

The European Research Council in a nutshell

- The ERC is the **first pan-European funding body**, set up to support the best **frontier research** in Europe.
- The ERC was created by the European Commission in February 2007. It is the newest, pioneering component of the EU's Seventh Research Framework Programme (FP7), and implements the 'Ideas' specific programme. The ERC has a total budget of **€ 7.5 billion** (2007-2013). In November 2011, the Commission proposed a major increase of the ERC budget for the next Framework Programme 'Horizon 2020' (2014-2020).
- The ERC aims to stimulate scientific excellence in Europe by supporting the very best scientists, scholars and engineers in **any field of research**. Through Europe-wide peer-reviewed competition - with **scientific excellence** as sole selection criterion – it funds the brightest ideas at the frontiers of knowledge. There are neither thematic priorities, nor geographical quotas.
- The competitions are open to **top researchers from anywhere in the world**, provided they are based in or are moving to Europe¹.
- Being 'investigator-driven', or **'bottom-up'**, in nature, the ERC approach allows researchers to identify new opportunities and directions in all fields of research, rather than being led by pre-set priorities. By challenging Europe's excellent scientists, the ERC expects that its grants will help to bring about **new and unpredictable scientific and technological discoveries** - the kind that can form the basis of new industries, markets, and broader social innovations of the future.
- The ERC has two main grant schemes: **'ERC Starting Grants'**, targeted at early-career, emerging research leaders, and **'ERC Advanced Grants'**, supporting already established top researchers. Since its launch, the ERC has funded over 2 500 projects throughout Europe.
- Two additional funding initiatives with a very limited budget exist since 2011: (i) For exceptional proposals, the 'ERC Synergy Grants' were introduced on a pilot basis to support a few small size groups of researchers working together on the same project; (ii) the 'Proof of Concept', open to ERC grant holders in order for them to establish the innovation potential of ideas arising from their ERC-funded frontier research projects.
- Each ERC grantee employs on average four other researchers, which contributes to the training of a new generation of excellent scientists. By the end of FP7, the ERC should have provided support to more than 10,000 doctoral students and more than 5,000 postdocs.
- In addition to being a funding organisation, the ERC aims to strengthen and shape the European research system and it already has an impact on the **European Research Area**. The ERC is helping to create **international benchmarks** and to trigger new thinking about research management and science policy at a national level. Ultimately, the ERC aims to make the European research base more prepared to respond to the needs of a knowledge-based society and provide Europe with the capabilities to meet global challenges.
- The ERC consists of a [Scientific Council](#), its governing body, which sets the ERC's scientific strategy, and an [Executive Agency](#), in charge of its implementation.

¹ In the EU or the FP7 associated countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Iceland, Israel, Faroe Islands, Liechtenstein, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia, Norway, Republic of Montenegro, Serbia, Switzerland and Turkey)



ERC Milestones

March 2004	European Council agrees on the need for a dedicate European funding scheme for excellent basic research
April 2005	European Commission proposes the creation of an ERC, funded through the EU's Seventh Framework Programme for Research (FP7)
Oct 2005	ERC Scientific Council meets for the first time
Feb 2007	ERC is formally established and launched
April 2007	First ERC call for proposals
July 2009	ERC Executive Agency becomes autonomous
July 2009	Review of the ERC concluded by an independent expert panel
June 2010	ERC has funded 1000 top researchers
March 2011	Introduction of the ERC Proof of Concept funding scheme and its first call
July 2011	Announcement of the new ERC Synergy funding scheme Task Force conclusions on the future of the ERC
Sept 2011	ERC new Secretary-General appointed

Facts and Figures

- Location: Brussels, Belgium
- Set up: 2 February 2007
- Budget: 7.5 Bio EUR (2007-2013)
- Budget year 2011: ca 1.2 Bio EUR
- Budget year 2012: ca 1.6 Bio EUR
- Grant sizes:
 - Starting Grants up to 2 Mio EUR per grant
 - Advanced Grants up to 3.5 Mio EUR per grant
 - Proof of Concept up to 150 000 EUR per grant
 - Synergy Grants up to 15 Mio EUR per grant
- Number of submissions since ERC launch: over 26 000
- Number of calls for proposals since ERC launch: 8 completed and 2 ongoing

Who is Who

ERC President:

[Prof. Helga Nowotny](#)

ERC Secretary-General:

[Prof. Donald B. Dingwell](#)

ERC Vice-Presidents:

[Prof. Pavel Exner](#)

[Prof. Carl-Henrik Heldin](#)

ERC Executive Agency Director *ad int*:

[Pablo Amor](#)

Former ERC President (Feb 2007 - March 2010): **Prof. Fotis Kafatos**

Former ERC Secretary-General (Feb 2007 - July 2009): **Prof. Ernst-Ludwig Winnacker**

Former ERC Secretary-General (July 2009 - September 2010): **Prof. Andreu Mas-Colell**

Former ERC Executive Agency Director *ad int*: **Dr. Jack Metthey**

[Members of the ERC Scientific Council](#)

For more information, visit the ERC website at: <http://erc.europa.eu>

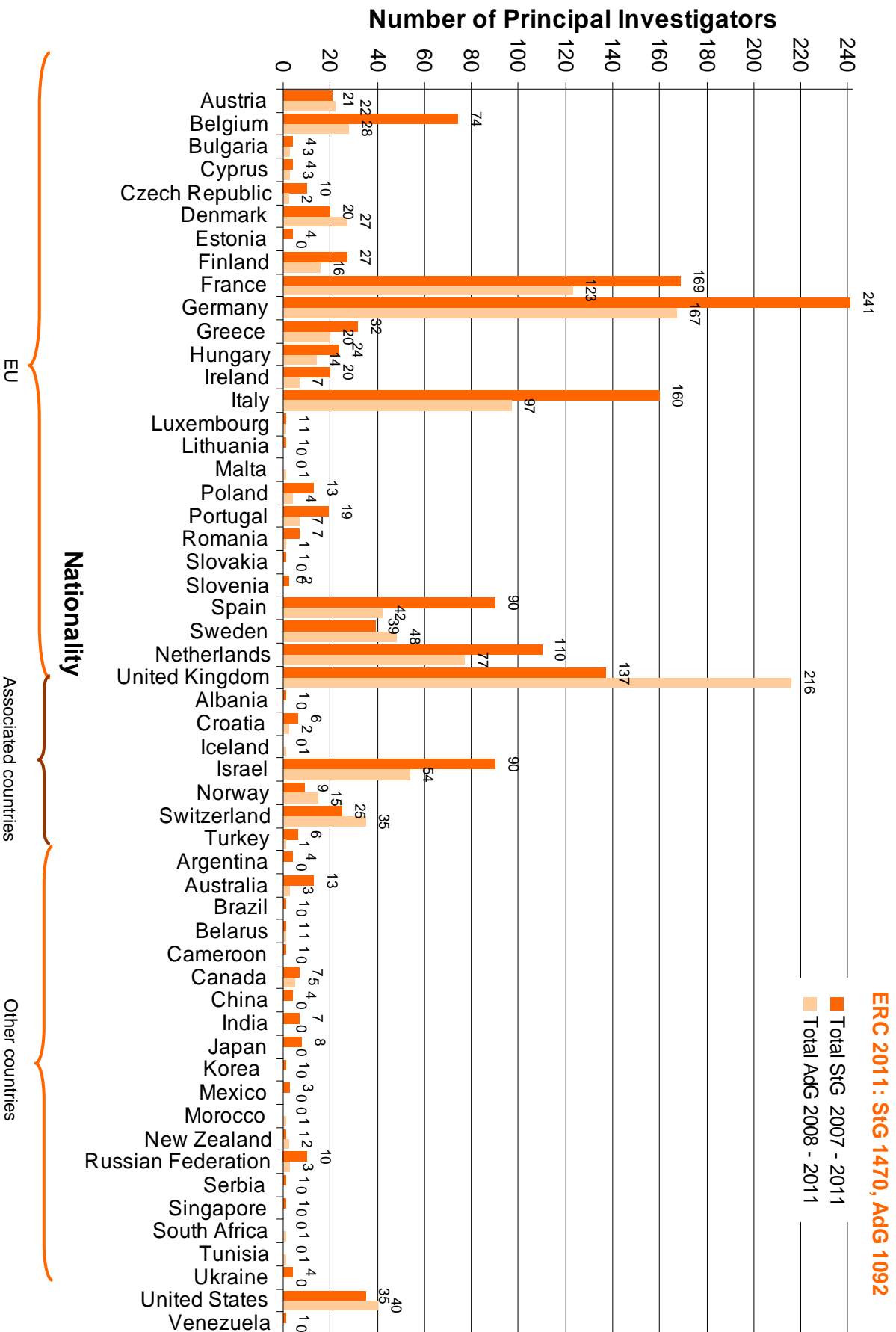
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ERC grantees by country of Host Institution

	Starting grant 2007-2011					Advanced grant 2008-2011					Total
	2007	2009	2010	2011	Total StG 2007 - 2011	2008	2009	2010	2011	Total AdG 2008 - 2011	StG + AdG
EU Member States											
Austria	4	7	14	14	39	9	7	6	7	29	68
Belgium	11	15	16	22	64	5	2	5	7	19	83
Bulgaria	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	2	3
Cyprus	2	0	1	0	3	1	0	0	1	2	5
Czech Republic	1	0	2	1	4	2	0	1	0	3	7
Denmark	3	7	6	10	26	4	3	4	9	20	46
Estonia	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Finland	7	6	5	9	27	8	1	4	3	16	43
France	40	31	73	57	201	35	34	33	31	133	334
Germany	32	30	69	64	195	29	32	48	51	160	355
Greece	4	3	3	4	14	4	0	2	4	10	24
Hungary	6	1	5	3	15	4	1	4	3	12	27
Ireland	3	3	5	6	17	0	1	3	2	6	23
Italy	24	17	22	29	92	18	14	20	23	75	167
Poland	1	2	3	2	8	1	1	0	1	3	11
Portugal	2	3	5	0	10	1	1	2	2	6	16
Spain	24	20	26	27	97	14	12	13	15	54	151
Slovenia	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sweden	11	6	21	14	52	18	12	11	9	50	102
The Netherlands	28	16	28	49	121	20	18	18	20	76	197
United Kingdom	56	46	79	123	304	58	64	56	68	246	550
Associated Countries											
Iceland	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
Israel	22	14	26	22	84	15	11	13	11	50	134
Norway	1	0	2	5	8	4	3	7	4	18	26
Switzerland	16	18	29	22	85	29	29	21	22	101	186
Total	299	246	440	485	1470	281	246	272	293	1092	2562

AdG = Advanced Grant
StG = Starting grant

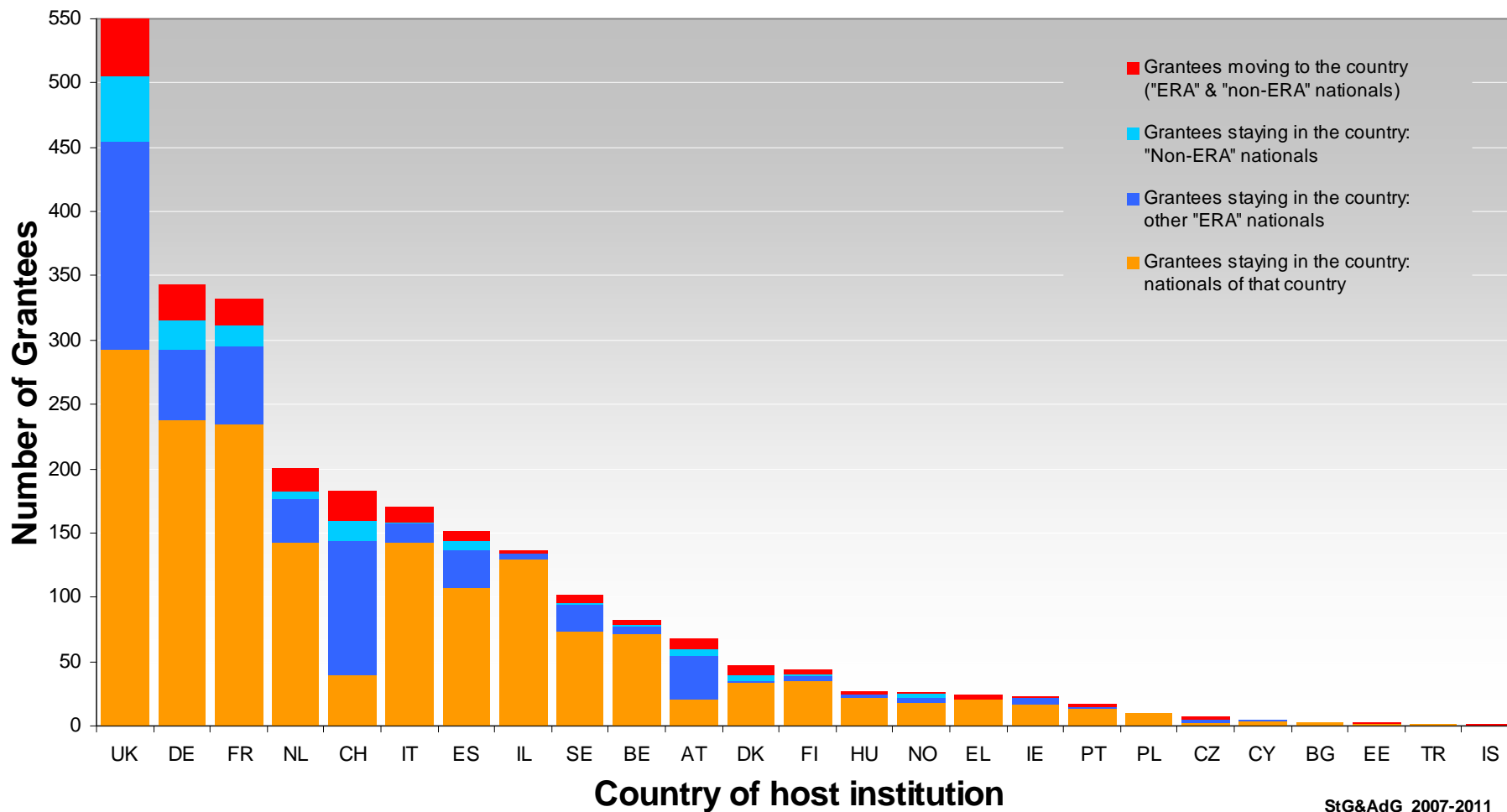
ERC grantees by nationality



Grantees by Host Institutions (and their nationalities) (*)

(*) at the time of application

ERC Starting grant calls 2007 – 2011
ERC Advanced grant calls 2007 – 2011



StG&AdG 2007-2011

Locations of grantees across the EU and associate countries (*)

(*) at the time of application

ERC Starting grant calls 2007 – 2011

ERC Advanced grant calls 2007 – 2011

