

## The European Research Council in a nutshell

- The European Research Council (ERC) is the **first pan-European funding body** supporting the best **frontier research** in Europe<sup>1</sup>.
- 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 it 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, to over € 13 billion, under 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 competitions - with **excellence** as sole selection criterion - it funds the brightest ideas at the frontiers of knowledge. There are neither thematic priorities, nor geographical quotas.
- The ERC competitions are open to **top researchers from anywhere in the world**, provided they spend at least half of their research time in Europe.
- 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 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 three core grant schemes: '**ERC Starting Grants**', targeted at early-career, emerging research leaders, '**ERC Consolidator Grants**', aimed at already independent excellent researchers, and '**ERC Advanced Grants**', supporting already established top researchers. Since its launch, the ERC has funded over 2,700 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 groups of researchers working together on the same project; (ii) 'ERC Proof of Concept' funding is open only to ERC grantees 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 six additional team members, which contributes to the training of a new generation of excellent scientists. By the end of FP7, it is estimated that the ERC will have funded over 4,000 grantees, and will also have supported over 24,000 people, including nearly 6,000 doctoral students and more than 8,000 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.

<sup>1</sup> In the EU or the FP7 associated countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Faroe Islands, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Israel, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, 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
Feb 2012	ERC celebrates its fifth anniversary

## Facts and Figures

- Location: Brussels, Belgium
- Established: 2 February 2007
- Budget: € 7.5 billion (2007-2013)
- Budget year 2012: € 1.75 billion
- Grant sizes:
  - Starting Grants up to € 2 million per grant
  - Consolidator Grants up to € 2.75 million per grant
  - Advanced Grants up to € 3.5 million per grant
  - Proof of Concept up to € 150 000 per grant
  - Synergy Grants up to € 15 million per grant
- Number of submissions since ERC launch: over 31,000
- Number of Starting and Advanced Grants' calls since ERC launch: 9 completed and 3 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:

[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 - Sept 2010): Prof. Andreu Mas-Colell

Former ERC Executive Agency Director *ad int.*: 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\*

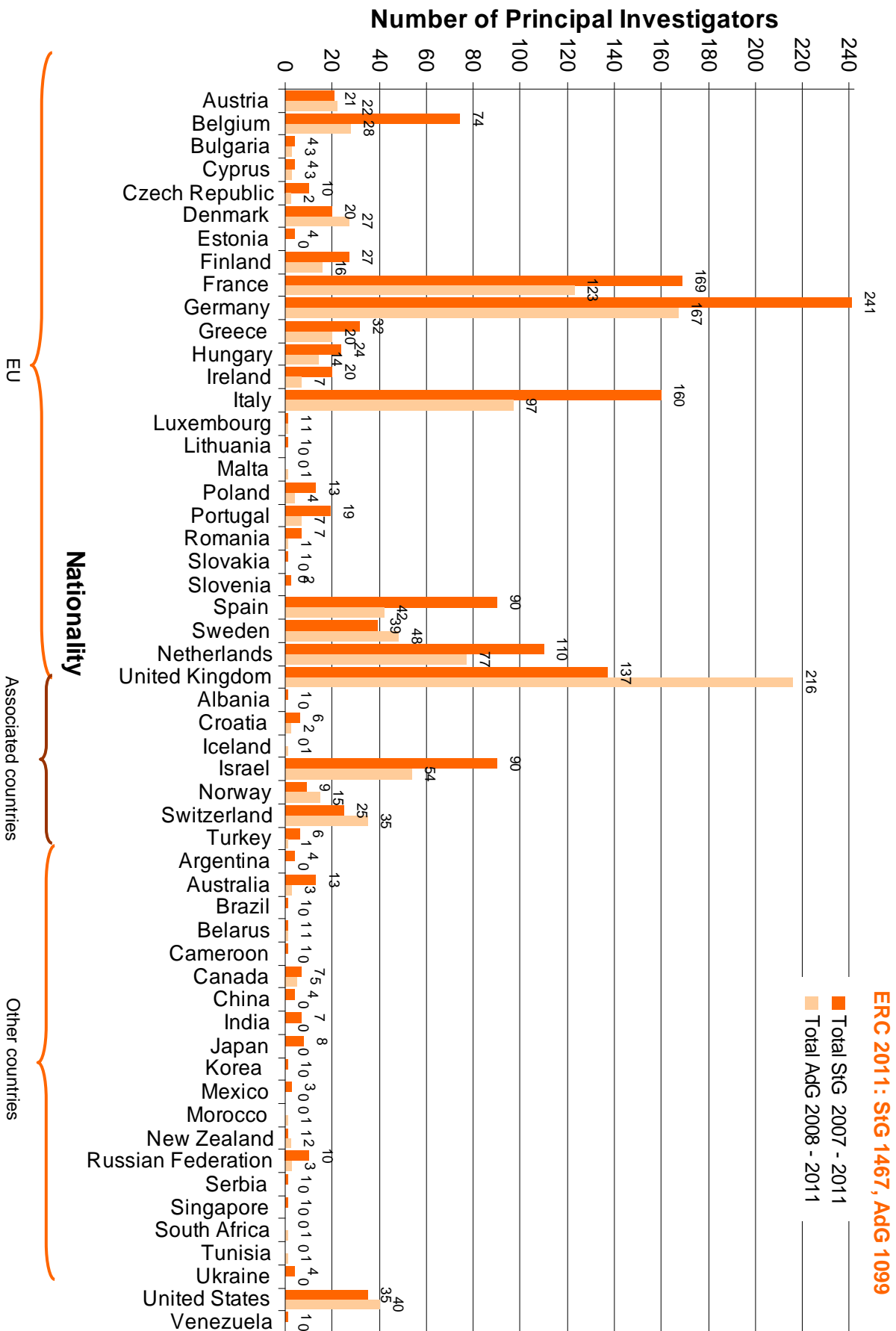
(\*) current host institution; data as of 03/05/2012

	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
<b>EU Member States</b>											
Austria	4	7	14	14	39	9	7	6	7	29	68
Belgium	11	15	15	22	63	5	2	5	8	20	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	74	57	202	35	34	32	33	134	336
Germany	32	28	68	63	191	29	32	48	52	161	352
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	7	18	0	0	3	2	5	23
Italy	24	17	22	27	90	18	14	20	23	75	165
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	50	122	20	18	18	21	76	199
United Kingdom	56	46	77	124	303	58	64	57	70	249	552
<b>Associated Countries</b>											
Iceland	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
Israel	22	13	26	23	84	15	11	13	11	50	134
Norway	1	0	2	5	8	4	3	7	4	18	26
Switzerland	16	20	28	23	87	29	29	21	23	101	189
<b>Total</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>1467</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>1099</b>	<b>2566</b>

AdG = Advanced Grant

StG = Starting grant

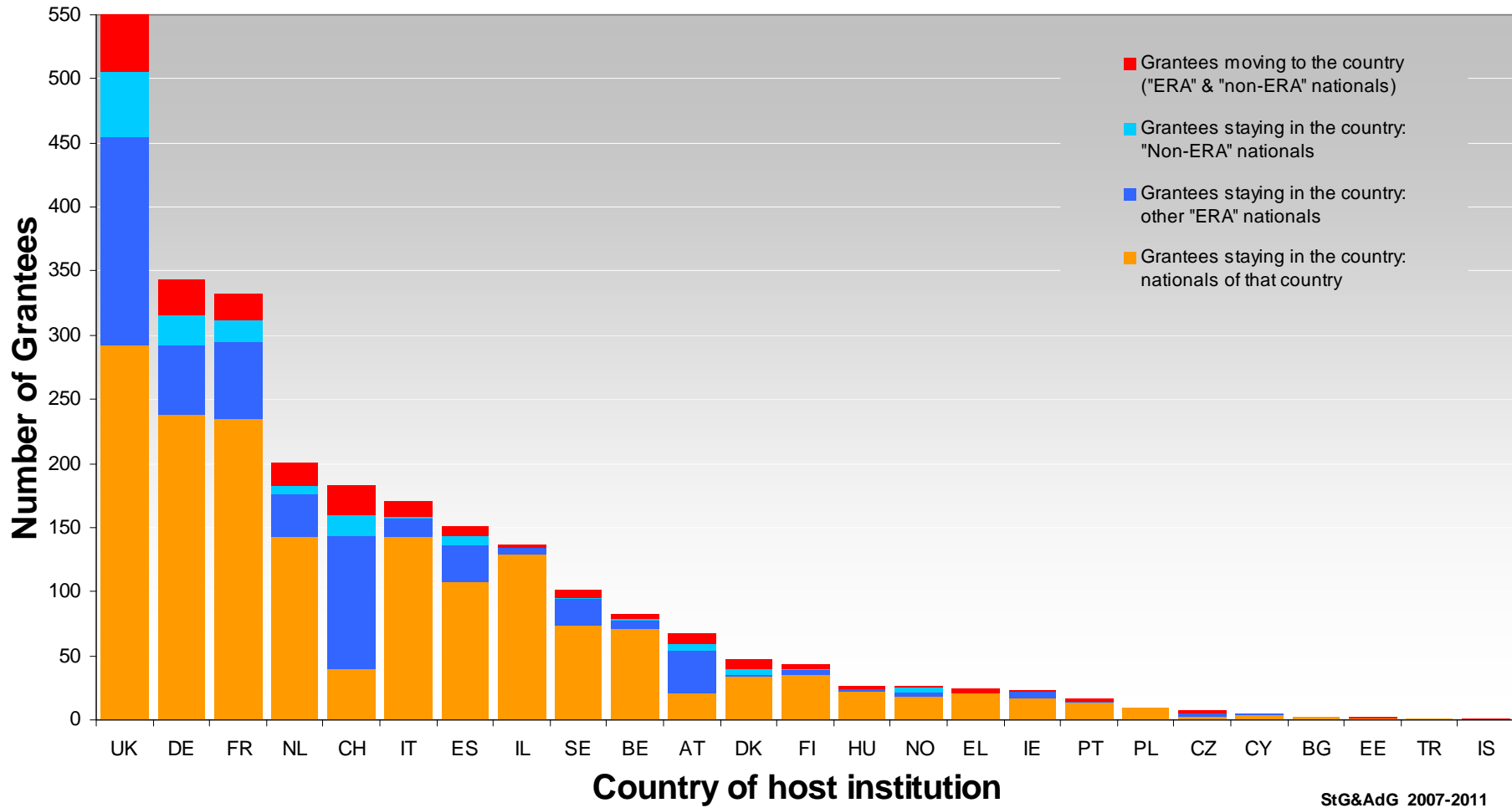
## ERC grantees by nationality (as declared by the grantee)



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

(\* first legal signatories of the grant agreement; data as of January 2012

ERC Starting grant calls 2007 – 2011  
 ERC Advanced grant calls 2008 – 2011



StG&AdG 2007-2011

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

(\*) first legal signatories of the grant agreement; data as of 03/05/2012

ERC Starting grant calls 2007 – 2011  
 ERC Advanced grant calls 2008 – 2011

