

**Bocconi**



Università Commerciale  
Luigi Bocconi

**Bocconi**

dipartimenti →

centri di ricerca →

# European Research Council Starting Grants





## ERC Main features (1/2)

- **First European funding body** supporting -through open and direct competition- **frontier research**, i.e. the pursuit of questions at or beyond the frontiers of knowledge, without regard for established disciplinary boundaries
- **Scientific excellence** is the sole criterion
- Significant expected impact is (**high gain/high risk**)
- **Bottom-up** approach (no predetermined themes)
- International **peer-review**



## ERC Main features (2/2)

- **All fields** of research within 3(+1) domains
  - Physical Sciences and Engineering
  - Life Sciences
  - **Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH)**
  - Interdisciplinary
- Encouraging creativity, combining flexibility and accountability
- Individual research teams led by a single Principal Investigator, i.e. no networks (exception foreseen...)
- The host institution guarantees the PI's independence and provides the research environment to carry out the project and manage its funding



# ERC funding schemes

- **Starting Grant** - *PhD from 2 and up to 7 years*  
attract & retain the next generation of independent research leaders
- **Consolidator Grant** - *PhD from 7 and up to 12 years*  
attract & retain the next generation of independent research leaders
- **Advanced Grant**  
attract & reward established top researchers
- **Synergy Grant**  
interdisciplinary research with added value by a small group (2/4) of PIs and their teams with complementary skills
- **Proof of Concept**  
extra funds for ERC-funded ideas to be brought to a pre-demonstration stage with potential pre-commercialisation opportunities



## ERC Starting Grants

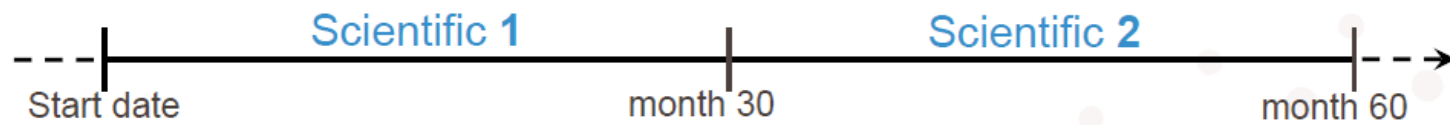
- Support a critical stage in scientific careers
- Attract/retain **next-generation leaders**
- Address **funding gap** early in independent career
- Establish independent **research teams & programmes**
- Up to € 1.5 million for 5 years, covering 100% of direct cost of the projects (HR, travels, publications...) + overheads (20% of direct costs)



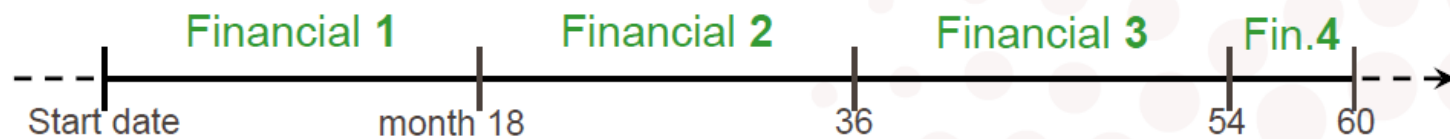
# PI interactions with ERCEA

## *Reporting: 2 different reporting systems*

⇒ **2 Scientific reports** submitted by the **Principal Investigator** on behalf of the HI



⇒ **4 Financial reports** submitted by the **Host Institution** on behalf of the PI



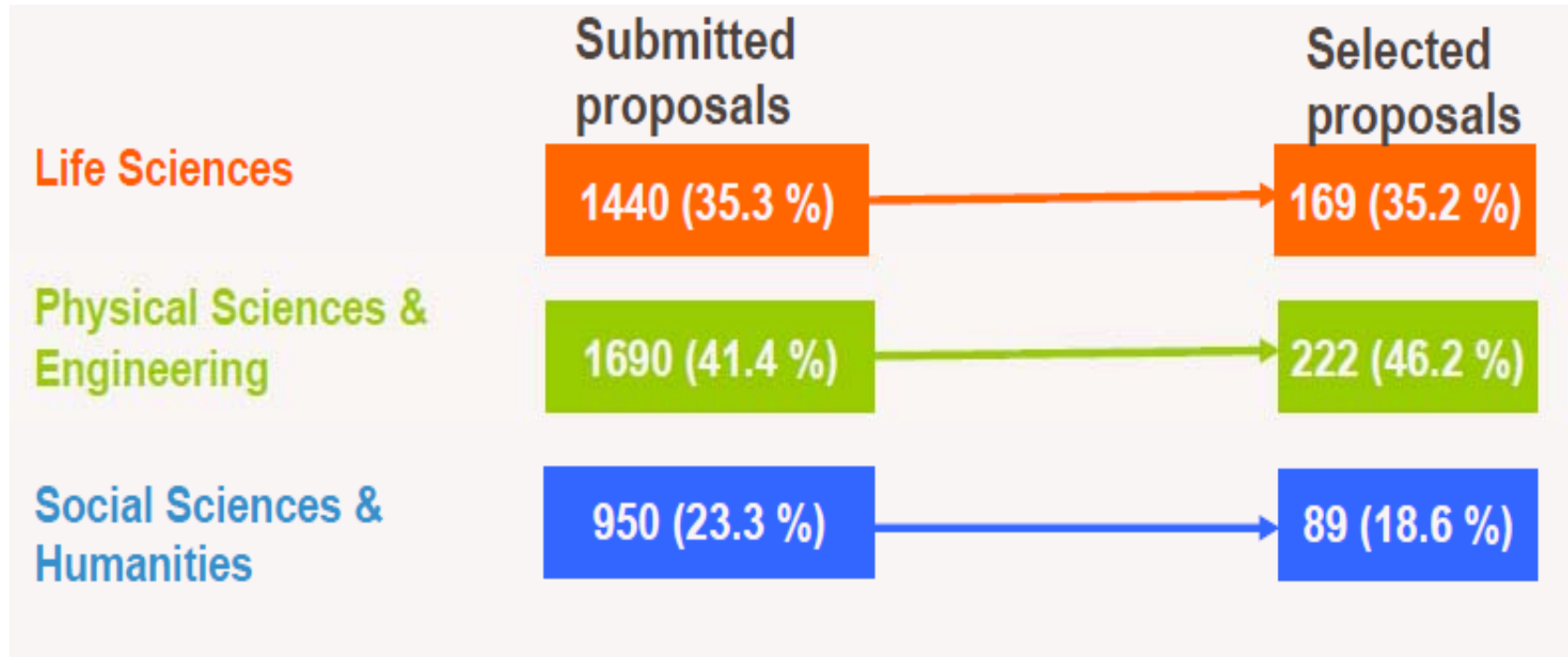


# Ideal Profile of a StG P.I.

- **Evidence of maturity and potential for independent research**
  - PhD awarded at least 2 and up to 7 years prior to the publication date of the call for proposals of the ERC Starting Grant
  - at least one important publication without the participation of the PhD supervisor
- **Promising track record of early achievements**
  - significant publications (as main author) in major international peer-reviewed scientific journals
  - monographs
  - record of invited presentations in well-established international conferences
  - funding, awards, prizes, etc.
- **Leader of the individual team, fully engaged in the running of the grant**
  - demonstrate commitment of significant time and effort for the next few years (**at least 50% of total effort, better more**)



# Submitted and selected proposal by Domain in StG 2011



**SSH SUCCES RATE: 12%**

TOTAL: 4080

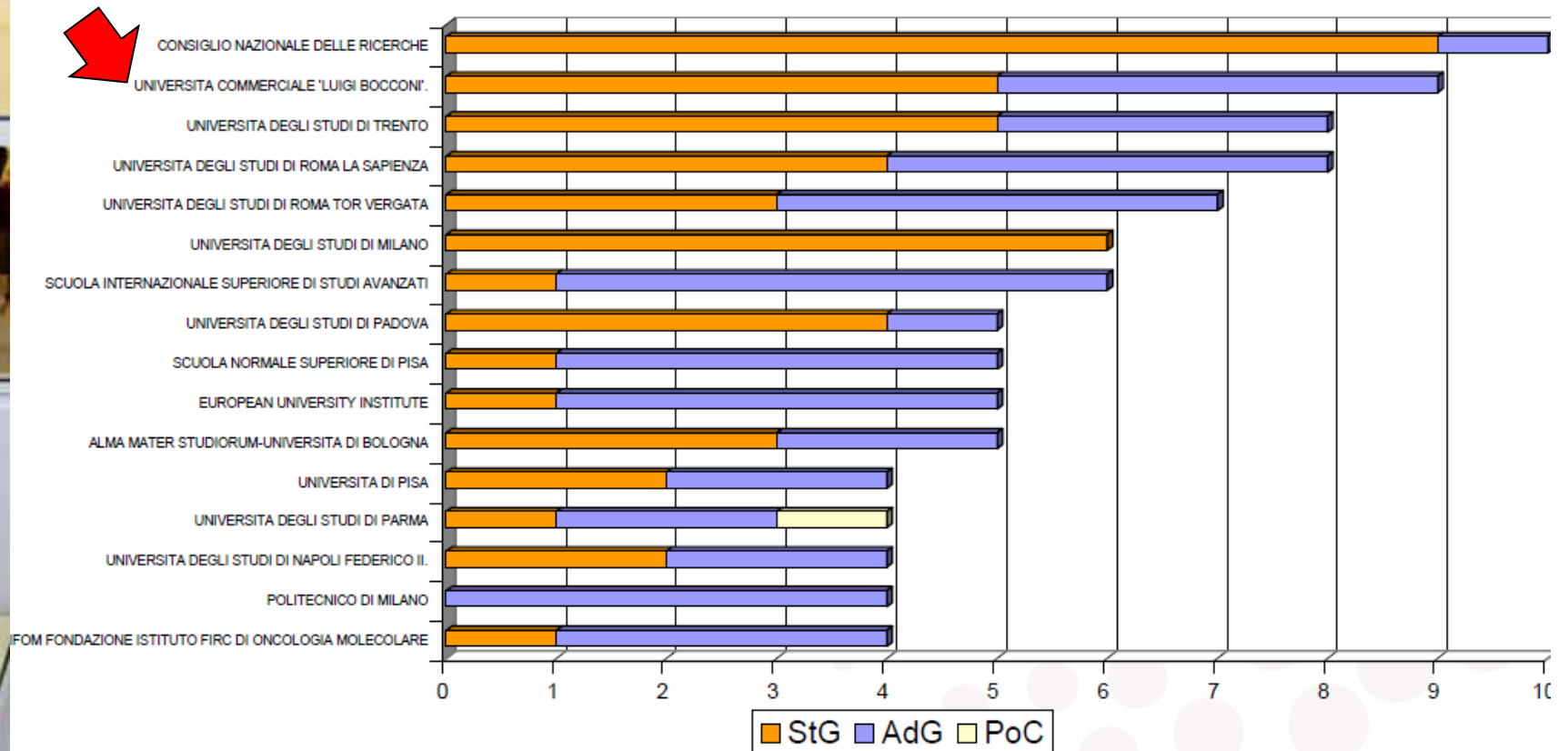
TOTAL: 480





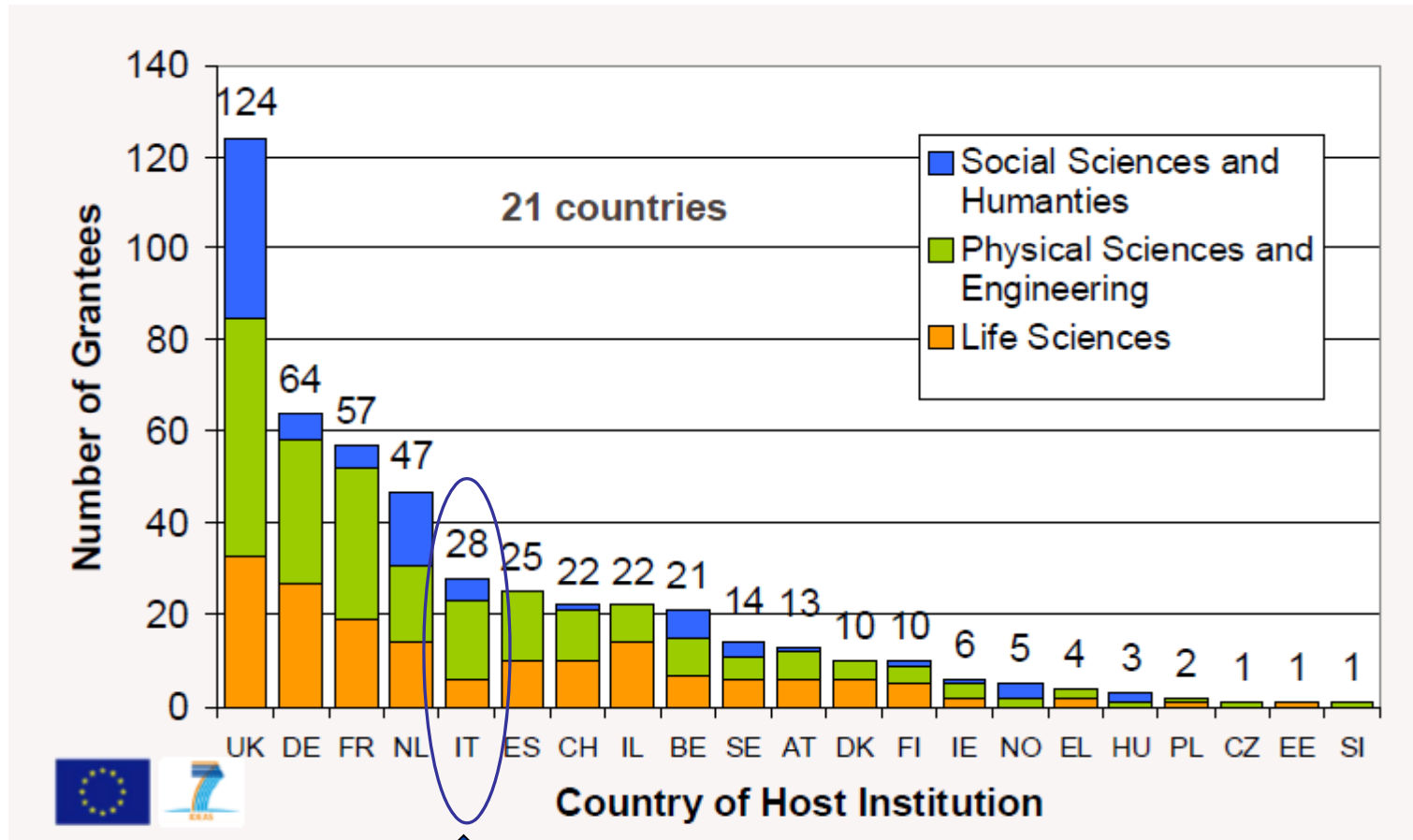
# ERC projects in Italy

Italian beneficiaries hosting most ERC projects



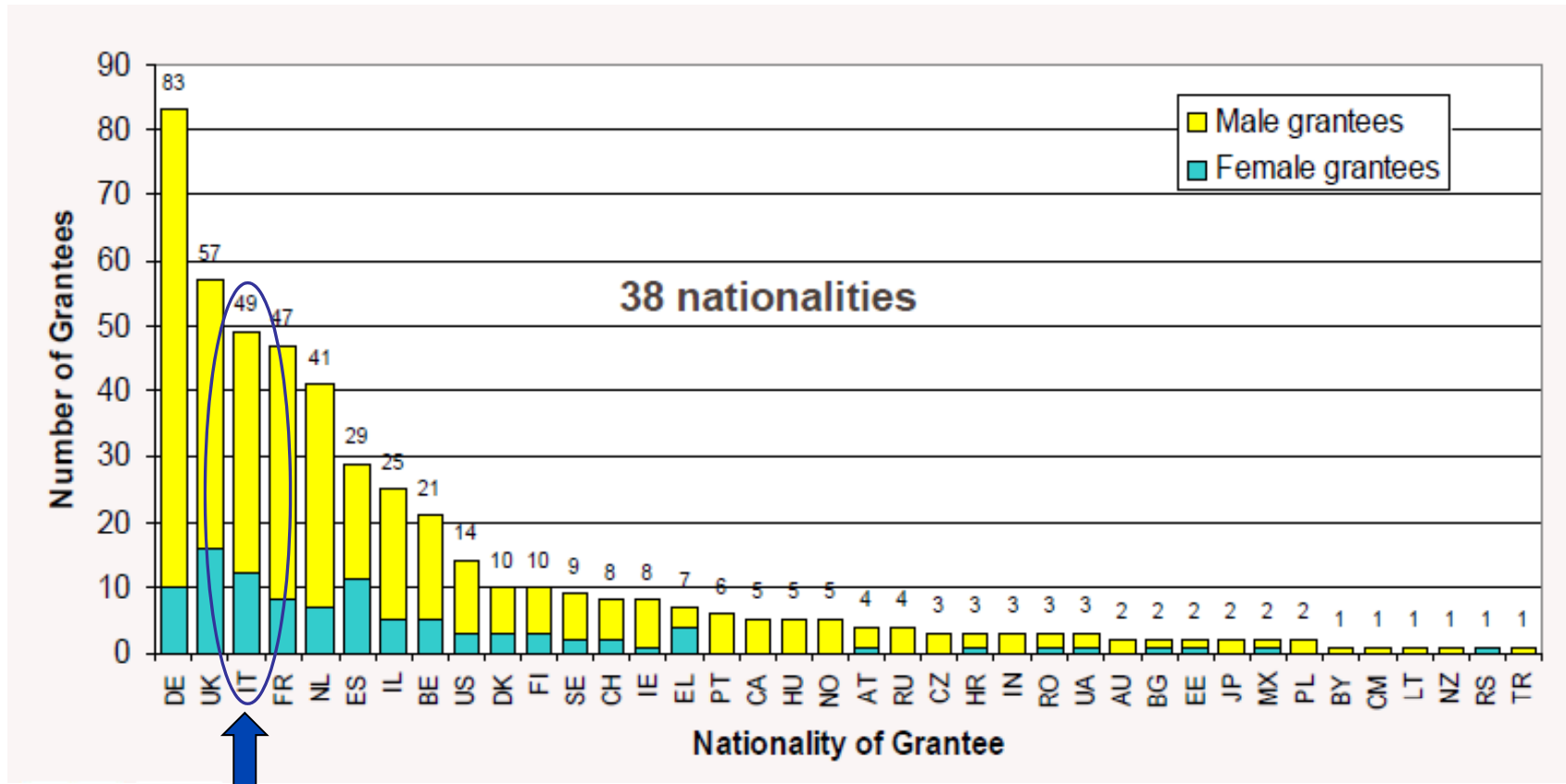


# Selected proposal by Country of HI and Domain in StG 2011



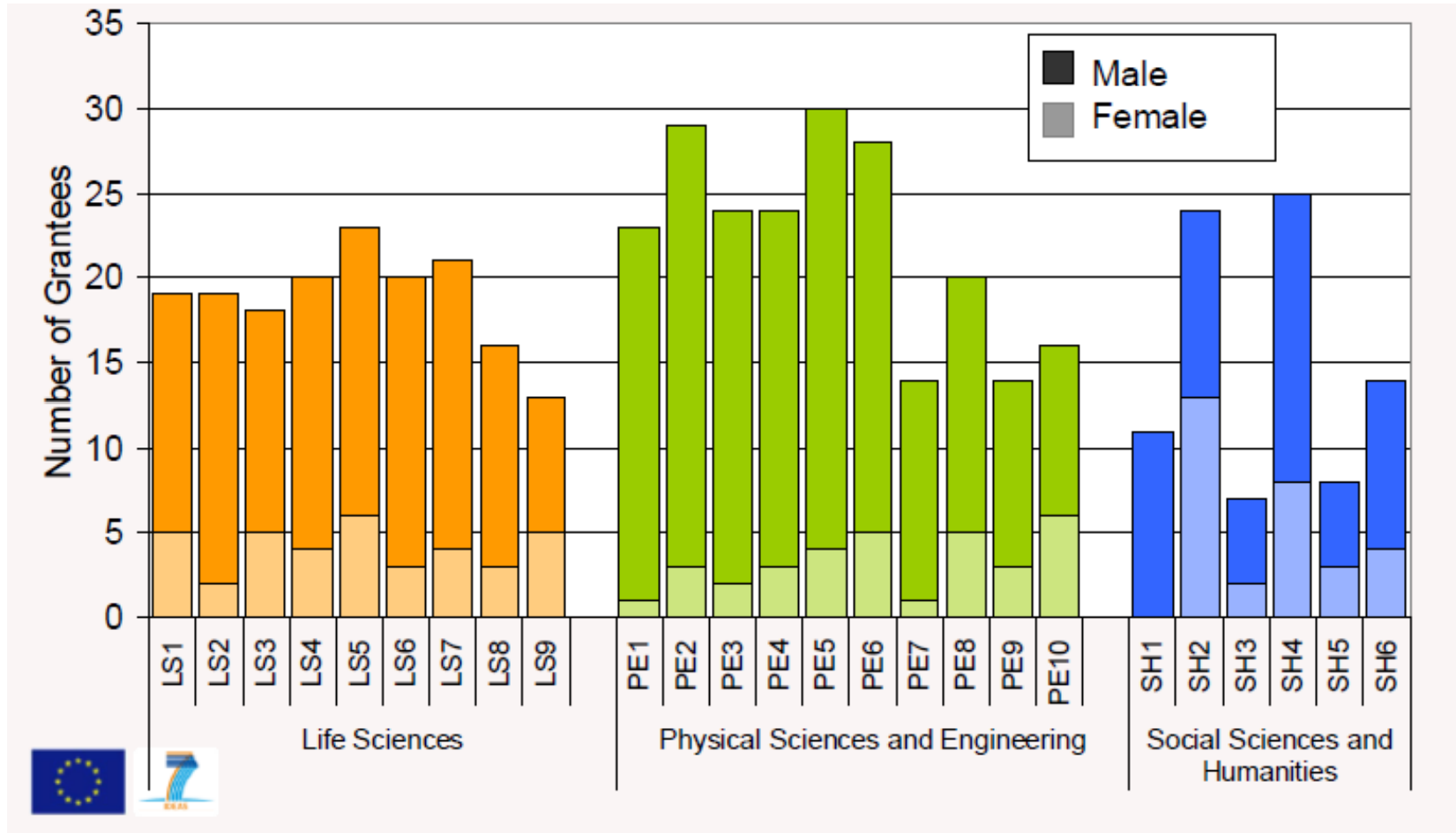


# Grantees by nationality and gender in StG 2011





# Grantees by panel and gender in StG 2011





# Funded StG projects in domain SSH

To date the ERC has funded **272 projects** in the domain “Social Sciences and Humanities”

- SH1 Individuals, institutions and markets 53 19%
- SH2 Institutions, values, beliefs and behaviour 64 24%
- SH3 Environment, space and population 37 14%
- SH4 The Human Mind and its complexity 57 21%
- SH5 Cultures and cultural production 27 10%
- SH6 The study of the human past 34 12%



## StG 2013 budget

**2013 overall Starting Grants budget: € 398 million**

17% for SSH: € 67,7 million

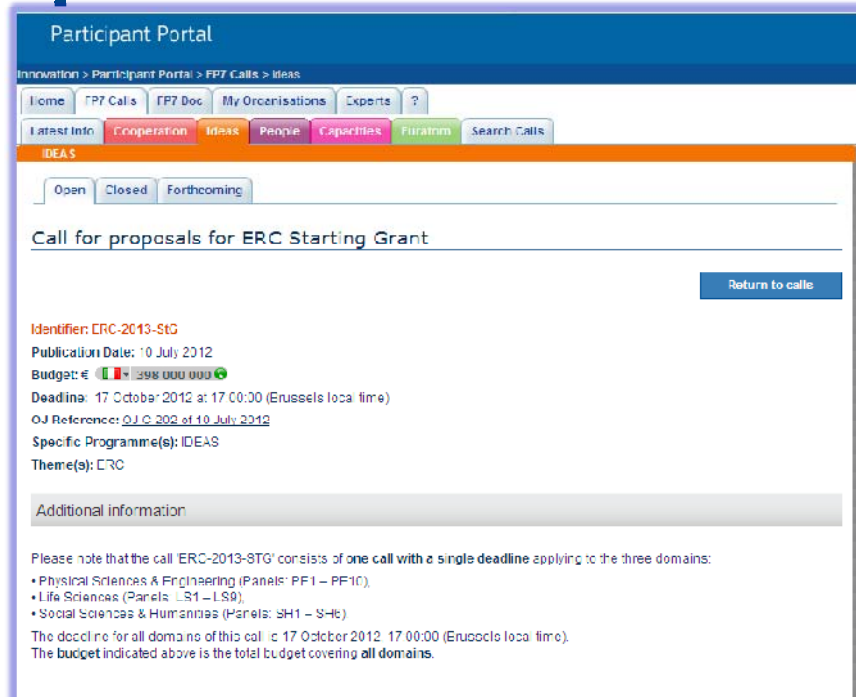
SSH projects normally € 1/1,5 million for 5 years

 **~50 new SSH projects to be funded in 2012**

# How to submit a proposal

2013 Starting Grant call:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/ideas?callIdentifier=ERC-2013-StG>



Participant Portal

Innovation > Participant Portal > FP7 Calls > Ideas

Home FP7 Calls FP7 Doc My Organisations Experts ?

Latest Info Cooperation Ideas People Capabilities Financing Search Calls

IDEAS

Open Closed Forthcoming

Call for proposals for ERC Starting Grant

Return to calls

Identifier: ERC-2013-StG

Publication Date: 10 July 2012

Budget: € 398 000 000

Deadline: 17 October 2012 at 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)

OJ Reference: OJ C 202 of 10 July 2012

Specific Programme(s): IDEAS

Theme(s): ERC

Additional information

Please note that the call 'ERC-2013-STG' consists of **one call with a single deadline** applying to the three domains:

- Physical Sciences & Engineering (Panels: PF1 – PF10)
- Life Sciences (Panels: LS1 – LS9)
- Social Sciences & Humanities (Panels: SH1 – SH6)

The deadline for all domains of this call is 17 October 2012 17:00:00 (Brussels local time).  
The budget indicated above is the total budget covering all domains.

Scroll down to Electronic Proposal Submission Service

## Electronic Proposal Submission

To access the Electronic Submission Service of the call, please select the funding scheme or objective corresponding to the work programme topic that is most relevant to your proposal from the list below. You will then be linked to the correct entry point.

Available funding scheme(s):

ERC Starting Grant[ERC-SG]

Then click on 'Go'





# Electronic Proposal Submission Service (EPSS)

Click on 'Register' and complete the procedure

The screenshot shows the EPSS website interface. At the top, there is a header with the text 'Electronic Proposal Submission Service (EPSS)' and a logo on the right. Below the header, there is a navigation bar with the text 'EPSS'. A yellow box contains the text 'Attention!' and a message about EPSS Helpdesk working hours. A red box contains browser compatibility information. A blue arrow points to the 'REGISTER' link in the navigation menu. The 'REGISTER' link is circled in red. Below the navigation menu, there are three options for users: 'I am the coordinator of a proposal and I need a user name and a password', 'I already have an online user name and a password', and 'I am a participant (not the coordinator) in a proposal and I need a user name and password'. At the bottom right, there are links for 'EPSS user guide' and 'Privacy Statement'.

Electronic Proposal Submission Service (EPSS)

EPSS

The EPSS web application is best viewed with  
- Internet Explorer 6.0 (and above)  
- or Mozilla Firefox 1.0 (and above)  
Safari is NOT supported (whatever the OS)  
For other browsers please refer to the EPSS User Guide

**Attention!**

EPSS Helpdesk working hours from 11/07/2012 until 31/08/2012:  
the EPSS helpdesk will be available from 9am to 5pm Brussels local time.

Welcome to EPSS, the Electronic Proposal Submission Service

Call Selected: **ERC-2013-StG**  
Sub-Scheme Selected: **ERC-SG**

I am the **coordinator** of a proposal and I need a user name and a password → **REGISTER<sup>1</sup>**

I already have an **online** user name and a password → **LOGIN**

I am a **participant (not the coordinator)** in a proposal and I need a user name and password → **CONTACT YOUR COORDINATOR**

[EPSS user guide](#)

[Privacy Statement](#)



# Single submission, 2 steps evaluation

**PART A**  
**(online forms)**



**A1 Proposal and PI info**  
**A2 Host institution info**  
**A3 Budget**

**PART B1**  
**(upload pdf)**

**Extended synopsis 5 p.**  
**CV 2 p.**  
**Early achievements 2 p.**

**PART B2**  
**(upload pdf)**

**Scientific proposal 15 p.**

**Annexes**

**(upload pdf)**

- **Supplementary Agreement (statement of support by host)**
- **PhD certificate**
- **If applicable: explanatory information on ethical issues**
- **If applicable: supporting docs for career breaks**





# Useful tips (1/2)

Before starting to write the proposal check the project financed in the past years → It is unlikely that the ERC will fund the same topic  
[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/projects\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/projects_en.html)

1. Click on “Find a project”

2. Click on “FP7 Ideas”

3. Click on “ERC Starting Grants”

The screenshot shows the CORDIS website interface. At the top, it says 'CORDIS Community Research and Development Information Service' and 'European Commission'. Below that, there are navigation tabs: Home, News, Funding, Projects, Results, Partners, Go local. A search bar is present with 'Search all CORDIS' and a 'Search' button. The main heading is 'Seventh Framework Programme (FP7)'. On the left sidebar, under 'Find a project', the following links are listed: FP7 Home, FP7 newsroom, Understand FP7, Participate in FP7, Find a call (Participant Portal), Register your organisation, Prepare and Submit Proposals (EPSS), Get support, Find project partners, Find a project (circled in red), Find a document, Register as an Expert (EMM). The main content area is titled 'Find a project' and contains the following sections: 'Project details: are published on CORDIS after the negotiation and the signature of the grant agreement between the European Commission and the beneficiaries. This follows the publication of calls for proposals and the selection procedure where they are selected by the European Union to be partly financed by the Commission.'; 'Search Projects:'; 'Enter search term(s):' with an input field; 'Project Acronym:' with an input field; 'Theme\*:' with a dropdown menu showing 'FP7-HEALTH', 'FP7-ICT', 'FP7-IDEAS-ERC' (circled in red), 'FP7-INCO', and 'FP7-INFRASTRUCTURES'; and 'Activity\*:' with a dropdown menu showing 'ERC-SG - Starting Grants', 'ERC-SG-2011-LS1 - ERC Starting Grant - Molecular and Structural Biology and Biochemistry', 'ERC-SG-2011-LS2 - ERC Starting Grant - Genetics, Genomics, Bioinformatics and Systems Biology', and 'ERC-SG-2011-LS3 - ERC Starting Grant - Cellular and Developmental Biology' (circled in red). There are also 'Quick Links' and 'Share' buttons.



# Useful tips (2/2)

Check the evaluators list and panel chair from the past years → it is useful in order to see which is the level and consequently to open your proposal from different point of view

<http://erc.europa.eu/>

1. Click on “Funding and Grants”

2. Click on “Apply for Funding”

3. Click on “Evaluation Panels”

4. Scroll down the page until the ERC Starting Grant Calls

The screenshot shows the European Research Council (ERC) website. The header includes the ERC logo and the tagline "Supporting top researchers from anywhere in the world". The navigation menu has "Funding and Grants" highlighted. The breadcrumb trail reads "You are here: Homepage > Funding and Grants > Apply for Funding > Evaluation Panels". The main content area is titled "Evaluation Panels" and contains text about the selection process based on international peer review. A sidebar on the left lists "Funding Schemes" with "Apply for Funding" and "Evaluation Panels" circled in red. A "Related content" sidebar on the right lists documents like "ERC Guide for Peer Reviewers". A pop-up window in the foreground displays a table of panel members:

Panel B Chairs
Panel A Members
Panel B Chairs
Panel B Members
Panel Chairs
Panel A Members

Once submitted the proposal, remember to update your own personnel page (on Bocconi website)



**Early registration and submission  
is strongly recommended**



## Teaching buyout @ Bocconi for ERC Principal Investigators (1/4)

- Bocconi has introduced a teaching load reduction mechanism for winners of ERC Starting/Advanced grants
- Tenured and non-tenured teaching faculty can benefit from this system (Full, Associate, Assistant Professors and full-time researchers)
- PI can obtain the teaching buyout by default; other team members have to ask for an authorisation from the Rector/Vice-Rectors (HHRR, Research, Development)
- Teaching buyout is carried out using individual hourly costs which are calculated using regular budgeting rules  
→ **mandatory to keep a comprehensive timesheet**



# Teaching buyout @ Bocconi for ERC Principal Investigators (2/4)

- Reduction of classroom hours:
  - Cannot be at odds with the minimum teaching load provided for by the “Gelmini Law”,
  - Cannot be greater than 50% of the hours expected for your professional level (Full, Associate, etc...)
- In any case, classroom teaching hours must never be less than 48 (equal to a 6 credit course)
- Also, the teaching buyout
  - Must be agreed by Bocconi for a minimum of 20 classroom hours
  - Is scheduled ex ante of the project proposal which – if financed – Bocconi will use to offset the cost of the teaching load reduction



# Teaching buyout @ Bocconi for ERC Principal Investigators (3/4)

Level	Contractual classroom hours	Max discount allowed	Min classroom hours necessary
Full TP/BR	140	70	70
Full TD	105	52	53
Associate TP/RB <sup>(1)</sup>	120	50	70
Associate TD <sup>(2)</sup>	80	30	50
Assistant Professor <sup>(1)</sup>	105	35	70
Researcher TP <sup>(3)</sup>	70	22	48
Researcher TD	N/A	N/A	N/A

Reduction less than 50% for the following cases:

- (1) Legge Gelmini asks for a minimum of 350 teaching hours
- (2) Legge Gelmini asks for a minimum of 250 teaching hours
- (3) Bocconi asks for a course of at least 48 hours

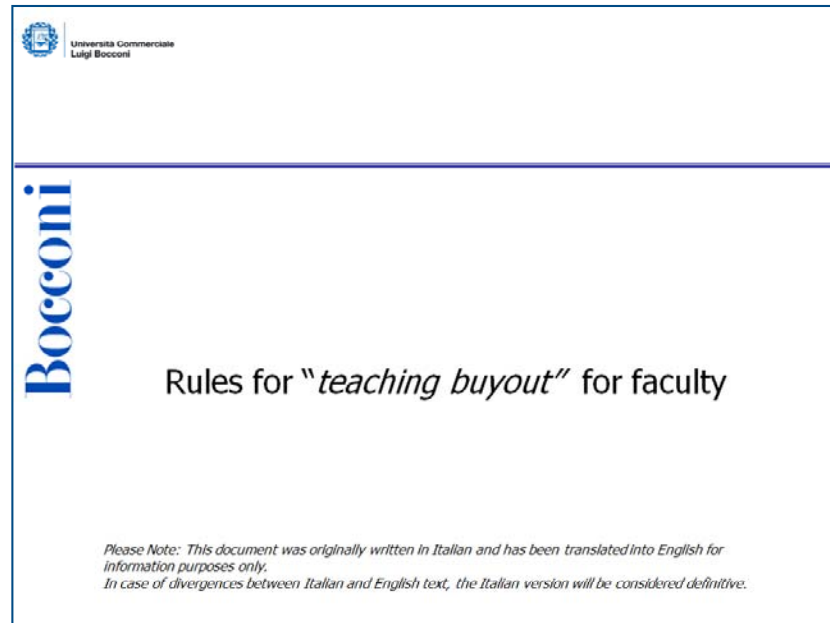
TP/BR = Full-time/Bocconi Regime

TD = Fixed-term



# Teaching buyout @ Bocconi for ERC Principal Investigators (4/4)

Please refer to the document published in the intranet for a complete overview on rules and mechanisms



Direct link:

[http://intranet.unibocconi.it/servizio\\_index.php?vedi=2603&id\\_serv=3](http://intranet.unibocconi.it/servizio_index.php?vedi=2603&id_serv=3)





**Thank you for your attention**

**For additional information**

**<http://erc.europa.eu>**

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