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*Study on Career Impacts of
ERC Funding: Key results*

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HoU A1: Support to the ERC ScC

ERC has a unique mission



To encourage the highest quality research in Europe through competitive funding and to support investigator-driven frontier research across all fields, on the basis of scientific excellence

What does ERC offer?

Creative Freedom of the Individual Grantee

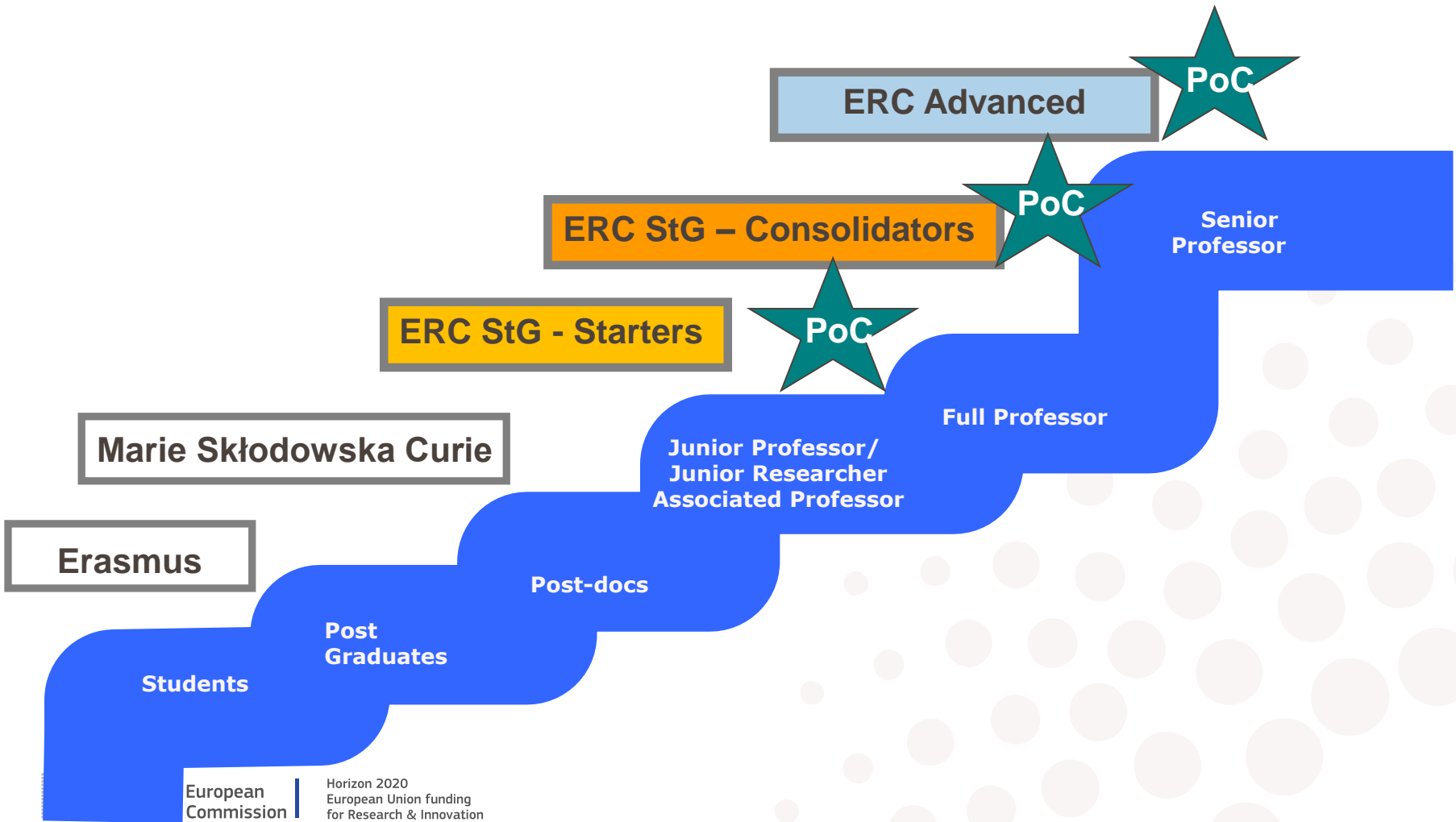


ERC offers selective and generous grants, independence, recognition & visibility

- Work on any research topic: **bottom-up**
- Gain **financial autonomy** for 5 years
- Negotiate the **best work conditions** with the host institution
- Attract **top team members and collaborators** (EU and non-EU) , **flexible team structure**
- **Portability of grants**
- **Attract additional funding and gain recognition: ERC is a quality label**

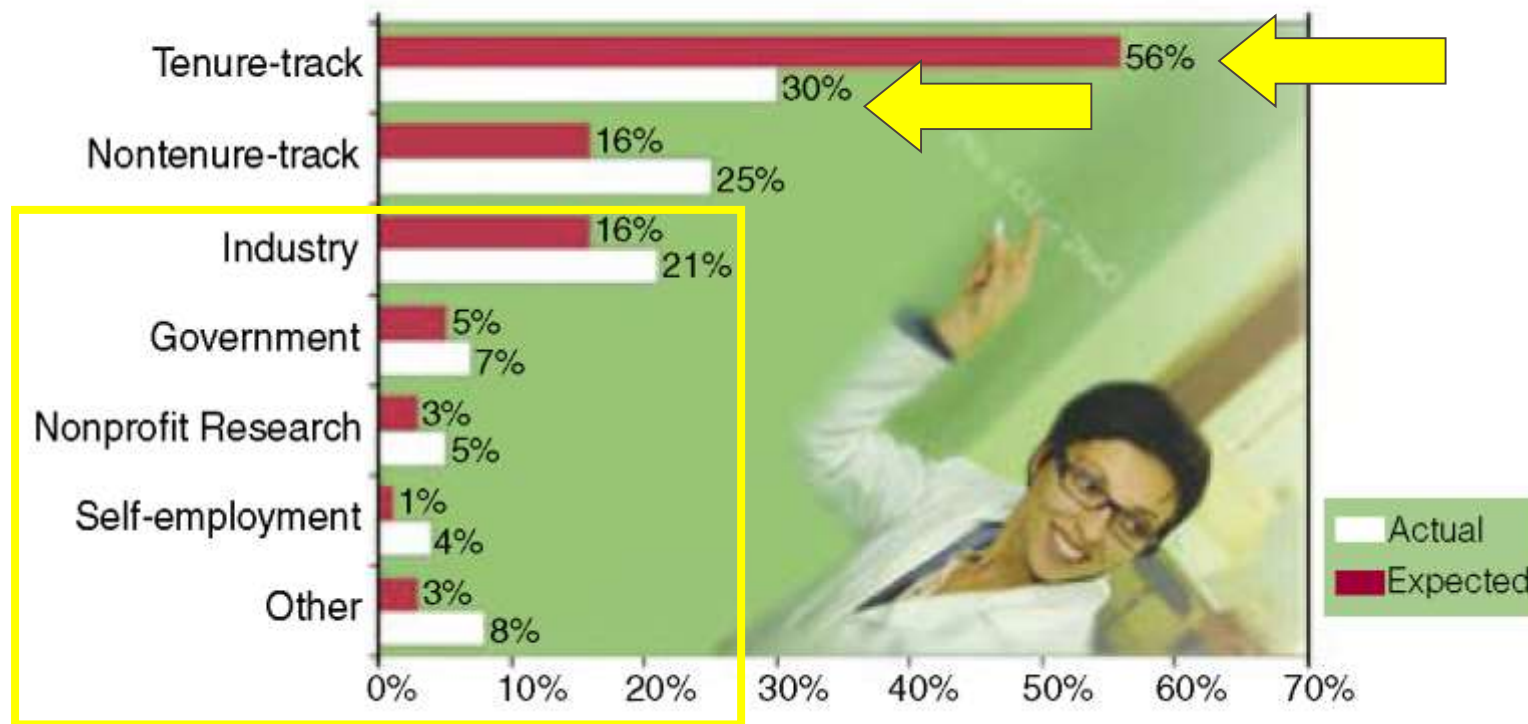


Researchers career development and complementary funding schemes



Career Paths of European-based Researchers

Type of Position Expected vs. Actually Obtained



Source: Bonetta, 2009 (Science Careers, from the Journal *Science*)

(DOI: 10.1126/science.opms.r0800058)

2017-2019: A Thorough Investigation of ERC Impact on Careers



■ Objectives:

- provide a comprehensive overview of the impact of ERC funding on the careers of ERC PIs and their team members (all ERC FP7 projects considered)
- provide insights on the impact on career advancement, but also on the type of careers that team members embark on after the end of the project

■ Contractor:

- ICF with subcontractors University of Twente CHEPS, Vitae and Elsevier

■ Important Dates: 01/03/2017 – 31/03/2019 (including 1+6 months extensions)

Approach



Impact of ERC funding on careers measured at three levels:

➤ Individual ERC funded researchers, i.e. PIs (~1400, 32.5%), in particular early career, and team members (~3000)

- with counterfactual analysis (CG: ~2600)

➤ ERC funded teams as units linked to a research activity

➤ ERC Host Institutions and their practices in promoting the careers of their researchers

Target population: all ERC frontier research grants funded under FP7 (ERC calls 2007-2013)

- PI survey
- PI control survey
- TM survey
- TM control survey
- + Interviews

- Survey of research offices
- Survey of HR departments
- + Interviews



European
Commission

Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation

Key results: Career impact expectations (1)



➤ **StG/CoG PIs**

- Establish/consolidate research group, raise visibility and reputation
- Positive impact on personal autonomy/research independence and status/standing amongst peers and within their organisation
- Positive impact on personal career position (full professorship, stable employment, higher remuneration)
- Career-enabling outcomes, including development of emerging research areas, high risk/high return research and deeper knowledge of their research areas

➤ **Expectations typically fulfilled to a large extent; positive effects occurred even when expected**

Key results:

Career impact expectations (2)



➤ AdG PIs

- Similar expectations with StG/CoG + *freedom to focus*
- Only few AdG PIs expected positive impacts on their career, as already achieved

➤ All PIs

- High degree of career satisfaction, depending on career level and gender (male more likely to be satisfied than female PIs)