Some reflections on ERC Grants in Italy (and Lombardy)

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ERC Scientific Council Member

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Plan

- More on Italian (Lombard) performance in FP7 and first calls of H2020
- Interpretation and possible actions (input from APRE and ERC grantees)
FP7 evaluated and funded projects
By nationality of Principal Investigator

European Union funding for Research & Innovation
Established by the European Commission

![Chart showing the distribution of evaluated and funded projects by nationality of Principal Investigator.](chart_image)

- **IT**
- **DE**
- **UK**
- **ES**
- **FR**
- **NL**
- **IL**
- **EL**
- **BE**
- **SE**
- **FI**

**StG** - Starting Grants
**CoG** - Consolidator Grants
**AdG** - Advanced Grants

**Evaluated**

**Funded**

Values range from 0 to 7,000 for evaluated and 0 to 800 for funded projects.
FP7 funded projects by call and domain

254 projects with a host institution in Italy
by ERC call and domain

(out of 4556: 5.6%)
but 407 Italian PIs…
H2020 StG 2014 funded by Country of HI and domain

Success rate: 11.7%

15 StG2014 grants in Italy (out of 375: 4%) but 36 Italian PIs...
H2020 CoG 2014 funded by Country of HI and domain

16 CoG2014 grants in Italy (out of 372: 4.3%) but 29 Italian PIs...
H2020 PoC 2014 funded by Country of HI

7 PoC2014 grants in Italy (out of 120: 5.8%)
FP7 funded projects
Top HIs in Italy per domain

More than 60 HIs with ERC grants

Current host institutions; data as of 12/01/2015 (no PoC).
H2020 StG 2014
Host Institutions in Italy

### StG2014 Grants in Italy

- **National Research Council (CNR) - Italy**: 3 grants
- **University of Naples Federico II**: 1 grant
- **Polytechnic University of Turin**: 2 grants
- **University of Salento**: 1 grant
- **University of Trento**: 1 grant
- **University of Roma - La Sapienza**: 1 grant
- **Bocconi University Milan**: 1 grant
- **Normal Superior School of Pisa**: 1 grant
- **Humanitas Hospital**: 1 grant
- **Italian Institute of Technology**: 1 grant
- **European University Institute**: 1 grant

Legend:
- LS
- PE
- SH
H2020 CoG 2014
Host Institutions in Italy

CoG2014 Grants in Italy

- Polytechnic University of Milan: 4
- University of Milan - Bicocca: 2
- Bocconi University Milan: 2
- University of Trento: 1
- University of Roma - La Sapienza: 1
- University of Pavia: 1
- University of Milan: 1
- University of Florence: 1
- Polytechnic University of Turin: 1
- National Institute for Nuclear Physics - Italy: 1
- Italian Institute of Technology: 1

10 in Lombardy out of 16 in Italy
FP7 & H2020
Funded projects in Lombardy

ERC Grants in Lombardy (FP7 and H2020 calls) per domain

- Bocconi University Milan: 16 grants
- Polytechnic University of Milan: 10 grants
- University of Milan: 4 LS, 2 PE, 2 SH
- European Institute of Oncology: 6 grants
- FIRC - Institute of Molecular Oncology: 6 grants
- San Raffaele Hospital: 5 grants
- University of Milan - Bicocca: 3 LS, 2 PE
- Humanitas Hospital: 4 grants
- National Institute of Molecular Genetics - Italy: 2 grants
- Vita-Salute San Raffaele University: 2 grants
- National Cancer Institute - Foundation IRCCS: 1 grant
- Foundation Eni Enrico Mattei: 1 grant
- Mario Negri Institute for Pharmacological Research: 1 grant
- University of Pavia: 4 LS, 1 PE

72 in Lombardy out of 285 in Italy
FP7 success rates per domain
Italy, all countries and Lombardy

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<tr>
<td>All</td>
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Lombardy success rates:
- LS: ~9.5%
- PE: ~4%
- SH: ~9%
- All domains: ~7.5%
FP7 regional success rates
Per domain and per scheme
FP7 Lombardy success rates per domain and per scheme

Lombardia [ITC4]

All  LS  PE  SH

StG  CoG  AdG  All

5%  10%  15%
FP7 National and non-national grantees

230 national grantees in Italy

24 foreign grantees in Italy-DE, US, UK, NO, FR, etc.

177 Italian grantees abroad in 12 countries, mainly in UK(53), FR(30), CH(30), DE(20), ES(15), NL(12)

Current host institutions; data as of 12/01/2015
H2020 StG 2014
National and non-national grantees

- 2 non-nationals in Italy
- 15 nationals in Italy
- 23 Italians abroad mainly in UK, FR, DE

StG2014 (375 grants)
H2020 CoG 2014
National and non-national grantees

CoG2014 (372 grants)
Portability to/from Italy

Host country changes after grant signature
Interpretation of HI / PI discrepancy (some but not all points improving…)

- National support for research not competitive, education system still competitive up to MSc
- Salary of researchers not competitive, ERC contributions often difficult to implement
- Still too rigid administrative structure (national but also local rules & practice)
- HI support both in the proposal and in the management phase not yet competitive
Interpretation of StG weakness (least performing scheme in Italy & Lombardy)

- Obsolescence of “traditional” model for researchers in early career stages
  - Msc, PhD, postdoc, tenure-track all in the same institution
  - Publications mostly as secondary author with senior advisor
  - Delayed independence (including funding ID)
  - Often limited international mobility/exposure

Role of ERC in promoting best practices: funding agencies and research institutions should discourage such a model

- Delays and inefficiencies in the “direct call” (chiamata diretta) of grantees

- In some Universities, heavy teaching duties
Possible actions (some ongoing)

- National (local) support for reserve list
- Simplified procedures for PI employment and hiring of fixed-term team members
- Avoid too restrictive local regulations beyond national and ERC requirements
- Foresee extra benefits for grant holders
- Support PI beyond duration of the grant
- Former grant holders in local support teams
- Concentrate excellence & infrastructures (beginning from Ph.D. Schools?)
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erc.europa.eu/national-contact-points

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Success rate Italy vs all countries

Success rates: awarded over evaluated proposals

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FP7 Funded Projects
Top HI in Italy per funding scheme

Current host institutions; data as of 12/01/2015

- University of Trento: 5 Advanced, 9 Starting/Consolidator, 2 PoC
- University of Roma - La Sapienza: 6 Advanced, 9 Starting/Consolidator
- National Research Council (CNR) - Italy: 14 Starting/Consolidator
- Bocconi University Milan: 5 Advanced, 8 Starting/Consolidator
- University of Padua: 11 Starting/Consolidator
- European University Institute: 9 Starting/Consolidator
- International School for Advanced Studies - Trieste: 3 Starting/Consolidator
- University of Rome - Tor Vergata: 4 Starting/Consolidator
- European Institute of Oncology: 3 Starting/Consolidator
- Politecnico University of Milan: 3 Starting/Consolidator
- Normal Superior School of Pisa: 1 Starting/Consolidator
- University of Parma: 6 Starting/Consolidator
- University of Pisa: 2 Starting/Consolidator
- University of Milan: 4 Starting/Consolidator
- University of Bologna: 3 Starting/Consolidator
- National Institute for Nuclear Physics - Italy: 3 Starting/Consolidator
- Italian Institute of Technology: 5 Starting/Consolidator
- FIRC - Institute of Molecular Oncology: 2 Starting/Consolidator

More than 60 HI with ERC grant/s
FP7 & H2020 funded projects per funding scheme in Lombardy

 ERC Grants in Lombardy (FP7 and H2020 calls)

- Bocconi University Milan: 5 Advanced, 6 Starting/Consolidator, 1 PoC
- Polytechnic University of Milan: 4 Advanced, 3 Starting/Consolidator, 0 PoC
- University of Milan: 2 Advanced, 5 Starting/Consolidator, 0 PoC
- European Institute of Oncology: 3 Advanced, 3 Starting/Consolidator, 1 PoC
- FIRC - Institute of Molecular Oncology: 4 Advanced, 2 Starting/Consolidator, 0 PoC
- San Raffaele Hospital: 2 Advanced, 3 Starting/Consolidator, 0 PoC
- University of Milan - Bicocca: 5 Advanced, 0 Starting/Consolidator, 0 PoC
- Humanitas Hospital: 3 Advanced, 1 Starting/Consolidator, 1 PoC
- National Institute of Molecular Genetics - Italy: 1 Advanced, 1 Starting/Consolidator, 0 PoC
- Vita-Salute San Raffaele University: 1 Advanced, 1 Starting/Consolidator, 0 PoC
- National Cancer Institute - Foundation IRCCS: 1 Advanced, 0 Starting/Consolidator, 0 PoC
- Foundation Eni Enrico Mattei: 1 Advanced, 0 Starting/Consolidator, 0 PoC
- Mario Negri Institute for Pharmacological Research: 1 Advanced, 0 Starting/Consolidator, 0 PoC
- University of Pavia: 1 Advanced, 4 Starting/Consolidator, 0 PoC
# Host Institutions in Lombardy

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