

Funding Frontier Research: the ERC Success Story

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ERC Basics



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Main features

- The ERC is a pan-European competition supporting frontier research in all fields of knowledge
- Support for individual or small groups of principal investigators
- No predetermined subjects (strictly bottom-up)
- Scientific quality is the only criterion for selection of the project aiming for excellence
- The peer-review involves researchers from around the world

ERC Governance



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The ERC Scientific Council

- 22 prominent researchers proposed by an identification committee
- President appointed following recommendation of a search committee
- Appointed by the Commission (4 years, renewable once)
- Establishes overall scientific strategy and annual work programmes
- Identifies evaluators
- Controls quality of operations and management
- Ensures communication with the scientific community

The European Commission

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

The ERC Executive Agency

- Executes annual work programme
- Implements calls for proposals
- Organises peer review evaluation
- Signs and monitors grant agreements
- Carries out communications activities
- Provides support to the Scientific Council

ERC Open to the World

- No nationality constraint
- All fields of knowledge are eligible
- No scientific priorities
- Light project monitoring

- ❑ Host institution must be located in the European Union or in any of the 14 Associated Countries
- ❑ Grantee can keep affiliation with home institute outside Europe (“significant part” of work time in Europe, at least 50%)
- ❑ Team members can be based outside Europe

- Additional “start-up” funding for scientists moving to Europe of up to EUR 1 Million

ERC Grants Schemes

Starting Grants

starters
(2-7 years after PhD)
up to 1.5 M€
for 5 years

Consolidator Grants

consolidators
(7-12 years after PhD)
up to 2 M€
for 5 years

Advanced Grants

track-record of
significant research
achievements in the
last 10 years
up to 2.5 M€
for 5 years

Proof-of-Concept

bridging the gap between
research and marketable innovation
lump sum 150 k€ for ERC grant holders

Synergy Grants (re-launched 2018)

2 – 4 Principal Investigators
up to 10 M€ for 6 years
1 PI can be based outside EU/AC

Key Figures



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Over **10,000**
top researchers funded since
the ERC's creation in 2007



Over **150,000**
articles from ERC projects published
in prestigious scientific journals



Over **75,000**
researchers and other professionals
employed in ERC research teams



> 800 research institutions
hosting ERC grantees – universities,
public or private research centres in
the EU or associated countries

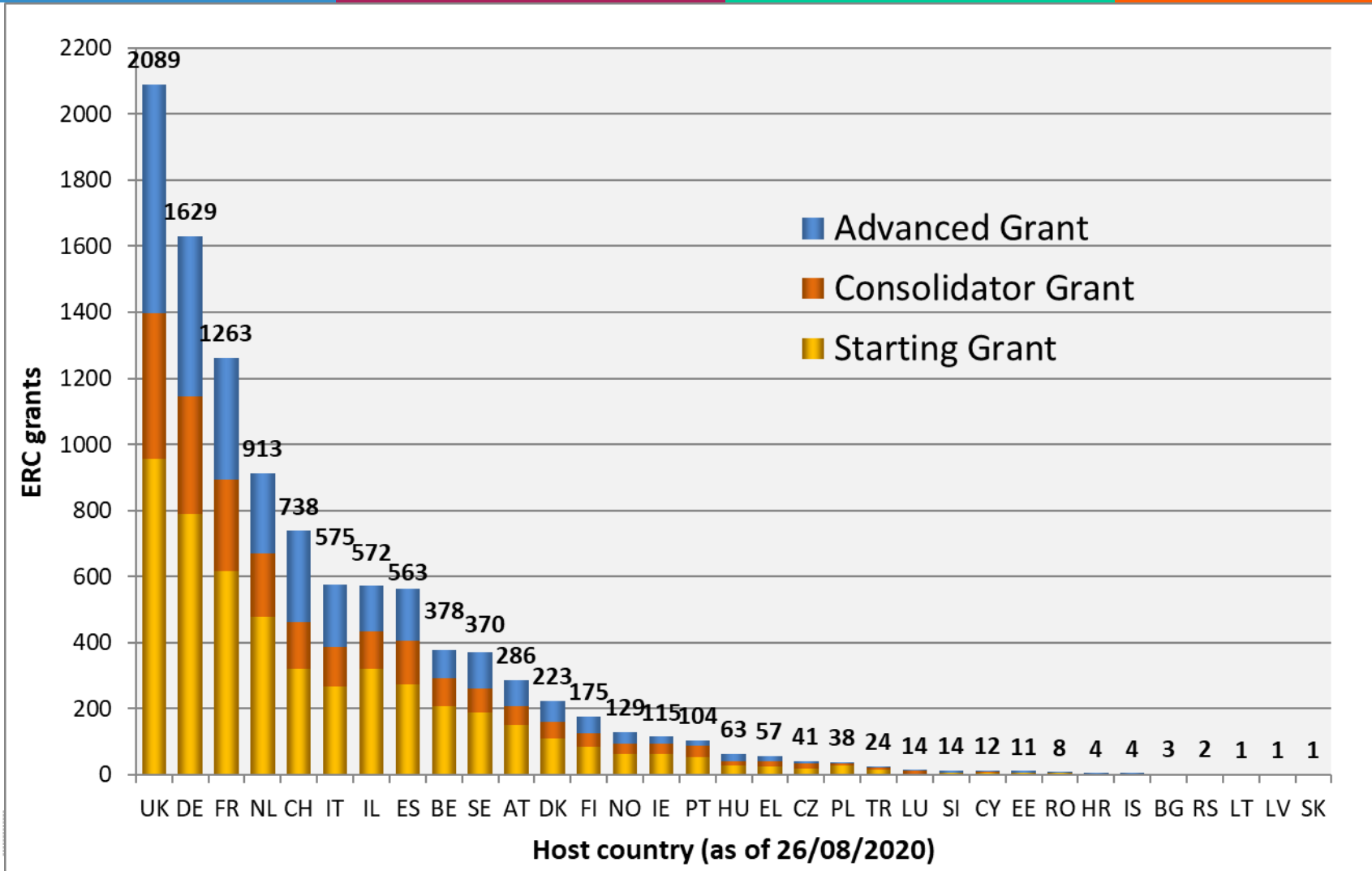


€ 13 billion
ERC budget for 2014-2020 under
Horizon 2020



84
nationalities of
grant holders

ERC Grants per Host Institution Countries





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International Participation

International Participation

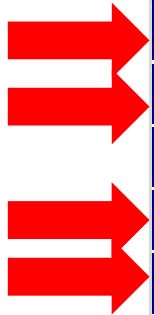


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Over 8% of all ERC grants to principal investigators of third-country nationality (47)

Non-EU/AC Principal Investigators	Starting and Consolidator grants	Advanced grants	Total grants
USA	227	121	348
Canada	83	16	99
India	59	3	62
Russia	50	9	59
Australia	49	10	59
China	50	1	51
Japan	25	7	32
New Zealand	17	6	23
Argentina	19	1	20
Other	106	13	119
Total	685	187	872



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Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation

International Participation at Submission



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Mainly European researchers moving/returning from the US

Country of residence	International grantees	EU/AC nationals	Total
Argentina	1		1
Australia	3	8	11
Brazil	1		1
Canada	5	8	13
China		3	3
Egypt		1	1
India	1	1	2
Japan		2	2
Korea		2	2
Lebanon		1	1
Malaysia		1	1
Pakistan		1	1
Russia	3		3
Senegal		1	1
Taiwan	1		1
USA	64	169	233
Total	79	198	277



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Attracting Researchers to Europe



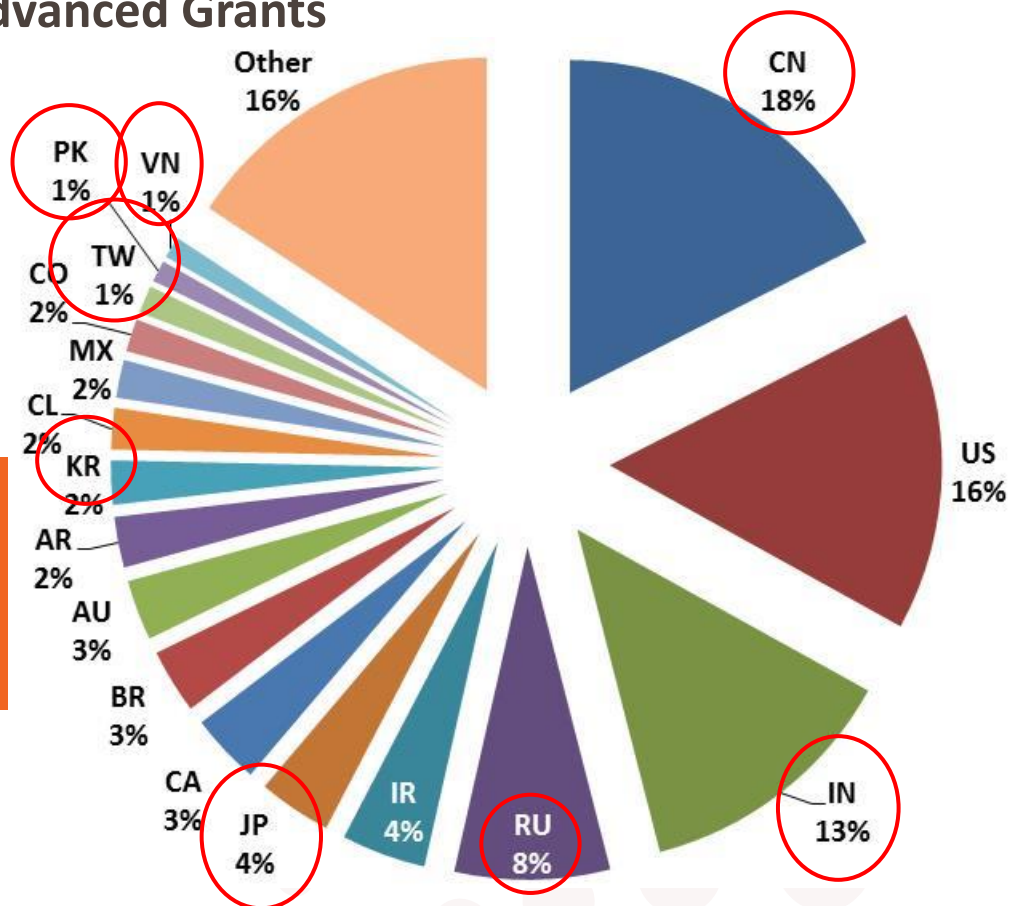
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Nationality of ERC project teams (PIs not included) Analysis of 1,901 Starting and Advanced Grants

EU: 71%
Assoc. Countries: 10%
non-EU/AC: 17%
unknown: 2%

In all ERC grants
over 10,000 third-country team
members most from
China, US, India, and Russia



ASEAN Nationals in ERC Calls



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Evaluated:

ERC calls 2007-2019 + StG 2020

	StG	CoG	AdG	Grand Total
Indonesia	13	1	1	15
Malaysia	36	13	7	56
The Philippines	7	2	1	10
Singapore	41	9	3	53
Thailand	14	3	1	18
Vietnam	33	4		37
Grand Total	144	32	13	189

Funded:

	StG	CoG	AdG	Grand Total
Indonesia	1			1
Malaysia	2	2		4
The Philippines	1		1	2
Singapore	6	3		9
Thailand	2			2
Vietnam	1			1
Grand Total	13	5	1	19

Implementing Arrangements



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Promotes opportunity for non-European researchers to visit ERC research teams, supported by foreign agencies.

- **USA**, National Science Foundation (NSF)
- **Republic of Korea**, National Research Foundation (NRF)
- **Argentina**, Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation (MINCYT)
- **China**, National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)
- **Japan**, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) and Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)
- **South Africa**, National Research Foundation (NRF)
- **Mexico**, Mexican National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT)
- **Brazil**, Brazilian National Council of the State funding agencies (CONFAP)
- **Canada**, Canadian Tri-Agency Institutional Programmes Secretariat (TIPS)
- **India**, Scientific Engineering Research Board (SERB)
- **Australia**, National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and Australian Research Council (ARC) – starting from 2019
- **Singapore**, National Research Foundation Singapore (NRF) – starting from 2019

Latest news: new Implementing Arrangements ready to be signed in Japan and India

IA - ERC PIs Participation 2012-2019



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Number of ERC grantees expressed interest to host non-European researchers									
Country	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
USA	789	676	372	507	380	312	423	730	4189
Korea PI		492	351	358	319	256	341	570	2687
China				402	293	249	332	566	1842
Japan JSPS				453	345	287	377	634	2096
Argentina				378	296	245	322	542	1783
South Africa				358	279	240	312	539	1728
Brazil					303	249	329	545	1426
Mexico					294	242	316	534	1386
Canada					353	289	392	660	1694
India Early						224	301	514	1039
Japan JST							370	625	995
Australia NHMRC							369	610	979
Korea PhD							325	541	866
India PhD							276	468	744
Australia ARC								647	647
Singapore								584	584
Average	789	584	362	409	318	259	342	582	

Research Visits to ERC projects 2012-2019



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Number of non-EU research visitors by year and by country

Country	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018*	2019*	Total
Japan JST							6		6
India						5			5
Canada					3	3	1		7
Mexico					5	4			9
Brazil					12	22	32		66
Argentina				5	5				10
China				11	12	7	8		38
Japan JSPS				3	13	2	11	13**	42
South Africa				5	2	1	2		10
South Korea		31	28	30	30	35	32		186
USA	12	23		11			3		49
Total	12	54	28	65	82	79	95	13	428



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Appendix

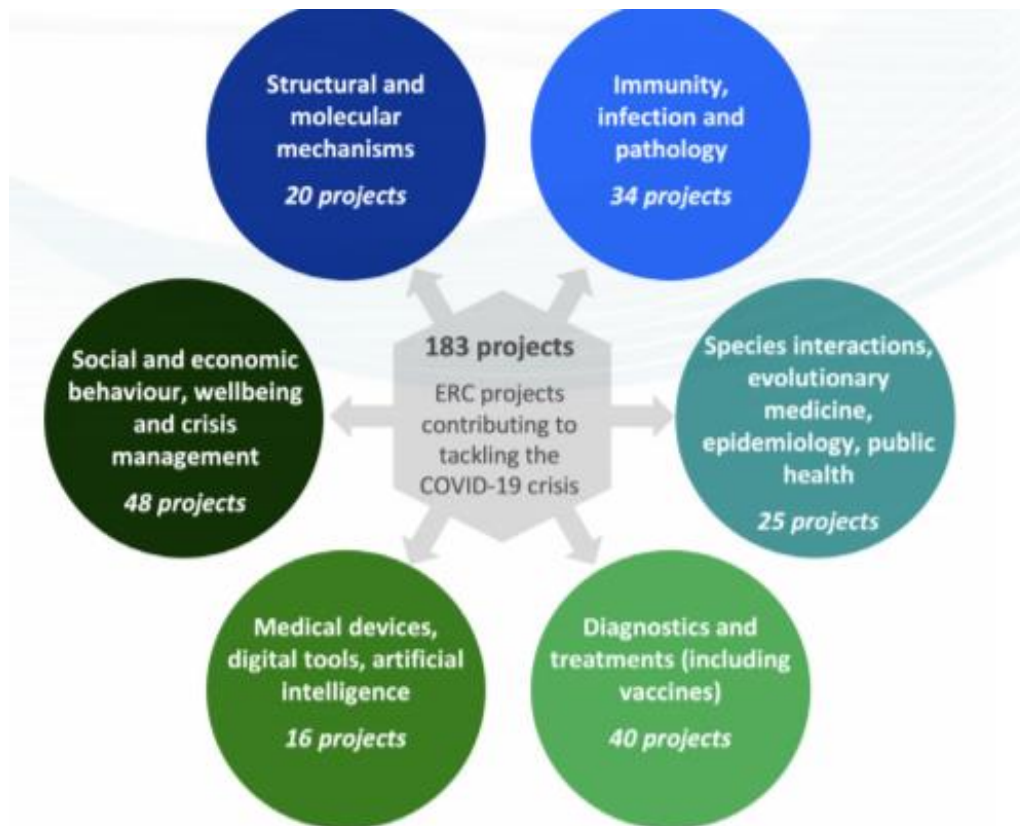
ERC and the CoViD-19 Crisis



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The scientific landscape behind the projects contributing to tackling the COVID-19 crisis





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