

ERC – Advanced Grant

Forskningsutvalget

21-02-2024



Snapshot: ERC proposal activity 2023-2025

Starting Grant	Application deadline Nov. 2023	Application deadline Oct. 2024	Application deadline Oct. 2025
Target number	15	21	28
Applications	8	35	TBC
2nd round	(May 24)	(May 25)	TBC
Contract	(Aug 24)	(Aug 25)	TBC

Consolidator Grant	Application deadline Feb+Dec 2023**	No call in 2024	Application deadline Jan 2025
Target number	17	26	26
Applications	13/10 (23)	-	22
2nd round	3/ (June 24) **	-	(June 25)
Contract	0/ (Dec 24)* *	-	(Dec 25)

Advanced Grant	Application deadline May 2023	Application deadline Aug. 2024	Application deadline Aug. 2025
Target number	9	15	16
Applications	7	11	TBC
2nd round	1	(Nov 24)	TBC
Contract	(March 24)	(April 25)	TBC

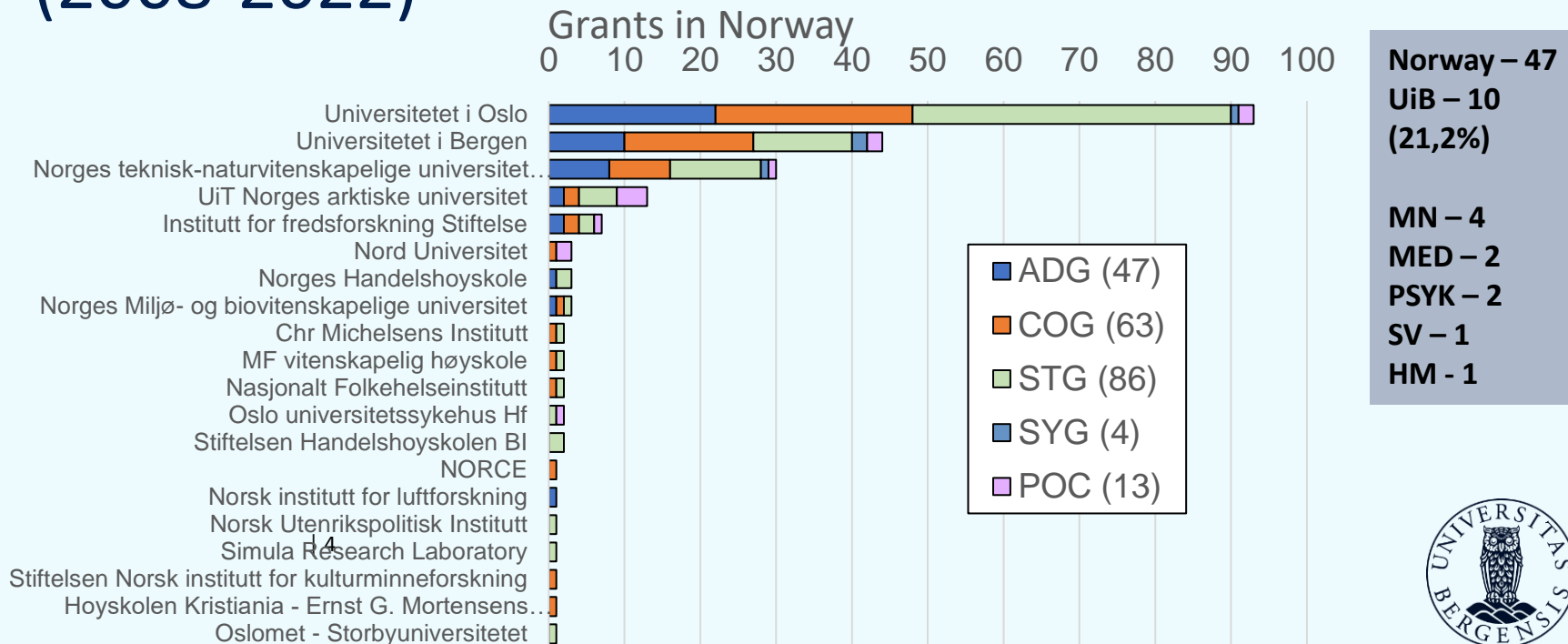
Synergy Grant	Application deadline Nov. 2023	Application deadline Nov. 2024	Application deadline Nov. 2025
Target number	6	6	5
Applications	4 (2/2)	7	TBC
2nd round	(May 24)	(May 25)	TBC
Contract	(Nov 24)	(Nov 25)	TBC

Case: ERC Advanced Grants

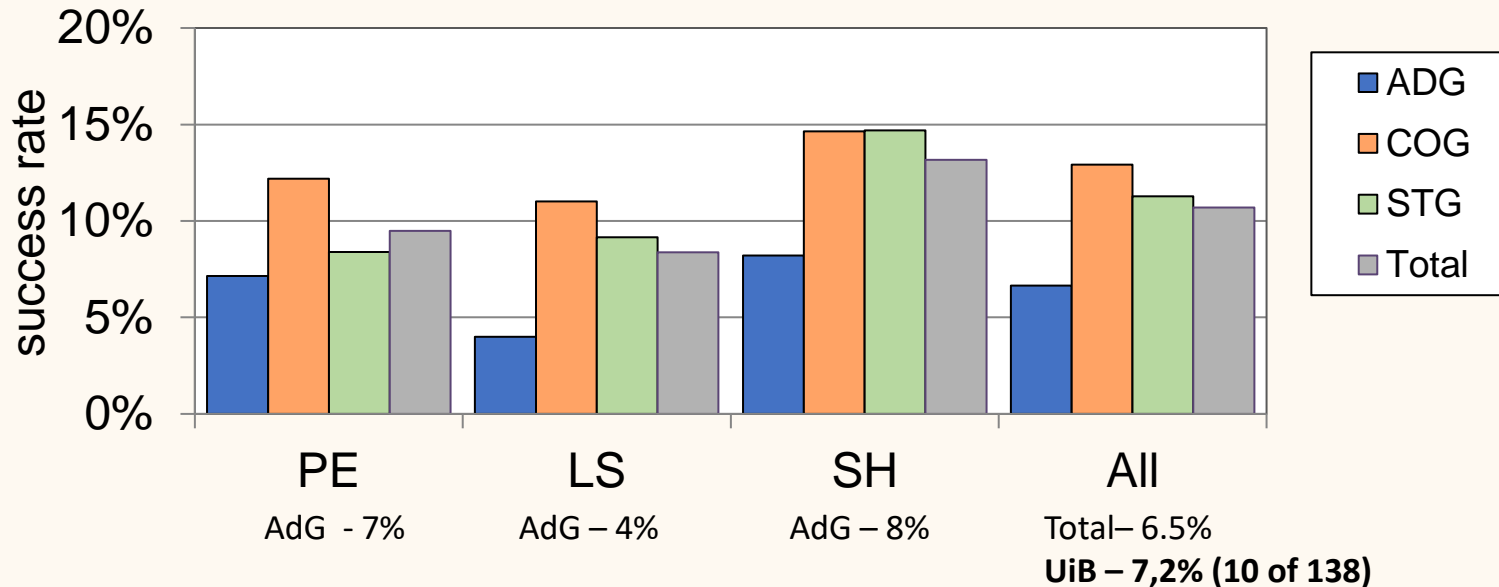
- Award: 2.5mil EUR (+1) funding over 5 years
- Target: excellent researchers established in their careers (12+ years post PhD)
- Mission: groundbreaking, bottom-up research
- Success rate: 13.2% (2022)



Signed Advanced Grants - Norway (2008-2022)



Overall success rates by call type/domain for Norwegian submissions (2008-2022)



ERC AdG applications UiB: 10 year overview

ERC Advanced Grant	Applications	Second round	Contract
2023	7	1	(TBC - mar 24)
2022	5		
2021	6		
2020	10		
2019	7		
2018	5	1	1
2017	6		
2016	9	4	1
2015	6	2	1
2014	8		

Despite relatively stable applications:

- 7 won in FP7 (2009-14)
- 3 won in Horizon 2020 (2014-20)
- 0 won in Horizon Europe (2020-2024)

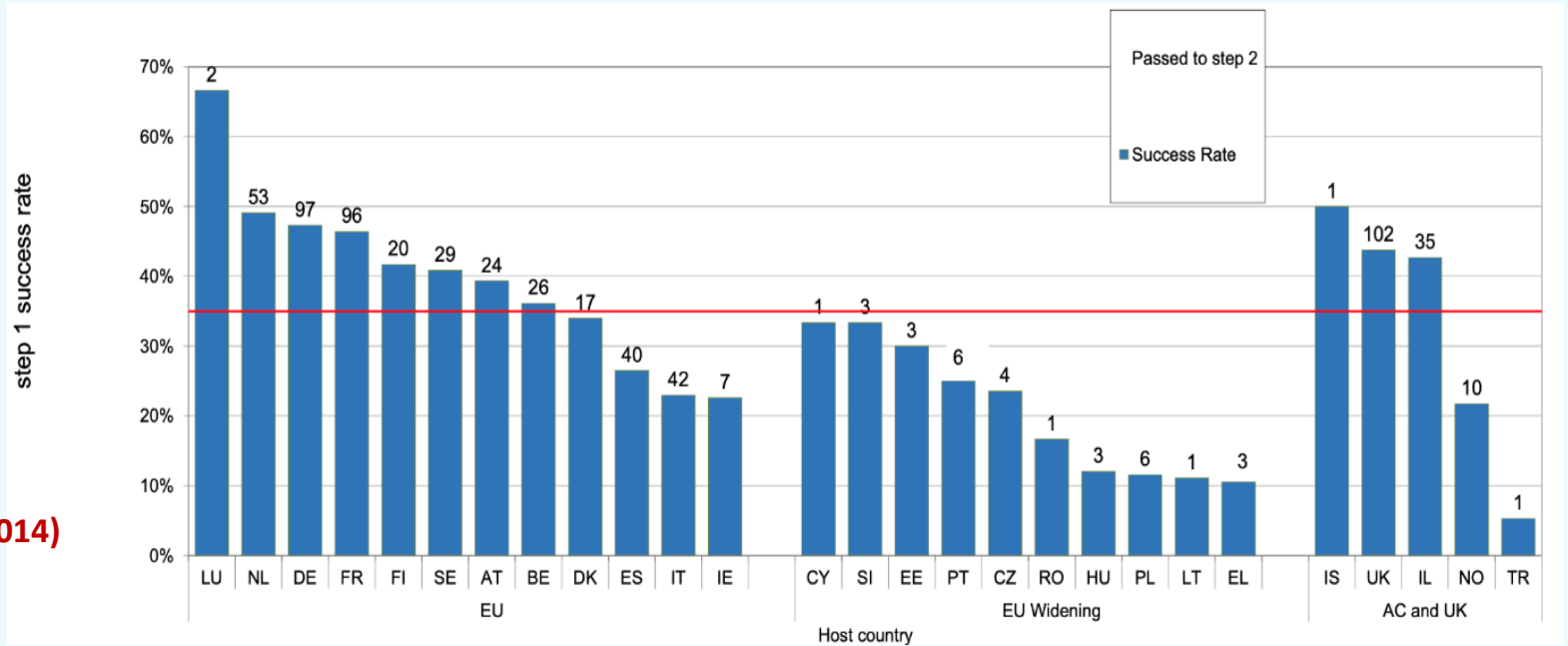


Advanced Grant 2022 - % Applicants to second round: country breakdown

EU – 36%

Norway – 22%

UiB - 14%
(11,6% since 2014)



Status & recent developments

- 2023: significant changes to ERC AdG evaluation criteria: **Concept** prioritised over **CV/track** record of PI (previously equal weighting)*
- Opportunity for UiB applicants to benefit from these changes
- Incentive to increase the number of AdG proposals sent from UiB
- Applicants are currently self-selecting & apply under own initiative
- Minimal active mobilisation – local advertising of reading days/ training events & deadlines

*Awaiting 2023 data to assess impact on AdG grantee demographics



Increasing the number of competitive applicants to the Advanced Grant

- Proposal: annual event to collect, inspire & support prospective applicants
- Advertising: via usual channels / **faculties actively identify & encourage candidates***
- Content:
 - Significance of Advanced Grants to research agendas/ careers of award holders
 - Grantee profiles & experiences – current/former award holders
 - Proposal crafting – how to develop and write a competitive ERC Advanced Grant proposal
 - Information on UiB processes & support pre/post-award
- Follow-up
 - Conversation with ERC local contact to discuss research concept and plan individual support
 - Offer of UiB ERC support: ERC mentor; project & application development support from local & central advisers (by agreement)



Incentives for ERC Advanced Grantees

- **Current incentives (post-award)**
 - 25% top up on funding - universal
 - Salary increase of aprox. 120.000 NOK (agreed in 2018) - universal
 - Faculty incentives (variable): further salary increase; positions (PhD; postdoc) - varies per faculty
- **Potential incentives (pre & post award)** - creating necessary time/space to focus on project development / application writing & evt. project delivery
 - Dedicated administrative support
 - Possibility for exemption from teaching/administrative work
 - Research assistant



Points for discussion

- How can UiB increase the number of ERC Advanced Grant applications from qualified/competitive candidates in the coming years?
- How can support for ERC Advanced Grant applicants/grant holders be better tailored to facilitate higher quality proposals from competitive candidates?
 - Pre-award support?
 - Incentives/post-award support?

