

The European Research Council

The European House – Ambrosetti
Technology Forum Life Sciences
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ERC Executive Agency



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

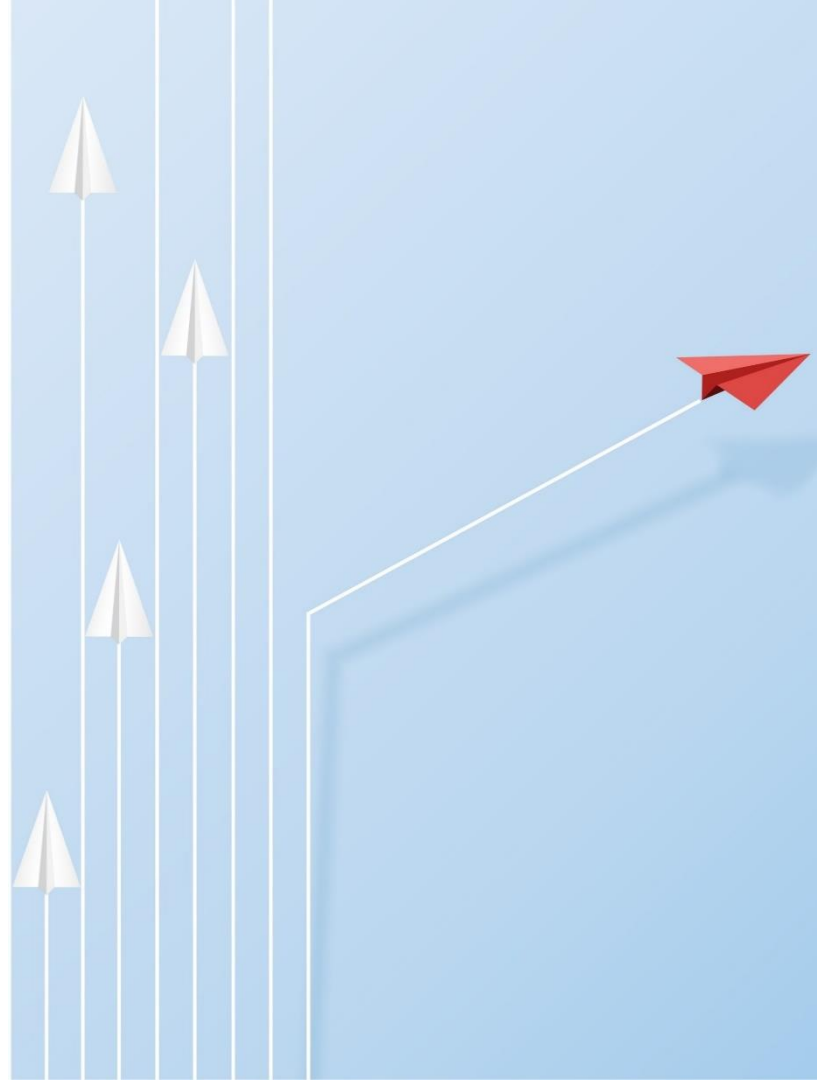
Excellence and Scientific Freedom

Scientific Freedom

- **Support to frontier research** in all fields of science and the humanities
- **No predetermined topics** – bottom-up approach
- **Support to the individual scientist**, not networks or large consortia
- **Scientific excellence as the only criterion**

Scientific Governance

- **Independent Scientific Council with 22 members with full authority over funding strategy**
- Support by a dedicated implementation structure: ERC Executive Agency



ERC Grant Schemes



Starting Grants

Starters, 2-7 years after PhD
up to € 1.5 Mio for 5 years



Synergy Grants

2-4 PIs up to € 10.0 Mio for 6 years
1 PI can be based outside EU/AC



Consolidator Grants

Consolidators (7-12 years after PhD)
up to € 2 Mio for 5 years



Proof-of-Concept

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



Advanced Grants

track-record of significant research achievements
in the last 10 years up to € 2.5 Mio for 5 years

ERC invests in Excellence and Scientific Freedom



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCHERS
FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD
**LONG TERM
GRANTS**
PIONEERING PROJECTS
IN ANY FIELD OF FRONTIER RESEARCH



Life Sciences



Physical Sciences and Engineering



Social Sciences and Humanities



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The impact of curiosity-driven research on innovation

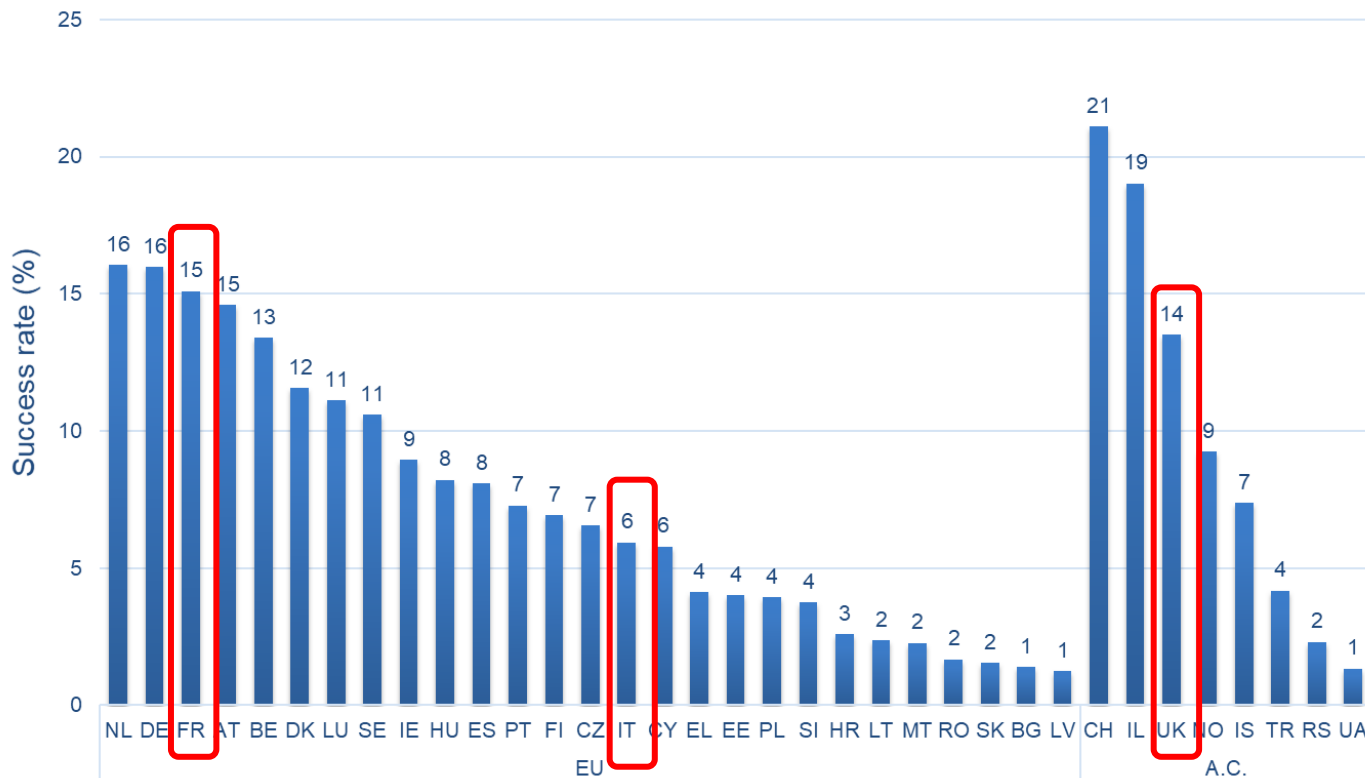
44% of all ERC projects generated research that was later cited in patents

ERC projects cited in patents: **61%** in Life Sciences, **46%** in Physical Sciences and Engineering and **7%** in Social Sciences and the Humanities

11% of ERC grantees had created companies or transferred results of their research to pre-existing companies

Real innovation comes from the base layer, -
from curiosity-driven, basic science

Success rate by country of Host Institution (2007-2022)

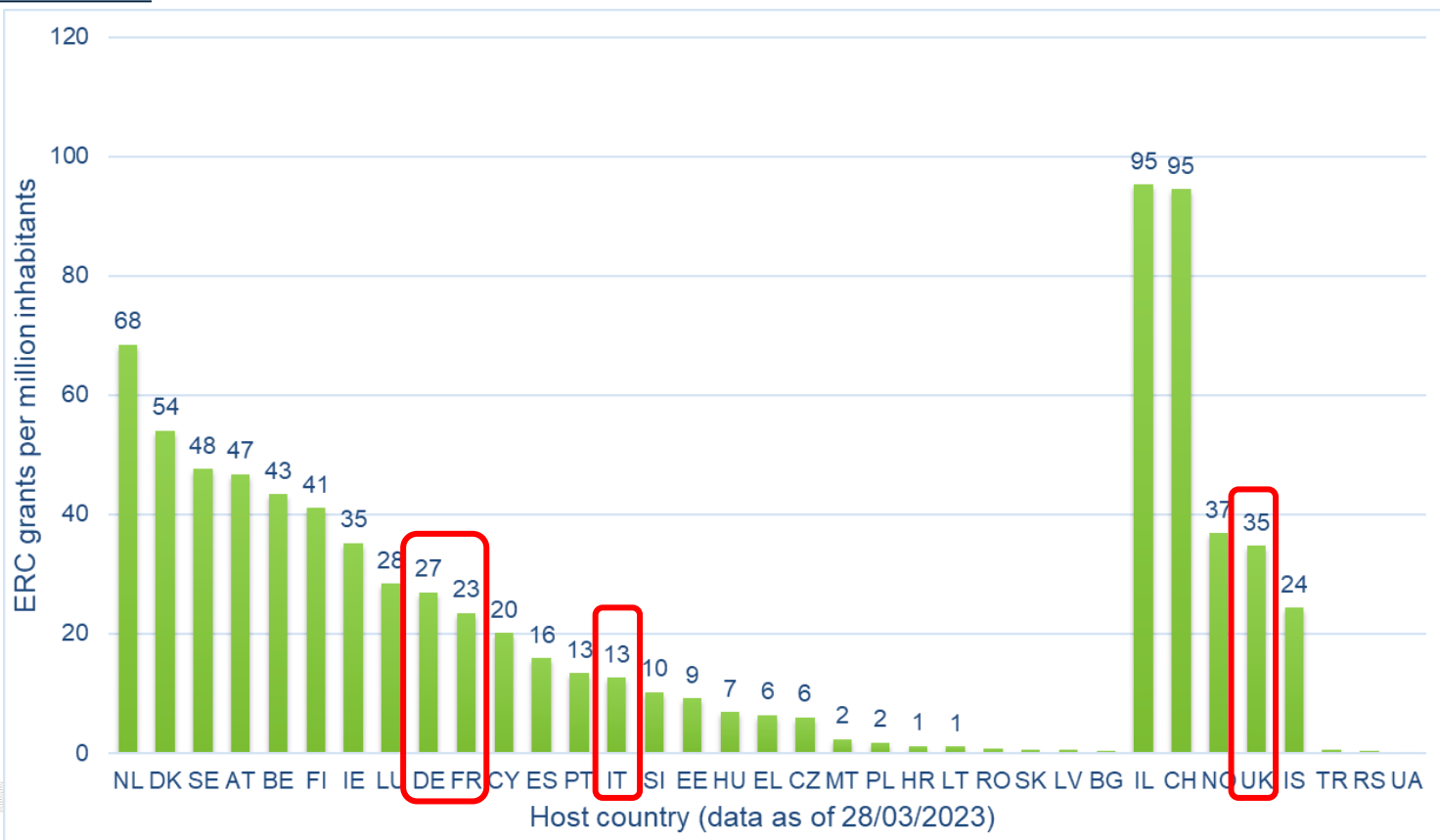


- Researchers based in Italy tend to apply to the ERC in high numbers – only researchers based in UK and DE submitted more applications

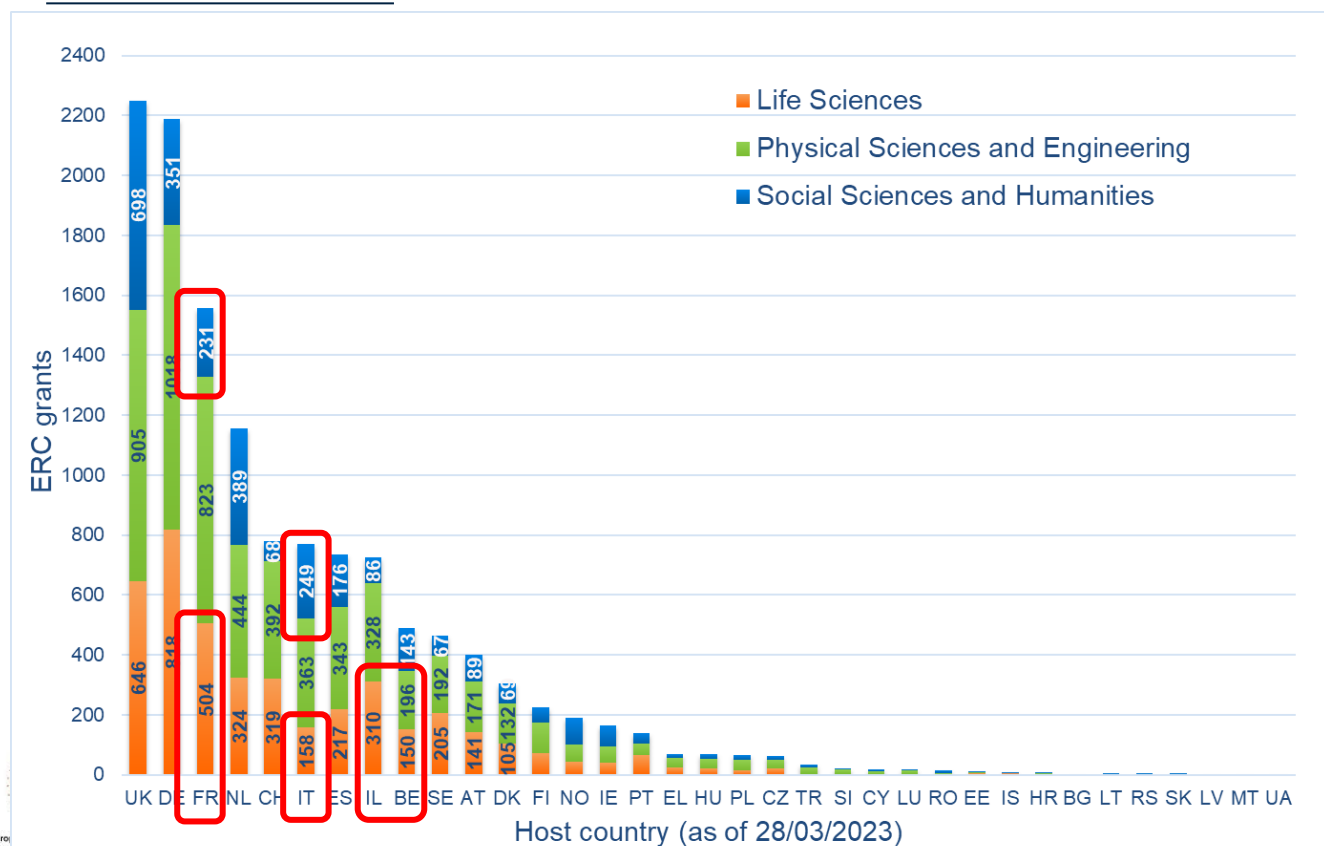
- IT: **low success rate (6%)**

- *But*, increasing throughout the framework programmes, from **4.9% in FP7** to **6% in Horizon 2020** to **9.5%** for the first two years of **Horizon Europe**

ERC grants per population (2007-2022)



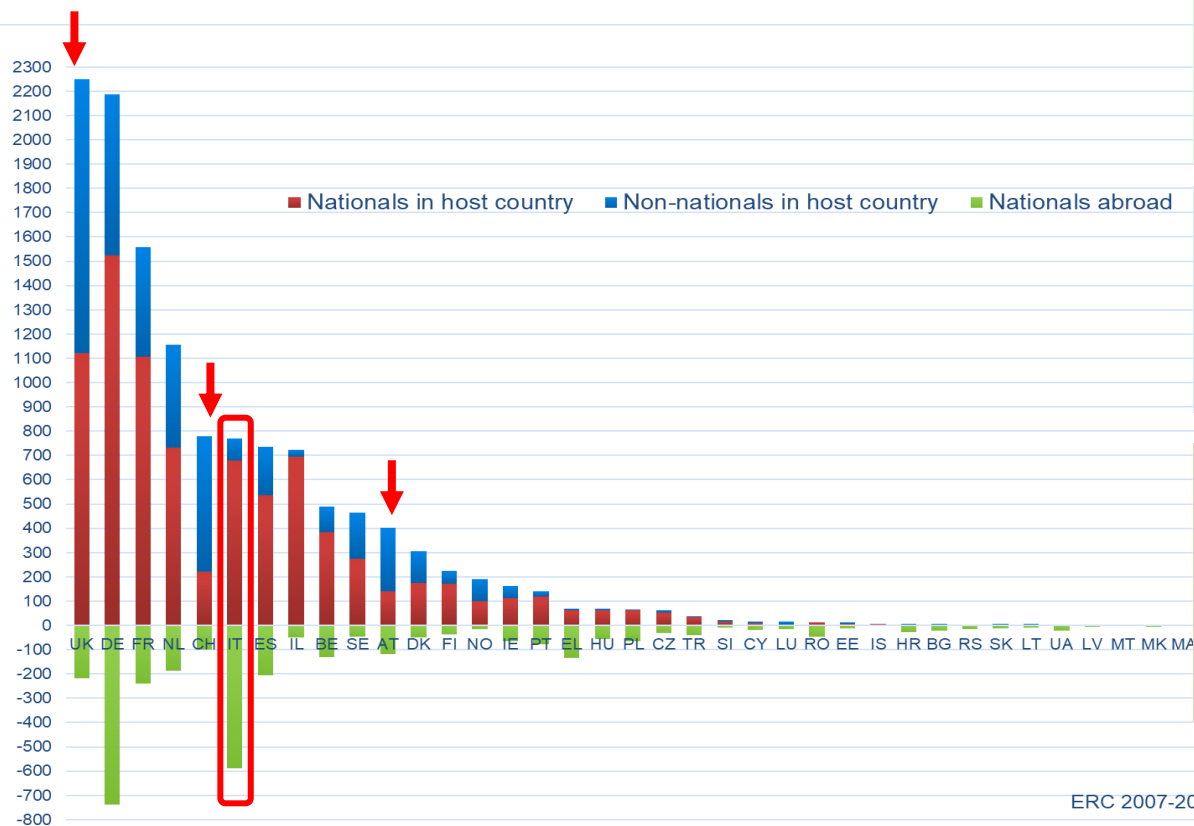
ERC-funded projects by domain



- Number of Italy-based grantees in **Social Sciences and Humanities** is comparable to countries like France

- Number of Italy-based grantees in **Life Sciences** is more than 3-times lower than for France, twice lower than for Israel, and same as Belgium or Austria

Grantees at home and abroad



ERC 2007-2022 calls

- **Large number of Italy-based Host Institutions** accommodating at least one ERC grantee: 84
- **Lower attractiveness for non-national PIs:** 88% of ERC grantees hosted in Italy are Italian nationals – very different than UK, CH or AT
- **Brain drain:** for every project carried out by an Italian grantee in Italy, there were nearly 0.9 projects ran by Italian grantees abroad (678 vs 590)

Thank You!

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