

The European Research Council



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

ERC and Widening Countries

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National Information Day on the ERC grants, Prague, 15.11.2022

GENERAL STATISTICS, ALL COUNTRIES

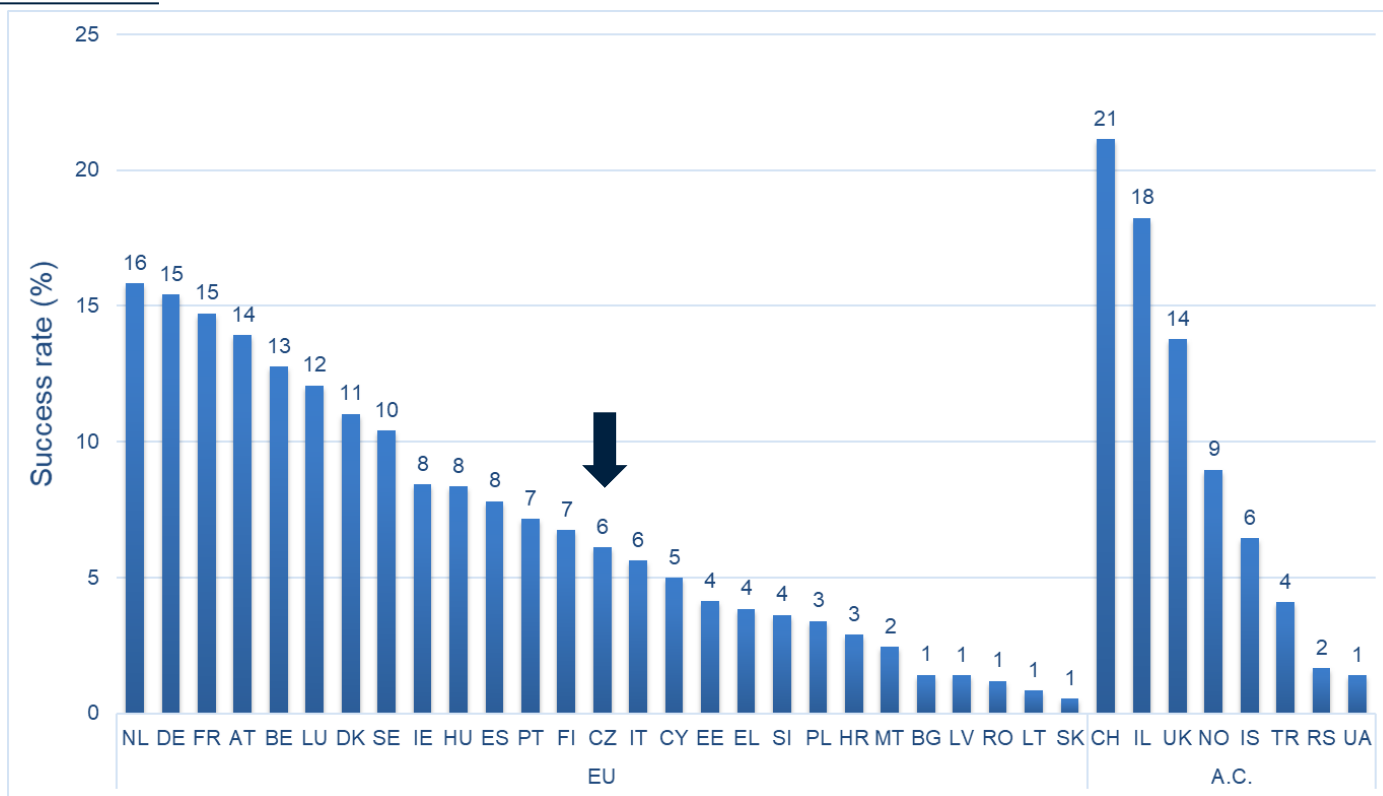
Some facts about ERC

27 EU member states and the associated countries comprise the European Research Area (ERA), „widening countries“ are EU13 countries + Portugal and Greece

Types of grants: Starting Grants (StG), Consolidator Grants (CoG), Advanced Grants (AdG) Synergy Grants (SyG) and Proof of Concept Grants (PoF)

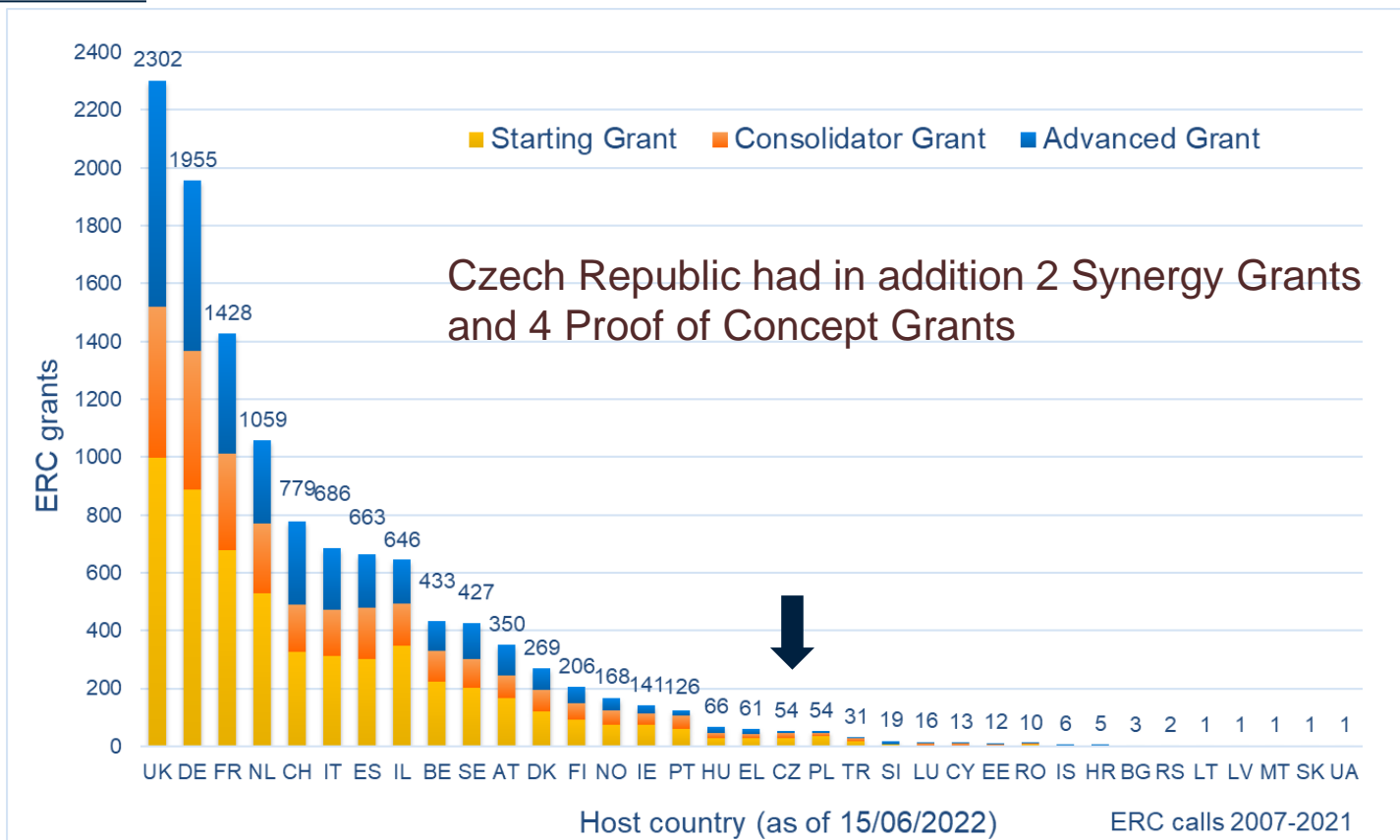
The ERC has a budget of €13.1 billion for the period 2014 – 2020 (2007-2013 € 7.5 billion)

Success Rate by Country

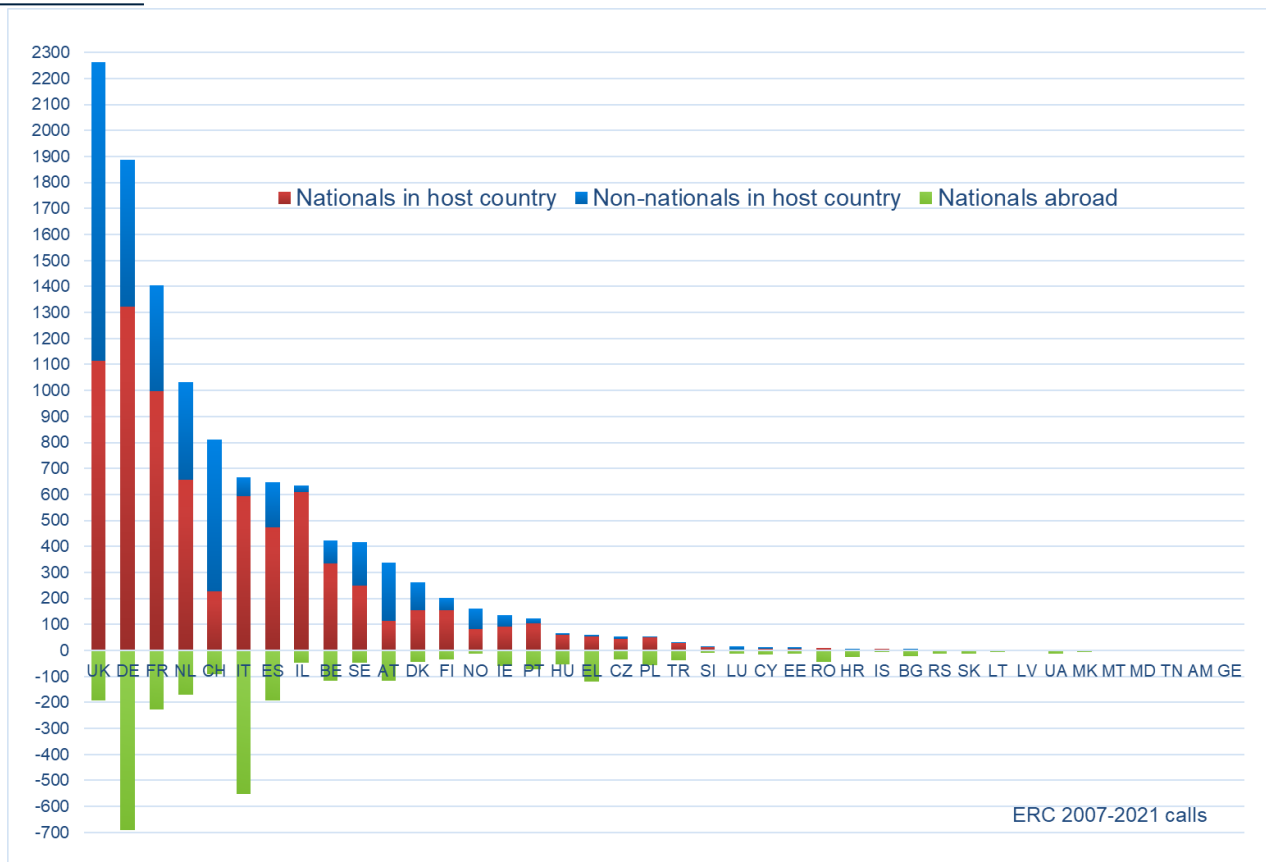


Success rate (2007-2021)

ERC Funded Projects by Country



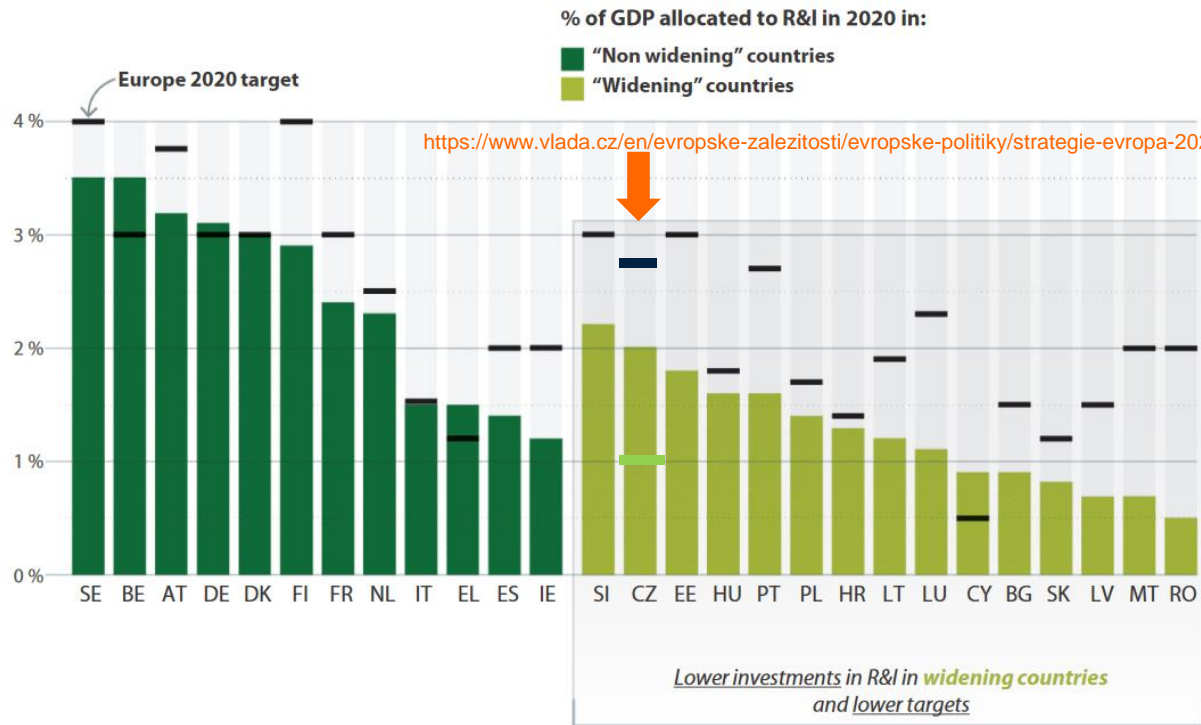
Grantees at Home and Abroad



WIDENING COUNTRIES: FACTORS BEHIND LOW PERFORMANCE

Success rate (EU13+ PT + EL) is 4%, while is 11% for the rest of EU countries

National R&I Investments as % of GDP



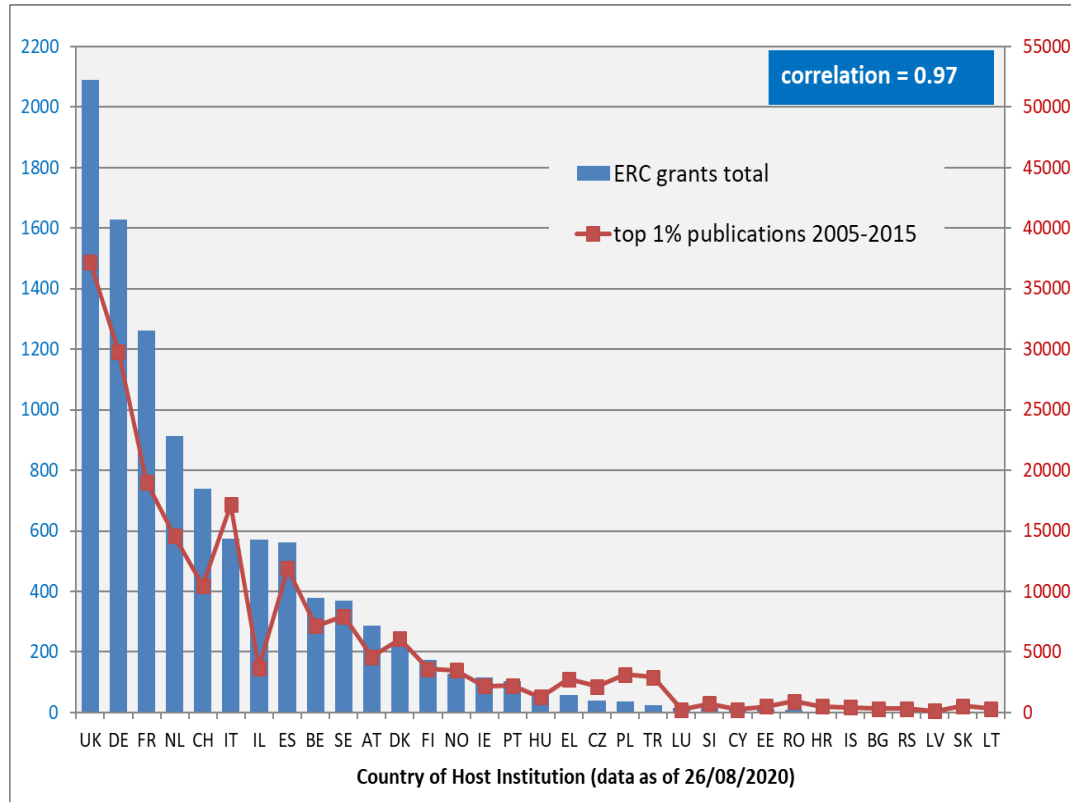
Source: ECA, based on Eurostat data for actual figures, Europe 2020 Strategy for targets.

ERC Grants versus GERD

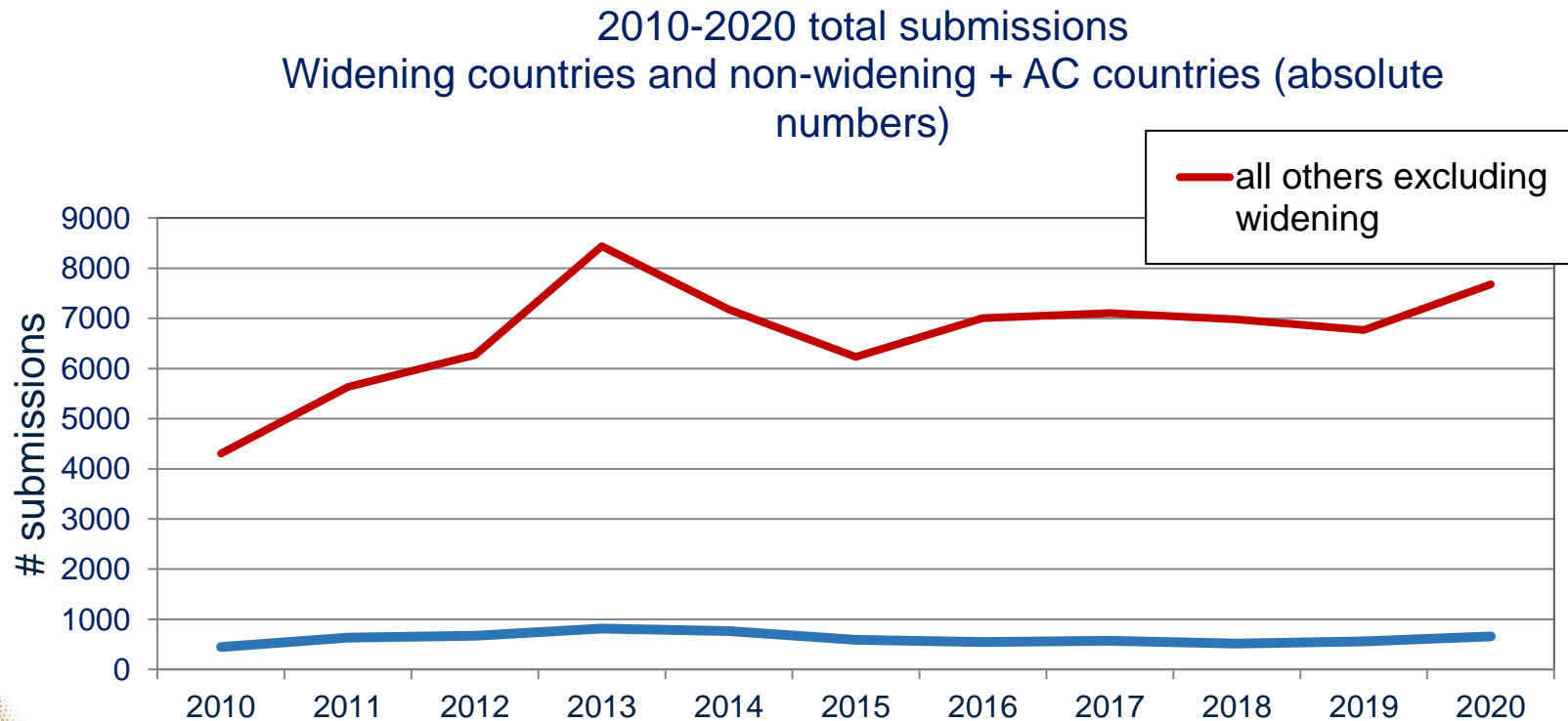


WIDENING COUNTRIES IN ERC CALLS

ERC Grants versus Top Publications



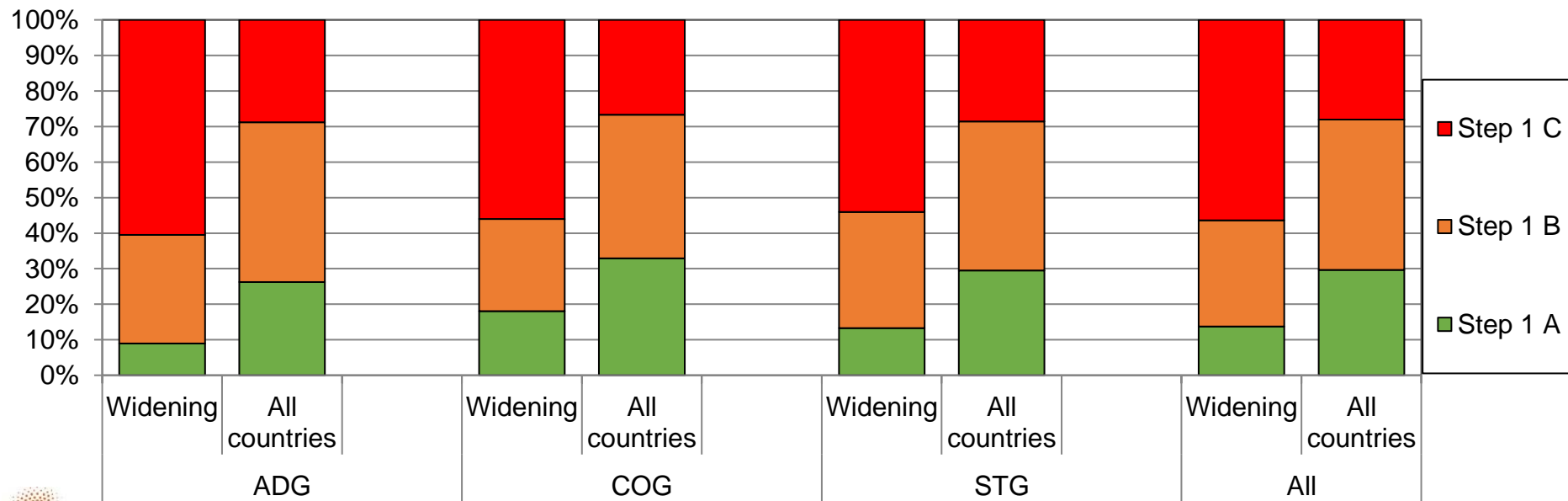
Submissions from Widening Countries and All Others



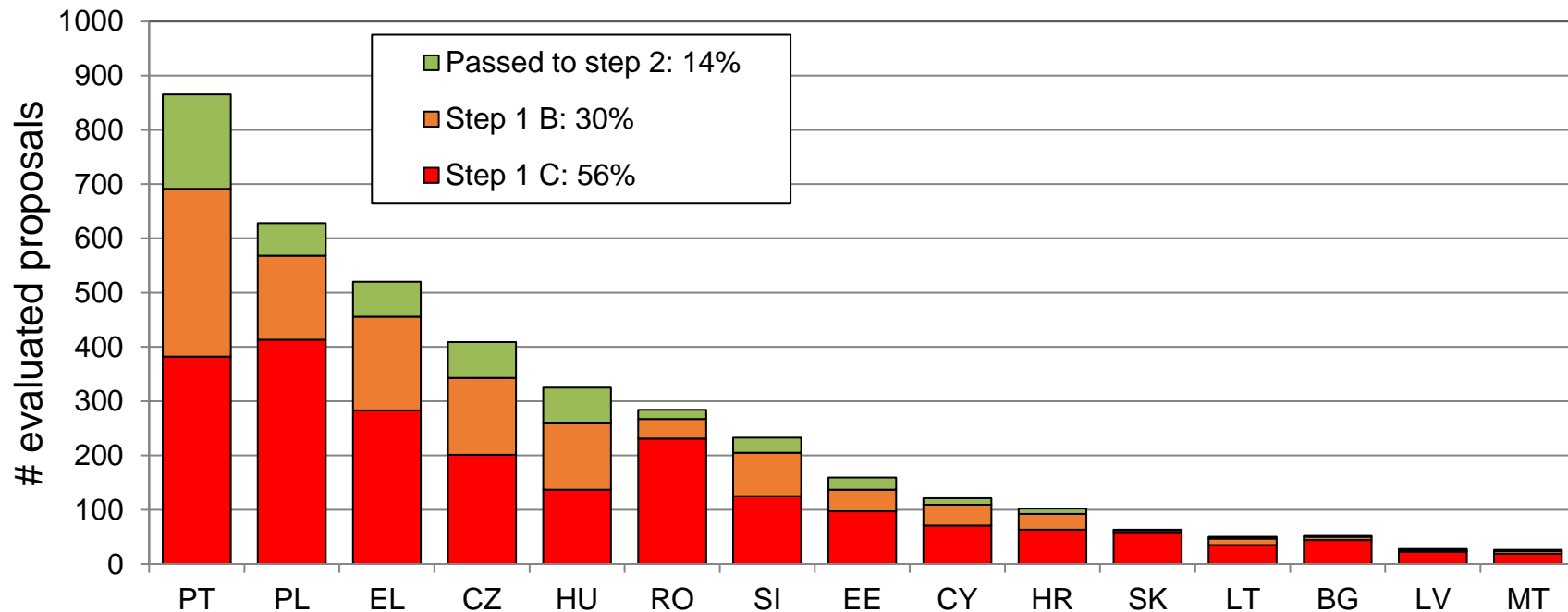
H2020 Step 1 Results from Widening Countries

Widening countries have about twice as many C scored applications (% of the total) than the average

H2020 Step 1 results of Widening vs. all countries



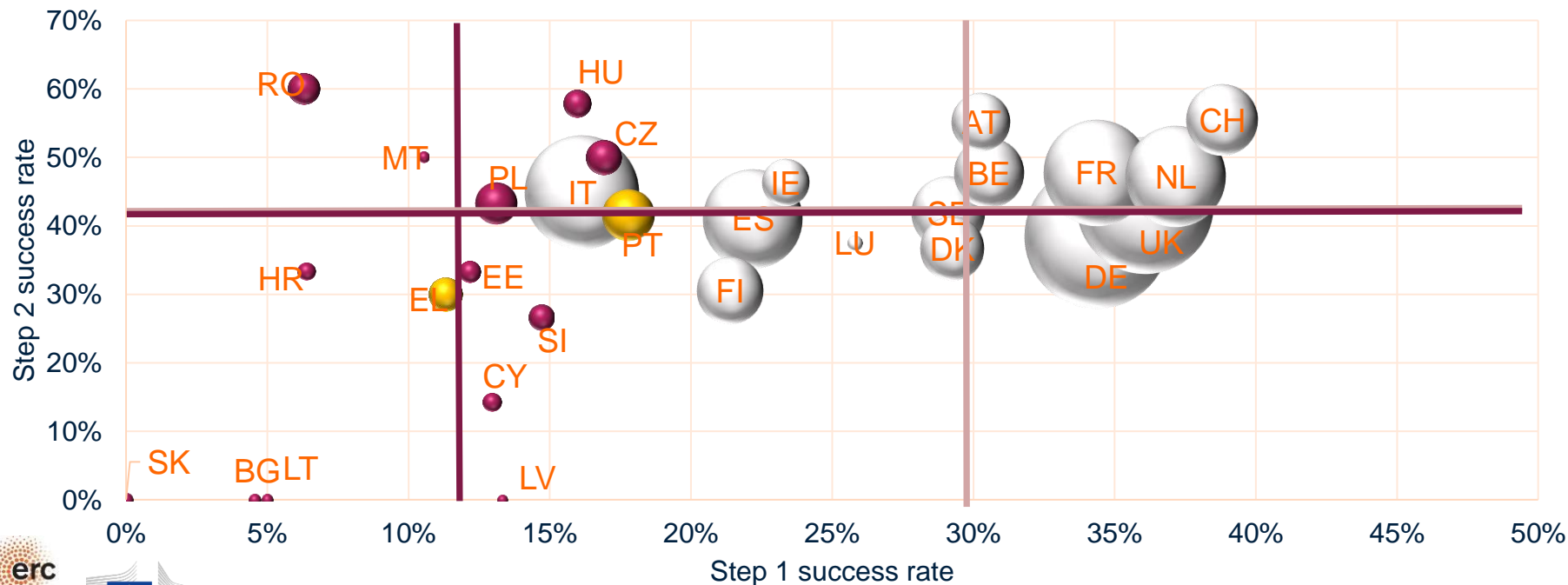
H2020 Step 1 Results from Widening Countries



Aggregated for 7 years of H2020 – all calls

H2020 Success Rates Step 1 and Step 2 (STG)

	Step 1 SR	Step 2 SR
Tot EU13	12.28%	42.86%
Tot EU15	29.62%	42.94%



ERC WIDENING PARTICIPATION POLICY

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

How: Inspiring Reform

A number of countries established funding schemes inspired to the ERC model.

In Czech Republic Czech Science Foundation (GAČR, funded in 1993 to fund basic research) has been modified in 2008 with ERC as an explicit model



In Poland the National Science Centre (NCN) has been set up in 2010 to fund basic research, with ERC as an explicit model



How: Concrete Measures

Continuously monitoring the participation to the ERC calls and the success rates

Guaranteeing a fair evaluation processes in view of optimal inclusiveness

Raising awareness on ERC among potential applicants and host institutions

Providing recommendations to national policy-makers, such as:

- support ERC finalists with national funding – example: ERC-CZ projects

- support ERC applicants improve their proposals

- make participation in ERC calls an essential component in national evaluations

- motivate scientists to submit ERC projects – example: EXPRO projects in GAČR

ERC Visiting Fellowship Programmes (VFP)

ERC promotes the efforts of national and regional authorities that set up and fund mobility programmes to allow potential ERC candidates to visit and gain experience with ERC-funded teams

VFP in few points:

- Duration of visits 1-6 months (*up to 2019 the minimum duration was 3 month*)
- Visiting fellows commit to apply for an ERC grant in specified timeframe
- Visiting fellows need to have a letter of support of the proposed host researcher and institution when applying
- National/regional funding agencies cover the travel and salary costs of the fellows for the duration of the visit

VFP: Number of Visits

In 2021 about 830 ERC grantees expressed interest to host European research visitors

Number of Visiting Fellowships by Country of Scheme					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Croatia		4	1	2	7
Flanders		1	2		3
Georgia				3	3
Hungary	1	10			11
Poland	7	8	5	4	24
Slovak Republic			4	2	6
Slovenia	7	4	2	3	16
Total	15	27	14	14	70

58 visiting fellows have submitted 61 proposals,
8 visiting fellows (13%) were funded

ERC Mentoring Initiative -1

- ERC wishes to contribute to national programmes that support ERC applicants in less performing countries
- These national programmes often lack access to international expertise to mentor ERC applicants
- To address the problem, ERC identifies a pool of mentors among its grantees and former evaluators, available to provide training, scientific feedback, and other forms of mentoring to ERC applicants in less performing countries
- How: ERC launches yearly calls for interest among its grantees and former evaluators. The list is provided to target countries via the **National Contact Points (NCP)**

ERC Mentoring Initiative - 2

Participants in 2021:

- Cyprus (Research and Innovation Foundation; coordinates NCPs)
- Czech Republic (Czech National Expert Group – Technology center CAS; closely cooperates with the NCP)
- Estonia (The Estonian Research Council; plays the role of the NCP)
- Hungary (Hungarian Academy of Sciences; hosts NCP)
- Italy (Italian National Research Council; will operate through NCPs)
- Malta (Malta Council for Science and Technology; plays the role of the NCP)
- Poland (NCP through NCBR, NCN, FNP and NAWA)
- Slovakia (Horizon National Office in Slovakia)
- Turkey (TUBITAK; plays the role of the NCP)

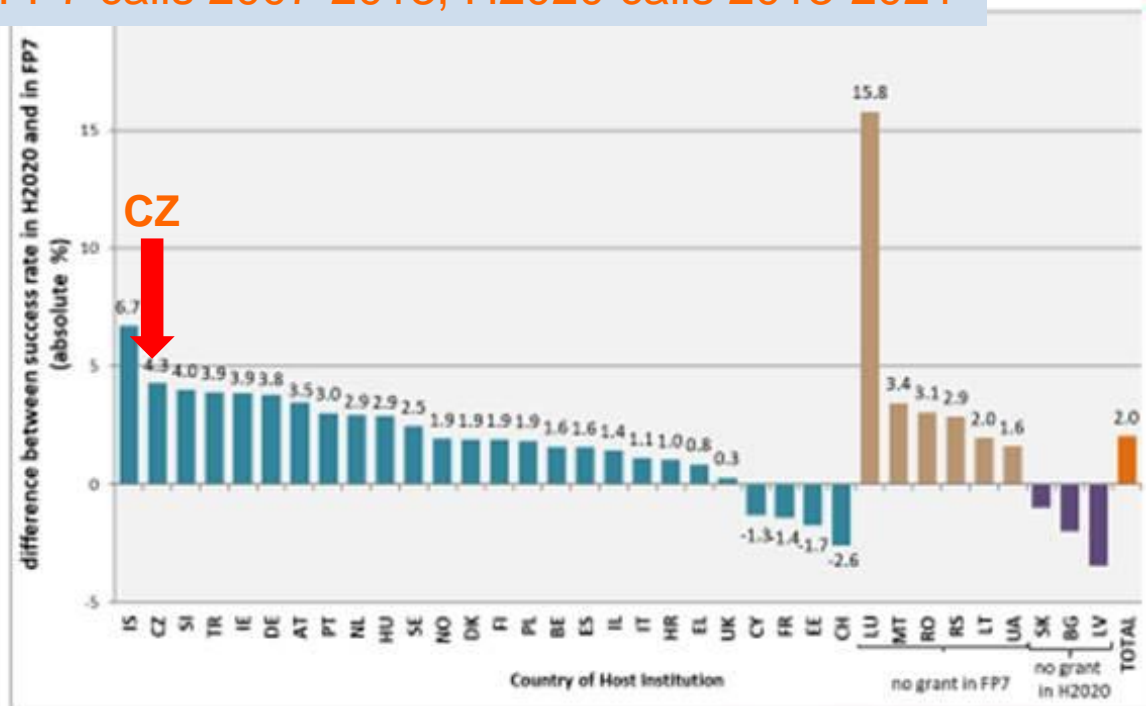
Is the situation improving with time?

Difference of Success Rates between H2020 Calls and FP7 Calls



European Research Council
Fostering excellence. Enriching Communities.

FP7 calls 2007-2013, H2020 calls 2013-2021



Thank You!

More information: erc.europa.eu

National Contact Point: erc.europa.eu/national-contact-points

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