

Recent ERC activities and novelties related to the ERC Work Programme 2024

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European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

Presentation Outline

- ERC & ERC Grant schemes
- Application & Evaluation process
(including novelties in WP2024)
- Overview of ERC projects in CZ

ERC & ERC Grant Schemes



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ERC is part of Horizon Europe



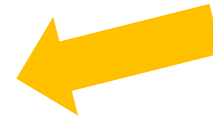
ERC budget in
Horizon Europe is
16 billion EUR



17%
of the entire
Horizon Europe budget



WP2024
2.16 billion
~ 950 grants



About the ERC

Scientific governance

- Independent **Scientific Council with 22 members** including the ERC President, with full authority over strategy
- Supported by a Dedicated Implementation Structure, the **ERC Executive Agency - ERCEA**

Scientific freedom

- Scientific excellence as the sole criterion
- Support to the individual scientist – *no consortia!*
- No predetermined subjects – “*bottom-up*”
- Support for frontier research in all fields of science and humanities
- International peer-review

ERC Grant 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

Established research leaders - up to € 2.5 M
for 5 years

Lump Sum (NEW)



Synergy Grants

2 – 4 Principal Investigators up to € 10.0 M for 6 years
1 PI can be based outside EU/Associated
Countries



Proof-of-Concept

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

Independence & Flexibility of ERC Grants

ERC Grant offers independence, recognition & visibility

- Work on a research topic of own choice (**bottom-up**)
- Gain financial autonomy for five/six years (**long-term grants**)
- Negotiate the **best conditions of work** with the host institution
- Grantees can keep affiliation with home institute outside Europe ('significant part' of work time in Europe: at least 50%)
- **Attract excellent team members** and collaborators from anywhere in the world
- Some team members can be based outside Europe (added scientific value)
- Move with grant to & within any EU Member State or Associated Country (**portability of grants**)

Application & Evaluation Process (including novelties in WP2024)



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Summary of Novelties – ERC Work Programme 2024

- New Panel – SH8
- Changes in description of LS3/LS5 panels

Panels

- Up to 10 research outputs
- Short narrative
- Career breaks, diverse paths

No prescriptive PI profiles

FOCUS ON RESEARCH



- Ground-breaking
- Ambitious
- Feasible

Assessment

- Up to 44 proposals in step 2 (exc. SyG)
- 'A not invited' can reapply next year



Evaluation Procedure

- **AdG only**
- Full amount in two steps, 80% and 20%
- Additional funding and portability remains

Lump Sum Pilot

New CV and Track Record – 2024 Calls

No prescriptive Principal Investigator profiles (i.e. no numerical threshold on achievements)

1. Personal details:

- Education & employment positions (current & past)

2. Research Achievements & Peer Recognition:

a) Research outputs (<=10):

- demonstrating advancement in the field
- emphasis on more recent achievements

- short narrative on significance & capacity to carry out research project

b) Peer recognition: prizes, fellowships, academy membership, etc.

Short, factual
explanation of
significance can
be included

3. Additional Information:

a) career breaks, diverse career paths, life events

b) Other noteworthy contributions to research community

Short, factual explanation
can be included

Evaluation: process

For individuals calls (StG, CoG, AdG): a single submission but a **two-step** evaluation

STEP 1

Remote assessment by **Panel members**
see **ONLY** section 1: Synopsis and CV
(Part B1)

Panel meeting

Proposal Not
Retained
(Scores B&C)

Proposal Not
Retained
(Score A not-
invited)

Proposal
Retained
(Score A
invited)

Feedback to applicants

STEP 2

Remote assessment by **Panel members**
and **Remote Reviewers** of full proposals
(Parts B1+B2)

Panel meeting

+ interview StG, CoG and AdG

Ranked list of
proposal
(Scores A&B)

New feature from 2024 on: 44 proposals as Step 2 interview limit

Evaluation – Focus on Research

Excellence

is the sole evaluation criterion

Excellence of the Research Project

- Ground breaking nature
- Scientific impact
- Scientific approach
- Feasibility

Excellence of the Principal Investigator

- Intellectual capacity
- Creativity
- Commitment

- Evaluation is **primarily** focused on the **proposed research project**
- Focus on the extent to which the PI has the **required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project**



Contrary to what you may think

- Budget is distributed among the scientific panels as function of demand
- Panel descriptors do not represent ERC scientific priorities
- Success rate is not linked to academic age
- Publication record is not decisive in selection decisions
- Host Institution is NOT evaluation criterion



Some rumours

Rumour 1: You can only apply for an ERC grant if you are a highly accomplished scientist.

✗ NOT true: Accomplishments are appreciated in relation to your stage/seniority as giving some evidence of your capacity to conduct the research you propose and of creativity within the past 10-12 years of your career.

Rumour 2: To be successful, you need to continue on an established research line, to prove continuity and credibility

✗ NOT true: Generally, the opposite is true.

Rumour 3: If you have already obtained an ERC grant you are less/more likely to get another one.

✗ NOT true: Panels look at each proposal on its own merit and in comparison with the other applications, irrespectively of whether you have or have not obtained an ERC grant in the past. (Of course this does not apply for applications to a Proof of Concept grant.)

Rumour 4: The more socially or medically relevant a grant proposal is, the higher the chances of it getting funded.

✗ NOT true: ERC funds frontier research, not research that promises to be only an incremental advancement of knowledge. This is irrespectively of the field and whether it has societal, medical or clinical applications.

Call Calendar – Work Programme 2024

	<i>Starting Grant</i>	<i>Consolidator Grant</i>	<i>Advanced Grant</i>	<i>Synergy Grant</i>	<i>Proof of Concept Grant</i>
<i>Call opens</i>	11/07/2023	12/09/2023	29/05/2024	12/07/2023	16/11/2023
<i>Call deadline (cut-off date)</i>	24/10/2023	12/12/2023	29/08/2024	08/11/2023	14/03/2024 17/09/2024
<i>Budget (m EUR)</i>	601	584	578	400	30

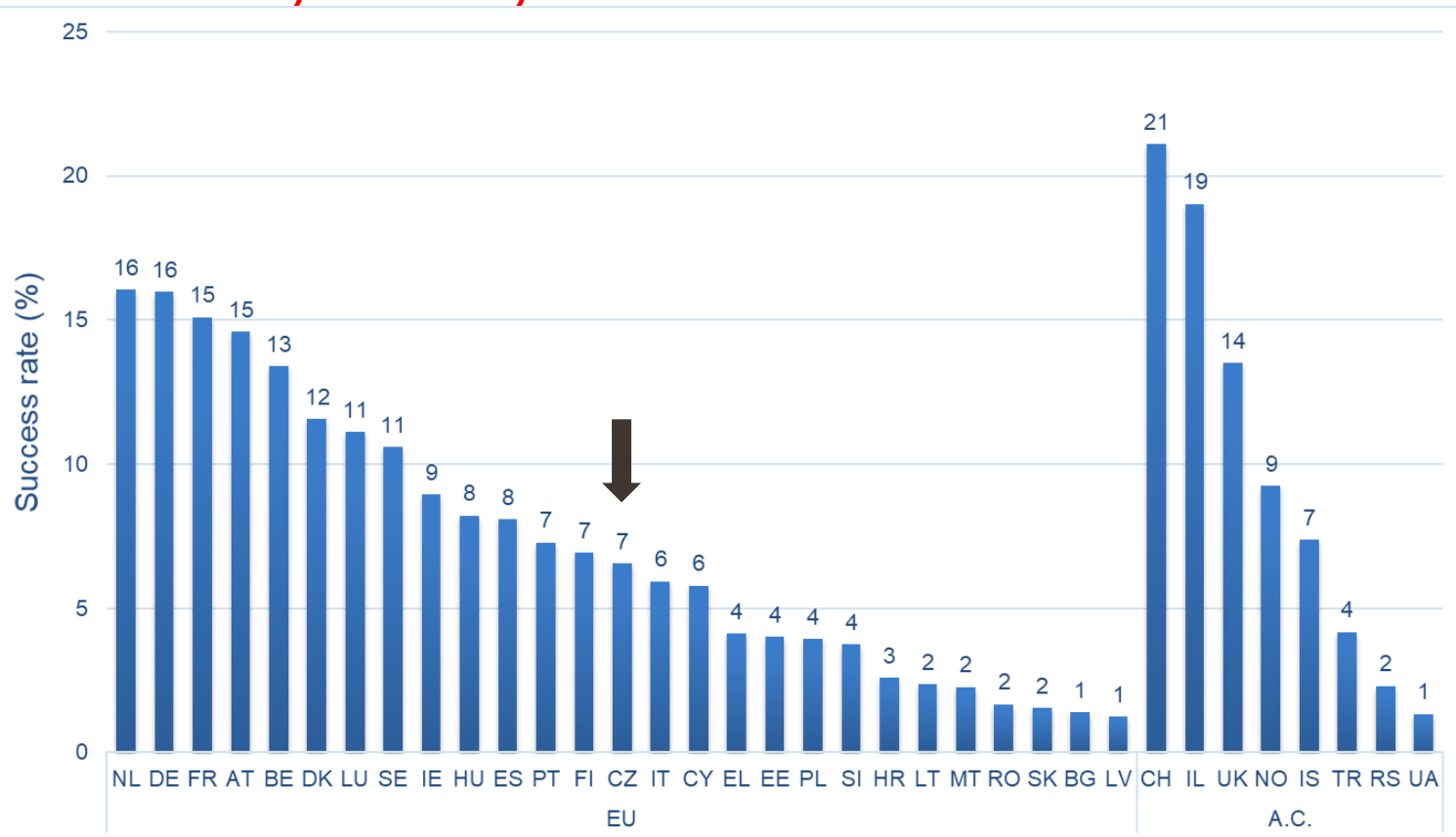
Overview of ERC projects in CZ



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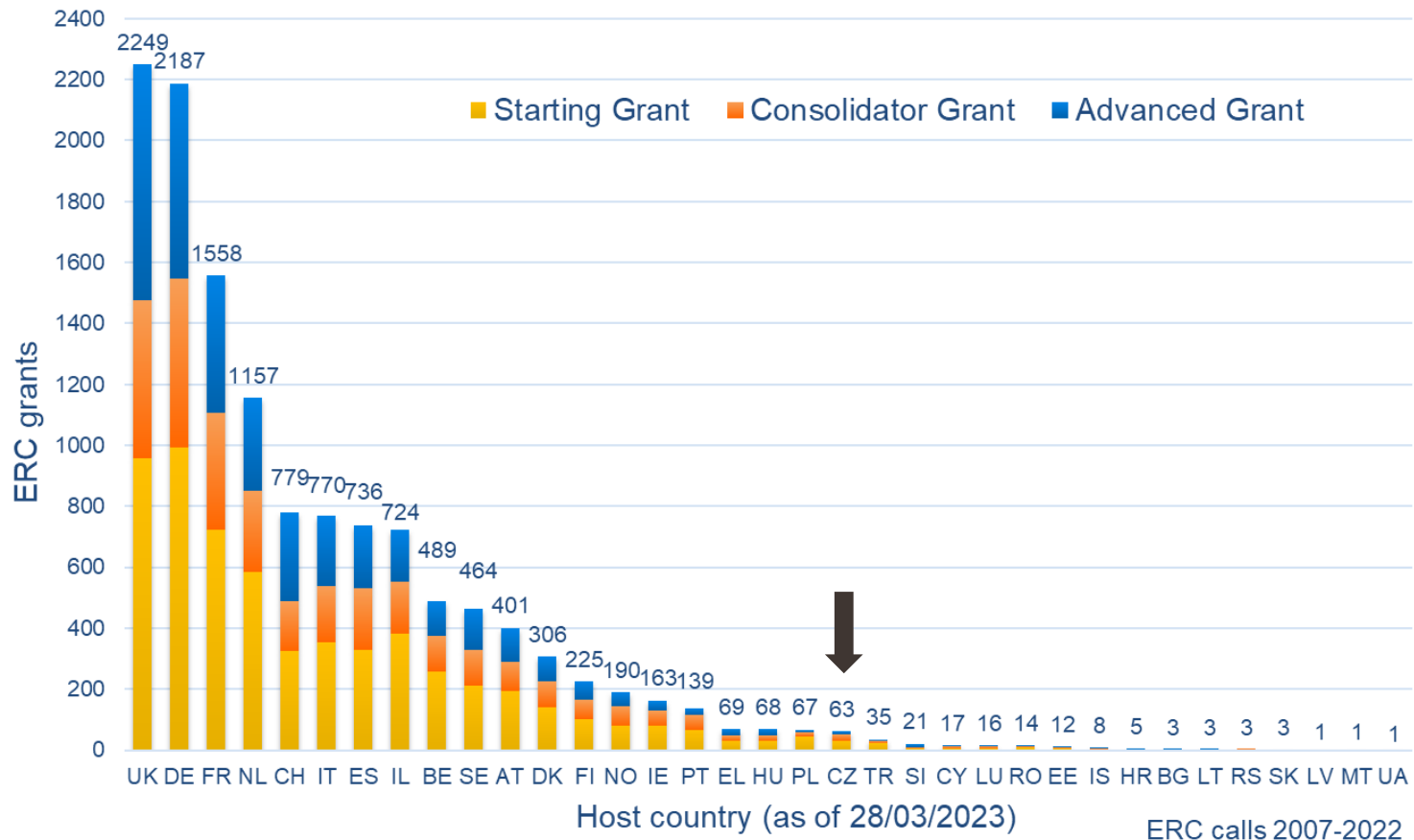
Success rate by country of Host Institution



Success rate (2007-2022)

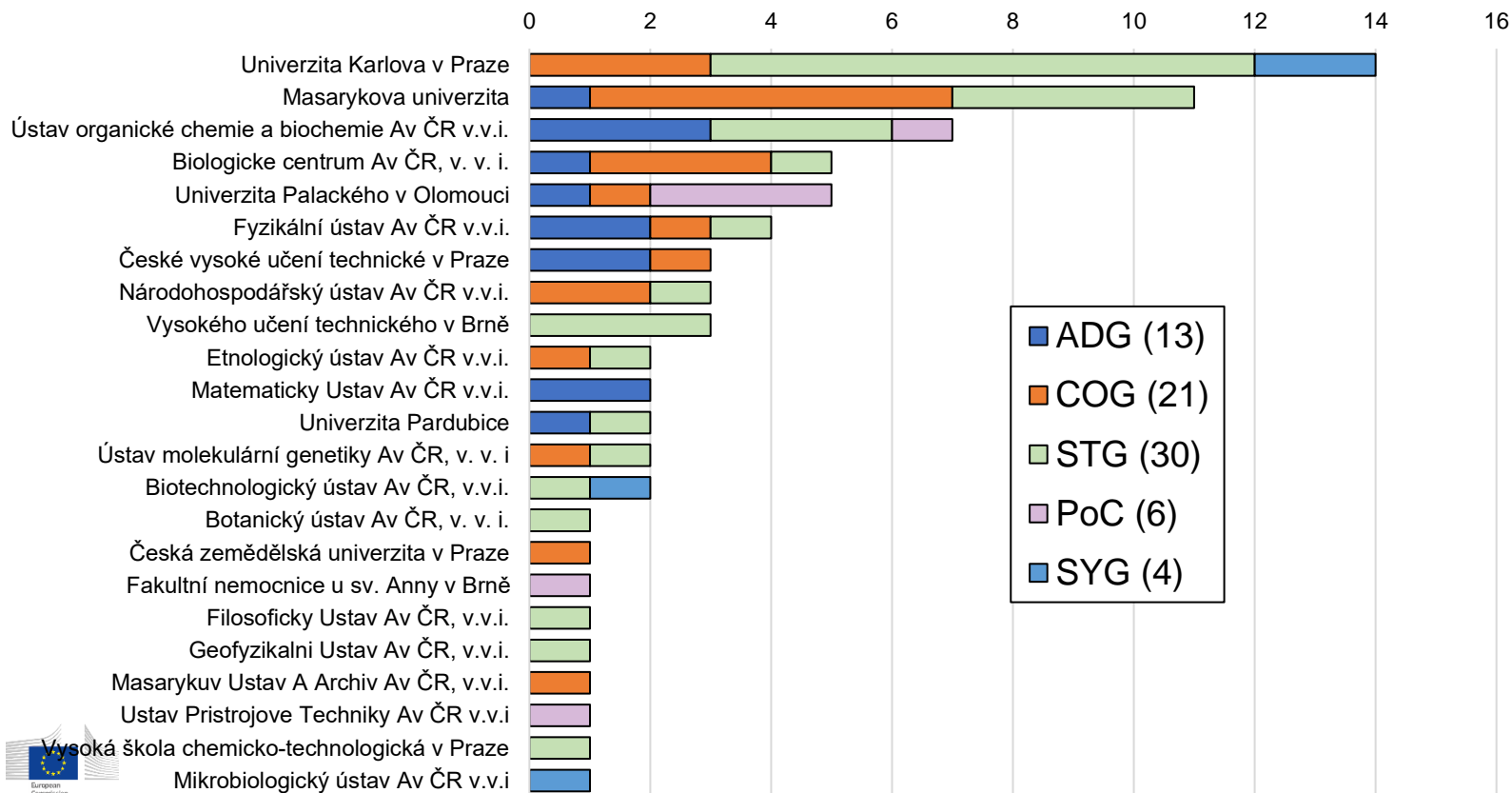


ERC-funded projects by country of Host Institution



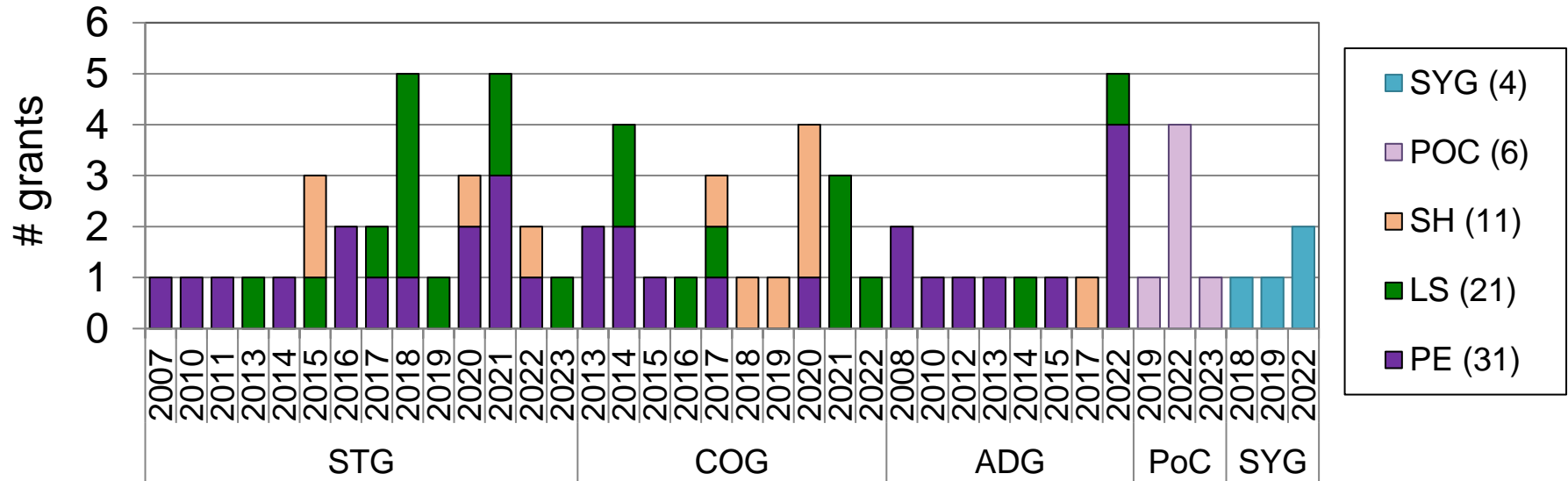
Signed Grants in Czech Republic (since start of ERC)

Grants signed in CZ

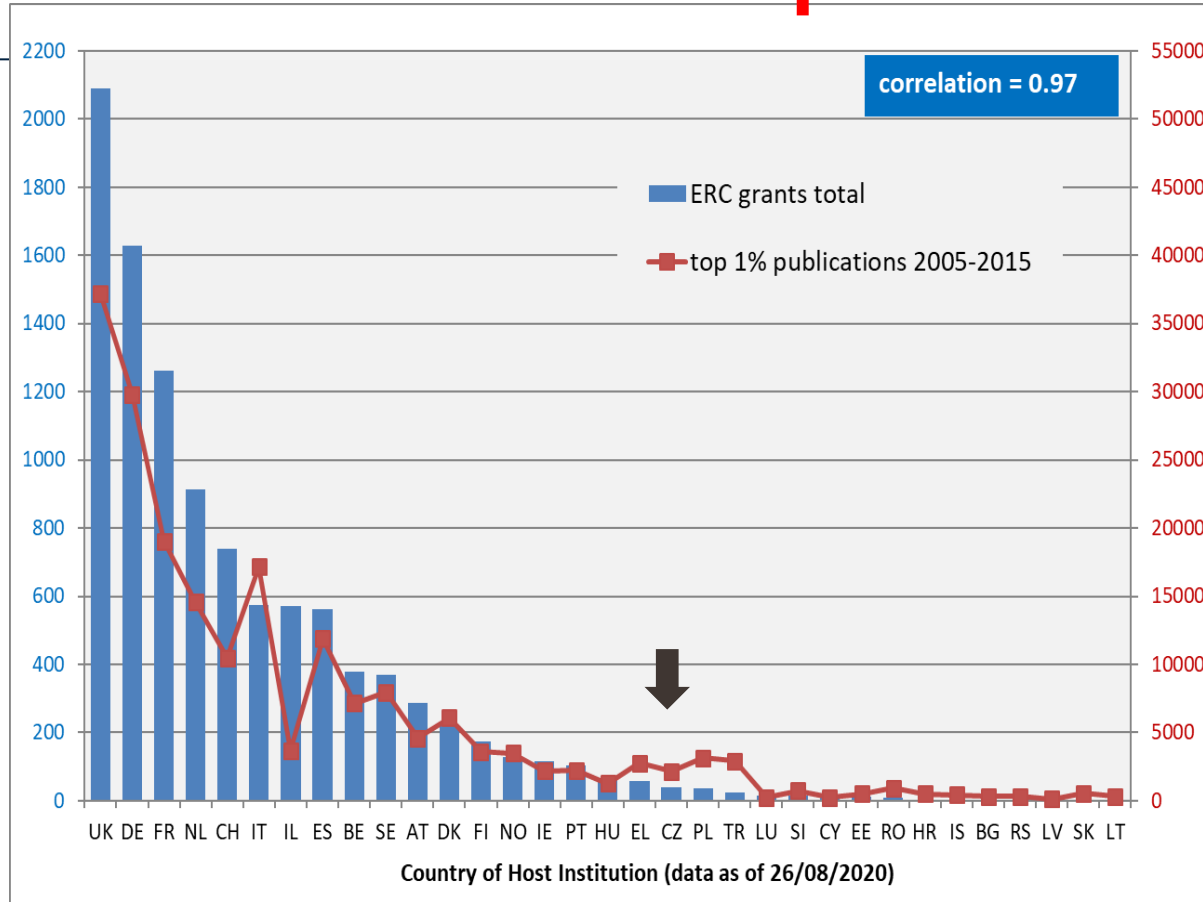


Signed Grants in Czech Republic (since start of ERC)

Grants in CZ by domain



ERC Grants versus Top Publications



Thank You!

More information: erc.europa.eu



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