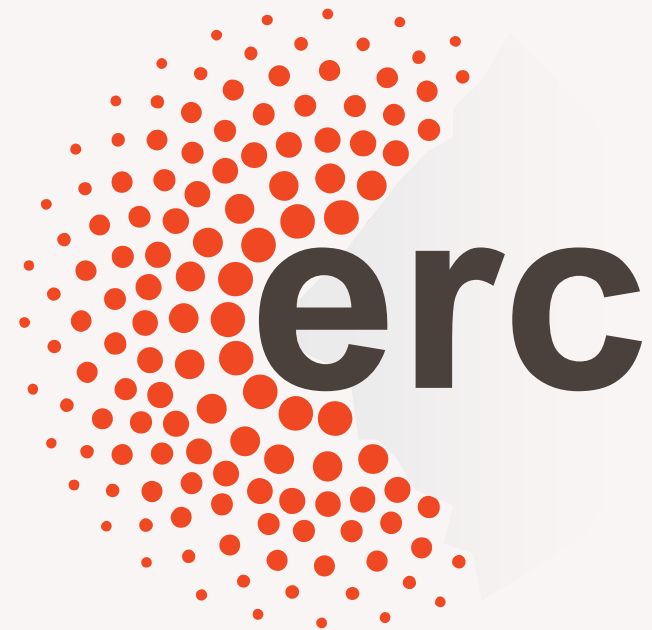


FP7 IDEAS Programme

Gender in the ERC

Monika Lanzenberger
Scientific Officer

Athens, 3. March 2011





ERC, “Ideas” and FP7

- **An “integrated structure” with a specific vocation**
 - Independent scientific governance
Scientific Council with 22 members (27 % women)
 - Dedicated Implementation Structure
ERC Executive Agency with 389 employees by 2013
- **Part of the “family” of FP7 and complementary to other FP7 supports to research**
 - Bottom-up vs targeted research
 - Individual teams vs consortia
- **FP7 “Ideas” programme provides funding**
 - Budget (2007-2013) : € 7.51 bn (around 15% of FP7 budget)
 - Average budget: € ~1 bn per year



ERC grant schemes

4 Domains, 25 Panels



- ERC covers **all fields of science, engineering and scholarship**
- For operational reasons the ScC agreed on **3 main research domains + 1 horizontal domain**:
 - Physical Sciences & Engineering – 10 Panels
 - Life Sciences (incl. medical) – 9 Panels
 - Humanities & Social Sciences – 6 Panels
 - Interdisciplinary Research (cross-panel / cross-domain) – Panel Chairs
- The **call budget** will be **pre-allocated to these areas** as follows:
 - **40% (PE) - 35% (LS) - 15% (SH) - 10% (IR)**





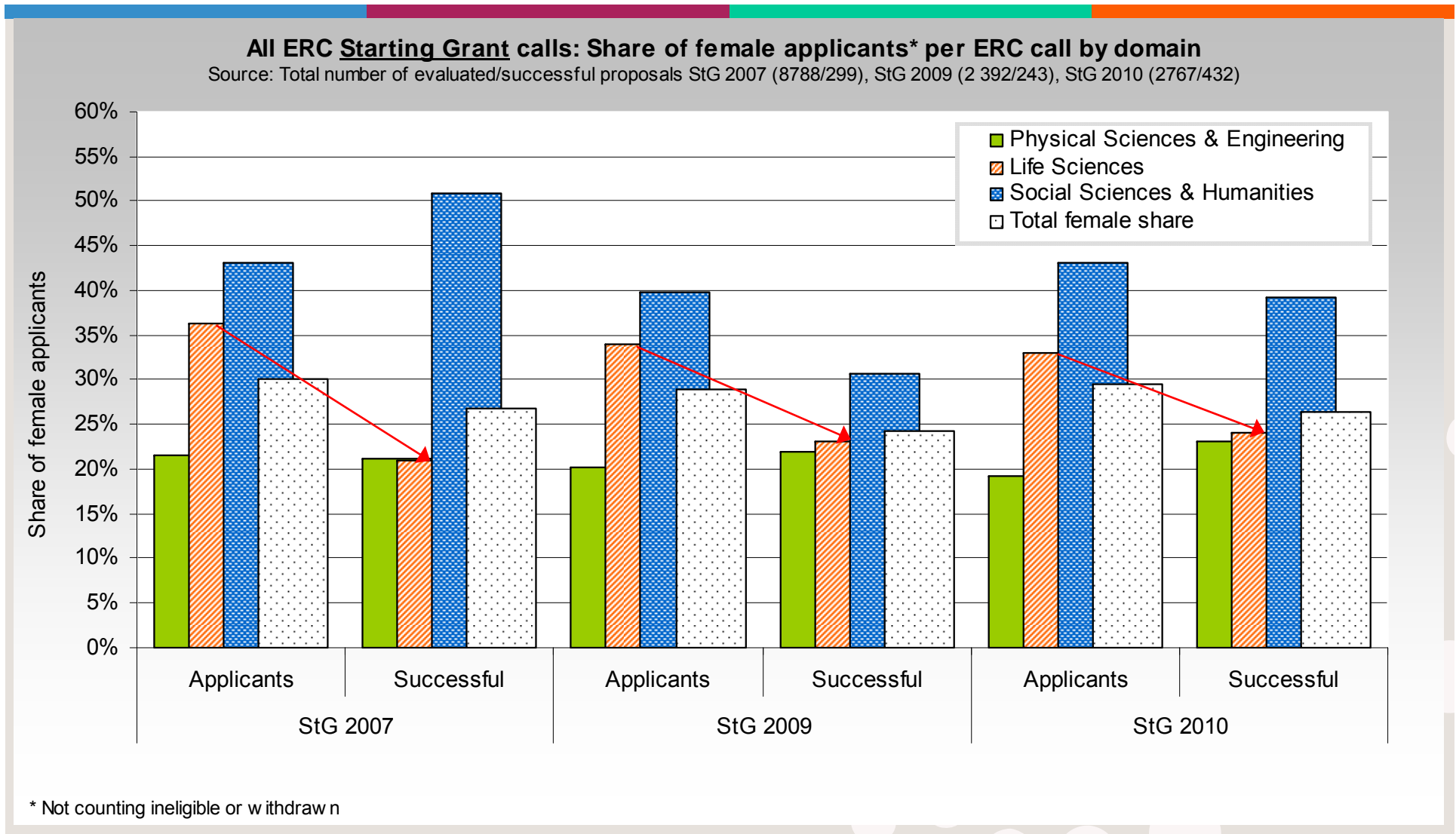
ERC grant schemes

Strategic principles

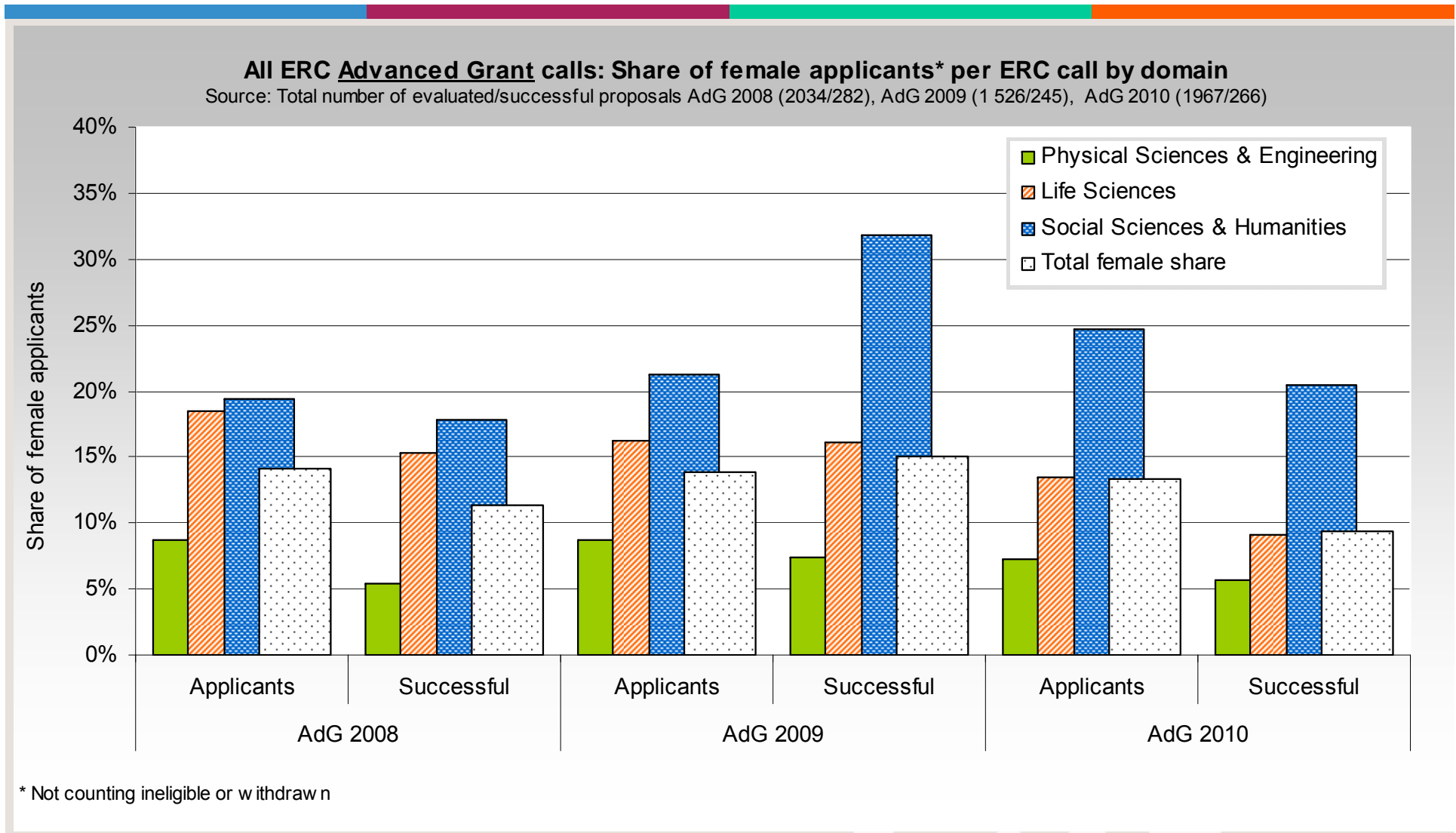
- **All fields of science and scholarship are eligible**
 - 👉 Investigator-driven, bottom-up
- **Excellence is the only valid criterion**
 - 👉 Individual team + research project
 - 👉 Irrespective of nationality, gender or age of researchers
- **Investment in research talent**
 - 👉 Attractive, flexible grants, up to five years
 - 👉 Under control of the Principal Investigator
- **Independent individual teams in Europe**
 - 👉 All nationalities can apply
 - 👉 Host organisation to be located in EU or AS
- **Starting Grant (Starters/Consolidators) and Advanced Grant**



All ERC Starting Grants: 30 % of the applications from women 26 % of the grants to women



All ERC Advanced Grants: 14 % of the applications from women 12 % of the grants to women



ERC Gender Balance Working Group

ERC Gender Balance Working Group

- Scientific Council: Teresa Lago (chair), Carlos Duarte, Helga Nowotny, Mathias Dewatripont, Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard, Calle Heldin
- ERCEA: Severina Shopova, Jens Hemmelskamp, Elisabeth Sjöstedt



The ERC Scientific Council has formed three more working groups, on **Third country recruitment**, **Relations with Industry**, and **Open Access**.



ERC ScC Gender Equality Plan



Marie Curie visiting the Radium Refinery Plant in Pittsburgh 1921

ERC's mission is to support excellent frontier researchers across Europe, irrespective of nationality, gender or age.

Three main objectives:

- to encourage more excellent female researchers to apply for ERC grants
- to identify and challenge any potential gender bias together with the ERC panels
- to improve the gender balance within the ERC's peer review system

Gender balance in the ERC peer review system

European Research Council



“In assembling pools of experts, the ERCEA seeks to ensure the highest level of scientific and technical expertise, in areas appropriate to the call, considering also other criteria, such as:

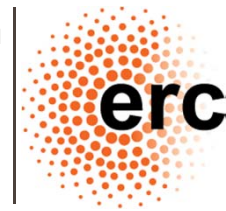
— A reasonable **inclusion of women and men** from across the EU and associated countries as well as third countries” *(ERC Rules for the submission of proposals and the related evaluation (2010/767/EU))*

“The medium term goal is to achieve **gender balance in each ERC evaluation panel as well as among the panel chairs**. This may take time, and will also depend on the overall gender balance in particular research fields. In a first step, the ERC will aim at a better gender proportionality in each ERC evaluation panel as compared to that panel's relevant scientific communities.” *(ERC gender equality plan 2007 – 2013)*

ERC Scientific Council

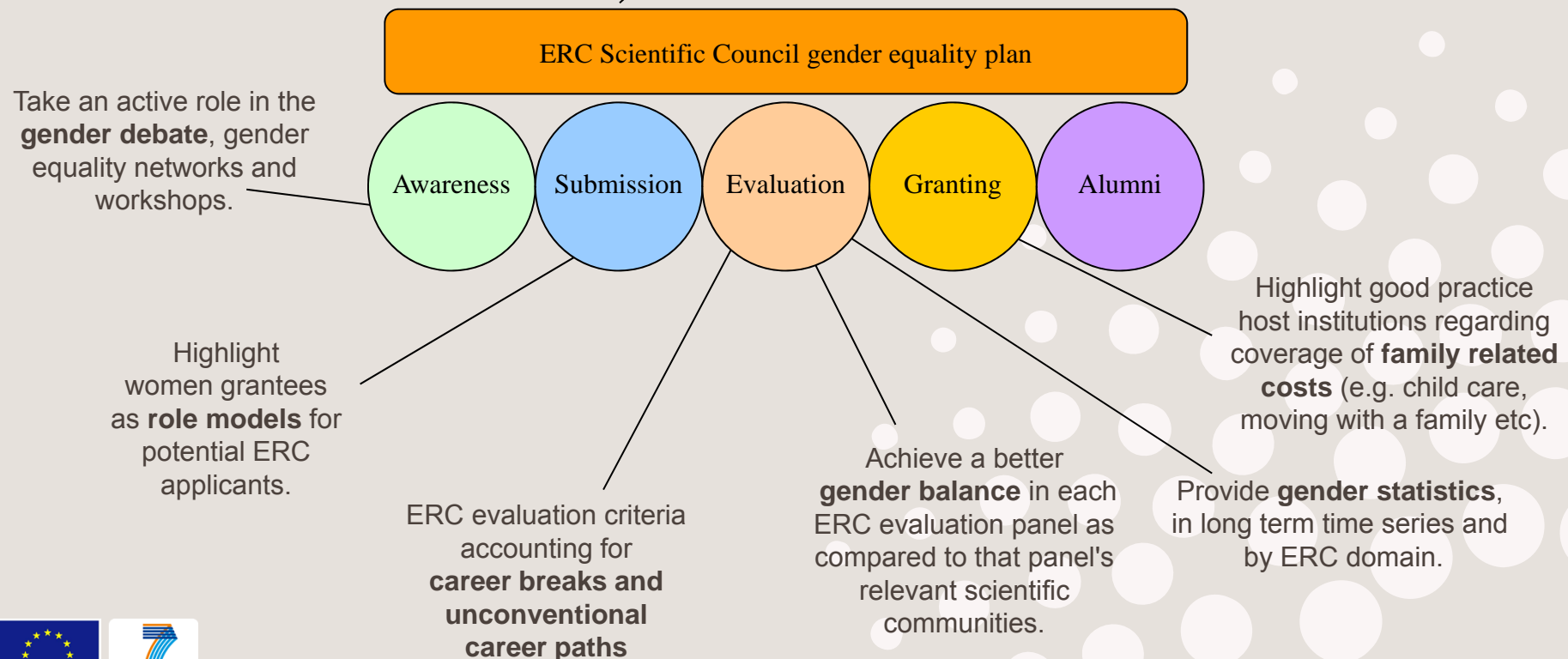
Gender equality plan 2007 – 2013

European Research Council



– example of steps to be taken

The ERC gender equality plan covers all phases of the ERC (awareness, submission, evaluation, evaluation, granting, alumni), based on **gender mainstreaming with focus kept on excellence.**



Evaluation Criteria in WP2011: Principal Investigator

“Evaluation panel members should take into account the phase of the Principal Investigator's transition to independence, possible breaks in the research career of the applicant and/or unconventional research career paths. (...)”

(ERC WP 2011: http://erc.europa.eu/pdf/ERC_Work_Programme_2011.pdf)

ERC Grantees as Role Models

Prof. Dr. Erika von Mutius,
Professor of Pediatrics
Ludwig- Maximilians-Universität München, Germany



Advanced Grant ERC Project:

Host-environment interactions in the protection from asthma
and allergies

“to identify those microbes whose presence protects against asthma and allergies, and to clarify how this depends on the genetic constitution of the individual human host “





Thanks!

