



ERC Scientific Council Press Release

9 February 2011

The ERC Scientific Council established gender equality plan

The ERC Scientific Council has established a gender equality plan, based on the view that women and men are equally able to perform excellent frontier research. The plan has been concluded by the ERC gender balance working group. One of the main goals is to increase the number of female top researchers applying for ERC grants, by means of raising awareness.

Since the creation of the European Research Council, scientific excellence is the sole selection criterion in the ERC grant competitions. *Gender mainstreaming* is another core principle of this investigator-driven funding organisation for frontier research. By gender mainstreaming is meant that *each* process within the ERC - from creating awareness about the ERC to grant signing – is designed to include both genders, giving equal opportunities to men and women. In 2008, the Scientific Council decided to take this a step further by setting up a working group to monitor gender issues more closely. The group has concluded an ERC's gender equality plan - endorsed by the Scientific Council in December 2010 - laying down the objectives in terms of gender equality.

One of the main goals of the plan is to ensure that excellent female researchers are fully informed and aware of the opportunities that an ERC grant offers. It is also essential to convey a clear message that fairness and equal treatment are fundamental in the ERC grant competitions. Moreover, the plan envisages closer monitoring of the gender distribution within the ERC's peer review system, striving for balance.

The Chair of the working group, Prof. Teresa Lago said: "*The ERC Scientific Council is concerned about the gender imbalance in many fields of research, and we monitor carefully the proportion of women among the ERC applicants and grantees in each call. It is crucial for Europe to identify and support the best and most creative brains in frontier research, and we cannot afford a gender biased system. The ERC is*



determined to contribute to a research landscape where men and women have equal opportunities to pursue research careers and work towards expanding the frontiers of our knowledge. "

Up to now, around a fifth of the ERC grantees are women in total, with a higher share in the Starting Grant competitions targeted at early-career researchers (26%), than in the Advanced Grant competitions for senior researchers (12%). These relative low shares are partly due to the proportion of women applying to each of the two grant schemes, with an average of 30% in the Starting Grants and 14% in the Advanced Grants. Broadly speaking, these ratios also reflect the proportion of women in research careers in Europe.

The ERC Scientific Council gender equality plan:

http://erc.europa.eu/pdf/ERC_ScC_Gender_Equality_Plan_2007-2013.pdf

Note to the editors

The European Research Council (ERC) is the first pan-European funding organisation for frontier research. It aims to stimulate scientific excellence in Europe by encouraging competition for funding between the very best, creative researchers of any nationality and age. The ERC consists of an independent Scientific Council and an Executive Agency and was set up by the EU under the Seventh Framework Programme's "Ideas" specific programme. It has a total budget of € 7.5 billion (2007-2013). The Scientific Council, the ERC's governing body, defines the scientific funding strategy and methodologies, and acts on behalf of the scientific community in Europe to promote creativity and innovative research. It is presently chaired by Prof. Helga Nowotny and is composed of 22 eminent scientists and scholars, including some Nobel Prize winners.

For more information

ERC website

<http://erc.europa.eu>

Contact person

Dr. Elisabeth Sjöstedt

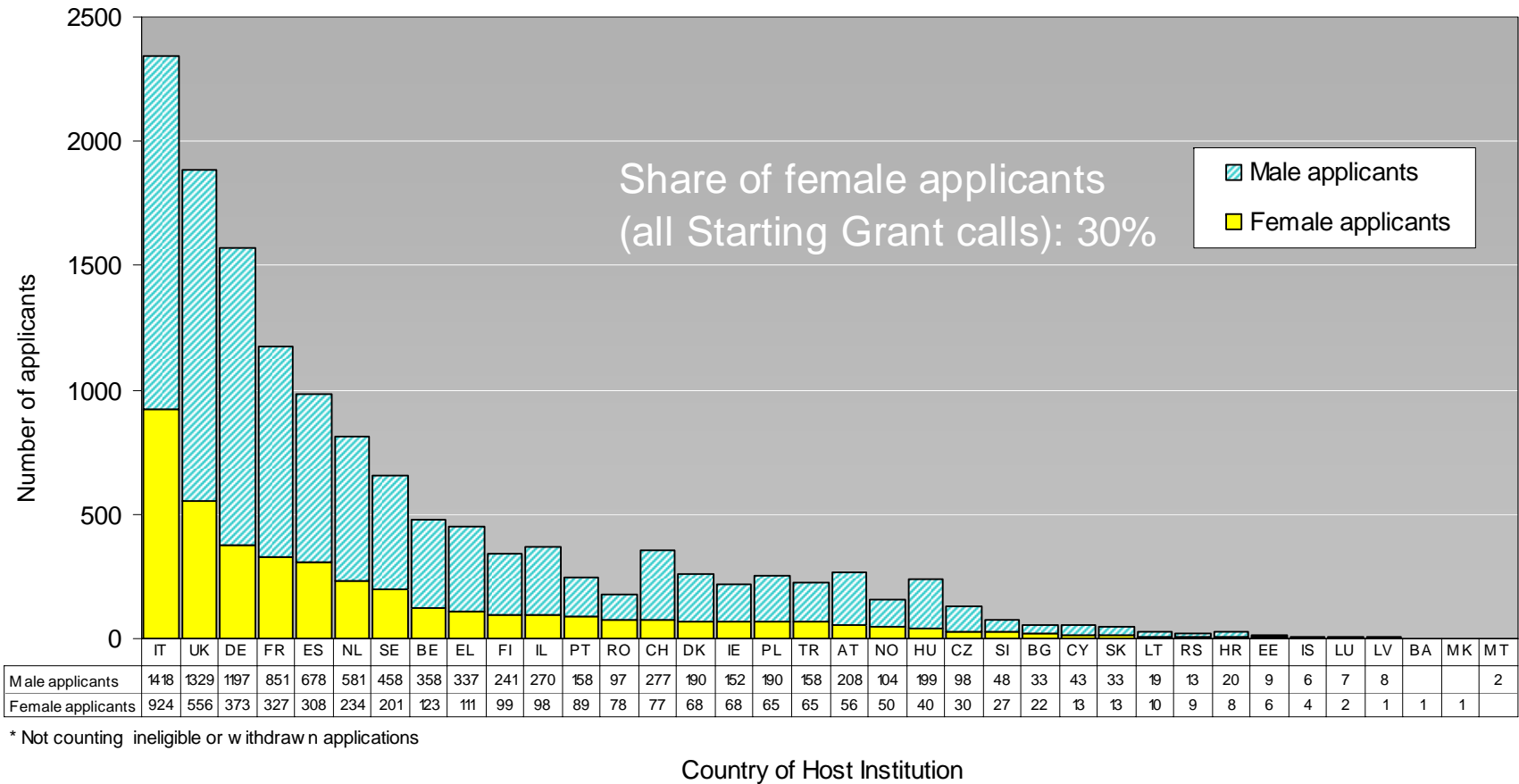
Email: elisabeth.sjostedt@ec.europa.eu



Annex: The ERC grant competitions with regard to gender balance

All ERC Starting Grant calls: Number of applicants* by gender and country of host institution.

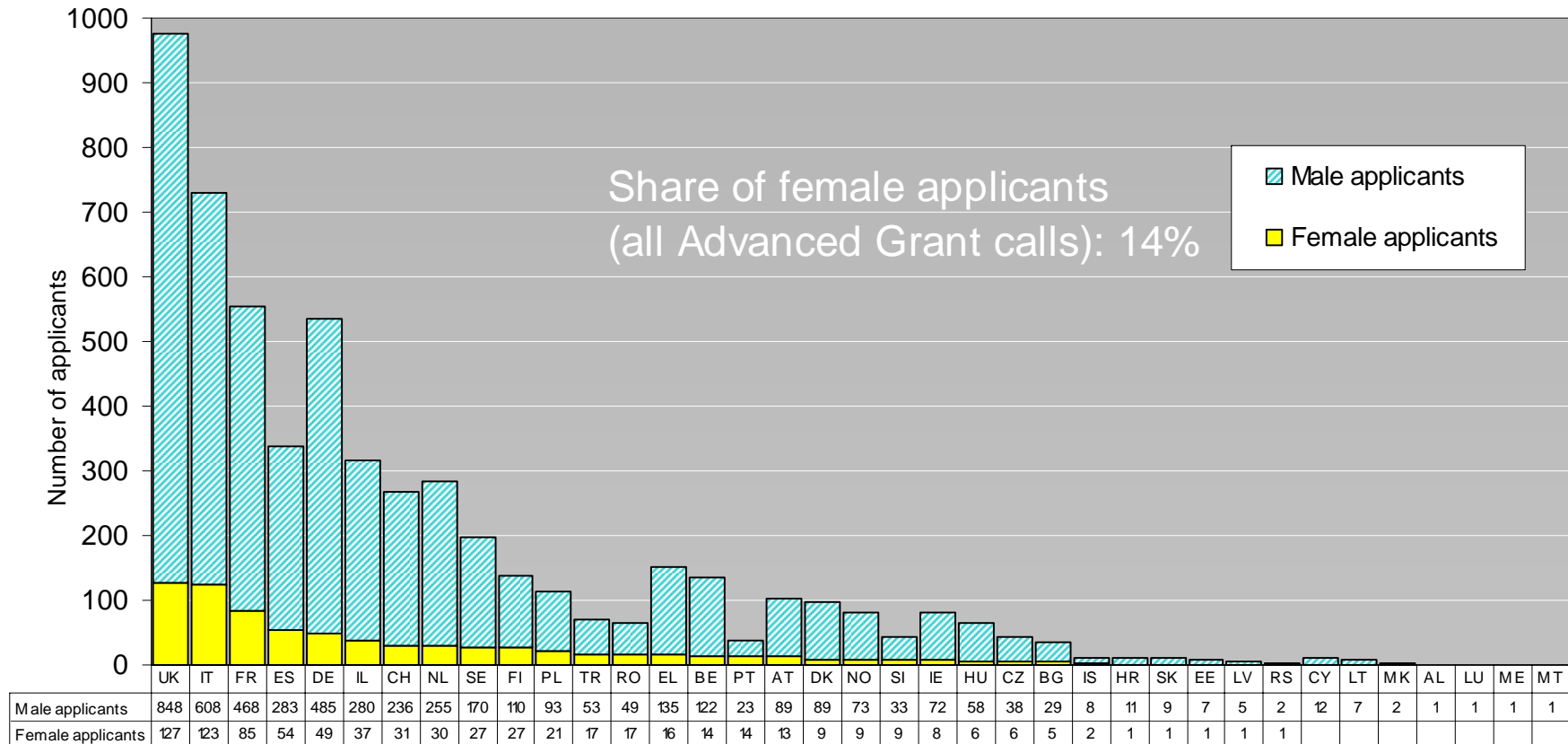
Source: StG 2007 (8788), StG 2009 (2392), StG 2010 (2767)





All ERC Advanced Grant calls: Number of applicants* by gender and country of host institution.

Source: AdG 2008 (2034), AdG 2009 (1526), AdG 2010 (1967)



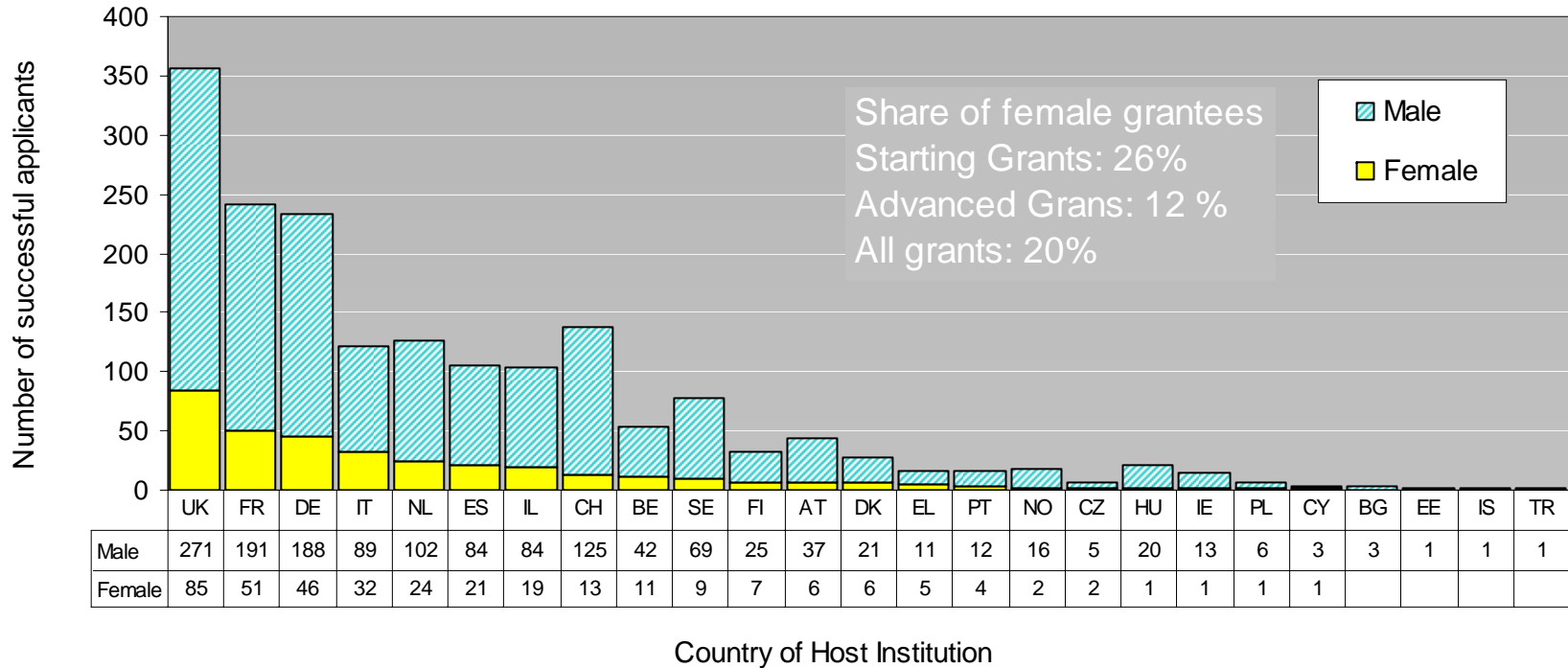
* Not counting ineligible or withdrawn applications

Country of Host Institution



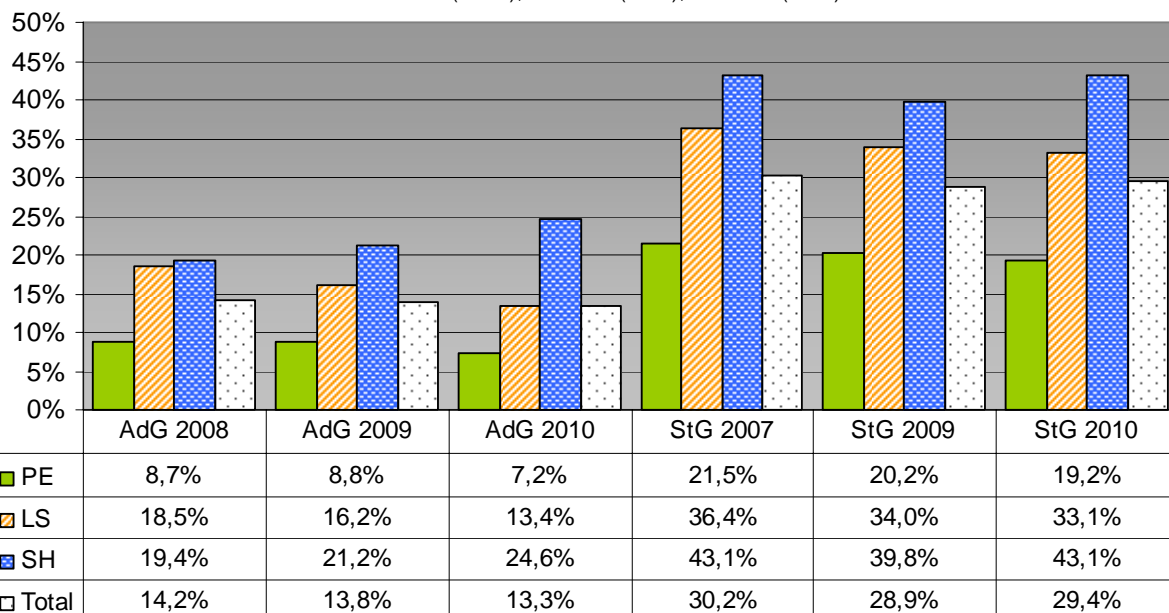
All ERC calls: Number of *successful* applicants by gender and country of host institution.

Source: 1767 selected proposals over six calls; StG 2007 (299), StG 2009 (243), StG 2010 (432), AdG 2008 (282), AdG 2009 (245), AdG 2010 (266)



Share of female applicants* per ERC call by domain

Source: Total number of evaluated proposals AdG 2008 (2034), AdG 2009 (1 526), AdG 2010 (1967), StG 2007 (8788), StG 2009 (2 392), StG 2010 (2767), StG 2011 (4018)

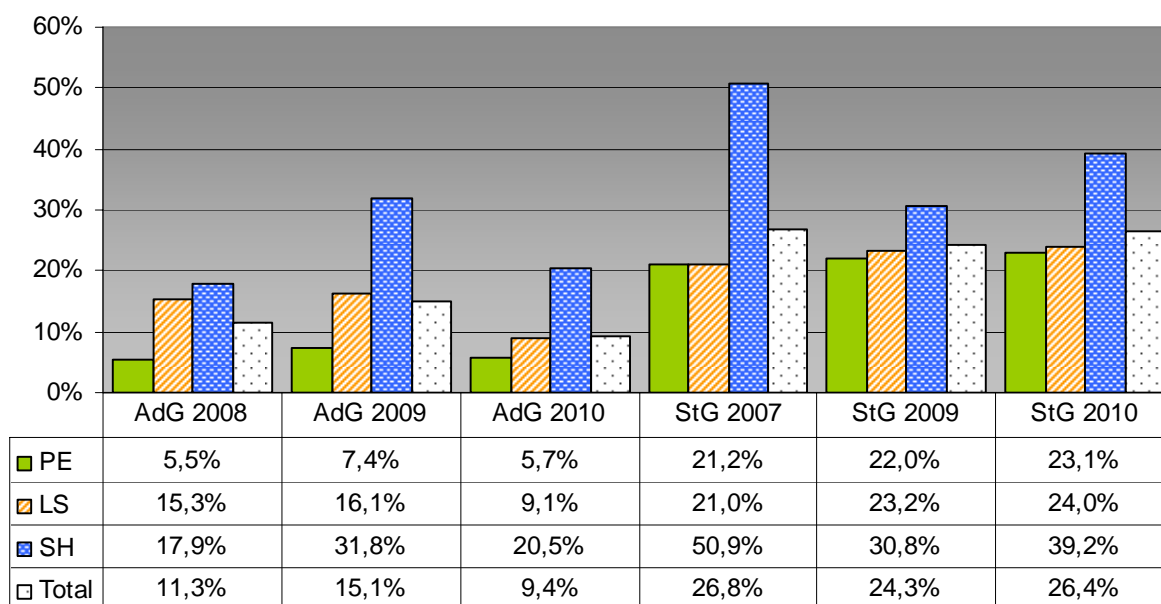


* Not counting ineligible or withdrawn applications

PE = Physical sciences and engineering, LS = Life sciences, SH = Social sciences and humanities

Share of successful female applicants* per ERC call by domain

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PE = Physical sciences and engineering, LS = Life sciences, SH = Social sciences and humanities



Country codes

EU Member States

AT	Austria
BE	Belgium
BG	Bulgaria
CY	Cyprus
CZ	Czech Republic
DE	Germany
DK	Denmark
EE	Estonia
EL	Greece
ES	Spain
FI	Finland
FR	France
HU	Hungary
IE	Ireland
IT	Italy
LT	Lithuania
LU	Luxembourg
LV	Latvia
MT	Malta
NL	Netherlands
PL	Poland
PT	Portugal
RO	Romania
SE	Sweden
SI	Slovenia
SK	Slovakia
UK	United Kingdom

FP7 Associated Countries

AL	Albania
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina
CH	Switzerland
HR	Croatia
IL	Israel
IS	Iceland
FO	Faroe Islands
LI	Liechtenstein
ME	Montenegro
MK	FYR of Macedonia
NO	Norway
RS	Serbia
TR	Turkey