

Why to apply?

What ERC offers?

Creative Freedom of the Individual Grantee

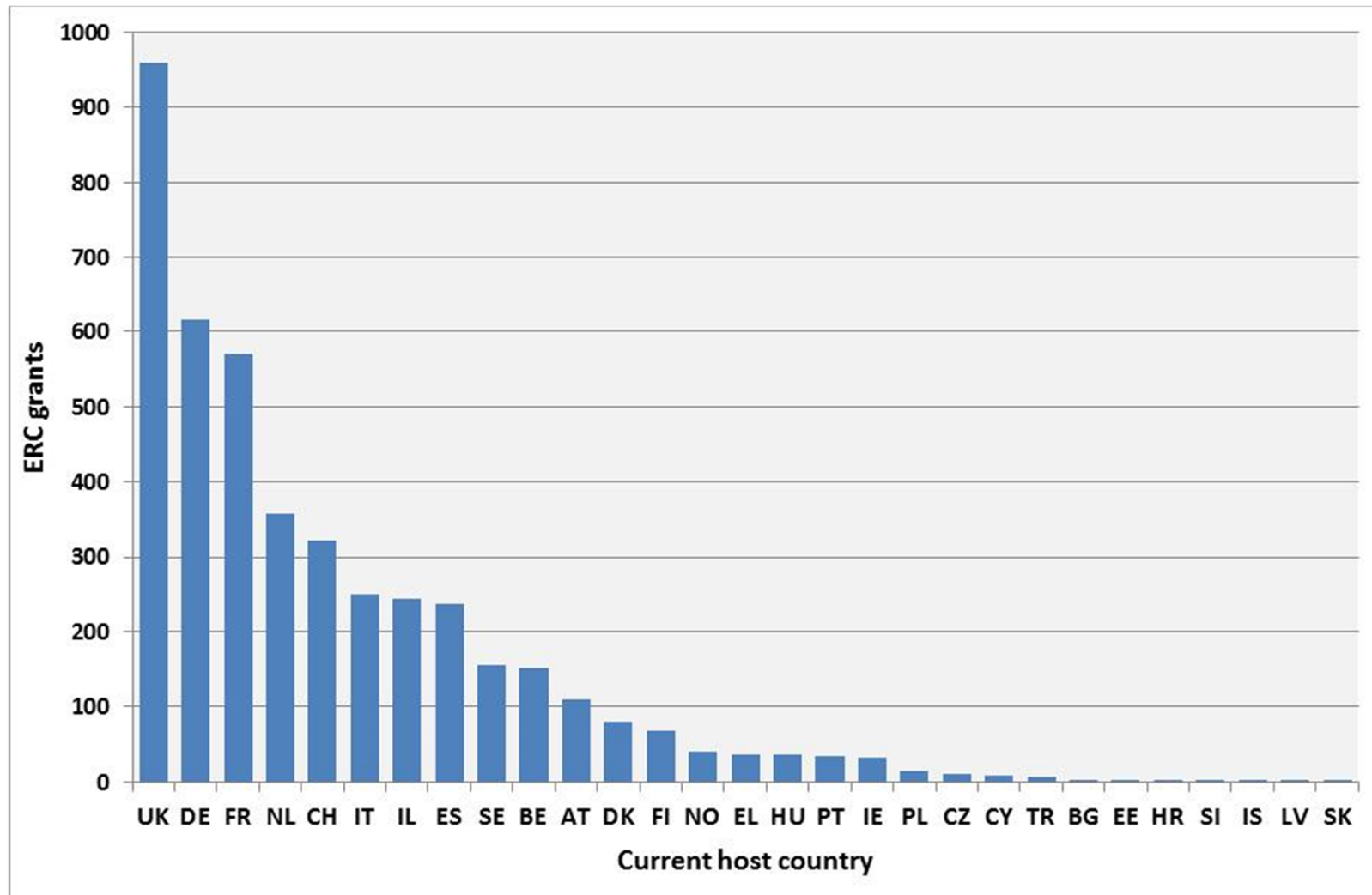
ERC offers independence, recognition & visibility

- to work on a research topic of **own choice**, with a team of **own choice**
- to gain true **financial autonomy** for 5 years
- to negotiate with the host institution the **best conditions** of work
- to attract **top team members** (EU and non-EU) **and collaborators**
- to move with the grant to any place in Europe if necessary (**portability of grants**)
- **to attract additional funding and gain recognition**; ERC is a quality label

ERC achievements

Grants per country of host institution

ERC Starting, Consolidator, Advanced Grant calls 2007-2013

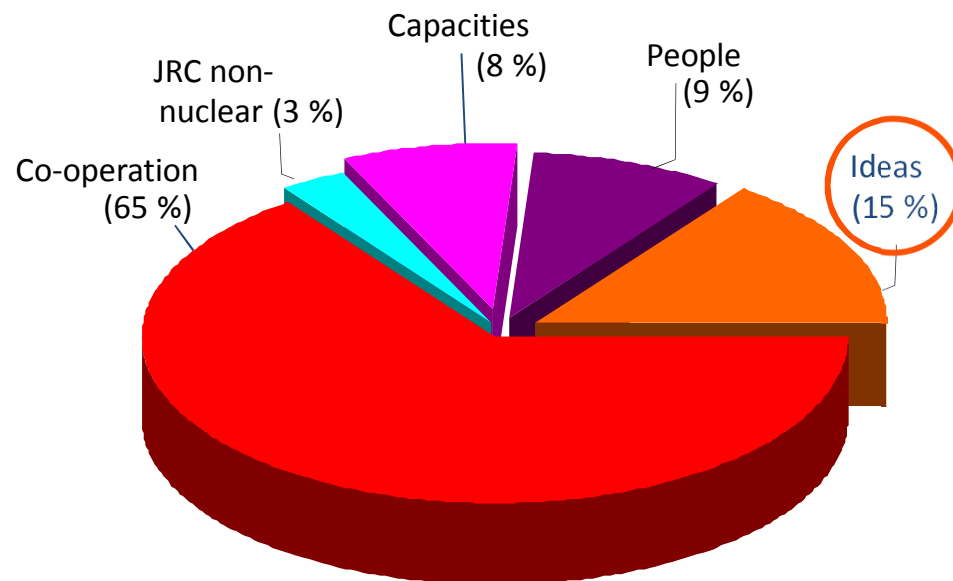


ERC in H2020

Budget Horizon 2020

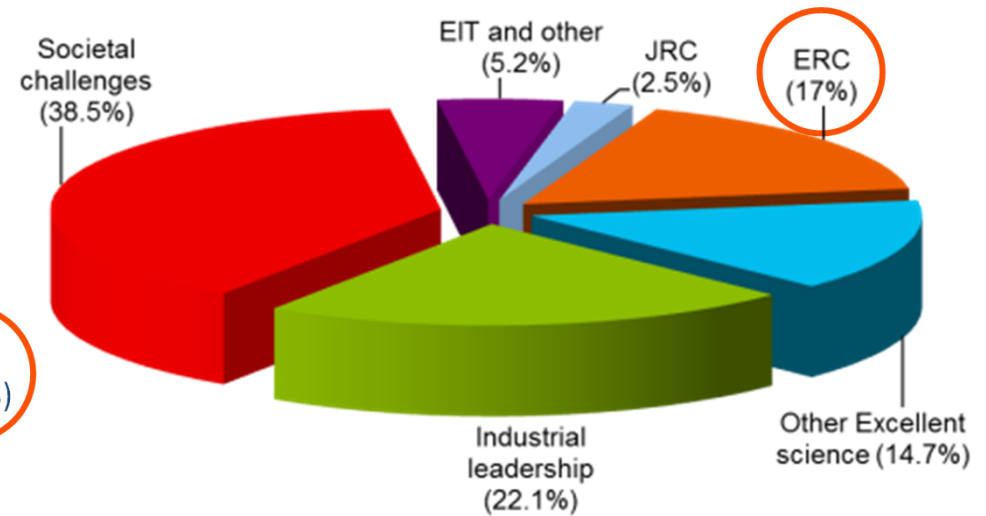
FP7 budget € 50.5 billion

ERC budget € 7.5 billion



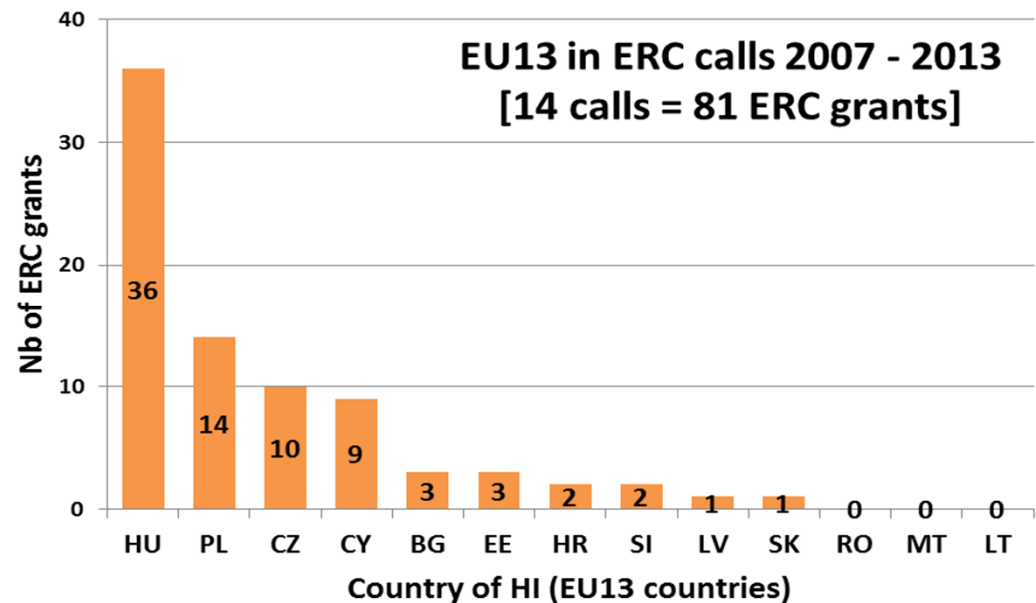
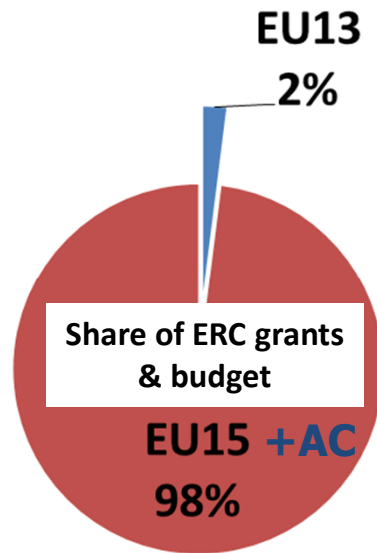
H2020 budget € 77 billion

ERC budget € 13.1 billion



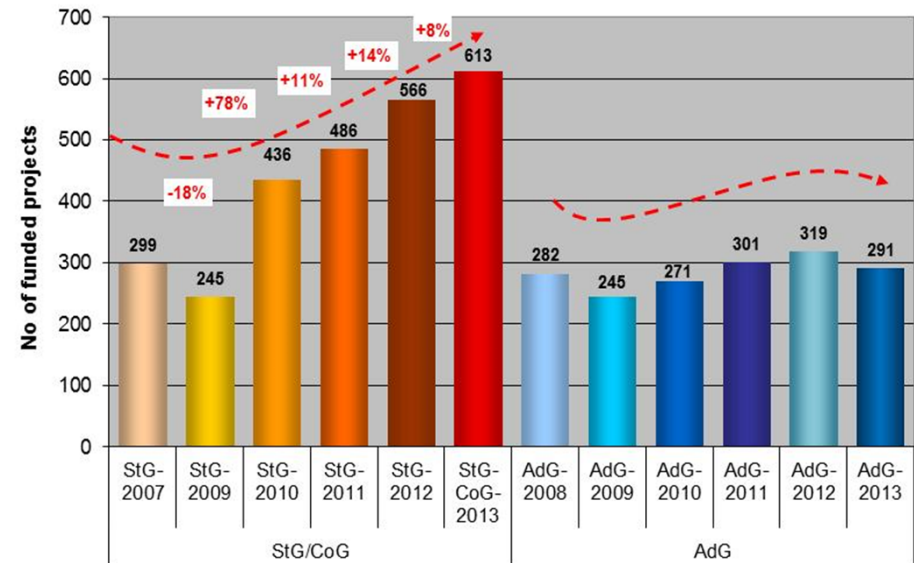
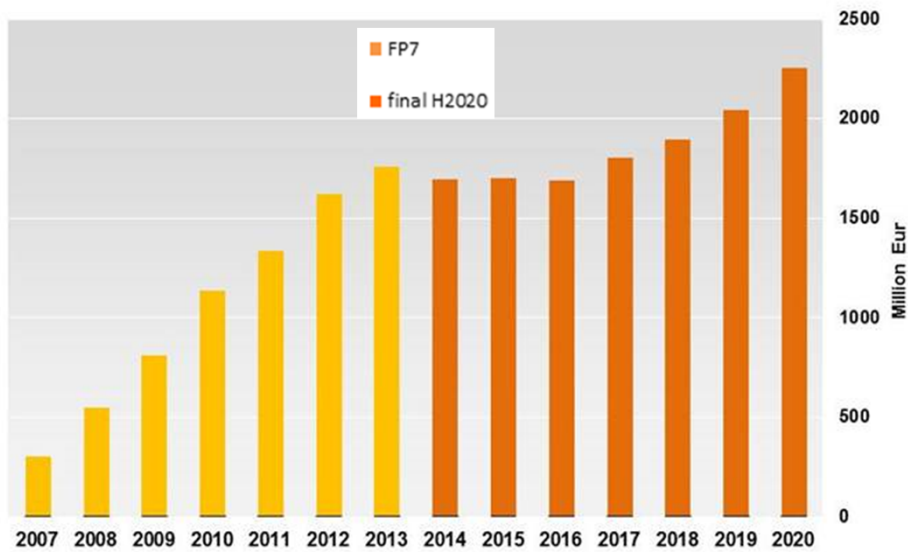
EU13 share of ERC

Share of EU13 experts in ERC evaluation panels = 8%



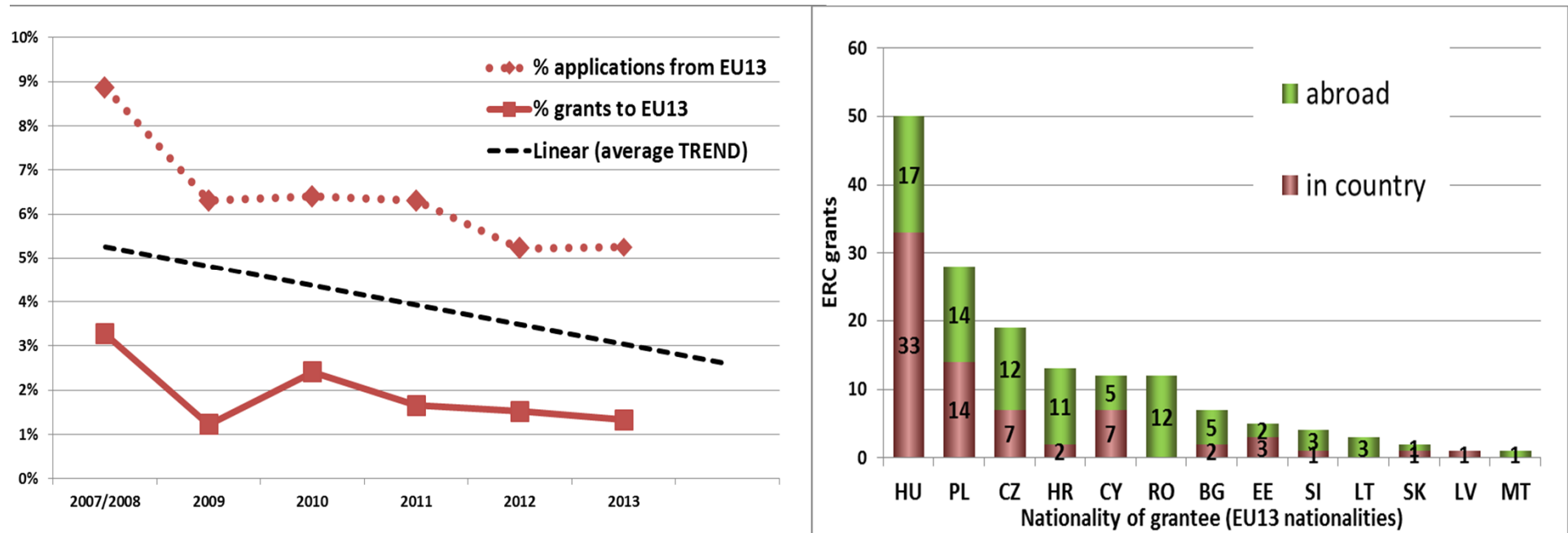
- Share of EU13 public researchers in EU&AC = 16%
- Share of EU13 highly (top 10%) cited publications in EU&AC = 5%
- Share of EU13 research investment (GERD) in EU&AC = 3%

ERC Budget and funding trends



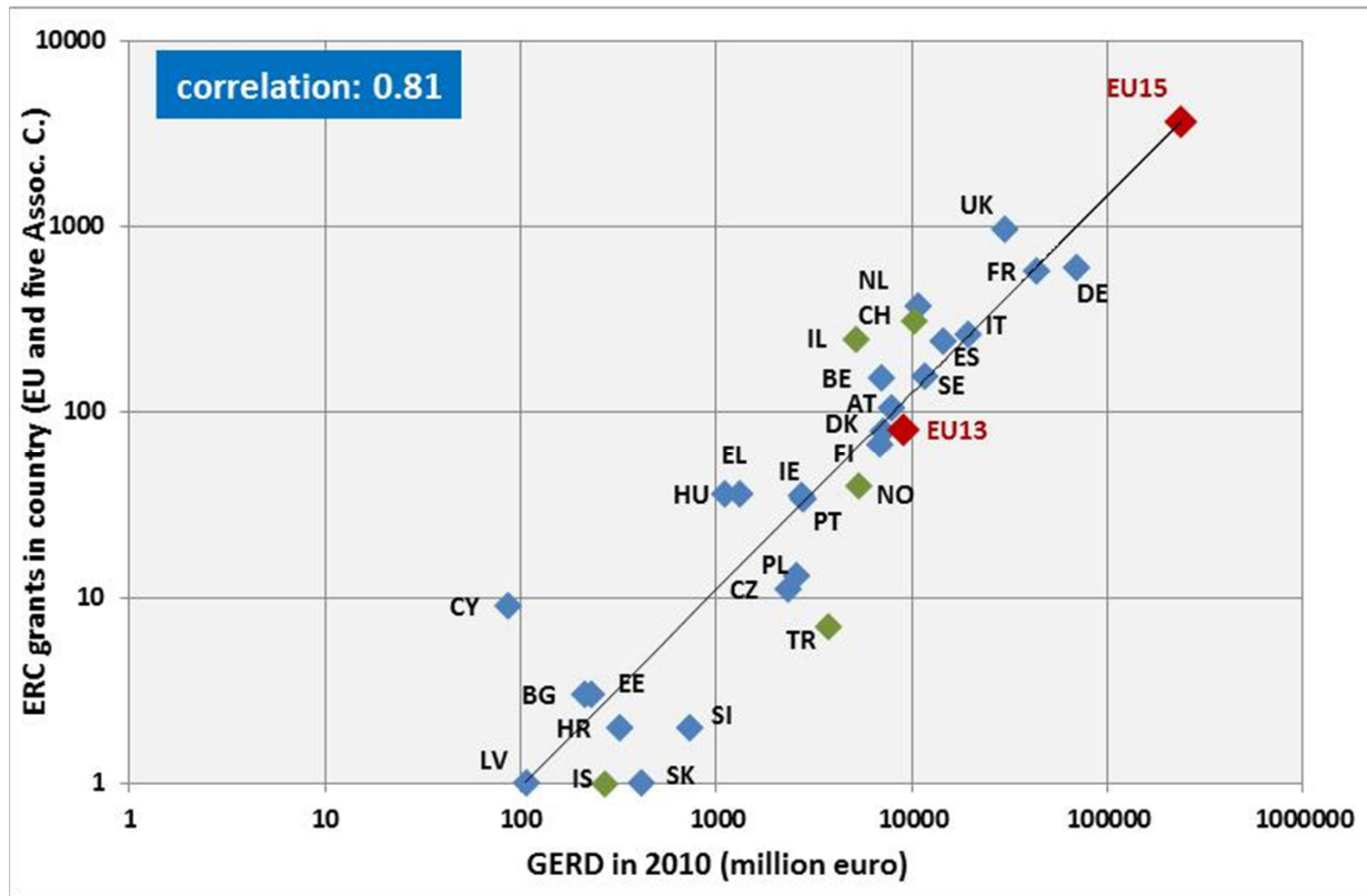
- ERC annual budget of €1700 million (2013)
- ERC awarding some 900 grants annually (2013)
- Average ERC grant size of about 2€ million
- 25% overhead costs for institutions hosting ERC grants

EU13 participation trends in ERC calls FP7



- Low and declining relative participation rate of EU13 in ERC calls
- Significant share (55%) of EU13 nationals/grantees have their grant based abroad

Distribution of ERC Grants vs. R&D Expenditure by Country of HI FP7



ERC ScC: major priorities in 2015 and beyond

- **Gender equality**
- Ensure all measures possible to ensure fairness and equal opportunities
- **Widening European participation**
 - Particularly encourage EU 13 participation

Gender equality, extended eligibility windows

Eligibility window can be **EXTENDED** in StG & CoG unlimited for following cases:

- **Maternity leave:** 1.5 years per child before or after deadline
- **Paternity leave:** for whatever documented paternity leave that has been taken before or after deadline
- National service, **long-term illness** (applicant/family member), clinical training: whatever documented time after deadline

The ERC Scientific Council Working Group on Widening European Participation

- ✓ To contribute to a truly inclusive European culture of competitiveness in science
- ✓ To increase participation in the ERC calls of researchers from the Europe's less research-performing regions
- ✓ To facilitate systematic debate and interactions with relevant stakeholders to promote local support for promising scientists from EU's less research-performing regions

SURVEY

Widening participation Survey results

Drawbacks identified by Hungarian researchers

- shortage of vibrating scientific atmosphere, open-mindedness,
- lack of support for frontier research
- lack of motivation,
- extremely low salaries,
- jealousy of non-ERC grantees and decision-makers does not help to maintain ERC groups,
- complete administrative incompetence in handling EU funds,
- unforeseen difficulties,
- hard to attract people from outside the country,
- administration is not prepared to handle EU grants,
- separated from cutting edge international science,
- poor research infrastructure
- lack of long-term perspective,
- lack of critical mass in science,

Recommendations from Hungarian applicants

- ERC should remain a grant for the very best researchers
- encourage good researchers to apply for ERC grants,
- the best proposals submitted to the National Science Fund (OTKA) should be encouraged to go for an ERC grant,
- leaders : strong support of ERC applications,
- consultation, advising and forums with former applicants, leading scientists
- trainings for potential applicants (NCPs, institutes, ...)
- grant managers should be better trained to better solve administrative issues related to the management of ERC grants,
- host institutions should make themselves attractive for future applicants, make clear what do they offer in terms of infrastructure, extra financing and HR

Tasks

- ❖ Applicant
- ❖ Host Institution
- ❖ Scientific community
- ❖ Academy/Universities
- ❖ National funding Agencies
- ❖ ERC

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