

# European Research Council: Funding Opportunities

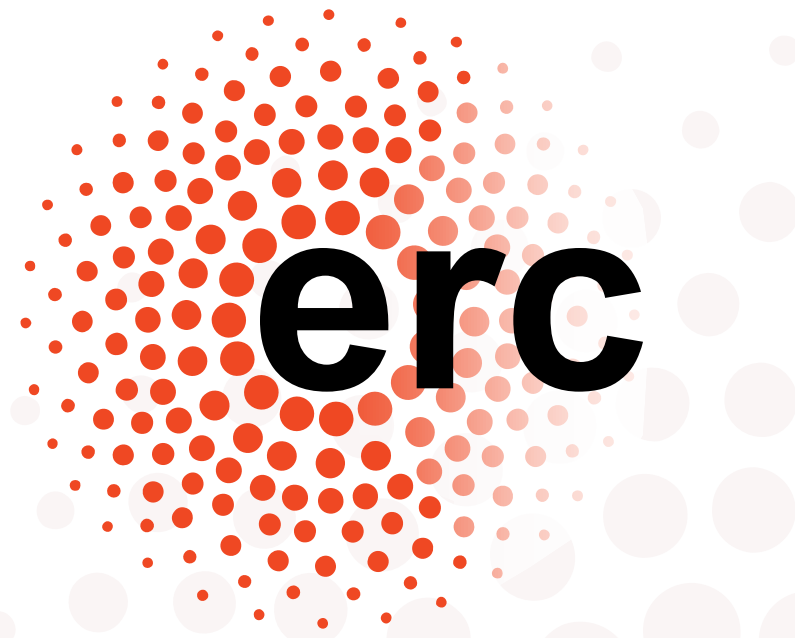


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**Bratislava**  
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# Outline



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## What is the ERC?

Background, principles

## What do we offer

Funding schemes, opportunities

## Evaluation Procedure

How to prepare and submit a grant

## The future?

H2020

# ERC in FP7



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- **Part of the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme (FP7) 2007-2013:**

- Co-operation
- **Ideas**
- People
- Capacities



- **A new “institution” to manage Ideas**

- **Complementary to other parts of the FP7**

- excellence in frontier research
  - bottom-up vs. targeted research
  - individual vs. collaborative research

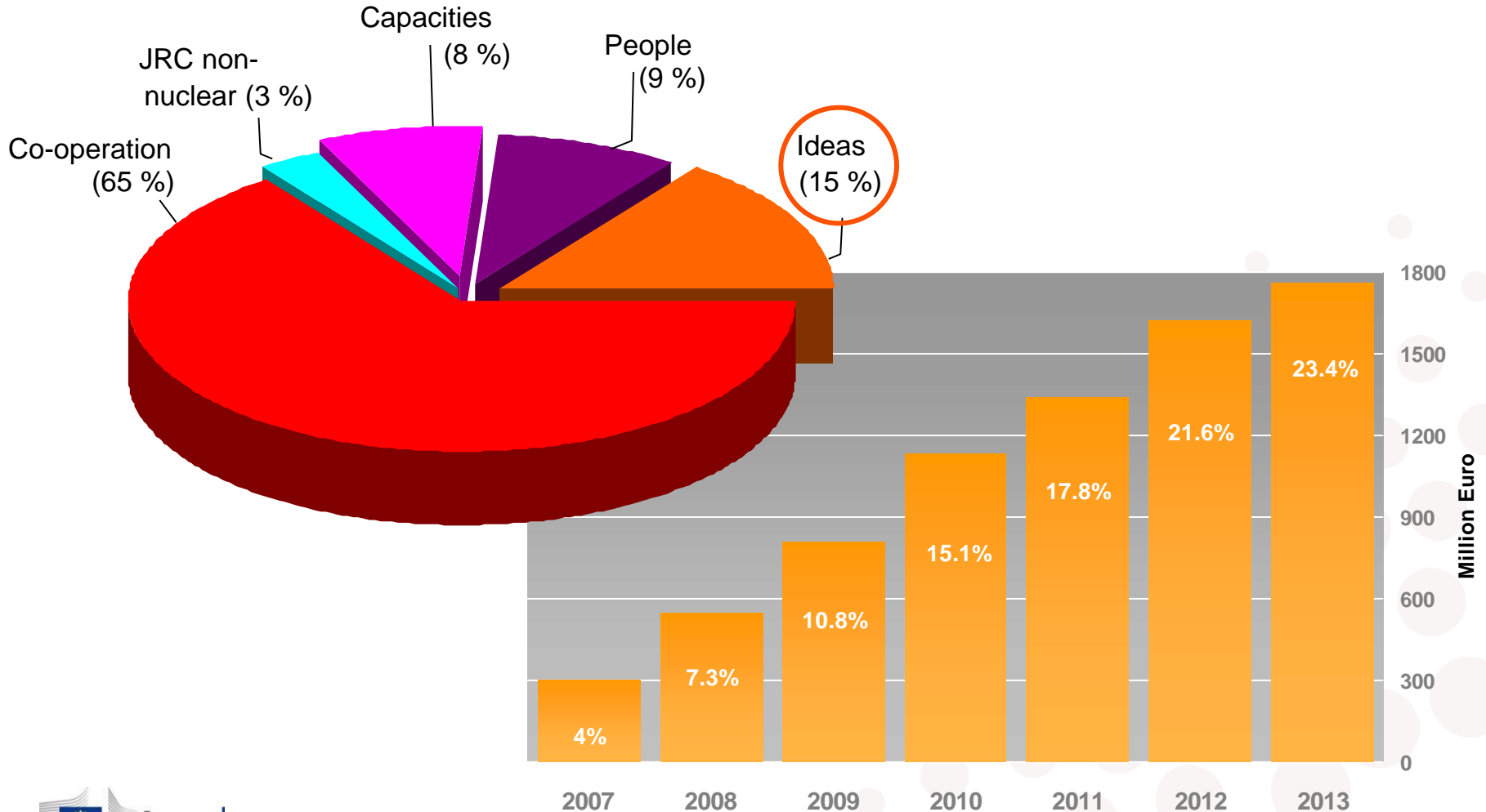
# 2007-2013 : FP7 budget € 50.5 billion

ERC budget € 7.5 billion



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# ERC strategic principles

- **All fields of science and scholarship are eligible**
  - Investigator-driven, bottom-up
- **Excellence is the only valid criterion**
  - Individual team + research project
  - Irrespective of nationality, gender or age of researchers
- **Flexible**
  - Up to five years
  - Under control of the Principal Investigator
- **Independent individual teams in Europe**
  - All nationalities can apply
  - Host organisation to be located in EU or Associated Country

# ERC Grant schemes



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## 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

## Synergy Grants

2 – 4 *Principal* Investigators  
up to € 15.0 Mio for 6 years

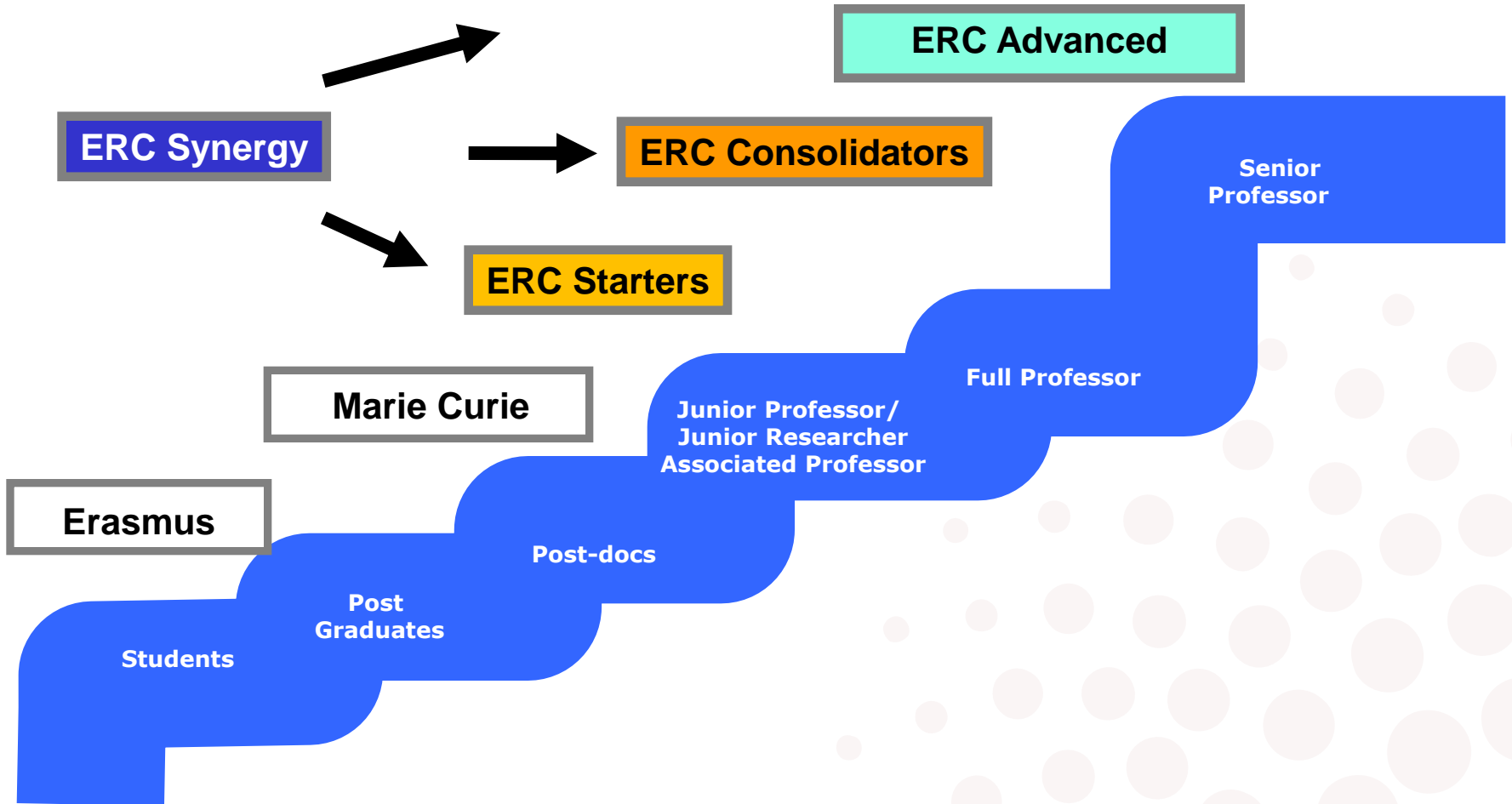
## Proof-of-Concept

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 Starting and Consolidator Grants

## The applicant's profile



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### *“Am I competitive enough?”*

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

### *Promising track-record of early achievements*

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



# Host institution



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**Applicant legal entity: institution that engages and hosts the PI for the duration of the project**

**Any type of legal entity: universities, research centres, business research units ... as long as it is in MS or AC**

**Commitment of HI: to ensure that the PI may**

- apply for funding independently
- manage research and funding for the project
- publish independently as senior author
- have access to reasonable space and facilities

# 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

- LS1 Molecular & Structural Biology & Biochemistry
- LS2 Genetics, Genomics, Bioinformatics & Systems Biology
- LS3 Cellular and 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 & biotechnology

### Social Sciences and Humanities (SH) → 6

- SH1 Individuals, institutions & markets
- SH2 Institutions, values, beliefs and behaviour
- SH3 Environment & society
- SH4 The Human Mind and its complexity
- SH5 Cultures & cultural production
- SH6 The study of the human past

### Physical Sciences & Engineering (PE) → 10

- PE1 Mathematical foundations
- PE2 Fundamental constituents of matter
- PE3 Condensed matter physics
- PE4 Physical & Analytical Chemical sciences
- PE5 Materials & Synthesis
- PE6 Computer science & informatics
- PE7 Systems & communication engineering
- PE8 Products & process engineering
- PE9 Universe sciences
- PE10 Earth system science

# ERC Evaluation process :Submission of proposals



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## Single submission

- ▶ one deadline per Call
- ▶ to a targeted panel
- ▶ electronically only
- ▶ proposals have two parts:
  - Part A: administrative forms
  - Part B: scientific proposal itself

***Complete information: Guides for Applicants***

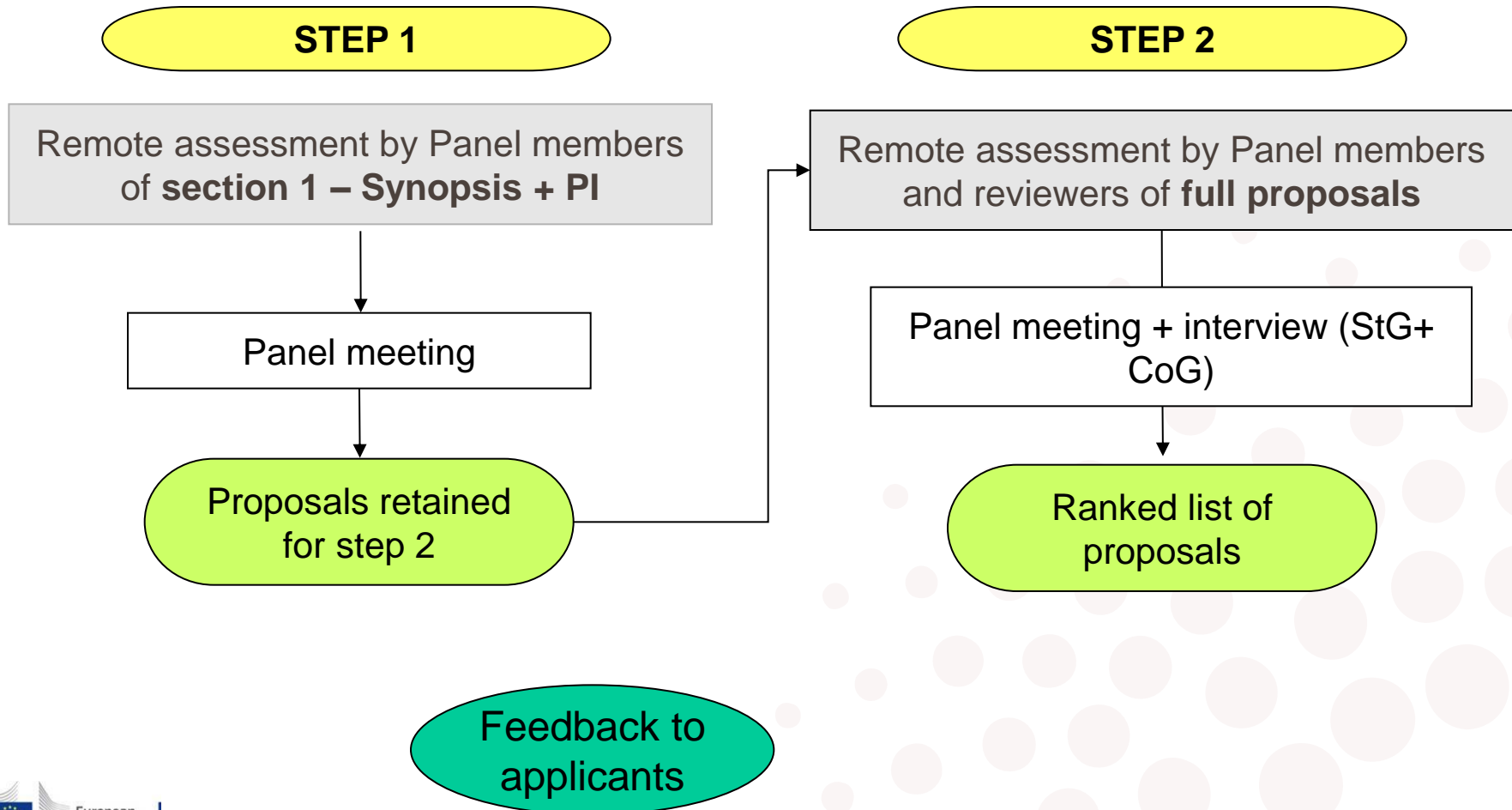
# Evaluation of proposals

## Evaluation procedure



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# Submission of proposals

## Proposal structure



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### PART A – online forms

- A1** Proposal and PI info
- A2** Host Institution info
- A3** Budget

### PART B1 – submitted as .pdf

- Extended Synopsis 5 p
- CV 2 p.
- Track Record 2 p.
- .

### Annexes – submitted as .pdf

- Statement of support of HI
  - copy of PhD (StG & CoG)
- If applicable:*
- document for extension of eligibility window (StG & CoG)
  - explanatory information on ethical issues

### PART B2 – submitted as .pdf

- Scientific Proposal 15 p.  
(incl. budget table)

# Evaluation Criteria

## **Excellence as sole criterion, to apply to:**

### Research Project

- Ground breaking nature
- Potential impact
- Scientific Approach

### Principle Investigator (PI)

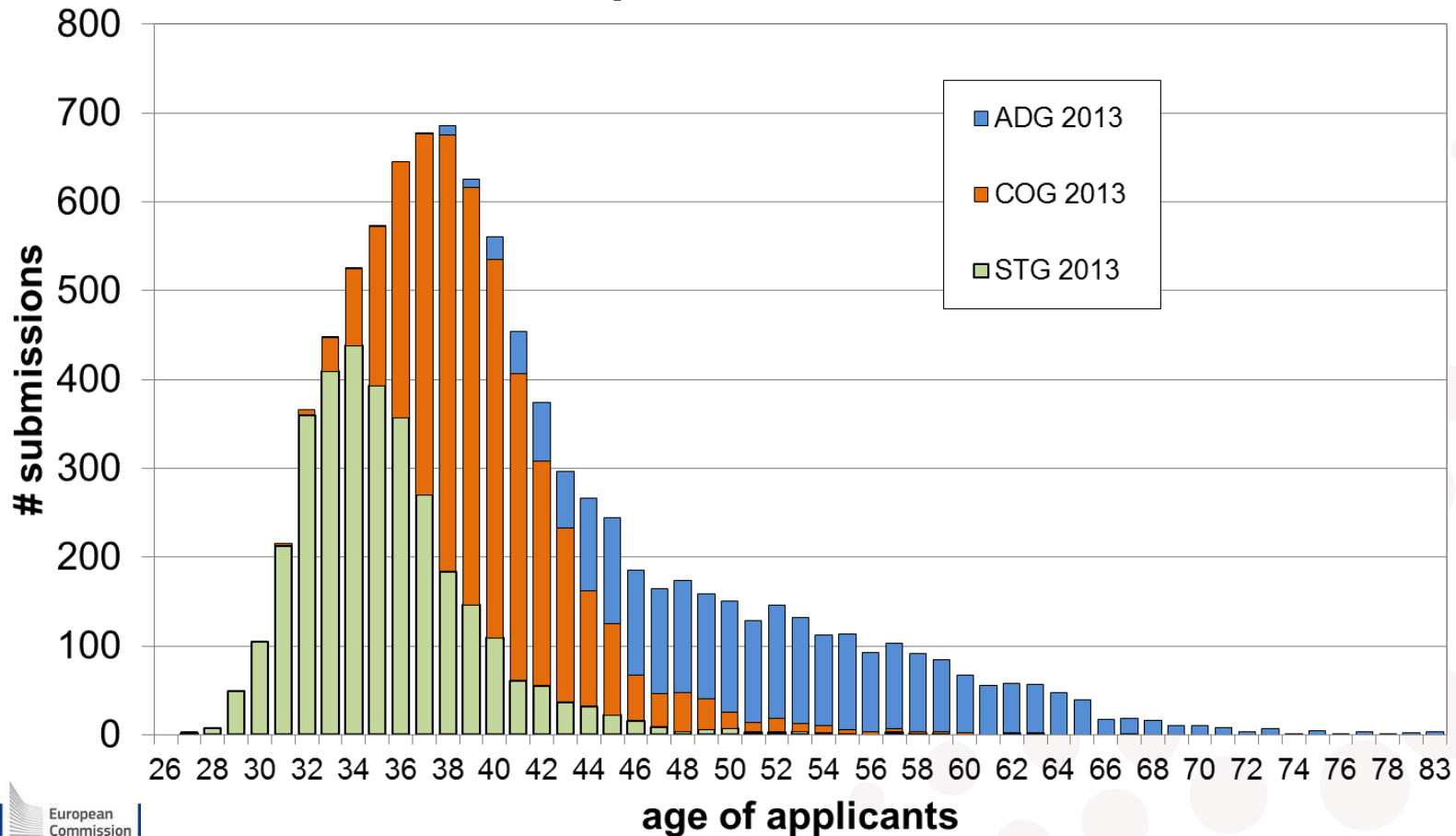
- Intellectual capacity
- Creativity

# 2013 Calls – Age of Applicants



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## ERC STG, COG, ADG 2013 - Age of applicants at call publication date

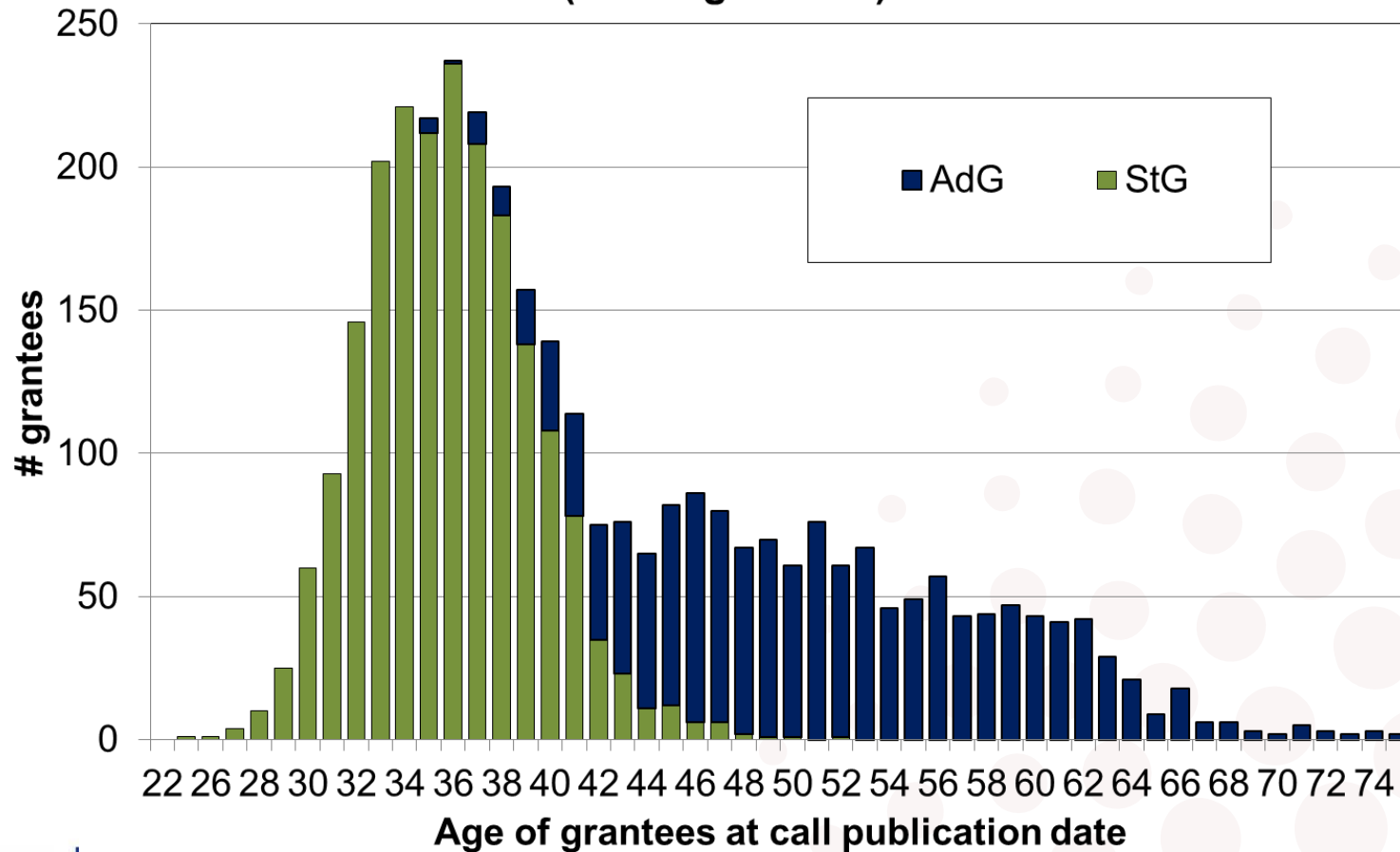


# Age of StG and AdG grantees



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## ERC STG ADG Age of grantees: All Calls 2007-12 (~3450 grantees)





# THE FUTURE: HORIZON 2020



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- **HORIZON 2020** structure:
  - Excellent Science
  - Industrial leadership
  - Societal challenges
  - EIT
  - JRC
  
- **Excellent Science:** reinforcing and extending the excellence of the EU's science base and consolidating ERA to make EU's R&I system more competitive on a global scale
  - ✧ **European Research Council** (budget proposal under H2020: € 15 billion)
  - ✧ Future and Emerging Technologies
  - ✧ Marie Curie
  - ✧ Research Infrastructures

# ERC in FP7 and in H2020 : Changes and Continuity - I



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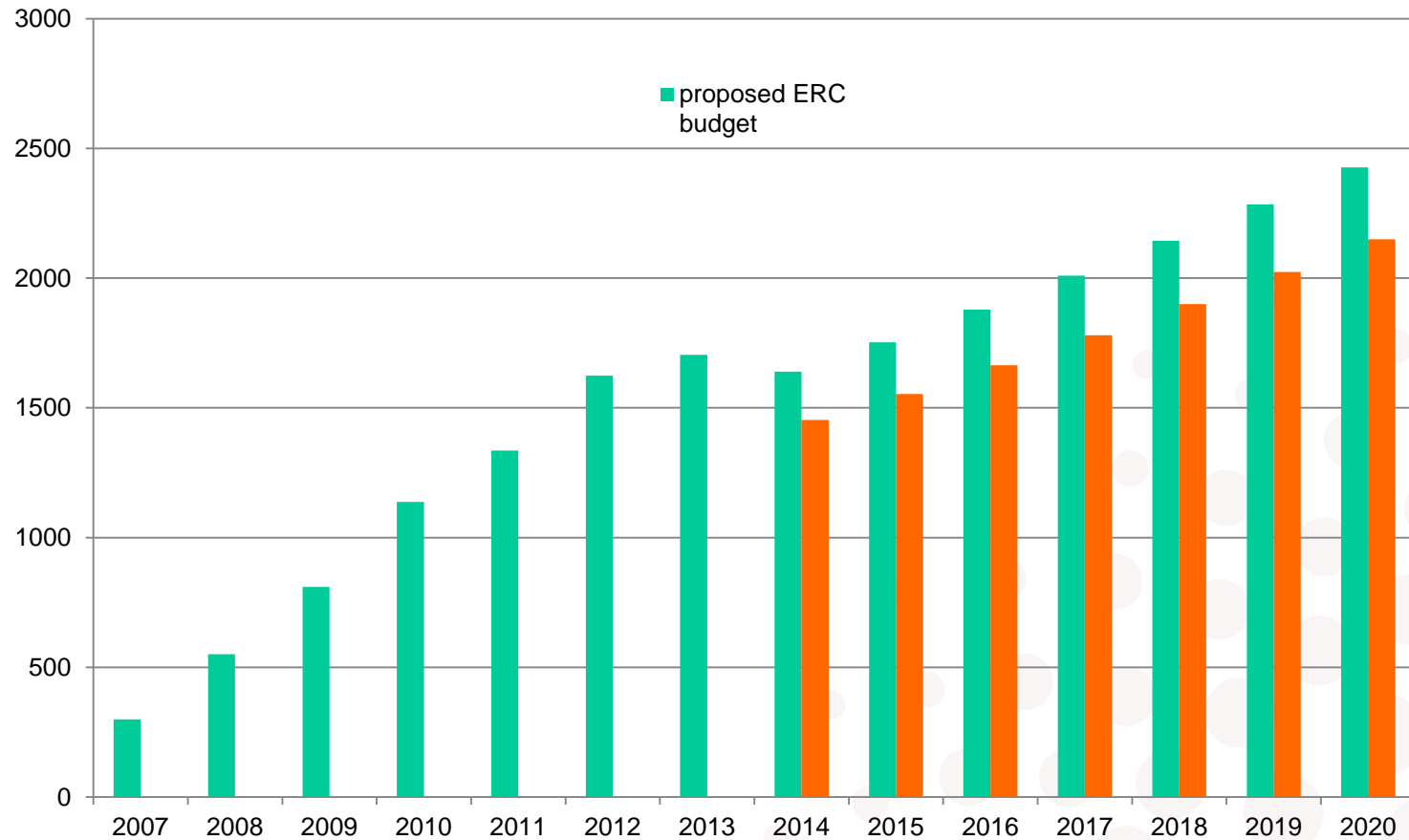
## Essential features maintained

- Independent Scientific Council with full authority over funding strategy
- Executive Agency with autonomous operation
- Scientific excellence - the sole criterion on which ERC grants are awarded

# HORIZON 2020 – possible ERC Budget (proportional reduction)



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Based on these estimates the ERC's annual budget would return to 2013 levels in 2017.

# First Calls Under Horizon 2020

## Opening and Submission Deadlines of ERC Calls (under H2020) throughout 2014:

- Starting Grant 2014 – first and second quarter of 2014
- Consolidator Grant 2014 – second quarter of 2014
- Advanced Grant 2014 – fourth quarter of 2014
- No Synergy Grant foreseen in 2014

# Some take-home messages....

## ERC Awards are:



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- **Competitive:** ~10% success rates
- **Significant:** €1.5M – €2.5M for Starters / Consolidators / Advanced
- **Bottom-up:** Open to any topic
- **Ambitious:** Achieve or boost independence; form a group
- **Looking for High-risk/ High-gain research**
- **Flexible:** can re-budget as necessary
- **Portable:** Can be moved anywhere in Europe
- **Prestigious:** will boost a research career

# For further information...



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**ERC Web site:** <http://erc.europa.eu/>

**Documents:**

ERC Work Programme

Guide for Applicants

**National Contact Points**