

# The European Research Council



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

***El impacto territorial del programa  
Starting Grant del ERC***

1 July 2015

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Head of Scientific Department**

# Outline



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- **What is the ERC?**
- **What does ERC offer?**
- **ERC achievements**
- **Regional distribution of grants**



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# What is the ERC?

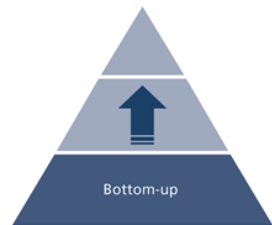
# What is the ERC?



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**Created in 2007, ERC supports excellence in frontier research through a bottom-up, individual-based, pan-European competition**



## 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



# What is the ERC?

## ERC structure



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### The European Commission

- **Provides financing** through the EU framework programmes
- **Guarantees autonomy of the ERC**
- **Assures the integrity and accountability of the ERC**
- **Adopts annual work programmes** as established by the Scientific Council

### The ERC Scientific Council

- **22 prominent researchers** proposed by an independent identification committee
- **Appointed by the Commission** (4 years, renewable once)
- **Establishes overall scientific strategy**; annual work programmes (incl. calls for proposals, evaluation criteria); peer review methodology; selection and accreditation of experts
- **Controls quality of operations and management**
- **Ensures communication with the scientific community**



### The ERC Executive Agency

- **Executes annual work programme** as established by the Scientific Council
- **Implements calls for proposals** and provides information and support to applicants
- **Organises peer review evaluation**
- **Establishes and manages grant agreements**
- **Administers scientific and financial aspects** and follow-up of grant agreements
- **Carries out communications activities** and ensures information dissemination to ERC stakeholders

# What is the ERC?

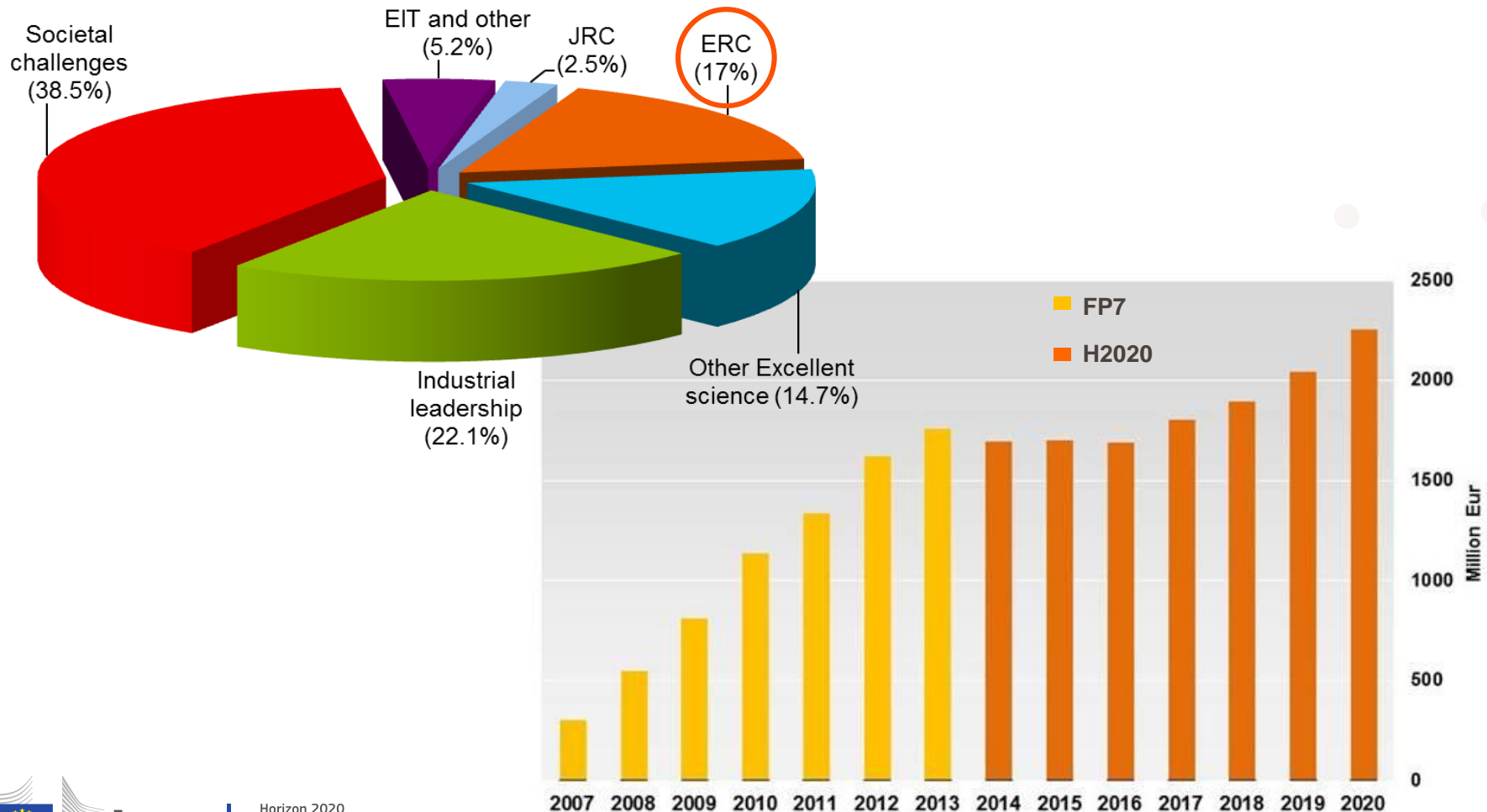
Horizon 2020 Budget € 77 billion

ERC Budget € 13 billion



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# What does ERC offer?

# What does ERC offer?

## Creative Freedom of the Individual Grantee



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### ERC offers independence, recognition & visibility

- to work on a research topic of **own choice**, with a team of **own choice**
- to gain true **financial autonomy** for 5 years
- to negotiate with the host institution the **best conditions** of work
- to attract **top team members** (EU and non-EU) **and collaborators**
- to move with the grant to any place in Europe if necessary (**portability of grants**)
- **to attract additional funding and gain recognition**; ERC is a quality label



# What does ERC offer?

## 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

### Proof-of-Concept

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



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# ERC achievements

# ERC achievements

## After 8 Years of Existence...



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- Highly recognised by the research community
- Over **5 000** top researchers funded
- 65% are at an early-career stage
- **66** nationalities represented
- **Highly competitive** (overall success rate tending to 10%)
- Working in almost 600 different institutions in **32** countries
- 50% of grantees in 50 institutions : “Excellence attracts excellence”
- **Benchmarking** effect: impact on national programmes and agencies; national funding for best "runners-up"
- Efficient and fast grant management

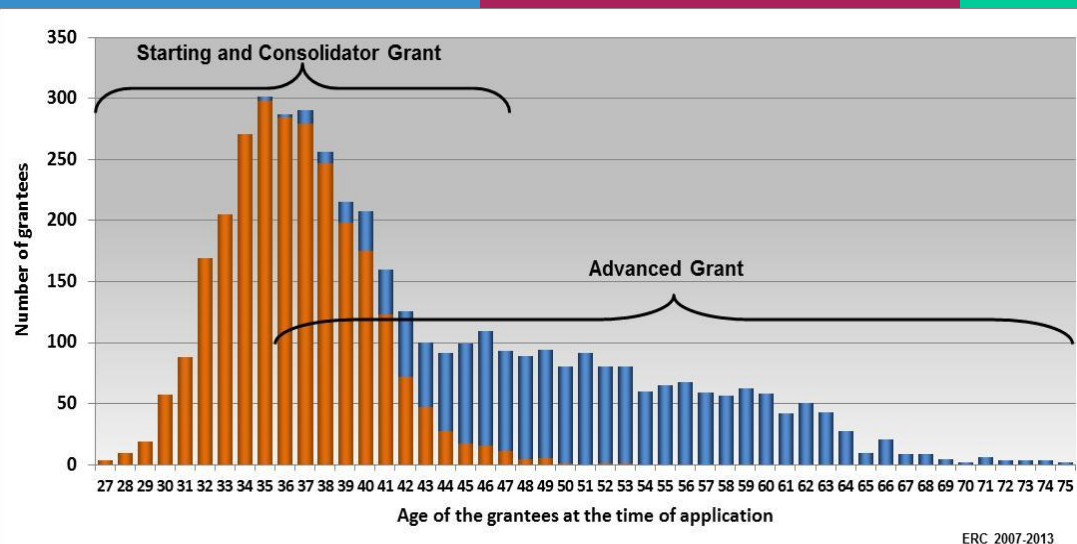
# ERC achievements

## Priority to young scientists



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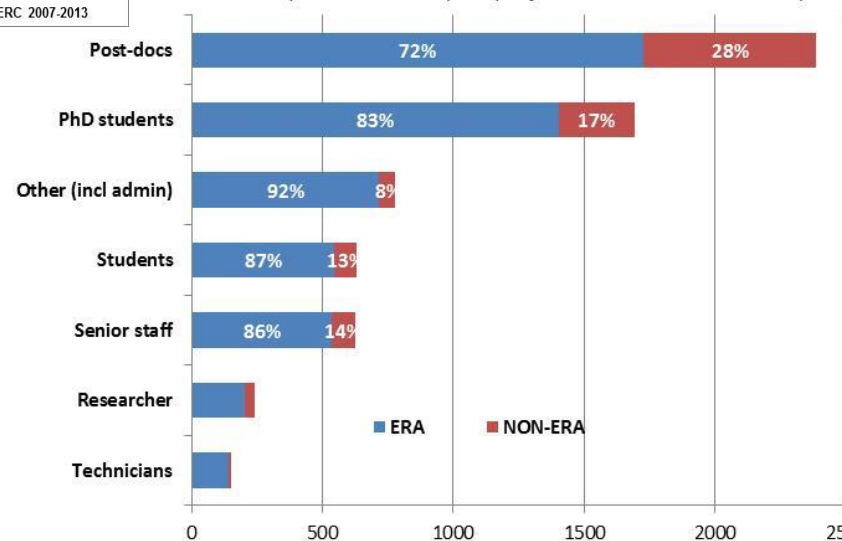
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+ 20 000 PhD and post-doc researchers working in ERC teams.

Two-thirds of ERC grants to early-stage Principal Investigators.

Reported ERC team members (May 2013)  
\*simple head count (995 projects; 6800 team members)



European Commission

Horizon 2020  
European Union funding  
for Research & Innovation

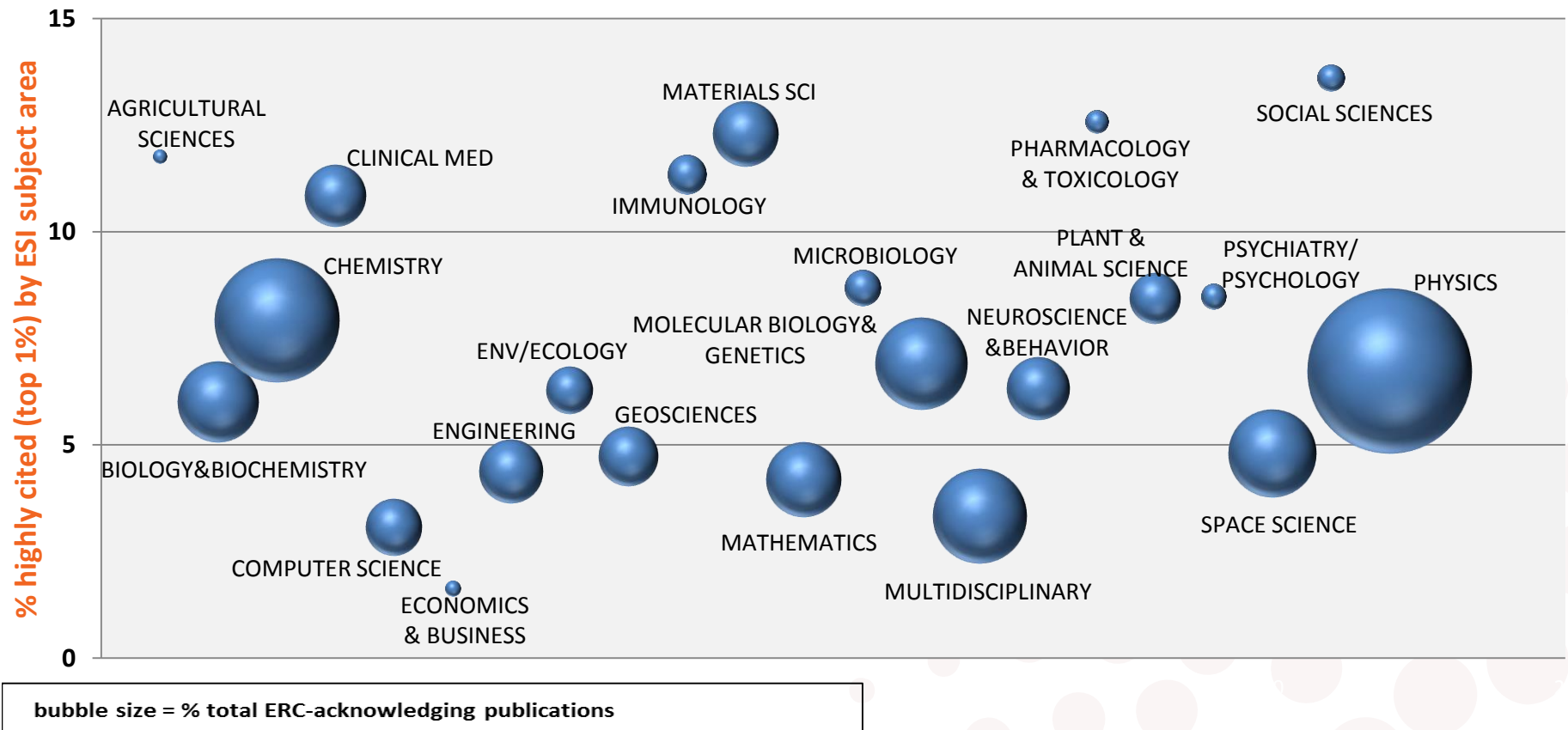
# ERC achievements

## ERC funds top research



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7% of all ERC-acknowledging publications are in top 1% highly cited



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Horizon 2020  
European Union funding  
for Research & Innovation

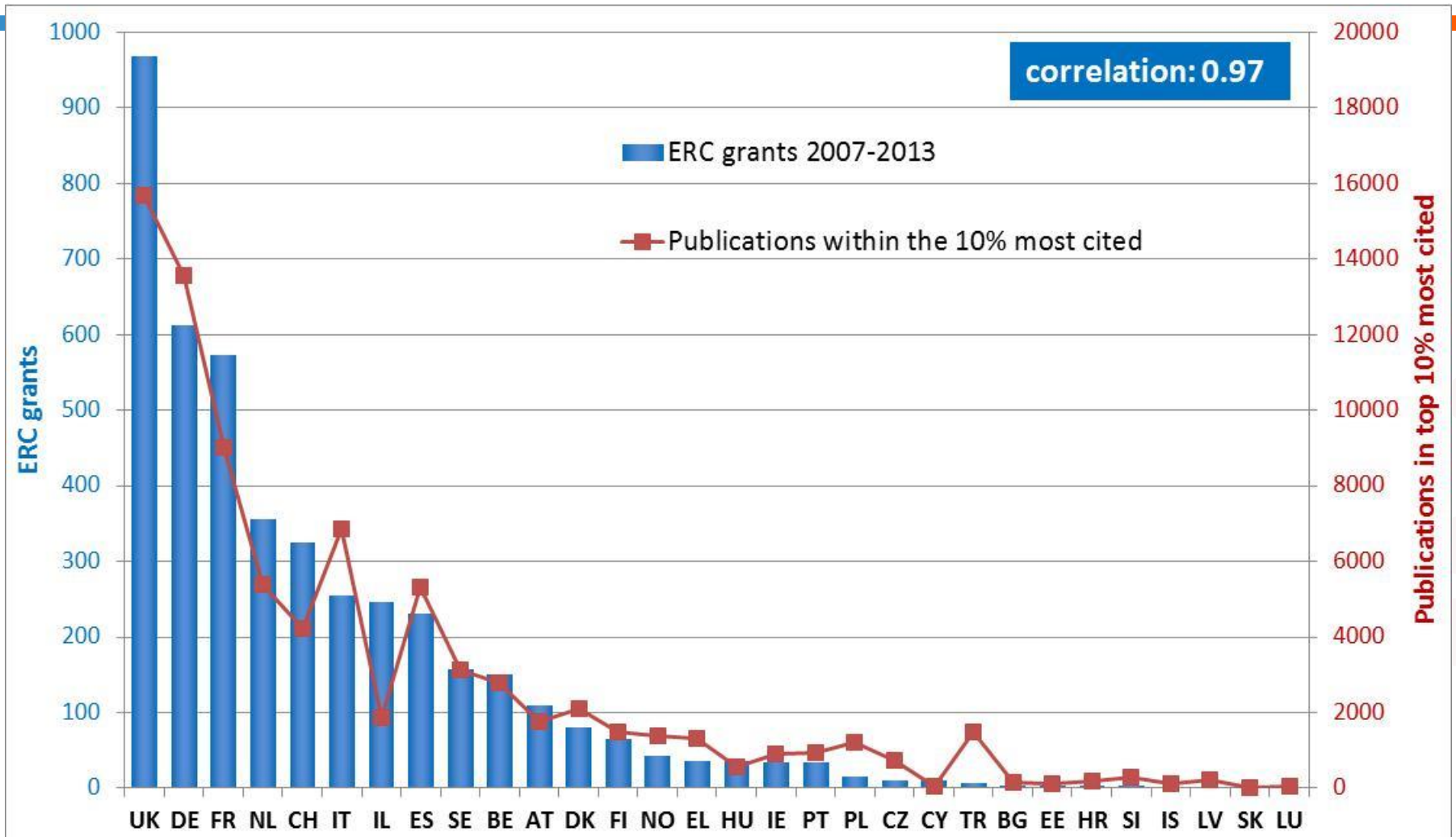


# ERC achievements

## Strong correlation between funding and top publications



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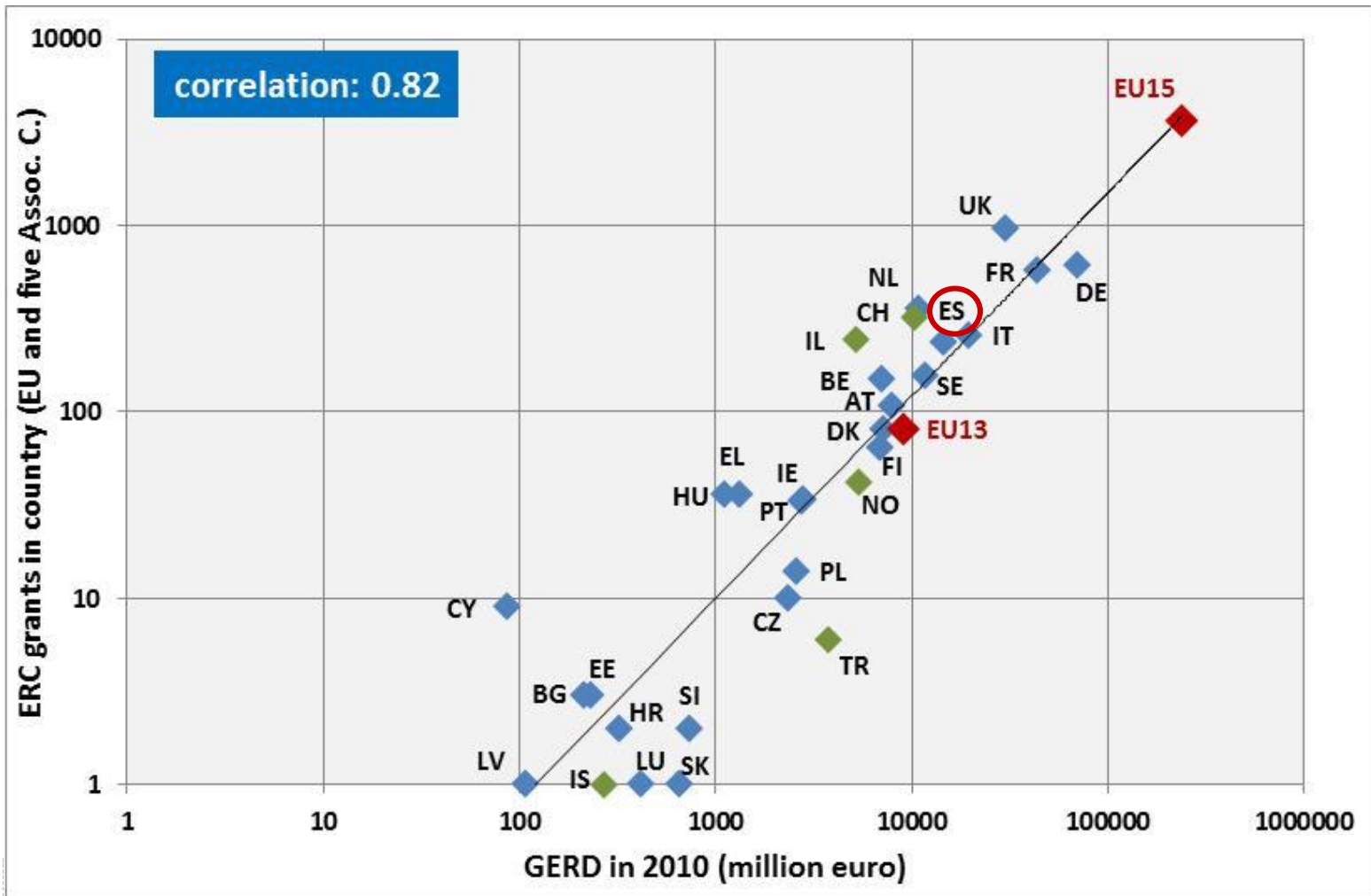
# ERC achievements

Strong correlation between funding and R&D investment



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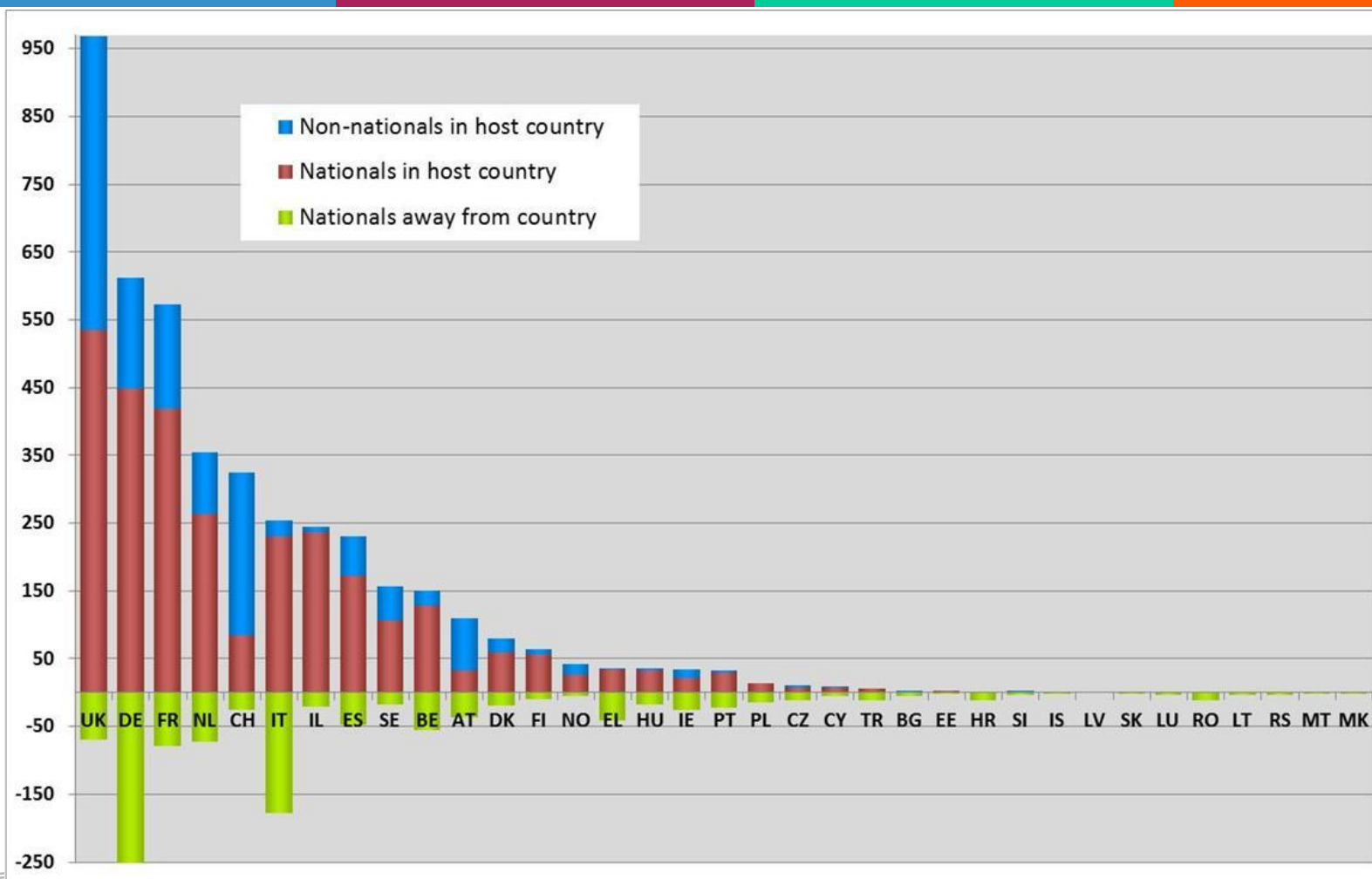
# ERC achievements

## ERC fosters mobility



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for Research & Innovation

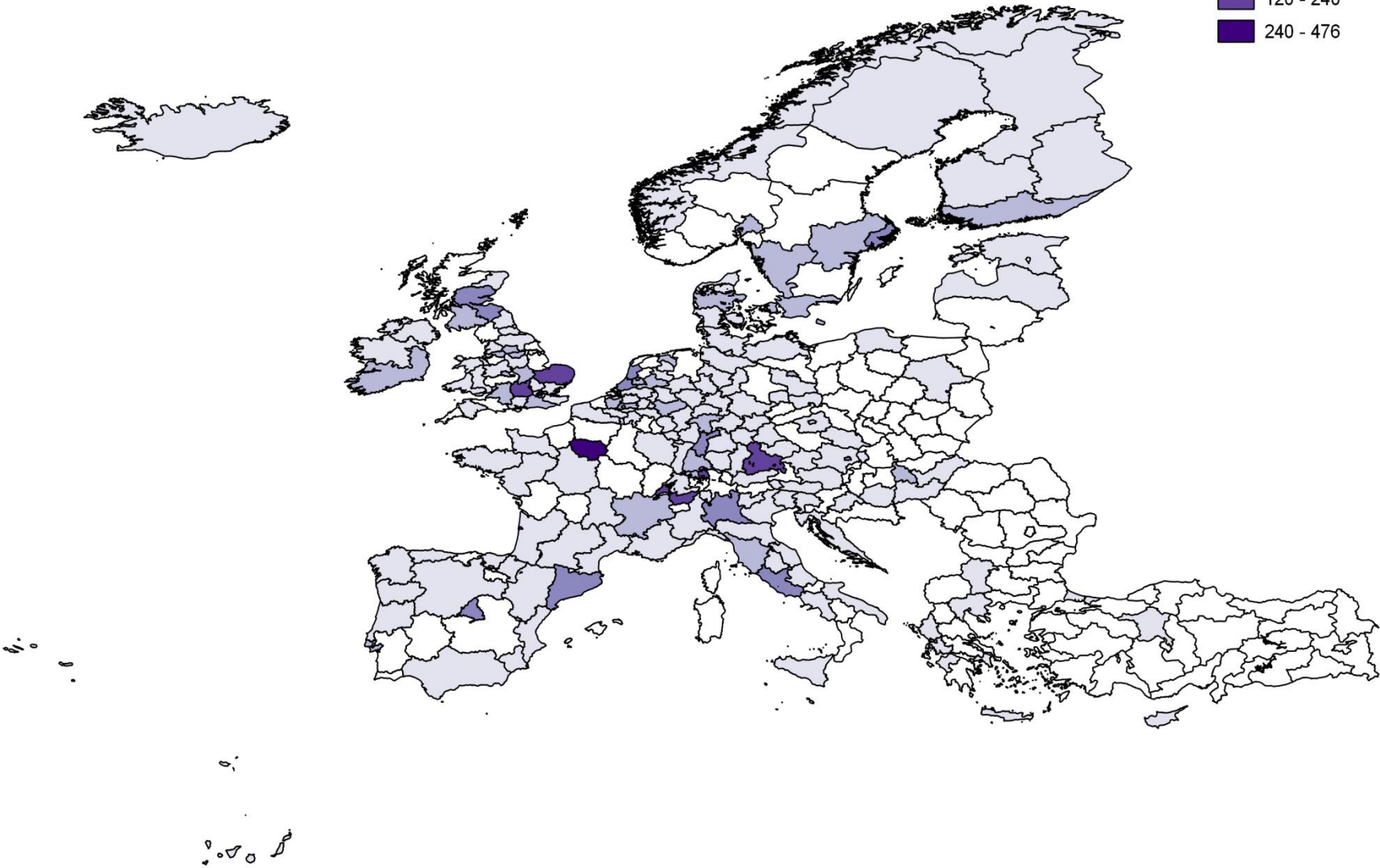
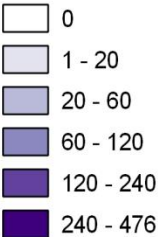
Current host institutions; data as of 12/01/2015

# Regional distribution of grants

# ERC grants in NUTS-2 regions (at the end of evaluation stage)

NUTS-2 regions

All grants at application stage

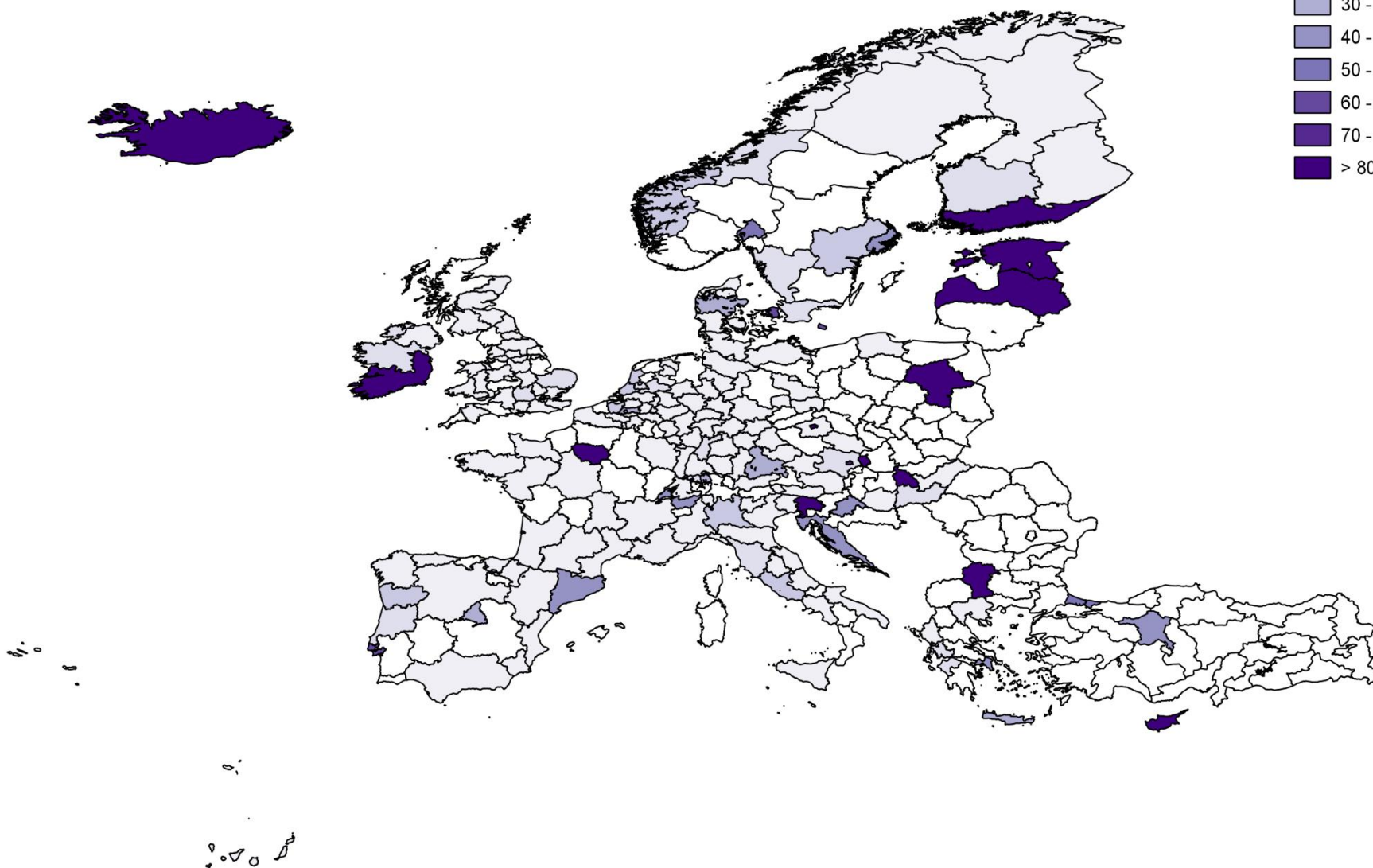




# ERC grants in NUTS-2 regions as % of all national (at the end of evaluation stage)

NUTS-2 regions

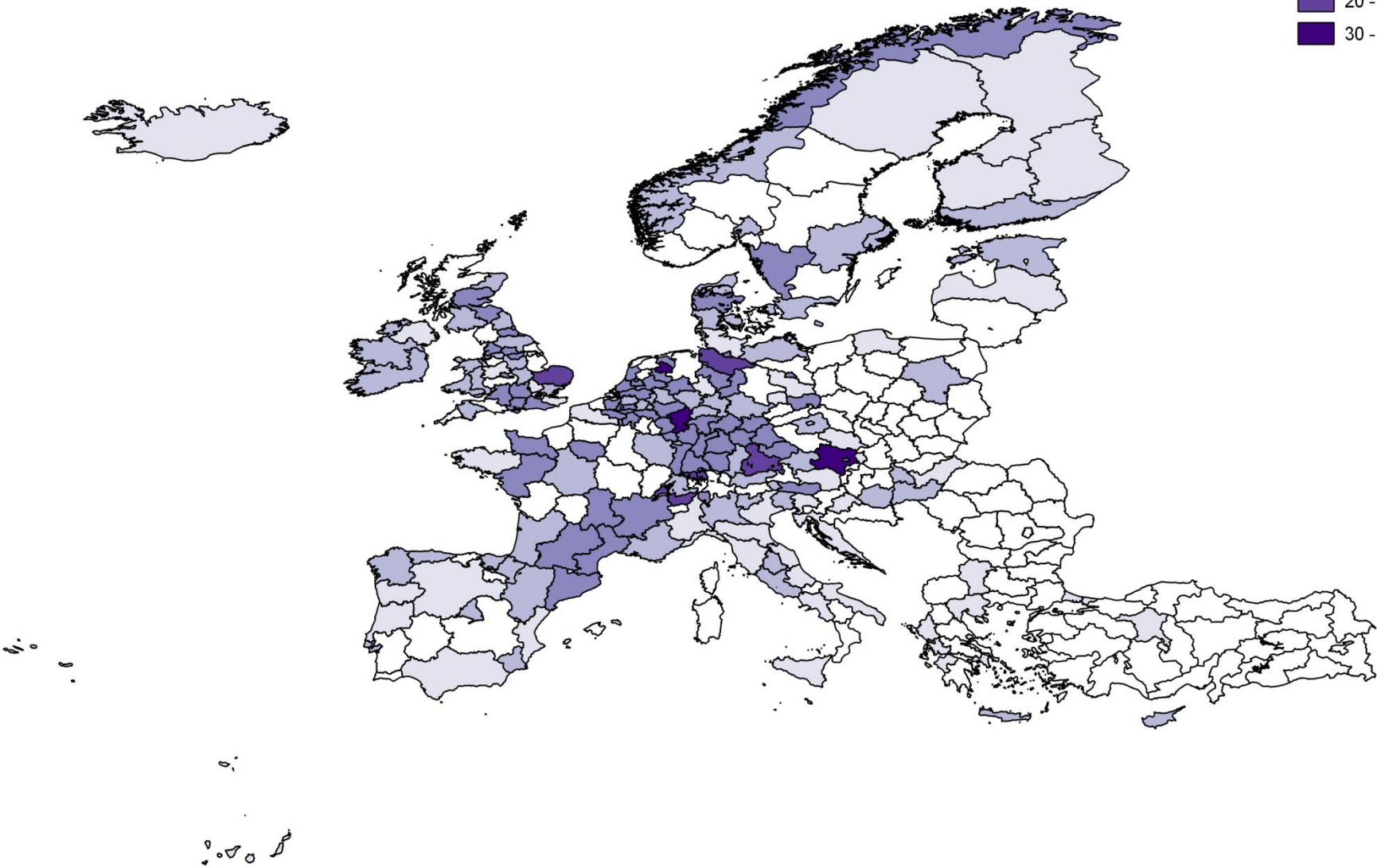
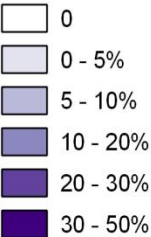
Grants as % national



# Total success rates in NUTS-2 regions

NUTS-2 regions

Total success rates



# Spain and Galicia at ERC

# Spain at ERC

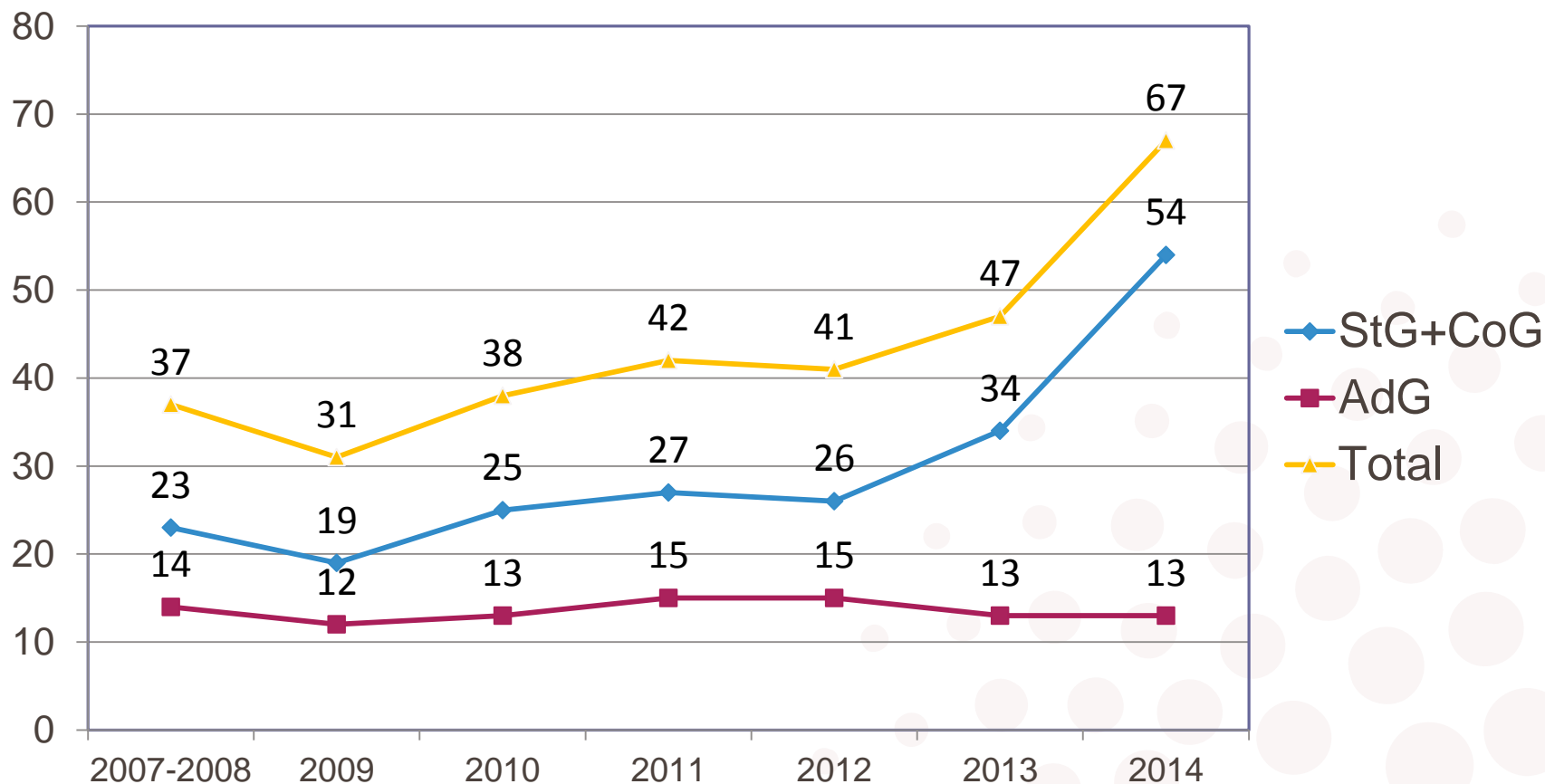
## Evolution of the number of grants with Spanish HI

Total: 301grants



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2013: 14 StG and 20 CoG

2014: 22 StG and 32 CoG

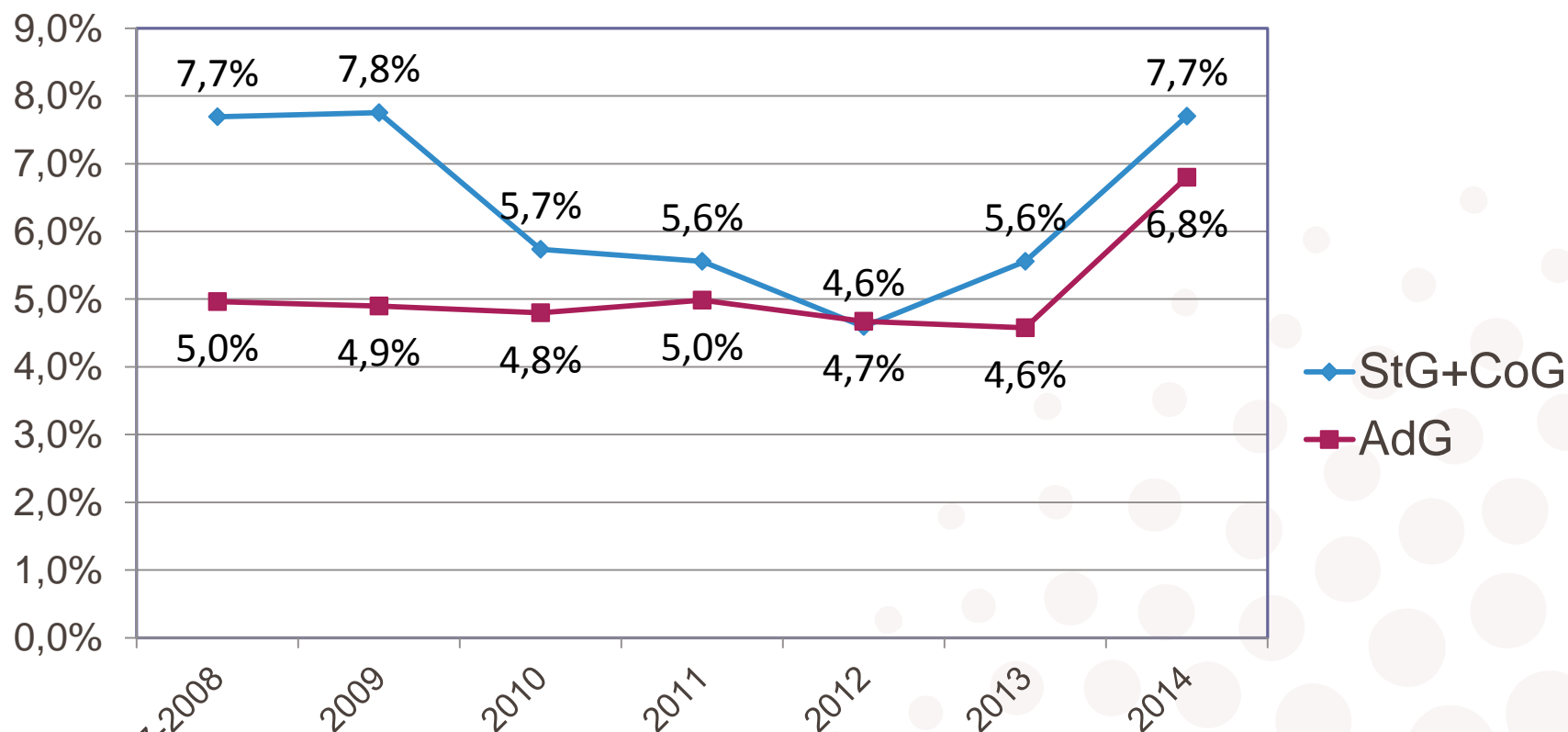
# Spain at ERC

## Evolution of the % of grants with Spanish HI



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2013: 4,7% in StG and 6,4% in CoG

2014: 6,7% in StG and 8,6% in CoG



# Galicia at ERC

## 10 grants awarded at 3 research institutions in Galicia ERC Starting and Advanced grant calls 2007 – 2014



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Host Institution	Principal Investigator	Grant	Call	Panel
UDC	Hector Gomez	MuSIC	ERC-2012-StG	PE8
UVIGO	Luis Liz-Marzan*	PLASMAQUO	ERC-2010-AdG	PE5
	David Posada	PHYGENOM**	ERC-2007-StG	LS8
	David Posada	PHYLOCNCER	ERC-2013-CoG	LS8
USC	Francisco Rivadulla	2DThERMS	ERC-2010-StG	PE3
	Miguel Lopez Perez	ObERStress	ERC-2011-StG	LS4
	Carlos Salgado	HotLHC	ERC-2011-StG	PE2
	Ruben Nogueiras	OBESITY53	ERC-2011-StG	LS4
	Jose Luis Mascarenas	METBIOCAT	ERC-2013-AdG	PE5
	Diego Martinez Santos	BSMFLEET	ERC-2014-StG	PE2

\* Currently in a different HI

\*\* Grant terminated



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