

European Research Council (ERC)

Barcelona, 30 January 2014



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Outline



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- **ERC basics and achievements**
- **ERC in H2020**
- **Work Programme 2014**
- **Funding Schemes**
- **Data on Spanish participation**



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ERC

"basics and achievements"

What is the ERC?

The ERC supports excellence in frontier research through a bottom-up, individual-based, pan-European competition

Budget (past): € 7.5billion (2007-2013) - ~1.1 billion €/year

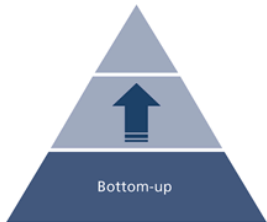
Future: € 13billion (2014-2020) - ~1.9 billion €/year

Legislation

- Scientific governance: independent Scientific Council with 22 members; full authority over funding strategy
- Support by the ERC Executive Agency (autonomous)
- Excellence as the only criterion

Strategy

- Support for the individual scientist – no networks!
- No predetermined subjects (bottom-up)
- Support of frontier research in all fields of science and humanities
- Global peer-review



ERC basics

ERC structure



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The European Commission

- **Provides financing** through the EU framework programmes
- **Guarantees autonomy of the ERC**
- **Assures the integrity and accountability of the ERC**
- **Adopts annual work programmes** as established by the Scientific Council



The ERC Scientific Council

- **22 prominent researchers** proposed by an independent identification committee
- **Appointed by the Commission** (4 years, renewable once)
- **Establishes overall scientific strategy;** annual work programmes (incl. calls for proposals, evaluation criteria); peer review methodology; selection and accreditation of experts
- **Controls quality of operations and management**
- **Ensures communication with the scientific community**



The ERC Executive Agency

- **Executes annual work programme** as established by the Scientific Council
- **Implements calls for proposals** and provides information and support to applicants
- **Organises peer review evaluation**
- **Establishes and manages grant agreements**
- **Administers scientific and financial aspects** and follow-up of grant agreements
- **Carries out communications activities** and ensures information dissemination to ERC stakeholders



ERC basics

ERC funding schemes



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Starting Grants

starters
(2-7 years after PhD)
up to € 2.0 Mio
for 5 years

Consolidator Grants

consolidators
(7-12 years after PhD)
up to € 2.75 Mio
for 5 years

Advanced Grants

track-record of
significant research
achievements in the
last 10 years
up to € 3.5 Mio
for 5 years

Synergy Grants

2 – 4 Principal Investigators
up to € 15.0 Mio for 6 years

Proof-of-Concept

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

Creative freedom of the individual grantee



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ERC offers independence, recognition & visibility

- ❖ to work on a research topic of **own choice**, with a team of **own choice**
- ❖ to gain true **financial autonomy** for up to 5 years
- ❖ to negotiate with the host institution the **best conditions** of work
- ❖ to attract **top team members** (EU and non-EU) **and collaborators**
- ❖ to move with the grant to any place in Europe if necessary (**portability of grants**)
- ❖ to attract **additional funding** and gain recognition; ERC is a quality label

ERC Calls

	Total number of applications	of which		
		Evaluated*	Funded	success rates**
Starting Grant 2007	9,167	8,787	299	3.4
Starting Grant 2009	2,503	2,392	245	10.2
Starting Grant 2010	2,873	2,767	436	15.8
Starting Grant 2011	4,080	4,005	486	12.1
Starting Grant 2012	4,741	4,652	566	12.2
Starting Grant 2013	3,329	3,255	300	9.2
Starting Grant	26,693	25,858	2,332	10.5
Advanced Grant 2008	2,167	2,034	282	13.9
Advanced Grant 2009	1,584	1,526	245	16.1
Advanced Grant 2010	2,009	1,967	271	13.8
Advanced Grant 2011	2,284	2,245	301	13.4
Advanced Grant 2012	2,304	2,269	319	14.1
Advanced Grant 2013	2,408	2,363	284	12.0
Advanced Grant	12,756	12,404	1,702	13.9
Proof of Concept 2011 - 1&2	151	139	51	36.7
Proof of Concept 2012 - 1&2	143	120	60	50.0
Proof of Concept 2013 - 1	145	139	33	23.7
Proof of Concept	439	398	144	36.8
Synergy Grant 2012	710	697	11	1.6

* withdrawn and ineligible proposals not taken into account

** percentage of funded proposals in relation to evaluated proposals



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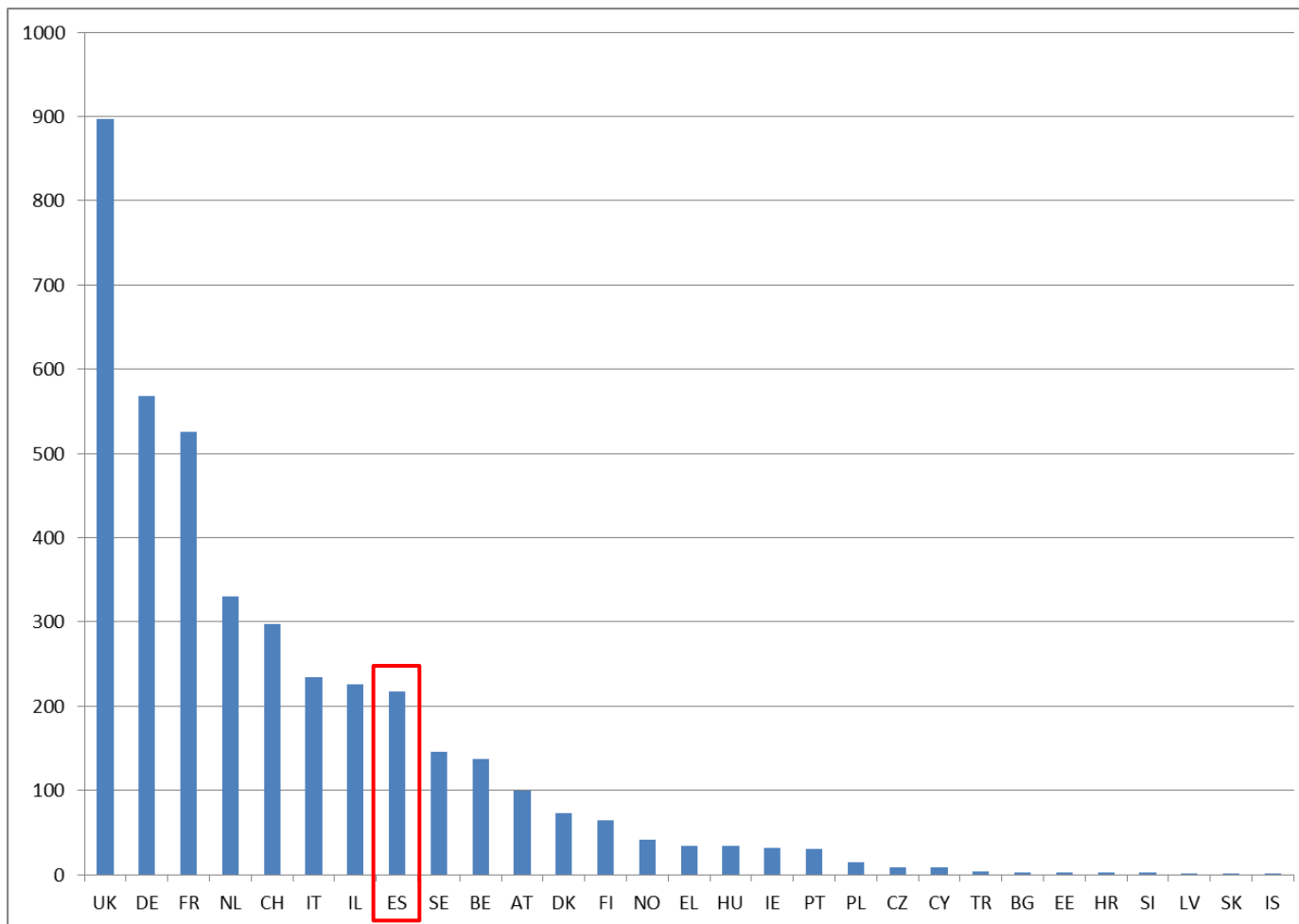
ERC achievements

Grants per country of host institution



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ERC Starting Grant
calls 2007-2013
ERC Advanced Grant
calls 2008-2013

ERC achievements

After 6 years of existence...

- Highly recognised by the research community
- Over 4 000 top researchers funded (65% are at an early-career stage); 58 nationalities represented
- **Highly competitive** (average success rate 12%)
- Working in > 500 different institutions in 29 countries
- 50% of grantees in 50 institutions : “Excellence attracts excellence”
- **Benchmarking** effect: impact on national programmes and agencies; national funding for best "runners-up"
- Efficient and fast grant management



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ERC in H2020

ERC in H2020

Future perspectives



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➤ **HORIZON 2020** structure:

- Excellent Science
- Industrial leadership
- Societal challenges

➤ **Excellent Science:**

- ✧ **European Research Council** (budget under H2020: € 13 billion)
- ✧ Future and Emerging Technologies
- ✧ Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions
- ✧ Research Infrastructures

- ➔ World class science is the foundation of tomorrow's technologies, jobs and wellbeing
- ➔ Europe needs to develop, attract and retain research talent
- ➔ Researchers need access to the best infrastructures

ERC in H2020

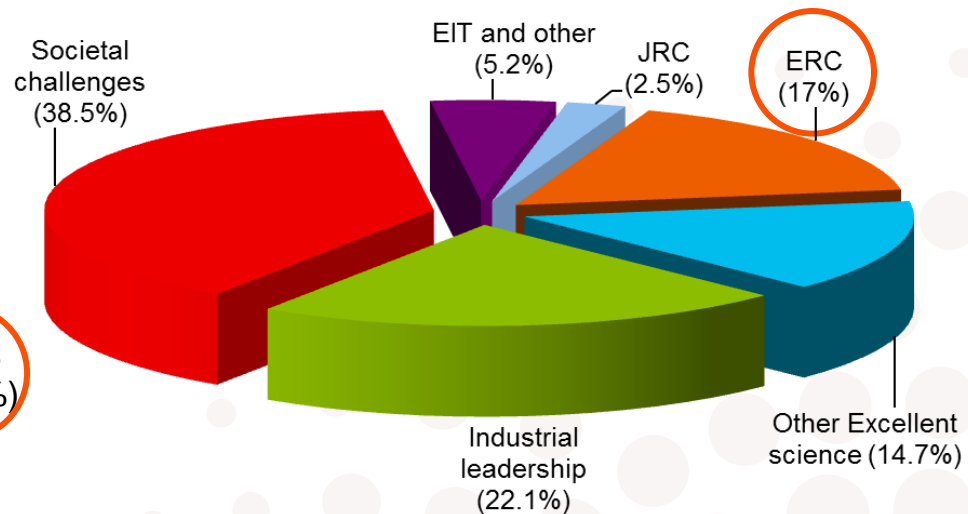
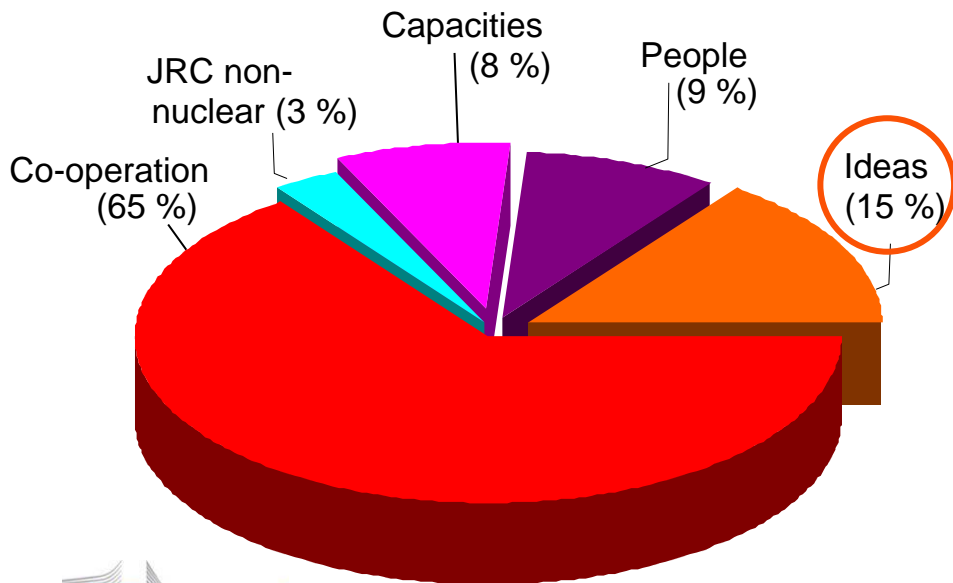
Budget Horizon 2020 after negotiations between Parliament-Council-Commission



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H2020 budget € 77 billion
ERC budget € 13 billion

FP7 budget € 50.5 billion
ERC budget € 7.5 billion



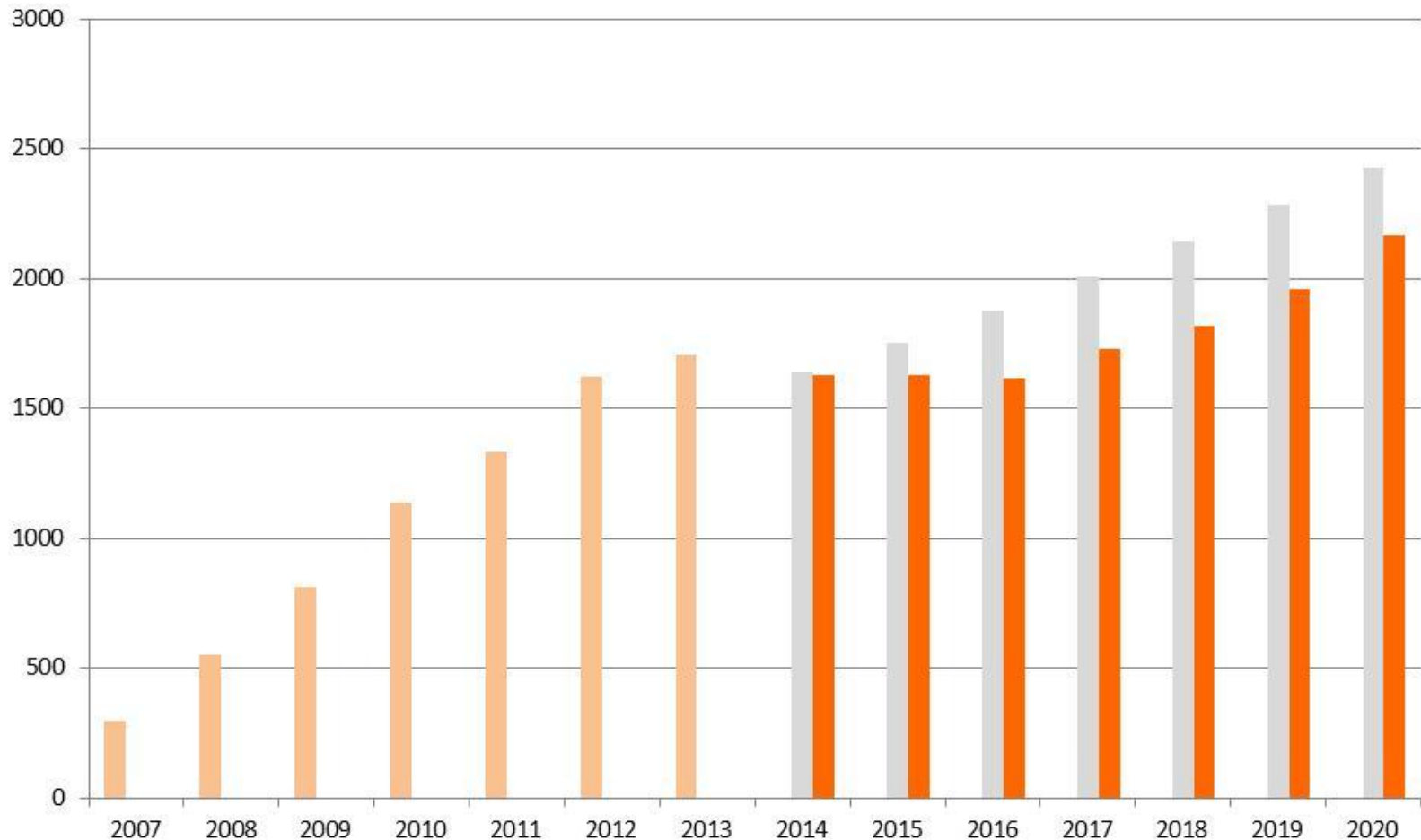
ERC in H2020

2014 – 2020 budget



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ERC in H2020

Changes and continuity

➤ **Essential features maintained:**

- Same schemes, same principles, same selection procedures/criteria
- Independent Scientific Council with full authority over funding strategy
- Executive Agency with autonomous operation

➤ **Increase of overall budget (13 Bio € for 2014-2020):**

- More opportunities than ever for top research talents

➤ **Strengthening the Scientific Governance of the European Research Council:**

- Strengthening the links between the Scientific Council and the Executive Agency
- Merging positions of President of ERC and Secretary General
- Full-time President based in Brussels
- 3 Vice-Chairs elected from amongst the Scientific Council members

ERC in H2020

Basic principles

- **Principal Investigators:** from any country / nationality
- **Host institutions:** 28 EU member states, Associated countries (AC), European interest international organisations
 - Guarantees the scientific freedom of the PI
 - PI can take the grant with her/him if moving to another research institution.
- **Bottom-up:** no thematic priorities
- **Excellence** as the only criterion of evaluation
- **No consortia, no quotas**



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Work Programme 2014

ERC 2014 Work Program

Summary of main features

- Publication date of first calls : December 11, 2013
- Three ERC frontier research grants will be available under Work Programme 2014: **Starting; Consolidator; and Advanced Grants**
- ERC Principal Investigators will also continue to be able to apply for the Proof of Concept Grant, first introduced in 2011
- Overhead: **25%**
- **Update of panel titles, subtitles and descriptors**
- **Indicative budget for 2015** to help the research community to plan applications
- **Extension of restrictions on applications** will apply to the 2015 calls based on the outcome of the evaluation of the 2014 calls
- **Open access**

Timetable of the 2014 Calls

ERC calls	Call Publication	Submission Deadline
Starting Grants ERC-2014-StG	11 Dec 2013	25 Mar 2014
Consolidator Grants ERC-2014-CoG	11 Dec 2013	20 May 2014
Advanced Grants ERC-2014-AdG	17 Jun 2014	21 Oct 2014
Proof of Concept Grants ERC-2014-PoC	11 Dec 2013	1 Apr 2014 & 1 Oct 2014

Indicative Timetable of the 2015 Calls

ERC calls	Call Publication	Submission Deadline
Starting Grants ERC-2015-StG	Sep/Oct 2014	3 Feb 2015
Consolidator Grants ERC-2015-CoG	Oct/Nov 2014	12 Mar 2015
Advanced Grants ERC-2015-AdG	Jan/Feb 2015	2 Jun 2015
Proof of Concept Grants ERC-2015-PoC	Nov/Dec 2014	23 Apr 2015 & 1 Oct 2015

ERC 2014 Work Program

Restrictions on Submissions - 1



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- Any applicant whose proposal was evaluated as category C in the 2013 StG, CoG or AdG calls may not submit a proposal to the 2014 StG, CoG or AdG calls.

ERC 2014 Work Program

*Restrictions on Submissions - 2

- Any applicant whose proposal is **evaluated as category C** in the 2014 StG, CoG or AdG calls may not submit a proposal to the **2015 and 2016 StG, CoG or AdG calls**.
- Any applicant whose proposal is **evaluated as category B** in the 2014 StG, CoG or AdG calls may not submit a proposal to the **2015 StG, CoG or AdG calls**.

ERC 2014 Work Program

Open Access Policy

ERC support for open access to the published output of research:

- Requests that an electronic copy of any research article, monograph or other research publication that is supported in whole, or in part, by ERC funding be deposited in a suitable repository immediately upon publication
- Open access should be provided as soon as possible and in any case no later than six months after the official publication date. For publications in the Social Sciences and Humanities domain a delay of up to twelve months is acceptable.
- Strongly encourages ERC funded researchers to use discipline-specific repositories for their publications (<http://europepmc.org>, <http://arxiv.org/>)
- Open access fees are eligible costs that can be charged against ERC grants, provided they have been incurred during the duration of the project
- Encourages Host Institutions to cover open access fees of any research publications that are supported in whole, or in part, by ERC funding, which arise in the period up to 24 months after the end of the project.



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Funding Schemes

ERC funding schemes

Core funding schemes



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Starting Grant (StG): nurturing the next generation research leaders.

To support excellent Principal Investigators at the career stage at which they are starting their own independent research team or programme.

Consolidator Grant (CoG): consolidating the next generation research leaders.

To support excellent Principal Investigators at the career stage at which they may still be consolidating their own independent research team or programme.

Advanced Grant (AdG): attracting and rewarding established independent research leaders.

To support excellent Principal Investigators at the career stage at which they are already established research leaders with a recognised track record of research achievements.

Applicant Principal Investigators must demonstrate the ground breaking nature, ambition and feasibility of their scientific proposal.

ERC Grants – Grant Size

- €1.5M (StG) - possibility of an additional € 0.5M
- €2.0M (CoG)- possibility of an additional € 0.75M
- €2.5M (CoG)- possibility of an additional € 1 M
 - 100% total eligible direct costs (salaries, equipment, etc.)
 - *Financing of **indirect costs based on a flat rate of 25% of the direct eligible costs** (in FP7 the rate applied was 20%)

ERC Starting and Consolidator Grants – Eligibility



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- At least 2 and up to 7 years post PhD (**StG**)
 - 11 December 2006 – 11 December 2011

- Over 7 and up to 12 years post PhD (**CoG**)
 - 11 December 2001 – 10 December 2006

- Extensions to this period are possible but there are limits
- The dates above are strictly applied

ERC Starting and Consolidator Grants – Eligibility – *Changes for 2014*



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- Only significant change is with regard to applicants who hold a Medical Doctor (MD) degree.
- Applicants with an MD and clinical specialisation are no longer considered as eligible. They must present proof of an appointment requiring doctoral equivalency (e.g. post-doctoral fellowship, professorship appointment) or a PhD.

ERC Grants – Reviewer Exclusion

- You can nominate up to three persons to be excluded from the evaluation of their proposal
- **No reason has to be given**
- The concerned persons will be excluded from the evaluation of the proposal assuming that the ERCEA is still in a position to evaluate the proposal properly



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Data on Spanish participation

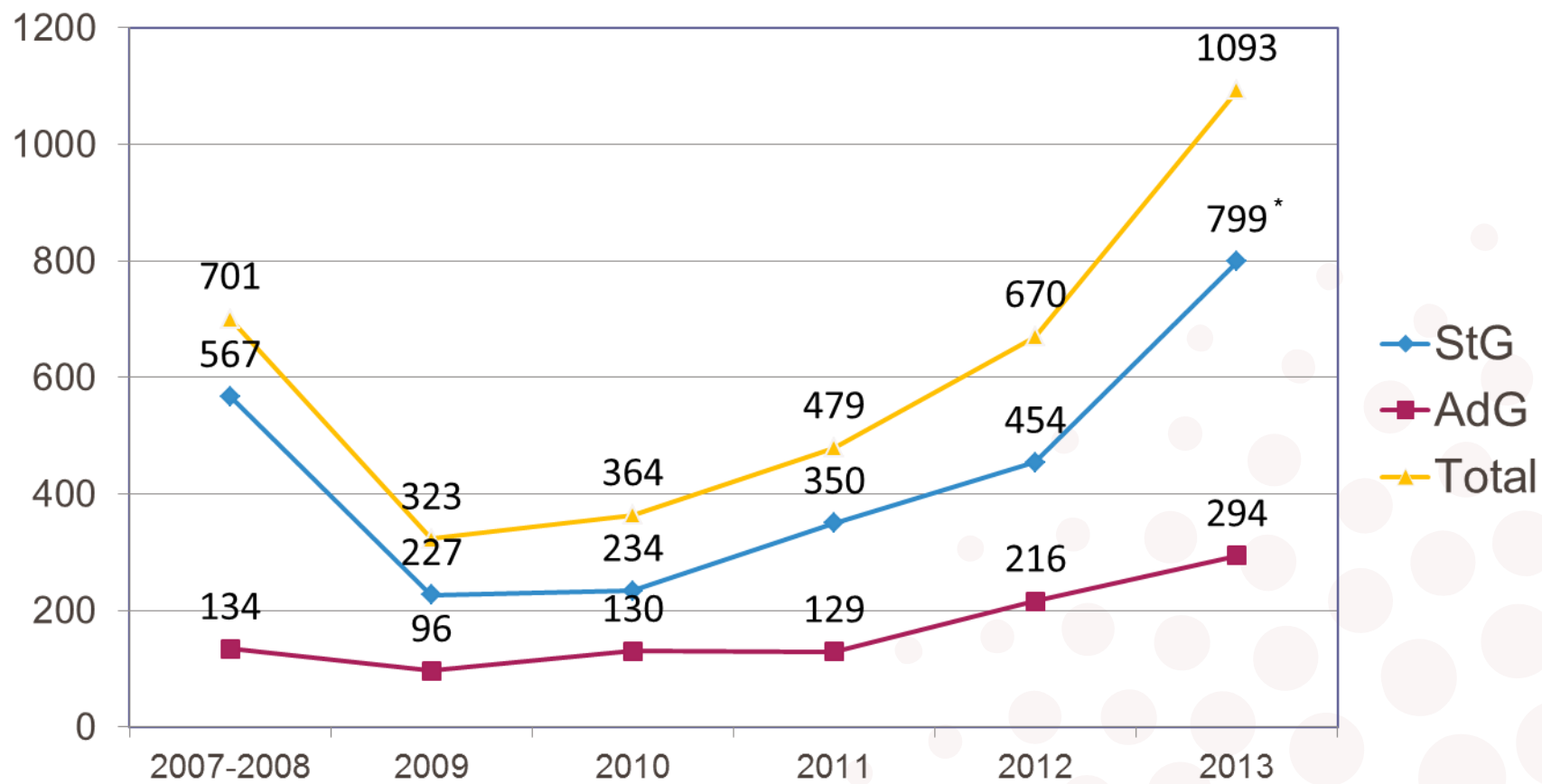
Spain at ERC

Evolution of the number of applications with Spanish HI



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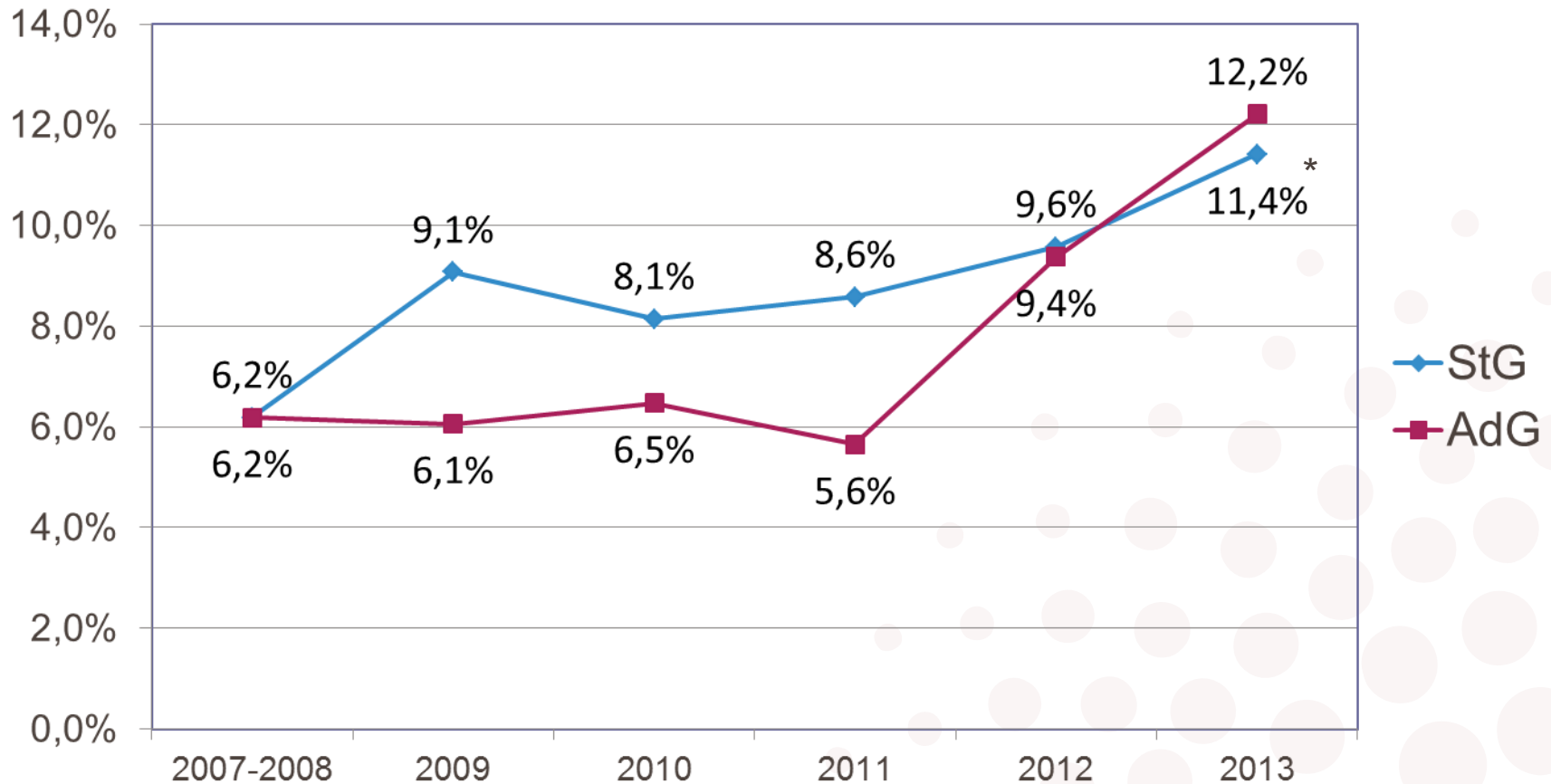
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* 799 = 354 StG + 445 CoG

Spain at ERC

Evolution of the % of applications with Spanish HI



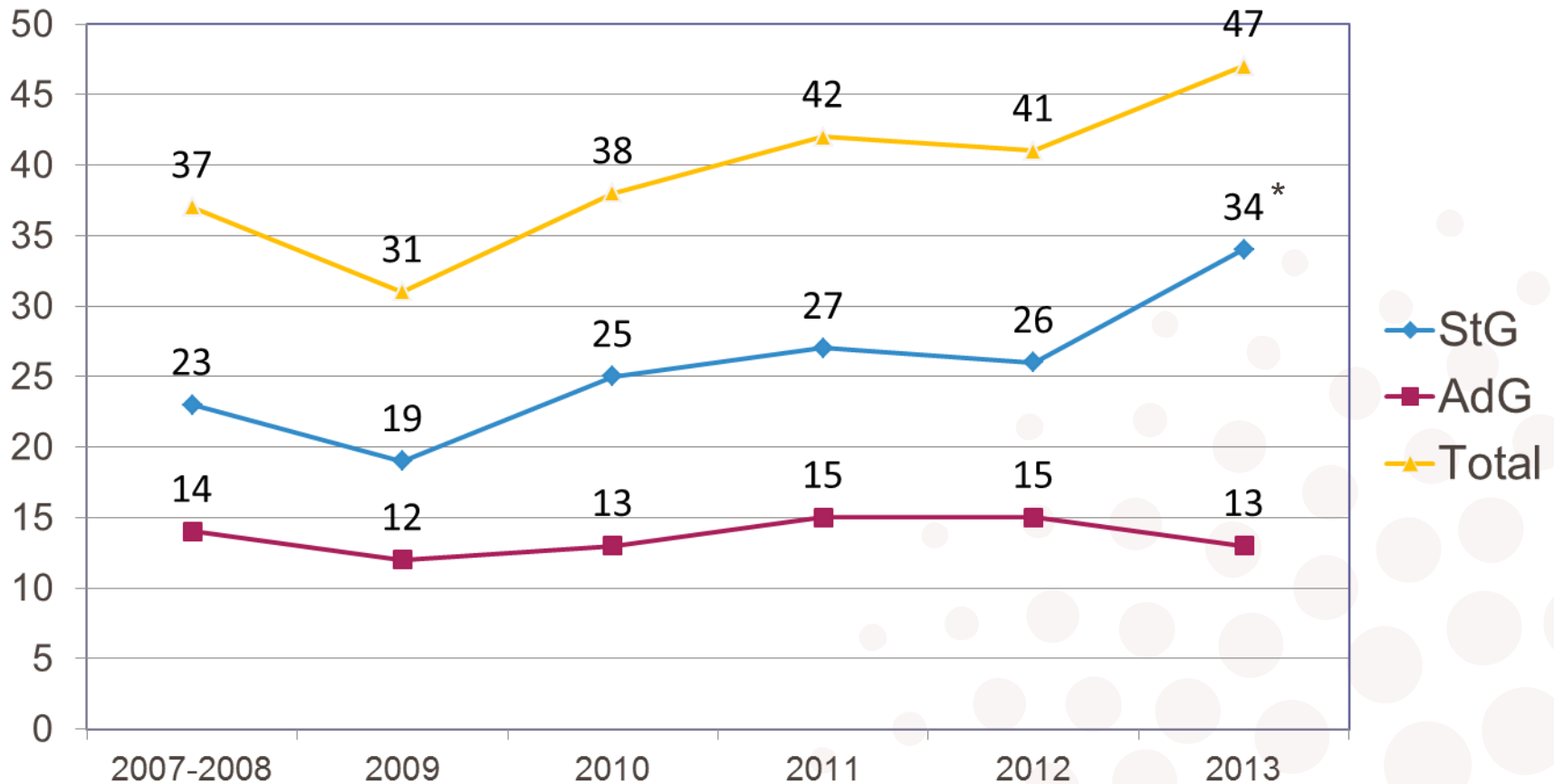
* 10,7% in StG and 12,4% in CoG

Spain at ERC

Evolution of the number of grants with Spanish HI
Total: 189 + 14 + 13 + 20 grants



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* It includes StG2013 (14) and CoG2013 (20)

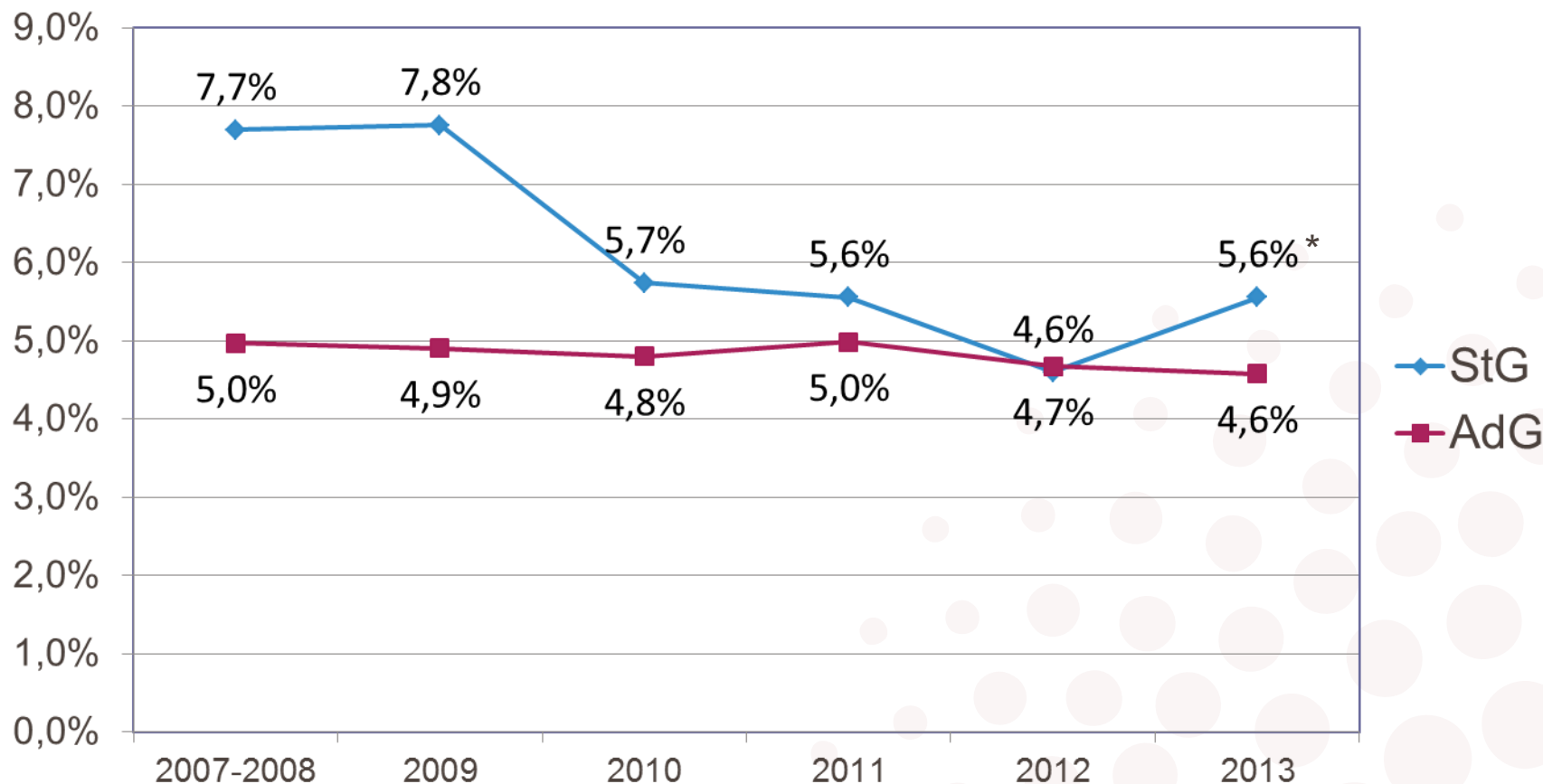
Spain at ERC

Evolution of the % of grants with Spanish HI



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* It includes StG2013 and CoG2013

Spain at ERC

Success rates of applications with Spanish HI



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	Scheme	Submissions		Funded		Success rate	
		Total	Spain	Total	Spain	Overall	Spain
2007	StG	9167	567	299	23	3,3%	4,1%
2008	AdG	2167	134	282	14	13,0%	10,4%
2009	StG	2503	227	245	19	9,8%	8,4%
	AdG	1584	96	245	12	15,5%	12,5%
2010	StG	2873	234	436	25	15,2%	10,7%
	AdG	2009	130	271	13	13,5%	10,0%
2011	StG	4080	350	486	27	11,9%	7,7%
	AdG	2284	129	301	15	13,2%	11,6%
2012	StG	4741	454	566	26	11,9%	5,7%
	AdG	2304	216	321	15	13,9%	6,9%
2013	StG	3329	354	300	14	9,0%	4,0%
	CoG	3673	445	312	20	8,5%	4,5%
	AdG	2408	294	284	13	11,8%	4,4%
Total StG + CoG		30366	2631	2644	154	11,1%*	6,3%*
Total AdG		12756	999	1704	82	13,4%	8,2%
Grand Total		43122	3630	4348	236	11,9%*	7,0%*

**Total success
rate 12%**

**Spanish
success rate 7%**

* Excluding 2007

Spain at ERC

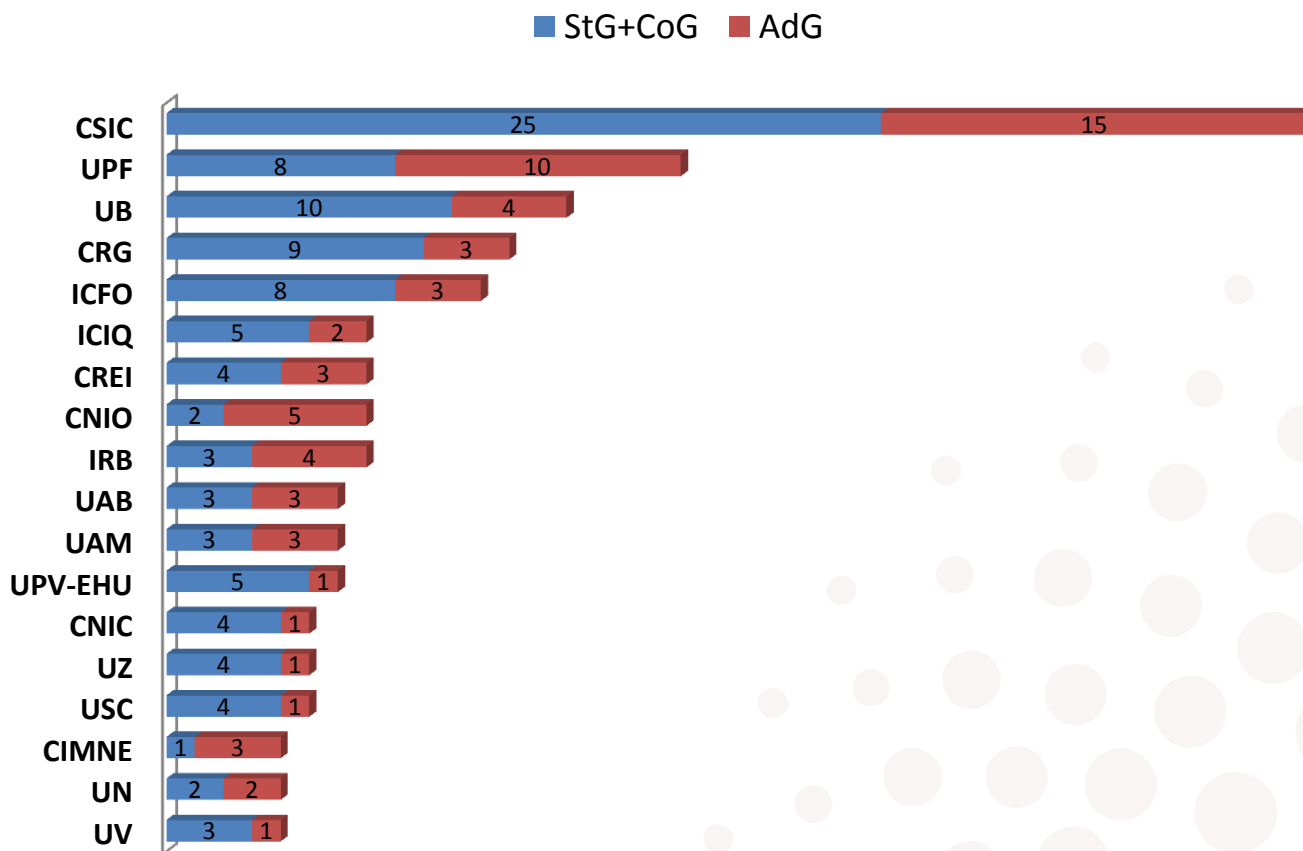
Top host institutions in Spain

237 grantees at 61 research institutions in Spain



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ERC Starting, Consolidators and Advanced grant calls 2007 – 2013

Current host institutions; data as of 10/12/2013



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