

# The European Research Council



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## Update ERC Calls

Scientific Department  
Unit B2 - Call Coordination

ERC NCP Meeting  
Brussels, 3 December 2018



- **2019 Calls calendar and budgets**
- **2019 Call updates – new features**
- **MD clarification**
- **Success rates by years after PhD**
- **Reapplying grantees and resubmissions**
- **Panel recommendations - NCPs**

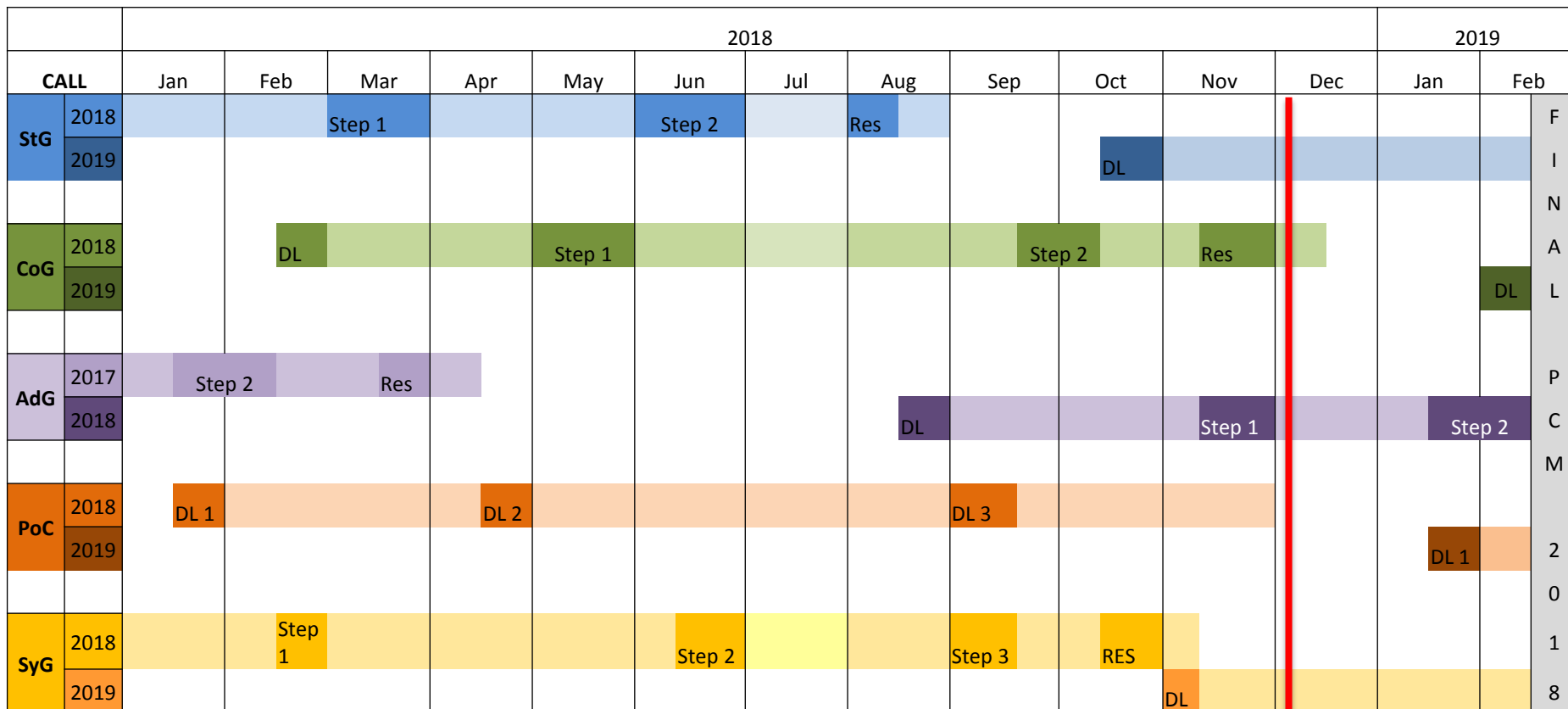
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# Timeline 2018



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# 2019 Call budgets from WP



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	Starting Grant	Consolidator Grant	Advanced Grant	Synergy Grant	Proof of Concept Grant
<b>Budget million EUR</b> <i>(estimated number of grants)</i>	580 <i>(390)</i>	602 <i>(314)</i>	391 <i>(166)</i>	400 <i>(48)</i>	25 <i>(167)</i>
<b>Expected Success rate</b>	12,5%			+ - 14%	

# 2019 Calls: Overall Evaluation Calendar (provisional)



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	STG 2019	COG 2019	ADG 2019
Submission deadline	17 Oct 2018	7 Feb 2019	29 Aug 2019
Step 1 meetings	Mar 2019	May 2019	Nov 2019
Step 2 meetings	Jun 2019	Sept-Oct 2019	Jan-Feb 2020
Expected feedback to applicants	mid May 2019 mid/end Aug 2019	July 2019 Nov-Dec 2019	Jan 2020 Apr 2020
Final panel chairs meeting	Feb 2020		

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# New features for 2019 calls

- Evaluation Questions
- 4 years cap on clinical training for MDs
- New ERC evaluation facility
- New format of the IfA – feedback?
- Participant Portal becomes F&T Portal



# WP 2019 – PI evaluation questions and scoring



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- Evaluation questions
  - Revision of PI evaluation questions to avoid overlaps and redundancies. Question on PI commitment has been removed and is instead part of the research project questions
  - Minor changes to research project questions; clarification on high risk/high gain aspect
- Scoring scale (individual reviewers numerical marks)
  - Wider scale: 1 - 5 (instead of 1 – 4)
  - Description associated to the numerical marks: 1 - '*non-competitive*', 2 – '*good*', 3 - '*very good*', 4 - '*excellent*' and 5 – '*exceptional*'

# WP 2019 – New features

- Panel titles and descriptors
  - **2019:** minor changes (PE1, LS1, SH1, SH2, SH4)
- Eligibility (checked by ERCEA):
  - Extension to the PhD window (2-7 years) – 4 years maximum for extension due to clinical training
- New ERC panel meeting rooms – 7<sup>th</sup> floor in COV1 dedicated to evaluations
- New IfA document – any feedback from users?
- New F&T Portal

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# Dr. Med. Diploma (DE, AT, CH only)

## Definition ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doctor\\_of\\_Medicine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doctor_of_Medicine))



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Germany:

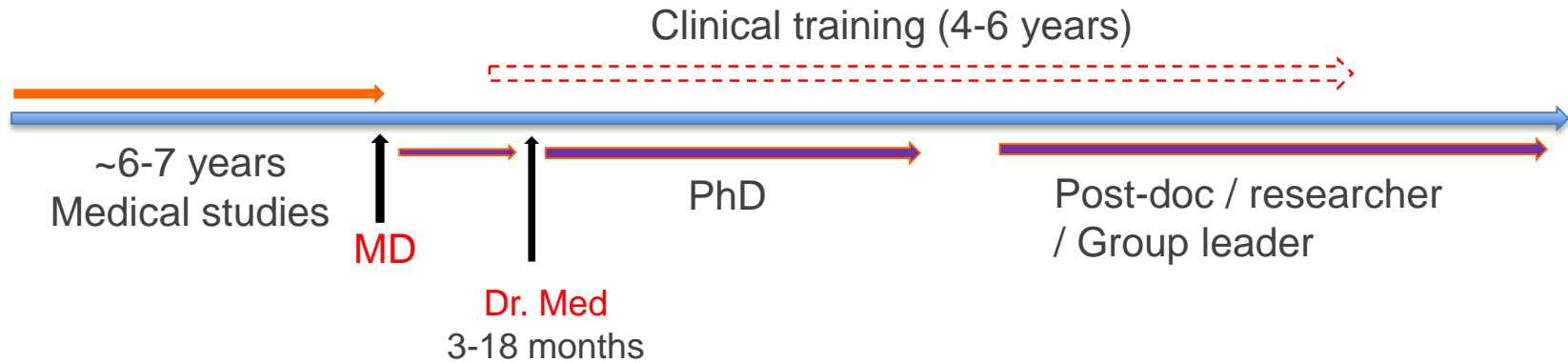
After at least six years of medical school, the students graduate with a final federal medical exam (*Dritter Abschnitt der ärztlichen Prüfung*). Graduates receive their license to practice medicine and the professional title of physician (*Arzt*). About 80% of them additionally obtain the academic MD-like degree Doctor of Medicine (Dr. Med.). The corresponding "doctoral" dissertations are often written alongside undergraduate study and are comparable to a master's thesis in science; but students are only allowed to finish the dissertation process after their studies. Obtaining the title is a practical necessity because many ordinary people incorrectly assume that only a doctor is allowed to practice medicine. The European Research Council decided in 2010 that those Dr. med. doctorates do not meet the international standards of a PhD research degree.

# Award timeline – MD & MD/Dr. Med.

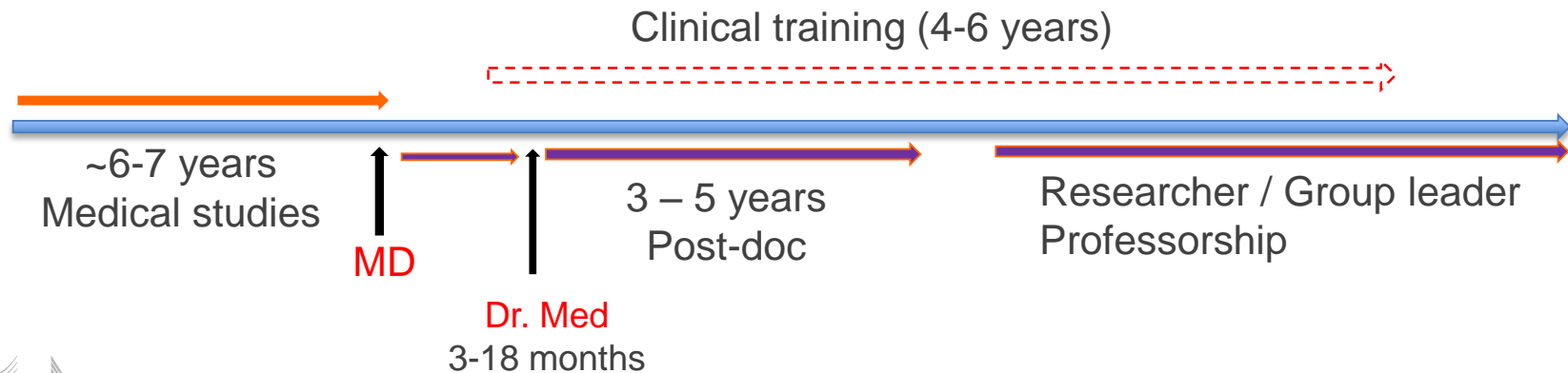


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## Reference date PhD:



## Reference date MD+2 years:



# 2014 WP onwards: StG/CoG MD applicants



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~110 (CoG) ~130 (StG) MD applicants /call – majority of them in LS7, LS6, LS5, LS4, (LS2) and SH4

## Scenario 1: Applicants holding only MD degree

The MD degree is not accepted as equivalent to a PhD degree. To be eligible, PIs with MD and no PhD need to provide:

1. MD certificate
2. Proof of an appointment that requires doctoral equivalency (i.e. post-doctoral fellowship, professorship appointment, etc)
3. Information on their research experience (publications)

# 2014 WP onwards: StG/CoG MD applicants



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## Scenario 2: Applicants holding both an MD and a PhD

MD takes precedence over PhD **only** when the applicant has held an appointment that requires a doctoral equivalency (e.g. post-doctoral fellowship, professorship appointment) before the PhD award date

### Reference date for eligibility window for MD

- If MD is the first eligible degree the PhD equivalent date is MD + 2 years
- Clinical training: accepted reason for extension of the eligibility window (2019 WP – extension limited to **4 years**; no upper limit to maternity/paternity, long-term illness, national service)

# Current implementation of MD/PhD policy



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- No change of eligibility rules (only on clinical training – extension limited to 4 years)
- Careful implementation of Annex II (MD/PhD rule) ⇒ same reference point for eligibility window calculation for MD and MD/PhD applicants (Dr. Med date is not used as reference point)
- Feedback to PIs to clarify the rules (for their eligibility to future calls)



# 2018 figures on MD/Dr Med

- Roughly 4% MD applicants in 2018 STG and COG calls (112 in StG & 101 in CoG)
- MD applicants with a Dr Med degree ~25%
  - 2/3 only Dr. Med
  - 1/3 has a PhD (Dr. Med + PhD)
- Most Dr Med from DE but also few from AT and CH and other nationals
- Very few MD applicants are declared ineligible based on our eligibility rules (none in StG and 1 in CoG)

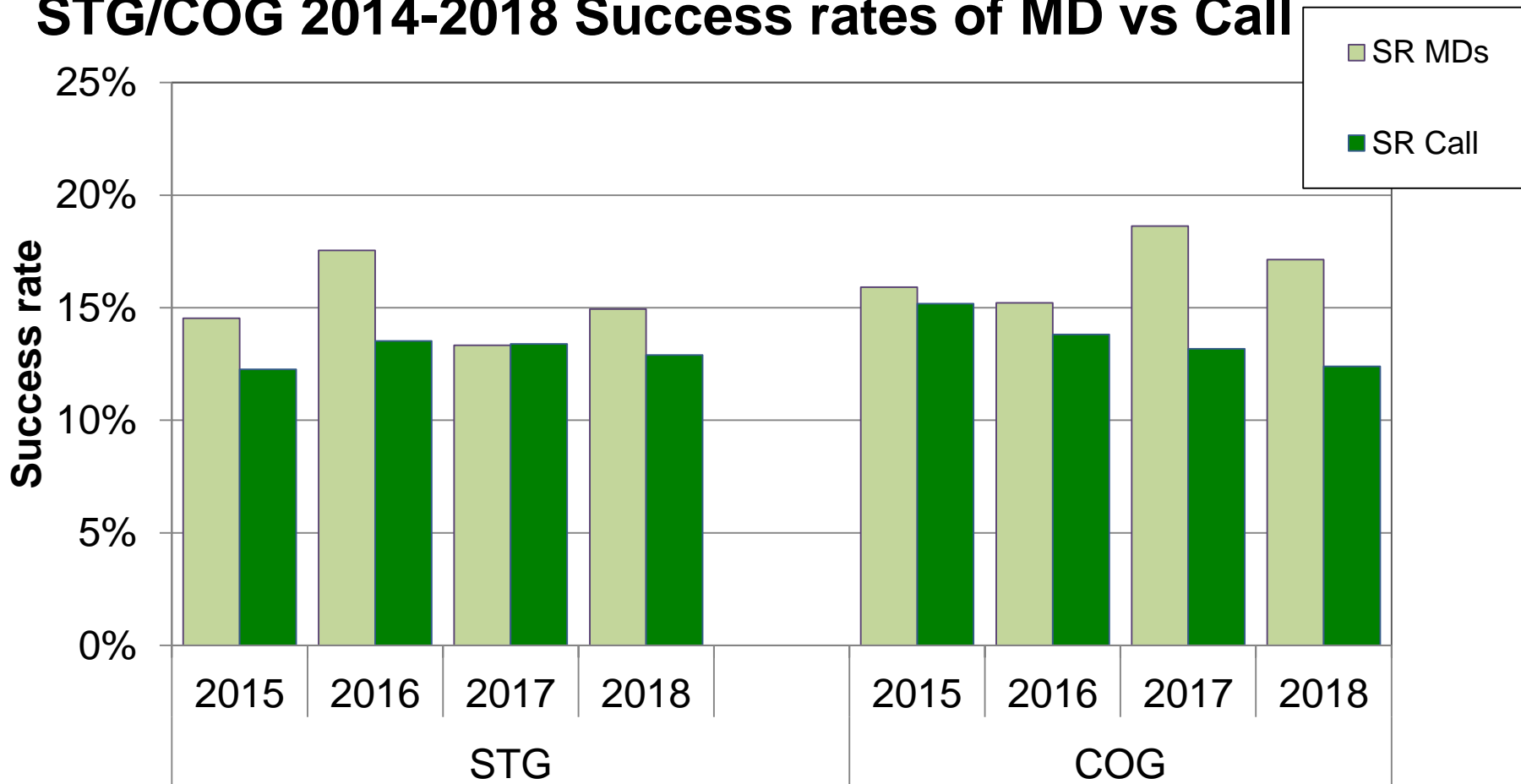
# Higher average MD success rate in 2015 – 2018 calls: 15.9% vs. 13.2%

MDs have 20 % higher SR than overall in calls



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## STG/COG 2014-2018 Success rates of MD vs Call



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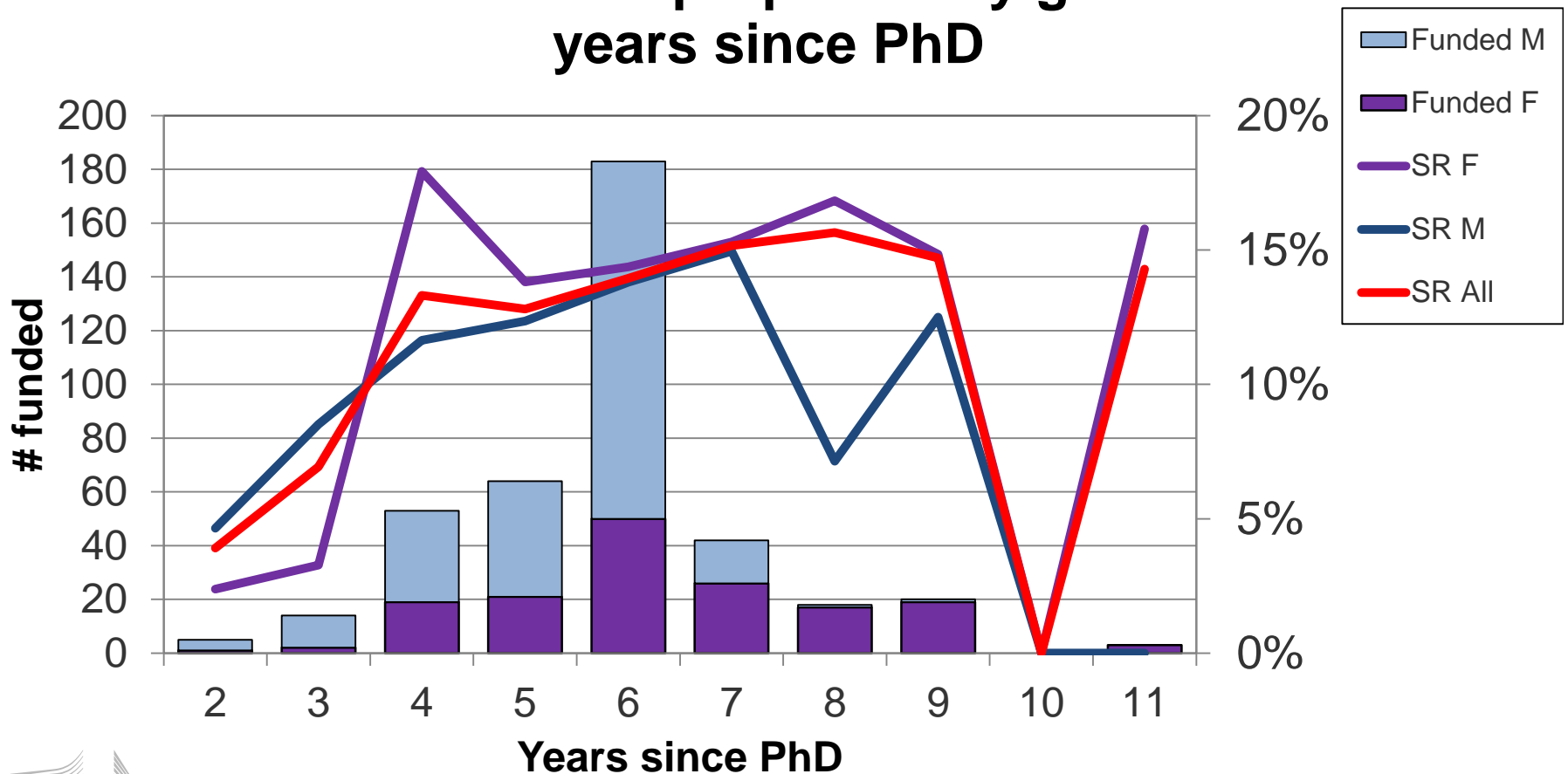
# StG 2018

## Success rate by years past PhD



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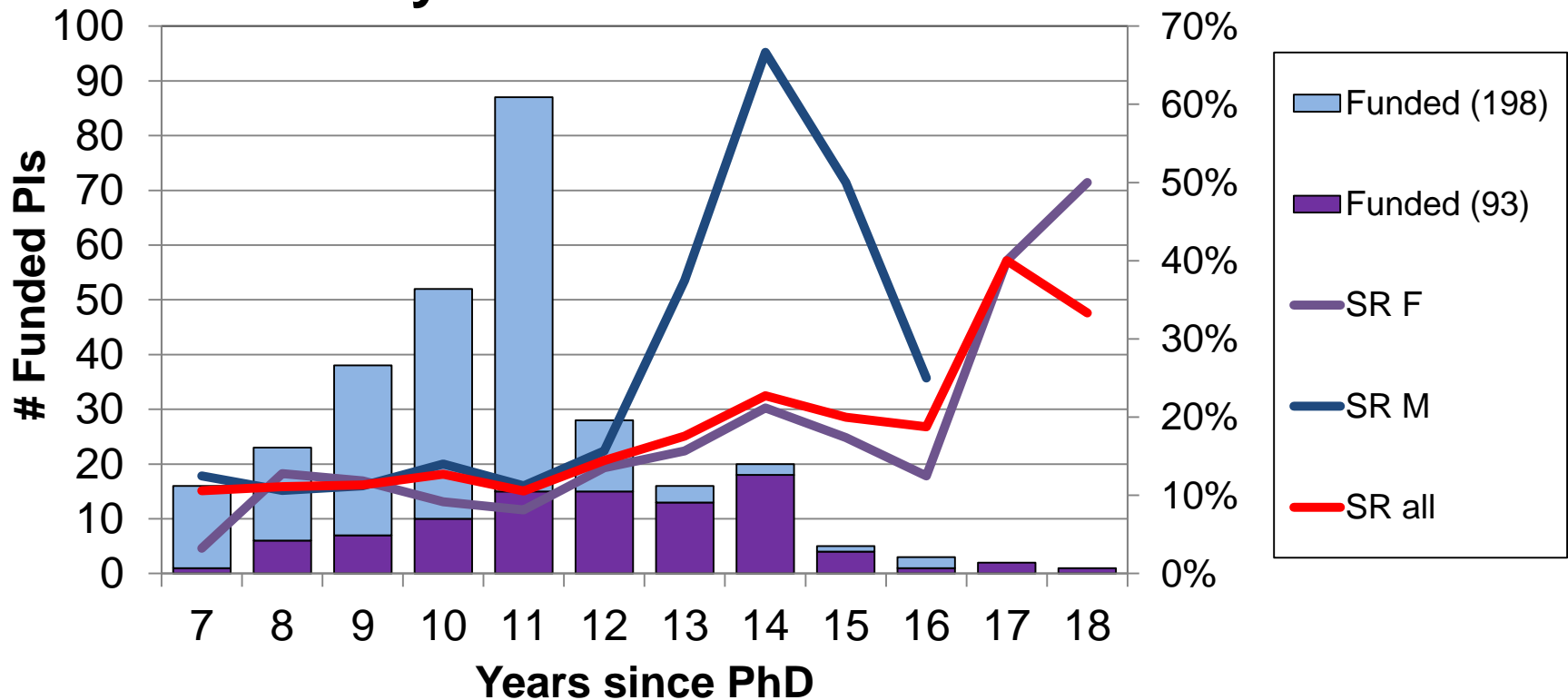
### StG 2018 Funded proposals by gender and years since PhD

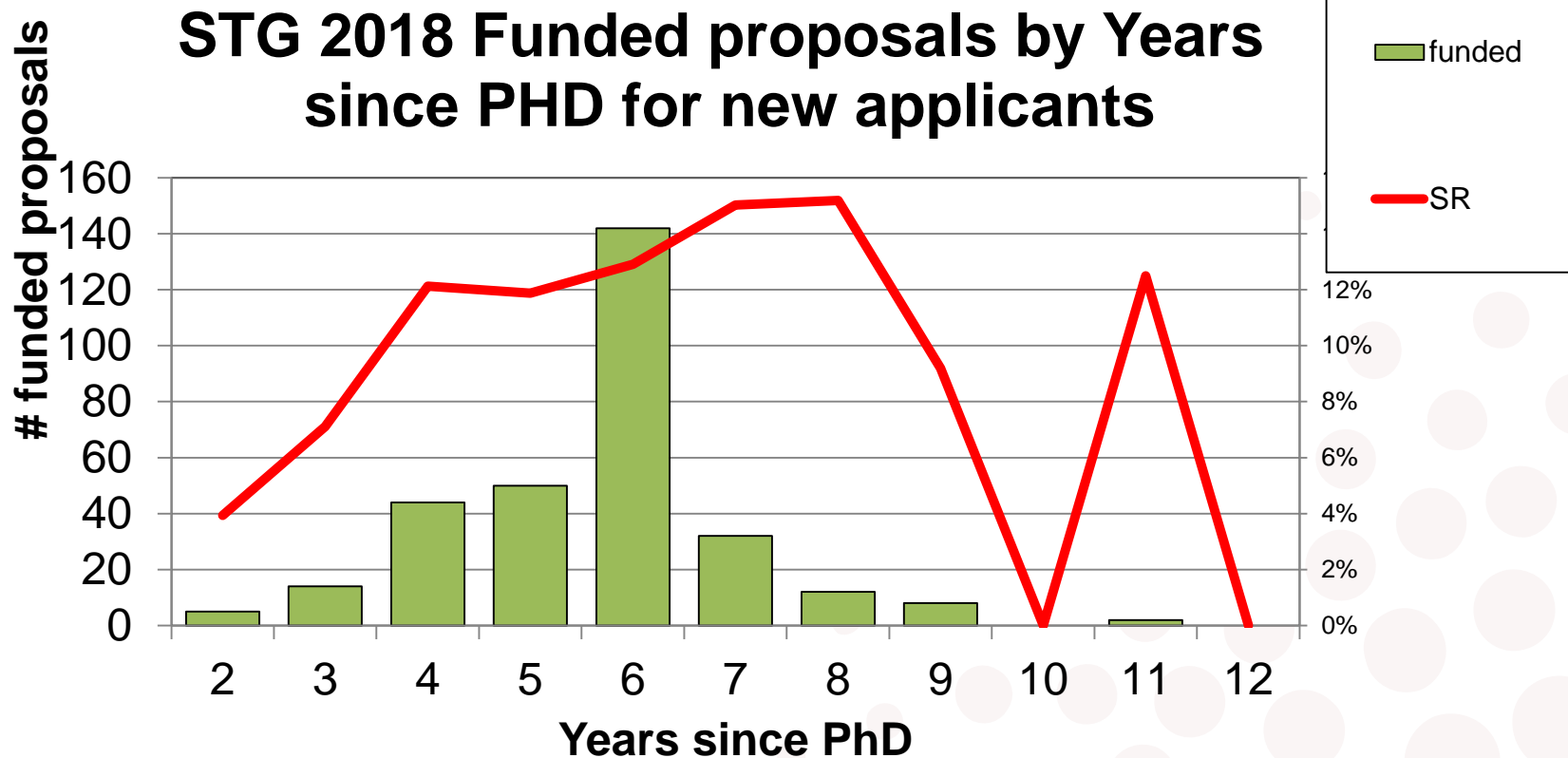


# COG 2018: Results by years since PhD

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## COG 2018 Funded proposals by years since PhD





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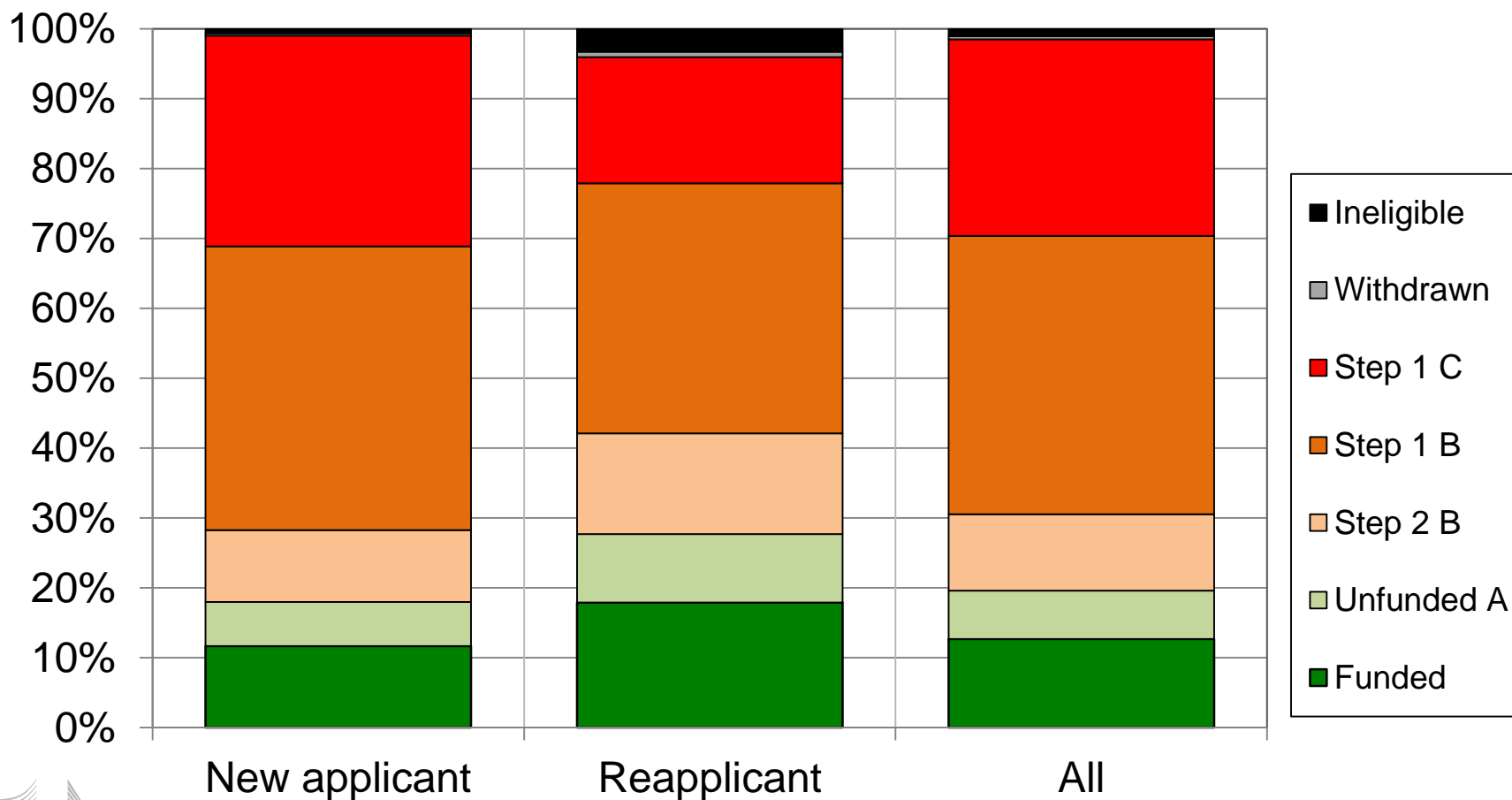
# StG 2018 Results

## New and re-applicants results



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### StG 2018 Results by type of applicant





# COG 2018 Results

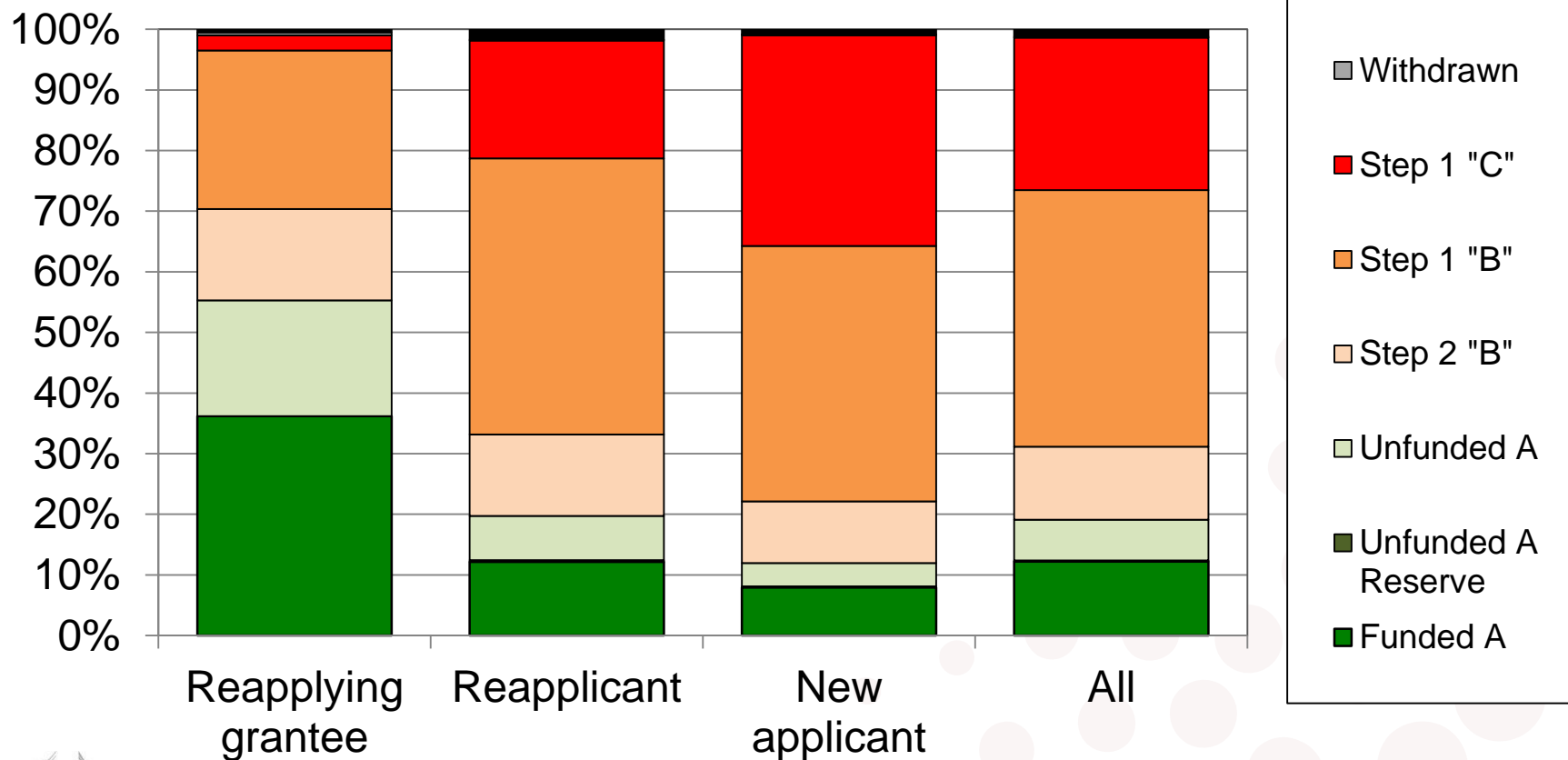
## New and re-applicants results



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### COG 2018 Results by type of applicant



# AdG 2017 Results

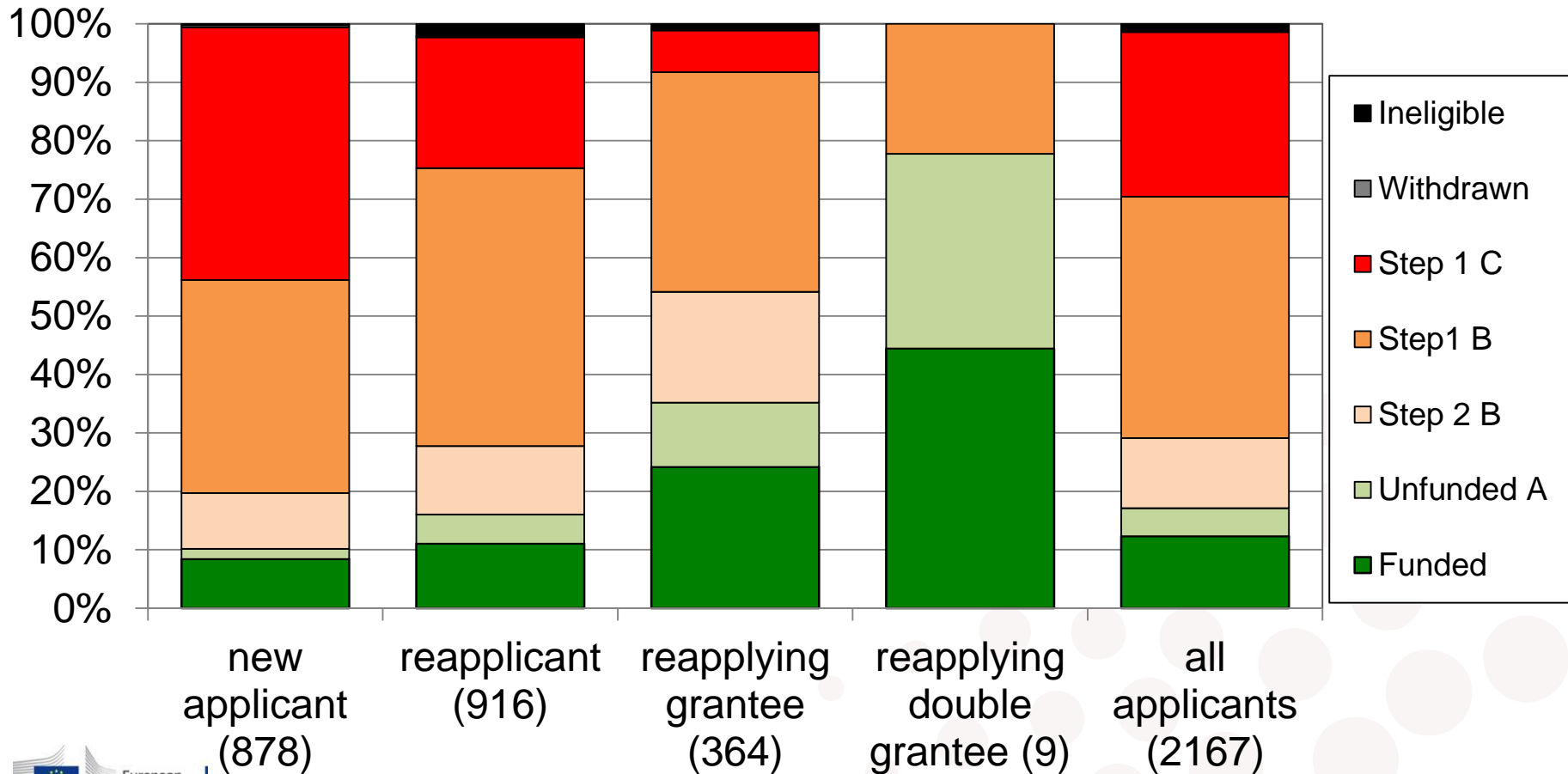


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## New, reapplying applicants and reapplying grantees

### Results by type of applicant



# AdG 2017 – Overview by domain

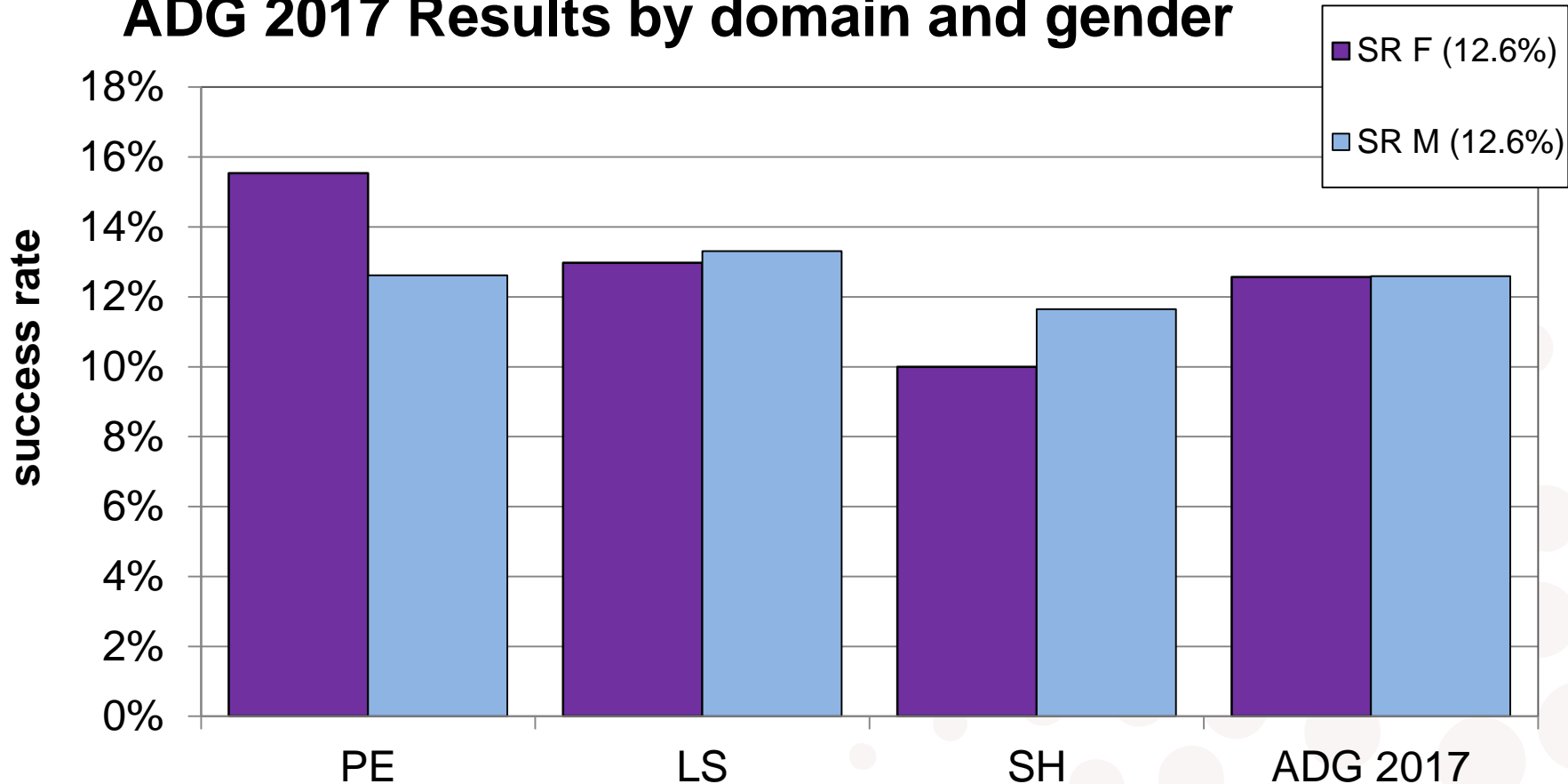
## Gender Success rate (269 funded proposals)



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### ADG 2017 Results by domain and gender



# Overview of AdG 2018 data

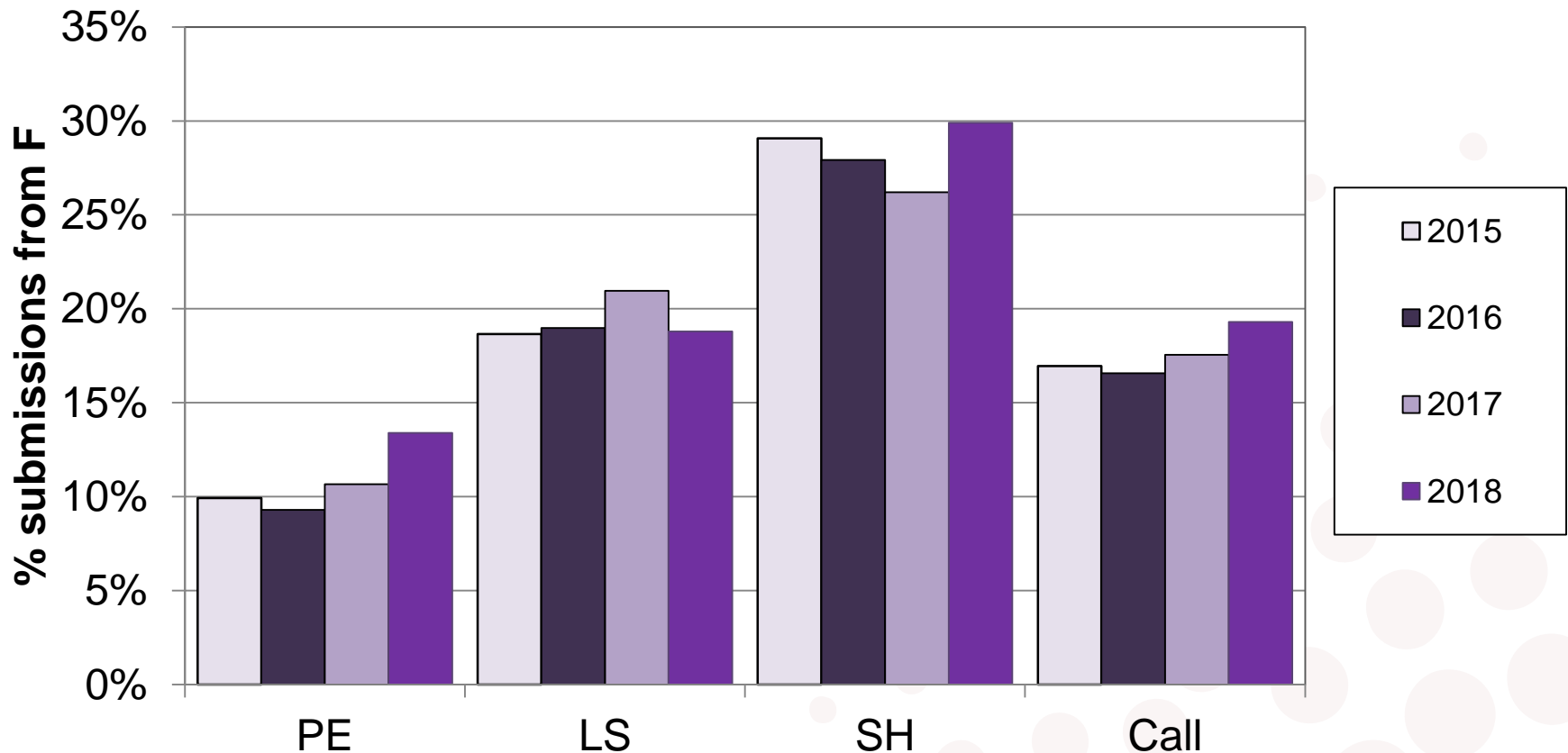
## Proposals by female PIs (AdG)



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### ADG 2015-2018 submissions from F



# ERC grantees 2007-2017

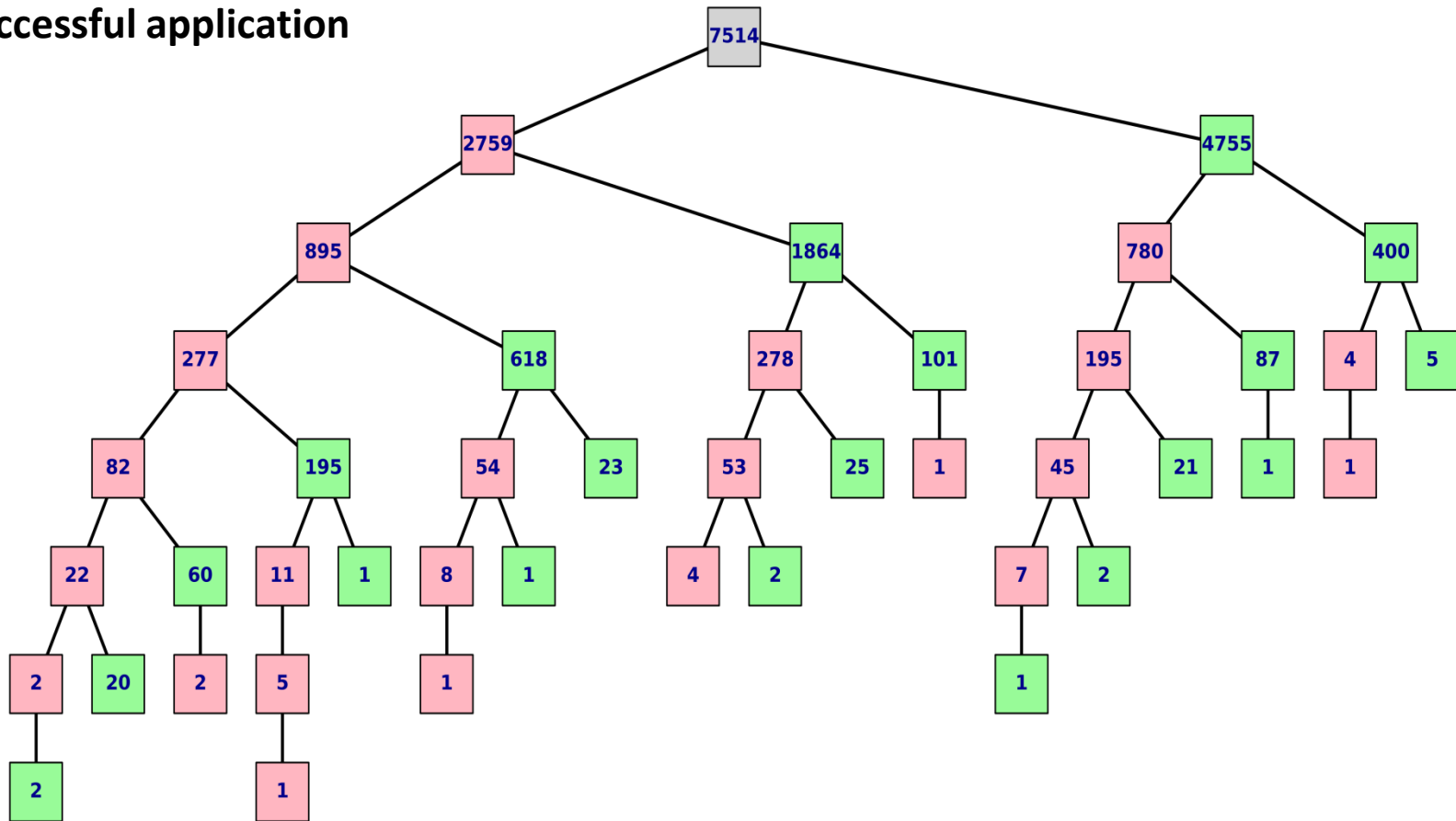
## Applications before and after funding

### 7514 grantees



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- Unsuccessful application
- Successful application



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# Panel recommendations 2018 – Feedback of interest to NCPs



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- The applicants should be reminded to respect the instructions about font size, margins and line spacing.
- The applicants should be instructed, through the national contact points, NOT to use wildly inflated and rhetorical language
- The applicants should refrain from use of bold and italics to highlight regular text, or at least not to overuse them. In some cases five to ten percent of the text is in bold, with words, phrases, or whole sentence put in bold in almost every paragraph. In other cases, bold is used throughout proposals for gratuitous self-inflating, rather than substantive, points. It detracts, rather than enhances the ability of panellists and reviewers to follow the flow of argument.
- The publication lists are variable. Those including a description of the content and role of author are considered favourably....
- In case the applicants present citation metrics data of their publication record, the source should clearly be defined (like Web of Knowledge, Scopus, or Google Scholar), and also, whether the numbers refer to dependent or independent citations and at what date
- In case of patents – mention the status
- State the origin of the pictures/figures used in their presentations (copyright)

# Panel recommendations 2018 – Feedback of interest to NCPs



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- The applicants should identify who, from their current collaborators will collaborate on the project (the applicants should be reminded that the proposals are individual projects and not group efforts)
- The applicants should be encouraged to state their career breaks without fear of being somehow penalised. It should be seen as an advantage rather than a disadvantage
- Many projects could be of shorter duration to answer the research question or implement the research idea. Some budgets and proposals have been inflated to max out the amount of funds attainable. Candidates expand the project in order to make it fit a maximum.
- Justification for additional budget should be based on scientific reasons
- A strong justification shall be required for additional budget for major equipment, including elements such as an estimate of the fraction of time that the instrument will be used for the purpose of the project, unavailability of the instrument at the HI, waiting time compromising the successful implementation of the project etc.
- The panel would have liked to have more information on the extra major funding requested.... Including, for example, quotes/details on the price of instruments, cost analysis etc.



# Panel recommendations 2018 – Feedback of interest to NCPs



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- Synergy or synergetic aspects not well understood by applicants: it was either presented as interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary collaboration or complementarity of methods or content, but it is meant for applicants to go for something new, at least to open a new perspective of creating something new.
- It should be made clear to academic institutions that they can ask ERC directly for their participation in workshops and trainings on how to apply for an ERC grant
- Welcome NCP taking a more proactive and timely approach to promote ERC programmes (cf. At least one Info Day six months before a call deadline)
- Remind not to contact experts during an evaluation