

The European Research Council

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European Commission
RTD, Directorate S

Workshop
'From fundamentals to microbial power plants'

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The birth of the European Research Council

The ERC is:

- A logical development of the European Research Area
- Securely anchored in European legislation

... at the same time.....

- A revolutionary development

Basic/Frontier Research in Europe

- **National activities:**
 - Research councils (DFG-1920, CNR-1923, CNRS-1939, SNF-1952), academies, etc.
- **Intergovernmental activities:**
 - CERN (1953), ESO (1962), ESA (1962/1975), EMBO (1963), COST (1971), ESF (1974), EMBL (1978), etc.
- **EU activities (“supranational”):**
 - ECSC – Euratom – EC (1957), JRC (1959), JET (1973), FP1 (1984) ..., FP6/NEST (2003-2006), FP7 (2007-2013)
 - European Research Area – (ERA) (2000)
 - **FP7 (2007-2013): Ideas/ERC, Marie Curie fellowships, research infrastructures, thematic priority areas**

FP6 NEST

New and Emerging Science and Technology

- New in FP6 (235 MEuro), ~150 projects funded
- ‘Open space’ for investigator-driven research covering all fields of research
- Rewarding scientific inventors
- Promoting multi-disciplinarity
- ‘Peer-review’ style evaluation process
- High level of competition for available funds
- Important groundwork for the development of the ERC

FP7 Ideas Programme

- **Creates ERC**

- **Provides funding**
 - **Budget (2007-2013) : €7.51 bn**
(around 15% of FP7 budget)
 - **Average budget: €~1 bn per year**

- **Sets overall objectives for research and operating principles**

Strategic Aims - ERC

Overview

Boost European excellence in frontier research

- by investing in the best researchers and ideas
- through competition at European level
- on the basis of scientific excellence as the sole criterion
- raising incentives towards quality and aspirations of individual researchers
- providing benchmarks and leverage towards broader (structural) improvements in European research

ERC Actors

The Scientific Council

Independent scientific governance

The Agency

Practical implementation and management of operations

The European Union

Providing the financial means

ERC Grants

Supporting Principal Investigators

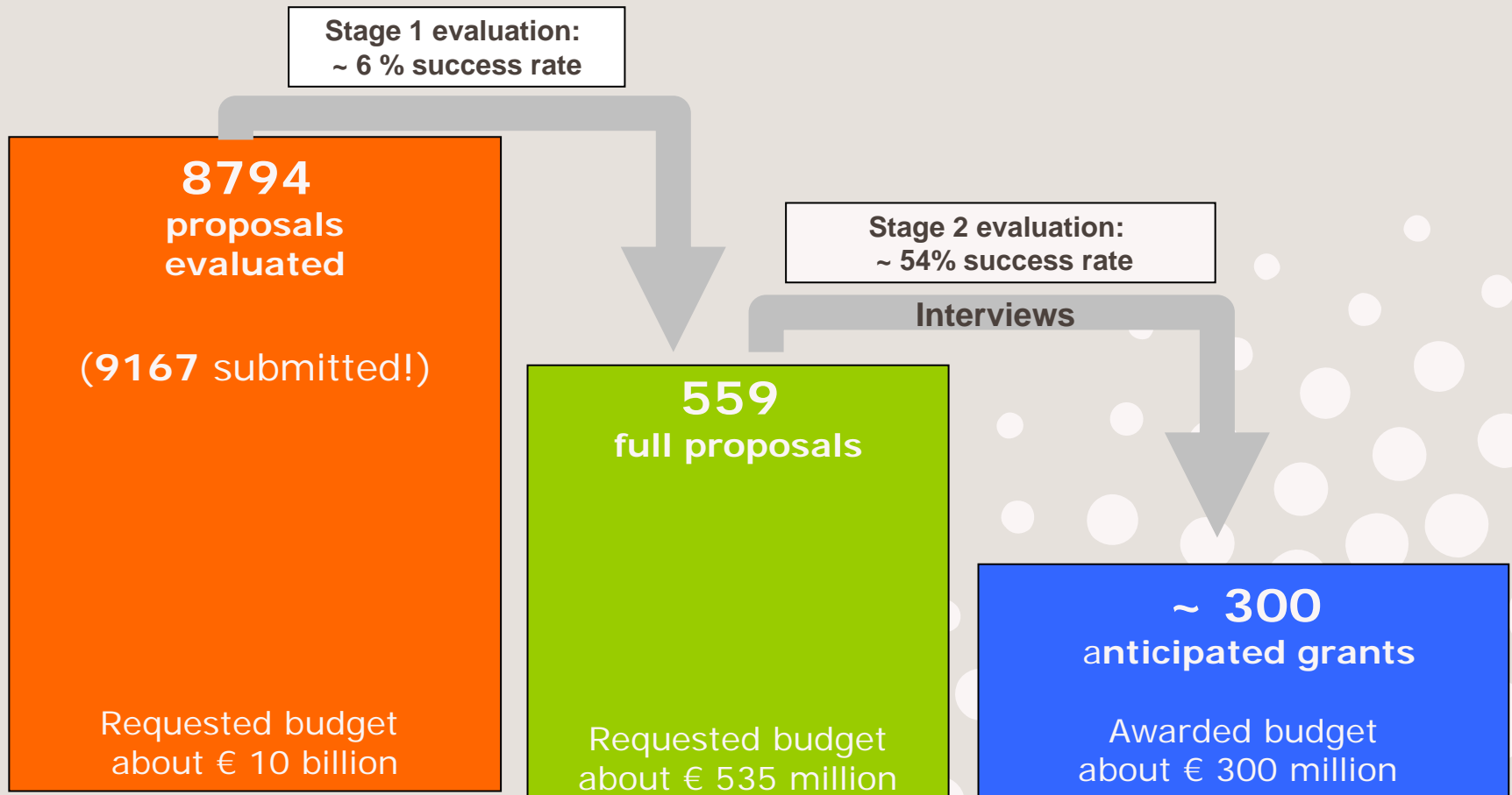
- Individual Research Teams:
 - headed by a single “**Principal Investigator**” (team leader)
 - of any nationality
 - if necessary, including additional team members.
- The “Principal Investigator” has the freedom to choose the **research topic** and the power to assemble his/her **research team** meeting the needs of the project.
- Teams can be of **national or trans-national** character.

ERC Grant Schemes

Launch Strategy

- Improve **career opportunities and independence** - especially for young researchers
 - **ERC Starting Grant**: attract & retain the next generation of independent research leaders, up to 5 years, up to € 2.0 Mio.
- Increase **competition, recognition and international visibility** for excellent individual scientists and scholars in Europe
 - **ERC Advanced Grant**: attract & reward established independent research leaders, up to 5 years, up to € 2.5 Mio.

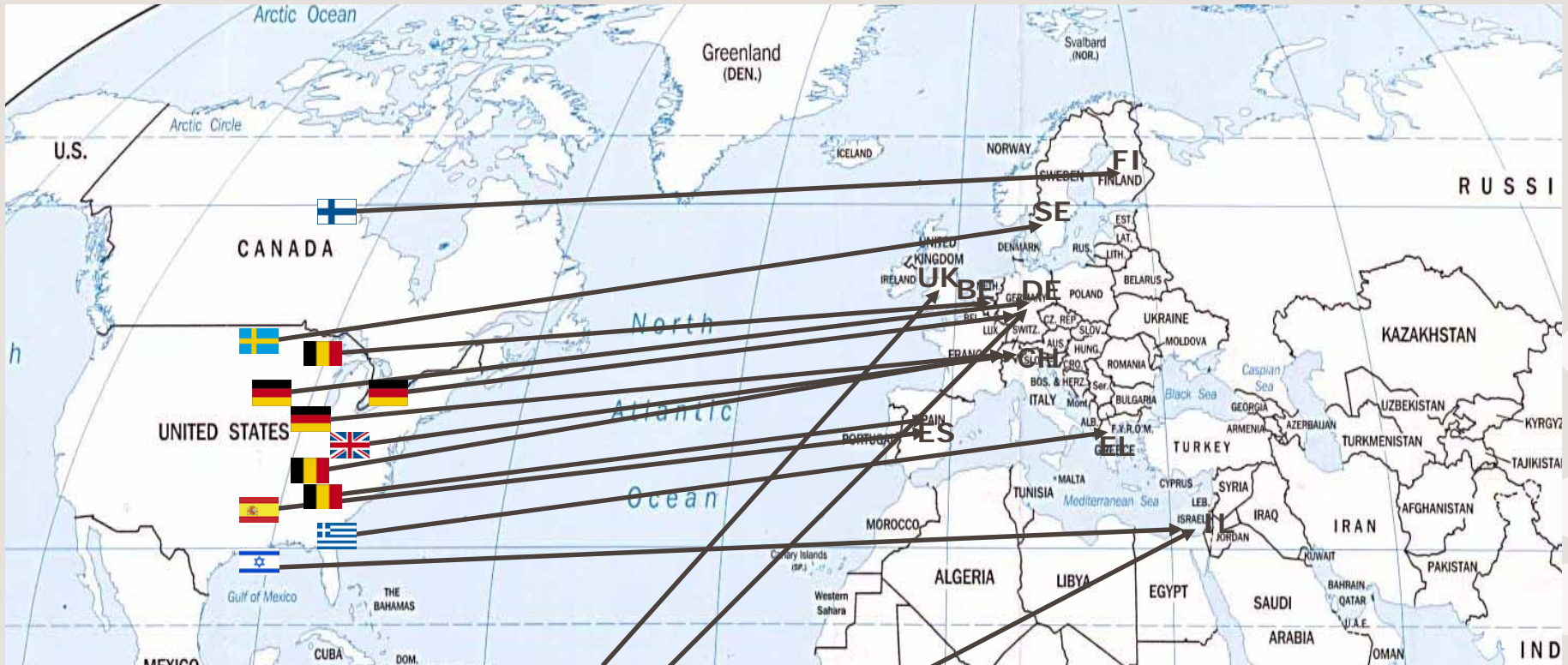
ERC Starting Grant Call 1





ERC Starting Grant Call 1 - Outcome

Repatriation and Recruitment to Europe (top 300)



from Argentina

from Australia



ERC Advanced Grants: 2008 call

Proposals by domain

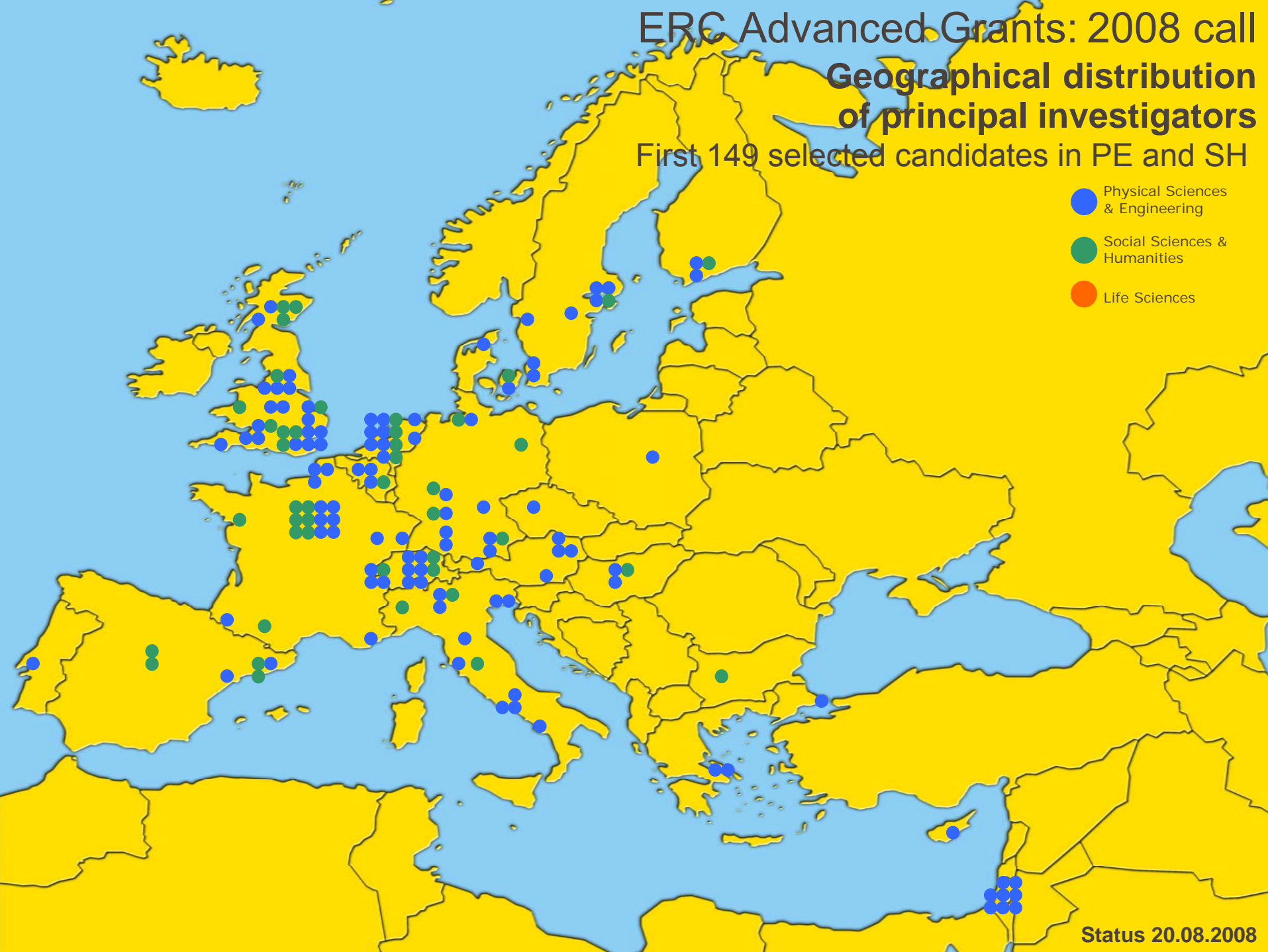
Domain	Number of proposals	Percentage
Life Sciences (LS)	766	35.4%
Physical Sciences & Engineering (PE)	997	46.0%
Social Sciences & Humanities (SH)	404	18,6%
Total	2167	

ERC Advanced Grants: 2008 call

Geographical distribution of principal investigators

First 149 selected candidates in PE and SH

- Physical Sciences & Engineering
- Social Sciences & Humanities
- Life Sciences





Thank you !

erc.europa.eu

