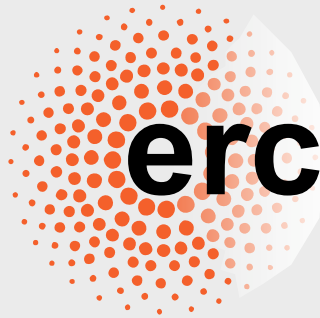




The European Research Council

*Bringing Great Ideas
to Life*

<http://erc.europa.eu>



Frontier Research through ERC grants-

Fotis C. Kafatos
ERC President

Istanbul, 13 March 2009



The ERC paradigm

Frontier research based solely on excellence  researcher proposal

**Open competition of outstanding individuals
of all nationalities and ages
willing to move, stay and do research in Europe (*)**

(*) *minimum 50% time in Europe, 30% time on project
Europe = 39 countries of European Research Area (ERA)*

- Generous funding for ambitious projects (up to €2 mil / €3.5 mil)
- No quotas per country/region, gender, etc.
- All fields supported: 3 Domains from humanities to engineering



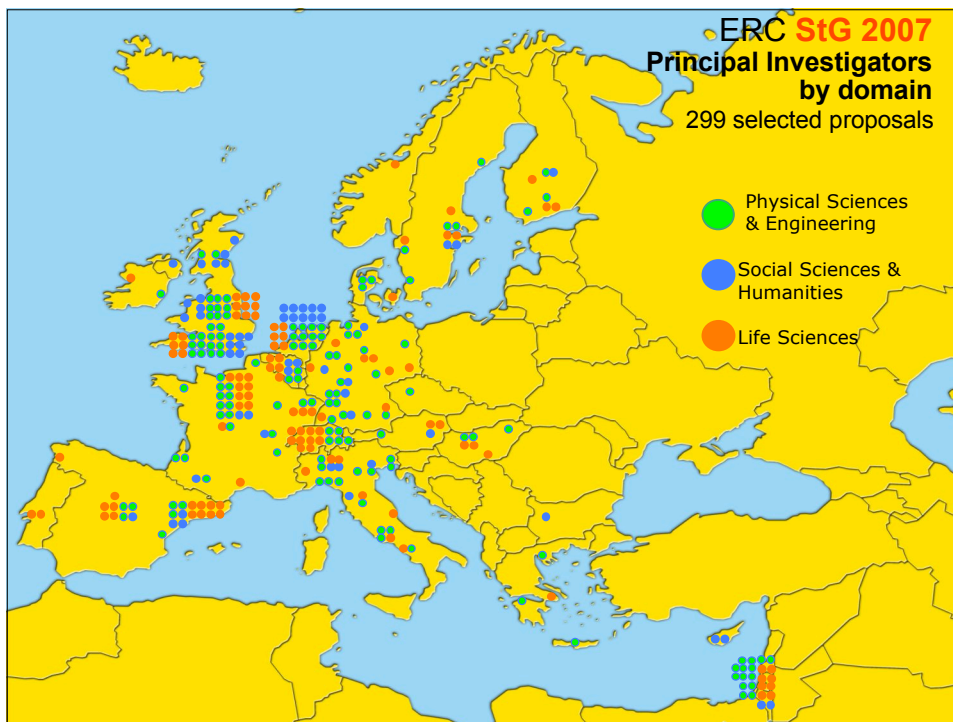
The ERC paradigm

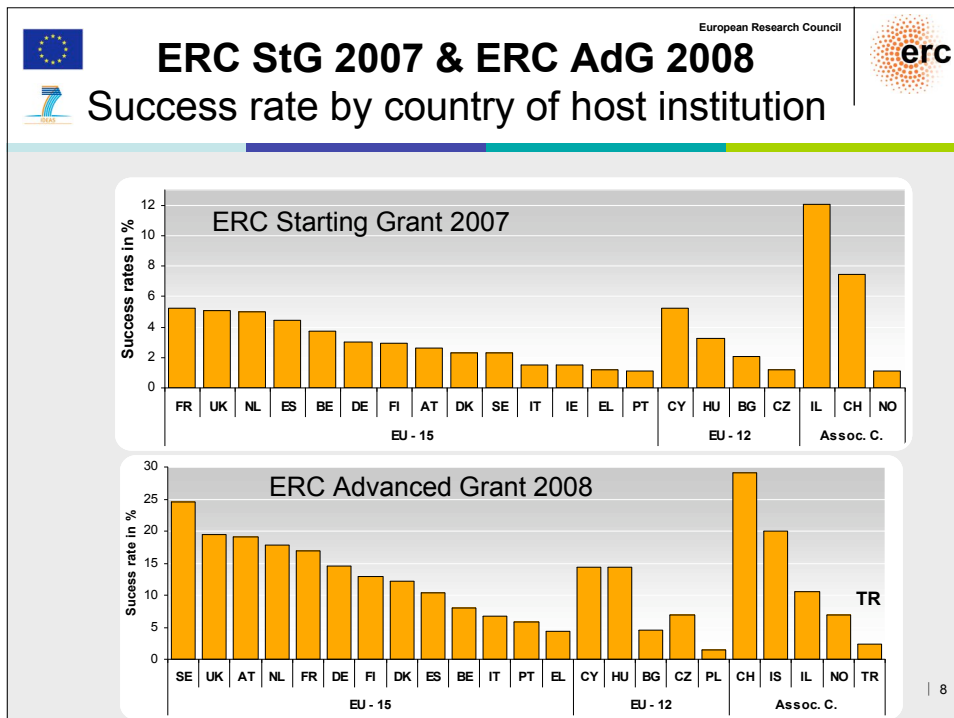
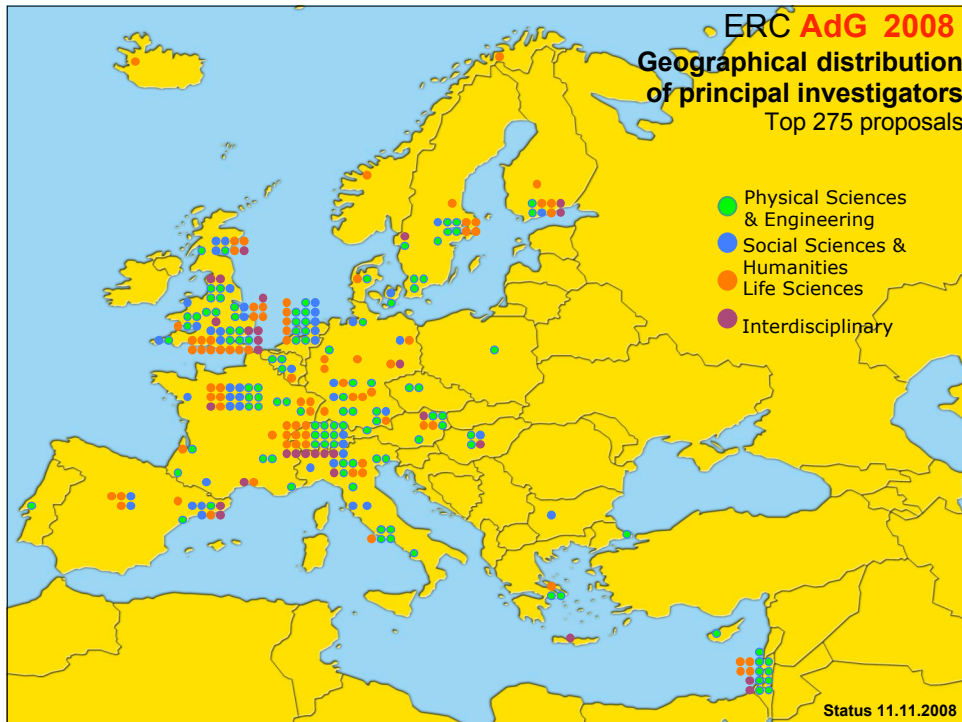
- Pan-European competition
to advance excellent ideas
- Free the excellent researchers
to push the frontiers of science
competing at regular intervals
- Collaborations are fruitful
as long as they arise naturally
- But they are not the only ones
that produce European Added Value (EAV)



The ERC strategy

- Keep it simple, flexible and focused
- “Starting Grant”: Support young(*) researchers (*) 3-8 yrs post-PhD
- “Advanced Grant”: Support leading(*) scientists (*) in past 10 yrs
- Promote excellence irrespective of nationality, age, or field
- Trust the dynamic of science
 - Collaborations neither enforced nor discouraged
 - Grants are portable
- Encourage interdisciplinarity

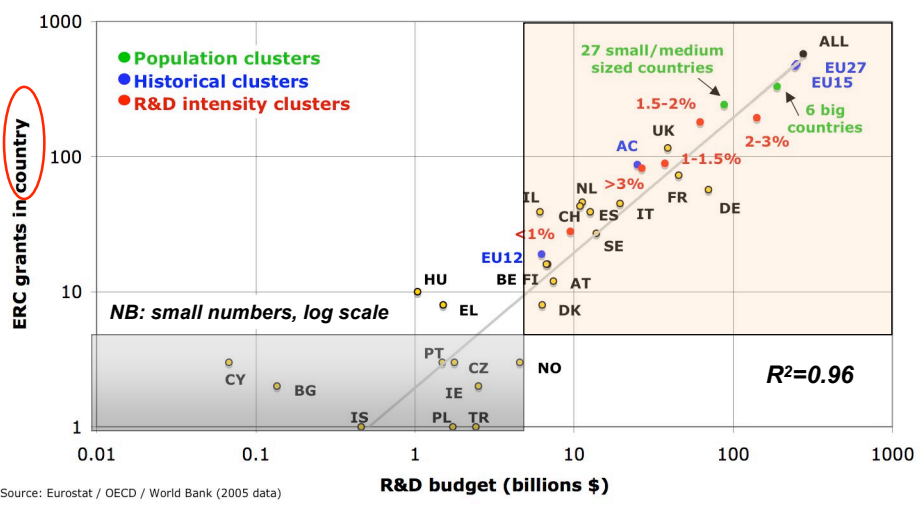






Success scales with country's R&D investment (grants to host country)

European Research Council



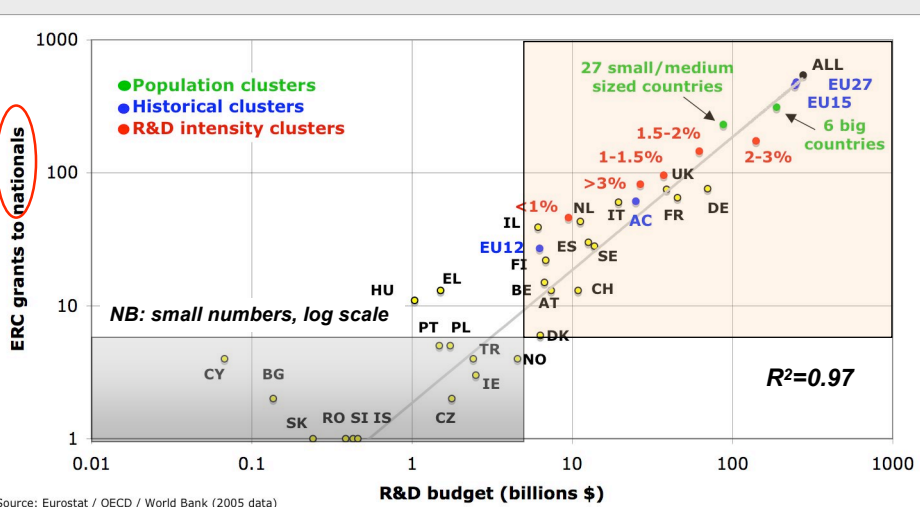
M Antonoyiannakis, J Hemmelskamp and FC Kafatos, *Cell* 136, 805 (6 March 2009)

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Success scales with country's R&D investment (grants to nationals)

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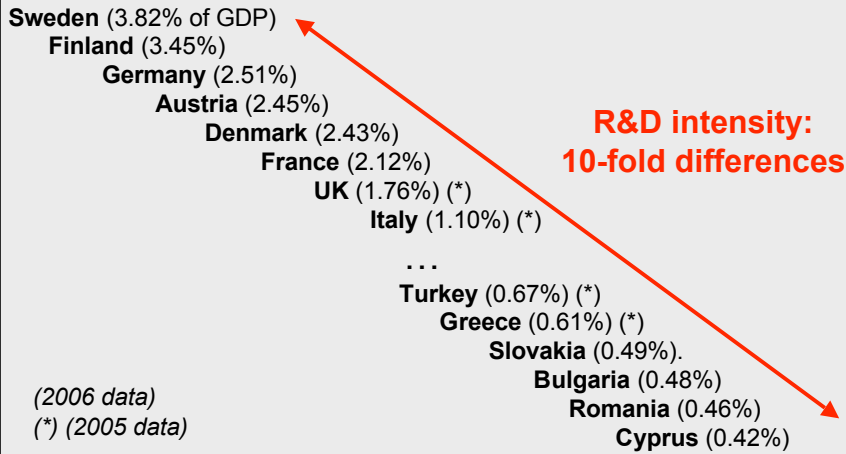
M Antonoyiannakis, J Hemmelskamp and FC Kafatos, *Cell* 136, 805 (6 March 2009)

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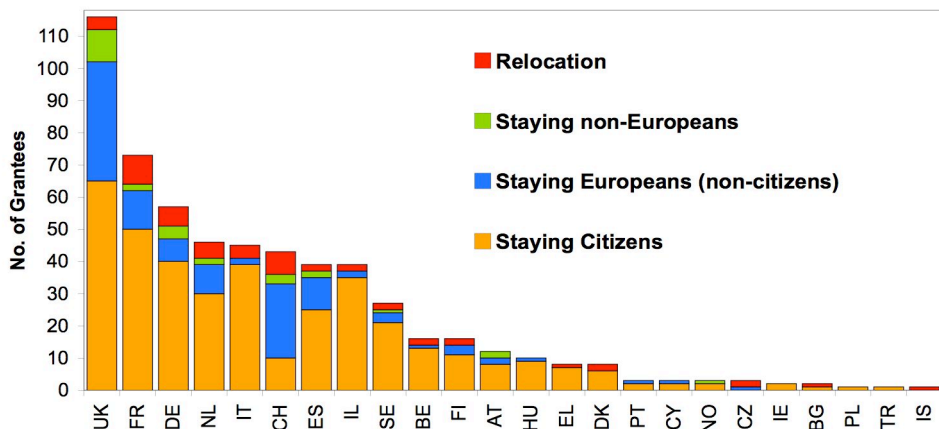


Challenge Low national funding in some countries

Europe must be competitive as a continent,
but also as individual member states



StG 2007 + AdG 2008: mobility of researchers 574 grants, 24 host countries, 32 nationalities

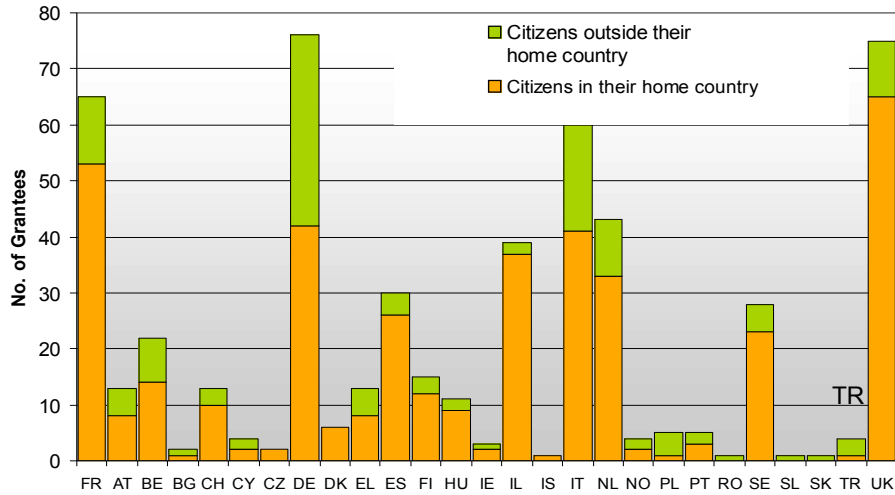




ERC StG 2007 & ERC AdG 2008

Citizenship and host country

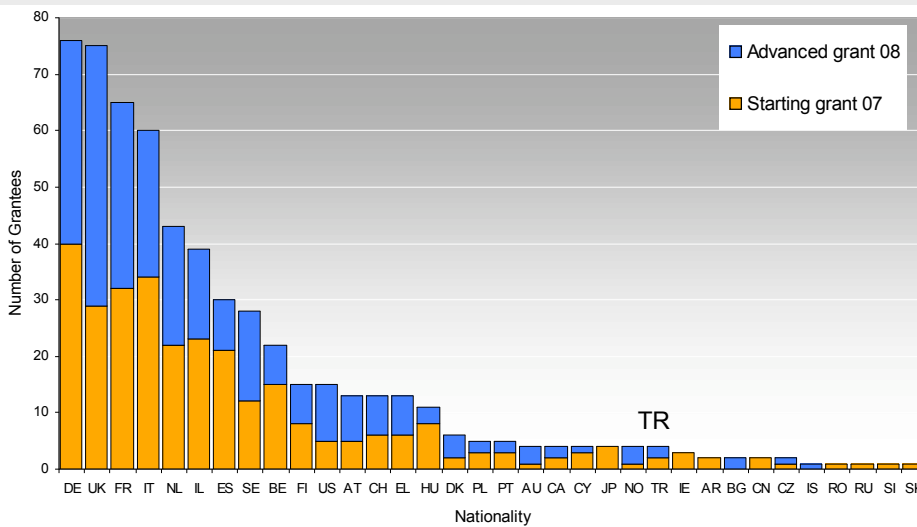
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ERC StG 2007 & ERC AdG 2008

Selected projects: Nationality of grantees

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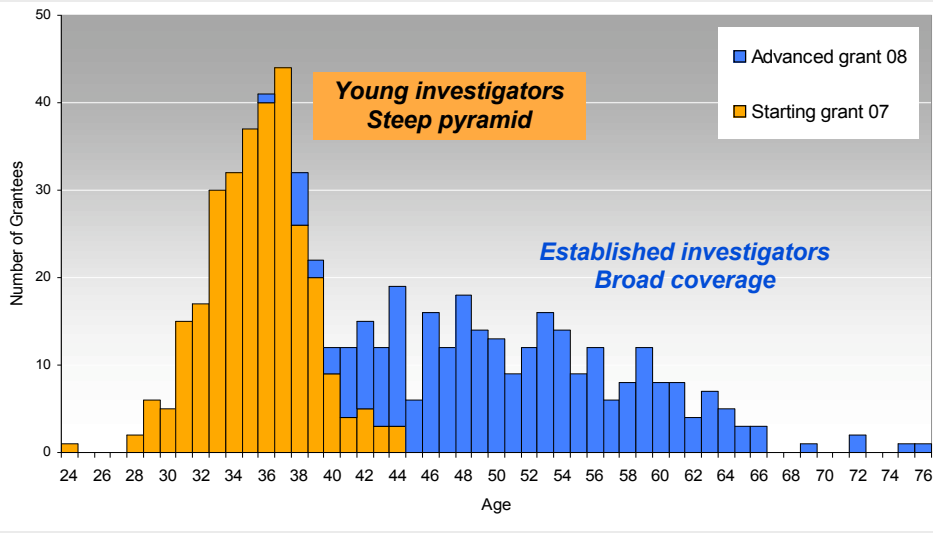




ERC StG 2007 & ERC AdG 2008

Age of the grantees

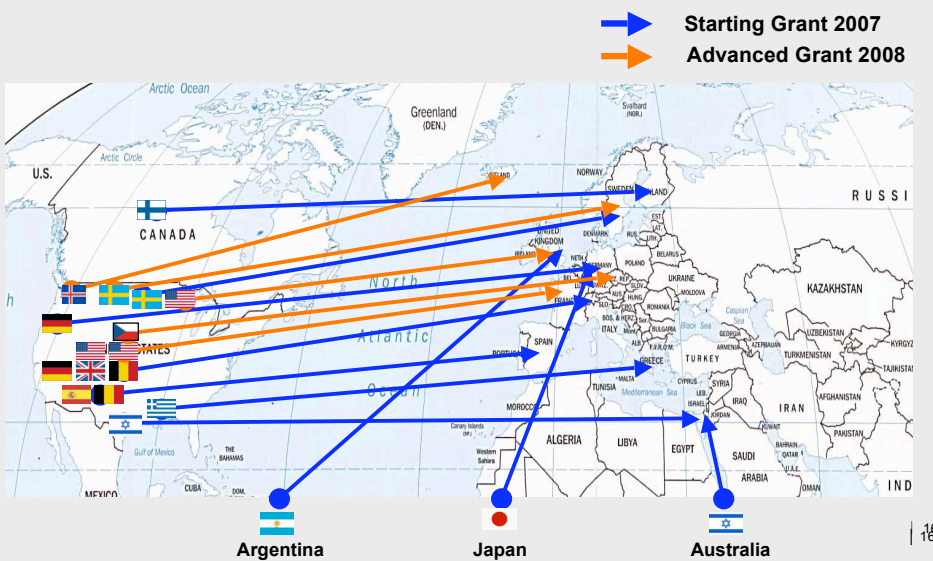
European Research Council

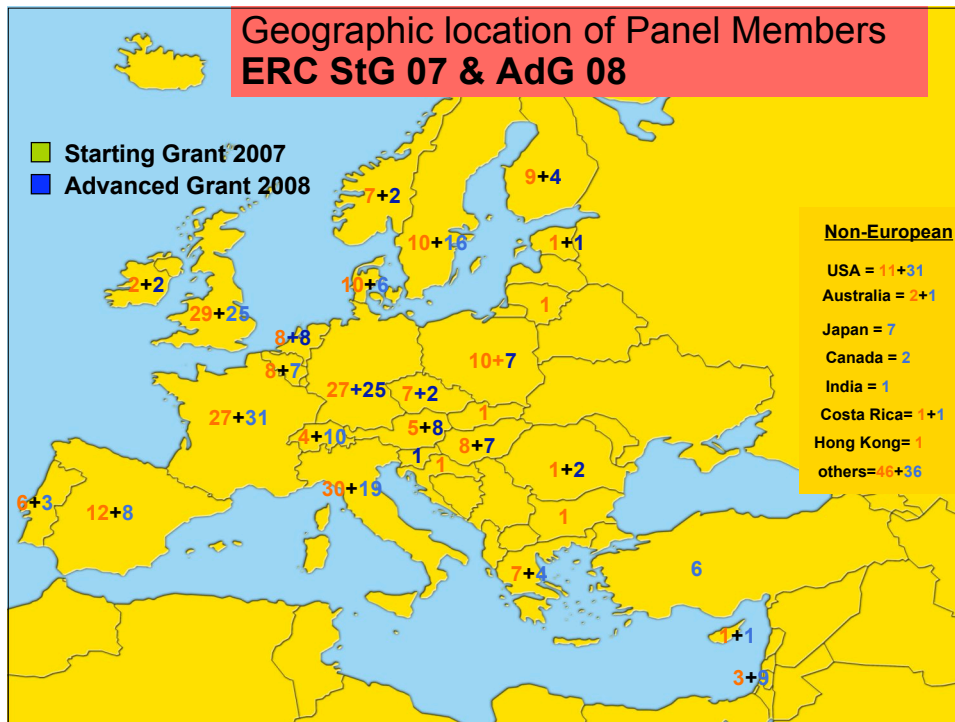



ERC StG 2007 & ERC AdG 2008

Selected projects: Repatriation and Recruitment


European Research Council







Perspective



European Research Council

Category	% StG	% AdG
Women	26.7	11.6
EU12 nationals	6.0	3.6
Recruited into Europe	4.3	2.2
AC nationals	10.7	10.2
non-Europeans	5.4	5.5

We strongly encourage:

- participation from **women** & from **new Member States** nationals without compromising excellence or resorting to affirmative action
- **Overseas recruitment** (from residents of 3rd countries):
Less emphasis so far (due to demand within ERA) but **Repatriation & recruitment from overseas - important for Europe's future**
- **We will increase emphasis on young researchers**
⇒ **Increasing the StG budget will enhance inclusiveness**
(young population is the most dynamic)

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Future plans

European Research Council



- Increase StG budget, keep AdG budget steady
- ERC considers enlarging time-window of StG eligibility (currently 3-8 yrs post-PhD)
- ERC is considering installation or infrastructure grants for newly hired researchers in new Member States

Other developments:

- ERC-Executive Agency operational in 2009
- ERC Midterm Review by late 2009

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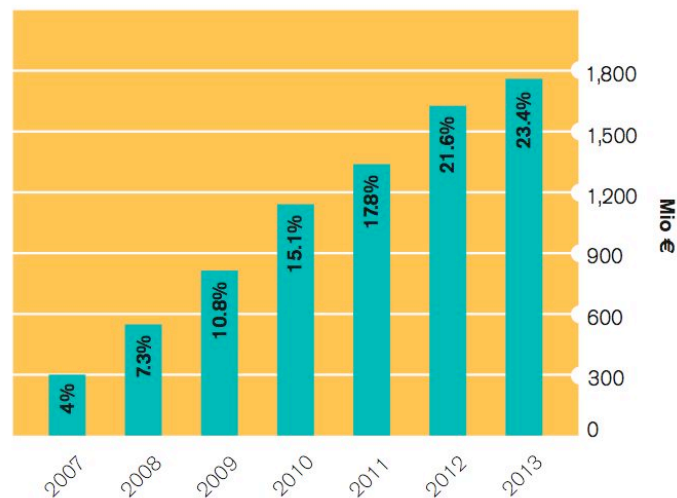


ERC annual budget increases by ~ € 250 mil p.a.

European Research Council



Increased annual budget ⇒ More grants to young researchers



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A new partnership for Europe

The ERC will stick to the fundamental commitment *on excellence*
(of the proposal and the individual researcher)

while rewarding *entrepreneurial institutions*
that successfully attract ERC grantees to new MS

ERC can act as *catalyst encouraging*
reforms in science funding policies

A new partnership is emerging:

Research Institutes - National Funding Councils - ERC



ERC welcomes to Europe outstanding researchers

Our vision: *Brain-circulation*
worldwide & Europe-wide
to promote science
and benefit the global society

Recruit - Repatriate - Retain top talent



THANK YOU!

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Acknowledgements

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H Nowotny, D Estève, J Metthey*