

The European Research Council

ERC support measures for potential applicants

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ERC Executive Agency
Call and Project Follow-up Coordination



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

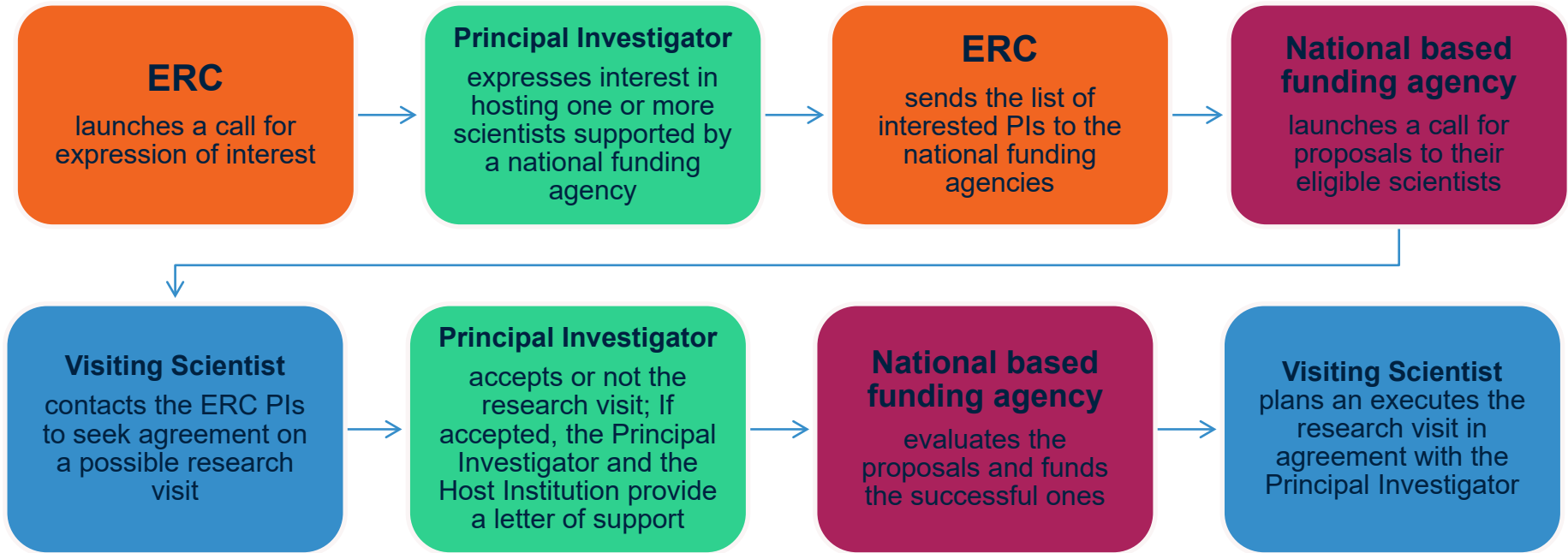
ERC Visiting Fellowship Programmes (VFP)

ERC promotes the efforts of national and regional authorities that set up and fund mobility programmes to allow potential ERC candidates to visit and gain experience with ERC-funded teams.

VFP in few points:

- Duration of visits **1-6 months** (*up to 2019 the minimum duration was 3 month*)
- Visiting fellows commit to **apply for an ERC grant** in specified timeframe
- Visiting fellows need to have a **letter of support** of the proposed host researcher and institution when applying
- National/regional **funding agencies cover the travel and salary costs** of the fellows for the duration of the visit

ERC VFP procedures



ERC VFP participation

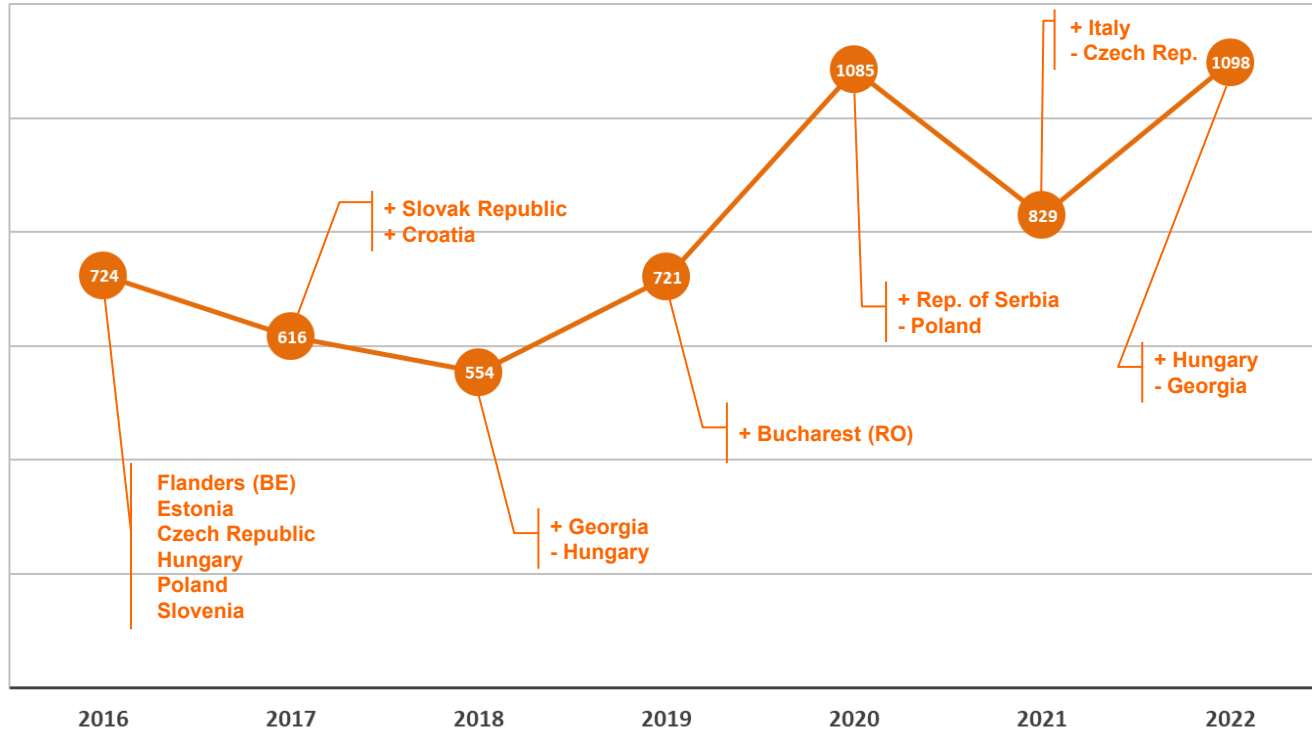
9 countries/regions participate in the scheme in 2023:

- Czech Republic (not participating since 2021)
- **Estonia**
- Poland (not participating since 2020)
- **Slovenia**
- Belgium (Flanders region - not participating since 2023)
- **Slovak Republic**
- **Croatia**
- Georgia (not participating in 2023)
- **Hungary** (rejoined in 2022)
- **Romania** - Politehnica University of Bucharest (new in 2019)
- **Republic of Serbia** (new in 2020)
- **Italy** - CNR (since 2021) & University of Venice - Ca' Foscari (new in 2022)
- **Cyprus** – Research and Innovation Foundation - RIF (since 2023)

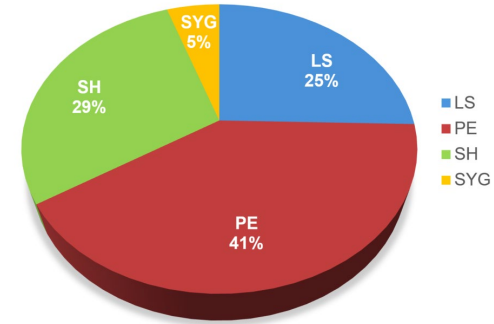


ERC VFP: Interested ERC Grantees

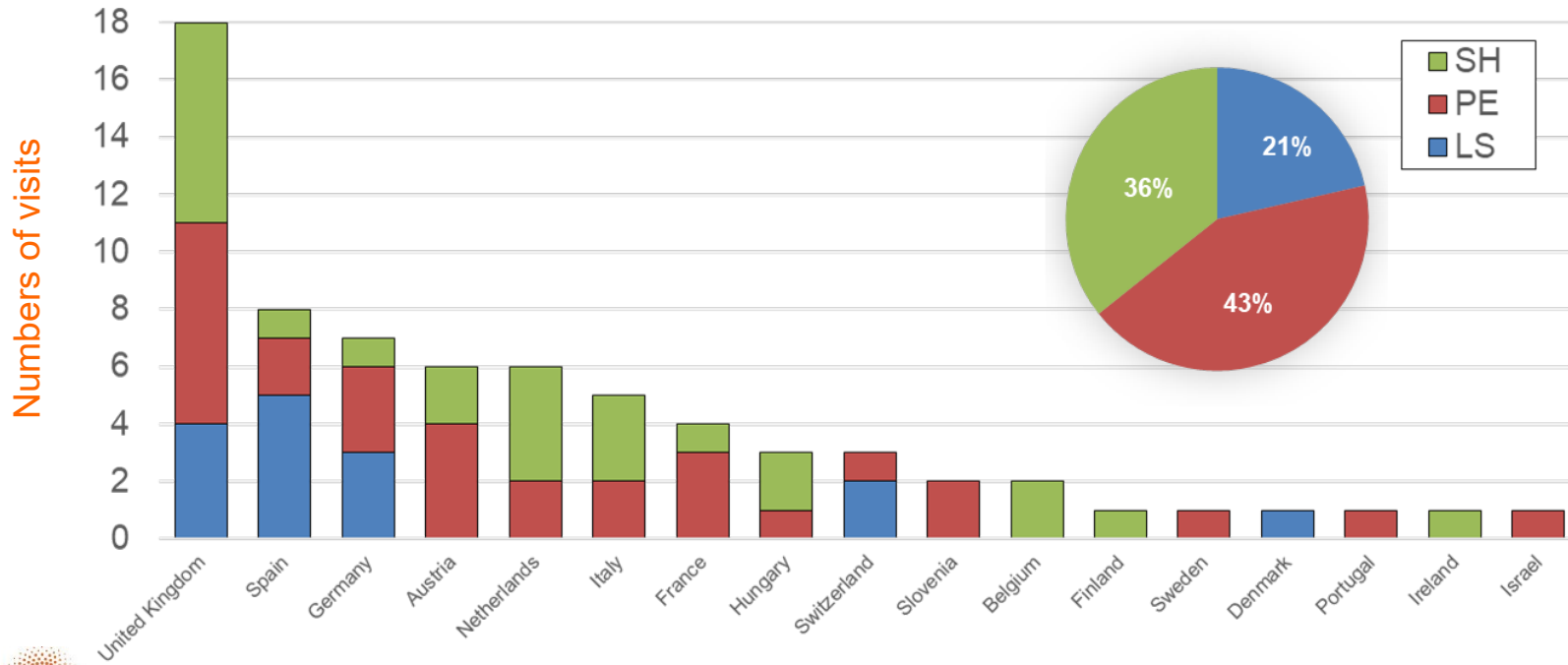
Number of ERC grantees expressed interest to host visiting fellows



Distribution of ERC grantees that expressed interest to host in 2022



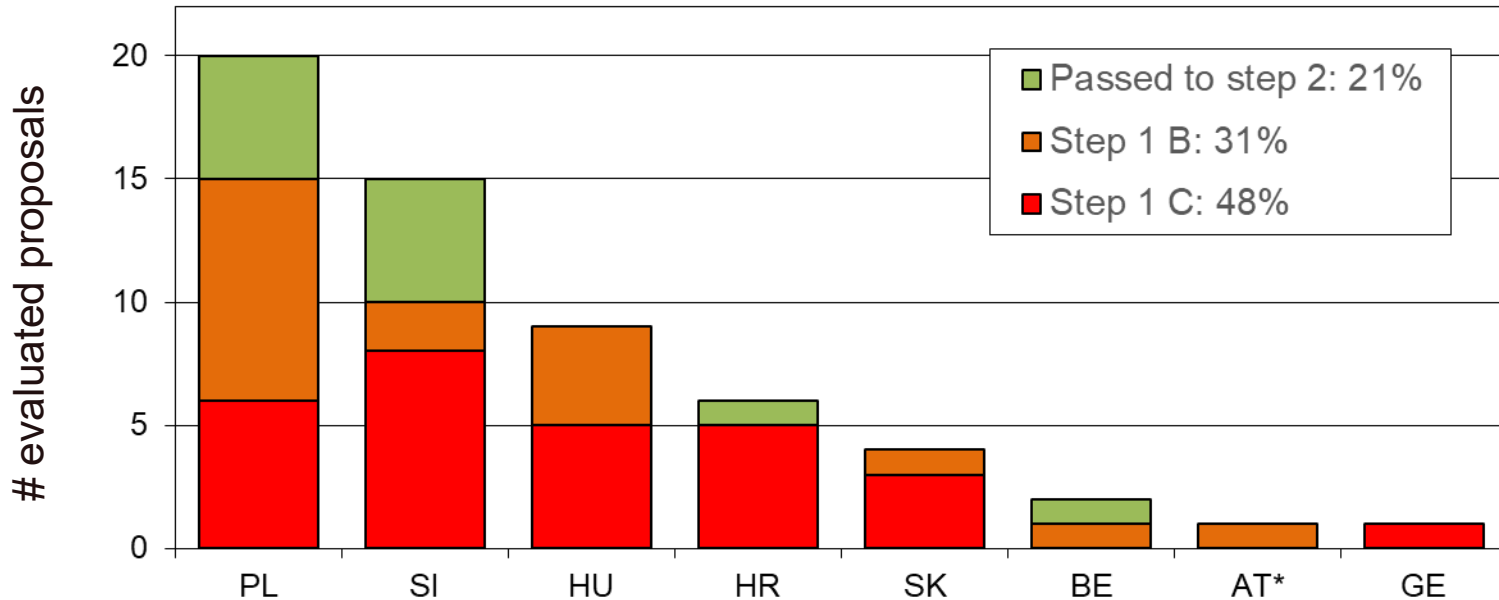
ERC VFP: visits distribution by destination country



Evaluation results: Step1 - VFP fellows

VFP Countries: BE (Flanders), GE, HR, HU, PL, SI, SK

Results of submissions from VFP fellows

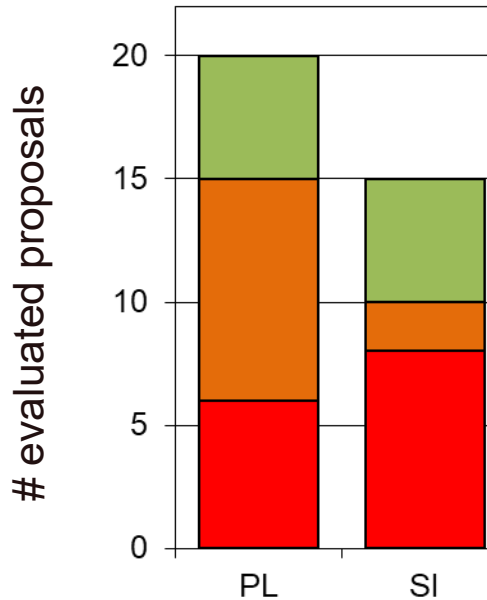


* One VFP fellows from Hungary applied with an Austrian HI

Funded VFP fellows vs funded proposals

ERC 2018-2021 evaluations for PL and SI

Results of submissions from VFP fellows



Country	Funded proposals	Funded VFP Fellows	
		Number	Percentage
PL	25	4	16%
SI	10	2	20%

Visiting Fellows participation in ERC calls

- **58 visiting fellows** have submitted **61 proposals** for an ERC grant after the VFP:
 - 36 (59%) to STG
 - 18 (30%) to COG
 - 7 (11%) to ADG
- **8 visiting fellows (13%) were funded** with ERC grants:
 - 4 in PE (PE4, PE8)
 - 3 in SH (SH3, SH5)
 - 1 in LS (LS8)
- **6 of the funded projects are located in EU-13 countries** (SI and PL), 2 of the awarded fellows changed HI (BE->UK, HR->IT)
- The **success rate of VFP fellows is higher than Widening countries**, in particular for STG
- 16% and 20% of ERC grantees 2018-2021 for PL and SI were VFP fellows



ERC Mentoring Initiative (MI)

The ERC Scientific Council approved the new **Mentoring Initiative (MI)** proposed by the Working Group on Widening European Participation.

The aim of this initiative is supporting **ERC applicants** from countries which are not performing well in ERC calls, inspired by the experience of some research agencies and host institutions which put in place programmes to support ERC applicants, but **struggle to identify international experts to provide coaching and advise.**

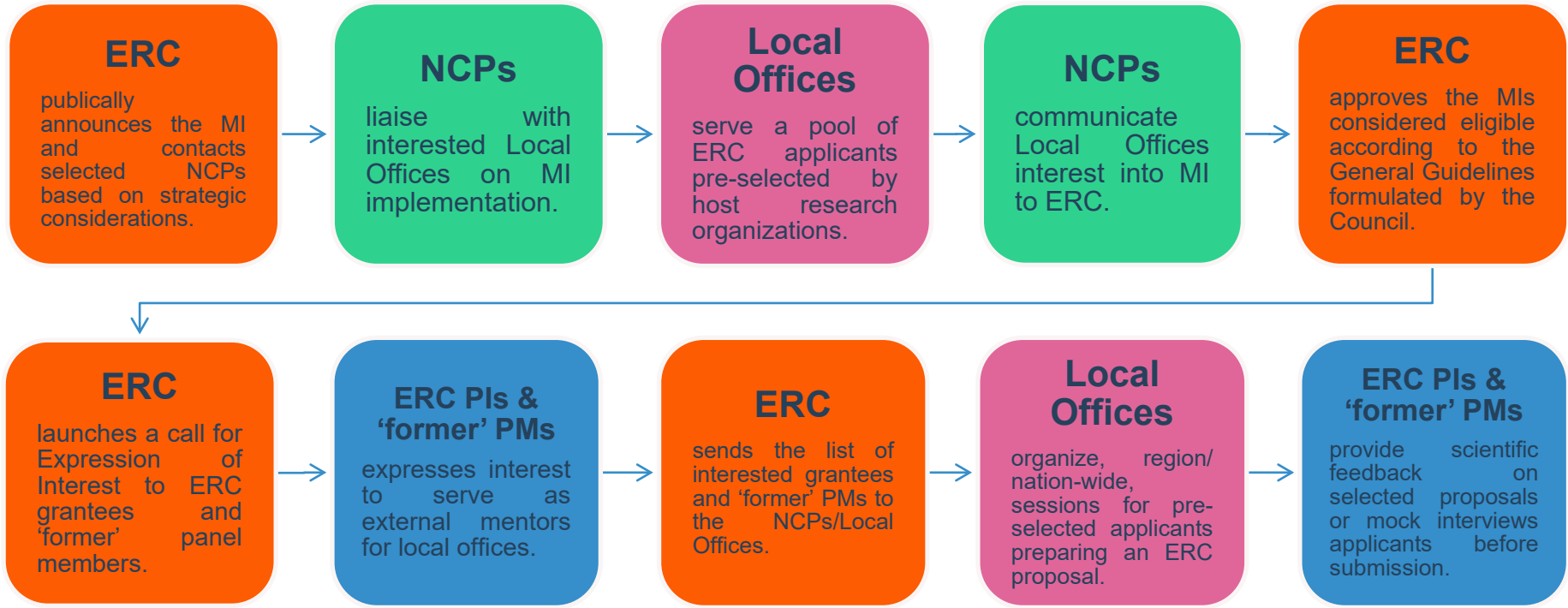


List of participating national/regional offices

- **Cyprus** - Research and Innovation Foundation (RIF)
- **Czech Republic** - Czech National Expert Group (NEG) for the ERC
- **Estonia** - Estonian Research Council (ETAg)
- **Hungary** - Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA)
- **Italy** - National Research Council (CNR)
- **Malta** - Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST)
- **Poland** - National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR), Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA), National Science Centre (NCN) and the Foundation for Polish Science (FNP)
- **Slovakia** - Horizon National Office - Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information (CVTI SR)
- **Turkey** - Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK)



ERC Mentoring Initiative (MI) procedures



Action taken by

● ERC

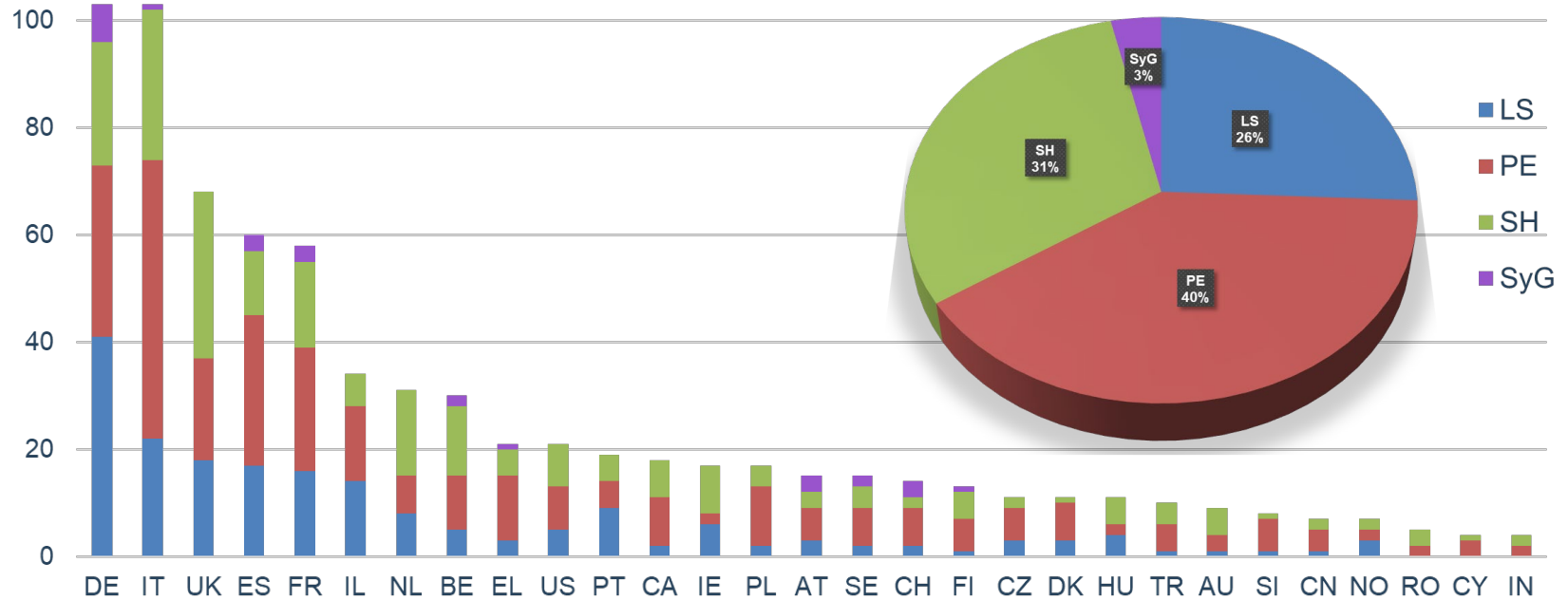
● NCPs

● Local Offices

● ERC PIs and 'former' PMs

ERC MI 2021 – Potential mentors

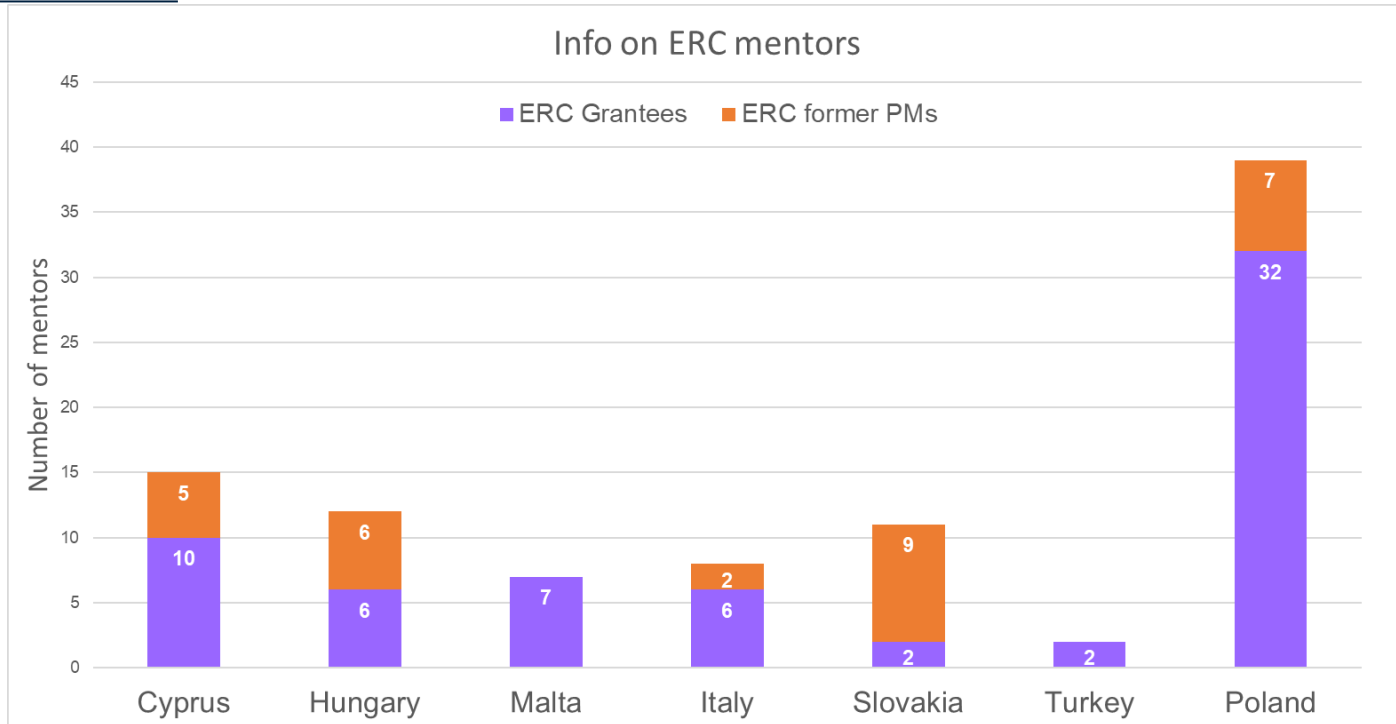
Nationality of potential mentors by scientific domain (HI country for former PMs)



ERC MI – Mentoring activities

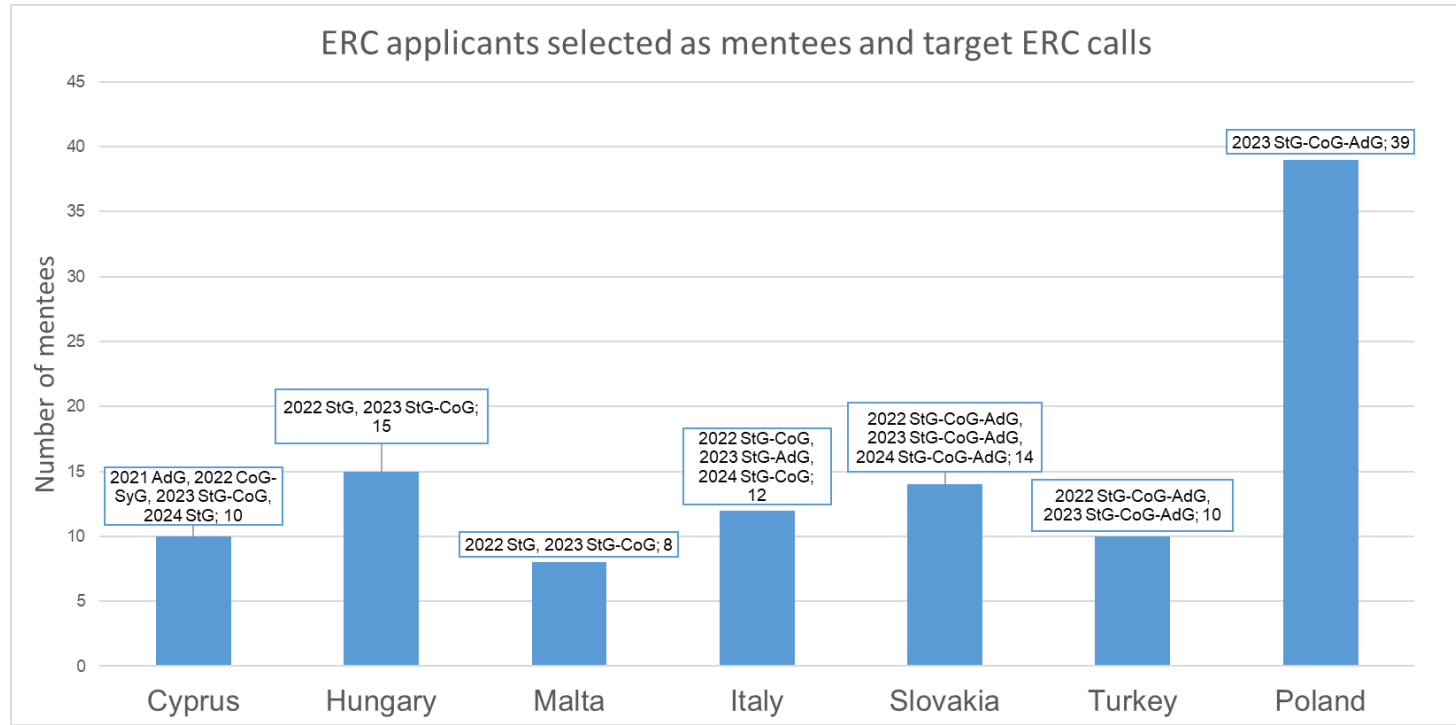
- A total of **94 mentors were involved**: **65 ERC grantees** and **29 former PMs**.
- The preferred modality of mentoring activities is the **1:1 remote mentoring, used by all the institutions**. Italy and Slovakia are using **remote mock interviews**. Cyprus and Turkey used **pre-screening of proposal** and/or review of CVs.
- Cyprus covered travel costs, Poland, Hungary and Malta adopted daily fees, Turkey used project pre-evaluation fees. The other institutions do not foresee financial support to mentors.

ERC MI – Mentors participating



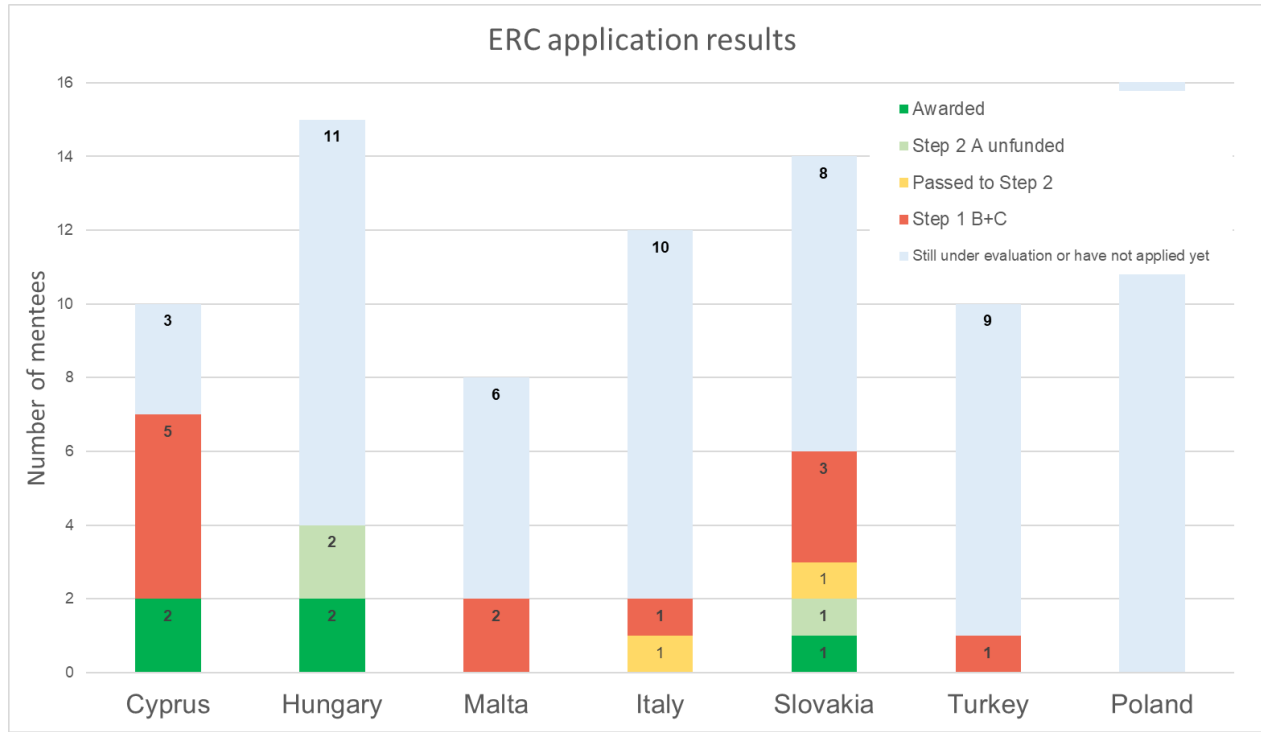
- A total of **94 ERC mentors** were involved.
- **65 ERC grantees** (69%) and **29 ERC former PMs** (31%)

ERC MI – Mentees selection



- A total of **108 potential ERC applicants** were **selected as mentees**.
- Majority of the mentees were targeting **2023 ERC calls**.

ERC MI – ERC application results



- A total of **22 mentees** already applied to an ERC grant.
- **5 mentees** (23%) were awarded with an ERC grant.

Thank You!

More info: <https://erc.europa.eu/funding/additional-opportunities>

ERC MI support: ERC-MENTORING-INITIATIVE@ec.europa.eu

ERC VFP support: ERC-VISITING-FELLOWSHIP-PROGRAMMES@ec.europa.eu

National Contact Points: erc.europa.eu/national-contact-points

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