

A scenic view of a park with a pond, a fountain, and modern buildings in the background. The fountain is in the center, with a rainbow visible in the mist. The buildings are modern, with glass facades, and the trees are lush and green.

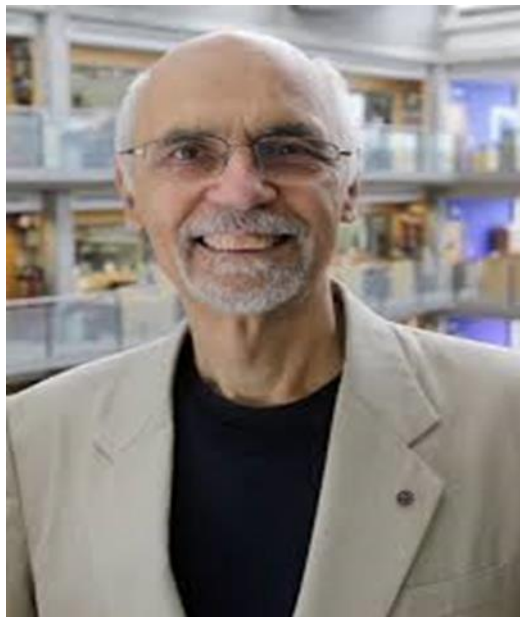
The European Research Council with a view on Baltic Countries

Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON
ERC President

Europe needs Excellent Research



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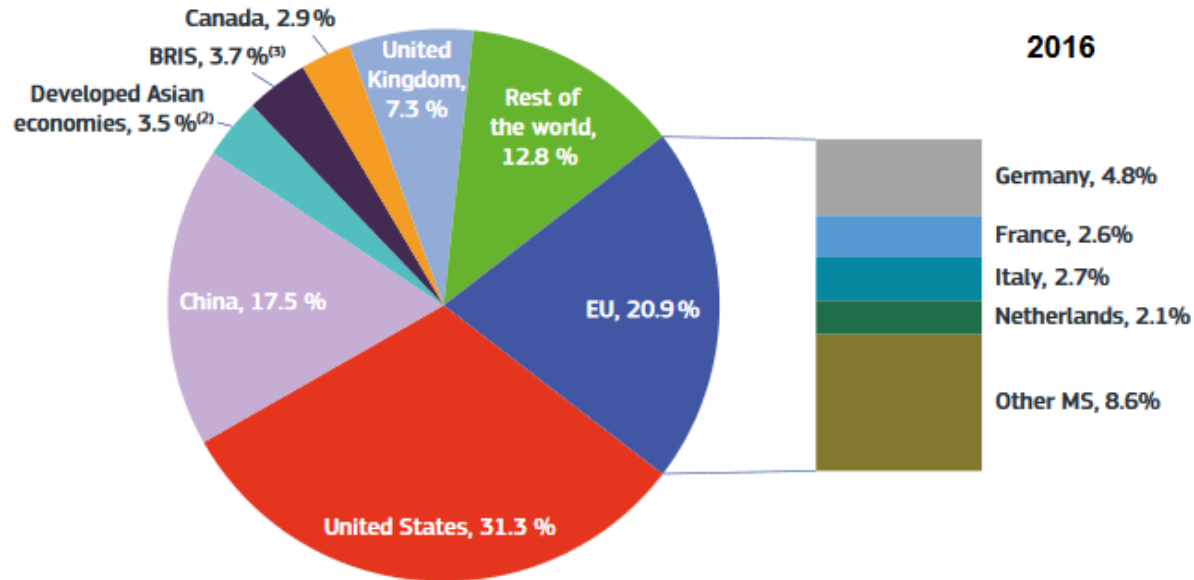


***"What is the comparative advantage of EU in the future?
An increasingly old population, our limited natural
resources? Investing in Research, which is an integral part
of the European cultural tradition, is no longer a choice
today, it is a one-way street for the EU. And the only way
to make sure that investment pays back is excellence".***

**Fotis KAFATOS, First ERC President.
Speech at the ERC launch event in 2007 in Berlin
in presence of Chancellor Angela MERKEL**

World Shares of Top Scientific Papers

Figure 6.1-6 World share of top 1% highly cited scientific publications⁽¹⁾, 2000 (citation window: 2000-2002) and 2016 (citation window: 2016-2018)



With 21.2 % in 2000 and 20.9 % in 2016, the EU is maintaining its world share of the top 1 % highly cited scientific publications but remains behind the US with China rapidly growing.

ERC Rationale



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- *Reinforce excellence, especially in new, fast-growing research areas*
- *Stay ahead in a world of growing scientific and technological competition;*
- *Link science to technological innovation;*
- *Compete for talent;*
- *Encourage greater investment.*

Frontier Research: The European Challenge High-Level Expert Group Report February, 2005



ERC is Different



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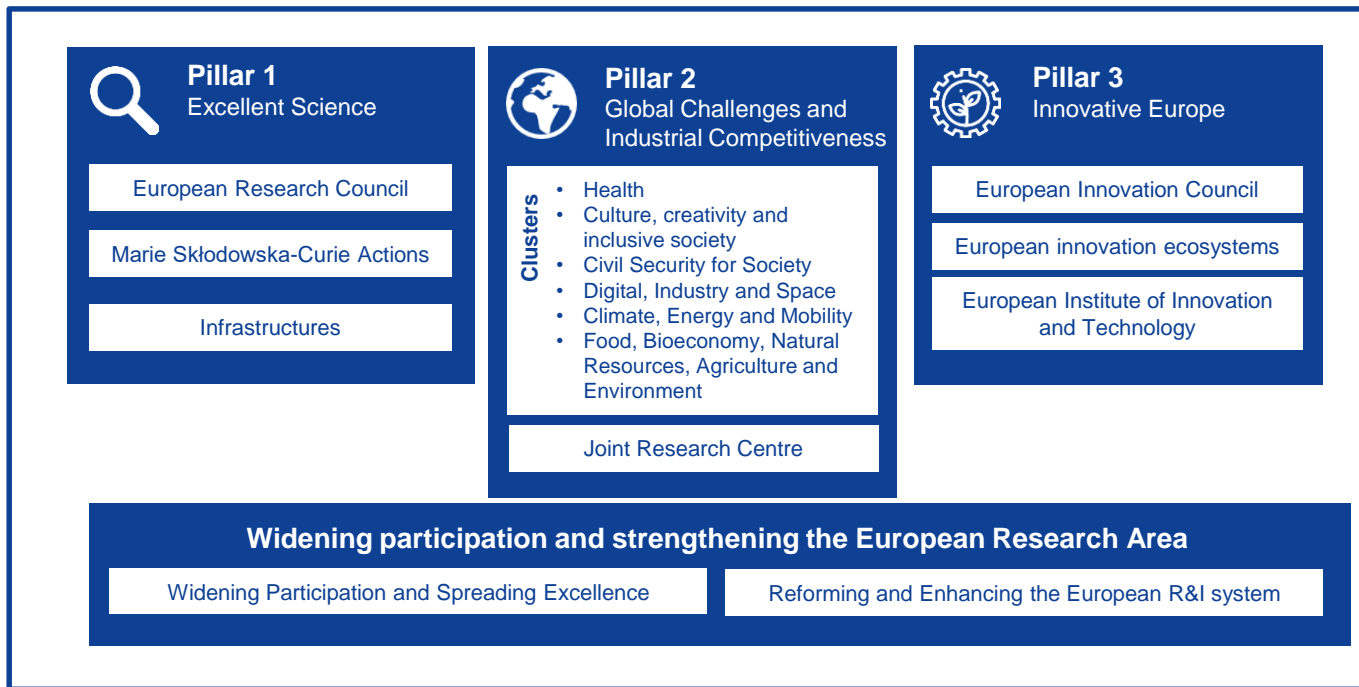
Scientific Governance

- Independent Scientific Council with 22 members including the ERC President; full authority over funding strategy and evaluation
- Support by a Dedicated Implementation Structure (ERC Executive Agency)

Scientific Freedom

- Scientific quality as the only criterion for selection
- Support to the individual scientist – no consortia!
- No predetermined subjects (bottom-up)
- Support to Frontier Research in all fields of Science and Humanities
- International peer-review

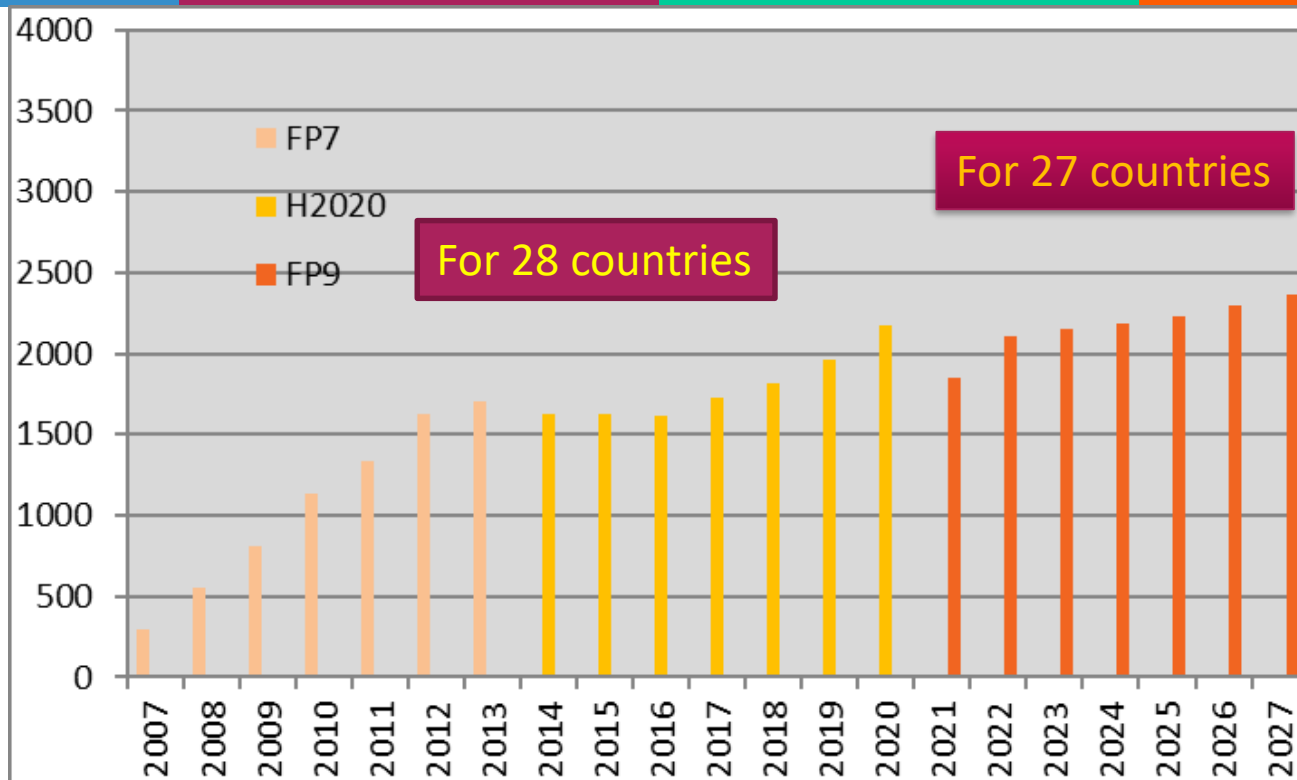
Horizon Europe



ERC Budget 2021 - 27



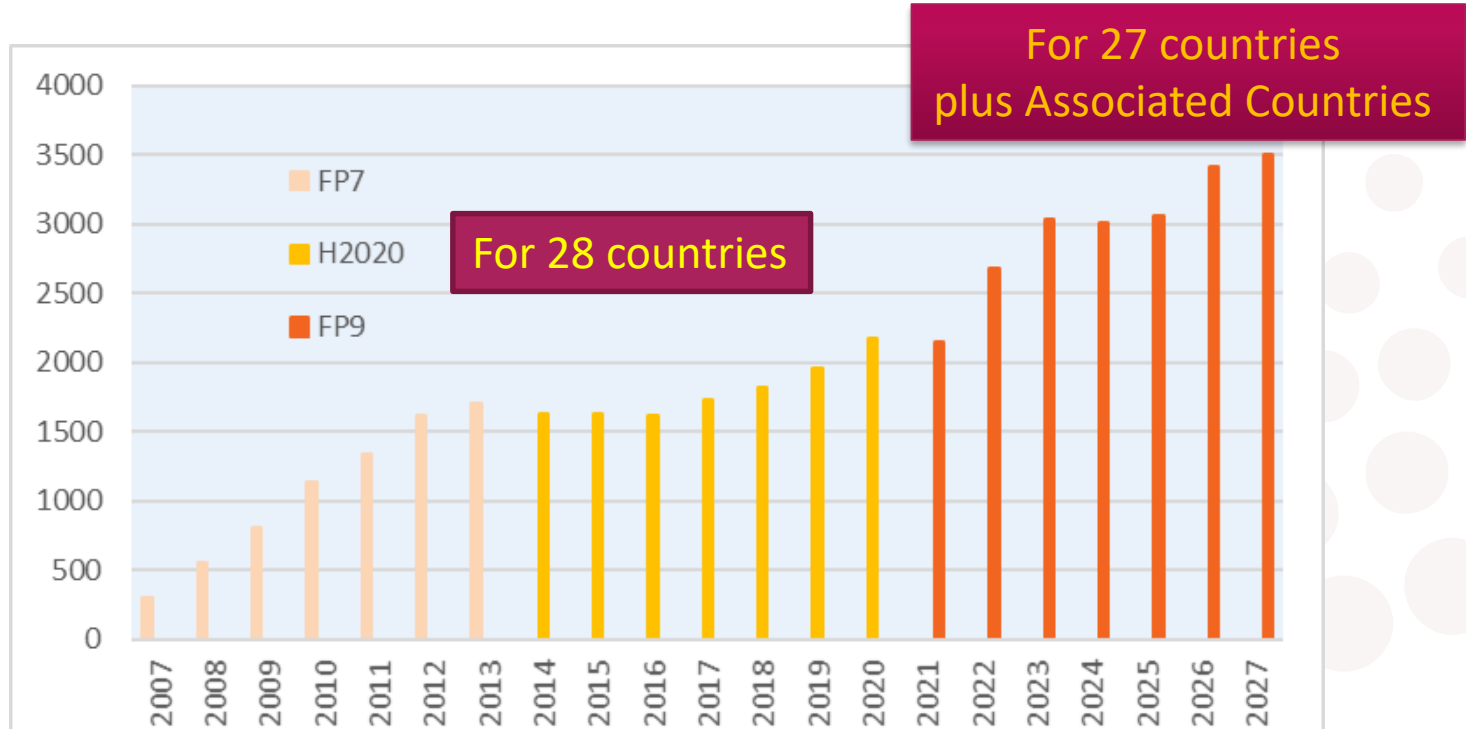
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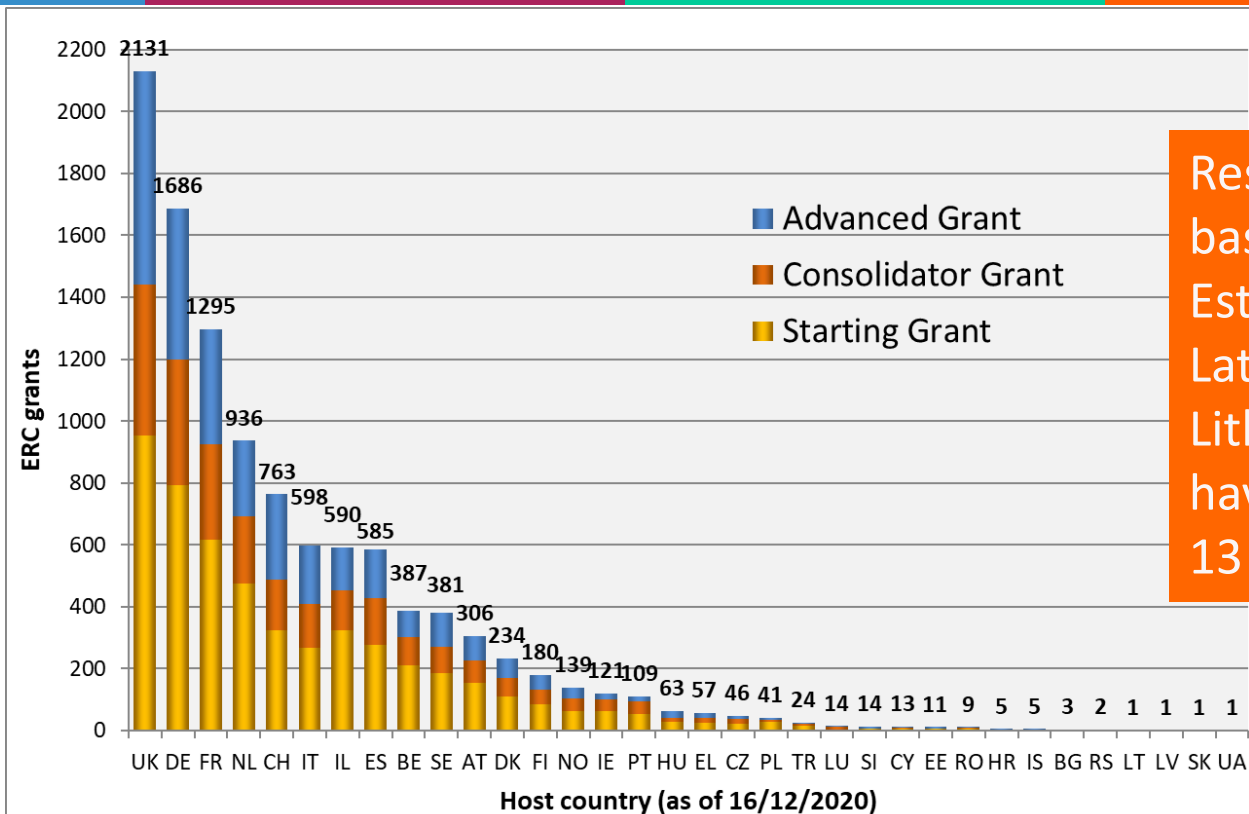


ERC Funding and the Baltic Countries

ERC Grants by Host Country



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Researchers based in Estonia (11), Latvia (1) and Lithuania (1) have received 13 ERC grants.

Issues Raised by EU 13 Researchers



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- **Unattractiveness of the research environment:** scientific isolation, missing culture of scientific excellence, lack of open and merit-based reward system.
- **Low international profile of researchers:** lack of international dynamics and mobility, lower levels of international exposure.
- **Poor career perspectives:** lack of career building programmes and long-term research career prospective, non-merit based recruitment practices.
- **Low national research investments:** low salaries for top scientists, lack of additional and sustainable funding (ERC top-up, ERC runners-up, ERC exit programmes).
- **Inadequate research funding systems:** ex: lack of open competitions, project-based funding, and/or funding to individuals.
- **Lack of support to ERC applicants and grantees:** by host institutions, National Contact Points, colleagues and peers.

Widening European Participation



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To capitalise on the full European potential for frontier research without departing from the ERC's principle of excellence

- ✓ Contribute to a truly inclusive European culture of competitiveness in science
- ✓ Strengthen participation in ERC calls by researchers from the EU's less research-performing regions
- ✓ Facilitate systematic debate and interactions with relevant stakeholders to promote national and local support for promising scientists from EU's less research-performing region

Concrete measures



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1. Continuously monitoring the participation to the ERC calls and the success rates
2. Guaranteeing a fair evaluation processes in view of optimal inclusiveness
3. Raising awareness on ERC among potential applicants and His
4. Providing recommendations to national policy-makers, such as:
 - support ERC finalists with national funding
 - support ERC applicants improve their proposals
 - make participation in ERC calls an essential component in national evaluations
 - ensure a truly and competitive academic environment

ERC Visiting Fellowships Scheme



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- **Scheme:** short term research visit (1 - 6 months) in an ERC team
- **Funding:** by a national research-funding organization in ERA
- **Eligibility:** open to all researchers working in ERA, in public open competitions through evaluation panels composed by researchers of high repute, based on excellence and potential for an ERC grant application
- **Condition:** a letter of support signed by an ERC grantee and his/her Host Institution stating that in case the applicant is selected he/she will be hosted as a member of the research team of the PI (facilitated by the ERC via Call for expression of interest)

Successful applicants must sign a letter of commitment to apply for an ERC grant no later than 1-2 year(s) after the end of the visit

Participating Countries and Regions



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- Czech Republic
- Estonia
- Poland
- Slovenia
- Belgium (Flanders)
- Serbia (in the pipeline)
- Croatia
- Slovak Republic
- Georgia
- Romania
- Hungary*

* Hungary did not participate in the 2018-2019 calls

The European Research Council

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