The European Research Council

Kulcsár Ágnes
call coordinator
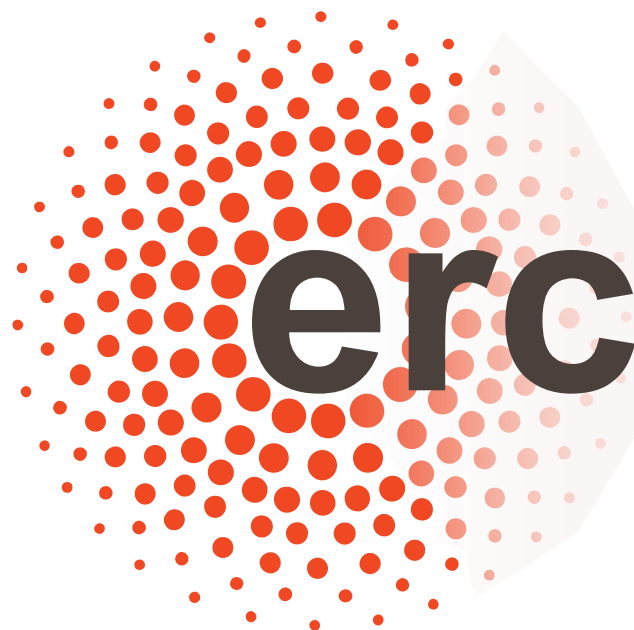*Call and Project Follow-Up Coordination*
Scientific Management Department

ERC grant funding schemes

„A Horizon 2020 Európai Uniós kutatás-fejlesztési keretprogram kutatói pályázatai"
26 November 2014 Szeged

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Outline

- **What is ERC?**
  - **Principles, Structure**

- **Funding opportunities**
  - Grant types
  - Submission and evaluation process
  - Hints and tips

- **Hungary's participation**

ERC Basics - What is ERC?

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

The ERC supports excellence in frontier research through a bottom-up, individual-based, pan-European competition

**Budget:** € 13 billion (2014-2020) - 1.9 billion €/year

Legislation
- Scientific governance: independent Scientific Council with 22 members including the ERC President; full authority over funding strategy
- Support by the ERC Executive Agency (autonomous)
- Excellence as the only criterion

Strategy
- Support for the individual scientist – no networks!
- Global peer-review
- No predetermined subjects (bottom-up)
- Support of frontier research in all fields of science and humanities

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ERC basics
ERC Scientific Council Members (22)

- Prof. Klaus BOCK (Chemistry)
- **Prof. Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON (Mathematics), ERC President**
- Prof. Nicholas CANNY (History)
- Prof. Sierd A.P.L. CLOETINGH (Earth Sciences)
- Prof. Tomasz DIETL (Physics)
- Prof. Daniel DOLEV (Computer Sciences)
- Prof. Athene DONALD (Biological Physics)
- Dr. Barbara ENSOLI (Medicine)
- Prof. Pavel EXNER (Applied Mathematics & Mathematical Physics), **ERC Vice-President**
- Prof. Reinhard GENZEL (Astrophysics)
- Prof. Carl-Henrik HELDIN (Molecular Cell Biology), **ERC Vice-President**
- Prof. Timothy HUNT (Biology)
- Prof. Matthias KLEINER (Engineering)
- **Prof. Éva KONDOROSI** (Biology)
- Prof. Mart SAARMA (Biology)
- Prof. Nuria SEBASTIAN GALLES (Psychology), **ERC Vice-President**
- Prof. Nils Christian STENSETH (Ecology & Evolution)
- Prof. Martin STOKHOF (Philosophy)
- Prof. Anna TRAMONTANO (Biochemistry)
- Prof. Isabelle VERNOS (Molecular and Cell Biology)
- Prof. Reinhilde VEUGELERS (Economics)
- Prof. Michel WIEVIORKA (Sociology)
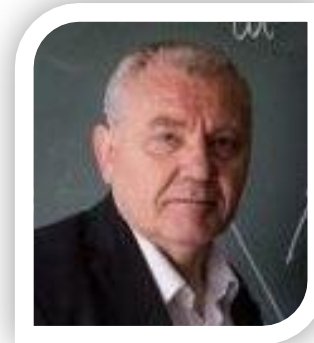
ERC Grant schemes

Starting Grants

starters
(2-7 years after PhD)
    up to € 2.0 Mio
for 5 years

Consolidator Grants

consolidators
(7-12 years after PhD)
    up to € 2.75 Mio
for 5 years

Advanced Grants
track-record of
    significant research
    achievements in
    the last 10 years
        up to € 3.5 Mio
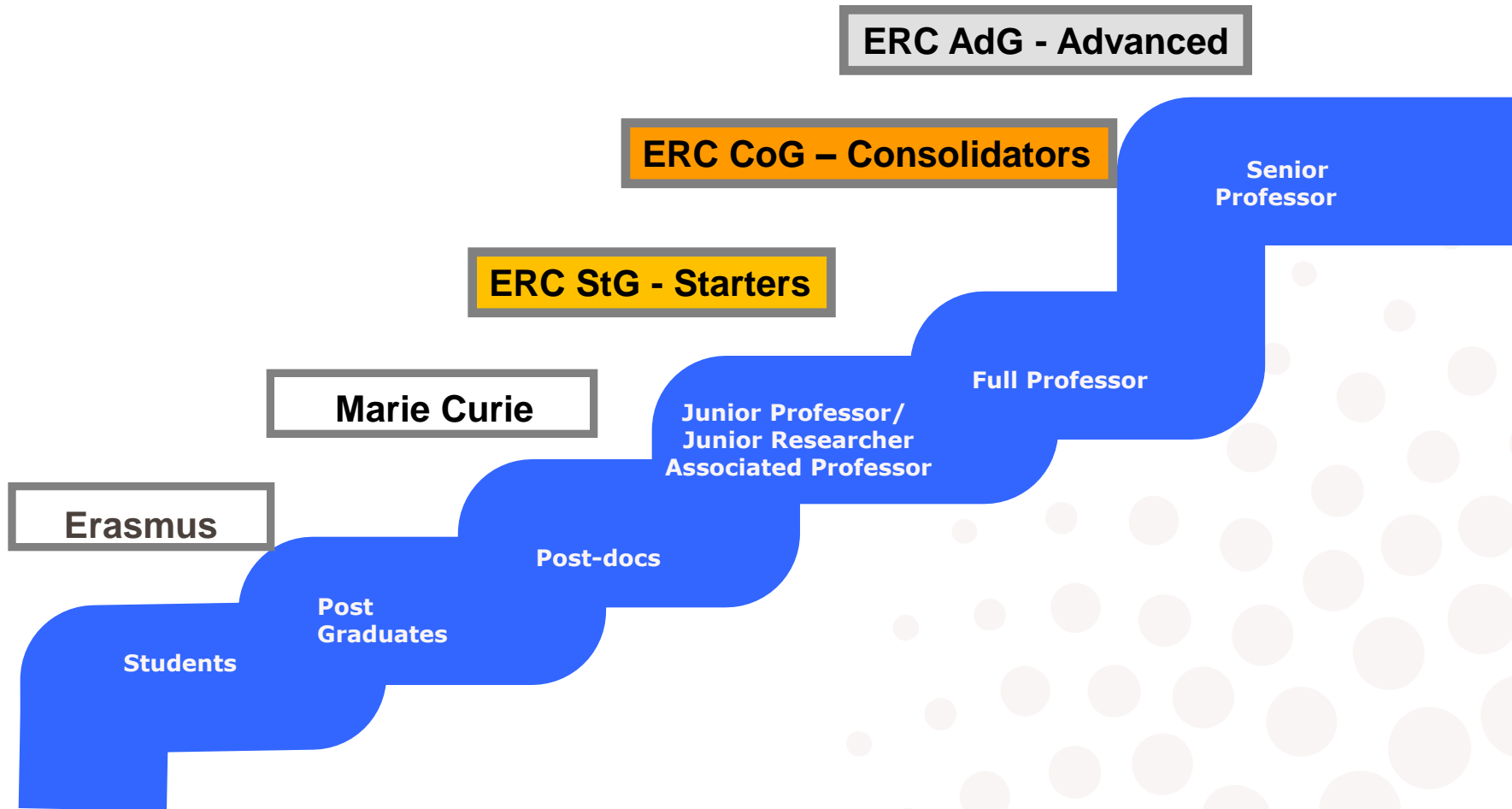
for 5 years

Proof-of-Concept
bridging gap between research – earliest
    stage of marketable innovation
    up to €150,000 for ERC grant holders

Researchers career development and complementary funding schemes

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ERC AdG - Advanced

ERC CoG – Consolidators

Senior Professor

ERC StG - Starters

Full Professor

Marie Curie

Junior Professor/
Junior Researcher
Associated Professor

Erasmus

Post-docs

Post Graduates

Students

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Submission of Proposals
ERC Work Programme 2015 calendar

ERC calls	Budget	Call Publication	Submission Deadline(s)
Starting Grants ERC-2015-StG	485 M€	7 October 2014	**3 February 2015**
Consolidator Grants ERC-2015-CoG	713 M€	13 November 2014	**12 March 2015**
Advanced Grants ERC-2015-AdG	450 M€	10 February 2015	**2 June 2015**
Proof of Concept ERC-2015-PoC	15 M€	7 November 2014	5 February 2015 28 May 2015 1 October 2015

ERC Starting and Consolidator Grants 2015
The applicant's profile

"Am I competitive enough?"

- Potential for research independence
- Evidence of scientific maturity
- At least one (StG) /several (CoG) publications without participation of PhD supervisor

Condition StG: PhD **at least 2 and up to 7 years before 1 January 2015**
Condition CoG: PhD **over 7 and up to 12 years before 1 January 2015**

Promising track-record of early achievements

- Significant publications
- Invited presentations in conferences
- Funding, patents, awards, prizes

All these need to be shown in your proposal that will include your CV and an early achievements track record.

ERC Advanced Grants
The applicant's profile

- Track-record of significant research achievements <u>in the last 10 years</u>

- Exceptional leaders and mentors

- 10 publications as senior author in major scientific journals, or 3 major research monograph

Alternative benchmarks

- 5 granted patents

- 10 invited presentations at international conferences

- 3 international conferences where Principal Investigator was an organiser

- International prizes/awards

ERC Evaluation process (StG, CoG & AdG)
Panel structure: 3 domains and 25 panels

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Each panel :
Panel Chair and
10-15 Panel Members

Life Sciences (LS) - 9 panels

LS1 Molecular & Structural Biology & Biochemistry

LS2 Genetics, Genomics, Bioinformatics & Systems Biology

LS3 Cellular & Developmental Biology

LS4 Physiology, Pathophysiology & Endocrinology

LS5 Neurosciences & Neural disorders

LS6 Immunity & Infection

LS7 Diagnostic Tools, Therapies & Public health

LS8 Evolutionary, Population & Environmental Biology

LS9 Applied Life Sciences & Non-Medical Biotechnology

Social Sciences and Humanities (SH) - 6 panels

SH1 Markets, Individuals & Institutions

SH2 The Social World, Diversity & Common Ground

SH3 Environment, Space & Population

SH4 The Human Mind and its Complexity

SH5 Cultures & Cultural Production

SH6 The Study of the Human Past

Physical Sciences & Engineering (PE) - 10 panels

PE1 Mathematics

PE2 Fundamental Constituents of Matter

PE3 Condensed Matter Physics

PE4 Physical & Analytical Chemical sciences

PE5 Synthetic Chemistry & Materials

PE6 Computer Science & Informatics

PE7 Systems & Communication Engineering

PE8 Products & Process Engineering

PE9 Universe Sciences

PE10 Earth System Science

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Online Submission
Proposal structure

Administrative forms (Part A)

1 – General information
2 – Administrative data of participating organisations
3 – Budget
4 – Ethics
5 – Call specific questions

Administrative forms

Annexes

Commitment of the host institution
PhD certificates, etc

Part B1 (submitted as pdf)
Evaluated in Step 1 & Step 2

Text box - Cross-domain nature explanation
a – Extended synopsis   5 pages
b – Curriculum vitae   2 pages
Appendix – Funding ID
c - Track-record   2 pages

Part B2 (submitted as pdf)
Not evaluated in Step 1 (Step 2 only)

Scientific proposal   15 pages
a – State-of-the-art and objectives
b – Methodology
c – Resources

Guidelines and Recommendations in the 2015 Information for Applicants

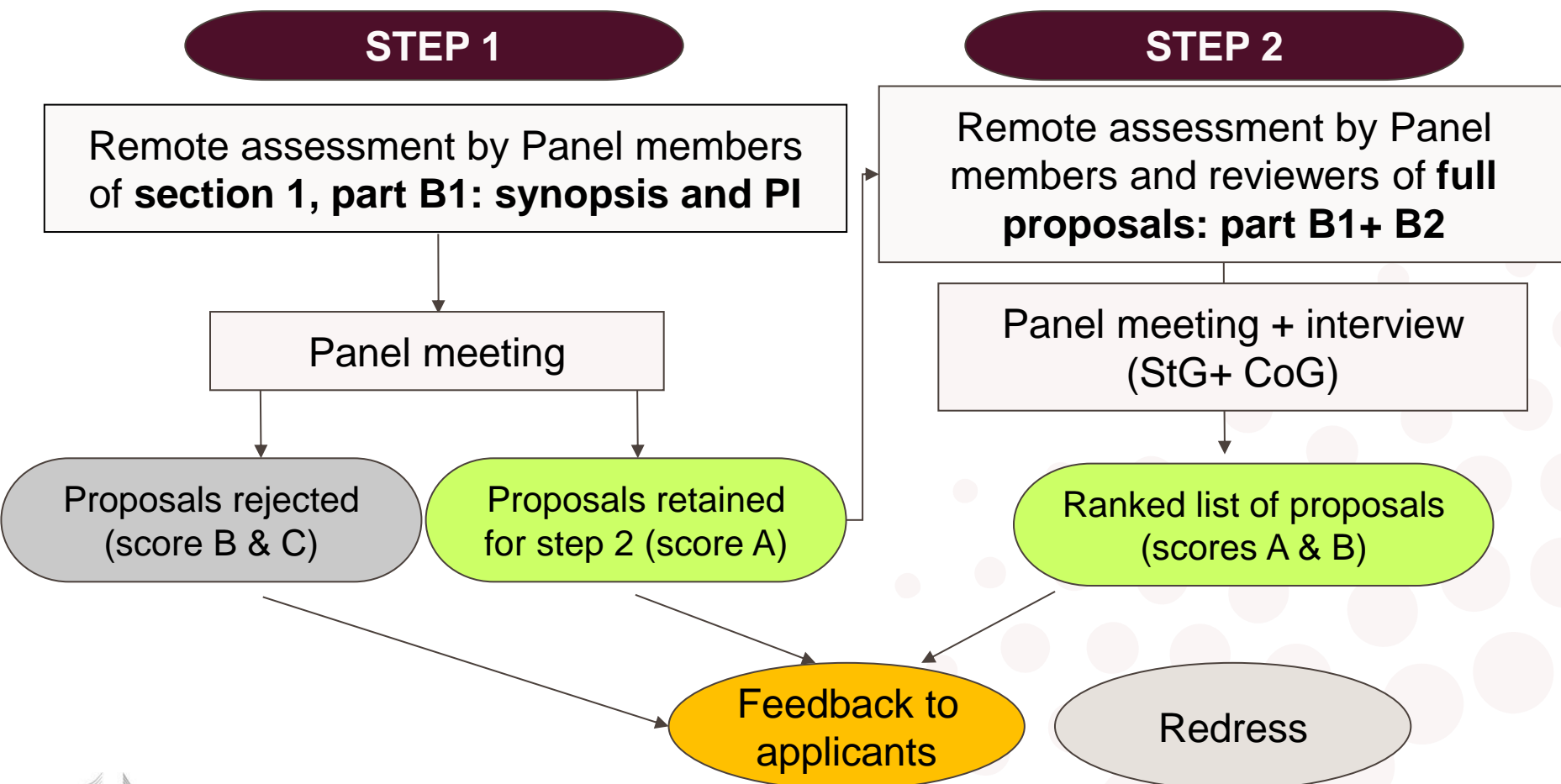# How are the proposals evaluated?

Evaluation procedure – StG, CoG and AdG calls
Single submission, but a two-step evaluation

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STEP 1

Remote assessment by Panel members of **section 1, part B1: synopsis and PI**

Panel meeting

Proposals rejected (score B & C)

Proposals retained for step 2 (score A)

STEP 2

Remote assessment by Panel members and reviewers of **full proposals: part B1+ B2**

Panel meeting + interview (StG+ CoG)

Ranked list of proposals (scores A & B)

Feedback to applicants

Redress

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What is evaluated?

Excellence is the sole evaluation criterion
check the criteria in the Work Programme!

Excellence of the Research Project

- ✓ **Ground breaking nature** Important challenge? Substantially beyond the current state of art? High-gain/high-risk balance
- ✓ **Potential impact** Possibility of a major break-through?
- ✓ **Scientific Approach Feasibility, novel concepts/methodology**

• Excellence of the Principal Investigator

- ✓ **Intellectual capacity:** Track-record, capacity to go significantly beyond the state of the art, evidence of creative independent thinking
- ✓ **Creativity**
- ✓ **Commitment :** Willing to devote a significant part of PI's working time (minimum of 50% for Starting, minimum of 40% for Consolidator Grant, minimum of 30% for Advanced Grant)

Referees and panels **evaluate and score** each criterion, which results
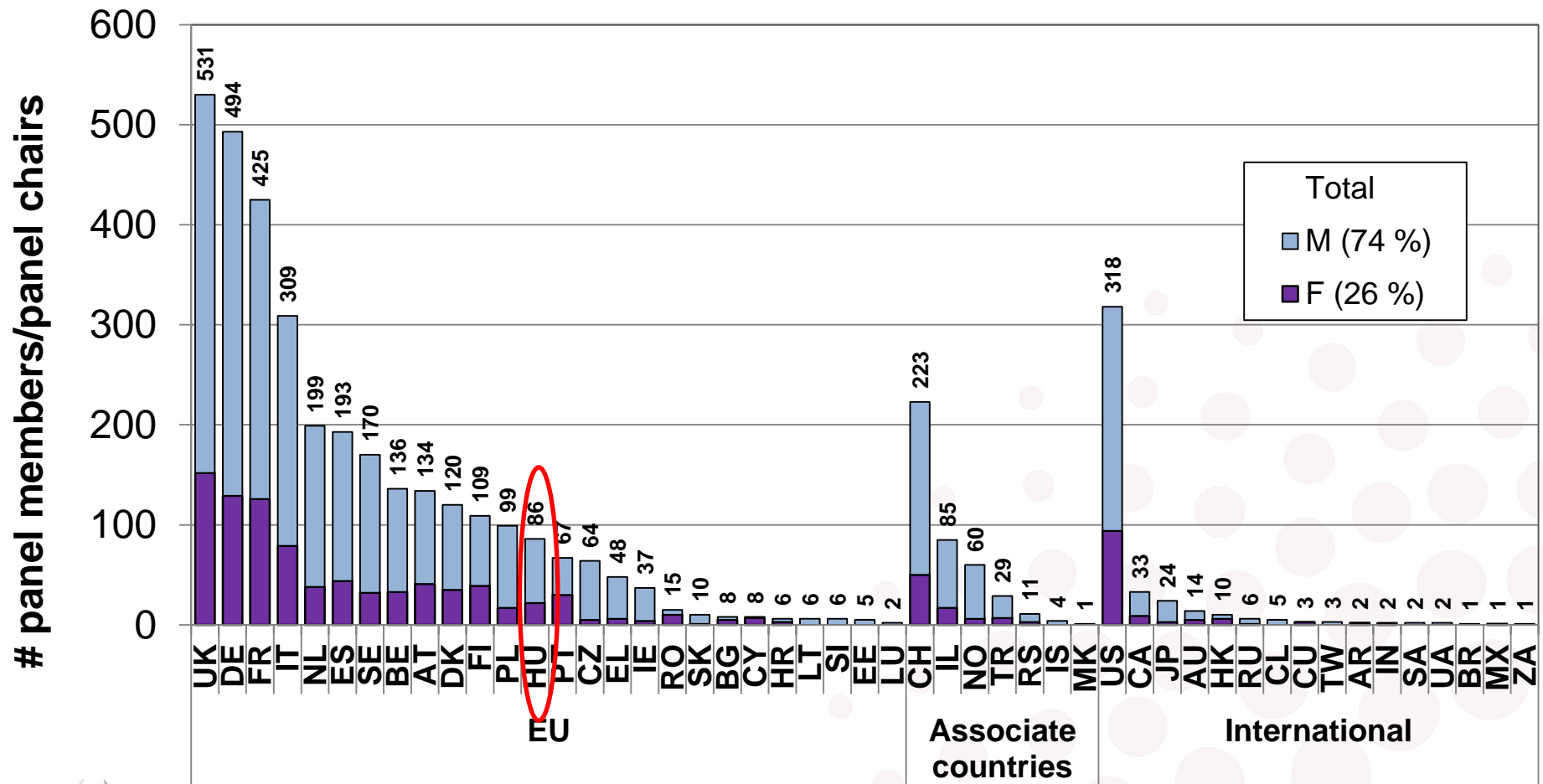
in a ranking of the proposals.

ERC panel members by country of HI and gender

ERC Starting, Consolidator and Advanced grant calls 2007 - 2013

Preparing an application
Hints and tips (Generalities)

- **Register early**, get familiar with the system and templates and start filling in the forms

- A submitted proposal can be **revised until the call deadline** by submitting a new version and overwriting the previous one

- Follow the formatting rules and page limits.

- Download and proof-read the proposal before submitting.

- Make use of the **help tools and call documents** (Information for Applicants, Work Programme, Frequently asked questions) to prepare your proposal

- Talk to the National Contact Points and your University grant offices

Submission of Proposals
Differences in Part B1 and Part B2

In Step 1: **Panel members** (generalists and with multidisciplinary approaches) see <u>only</u> **Part B1** of your proposal: Prepare it accordingly!

- Pay particular attention to the **ground-breaking nature** of the research project – no incremental research. State-of-the-art is not enough. Think big!

- Know your competitors – what is the **state of play** and why is your idea and scientific approach outstanding?

- <u>Only</u> the extended Synopsis is read at Step 1: **concise and clear presentation** is crucial (evaluators are not necessarily all experts in the field)

- Outline of the **methodological approach** (feasibility)

- Show your **scientific independence** in your CV (model CV provided in the part B1 template)

- Avoid any suspicion of **plagiarism**

- Funding ID to be filled in

Submission of Proposals
Differences in Part B1 and Part B2

- In Step 2: <u>Both</u> **Part B1 and B2** are sent to specialists around the world (**specialised external referees**)

  - Do not just repeat the synopsis

  - Provide **sufficient detail** on methodology, work plan, selection of case studies etc. (15 pages)

  - Check coherency of figures, **justify requested resources**

  - Explain **involvement of team members**

  - Provide alternative strategies to **mitigate risk**

Resubmission restrictions

- Ever increasing number of applications causes low success rates and high panel workload

- For 2014 call applicants:

    - those who receive a B (Step 1 or Step 2) have to wait out one year

    - those who receive a C will have to wait out two years

    - rule maintained in 2015

Main features in 2015

- Continuity, continuity, continuity

- Strict resubmission restrictions – as in 2014

- Recommended model CV

- Obligation for Open Access

- 25 % HI overhead

- Funding ID in part B1

- Cross-domain explanation to be provided in part B1

Preparing an application
Check the already **Funded Projects**

Menu allows searching by Funding Scheme, Research Area, Country of Host Institution.

Preparing the application
Check the statistics on granted projects and on submissions

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Menu allows searching by Funding Scheme, Call year, Domain/Panel and Grantees by Country of Host Institution.

| Home | Funding and Grants | Projects and Results | Media and Events | About ERC | Contact |

You are here: Homepage > Projects and Results > Statistics

ERC Funded Projects
Prizes and Awards
ERC Stories
Statistics

Statistics

This page provides basic statistics for ERC funding activities.

Please note that the data reflects the current status of the granting process. Therefore the total number of grants and grant distribution might differ from the indicative statistics, published at the release of the results, which are based on the outcome of evaluation process.

You can use the menu on the left to select different views on the data.

View statistics by

| Granted projects | Evaluated projects |

Funding scheme
Call year
Domain / Panel
Show number of grantees by

| Start/Show | Clear all |

ERC Call	Applications received	Of which		
		Evaluated*	Funded	Success rates (%)**
Starting Grant 2007	9,167	8,787	299	3.4
Starting Grant 2009	2,503	2,392	245	10.2
Starting Grant 2010	2,873	2,767	436	15.8
Starting Grant 2011	4,080	4,005	486	12.1
Starting Grant 2012	4,741	4,652	566	12.2
Starting Grant 2013	3,329	3,266	300	9.2
Consolidator Grant 2013	3,673	3,604	313	8.7
Starting & Consolidator Grant total	30,366	29,462	2,645	10.3***

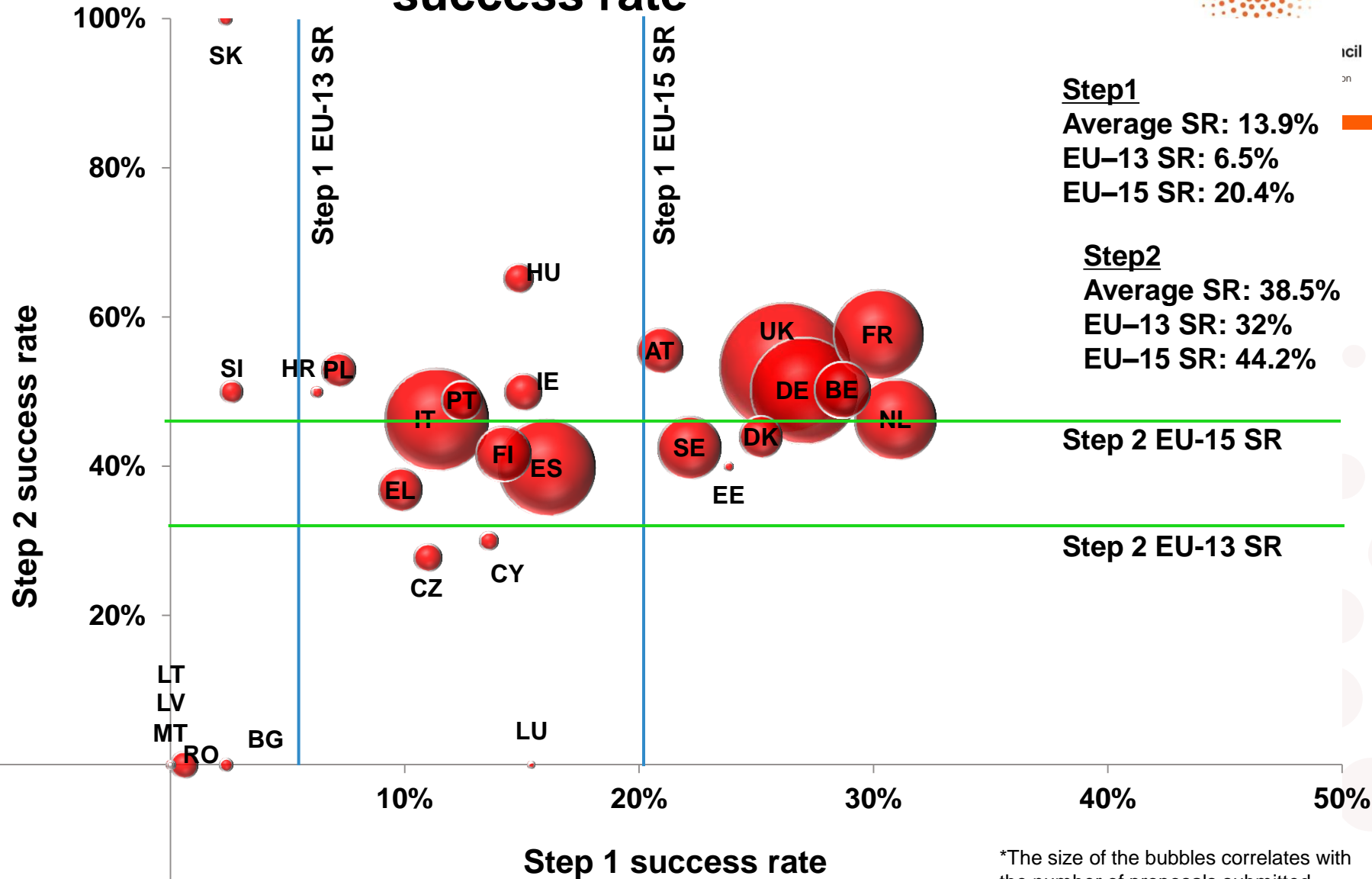# Hungary's participation

Success rates per country of Host Institution

ERC STG/ADG/COG
Success rate for all calls in FP7:2007-2013
(Overall success rate = 10.4 %)
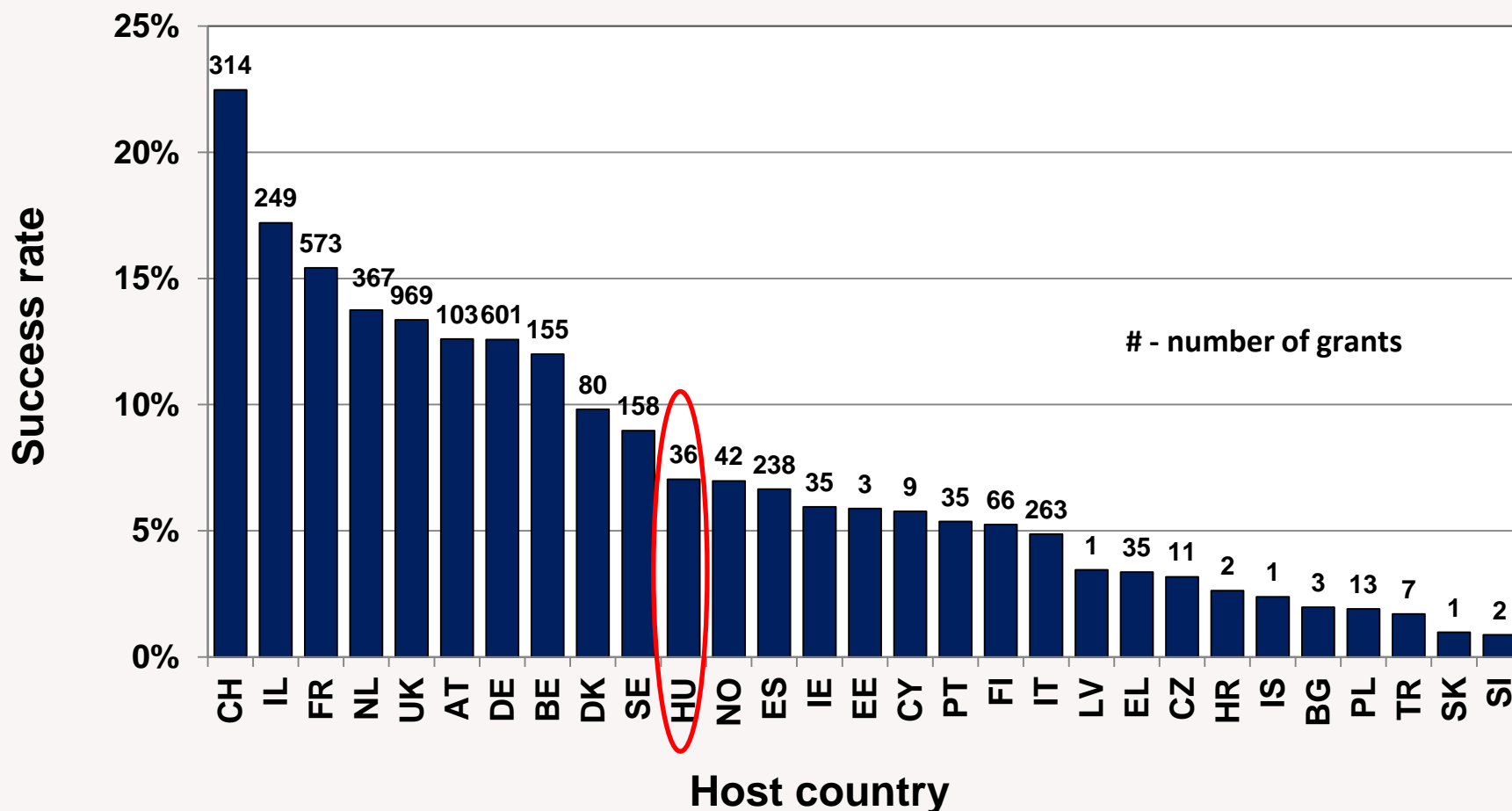
StG 2009-2013 step 1 success rate vs step 2 success rate*

*The size of the bubbles correlates with the number of proposals submitted

AdG 2008-2013 Step 1 success rate vs step 2 success rate*

Step1
Average SR: 20.5%
EU–13 SR: 9.6%
EU–15 SR: 30%

Step2
Average SR: 34.2%
EU–13 SR: 33%
EU–15 SR: 35.2%

Step 1 EU-13 SR

Step 1 EU-15 SR

Step 2 EU-15 SR
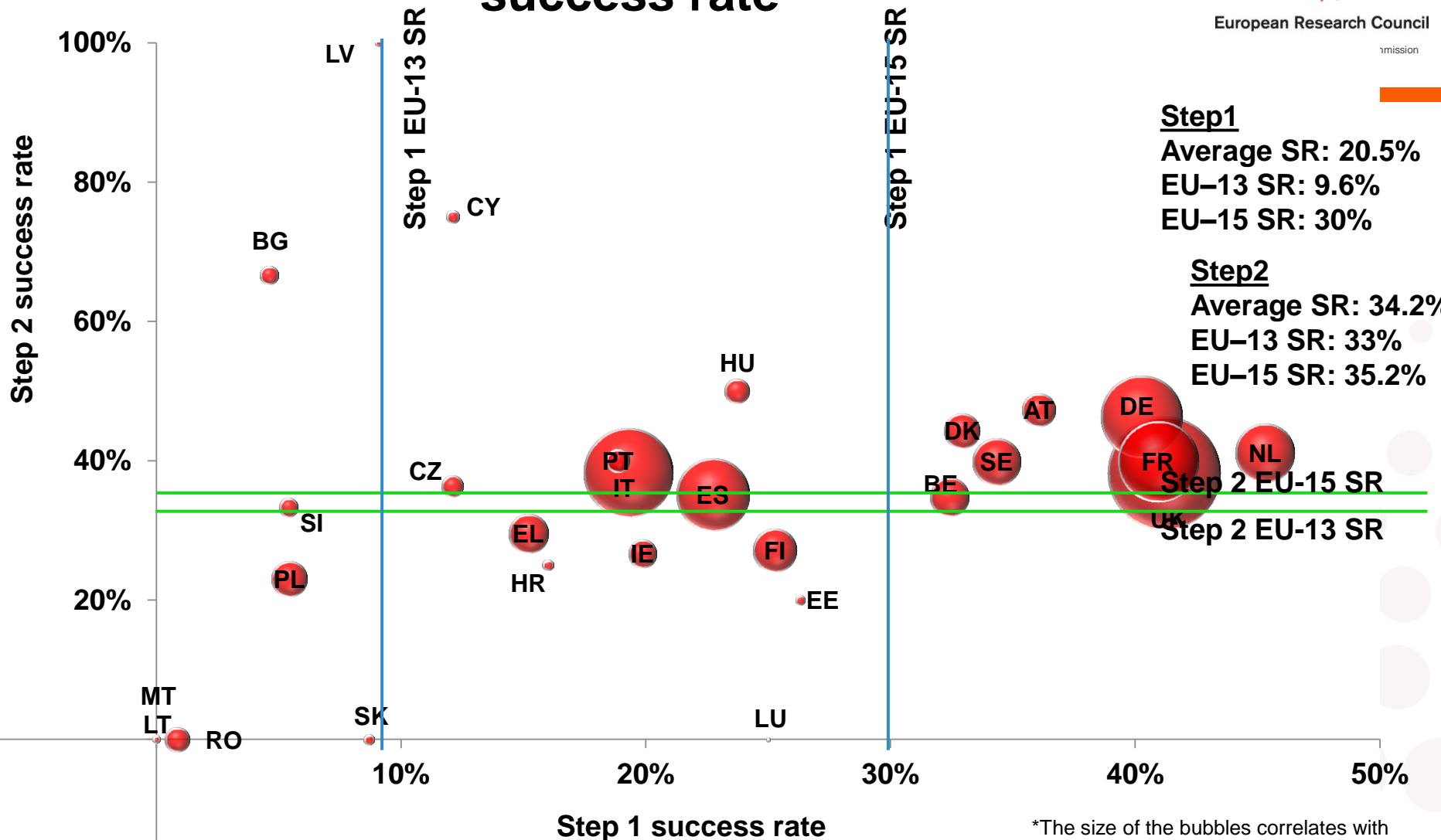
Step 2 EU-13 SR
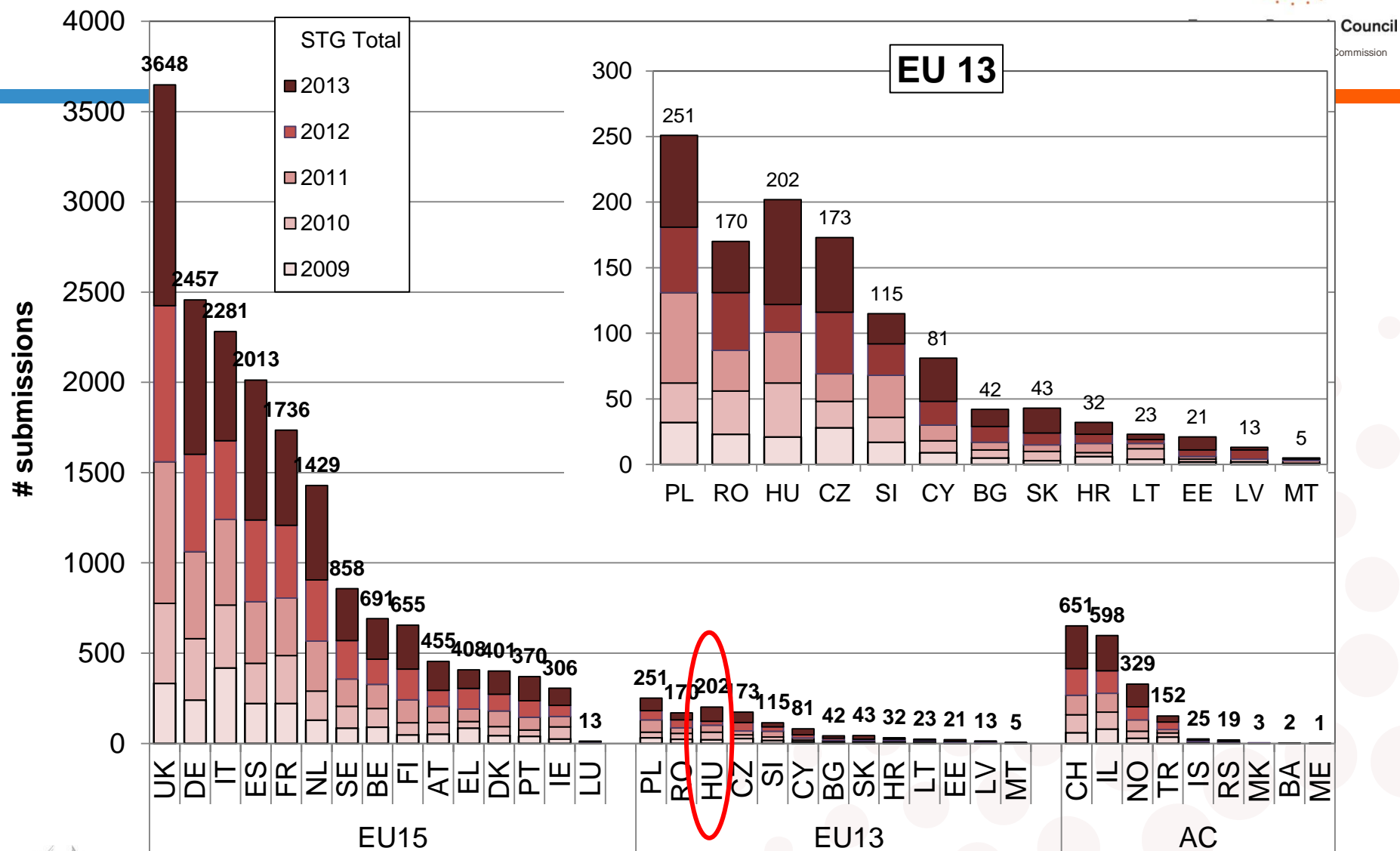
Step 2 success rate

Step 1 success rate

*The size of the bubbles correlates with the number of proposals submitted

StG 2009-2013 no. of proposals submitted

AdG 2008-2013 no. of proposals submitted
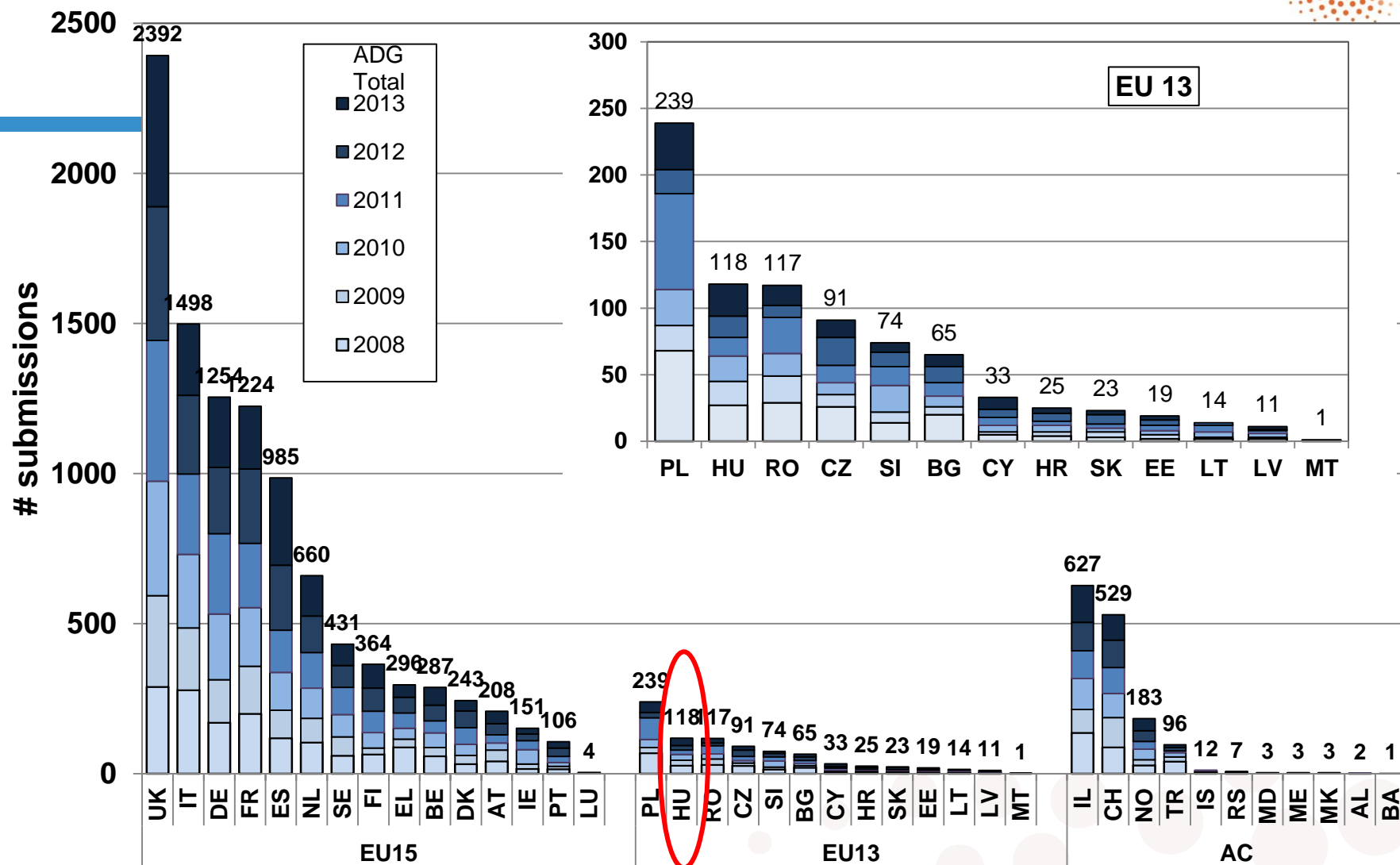
Country sheet - HUNGARY

**ERC 2008-2013
Participation rates
HUNGARY**

Chart legend (top right):
- ADG
- STG/COG
- Linear (ADG)
- Linear (STG/COG)

Y-axis: # proposals — 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100
X-axis (Year): 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013

Bar chart legend:
- % in evaluation from host country
- % in step 2 from host country
- % on main list from host country

Y-axis: % in category — 0%, 1%, 2%
X-axis: 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 (ADG); 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 (STG/COG)

ADG   STG/COG
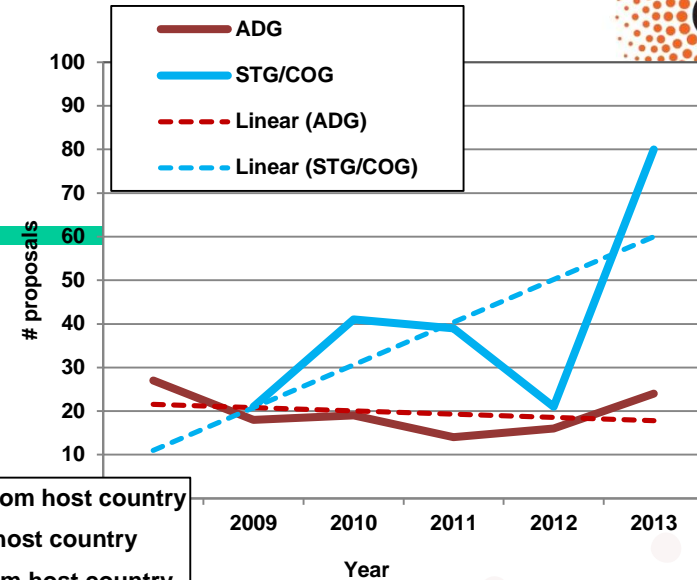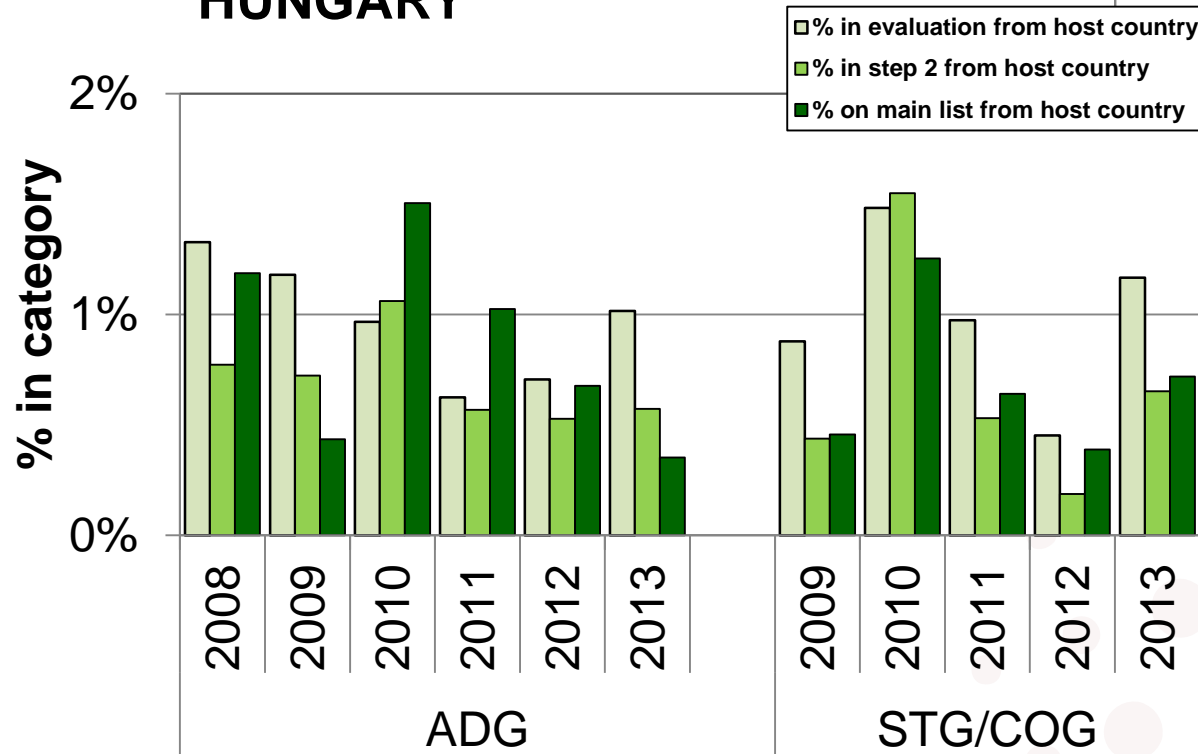
ERC 2007-2013
39 funded projects in Hungary

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Institution	STG/COG	ADG	POC	SyG
Central European University	6	2		1
Alfred Renyi Institute of Mathematics (HAS)	1	4		
Szeged University	2	2		
Eotvos Lorand University	2	2		
Budapest University of Technology and…	3	1		
Institute of Experimental Medicine (HAS)	1	2		
Biological Research Centre (HAS)	1	1		
Computer and Automation Research…	1			
Research Centre for Natural Sciences (HAS)	1			
Semmelweis University	1			
Institute of Nuclear Research (HAS)	1			
University of Pecs		1		
Wigner Research Centre for Physics (HAS)	1			
Drugmotif			1	
Medimass			1	

Legend: STG/COG (21), ADG (15), POC (2), SyG (1)

Information sources

More information on

http://erc.europa.eu

To subscribe to the ERC newsletter

http://erc.europa.eu/keep-updated-erc

National Contact Points -

http://erc.europa.eu/national-contact-points

Where to apply

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/index.html

Your University grant offices

Thank you!