host institution

Attract excellent team members and collaborators from anywhere in the world

Portability grants

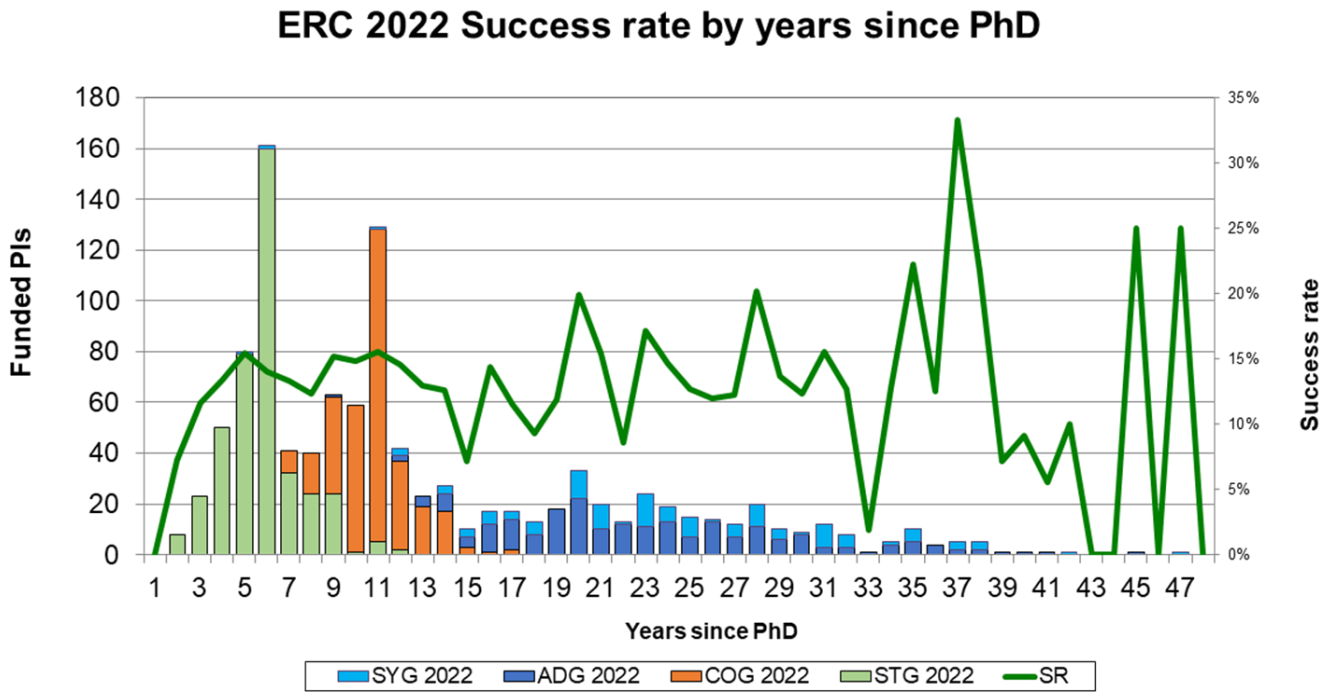
STG COG ADG SYG Grantees by Age

Success rates by Age



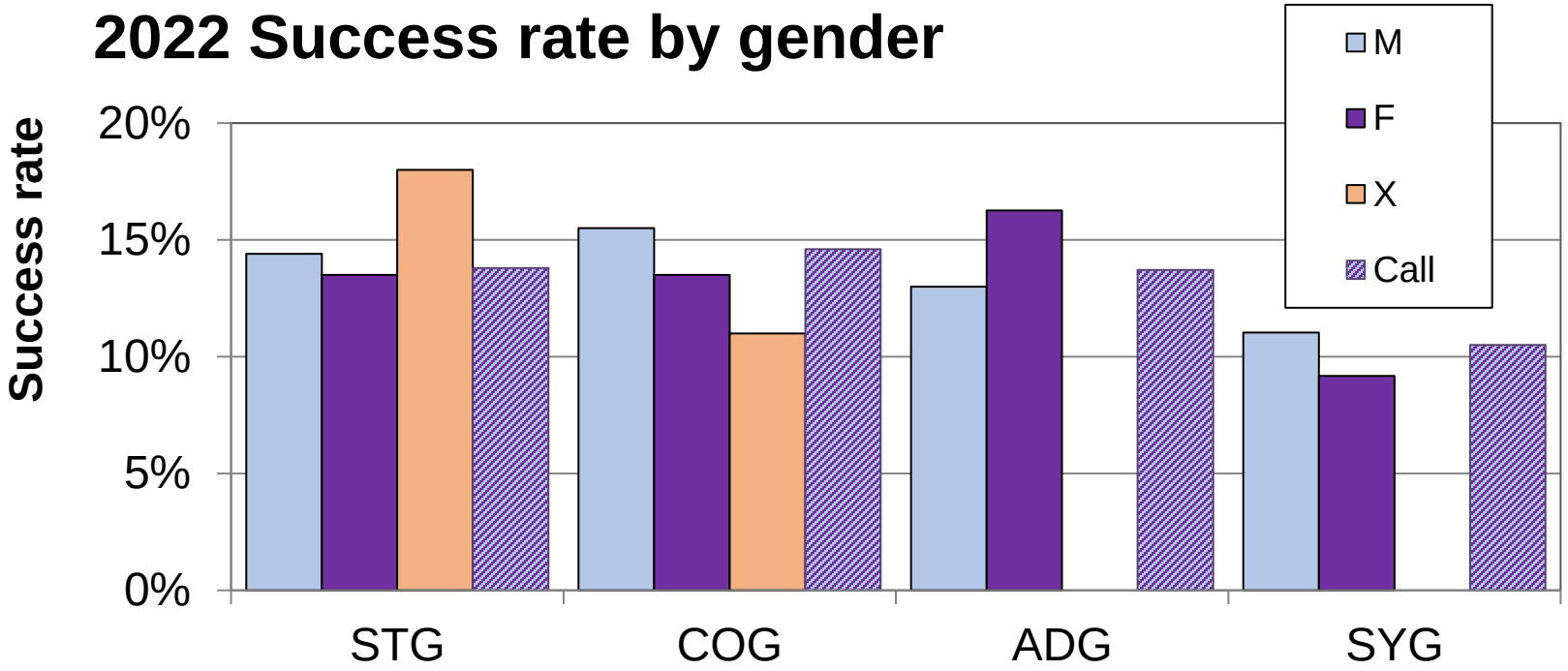
STG COG ADG SYG Grantees by Years after PhD

Success rates by Years after PhD



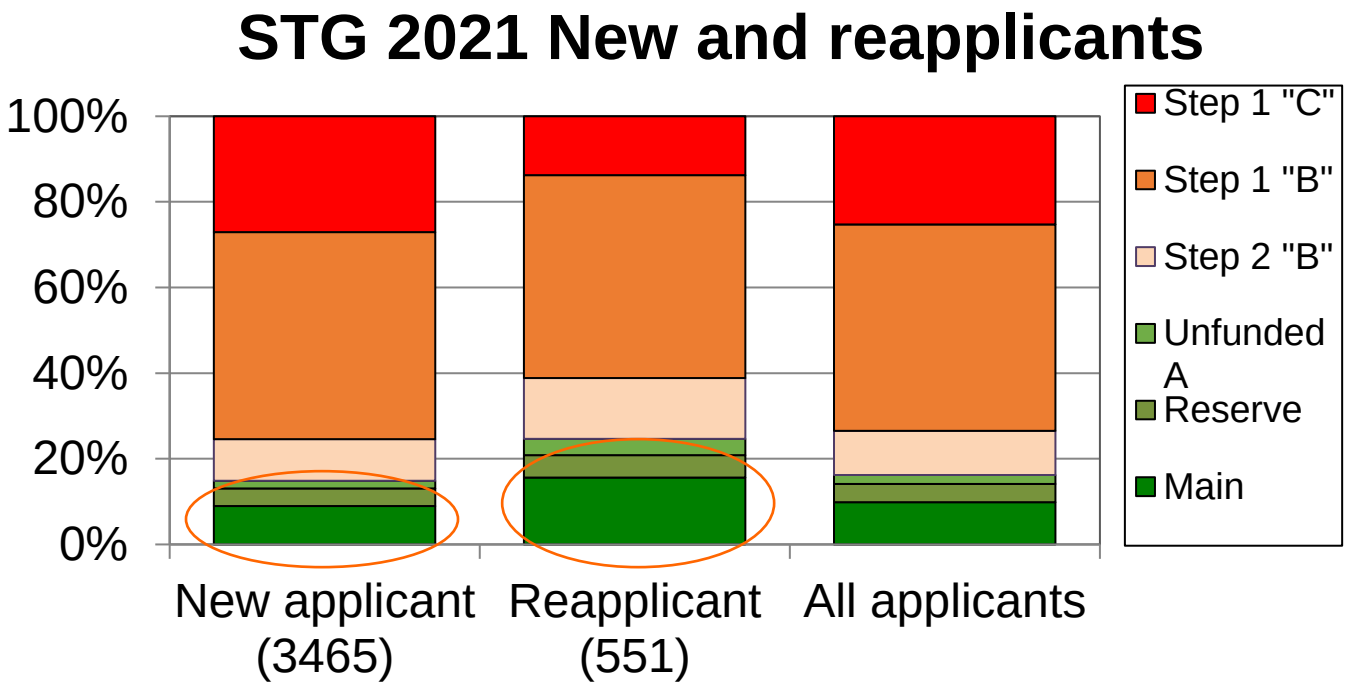
Cross-call evaluation issues

Success rates by Gender



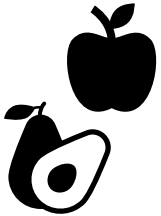
Cross-call evaluation issues

STG 2021 New, re-applicants and grantees results



Nothing is lost!

What if…?



… my proposal is interdisciplinary?

… my StG window is over and I need to submit to CoG?

… my idea is not good enough?

… if I feel alone in the universe applying for an ERC grant?

What if…?

Make the most of it!

- Include the two panels in the proposal and make sure to explain why the proposal falls in both
- Are you expert in both disciplines?
- Get written consent of your collaborators before the submission deadline (simple email exchange)

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What if…?

Make the most of it!

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- Are you expert in both disciplines?
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If you belong to CoG, you'll compete against CoG applicants

- Success rate slightly smaller for StG than for CoG
- Almost same evaluation criteria: make sure you can prove your scientific independence
- Publication record is not decisive in funding decisions

… my idea is not good enough?

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What if…?

Make the most of it!

- Include the two panels in the proposal and make sure to explain why the proposal falls in both
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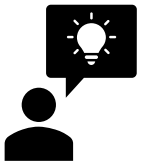
- Get written consent of your collaborators before the submission deadline (simple email exchange)

If you belong to CoG, you'll compete against CoG applicants

- Success rate only slightly smaller for CoG than for StG
- Almost same evaluation criteria: make sure you can prove your scientific independence
- Publication record is not decisive in funding decisions

You need to work on your idea!



- Share with peer reviews
- Read against ERC evaluation criteria
- Go to proposals reading days
- Get in contact with other grantees
- Check, check, check
- TIME

… if I feel alone in the universe applying for an ERC grant?

What if…?

1. Consult call documents (Work Programme, Information for Applicants)
2. Register early on the F&T Portal
3. Have your documentation ready
4. Contact the ERCEA and ask all your questions well ahead of the submission deadline: ERC-2024-STG-APPLICANTS@ec.europa.eu
5. Get in contact with your NCPs or the European projects office from your University/research centre

I feel alone in the universe applying for an ERC grant?

Final message

DO NOT EXCLUDE

Yourself from participating in ERC calls

- Take risks, explain your project's high scientific impact if you reach your aims, and provide evidence that you can do it.
- If you fail, try again! Gain experience from evaluation. Panel feedback is useful and resubmissions have higher success rate.

This afternoon

You can attend the one-to-one meetings with the NCPs if you have a draft proposal

You can participate to the workshop, focused on the <u>maturation</u> of your ERC idea and which will include some «DON'TS»

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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https://www.youtube.com/c/EuropeanResearchCouncil

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European Commission

ERC SyG 2023 Evaluation Process

A single submission but a three-step evaluation

Indicative panel meeting dates for SyG2024 to be published in the fall of 2023

Step 1: 1 panel

REMOTE REVIEWS:

- Only part B1
  - Mainly generalists:
    - panel members
    - panel evaluators*

27.02 - 03.03.2023

Meeting: panel chairs & vice chairs → scoring:

- A (max 7 x budget) ~ 230 proposals
- B - rejected
- C** - rejected

Step 2: 5 panels

REMOTE REVIEWS:

- Parts B1 & B2
  - Mainly generalists: panel members
  - Specialists: remote referees

26 - 30.06.2023

Meeting: panel members → scoring:

- A (max 4 x budget) ~ 100 proposals
- B - rejected

Step 3: 5 panels

NO REMOTE REVIEWS

- Parts B1 & B2
  - Panel members: interview preparation: formulation of questions based on step 2 reviews

11 - 15.09.2023

Meeting: panel members; **interviews with all PIs** → scoring & ranking:

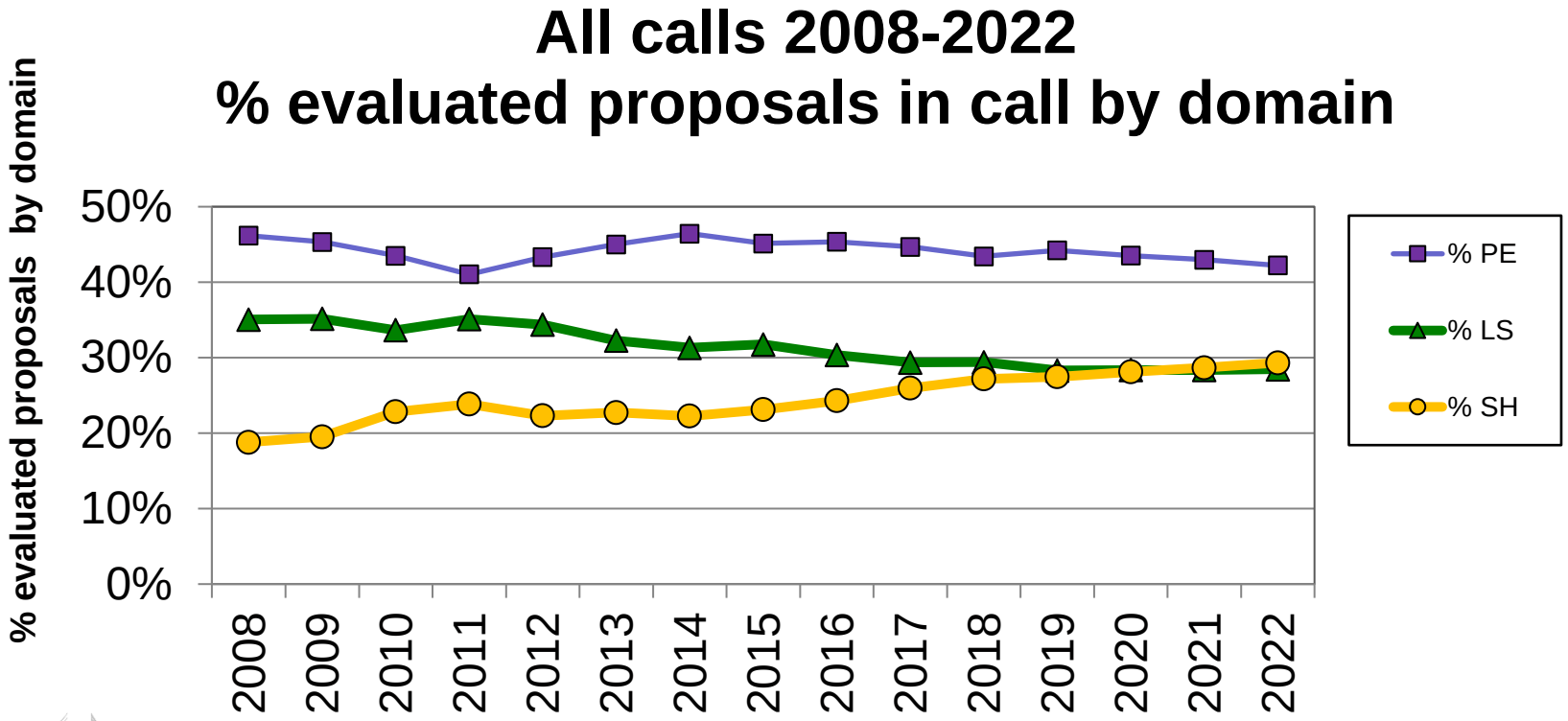
- Top A - main list ~ 30 funded
- A below funding limit - reserve + rejected
- B - rejected

*panel evaluators (PEVs) are panel members of other ERC calls assisting in the remote review phase by providing individual reviews

** might be restricted from applying to the next ERC SyG call.

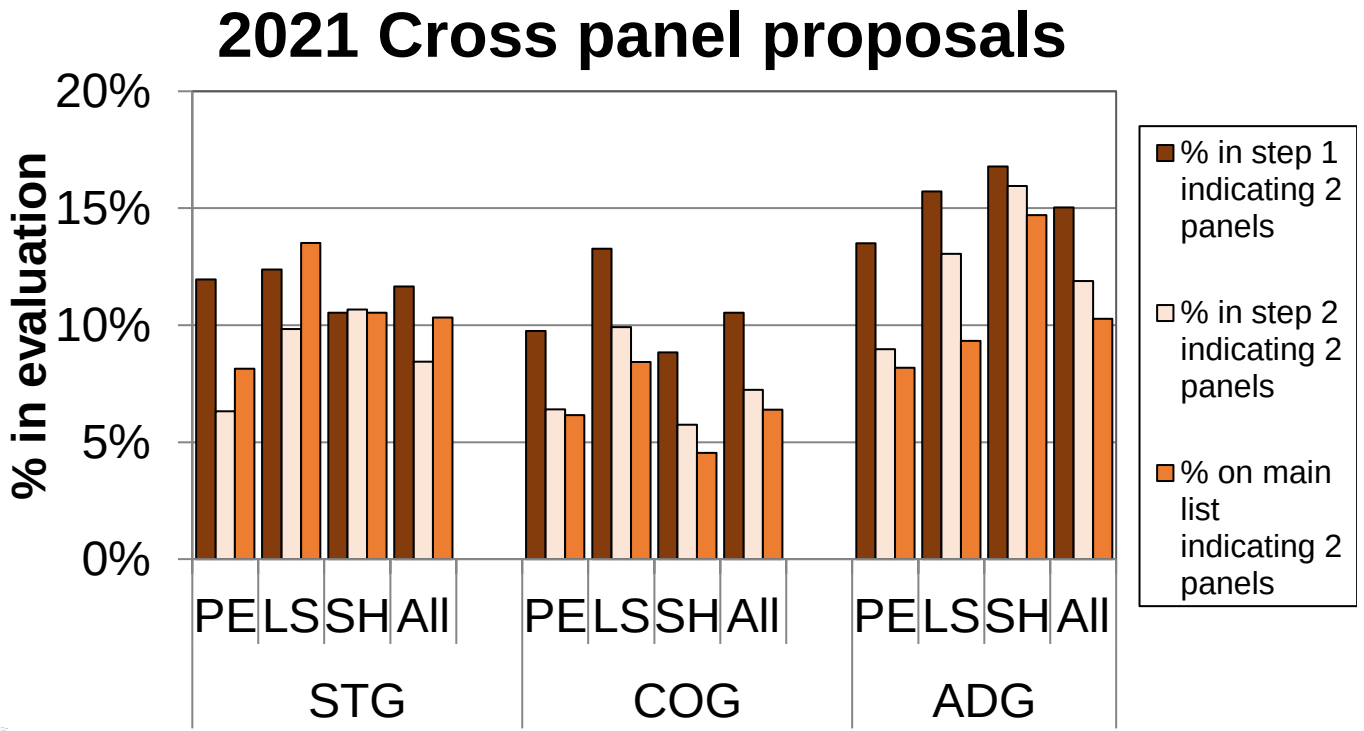
% Evaluation by domain

2008-2022 STG, COG and ADG



Cross-call evaluation issues

Cross Panel Proposals: 2021 Proposals with 2 different panels indicated at submission stage



Additional funding up to 1M €

Additional funding can be requested to cover the following costs:

(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.*

DORA
Updated guidance on the track record for applicants

In light of the DORA principles, the Scientific Council integrated the following advice in the ERC Work Programme:

- Journal Impact Factor: not accepted anymore among the field relevant bibliometric indicators that may be included as part of the publications track record;
- Track record: the achievements listed under each PI profile are not exclusive; any other achievements can be included if relevant to research field and project;
- Principal Investigators can provide a short narrative describing the scientific importance of the research outputs and the role played by the Principal Investigator in their production.

https://sfdora.org/resource/european-research-council-erc/

ERC Structure

The ERC Dedicated Implementation Structure - ERC Executive Agency

- Executes annual work programme as established by the Scientific Council
- Implements calls for proposals and provides information and support to applicants
- Organises peer review evaluation
- Establishes and manages grant agreements
- Administers scientific and financial aspects and follow-up of grant agreements
- Carries out communications activities and ensures information dissemination to ERC stakeholders

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