

The European Research Council (ERC) and its Impact

Véronique Dehant (Royal Observatory of Belgium & Université catholique de Louvain)

Véronique Halloin (French National Fund for Scientific Research)

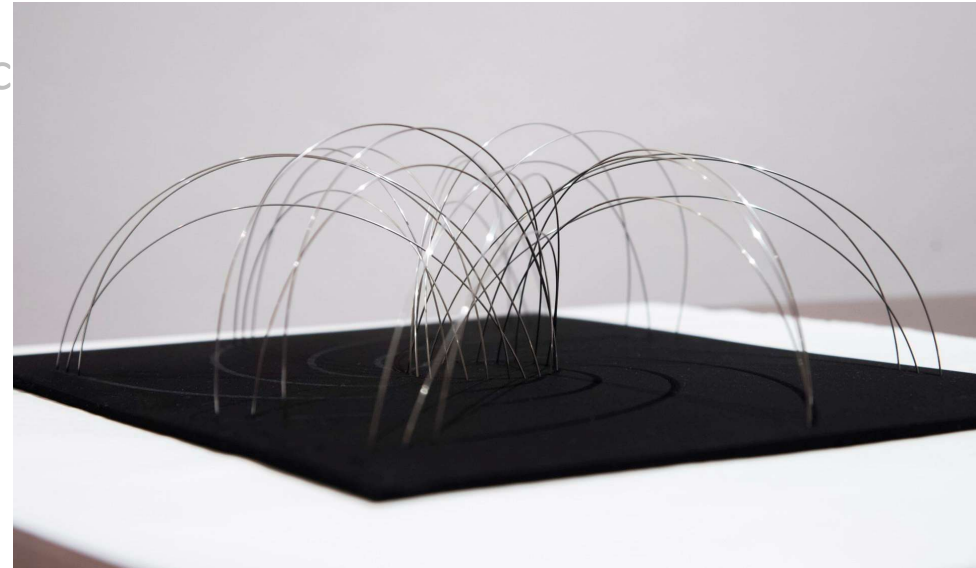
The ERC objectives

- ERC brings together a critical mass of public and private resources to make **European research and industry more competitive**
- *In order to **achieve** what no national could achieve alone*
- Focusing on basic research at the **frontiers of knowledge**
- Pursuing **exploratory, ground-breaking, high-risk/high-gain** research
- *In order to provide Europe's best researchers with the resources they need to allow them to **compete** more and better at global level*



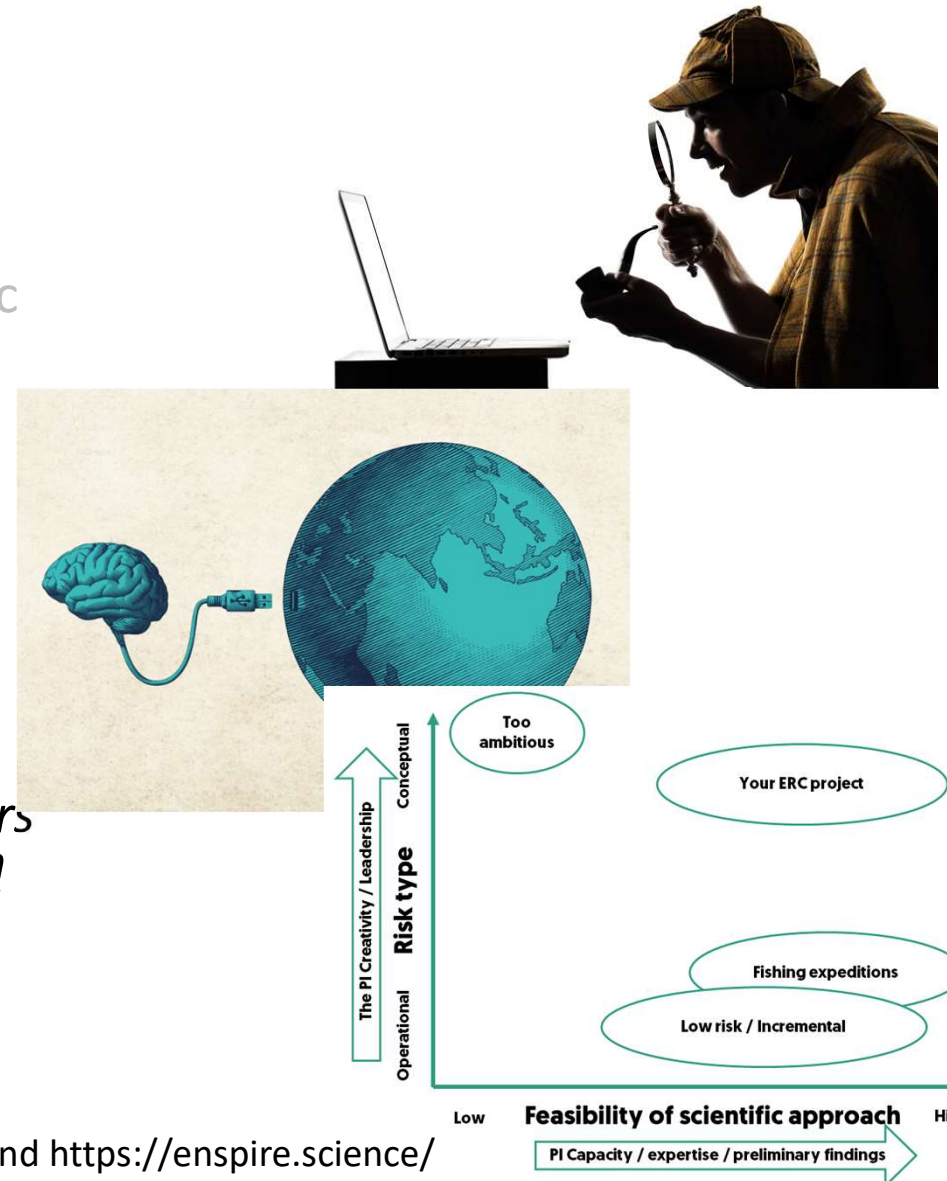
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ERC principles

- Researchers at a comparable career stage compete for Starting, Consolidator, Advanced Grants, Proof of Concept or Synergy Grants

- All research fields (Life Sciences, Physical and Engineering, Social Sciences and Humanities)

- No theme is privileged

- Bottom-up research-driven and development nature

- Only criteria are scientific quality, innovation excellence

- Projects aiming at scientific breakthroughs and advances

- "best brains" in Europe

- Peer-reviewed – high-level international panels

Starting Grants
2-7 years after
PhD
Up to 1.5 M€
For 5 years

Consolidator
Grants
7-12 years after
PhD
Up to 2 M€
For 5 years

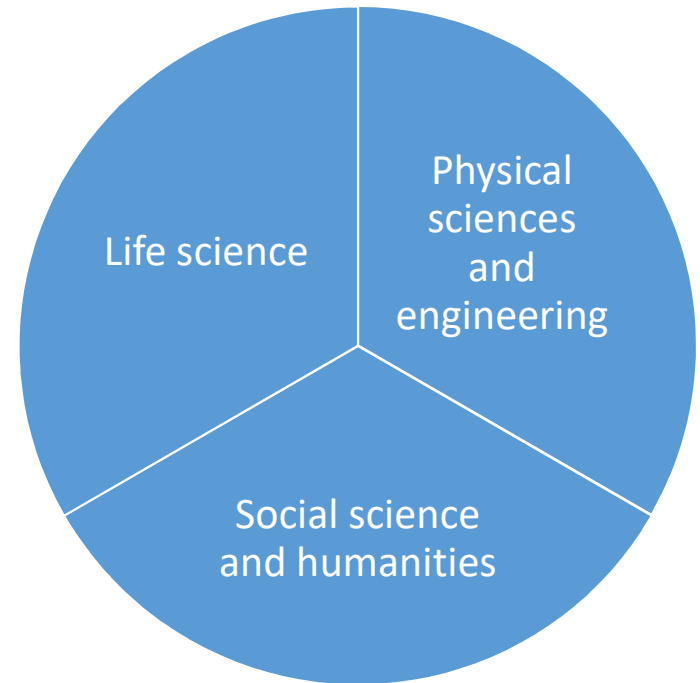
Advanced Grants
Track-record of
significant
research
achievements in
the last 10 years
Up to 2.5 M€
For 5 years

Proof-of-concept Grants
For ERC grant holders only
Bridging gap between
research and marketable
innovation
Up to 150 k€
For 5 years

Synergy Grants
2-4 PIs
Up to 10 M€
For 6 years

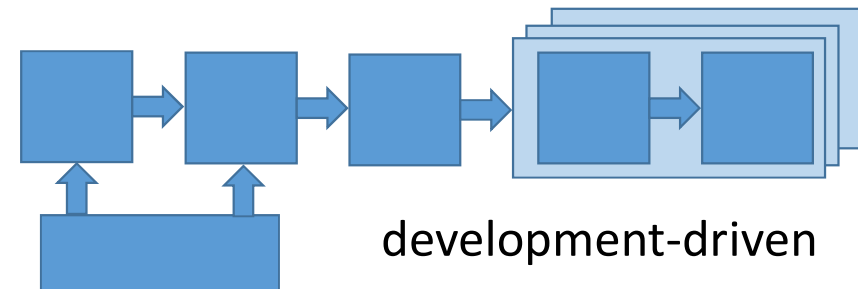
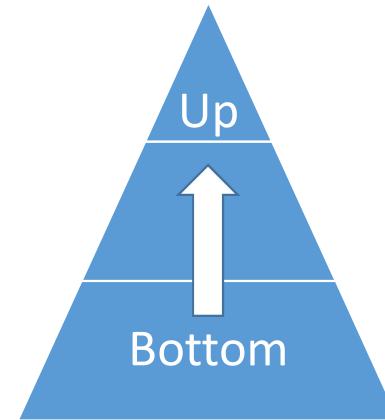
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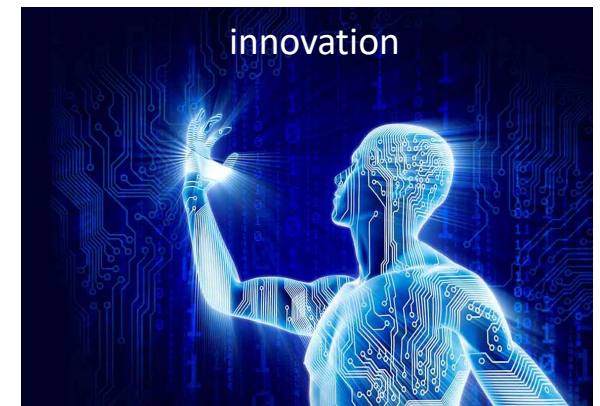
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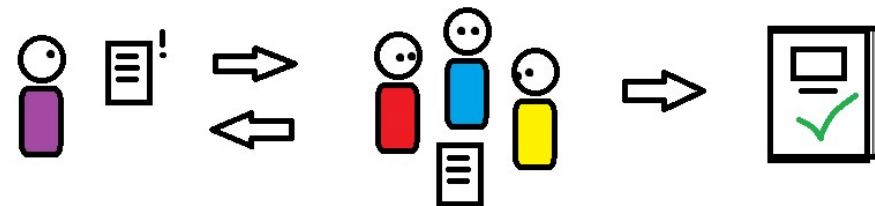
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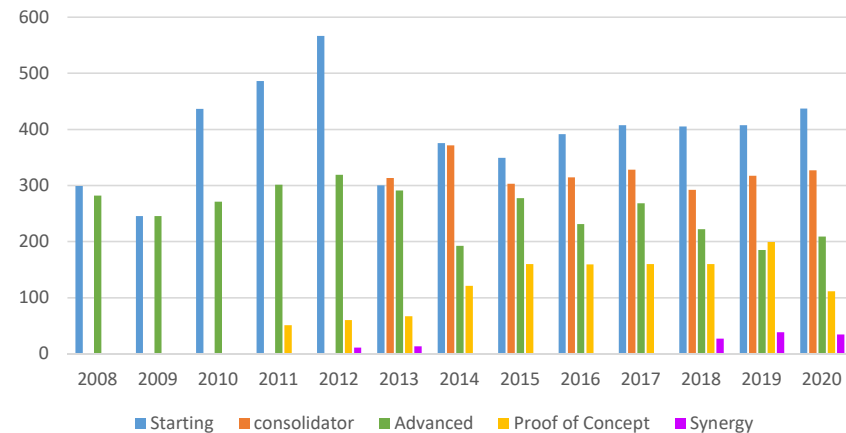
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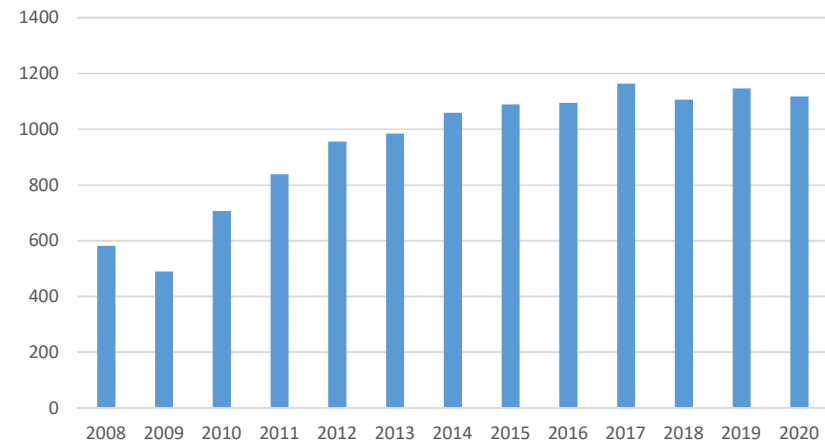
ERC in figures

- Overall ERC budget from 2021 to 2027 is 16 billion €
- Before 2021: 20.5 billion €
- Just over 10,000 PI researchers

Different granted ERC projects



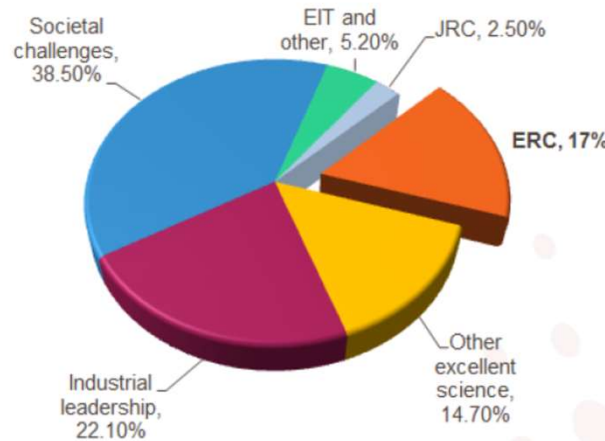
Granted ERC projects



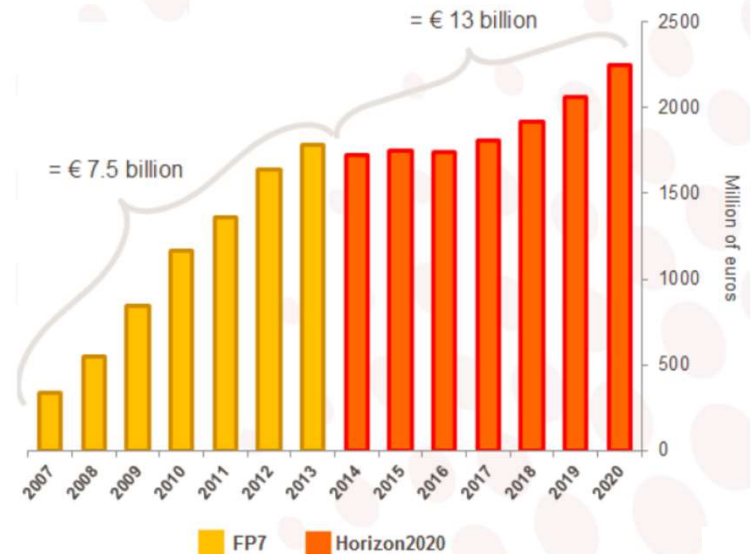
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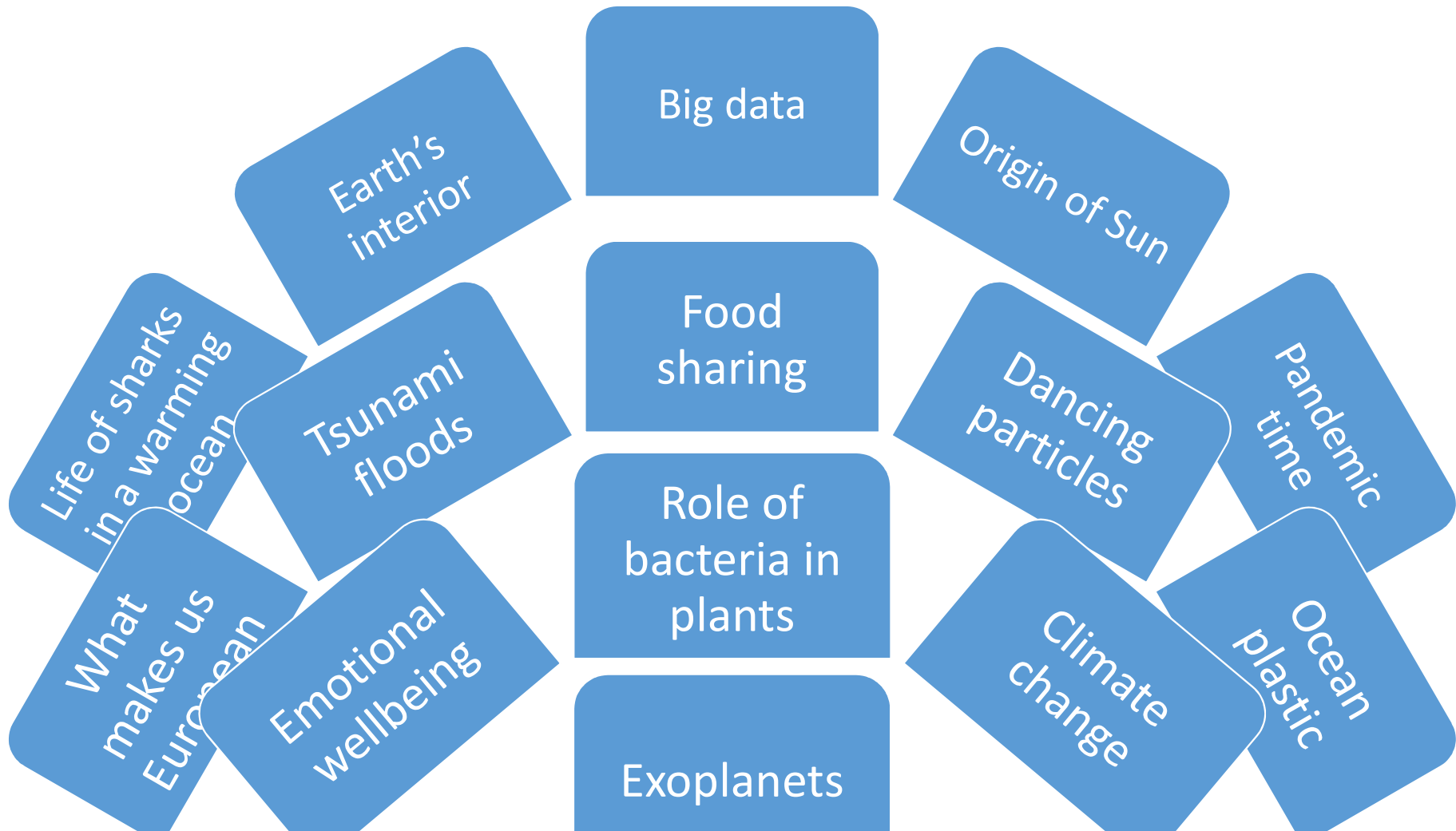
Horizon2020 budget distribution



ERC budget per year

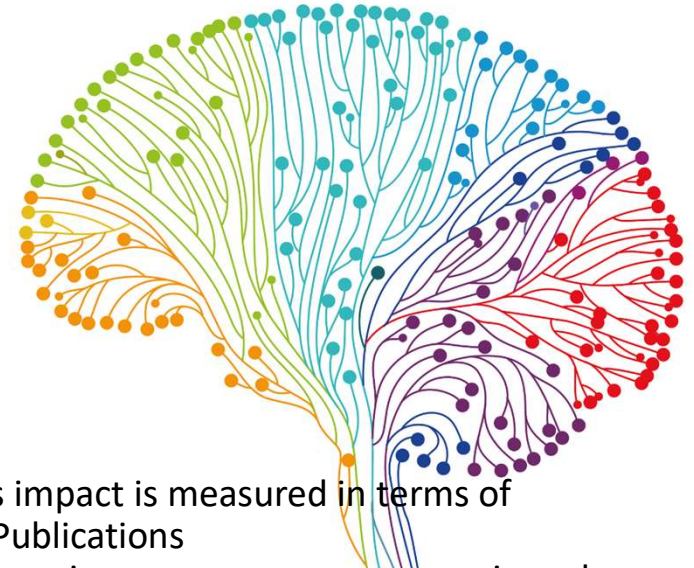


Examples of ERCs



Metrics of Success for the ERC

- Significant direct impact in the form of advances at the frontiers of knowledge
- Ultimately generating radically new ideas that stimulate innovation and address societal challenges
- Half of the projects have already had an impact on the economy, society, science and policymaking
- What matters? Quality and scientific impact. No need to justify in terms of matrix such as h-index
- highly interdisciplinary nature of ERC projects
- training a new generation of excellent researchers:
 - on average 7 team members per project
 - over 75,000 postdocs, PhD students and other staff
- Prestige of hosting ERC grant-holders and the accompanying "label of excellence" intensifies the competition between European universities



This impact is measured in terms of

- Publications
 - in open access as peer-reviewed
 - popularized publication
- Scientific outreach
 - presentation at congresses, invited talks
 - public conferences, exhibitions
- Organization of conferences, workshops...
- Press release
- Prizes, awards
- Communications with other stakeholders
- Training and employment of the young researchers

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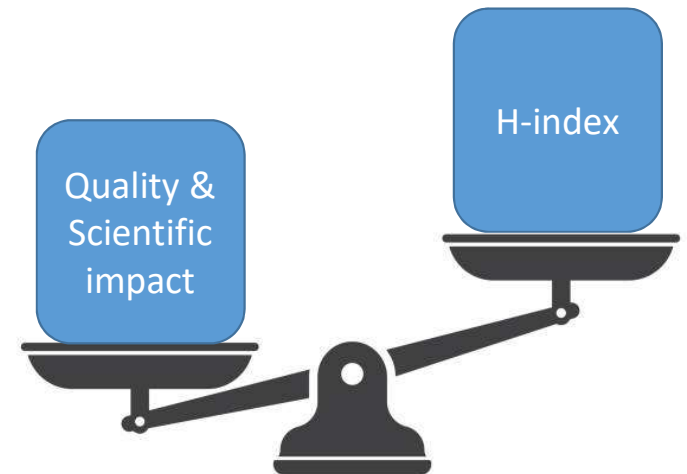
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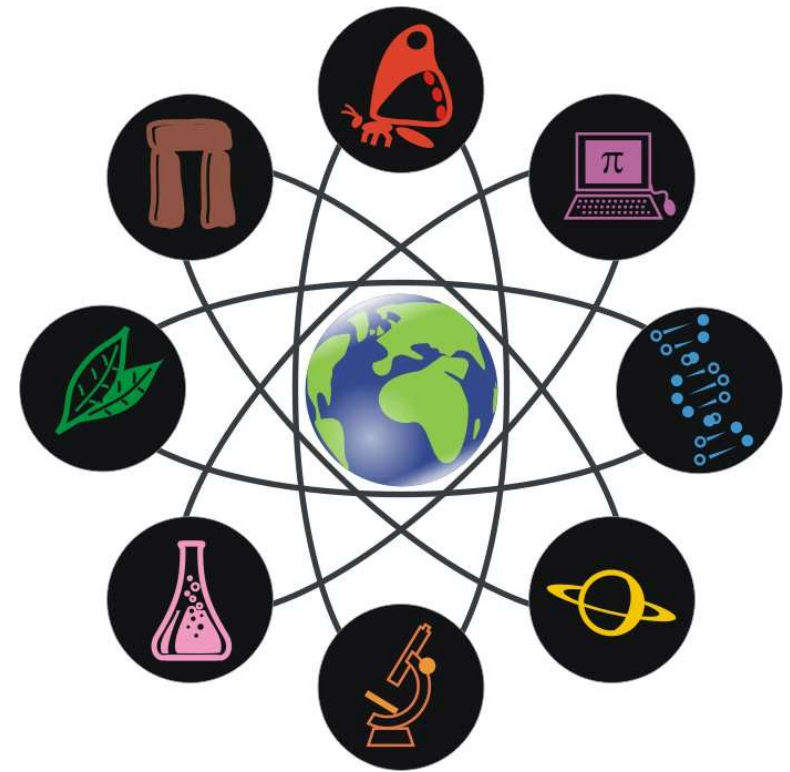
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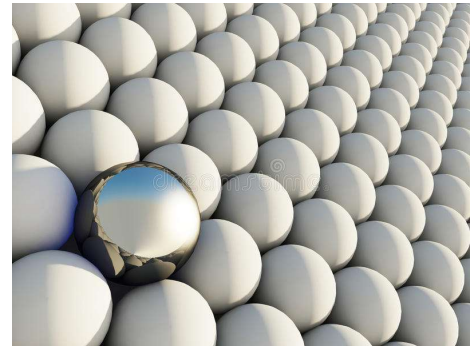
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Conclusion

- The ERC funds the best combination of outstanding individual scientists and innovative ideas.
- The ERC grants definitely deserve to be even better funded in the future.
- The only drawback is the sudden decrease in funding that researchers face at the end of their ERC grant, which is usually not matched by national funding.



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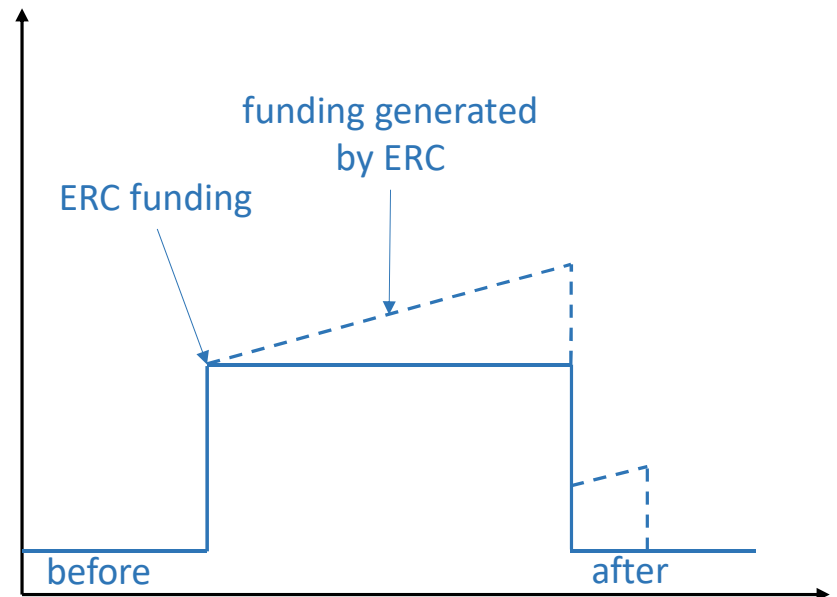
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Thank you for your attention!

References

- <https://erc.europa.eu/about-erc/mission>
- Facts and figures | ERC: European Research Council (europa.eu)
- <https://erc.europa.eu/news/impact-erc-research-confirmed2020>
- Figures have been found on the web and referred on each slide